

The Charlottetown Guardian

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Monday, January 1st, being New Year's Day and a statutory holiday, the Morning Guardian will not be issued on Tuesday. The Evening Guardian will not be issued on Monday, but will be published as usual on Tuesday. Advertisers please note these changes.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1916.

FIRE INSURANCE

The citizens' meeting on Tuesday night in the Board of Trade Rooms, a report of which appeared in yesterday morning's Guardian, can scarcely be said to have been satisfactory or conclusive. On one matter only did the meeting appear to be unanimous, namely, the need of an up-to-date fire alarm system. The protest against the proposed increase was not conclusive owing to the manner in which the vote was taken.

As far as the addition of any new light on the necessity for an increase is concerned it was too diffused to be of any real value. In their first announcement the Fire Underwriters based their claim for an increase on (1) The Summerside conflagration (2) other fires in the province during the past five years, including the St. Dunstan's Cathedral; (3) the imposition of the war and municipal taxation both provincial and Federal.

As to these, the Summerside fire was an ordinary hazard and in general insurance usage should not necessitate extra taxation; the other fires during the past five years were of a similar character, provided against in the ordinary way by premiums calculated by the actuaries to be sufficient to cover ordinary risks. The increased war taxation is only one third of the original tax of \$150, or \$50. This surely cannot be looked upon as a reason for increasing the whole premium rate of the province by 15 per cent. The Dominion tax of 25 per cent on profits cannot be regarded as excessive if the profits have dwindled to the vanishing point. The Insurance men surely do not wish to increase their profits just for the sake of paying the government additional money. If there is no profit then there is no Dominion tax except the original tax of one per cent. The fire alarm system is what it has been for many years.

In these reasons submitted by the Insurance men prior to the meeting it cannot be claimed that any new conditions have been disclosed to necessitate an increase.

At the meeting a somewhat startling reason was given, namely, the inadequacy of the water supply. It was claimed that during the fire which destroyed the St. Dunstan's Cathedral the water could not be forced above the lower big windows; that the reservoir is never sufficiently full to give necessary pressure in case of fire; that if the reservoir were kept full the citizens would be obliged to use stale water. It is to be regretted that there was no representative of the Water Commissioners present to verify or disprove this statement. Many at the meeting were astounded at the revelation and comment yesterday on the subject was mingled with indignation.

To obtain some light on the matter The Guardian yesterday, called upon the Engineer at the Pumping Station, Mr. John McDonald, who has held the position for the last 28 years and whose word, we believe, will be taken without question by our citizens. He authorized us to state, and quote him as our authority, that the water in the reservoir is never lower than ten feet and never higher than fourteen feet; that every night before the engines are stopped the reservoir is filled to within two or three inches of the top; that on his arrival in the morning to resume work the water is never lower than ten feet. In case of fire he is one of the first men called out and he remains at his post till the bell rings "fire out."

This is a straight issue between the Board of Fire Underwriters and the Board of Water Commissioners. If the water supply is believed by the fire underwriters and their principals to be such as to necessitate a higher rate of insurance than that heretofore paid then the citizens are suffering a wrong either through misapprehension on the part of the insurance agents or neglect on the part of the Water Commissioners. In justice to the citizens this matter should be thoroughly investigated and the facts made public.

As we have said the conclusions, if conclusions they may be called, were not satisfactory and in justice both to the Underwriters who have fought many years to prevent an increase of rates, and to the citizens the whole question should be considered by a commission of practical business men and representatives from the various public bodies, whose findings are more likely to be acceptable to the general public than anything that could be arrived at in a discussion at a public meeting. Now that the question has been raised it should be settled. "Nothing is ever settled until it is settled right."

INTERPRETING THE PRESIDENT

United States opinion is especially interesting at present. Our lousins across the border are now trying to interpret the President. His latest note is clearly beyond them. The following from the Brooklyn Eagle in reply to a sedative editorial in the New York Times, gives what is generally accepted as the real American opinion, that is the opinion

that is not influenced by the Hyphenated. The suspicion that the President has been over-persuaded by his German friends and that, consciously or unconsciously, he is playing the German game is steadily gaining ground and he will no doubt be expected to make further explanations. Says the Eagle:

The valued New York Times uses a column and a half of editorial space to prove that Mr. Wilson's circular note requesting a statement of war aims was really a warning to Germany that she would do well to make peace on terms acceptable to the Allies. That is not the interpretation put upon the note in Germany, if we may judge by the expressions of opinion so far received. That is certainly not the interpretation put upon the note in London, where resentment of Mr. Wilson's attitude is most universal. In Berlin, as in London, the note is viewed as strengthening rather than weakening to the German desire for a peace which shall be advantageous in every essential respect to the league which Germany represents.

Crediting the President with the absolute impartiality which the grave responsibilities of his position demand, conceding to him the loftiest and most unselfish motives, the fact remains that his course has aroused the most bitter controversy and necessitated the most elaborate and not invariably fortunate or even plausible explanations from those who uphold it.

Our attitude toward the war and toward the peace that must some time end the war should never be open to misconception. It is lamentable that misconception should now persist. Yet it is not to be wondered at that it does persist when we take into account the President's peculiar statement that the belligerents have in mind, common objectives, and also the fact that in point of time the note coincided with the German request for a conference. Hence the explanation and the explanations of the explanation, and the charges and the counter-charges.

If, as the Times asserts, Mr. Wilson is really warning Germany to be hospitable to the Allies' demands, he has not succeeded in impressing that fact upon public opinion as expressed in Germany or upon those who from varying motives, respectable and otherwise, echo that opinion in this country. Perhaps the intelligence of the German Government is more acute and will be better able to discover between the lines of the note the advice to conclude an early peace on the best terms obtainable. Yet it would surprise no one if the official view of the German Government regarding the purpose of the note is that it joyously proclaimed by its representative in this country when he declared: "Now we shall have a peace conference; that is, a conference called under military conditions clearly indicating the success of Germany in negotiations. Certainly, that point of view would not be without justification. The business of interpreting the President is susceptible of almost any development.

PEACE TERMS

Mr. Bonar Law, the eminent Canadian who is now leading the House of Commons in England put the peace proposals of Germany and the Germanised American and Switzerland proposals in a nutshell when replying the other day to a member who prated on the blessings of peace and suggested "let us get their terms of peace." Mr. Law said: "If the spirit of the speech to which we have just listened were to permeate the country I believe that all the blood and treasure which have been spent in the war would have been spent in vain. It is all very well to say 'let us get their terms of peace.' Yes, but can you get any terms more binding than the treaty for the protection of the neutrality of Belgium? Can you come to any conclusions on paper or by promise that will give us greater security than we had before this war? Not this nation alone, but the neutral nations, will, I hope, understand the position at which we have now arrived. Germany has made peace proposals. On what basis? On the basis of her victorious armies. Is there a man who, considering the conditions under which this war was forced on us and the conditions under which the war has been carried on, honestly believes that the dangers and insecurities from which we have suffered can be cured in any way than by making the Germans realize that frightfulness does not pay, that militarism is not going to rule the world? What are we fighting for? Not territory, not greater strength as a nation. We are fighting for two things—for peace now and for security for peace in time to come. Let the house remember that what has happened in this war—outrages in Belgium, outrages by sea and land, massacres in Armenia which Germany could have stopped by a word—then realize this: The war will have been fought in vain, utterly in vain, unless we can make sure that it shall never again be in the power of any state to do what Germany has done. Is peace to come in this war on the basis that the greatest crime in the world's history is to go absolutely unpunished? It is my firm belief that unless all nations in the world can be made to realize that these moral forces must be vindicated there never can be an enduring peace.

NOTES

Champ Clark's idea that a country can keep out of war by attending to its own business would cause a Belgian to smile sadly and mockingly. So far as nations are concerned it does not take two to make a quarrel—only one.

"On one vacant lot 20 by 100 feet a Montclair boy of 16 raised \$56 worth of vegetables," says a New York exchange. "Multiply this amount by the number of vacant lots in Brooklyn and you get stupendous figures. The wastes of civilization are far too little considered." Could not the same species of figuring be applied to Charlottetown?

A POSITIVE DENIAL

Sir.—Within the past few days it has been reported that I was an applicant for the office of Postmaster at Charlottetown, vacant through the death of the late Postmaster, Mr. Hackett. I know not how or where the report originated, and when I first heard it I paid very little attention to it; but the rumor seems to persist. I therefore, deem it best to remove all uncertainty in connection with the matter, by giving the report a most emphatic and positive denial. A little over a year ago the Conservatives of King's County chose me for their standard bearer at the next election for the Federal House of Commons. I accepted the trust and from that time forward I have not for a moment entertained the thought of seeking or applying for any office of emolument, under the government. I would consider such a proceeding in the highest degree, mercenary, disreputable, and dishonorable. It would manifest in my opinion, a selfishness and a willingness to betray the trust reposed in me by the Conservatives of King's County. I am altogether unwilling to be placed in any such false position before the public. At my nomination, I proclaimed myself the people's candidate, and I stand by the people who chose me. I sincerely trust we shall hear no more of this false rumor which connects my name with the vacant Postmastership. I am, sir, etc. JAMES McISAAC. Charlottetown, Dec. 27, 1916.

A MAN OF ADVENTURE.

The current number of the Canadian Courier pays the following tribute to Capt. John L. Read who recently left to take charge of the new ice-breaker, John D. Hazen, recently sold to the Russian government and which is to be delivered in Archangel by Capt. Read. The paragraph is illustrated with two excellent cuts:— It is recorded that one Capt. Buckman, a native of Hantsport, Nova Scotia, was once an admiral in the Turkish navy. Buckman (or Buckrum) took a yacht which the Turkish government had purchased in the United States across to Turkey and the Turks appreciated his services so highly that they made him a sort of rear-admiral. Now little Prince Edward Island is contributing an admiral to a foreign navy. Capt. John Read, for many years in charge of one of the government steamers plying in winter time between the island and the mainland, took the ice-breaker Minto, over to Archangel and the Russians were so pleased with his exploit that they asked him to come again. And he is now complying with their request, going in command of the new ice-breaker "J. D. Hazen," which has been renamed the "Militia Selianinotch." Capt. Read has been asked to "attach" himself to the Russian fleet to take command of the entire fleet of ice-breakers, with the rank of admiral. Capt. Read is a native of Summerside, Prince Edward Island, and is regarded as one of the most capable master mariners in the Maritime Provinces. He made several trips to Hudson's Bay, and the accompanying snapshot shows him displaying his "bag" of ducks, the result of one day's sport at Eric Cove, Hudson's Bay. The snapshot clearly demonstrates that he can handle a gun as well as a ship.

BUSINESS FIRST.

Guest—"I must take the next train. It means money to me! How soon does it go?" Clerk, country inn—"I'd lose my job if I told you! It means money to us to keep you here!"

She: Jones is very absent minded. He is that so? He: Yes, he thought the other morning that he left his watch at home and he took it out of his pocket to see whether he had time enough to go home for it.

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. LOUSEN. FRIENDSHIP. Repeated by request.

I do not pray useless stories of golden treasures, Beloved or not, Nor yet that one unbroken round of earthly pleasures. But rather that your faith and love, no dross possessing, As gold may shine, And all your paths be lighted up with heavenly blessing, And peace divine, I cannot ask that naught of bitter pain and sorrow, Thy cup may hold, Or that you may not feel the shock today, to-morrow, Of conflict bold; But that the sanctifying power of furnace trial, Though burning hot, May leave your soul, as gain for every self-denial, Without a spot. I would not seek to rescue you from griefs grim clutches, Nor cry to spare, When God, with his own loving, skillful master touches, Thy heart lays bare; But I would wish to see thee rich in heavenly treasures, Full well refined, Yes, rich as God alone his bounteous gifts doth measure, Nor fall behind, I do not, cannot ask for you a lesser blessing, Than God's own love, To dwell with him and all his boundless wealth possessing, In heaven above, For you and I are only waiting here as strangers, Still bound for home, Abiding 'mid earth's darkening shades and many dangers, Till God says come.

By SIR EDMUND WALKER.

President of The Canadian Bank of Commerce.

The end of the war is not in sight, but the wounded and otherwise disabled soldiers are coming back, and it is not too early to come to close grips with the problem of finding employment for those who have no claims on previous employers, and of caring for those who are partly or completely disabled.

We have to consider what we owe to the man who has fought to defend our lives, our property and our liberty, and we have to consider how to prevent the disorganization of industrial society when the soldiers come back in large numbers and the making of army supplies has come to an end.

We do not wish the soldiers' homecoming to mean, except perhaps temporarily, a cause of industrial disturbance. We want, on the contrary, to find in it a great opportunity to increase the prosperity and happiness of that part of the Empire which they have fought to save.

We shall have lost forever the labouring power of our heroic dead and of those few who are totally disabled. We shall have gained the labour of many women untried before the war; we shall have gained the added strength, physical and mental, of countless soldiers who through the war have "found" themselves; and we shall, in much fewer cases, have returned soldiers who are more or less wrecked physically or mentally but who are not quite useless to the community.

I presume much of the work to be done by the Military Hospitals Commission leads directly to the larger work of land and industrial settlement. For obvious reasons we shall have that many of the returned soldiers will take up land. The manner of selecting such land so that communities of loyal men shall be planted in every province, of caring for the soldier-farmer in his early years of settlement, and of lending him money for improvements, is of prime importance. Re-entraining the Hospitals Commission has added to its other burdens the duty of making suitable for work, by training and by the use of newly invented implements, men who would otherwise in many cases be a charge upon the country and a monument of our ingratitude.

In my younger days the one-legged and one-armed soldier was always present, a frequent of war, and not without a meaning to the community—"Let us forget." We were used to seeing a bank-messenger, with one sleeve pinned to his breast, and his handsome commissionaire coat covered with medals.

HANDICAPPED, BUT NOT DISABLED.

To-day, every employer of labour, manufacturer, merchant, banker, or whatever his calling, should be considering how he can employ a few partly disabled men, and thus do something more in carrying the burdens of the war.

Many a machine shop can use a certain number of one-armed and one-legged men with hardly any loss of efficiency. The Hospitals Commission sends them out better prepared to lessen the effect of their disabilities than the wounded soldiers of other wars.

In a recent campaign to raise money for the British Red Cross, two officers totally blind, and the effect of wounds appeared before the public. Both had been trained in the wonderful establishment in England administered by Sir Arthur Pearson. One of these blind officers is now employed as an expert electrician, while the other is a competent actuary and already engaged in soliciting life insurance.

Totally blind men are being trained as stenographers, taking shorthand notes by a system which enables them to be read by touch before being typewritten by the same blind operator. Some of these men are already much more efficient than the average stenographer.

What the peaceful communities at home must bear in mind, that these men are not rendered unfit for useful work but that they are handicapped or forced by the loss of one limb or sense to put more energy into their remaining abilities.

All the ingenuity of this ingenious age should be employed, no matter at what cost, to enable the wounded soldier to earn his own living—which will not affect any pension he may receive.

When everything that human skill and sympathy can do is done, we shall have some men to be entirely taken care of by the state. I hope that in creating Soldiers' Homes for these, as well as in finding good work for all not totally disabled, we shall completely revolutionize the past and make the name of Canada shine brightly for its wisdom and its humanity in caring for its crippled heroes.

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Xmas Gifts that will be Appreciated For Men and Boys. Hockey Boots, Overshoes, Gaiters, Snowshoe Moccasians, Felt and Kid Slippers, Ankle supports, FOR WOMEN—Hockey Boots, Overshoes, Snowshoe Moccasians, Sattens in colors, White, Grey, Sand, Black, Nigger Brown, Pretty evening slippers, felt and suede, also Bedroom slippers in colors Rose, Purple, Navy and light Blue, Grey, Brown, Tan, Red, etc., FOR MISSES and CHILDREN—Hockey boots, Overshoes, Rubbers, Felt and Patent Slippers, Gaiters Black, Brown, Fawn, Red, and Blue, FOR the LITTLE TOTS—Pretty Patent Boots, (Blue, Grey, and Waite Tops) Moccasians, Choc. Tan White and Red, Felt Slippers.

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FOUR ANCIENT CHRISTMAS CAROLS.

The ancient Christmas carol "Holy Night" is German in its origin and is considered by many persons to be the most beautiful of all Christmas carols. It has sometimes been ascribed to Martin Luther, but the consensus of expert opinion is that it is much older than his time and is one of the oldest of German folk songs. The carol "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen," is English in its origin and dates back to about the beginning of the seventeenth century, although the author of the words and the composer of the music are unknown. The fine old melody sung to this poem possesses all the best qualifications of a sterling hymn tune and will probably last as long as the verses with which it is always associated.

is one of the oldest pieces of coherent music in existence, and both the words and music far antedate any of the others. The music is an old French melody, dated from the thirteenth century, although, of course, it has been harmonized to conform with more modern standards. There is a most curious but beautiful musical effect at the close of this carol. The words of "Draw Nigh, Immanuel," are about 100 years older than the music, being taken from the Mozarabic breviary of the twelfth century, and it is generally believed that they were taken from the liturgy of the early Christians at Toledo Spain, where the Mozarabic breviary was formulated. Another carol, "The First Noel," has a traditional French melody and probably originated in Breton, although the exact origin of this fine old song is somewhat in doubt.

SOMETHING IN HIS FAVOR.

"There's one thing I will say for that fellow whose mistakes cause so much trouble." "What is it?" "He doesn't claim that his intentions were good, anyhow."

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