

# The Charlottetown Guardian

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## IN NEARLY THREE YEARS

Down across the border our American cousins are struggling with the war problem that we have wrestled with for nearly three years and in many ways feel about as we did nearly three years ago. Then we looked upon the man who volunteered as a hero. How we cheered when, at the end of an eloquent appeal for recruits, some young fellow walked up to the platform and registered his name as a soldier! How we glowered at the fellows who held back! How we turned up our noses at the woman, wife or mother, who caught her boy by the coat tail and with a strong pull snuffed out all his military enthusiasm! But this was long ago, nearly three years ago. Over three thousand of our boys have gone away since then and we have become accustomed to their absence; we read almost every morning of some one of them who has fallen and we have become accustomed to that; we meet on the streets and in the homes and in the stores and in the offices the men whom we sneered at at the recruiting meetings and whom we called slackers, and we have become accustomed even to that.

The slacker and the shirker are again becoming incorporated into the body politic, into the social and civic life. Nay more, we have begun to apologize for them, to explain their presence among us. Our Liberal press which up to a month or so ago was loudest in its denunciation of the slacker is now blistered with apologies for him; "it is the government's fault that he is here"; "he wasn't given a fair chance to enlist"; "the appeal was not made by the right people at the right places," etc. A little over a month ago the Liberal press was clamouring for conscription; today and ever since it was introduced by the Government, the Liberal press, with only a few exceptions, is either opposed to it or finding fault with the manner or the time in which it was introduced, some contending that it has gone too far, others that it has not gone far enough. And all the while our three thousand boys over in France are one by one falling out of the ranks.

Our American cousins, as already stated, are now in it about where we were nearly three years ago. They have their heroes whom they acclaim as we did, they have their slackers whom they despise as we once did. Here is what the Boston Transcript said of the latter, and it sounds very much like what most of us, including the Liberal press, said nearly three years ago:

"The fact becomes apparent that there is a certain percentage of men of draft age all over the country which did not submit itself for registration on June 5. Some of these failures were no doubt from ignorance, but a good many more were from intention, and founded on a silly notion that the slacker could manage to escape observation. It will be the duty of every patriotic citizen to pull these skulkers out of their holes."

When, in the course of time and in the mysterious providence that watches over the boys who have gone, over those who return and those who shall not return, the casualty lists bring back the names of some whom they acclaim today as heroes, we hope our American cousins will not have forgotten their present day opinion of the slacker and the shirker, nor their opinion of "the duty of every patriotic citizen to pull these skulkers out of their holes," as some of us have done during our nearly three years experience.

## UNIVERSAL MILITARY TRAINING

"This six months of military training has regenerated England," said an officer who had seen pale, narrow chested men recruited into the army and, six months later, saw these same men, nut brown, full chested, iron muscled and able to walk unwearyed for hours or days if necessary. From what he had seen he deduced the conclusion that universal military training would be a good thing for any country. And he was right.

In Switzerland every boy when he reaches twenty years of age must present him-

self to the authorities. He must be able to run, and jump at least eight feet; to lift a heavy weight at least four times above his head; to run eighty yards in fourteen seconds. The training for these tests begins in childhood and is constant. The young manhood of Switzerland is clean and healthy and the reason of it is universal military service, beginning at school.

We do not have to go to Switzerland for examples of what military training does for young men. We have seen in our own province and in every province of Canada, young men, pale clerks from stores and offices, boys who had never walked five miles in their lives, transformed in a few months into nut brown, full chested, iron muscled men—capable of doing what was done at Vimy Ridge, at Ypres, and at other points in Northern France that will be named in all future history as glory spots for Canada and Canadians.

Who are and were the Canadians who stood the test at Vimy Ridge and Ypres and Neuve Chapelle and Festubert and Givency and all those places that are now household words in Canada, at those places that are now named in so many Canadian homes with the reverence with which the family plot in the cemetery is named? The clean young men whose physical as well as mental well-being was guarded by judicious parents and teachers, the flower of Canadian manhood, the manhood that stood the severe medical inspection prescribed for military fitness. And it will be remembered how many were rejected by this medical inspection, how many through neglect of early physical training, were unable though willing to take their places side by side with the physically fit, how many also through neglect of proper mental training were unwilling to go and are still with us.

Had we had universal military training there would not today be any need of a conscription bill, because those so trained in their youth would have been both physically fit for military service and mentally ready to do their duty as British subjects.

"If I had my way," said a somewhat extreme writer, "I would make up armies of convicts, idiots, cowards, gamblers and the idle rich." It is not necessary to say that such an army would not have stood the test to which our Canadian soldiers were put at the places above named but it is not too much to say that there would be fewer convicts, fewer idiots, fewer cowards and fewer gamblers and shirkers if we had universal military training beginning with the youths in school.

War in any form is terrible but its worst from in when it takes the flower of the country's manhood, takes the men who know their duty and do it while the unfit and the undutiful are left to propagate the race.

We trust that one of the results of the present awful sacrifice with the many lessons it has taught will be the introduction of systematic training, physical, disciplinary, mental, beginning in the schools and continuing through the years of able manhood. Such a training will compensate for the losses sustained in the present war by producing a stronger, healthier, more virile manhood.

## NOTES

Alphonse Verville, M. P. of Maisonneuve, misrepresents labor when he talks of a general strike as a protest against conscription. The 30,000 trades unionists in the trenches have a different view and their comrades at home will support them, irrespective of what the disappointed applicant for Senatorial honors may say, think or do.

There is nothing supprising in the report from Washington of an international enemy conspiracy to destroy shipping on the Great Lakes. German efforts are behind many of the developments which have gone to impede Canadian and American participation in the great war, and the end is not yet.

Then there is the orator who, when discussing compulsory service, rants about the "rights of man." Prussianism, wealth confiscation, and all the other claptrap of the cheap and ignorant demagogue; the special pleader for that slimy parasite on the body of all democracies commonly known as the "slacker." This animal is devoid of public spirit; shirks public duties and responsibilities, and is consequently, unfit for citizenship in a free democracy. His idea of patriotism is profiteering, either as employer or as employee. Both appear almost equally guilty with our mining strikes and other industrial disputes. His idea of responsibility to the States is to "let George do it!" Let us remember, that the citizen of a free country has no "rights." He has only "duties." And the greatest duty of all is to defend his country.

## ANARCHY'S APOSTLES: GOLDMAN & BERKMAN

It is no new experience for Emma Goldman and Alexander Berkman to languish in jail and apparently not particularly distasteful to them. What would be insupportable would be to be sent to jail privately, without any newspaper comment, without their friends being given a chance to hail them as martyrs. At present they are waiting trial on a charge of using their influence to defeat the operation of the selective draft law. Berkman is to defend himself, so he is unlikely to get anything worse than life imprisonment. He will probably defend Miss Goldman, too. The future is indeed dark for both of them. It has been half jocularly suggested that it was rather a mistake to arrest them, since they thrive on imprisonment, and if left at large it would have been much easier for the New York police to round up the other pro-Germans, anarchists and pacifists who are always to be found in their company. Deprived of their natural leaders, the others may continue to work underground, and thus be more difficult to capture.

## Most Thoroughly Detested Woman.

Emma Goldman is a Russian Jewess and was born in 1869. At the age of 17 she was a full-fledged anarchist, and arrived in the United States ready to preach the doctrine she had learned from the nihilists. For a while she worked in factories; then she got married and was unhappy, but the marriage was annulled. Her husband is taken for granted. She concluded that marriage is a failure as at present limited, and since then she has formed occasional unconventional alliances. At present she is residing with Berkman. In 1893 she result spent a year in jail. This did not cure her, for on her release she resumed her anarchist preachings, though with more cunning. At the time of the assassination of President McKinley she was again arrested on suspicion of having incited Czoloz. She was a friend of hers, but was acquitted. Her life has been a strenuous one, and she is probably the most thoroughly detested woman in the time she found it expedient to pass as "Miss Smith" because of her difficulty in getting lodging.

## Tried to Murder Frick.

Berkman is her favorite pupil. He attained nation-wide notoriety when he made an attempt to murder H. C. Frick, of Pittsburg. Early broodings over capitalism and the injustice of all existing forms of government are said to have driven him to the deed which earned for him a prison sentence of 22 years. He served only 14 years. Like Emma Goldman, imprisonment did not daunt his fiery spirit, and on his release he immediately took up his work where it had been broken off and began the publishing of a revolutionary labor paper, Miss Goldman, by the way, is a public fisher. Since that time he has been several times under arrest, but has not been sentenced, though several of his cupes have served time because they endeavored to put his idea into practice. He has been associated with the I. W. W., and indeed he and Miss Goldman have found the scheme of becoming patrons of new forms of violence, in causes which interest them only because of the opportunities for violence that they present, to be a better means of achieving notoriety than steady preaching their old doctrine of anarchy.

## The Anarchist's Creed.

The creed of Goldman and Berkman has been frequently declared in their writings. As to government, they believe that there ought to be no Government at all. They contend that it has only succeeded in protecting property and monopoly, and as they declare that all property ought to be in common, and nobody have any private rights to it, they insist that government is a huge failure, and the cause of many of the troubles of the world. They maintain that soldiers are merely professional man-killers, who are worse than ordinary murderers since the murderer kills either for some advantage to himself or in a fit of anger. In the course of their speeches against the draft they said over and over again, "I believe that militarism will cease when the liberty-loving spirits of the world say to their masters: 'Go and do your own killing. We have sacrificed ourselves and our loved ones long enough fighting your battles. In return you have made parasites and criminals of us in time of peace and brutalized us in time of war. You have separated us from our brothers and have made the world a human slaughter-house. No, we will not do your killing or fighting for the country you have stolen from us.'"

## DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louson, 544 Eighth Ave. W., Vancouver, B. C., June 18, 1917.

Mr. W. S. Louson, Dear Mr. Louson, I think it is but fair for me to write and tell you to what use I am putting your "Daily Selections" for Guardian Readers, and how much my pastor the Rev. Dr. A. Henry, B.A., D.D., of Chalmers' Church in Vancouver, appreciates these verses. It is not that he has not any amount of those things himself, but that it is easier to turn to a few clippings for a suitable verse or verses to fill in a certain place, than to hunt over a number of books and papers. I seem to have a faculty of knowing just what will suit him, and so always save any that I take a particular fancy to. If they are very extra special, I write off a copy and keep it for my own. I am hoping to get that "Bible" yet, but prices are so high here that it is not easy to get hold of any extra money now.

This man is taking so many of our boys, and the world is full of sorrow and suffering, but we must trust the Almighty hand which has led us all the way, knowing that out of all this turmoil and strife there will come a brighter, happier day, when Jesus will be crowned King of Kings, and He will rule, whose right it is.

Thanking you again for the help and comfort of many of your selections. It may be of interest to you to know that it was out of the Guardian that I got the verse "God Save our Splendid Men," and that we were singing it in Chalmers' Presbyterian Church half three months before it came out any where else in Vancouver. I remain yours sincerely, MRS. C. M. BROOKS. The Editor of Guardian suggests this letter be printed in Daily Reading corner.—W.S.L.

## MR. NICHOLSON M. P. SPEAKS ON MILITARY SERVICE BILL

MR. DONALD NICHOLSON (Queens, P. E. I.) said: Mr. Speaker, my apology for addressing you at this late hour is that I do not desire to give a silent vote on this important question. When we look at the flag of the Allies with which this Chamber is decorated, we are reminded that at the commencement of the war, if the British Empire, to which we belong, had stood aside and remained neutral, permitting the German Empire to crush France, we and the Empire generally would have been spared a great loss of our manhood and a great outpouring of our blood. But if the Empire had taken this course, would we, as Canadians, have been proud of our connection with the British Empire? No, Sir, I think that if the Empire had taken such a course, the feeling in this country would be in favor of tearing down the British flag and starting out as an honest independent and self-respecting nation. We as Canadians would never have endorsed such a course.

The object of the Bill now before the House is to obtain further men for the battlefield. Marshal Joffre, when in Montreal, emphasized the need of Canada sending more men. Sir Arthur Currie, the present commander of our forces in France, sent out a call to Canada to come over and help relieve the overworked battalions who have been subjected to a great strain for the past two years and longer.

The number of voluntary enlistments in Canada has been a source of great pride to us and has far exceeded our expectations; but at the same time, there are quite a number who could be spared and who would go if a campaign to secure further enlistments were started by the members of this House, with the object of winning the war instead of trying to obtain party advantage. The mover of the amendment which calls for a referendum (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) said that Canada was not in danger of being invaded, which strengthens my opinion that he is not heartily in sympathy with sending men to Europe. The hon. member for North Cape Breton (Mr. McKenzie) stated that he was against the Bill but favoured the amendment owing to the fact that he wished to follow his leader. This reminds me of an incident at the battle of Killisnoke. Scotland was invaded by a foe and the Government mastered the clans and appointed a leader. On the day of the battle two of the clans did not appear. Instead they hid behind crags and on the moors, and acted as the hon. gentleman is acting, simply because their chief, for certain reasons, refused, on the day of battle and trial to join heartily with the rest of his country. We have here two regiments; some of the Liberals from the lower provinces and the province of Quebec are like snipers; they stand back when the country is invaded and refuse to take their part in its defence, simply and solely according to their arguments, because of their great respect for their leader. The hon. member for St. John's (Mr. Pugsley) intimated that the Minister of Inland Revenue (Mr. Seigney) was responsible for the poor recruiting in Quebec owing to alleged statements of six years ago, and he emphasized the fact that the minister was at that time thirty years old. We remember the time when the hon. member for St. John was forty

(Continued on page eight)

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