

# The Charlottetown Guardian

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FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 1917.

## DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The old proverb "still waters run deep" has an apt illustration in the case of the Prince Edward Island Development Commission. Little has been heard of their labour during the past twelve months, but the reports submitted at the annual meeting on Wednesday night give ample evidence that the members have been far from idle. The reports we publish today speak for themselves. They are voluminous, comprehensive and outstandingly practical. There is little "hot air"—so characteristic of many of the reports and resolutions they are accustomed to read—and are brimful of helpful suggestions and concrete facts bearing upon the development of the resources of the Province. If the Commission did nothing more, it would have justified its existence by the preparation and filing of these valuable memoranda bearing upon the potential wealth of this fertile "Garden of the Gulf."

The able and versatile President of the Commission, Mr. Frank R. Hertz is a host in himself at the head of such an organization. He is a master of system, thoroughly at home in the discussion of our various development problems, the essence of courtesy and has the rare ability of keeping everybody busy, including himself, without showing the least indication of flurry or perturbation. He has, as his co-adjutors men of proved business acumen and outstanding ability, with the result that in twelve brief months, they have collected, examined, and put on record an array of facts and information on the subjects they were appointed to report upon, which would do credit to a Royal Commission of experts deliberating for three years.

At the meeting the other night, Hon. Murdoch McKinnon, voiced the sentiments of all who heard the reports read when he said that the reports were both voluminous and luminous and contained a mine of information which would be readily accessible when the Province and the Dominion were prepared to take action upon them. And yet the President says they have only "scratched the surface" of the subjects they have undertaken to study and report upon. The Government deserves all the credit Mr. Hertz gave it for initiating the Commission, the first of its kind in Canada, and we may be sure that when the reports are published in volume form and circulated among the other provinces the Commission will prove the forerunner of many similar organizations throughout the length and breadth of the land. Money will not be available yet a while to put into all the various schemes outlined, but as the result of the labours of the Commission, the Province will be in a position of "preparedness" so essential for proper development when normal conditions have been resumed.

The Prince Edward Island Development Commission and Premier Matheson, whose foresight and statesmanlike vision is responsible for its inception, deserve and will receive heartiest congratulations on the magnificent outcome of their first year's investigations and deliberations.

## GERMAN RELIC

German efficiency has long been a by-word and there is no doubt that that now unhappy country carried its efficiency and its organization to a level attained by few. It matters nothing to the point aimed at in this reference that the organization and efficiency were mechanical and soul-less, the point is that she became efficient, so efficient as to be able to control a large portion of the world's trade, and when she became involved in war, to defy the whole world for three years and probably longer. And her ability to do this came of organization, patient research, utilizing all her resources, keeping everything working and developing.

While Germany did all this her publicists made the most of it; her institutions, her achievements in industry, in commerce, in internal development, in her universities and schools, were heralded abroad throughout the world until the very name, Germany, became a word to conjure with and the world sat at Germany's feet. It is quite safe to place what has been known as German efficiency at fifty per cent. efficiency and fifty per cent. reputation. This fact has been proven by the war. The "invincible" German army, admittedly the greatest fighting machine the world had ever known, has proved itself less than fifty per cent. efficient; the other fifty per cent. has been made up of reputation—this time a reputation for frightfulness, but that by the way. We may safely assume that in her industrial, commercial and educational life, Germany, before the war, was a model of efficiency, an efficiency that might well be emulated by other nations.

We have before us a bulletin issued by the United States Department of Agriculture in 1913, entitled "Lessons for American Potato Growers from German Experiences." In an introductory paragraph the bulletin says: "Those working for the betterment of our potato industry can find no country that will more richly reward study than Germany, where potato culture and the utilization of this crop have attained a high standard."

A comparison made between the results obtained in Germany and the United States, in potato growing, shows that the average yield in the former was 202.5 bushels per acre while in the latter it was only 95.2 bushels. In Germany 28 per cent. of the potato crop is used for human food, 40 per cent. fed to farm animals, 12 per cent. is set aside for seed, 6 per cent. is made into alcohol and used for industrial purposes and to replace petroleum products, four per cent is made into starch, dextrose and related products. The Germans plant 24 bushels to the acre, or over twice as many as the custom both in Canada and the United States is. It is estimated that ten per cent. of the potato crop in Germany is lost through rot or decay, a very much lower percentage than is the experience either in the United States or Canada.

One of the great problems in German agricultural economy is to increase the nation's harvests and at the same time to maintain the productivity of the soil. It is the testimony of the German specialists that the potato has played the greatest role in this agricultural development. Hoed crops are beneficial to any soil, through the deep and thorough culture that is given them, with its resultant improvement in the physical condition and aeration. The profits from the crop justify the liberal use of commercial fertilizers from which there are important residual effects on other crops in the rotation. The clean culture practiced also brings all weeds into thorough subjection. The yields per acre of all farm crops have been greatly increased through the growing of potatoes, a fact which is particularly applicable to conditions today in our province. The high prices for potatoes here during the past season and the assurance that next year's prices will be at least more than ordinarily high, should stimulate our farmers to increase as far as possible the potato acreage and to unsparingly apply fertilizer, commercial or otherwise. The after effects alone will amply repay any reasonable outlay in this respect.

The German idea of combating disease in potatoes is to aim at producing a disease resisting variety and this has been successfully accomplished by German scientists. Disease resistance is a quality which, so far as we have been able to learn, has not been attempted outside of Germany. Here we fight the disease itself, of whatever variety it may be and no doubt, through time, potatoes cleanly bred through several generations, will develop into a disease-resisting family. In the United States, Agricultural Department's comment on this subject emphasizes is laid on the advantages of Bordeaux mixture for the control of late blight and says that "last year millions of bushels of New York potatoes decayed because farmers failed to spray or did not spray thoroughly."

The German method, the method insisted upon by its agricultural department and by its scientists is thoroughness. Cultivate thoroughly, fertilize thoroughly, spray thoroughly, and the best results will follow. We can take at least this leaf out of the German book, a book most of whose leaves have been so soiled as to be unfit for human touch or human example. But, before Germany fell, she had a greatness that in many ways was worth taking thought of, a greatness that is now only a relic but still worthy of emulation. A feature of this greatness was her system of agriculture which might all be included in the one word "thorough."

## NOTES

It is easy to win the war. All you have to do is to call a meeting and pass resolutions.

Don't eat all the potatoes. Keep enough for seed. It may be hard to get next May.

Some municipal councils are still passing resolutions recommending the Government to start something that was started last year, viz.: a nickel refinery in Canada.

It is usually the man who is not doing his full duty in connection with the war who is finding fault with those who are doing their best.

A fact as to editors—On rainy days, and also on other occasions which are not infrequent we find the whole of a truth in this from the Thomasville "Times."  
If you see an editor who pleases everybody, there will be a glass plate over his face and he will not be standing up.

There must be no hanging back, there must be no loitering; there must be no lingering. Time is a hesitant and a perplexed neutral; he has not decided which side he is going to swing his terrible scythe on. For the moment that scythe is striking on both sides with terrible havoc. The hour will come when it will be swung finally on one side or the other. Time is the deadliest of all the neutral Powers. Let us see that we enlist him amongst our Allies. . . . Act, and act in time. That is our appeal to you.—Lloyd-George.

In its strictures upon Mr. Simpson, President of the Central Seed Fair Committee, in connection with the cancellation of the fair, the Patriot is unjust as well as incorrect. For the sake of having a fling at the government, it misrepresents the attitude adopted by the President of the Seed Fair and asks a number of silly questions, intended to cover its undignified retreat. The only two members of the Fair Committee, on hand Wednesday morning were the President and Mr. Peter Brodie; there were only two exhibitors present, one of whom was Mr. Peter Brodie. Mr. Brodie thought the fair should be proceeded with; Mr. Simpson thought differently and acted accordingly. Every reasonable and unbiased person commends his discretion under the circumstances, although it is regrettable that the fair had to be abandoned for this year.

## THE AUTO QUESTION

Sir,—Almost every issue of the Charlottetown newspapers contain letters and editorials on the Auto question, but it does not seem to advance the question in any way. Both sides have their own opinions and there seems to be a dead lock. Why not do something?

The farmers of P. E. Island are not and never have been backward in adopting new ideas in farm machinery. In fact they lead all the other Provinces in that regard, but they have to be shown the advantages before they change. In that they show good judgment and commonsense.

Now has an honest effect been made to convince our farmers that the Auto would be an advantage to them? Has it ever been discussed in a way to get the farmers' ideas and point of view?

The farmers of this Province as a class, can probably show more real progressiveness and "upto-dateness" than any other class of men on the Island.

Why not get together. The farmers and the Province as a whole are losing a great deal by not having the Auto here. Everyone who has seen the advantages of motor vehicles in other places is convinced of this, but the average farmer has not seen this and knows nothing about it. Some of course would refuse to be convinced, no matter what was shown, but that class does not amount to much in the final vote. We need the Auto on P. E. Island, both for the farmer and the city man. Let us get them, but get them in a fair way and without personal abuse and ridicule. The farmer looks on the Auto as a luxury, only which he has no time nor inclination for. Show him the real uses of it, and what it leads to.

The motor truck and farm tractor are now in use in every other progressive farming country. We need them in every district of this Province.

With the labor shortage and high price of horse feed we must soon have them or quit farming.

The Auto Association will do a real good when it gets the farmers interested. Get busy.

I am, Sir, etc.,  
NEUTRAL FARMER,  
Queens County,  
March 5, 1917.

## CIVILIANS LEAVE GERMAN VILLAGES

British Headquarters in France, March 5.—There is little change in the situation. The enemy is now approximating a general line, which we may expect he will defend with a show of force. Counter-attacks are in evidence, but the affair is not going altogether according to his program. There are other reports, though he is destroying as much as possible, a good deal which is extremely useful is being abandoned. More to the west the situation conforms to the Bapaume-Achiet le Petit line. Our troops are now near the Laupart wood, north of Warcourt. Close fighting is taking place there; the enemy having tried to return to a position he lost too soon, he was unable to recover it. Around Gommecourt the ground is being systematically cleared. It appears the enemy has been careful to keep from his troops the fact that they were actually in retreat. Prisoners taken by the Germans have been blinded by shell fire refused to believe their comrades had gone and the fortress surrendered. Again prisoners from another division taken in this neighborhood did not credit either that Gommecourt or other villages and redoubts have now been occupied by the British. Villages for a distance east of Bapaume have been emptied of civilians making it fairly clear that the enemy is looking a distance ahead to what may prove to be the ultimate crisis of the war. The new forward movement has lived our men wonderfully.

Uncle Walt says: The soldier comes back from the carnage and wreck; he's minus an arm and a leg and a neck; ah, never again will he swagger and swing! He walks with a crutch and his head's in a sling. As long as he lives he will sit by his door, and tell how he waded in enemy gore, and young men will list to his harrowing tales and blush that they're standing unscathed and hale. I'd rather come home from the war in a dray, all broken, dismembered, my head shot away, than stand around telling, by day and by night, that I was too proud or too moral to fight. The soldier comes home for a season of peace, he carries his leg in a trunk or valise. But people will listen, their hats in their hands, to all his adventures in war-stricken lands, they'll call him a hero, a soul braver and true, they'll praise him and bless him and give him a chew. Then said is the lot of the by-standing world, who feels that it's wicked and shrill to fight. The girls turn him down and the boys hoot his name; he crawls neath a culvert to bury his shame.

## LOSS OF CASTE.

Mistress and maid were engaged in a battle of tongues.  
"How dare you talk to me that way?" the mistress demanded.  
"I never heard such impudence. You have a lot of nerve to call yourself a lady's maid."

"I don't call myself that now, ma'am," came the sardonic reply, "but I was a lady's maid before I got this job."

## WHY SHE ATE TACKS.

Nellie—I wonder why that hen is eating tacks?  
Sarah—Maybe she is going to lay a carpet.

## THE MONEY TEST

As the old Roman said, "The merchant who deals in sharp steel can at any time command gold." The Loan will not bring victory itself, though the Treasury be buried in the shower of gold and paper.

But it is equally true that there can be no keen edge to the steel unless it is continually sharpened on the golden grindstone. Sound finance is ever the foundation of victory in war; from the rudest sword-play of the little States of antiquity to the great crash of modern peoples in arms it is the piece of gold, other things being equal, that wins. We are accustomed to think of war loans as refinements of the last of war loans. In fact, the practice of borrowing money for martial purposes goes back to a period long before the dawn of history. It is only the regular repayment of loans which is wholly modern.

It is quite possible—Mr. Bonar Law hinted as much—that this war, which has made twentieth century man a quiverer with curious revivals of medieval practices, may end in introducing the antique "Benevolence" in modern guise. "There are other methods," said the Chancellor of the Exchequer, discussing the unthinkable possibility of the British Loan being a failure, "and if other methods are applied, the rate will not be 5 1/2 per cent." We may be sure that a humane man like Mr. Bonar Law is not contemplating a return to the painful demistry of King John; but there is a Tudoresque determination in his tone which needs marking by those who have little notion of mixing patriotism and finance.

The truth is that we are in one of those emergency crises in which everything ceases to be important but victory. For ourselves, as well as for Germany, the penalty of defeat is death—not literal physical annihilation, but the quenching for generations, if not for ever, of that creative moral energy in which the true life of great nations consists. We have seen how in France, though industrial activity seemed to recover so soon for thirty years and more the reverse of 1870 affected every department of her thought and activity with a kind of despair, leading in practical affairs to a certain lethargy only recently displaced. The fate before us is just being realized in the cold light of the Allies' reply, and has recoiled from the prospect, preferring a fight to the last to a self-obliteration in which her own will plays some part.

In such a war, forbidding by its very nature of compromise, gold must play a more than ordinarily important part. It is the dollar which will hold the moral force which holds gold as of little consequence compared with the realization of a great ideal. It is in that sense chiefly that finance in all ages has been the necessary foundation of success in war. No nation ever fought to its last dollar in the conventional phrase; but it is the nation which dares to go near that last dollar which will dare other things as well that are essential to victory. In the long run, therefore, the competition in loans is not simply pitting the money resources of one combination against those of the other, but a contest between the endurance of the British, Frenchmen, Russians, and Italians on the one hand, and the Austrians, Bulgarians, and the Turks on the other. Gold is only the symbol; the reality is the nation's capacity for self-sacrifice.

The Prime Minister did rightly, therefore, in insisting first and foremost on the moral obligation of the British people to lend to the Government all they can spare, without referring to yield and security, though the one is generous and the other unimpeachable. The new Loan will have failed of its purpose if it is not a truly national loan. The great interests may be trusted to take advantage of the most advantageous investment likely to be available with the strength of the Government guarantee behind it. They think not alone in terms of today, but throw their imagination forward for some years. But even if the sum of these great subscriptions could meet the needs of the Treasury, it would still be in the highest degree unsatisfactory if the Loan proved wholly, or even mainly, a financiers' Loan. One of the main aims is to tap the considerable resources of people who have never invested in Government securities in their lives, and one of the most interesting features of the scheme is that which lays down what may be called the "hire-purchase" principle of subscription.

To the old-fashioned it must be something of a shock to find borrowing recommended as a measure of thrift. The words of Polonius sound strangely in 1917. Instead of dulling the edge of husbandry, a considerable overdraft at the bank is advised as the "sovereignest thing in earth" against future slackness. If you have savings of five hundred dollars, and a reasonably secure position, says the new finance, borrow money from your bankers to buy two or three times five hundred dollars' worth of stock and pay off the loan by instalments. You (and the bank) have always the security; it is ingeniously safeguarded against serious fluctuation; you stand to lose little or nothing in interest; and you will have a growing incentive to economy for years to come, to your great personal benefit and to the advantage of the country.

There is, of course, nothing really inconsistent with the advice of the old sages in this counsel. There is all the difference between the borrowings of "prodigals and the speculators" (classes which Adam Smith bracketed together) and loans against security. But we imagine that the banks will use

wise discretion in making advances. Those impecunious people who in the first flush of enthusiasm at finding managers anxious to lend money, come with fantastic proposals will, no doubt, experience an abrupt disappointment; it is obviously intended that, in the precious Ciceronian phrase, no individual should bite off more than he can chew. But, with this reservation, this scheme is well devised to make available not only well-to-do wealth, but the reasonable expectations of a few years to come.

The banks can obviously deal only with people with a cheque-book—a large class which includes the aristocrats of labour. We hope some effective machinery will be evolved not only to net a fair percentage of the present high wages of working men and women, but also to mortgage their future activities, as in the case of the business and farming class. It would be a great gain morally to the nation if the masses became collectively large holders of national securities. One of the greatest defects of our high finance in the past has been the lofty contempt displayed for the very small investor. While every scullion and chambermaid in France knew all about the Rentes, few of the working men ever penetrated the arcana of Government and Local Loans. Our national finance was eminently who's-else in its outlook, with the superciliousness of small things which goes with that frame of mind. The demands of the war have given a rude shock to all these ideas, but the effects of neglecting the small investor remain. A burst of prosperity which is artificial, and can only be transient, finds him little inclined to lay aside for the rainy day. His extravagance is rather increased, and the freedom with which he spends aggravates in no slight degree the embarrassments of the nation. It is graceless work remonstrating with the poor for observing a quite natural impulse; but the remonstrance needs to be made. As the Acting Prime Minister said extravagantly at the present time has to be paid for in blood, and is a crime against the nation.

Unfortunately, the working classes, spoiled by many years of plenty, unfamiliar with the most elementary conception of thrift, have been taught difficulty in adjusting their duty both to themselves and to the community. "Money is flat," says the French peasant; "it is meant to be piled up." "Money is round," say the British; "it is meant to roll." Hence that monotonous inflation of the cheap luxury trades which is the astonishment of foreigners. The man who neither pays his country's direct taxes nor invests in his country's securities cannot have just perspective regarding his country's affairs.

No inference can be safely drawn from the average man's readiness to accept military service that he will be equally ready to sacrifice his small luxuries in the national interest. It is a commonplace that men will go to their graves like leads for causes for which they are loath to forgo a dinner. Thrift is a familiar burden but little appealing to those who are readiest to brave the dangers of the battlefield. Still a great deal can be effected by careful work through the National Service Leagues, and we hope our people will do better in this supreme effort than they have done so far. They would be the more easily influenced if they saw some really determined attempt to put a stop to senseless and tasteless luxury. It is only futile to preach thrift to the average man while fantastic extravagance reigns unchecked among classes which have less excuse.

The loan is the great test of staying power. It is the Summe of the civilian. The Army has already shown that it deserves victory, and can, humanly speaking, command it in due time. The country has now the opportunity of proving itself no unworthy of the achievements of the French battalions. If, in the vulgar phrase, money talks, it is only because the "crooked epher" which represents a million will also in this case represent the virtue, energy, and unconquerable resolve that resides in our people.

"Do you believe in telepathy?"  
"Yes. When a man gets up to make a campaign speech I can nearly always tell exactly what he has on his mind."

WILLIE STONE had been sent on an errand to the home of the rich Mr. Lott. He returned with the astonishing news that Mr. Lott was going mad.

"What makes you think that?" the father asked.

"The way he talked," said Willie.

"When I went into the room where he wanted to see me he said, 'Boy, where is your hat?' and there it was on my head all the time."

## DEPARTMENT TO ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY

OTTAWA, March 6.—"It is intended to create a new office in connection with the C. A. M. C. to be known as the Director of Medical Service Invalids," said Sir Edward Kemp, Minister of Militia, last evening. "The officer who will be selected to fill this responsible post will have full responsibility in dealing with and administering medical and surgical work in connection with returned soldiers, and his activities will be directed from Ottawa. It will be his duty to strengthen the personnel of the Canadian Army Medical Corps sufficiently to meet all the necessities of the case, by enlisting those experienced doctors who are willing to volunteer for this service."

"In the meantime, and until arrangements are completed, the work is being carried on by the Military Hospitals Commission, in conjunction with and under the advice of the medical officers of the C. A. M. C. Department of Militia and Defence.

## Replace Aid Commission.

"Upon the question, 'Should the Canadian Army Medical Corps take full charge of the medical work of the Military Hospitals Commission, there has been more or less discussion,' said Sir Edward Kemp, "After giving the matter careful consideration for some time past, the Department and the Commission have thought it desirable in order to better cope with the rapidly increasing requirements, that for several reasons, the Department of Militia and Defence should assume full responsibility for the medical branch of the work, through the Canadian Army Medical Corps, and adequate plans to this end are being worked out. The officers of the Canadian Army Medical Corps number approximately 1,800, of which about 500 are in Canada, and the balance are serving overseas. A large proportion of those in Canada are assisted in carrying on the work of the Military Hospitals Commission."

"In addition to these, there are 400 civilian medical practitioners partially employed in military work in Canada, and over 400 Canadian doctors have proceeded overseas to join the Royal Army Medical Corps of the British Army."

## Proud of Doctors.

"One of the great accomplishments of the war which we as Canadians will always have reason to feel proud of, is the splendid part which has been played by Canadian doctors; not only because of the personal sacrifices which they have made in abandoning lucrative practices in Canada, but because of their heroism, together with valuable service rendered generally, in hospitals overseas, to our own soldiers as well as those of Britain and her Allies, which service has been generously recognized by those benefited, and the Canadian people may be trusted not to fall short their appreciation."

"To many of those members of the medical profession who were detached from preceding overseas, but who have always been anxious to perform their part, a door is now being opened by which they will be enabled to perform a most valuable and patriotic service in rendering assistance in connection with the war to those invalids who are returning to Canada, broken in body and in spirit. This work will require the utmost patience in bringing these men back to normal life in order that they may once more take their full share in the activities and responsibilities of citizenship."

## IN PLAIN SIGHT.

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