

THE Charlottetown Guardian

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12TH, 1914.

FOX BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

The meeting of the P. E. Island Fox Breeders Association held in Summerside Thursday, and a report of which was given in The Guardian yesterday morning, was perhaps the most promising and encouraging meeting yet held by the association and marks another decided step in the advance of the industry.

When the fox industry was in its infancy the need of organization and united action was felt and out of this need grew the P. E. Island Fox Breeders Association with a large membership and an apparently limitless supply of enthusiasm. The infant industry grew apace, men became wealthy in a season, success and unbounded prosperity was written on every fox ranch and on the countenance of every fox man.

The war came and the financial world received a shock. The fox business felt the jar and sales became more difficult, promotions were hampered and men's thoughts again returned to the Association. As during the infant period the need of united action was again felt. The Association approached the Government with a view to placing the business on a firmer foundation than ever, giving it Government protection and sanction, and a plan was formulated by which the business would be shielded from the dangers which threatened it from within and without.

This plan was laid before the fox breeders at Thursday's meeting and it appealed to them and steps were agreed upon to carry it to a successful conclusion. So favorably was it received that practically all the fox breeders who had not formerly been members of the Association or who had allowed their membership to lapse, became members of the Association. The present membership may now be regarded as very fully representative of the whole industry and thoroughly united.

In pursuance of the plan adopted and on the carrying out of which the Government has pledged its assistance, a convention will be called in each county in the near future, at which five representative delegates, the choice of the convention, will be selected to attend a parliament of foxmen in Charlottetown, at which an Act of Incorporation will be drafted, a system of classification agreed upon that will embrace all the desirable features of the present system with such modifications and extensions as may be considered to be in the interests of the whole industry, and such safeguards provided for as may be deemed necessary to protect the investor and the industry generally.

Out of this general scheme will evolve a systematic publicity campaign which will place the real and actual standing of the industry and of companies and individuals engaged in it in their true light before the outside world. This publicity is calculated to meet any misrepresentations that may be made either by designing interests opposed to the business, or by unscrupulous promoters in the business. It will give the industry not only the official sanction of the Government, but will give it also such wholesome restraints as the Government may see fit to impose in consideration of its official sanction.

A strong and representative executive has been selected who may be depended upon to carry out the intention of the large and harmonious meeting held on Thursday and also to do everything possible in the interests of the industry.

We trust that all foxmen and those interested directly or indirectly in this business will give their hearty support to the Association and work harmoniously together for the building up of one of the world's greatest industries and one which is yet only in its infancy.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

There are two classes of people to whom the coming of Christmas is looked upon as a sort of nightmare. These are they of whom much shall be expected, and the clerks in the general stores.

Of the former, who constitute a fairly large class and whose troubles are more imaginary than real—originating possibly in selfishness—we shall say nothing at present. With the latter we have every sympathy, and all the more so because the burdens laid upon them during the busy season are the result of thoughtlessness on the part of customers.

It may be taken for granted that every salesman or saleslady is anxious not only to please their customers but to faithfully serve their employers. It is necessary, during the busy season, that they shall give extra time and extra effort in order to meet the extraordinary demands, and this is particularly true of the Christmas season. Very much of this extra work might be avoided by a little thoughtfulness on the part of customers. If, for example, customers dropped into the store during the early hours of the day instead of waiting till everybody else is doing their shopping at the last possible hour before closing time, what a change it would make in the clerk's daywork! Will customers kindly remember this during the coming Christmas season?

And there is a class, a distinct class, to whom, at this season, a word of advice might be tendered. These are the "shopppers," those who go shopping, not buying and on whom the courteous clerk waits with a smile on his or her lips and murder in his or her heart, knowing that they are only shopping.

It is said that a lady called in a certain store just as the tired clerks, after a particularly busy day, were preparing to leave. The lady wanted to see some blankets. The clerk took down from shelf after shelf, packages of blankets, spread them out before the lady, explained their life history from the shearing of the sheep to the current moment, but they did not suit. There were some more blan-

kets on an upper shelf and the young man procured a step ladder. The lady "not wishing to give him any trouble" told him not to mind, for, said she, "I don't want to buy any, I'm only just waiting for a friend." "Oh," replied the bland clerk, with the same sweet smile on his lips and, doubtless, with murder in his heart, "it is no trouble, I assure you. If you think he is in any of those on that top shelf I'll bring them down," but the lady left as he was again climbing the ladder.

This kind of shopping should be avoided especially during the Christmas season.

VIRTUE OF ECONOMY

An exchange commenting on economy as a virtue, says: We may well realize, now, as at any other time, that the provincial no less than the municipal governments, East and West, have for a good while back been exceeding the speed limit of ordinary prudence. The situation has a remote family likeness to that which arose south of the line years ago when municipalities and individual States, crazed by the inflation spirit, rushed into all sorts of boom enterprises, railways, canals, highways, factories, banks and what not, and ultimately landed in exhaustion and bankruptcy or in the deeper disgrace of repudiation. The public credit of the whole country was shaken for the foreign creditor does not distinguish readily between Federal and State or local debts, but charges them all up in his mind to the borrowing entity known to him as the United States or Canada, as the case may be. Fortunately, as things turned out in the end, an appeal for aid to the Washington treasury was rejected, and the victims of their own unwisdom had to work out their salvation as best they might. The enormous burden of taxation which became necessary brought the people to their senses and led them to enact constitution prohibitions against guaranteeing and bonusing and wild-cat finance of every kind. Nowadays, therefore, the individual States seldom appear in the market as borrowers, but municipal indebtedness has increased by leaps and bounds, partly, we may suppose, owing to the migration of population from the farm to the town. Yet it may be doubted whether, taking everything into account, it is as heavy, man for man, as in Canada.

It is suggested in various quarters that to help Canadian municipalities over the stile the Dominion Government should create a loan fund from which they could borrow on proper security. We tried that experiment sixty years ago, and a disastrous one it proved. It was in force in Upper as well as in Lower Canada, the Government borrowing in England at 6 per cent, and practically lending at 6 with a 2 per cent. sinking fund. Everything looked well on paper; the municipalities were to pay the cost of operating the scheme, could not borrow above 20 per cent. of their assessed valuation, had to turn over their taxes as security when called on, and could not obtain a loan except for bona fide public improvements, and not then till their financial condition had been investigated by a competent board. What really happened was that the "booster" entered and took possession; the money was wasted in bonusing this, that and the other venture which did no one, not even himself, much good and at length the two Governments after Confederation had to shoulder the loss, the taxpayers in Municipalities that had not borrowed being obliged to pay for the fun of the profligate ones.

Municipal indebtedness is a grave question in England where gigantic liabilities have been piled up, although under the Local Government system care has been taken to prevent extravagance, and, above all, corruption. The other day the Chancellor of the Exchequer exhorted all concerned to bear in mind that the present was a time of war and hence to "economize as never before," inasmuch as "economy was the only means by which they could hope to meet their creditors face to face and maintain their good name for the future." Instead of asking the Government to lend to burdened municipalities, which is the old story of seeking to cast out devils by the aid of Beelzebub, would it not be wiser for the local taxpayer in Canada to insist on a drastic reduction of expenditure and the leading of a saner life in general?

PITY THE BELGIANS

There are some millions of people starving, suffering from cold, sick and absolutely helpless in stricken Belgium. As announced elsewhere in this paper a ship will be available about Christmas to carry further supplies from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, for these people upon whom one of the most awful calamities in the world's history has fallen, a calamity that came, not as the result of any fault of theirs, but, strangely, because they did their duty.

We are nearing the Christmas season and in this blest land of ours there will be neither hunger nor suffering from cold; all are comfortably situated and on Christmas Day there will be abundance. In the midst of our abundance let us remember the millions who are perishing for want of such comforts as we have in abundance and to spare. It will surely add to the joys of our Christmas if we know that, by a kindly act, by giving what we can so easily spare, we have added a little comfort to those who need it so keenly.

Mr. Riley, Secretary-Treasurer of the Belgian Relief Committee, explains elsewhere in this paper how our Christmas may be made happier for ourselves and for others.

ONE OF OUR CONTRIBUTIONS

The value of Prince Edward Island's gift to the Army Field Service Fund, including freight, is \$55,000. The contribution, although somewhat less than had been hoped, is fairly respectable in comparison with \$30,000 from New Brunswick with a population three times as large as ours and \$100,000 from Nova Scotia with a population four times as large as ours.

NOTES

A cheque for \$3,500,000, virtually backed by the British Government, was cleared last week through New Orleans to buy plain, long-eared Georgia mules for use by the British army in France and Belgium. All the country around Atlanta, Augusta, Macon and Savannah is being drained of mules. The big Western markets at St. Louis and Kansas City have none for sale. Some Southerners see danger in this heavy draft of mules from the South. Many counties are farmed largely by negroes, and every negro who has a mule has offered it for sale. It is feared that next year's crop will suffer for lack of mules to work the fields.

By a large majority the Glasgow Town Council voted in favour of the prohibition of the sale of drink during the continuance of the war. Bailie Irwin moved a motion urging the Government to prohibit the sale of liquor. He said it was everyone's desire to assist the military authorities in this great crisis, and Lord Kitchener's appeal for efficiency and sobriety should have their support. The motion was an appeal to the spirit of patriotism and the spirit of sacrifice in the home. Apart from the question of military efficiency, he held that there was too much facility in Glasgow for the consumption of liquor.

HAPPENINGS OF THE WEEK

One of the nicest dances of the season was given on Wednesday evening last by Miss Gorman as a farewell to Mr. and Mrs. Wm. J. Able, Mr. Oulton and Mr. Lyman Davison, all of whom are leaving this Province. The hall which was prettily decorated with bunting made a delightful setting for the many handsome gowns worn by the ladies who whiled away a very enjoyable evening to delightful music furnished by Miss J. Hood. The chaperones were Mrs. J. Fitzgerald and Mrs. Gerald Bremner. Mr. and Mrs. Able and Mr. Oulton during their sojourn in Charlottetown, made a host of friends for themselves all of whom regret their departure, but follow them to their new homes with very best wishes for continued success and prosperity.

Mr. Lyman Davison has gone to Halifax on Military Duty and will be very much missed by the younger social circle during the winter months.

On Thursday afternoon Miss Minnie Owen was hostess at afternoon Bridge and a very enjoyable social time was spent.

The new Booth wing of St. Luke's General Hospital, Ottawa, was formally opened Tuesday afternoon by the Duke of Connaught. Mr. J. R. Booth the donor, was present and the gift was formally made to the governors of the hospital. Sir Louis Davies presided.

Mrs. Neil McLeod has returned to her home in Summerside after a delightful visit to Charlottetown where she was entertained quite extensively during her short stay.

Mrs. H. Carson Flood will receive for the first time since her marriage at the residence of Mrs. A. A. Bartlett, on Wednesday afternoon, Dec. 16th.

The afternoon Bridge Club this week was entertained at Mrs. Morrison's home.

AIDS TO ECONOMY.

We have been respectively told that we must economize in these trying days, and that it is very unsocial indeed to cut down our expenditure. On the whole a reasonable economy holds the day. But people practice it in curious ways. One woman, for instance, being so economical, and when asked how, said with pride, 'We've given up toast for lunch.'

On the whole, people are economizing in clothes without really depriving themselves of very much. Manufacturers grasped the situation with unusual quickness, and instead of being drawn from this war, clothes are this season unusually cheap. It is possible, for instance, to buy hats for \$2 which last year would certainly have cost double, and the same applies, in less degree to coats and skirts. There is doubtless a moral to be drawn from this war, clothing manufacturers to do our economizing for us; and that it may be that one of the lessons of the war will be that women will refuse in future to pay the exorbitant prices demanded of them by dressmakers with any pretensions to being specialists.—Manchester "Guardian."

ANY GRANDSIRE TO ANY GRANDSON.

"Child, look into my eyes and tell me what think you of the world today?" "The flowers are bright, the sun is shining, Grand-dad, let us go out and play."

"Aye, to play in the golden sunshine—Fitting work to your hand and mine!" "Grand-dad, grand-dad, why are you crying?" "Great big tears on your eyelids shine!"

"Child, I cry for the pain and pity—Friends are falling in fight today, Here sit we in the sunshine idle— All we can—to go out and play!"

"Go you play, and forget the trouble, Live your life of the passing hour, Would that I too might play light-hearted, Glad of the sun though war clouds lour."

"Bitter the weight of the years upon me, Bitter the shame to know others die, Face to foe, on a field of glory, Bitter here in my chair to lie."

"Go you play, for the years will bring you Fights to wage in the needful hour, Weep I must, seeing far behind me Lie the days of my manhood's power."

"Aye, go play, and forget the trouble, Yet from your game a moment stay— This at least may the years allow me, Kneel a moment with me, and pray."

—H. Hutchison, in Westminster Gazette.

LINES ON THE KAISER.

He is the King and Kaiser, Of the German Empire strong, But not the invincible ruler Who'll conquer and who'll win.

He, who has caused such sorrow, He, who has caused such pain, Should not be called a monarch But a demon whom soon we'll rein.

He thought that he would conquer, He thought he'd rule the world, But some how he was mistaken, For the allied flags are still unfurled.

He has a thick waxed moustache And a big fat round face, With a look of dissipation, And not of natural grace.

Hurrah for our gallant soldiers, Hurrah for our dear old flag, Which has saved us, King, and country Although the foemen brag. —BASIL NOSSEY, Bothwell, P. E. I.

THE WEAKNESS OF THE GERMAN MACHINE.

Efficiency! It is a most alluring word. The whole world has been made a little mad by it, as if great deeds could be done by mouthing syllables. Men as well as nations have been ruined by the fetish of a name. It is the device of the modern gods whom they would first destroy they hypnotize with a pet phrase.

For years we have been told of the perfection of the German military machine, and that in two words tells both its strength and weakness. The German army was a "military machine," but an army is something more than a machine. An army consists of three parts—men, material and brains, and the first two are valueless without the last; and the German military system made brains subordinate by the machine. The rapidity with which Germany mobilized and brought her soldiers to the colors was a triumph of the machine; the failure of her plans in the field shows her military chiefs relied too much on the machine and attached too little importance to the human element.

I was in Berlin a few years ago and remarked to a friend, who had lived there a long time, that one instinctively felt Berlin was well governed; it was apparent even to a casual visitor that the municipal officials knew their business and were on their job. "Berlin is a striking illustration of German system and German slavishness to rules and regulations," he replied. "Between certain hours on certain days in the week Unter den Linden must be watered, and if at that time it is raining cats and dogs you will see that watering carts stolidly plodding up and down and adding their little contribution to the torrent. To the German an order is an order, and if it runs foul of common sense, so much the worse for common sense. In an English or American city a foreman or a gang boss acting on his own initiative would keep the watering carts in the stable. In Berlin, I suppose, nothing less than an edict of the emperor could suspend an ordinance duly made and provided."

That is efficiency when carried to the nth power.—A. Maurice Low, in the November number of The North American Review.

MILITARY MASCOTS.

(Pall Mall Gazette.) Some of our soldiers, it seems, have taken the regimental mascots with them to the front. This is no new departure for in the Boer war most regiments took their pets with them by permission or without it. Among the most notable of them was Billie the bridled bullock of the 2nd Royal Irish Rifles, who had come unscathed through previous campaigns as his medals testified. There were also two monkey mascots which attracted attention—belonging respectively to Strathcona's Horse and the C.I.V., both of which rode in procession through London at the close of the war. The most famous of regimental pets is the goat of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, but the record for service with the colors belongs to the late and much lamented Bob of the Royal Berkshire Regiment. Bob—a dog—was at Malwand when his regiment made its gallant stand to cover the guns, and he figures in the group of heroes pictured in "The Last Eleven of Malwand." He came off with a bullet-wound in the back, and on returning to England had the honor of being decorated by Queen Victoria.

THE DOMINIONS TO BRITAIN.

For what thou hast given us, Mother of Nations, We give thee our best in the time of thy need.

Thy loyal Dominions, we glory in sharing, Thy burdens and following where thou dost lead.

For what thou hast given us—freedom, protection; Thy best with thy children thou hast richly shared; We muster our strength in the face of thy foe.

Our weapons unsheathed when thy weapons are rare.

For what thou hast been to us, dear Mother Britain, For what thou art now and for what thou wilt be, We send our best sons now to fight for thy honor, Our deepest devotion we render to thee.

CHARLES L. PATTERSON, Cady's (N. B.)

"See the lovely lines of Christmas Neckwear for men—the greatest assortment of pretty ties since we commenced business. 50c., 75c., \$1, \$1.50. Put in a handsome Christmas box without extra charge. MOORE & McLEOD, 6944-12-12m31

"Handkerchiefs make a dainty Christmas gift. See the wonderful assortments here. At every price. Try, as a gift, a half dozen dainty Irish linen handkerchiefs in a pretty box. MOORE & McLEOD, 6944-12-12m31

"Delicious gift chocolates—the finest produced in Canada are here in nicely decorated boxes. These chocolates will delight her. The Two Macs, 149 Great George Street. metf

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Acceptable Christmas Gifts
Nothing could make a more acceptable Christmas remembrance than a pair of pretty comfortable slippers. For men we have comfortable House Slippers, in Felt and Leather romers or pomps. For women we've House Slippers of Felt or Leather, cozy, neat and comfortable, pretty little creations for the Baby. Another gift always appreciated by your lady friends—is a box of our silk hole proof hosiery, enclosed in a pretty Christmas Package.
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