

The Charlottetown Guardian

Head Office at Charlottetown, Branch Offices at Summerside, Alberton, Souris and Montague.

Monday, December 25th being Christmas 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.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1916.

CHRISTMAS 1916

It is a far cry from that peaceful Christmas on the Judean plains when the herald angels sang the first great peace song, "Glory to God in the Highest and on earth peace and good will to men," to this Christmas Day on the battlefields of Europe. And yet the song that the angels sang is the song that our armies are singing today to the accompaniment of thundering guns, a song of "Peace on earth and good will to men."

This song has reverberated through two thousand years of human history, oftentimes scarcely distinguishable amid the fiend shrieks of persecution, amid the fires of martyrdom, in the bloody flood of holy and unholy wars. But ever the song triumphed, ever it rose into a mighty anthem to be again muffled by the fiends of discord and selfishness and hate, and ever in the end rising above them in louder and louder chorus.

Never did the angelic promise of peace on earth seem nearer fulfillment than in the opening days of the Twentieth Century. Christianity had spread its white robe over earth's greatest nations. Art, science, literature, commerce, industry and everything that makes for civilization were in the ascendant. Prosperity and progress were written large on every human endeavour. But the fiends, this time in the garb of angels, had begun their song. It came from the source of our culture, from these whom we had taken as our masters in song and philosophy and art and science, and we listened; listened till their song dominated the chorus, till the song of the angels was no longer discernible. Then, when almost too late we recognized the fiend voices; we realized that either the angel's promise of peace on earth or the fiend gospel of might and the deification of war must triumph. And we made our decision.

The promise of two thousand years ago shall be fulfilled. There shall be peace on earth; there shall be good will among men and among nations; and as He whom the angel choristers heralded as the Prince of Peace achieved His triumph through sacrifice, so shall the world's peace be achieved. Millions of men are today enduring the hardships and horrors of war, are laying down their lives in order that there shall be peace, that the weaker nations shall not be oppressed, that justice and not might shall rule the world.

As looking backward over the ages we see each darker period succeeded by a brighter tomorrow, so we may look with confidence through the clouds that today are casting their shadow over our land and over our homes to a brighter morning. From the midst of those shadows may we not with sincerity, with proud sorrow for the fallen and sympathy with those who mourn wish our readers, one and all, a happy Christmas.

The question is often asked why we celebrate the birth of Christ on December 25th. Nobody knows to a certainty the exact date of the nativity, suffice it to say that this date has been agreed upon by the Christian world as a fitting day on which to commemorate the most important event in the history of Christendom and of the world. Neither is it definitely known by what peoples or sects this date was observed as much of the history surrounding it is tradition. The first certain traces of its observance are found about the time of the Emperor Commodus, A. D., 180 to 192. In the reign of Diocletian, A. D., 284-305, while that ruler was keeping court at Nicomedia, he learned that a multitude of Christians were assembled in the city to celebrate the birthday of Jesus, and having ordered the church doors to be closed he had the building set on fire and all the worshippers perished in the flames. It does not appear however that there was any uniformity in the period of observing the nativity among the early churches; some held the festival in May or April, others in January. After the triumph of Christianity the prejudice of the early Christians against the celebration of birthdays as

heathenish died out. Some time between 337 and 352 Pope Julius directed Saint Cyril to ascertain the correct date. He reported that the western churches observed it on December 25, although other churches kept the day in January, April, May, March and September. Pope Julius was so satisfied with Saint Cyril's report that he set December 25 as Christmas Day, and our observance of that date has come down to us from that decision.

As to the origin of the giving of gifts on Christmas Day, the hanging of stockings, etc., there is an Italian legend which says that many years ago good old St. Nicholas of Padua used to throw knitted purses with money in them in at the windows of the poor. These knitted purses were not unlike a stocking without a foot and later it became the custom of the people to hang this knitted sack just inside the window that St. Nicholas might put something in as he passed. When these purses went out of use the stockings were substituted. In the northern part of Italy it was a little too chilly to leave the windows open and the stockings were hung by the mantel piece so that they might be filled from the chimney.

A FORECAST OF TERMS

The Vossische Zeitung of Berlin is a conservative, responsible newspaper, and, according to report, in confidential relations with the German Government. Therefore, its statement of Germany's peace terms is interesting, even if it be regarded as unauthorized. From this statement we learn that Germany will insist upon an independent Poland, erected, of course, at Russia's expense, while the Poles of Prussia and the Poles of Austria remain under the domination to which the partition of 1795 consigned them. The Poland salient will constitute a formidable buffer state for the protection of Germany and Austria against Russia, but assurance must be made doubly sure, and so Lithuania will be given to Prussia and Courland erected into a German federal state. Thus, the Russian wedge penetrating deep into the territory of the Teutonic allies will be wiped out and Germany and Austria-Hungary will have a new barrier against Russia, one which would effectively prevent co-operation in any future emergency between Russia and her ally, France. In return for the large territorial concessions wrung from Russia the latter is to be graciously compensated by the gift of Moldavia, taken from a dismembered Roumania.

According to the view of the Vossische Zeitung, Roumania must cease to exist. The treaty of peace is to complete the work begun by Mackensen and Falkenhayn. The Dobrudja goes back to Bulgaria, which is also to receive half of Wallachia, the other half going to Austria-Hungary. Nothing is said regarding Belgium or Serbia. No mention is made of Turkey, which has endured much in the interest of the Central League, and naturally there is never a hint that Germany would surrender a square foot of territory in Alsace-Lorraine. We may assume, however, that the restoration of Belgium and the restoration, in whole or in part, of Serbia will be offered as a price for the return of the German colonies.

Whether or not the Vossische Zeitung correctly forecasts the German terms, its statement of their harmonies admirably with the tone of the Chancellor's note to the neutral Powers. They are the terms of a victor, supremely confident of imposing his will upon his enemies. Their acceptance would establish not a peace but a truce; not a reasonable balance of power, but a German preponderance, from which Europe could free itself only by a new appeal to the sword. Does Germany expect that such an attitude will produce the conference for which she professes to be not only ready but eager?

NOTES

The appointment of Prof. Creelman as Commissioner of Agriculture is a thoroughly sound step. The placing of experts of large administrative capacity in technical posts such as the Agricultural Ministry is bound to produce good results. More efficiency and less partisanship is the continuous trend of the times.

The Kaiser is likely to find his great democratic opponent, the new British Premier, as nimble in play of wits, so far as peace negotiations go, as he is strong in action. If personality dominates, the Kaiser and von Hindenburg would seem to have met their match.

DRIVING ON.

Driving on! Driving on! in the darkness and the dawn,
Through the devastated country where the hidden dangers lie,
Over crater, trench, and wire, through the village wood and mire,
In the face of high explosives and the deadly shrapnel are
OH THE SOLDIERS OF THE KING ARE DRIVING ON.

Driving on! Driving on! with their British pluck and brawn!
Though the devil guns may rattle and the khaki lines grow thin,
Then they meet them in the field, hand to hand with bitter steel
See the gray clad Hun battalions in their dire confusion reel,
FOR THE SOLDIERS OF THE KING ARE DRIVING ON.

Driving on! Driving on! in the darkness and the dawn,
'Till the baffled German Legions see the writing on the wall,
In their ears the ceaseless shell, and the ringing British yell,
Oh they're getting back a little of their own created hell.

FIRE UNDERWRITERS MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT

Sir.—The Fire Underwriters desire to correct the false impression that has got abroad that the recent increase of about that the recent increase of 15 per cent. on insurance rates was imposed on the City of Charlottetown to pay for the Summerside conflagration.

The locals that appeared in the "Patriot" and "Guardian" newspapers on the 18th and 19th inst., stating that "owing to the Summerside conflagration Underwriters were increasing rates 15 per cent. was not inserted or authorized by the Underwriters.

The fact of the matter is that in January, 1915 a movement was made by the Head Offices, on account of serious losses, to increase the rates in the Maritime Provinces. As soon as the Island Agents got word of this movement they put up a fight with the result that, while rates in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia were increased, the Island succeeded in escaping that increase, notwithstanding there had been considerable complaint for several years past of the very high taxation imposed by the Local Government and Towns on Insurance Companies. The rates of the City of Charlottetown not long ago increased the taxes on Fire Insurance Companies 50 per cent.; quite recently the Provincial Government increased their taxes 33 1/3 per cent. In addition to the above taxes, these Companies are taxed 1 per cent. on Income and 25 per cent. on Profits by the Dominion Government. Taxes have become such a burden that insurance companies, like Banks, Railroads and every other Corporation and Merchant, have been obliged to look to the public to recoup themselves.

The question of readjustment of rates was taken up before any fire occurred in Summerside, and is by no means confined to Prince Edward Island. During the week ending December 9th, at a Meeting of the Canadian Fire Underwriters' Association held in Toronto, it was decided to add the Dominion, Provincial and Municipal taxes to the rates. There is nothing unpatriotic in doing this, as the Government (both Dominion and Provincial) look to the Companies simply as a convenient mode of collecting revenue, but fully recognize the Companies' rights to indemnify themselves by increasing the price of the insurance sold. The Minister of Finance when speaking of taxation said: "You have the remedy in your own hands." The Superintendent of Insurance has stated: "We expect you will increase your rates." All other Corporations, who like Insurance Companies act simply as Collectors for the Government, recover the amount which they collect.

The Agents of the Prince Edward Island Fire Board, on whom pressure was being brought to increase the rates knowing they could not expect to, escape when the taxation here in comparison to the volume of business is from eight to ten times higher than in any other Province, agreed to raise the rates. Why the Summerside conflagration occurred, the P. E. I. Board decided that in the best interests of the Island policyholders the only thing to do was to accept the inevitable and put the extra rate in force to cover the Dominion and Provincial taxation. To meet these taxes and losses as well as the several serious conflagrations, the rates in these taxes and losses the rates in some of the other Provinces last year were increased as high as 30 per cent.

It is considered most unfair to the Underwriters that expression of opinion should have been given by merchants and others who were not in possession of the facts on which to base their arguments.

As regards Insurance Companies being unpatriotic we have the honor to assert that there are no larger nor more ready subscribers to the War Loans than the Insurance Companies.

Rates generally in Prince Edward Island are lower than in the other Provinces, even in the case of farm

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. LOUSEN.

ON CHRISTMAS DAY

We see Jesus in the manger. We adore him; we worship him; we glorify him. We stand oppressed before such love—a love stronger than death—a love so strong that it did die that we might live. We thank Thee for the sweetness of human love, but how could we ever have dared to think that such love was in the heart of God for us? We look on nature and see thy beauty and thy majesty, but we are afraid, for we have sinned. And then we learn that thou hast sent thy Son, to be borne of our bone, flesh of our flesh; and before such inconceivable love we can only worship and adore. We are so weary of our failures and our slow growth toward Thee. Cleanse us deeply from sin, strengthen our moral purposes. The kindness of Christmas is the kindness of Christ. To know that God so loved us, how can we help loving our dearest Brother, has brought human affection to its highest tide on the day of that Brother's birth. If God so loved us, how can we help loving one another

BABCOCK

CORDIAL CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

To His Honor, Lieutenant Governor MacDonald, The Hon. J. A. Mathieson, Premier, His Worship, Mayor Brown; Hon. Murdoch MacKinnon, Commissioner of Agriculture; to the Hon. Senators P. C. Murphy, John Yeo, John MacLean, Messrs. A. A. McLean, M. P., Donald Nicholson, M. P., and J. J. Hughes, M. P., and all the members of the Provincial Legislature and others in authority; as well as to the Clergy, the Press, and all my other friends and acquaintances, and the people generally of Prince Edward Island: I, a citizen of the United States, now domiciled in this beautiful Island, tender you, on behalf of my great country and myself, cordial Christmas Greetings.

In this, the third year of the most momentous and memorable war in the history of all time, when it would almost appear as if Armageddon had been reached, it becomes every "white man"—every English-speaking citizen of the universe—be he in humble circumstances or in an elevated position,—so far as in his power lies,—to foster and strengthen the relationship which ought to exist between all the white-skinned races.

Simultaneously with my Christmas Greetings to the people of this province, I earnestly desire to accentuate the significant expressions of President Wilson's note of peace, and venture to express the heartfelt hope that, ere the numbers tell of another passing year, the blood-red cloud of war will have been reversed, and the snow-white canopy of peace will stand revealed to a God-thanking humanity. When that joyful time is here, second only to the Angels singing of the first Christmas message, I know that my beloved country, the United States of America, will unite with the peoples of the British Empire and its allies, to cheer the invincible and heroic armies, or what is left of them, when they come marching home again.

"When the blast is over-blown
And the beacon fires shall burn,
And in the street
Is the sound of feet,—
They also shall return.

When the bells shall rock and ring,
When the flags shall flutter free,
And the choirs shall sing,
"God Save the King!"
They shall be there to see.

When that which was lost is found,
When each shall have claimed his kin,
Fear not they shall miss
Mother's clasp, maiden's kiss,
For no strange soil might hold them in.

When Te Deums seek the skies,
When the organ shakes the dome,
A dead man shall stand
At each live man's hand,—
For they also have come home."

DR. LEO FRANK,
Charlottetown, P.E.I.

If You are Exclusive Notice Our Neckwear

We have the largest display of Christmas Neckwear in the city—bought for your selection. We guarantee every Tie to be exclusive, and that you can't match it in the city. Every Tie a combination of elegance and good taste. We purchase direct from the best markets.



The Silks are New
The Shapes are New
The Colorings are New

25c, 35c, 50c, 65c, 75c,
85c, \$1.00

THE HOUSE OF QUALITY

OUR CHRISTMAS NECKWEAR DISPLAY shows some of the handsomest conceits in Neck Dressing we have seen. If you enjoy tying and wearing a rich scarf, you'll certainly appreciate the beauty and exclusiveness of our handsome new Fall Neckwear.

Patons Limited

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 White Tops) Moccasians, Choc. Tan White and Red, Felt Slippers.

GOFF BROS.

What Mr. Winston Churchill Said.

"If I had my way I would write the word 'INSURE' over the door of every cottage and upon the blotting-book of every public man, because I am convinced that for sacrifices that are inconceivably small, families can be secured against catastrophes which otherwise would smash them up forever. It is our duty to... arrest the ghastly waste, not merely of human happiness, but of national health and strength, which follows... when through the death of the bread-winner, the frail boat in which the fortunes of the family are embarked founders, and the women and children are left to struggle helplessly on the dark waters of a friendless world."

We have policies of Insurance to meet every requirement and would be glad of an opportunity to be of service to you and yours.

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