

The Charlottetown Guardian

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MONDAY, MARCH 26, 1917.

CONSERVATION

Some years ago, possibly a dozen or more, the Ontario government presented the government of this province with a pair of beaver. The government, having many other things to look after, handed the pair of strangers over to Mr. Robert Jenkins, Mount Albion. Mr. Jenkins turned the little animals loose by the side of a small stream running through his property, and let them shift for themselves. The stream was then a narrow fordable one, flowing from a spring between Mount Albion and Lake Verde to East River, a length in all of about seven miles. At points along its course there were low lands extending in some places a few hundred feet from its banks and covered with a growth of scrub bushes. Today there are fifteen beaver dams across the stream, between its source and the East River. Each of these dams shelters three or more beaver houses or colonies; the bordering lands that are so low as to be practically valueless are covered with water to a depth of one or two feet. These miniature lakes are teeming with trout, also sprung from hatchery stock put in some years ago. The beaver have outgrown the bounds of their habitation along this stream and have overflowed into neighboring streams, notably Johnson's River and Morell River, and it is estimated there are in all about five hundred animals, all descendants of the original pair presented by the Ontario government and five pairs added subsequently by a company organized by Mr. Jenkins when he found that the original pair had made up their minds to found a colony.

Now that this wonderful colony of valuable little furbearers has outgrown its original habitation and got beyond control of its owners, the beaver propagation problem has reached a point where, either the animals must be exterminated or protected. The original owners can no longer protect them. They originated a great industry, great in more ways than one, but it has grown beyond their control and must now either be controlled or shut down.

There are two sides to the question of protecting these animals as our few other wild animals and birds are protected, namely their value to the province as a whole and the injury they may do in damming streams which may overflow adjoining lands and even roads as has happened in a part of Lot 48. That beaver fur is valuable it is unnecessary to assert; it is the most valuable fur we have, next to silver fox. The experience in Mount Albion has proved that beaver will thrive and multiply in any or all of the streams of the province. Properly protected, prevented from multiplying too rapidly and becoming a nuisance they would be a boon to many trappers all over the Island. The low lying lands along many of the streams would probably be inundated and rendered useless; some roads might have to be raised a foot or two although with proper care in guiding our streams it is doubtful if this would be necessary. Last Autumn complaint was made that the road at the Lot 48 Railway Station was flooded, and the Commissioner of Public Works ordered an investigation. The report of the Engineer stated that "the road is flooded for a length of 60 feet to a maximum depth of one foot." It was also stated that "the culvert and the road for five feet east of it is dry showing that the culvert is not in the lowest part." He recommended that a "new culvert be placed" in the part of the road shown by the beavers to be the lowest, and where it should have been in the first place. The whole road in this particular section is low, but the proper placing of the culvert carrying away the water would have prevented overflowing the road. It is probable that similar precautions anywhere else on the Island would have similar results, and that there would be no damage to roads from anything the beavers would build.

It has been shown in the experience of many places that the beaver is one of the most potent forces in the preservation of the water supply. Formerly never a stream flowed through a level meadow but beaver had built a dam across it and thus strung ponds along it like a rope of pearls. These ponds held the water in storage along all small streams and were of inestimable value in stopping freshets and allaying droughts. It is known that the streams in this province are slowly drying up and the beaver, one of nature's great forces in the conservation of the water supply, would unquestionably retard the drying up process.

At Mount Albion where the small stream was converted into a chain of lakes, the waters were stocked with fish. This could be done in other streams as well and the triple purpose be accomplished of preserving a valuable game animal, conserving our water supply and providing fish for the angler.

The possibilities of this great industry, a fitting companion to our fox industry, are great and it would be contrary to the conservation idea that all are preaching today to let it drop. The present owners must, to save themselves, either kill off the colony or hand the whole thing over to the province to be placed along with our few other wild animals under legal protection.

HOME PROJECTS

We note by our exchanges that there is a practically nation-wide movement to cultivate town lots, to raise foodstuffs on every available foot of land. Almost every city, town and village is now organized with this laudable end in view, and the coming summer will see activities in this direction that have never been dreamed of.

It is pleasing to note that in our own city the schools have taken up the question under an organization promoted by Prof. McLarty of Prince of Wales College, and ably seconded by all the city teachers. Through their joint efforts, 117 boys and girls in the three city schools have undertaken to do their part in cultivating and caring for such lots as may be available to them. Of this army of young cultivators Prince street has furnished 32; Kent street 42 and Queen Square 43. Already, as intimated in a former issue, several citizens have placed vacant lots at their disposal, but not enough land has yet been offered to meet the requirements. It is hoped that those who have uncultivated lots that are not likely to be sold in the immediate future will place them at the disposal of the schools. Whether the combined efforts of these 117 young farmers will result in materially increasing the year's production of foodstuffs, one thing is certain, the lots they undertake to cultivate will be cleaned up and improved, making them more valuable and more saleable; the general appearance of the city will be greatly improved and the children who undertake the work will be greatly benefited, mentally and physically. There are many unsightly, weed-grown lots in the city that could, with advantage to the owners, be handed over for this purpose and we trust that their owners will take advantage of the opportunity to do a good turn, to the city, the children and themselves.

A MILITANT PACIFIST

Mr. Porter Emerson Browne, of Norfolk, Conn., writes as follows to the New York Sun:—If we must have (God help us!) an Americanism like that advocated by those human hookworms that are trying to make us a nation of dirt-eaters (I refer to Messrs. Bryan, Mann, Moore, Daniels, Villard and their sort) let us at least be consistent.

First, let us change the national emblem from an eagle to a skunk. Then let us drop the red, white and blue flag that now flows over us, and replace it with a nice white one having a wide yellow streak down the middle. Following which we will turn to the wall the pictures of Lincoln, Washington and Grant, and the other poor roughnecks who were not too proud to fight, and after all joining in the well known anthem "My Country, 'Taint of Thee" we will extend a cordial invitation to Germany to come right in and murder our women and children on shore where it's drier. For being a darned fool is just like anything else; if you've made up your mind to be one, why not try to be a good one?

THE HOPE OF DEMOCRACY

There is a great deal of work to be done in the world for those who advocate radical reforms, says an exchange. A kindly providence provides that. The radical reformer is usually in stern opposition to the existing Government. The people have a naughty habit of placing in office only the men who do not share his views.

In every country but China, for instance, the pacifists are in opposition. A Government, vested by the people with the responsibilities of office, naturally favors defending the country. Even the Chinese Government seems of late to be coming into line.

The public has a bulwark of defence against confusion in the fact that most of the laws of the land are conceived in sanity and responsibility. The radical reformers, independents, agitators and cranks make a lot of noise, but the impression they record is mostly on the eardrums of those who have to listen to them. One of the greatest compliments to democracy, for instance, is that Bryan is famed for his inability to get into office.

Providence seems to have arranged that those who are born with a passion for agitating shall always have sufficient scope for their activities, due to the consistent refusal of the people in general to go mad. We reject the theory that some men are born with a divine right to exercise political action, and we cling to the assurance that not enough men are born incapable of sane political thought to distract the attention of the majority from the course dictated by common sense.

NOTES

If the Turks who are being driven out of Asia wait long enough they may meet the Turks who are being driven out of Europe.—Boston Transcript.

One thing the capture of Bagdad does at once, and even without a further development of the campaign against the Turks. It closes the door of the German "corridor" to the east.

From La Fere, where a battle is now raging, it is about 125 miles to the German frontier and about sixty miles to the Belgian boundary. The enemy has been driven out of almost 1,000 square miles of French territory, but he still occupies nearly 8,000 square miles of France, the total area of which is 207,000 square miles. The area of Belgium is 11,375 square miles, of which the Germans still occupy almost 11,000. For purposes of comparison it may be said that the area of New Brunswick is 27,985 square miles.

OUR OTTAWA LETTER

(From our own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, March 22.—It is given out here that the Canadian Council of Agriculture, in session at Regina, has notified Sir George Foster, Minister of Trade and Commerce, that, after considering the reported offer of the British Government to purchase the entire surplus wheat crop of the Dominion, it is of the opinion that the minimum price should be \$1.50 for No. 1 Northern at Winnipeg, and the maximum price \$1.90. Failing that, there should be a flat price of \$1.70 at Fort William. The other grades, down to No. 1 Northern, should be valued according to milling and baking tests. The offer of the British Government was \$1.30 at Fort William, and the high price named by the Canadian Council of Agriculture has caused much surprise at Ottawa, for there is no valid reason to justify it. The surplus crop of Australia for 1917 has already been purchased by the British Government, and the Australian farmer has received the equivalent of from \$1.12 to \$1.18 for his wheat. Many things have to be taken into account by the farmer in deciding whether to take the risk of the market or to conclude a hard and fast contract by which before he puts a seed in the ground he is assured that no matter what may happen during the year, his wheat will have been guaranteed a fixed price. It is quite possible that the war may end this year, in which case Russian wheat would be rushed through the Dardanelles and the bottom would drop out of the market.

The Militia Department has just issued a call for a volunteer corps of 50,000 men for the defence of Canada in case of emergency. These will be organized and enlisted in connection with the present militia regiments. They will be clothed and equipped similar to the overseas troops, but the letter will wear a distinguishing badge on the arm. Until May, these men will train in the evenings, and then they will go into camp with the overseas units. The service will be for one year, but should the war last longer, until it is over, and for six months more if it is considered necessary. The troops to be mobilized will consist of infantry and field artillery, with a due proportion of supply and transport, medical and other administration services. Men between the ages of 18 and 45, who are medically fit for active service, are urged to enlist. Pay for the officers, non-commissioned officers and men will be the same as that prescribed for active militia called out for active service of \$18 a month for married men, and a proportionate allowance for officers and non-commissioned officers, graded according to rank. At the present time there are approximately 50,000 troops in Canada who have volunteered for service overseas, and it is desired that these be sent across the ocean with a little delay, as possible. It is to realize these troops that the 50,000 volunteers are now being called for. There may be trouble along the border in the event of hostilities between the United States and Germany, and in that case these troops would be needed for home defence.

The Duke of Connaught and his family endeared themselves so closely to the people of Canada during their residence here that the news of the death of the Duchess will be received with the sincerest regret. The intimate association of their Royal Highnesses with Canada was emphasized the other day when Prince Arthur of Connaught visited the Princess Pats and expressed the desire of his sister to review that fine body of men in France. The death of the Duchess will cause a serious grief in Ottawa, many of whose people were privileged to see much of her when at Rideau Hall. They realized how anxious Her Excellency was to assist her royal husband in all things that made for the advancement of Canada and the Empire. Always of a vivacious and cheerful disposition, this beautiful Duchess followed the serious operation a few years ago, from which has made a miraculous recovery. The sympathy of Canadians will go out to the Duke in his bereavement.

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louson.

BE CONTENTED.

Life is one continued struggle; from our birth the strife extends: Though we find some peaceful moments—still the struggle never ends.

Many pains and many bruises; many burning tears are shed— We must fight if we want freedom: we must toil if we want bread.

Bravely face each situation, though it be so hard to bear— Each man has an equal portion— every woman has her share.

If the world seems cold and cruel, don't despair nor sigh in vain; Try and smile and look contented— you will soon be right again.

Thank the Lord for all His blessings; force your spirits to arise; If you're always sad and gloomy very few will sympathize.

Sadness spreads in all directions. Gladness spreads far quicker still.

Hide away your little worries, though it be a bitter pill.

Smiles are like the rays of sunshine flashing on a flowing stream. In a thousand bright reflections— dazzling, wonderful, supreme, Try and smile on all occasions— watch how easily it blends— You will find your load seems lighter, and you'll soon have many friends.

BAPAUME

The Significance of the Latest British Victory

What the capture of Bapaume signifies is indicated in the description of a correspondent with the Germans in December, who said of it at that time: "Bapaume in ruins is stronger than it was intact, and the Germans, working overtime, particularly in the last five non-fighting weeks, have turned Bapaume into an inland Gibraltar, seemingly impregnable if anything could withstand the irresistible modern machinery of war. The rubbish and wreckage of homes and stores added themselves admirably to conversion into the citadel of as powerful a field fortress as German industry and technical thoroughness can produce. Still theoretically threatened with envelopment on the left bank, Bapaume has been and is still, being fortified against every point of the compass—insulated against the near-by British by very many wrappings of extraordinary trenches and broad girdles of barbed wire, with every evidence that the fortifying process will be continued all winter, perhaps till spring, perhaps indefinitely. New defensive lines are being conjured out of the ground over night in a rather hasty improvised form, then they are being built out at the rate of about two a week.

Just how many fortified layers enveloped Bapaume may not be told, but I passed through more than 20 on my way to the first line, and the last was stronger than the first. Startling was the difference between these newest model German lines or defenses and the best they were able to show in August, or even October. What, then, secured trench perfection, is puny compared with the 1917 models of field fortifications, which contain all the modern improvements and novelties suggested by five months' experience in resisting an irresistible offensive. Yet the German leaders are unwilling to commit themselves to the positive statement that Bapaume cannot be taken if the British want to pay the price.

As it turned out, "the price" paid by the British was the expenditure of an enormous amount of high-explosive shells, which rendered all the elaborate defences practically futile.

Germany Defeated There 1870

To soldiers in and outside Bapaume it possesses a special interest—especially for the French Gen. Faidherbe who died there on January 2, 1871, one of the few French victories of the Franco-Prussian war, defeating Gen. Von Goben. The possession of the town had previously been disputed a half dozen times, besieged two or three and sacked once. Louis XI. besieged it in 1469, and destroyed it. Charles Quint restored it. Francois I. besieged it and took it. It fell later into the hands of the Spaniards, from whom it was taken and made French by de la Meilleraye, marshal of France, in 1645, with the aid of the musketeers of d'Artagnan and the Gascony cadets of Cyrano de Bergerac.

It was at a critical period of the thirty years' war that Bapaume became French. M. de la Meilleraye had probably more to do with the conquest than either d'Artagnan or Cyrano, but there was less romance in his role. De la Meilleraye had taken Arras after the famous siege, then turned to Bapaume, called "the key to Flanders." There are many analogies between his campaign and that of the Allies today. "Today, as then, the people are finding the war 'long.' Then, today, military critics pickled out the flaws in the plans and complained of slowness and lack of energy in executing them. The army of the Hapsburgs had dug itself in around Bapaume as the Germans are dug in there today.

History Repeats Itself

Then, as now, mettlesome soldiers of France chafed in the trenches. Like the pollus of 1916, they wallowed in mud when in the open, and waded waist deep when underground. Marched in the mud, they were then, as now, have been generals in the present war, criticized for dilatory tactics, and his laurels, gained at Arras, had begun to fade; he saw the shadow of disgrace falling upon him. Cardinal Richelieu, impatient and imperious, insisted upon greater activity and energy. Then, as today, the reply was "more cannon, more ammunition"; Richelieu sent more cannon, more ammunition, with an order to attack.

De la Meilleraye assembled his lieutenant-generals, de Lorgueil and Harcourt, in a council of war to decide whether they should risk the assault. "I know in the regiment of the guard," said M. de Lorgueil, "a most capable officer and a man of spirit and resources. He came to me lately, returning from duty, and told me something that impressed me. Call him in, marshal. He will repeat better than I what he observed."

D'Artagnan's Coup

The officer of cadets came in and told how he had noticed a portion of the town wall at the suburb of Saint-Pierre that was not so well defended as the rest. "Stimulate an attack upon another part of the ramparts," he said, "and give me a company of my comrades from Gascony; I promise you I'll get into the place." "Well, sir," said the marshal, "I will send your commission to be signed, and you shall answer for the success of this audacious venture with your head."

The following day, January 13, Bapaume was taken by assault, and the officer who planned and organized the attack and led it to success earned there one of his titles to the baton of

marshal himself. It was d'Artagnan, historians are conflicting in dates and more details as to the taking of Bapaume. Some place it in 1647, others in 1644, which is more probable. In the latter case Cyrano de Bergerac could not have participated with his cadets in the final assault. He had been wounded at Arras with a sword thrust in the throat that had sent him back to Paris an invalid for the rest of his days. D'Artagnan, though, was there, undoubtedly, and it is certain that he played an important role in the victory.

Bapaume is 15 miles southeast of Arras, 25 miles northwest of St. Quentin. It was an artillery station before the war, and had extensive cambric, calico, thread and sugar factories and spinning mills. The population was about 4,000.

REST HUTS OR HOMES IN THE TRENCHES.

The boys at the front are in need of Rest Huts, where they can find material comfort and spiritual help when they come from the trenches. A great number of these are already situated where they can be of the greatest service to the boys, but more is wanted.

The General of the Salvation Army has decided to erect immediately a number of Huts for the Canadian and Newfoundland troops in France, and has asked the Canadian Territory

to help defray the cost of this extension. These will be under the supervision of Salvation Army Officers set apart for that purpose, who from their experience in dealing with men are well adapted for such work. Subscriptions for the above will be gratefully received by.

CAPTAIN CONDIE,
Of The Salvation Army,
Great George Street,
Charlottetown, P. E. I.

PRISONERS OF WAR

Many people doubt whether the prisoners in Germany receive the food sent them. Here is a letter from an Islander now a prisoner of war in Germany, who wishes to thank the many friends for their kindness in sending him parcels.

The letter is as follows: "Dear Mother,—I have received another box from you, also the parcel with the sweater. The box was a splendid one; also one from Laurie in Brookline, and I have cards from the Red Cross in London saying they have forwarded two more, which I expect to receive this week.

The cake came in excellent condition but the cheese was rather mouldy, but it was all right inside, though I have received two Christmas parcels from the Montague women's Patriotic Association and one from B. F. McKinley, North River, P. E. I., which you might acknowledge for me and give them my sincere thanks; also one from Aunt Lizie. How is everybody around Union now? I suppose about as usual. Remember me to Bert and Minnie when you see them. I must close now.

From your loving son,
F. C. ESSORY.

ENCOURAGE THRIFT

Extravagance, always a folly, in these days becomes a crime, always a virtue, in these days becomes a national duty.

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