

THE Charlottetown Guardian

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President A. A. Bartlett
Managing Editor J. R. Burnett

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AFTER THE WAR, WHAT?

We are being constantly told, and we are constantly telling each other that the present war is being waged to save civilisation. To save it from what? From German militarism and despotism and cruelty, say we all and say they all. But is that all? Is there nothing on that side of civilisation which we hold a monopoly of that it needs to be saved from? Many things alas, have crept into it on our side as well as on that of the Germans which it will be well to get rid of, which must be got rid of if the world is to be the better for the price that is being paid.

The blessing and the curse of the present age is selfishness. To it we are indebted for the commercial, industrial, national and social progress of this the greatest age in the history of the world. To it also we are indebted for much of the social unrest, the destitution, the poverty of an age in which there are at once more wealth and more poverty than in any other age, in which there are at once more meanness and more charity than ever before. To selfishness also, in its ugliest form, we are indebted for the war that is now deluging Europe with blood and tears. Our selfishness as well as that of the Germans is increasing, it is directing too much of its energy inward towards self, too little of it towards service in which others as well as self may share. There is a legitimate selfishness, a selfishness that, while seeking its legitimate own, leaves room for others to receive a share. When it aims at accumulating along with its own that of others as well, it becomes a curse, and we are coming dangerously near that line now. The difficulties between capital and labour have not all been imaginary. Capital too often lords it over its dependents. Wealth, as such, is becoming despotic, is becoming forgetful of "the steps by which it did ascend."

And we speak of the war as a means by which mankind will be enabled, by which the brotherhood of man will become cemented. This effect will be realized in part. They who mingle their blood on the battlefields are learning the lesson of brotherhood. Are we? They on the battlefields make sacrifices for each other, risk their lives for one another and for their King and country. Do we? If, after the war, we are to be better men and women, we must give a wider rein to our selfishness, we must include in it, besides ourselves, "all whom we have power to aid and bless." We have not yet begun to make sacrifices, even for the prosecution of the war.

The call comes to each of us as Canadians to take a broader, deeper interest in our country, in all its interprovincial, imperial and world-wide concerns. If we will do that, sincerely, earnestly, persistently, it will help to make a new Canada. The call comes to each of us to come closer to the great central heart of truth and live our lives in closer touch with the things that really count. If we will come out into a broader, more unselfish, more patriotic, more truly Christian way of living it will mean the beginning of the dawning of that new era which we are hoping for after the war.

The things that we all may do to make these birth hours in the life of our nation are by no means few or insignificant. And what we may do, surely we should do. For this generation to allow the great lessons that this war would teach us go by unimproved would be for it to be traitor to all future history.

SCARCITY OF SHIPS

Hon. J. D. Hazen, Minister of Marine, in the course of the debate on the address in the House of Commons referred to statements that had been made to the effect that the Government of Canada had not done enough to secure ships for the transport of Canadian produce to trans-Atlantic markets. Ministers at times have to make explanations that should be unnecessary; and the occasion in question was illustrative of the fact. The war has affected shipping in several ways. The enemies of Great Britain at the start seized a considerable number of her vessels which happened to be in their ports, and there has been a steady diminution through the work of hostile cruisers and undersea craft. The Syren of London in its review of the shipping industry of the past year gives a list of over 450 ships, interned by German and Turkish authority, sunk or otherwise destroyed since the war broke out in August 1914. The gross tonnage of the held or lost vessels is given as 1,220,000. Some of the largest ships in the merchant service were included in the list. France and Italy, among the belligerents, have also suffered in the same way, while even neutral states have lost ships through the action of belligerents. The production of new vessels was also curtailed. The Government of Great Britain commandeered some of the yards and their forces for naval work and required others for the production of military munitions. Few new keels were laid down and ships that were under construction were held up. It is only within a month or so that announcement of

a partial release of the yards was made and builders began to look for contracts for new construction. Then, in addition to the losses by war and other causes not being fully met by new construction, the Admiralty made demands for service as transports of many hundreds of the largest and most powerful ships of the merchant marine, disarranging practically every important line's plans. There have been thus three causes operating to make ships scarce and freights dear. Perhaps Canada has suffered as little as any mercantile country. In the United States the railways have at times refused to take export freight for the Atlantic seaboard. In Great Britain the results have been noted in the increase in the price of foodstuffs, and the Government through the Board of Trade has taken steps to call British vessels from foreign trade to the service of the routes on which dependence has to be had for the supply of the United Kingdom. The Canadian Government could do little in such a case. Like all others concerned it had to recognize that before everything else the needs of the army and navy had to be met, and that the more fully they were met the sooner was it likely that the great cause of the trouble would be ended. Ministers, however, did what they could. The facts were laid before the authorities in London, who were equally interested in reducing the trouble. Some vessels were released and those concerned were informed where craft that would be of use to them could be obtained. Then some forty vessels were assigned to the duty of carrying supplies of all kinds from Canada to the Allied belligerents, and really served Canada's commerce. Huge quantities of merchandise of all kinds have been transported and the price paid therefor has been effective in improving the commercial situation within this country. It is believed that in consequence of what was done Canadian exporters fared better than those of many countries and better than some in the United States. That more was not done for them was because more could not be done without hurt to the great purpose of all the governments of the Empire.

GREECE, ROUMANIA AND ALLIES

Probably no neutral country has had a more difficult time than Greece. Next in order would come Roumania. Each in turn has been urged, tempted and even threatened by one group or the other, to join them against the other group. Bulgaria for many months went through the same course. Finally she made the plunge. Unluckily for her she chose Germany. The temporary successes against Serbia and the Allied army of occupation show what valuable aid she was to Germany. Had Greece made her choice with the Allies when she was being so strongly urged it is quite possible that forces could have been so combined and disposed as to save Serbia and completely block the Bulgarian and German successes. Greece is small and weak and her royal family are closely related to the German Emperor. The Allies' failure at the Dardanelles made a bad impression in Greece, and the King of Greece seems to have been convinced that the Allies could neither force the Dardanelles nor help Serbia and that he would simply bring war and calamity into Greece by joining the Allies.

On the other hand, the great body of the Greeks seems to have been steadfastly with the Allies and there is much talk of a revolution in Greece to be led by Venizelos, the extremely popular Premier, who had twice resigned because he could not agree with the King. In all probability the result would be that Greece would immediately join the Allies. That would simplify matters a good deal.

The German drives of last summer and fall against Russia had a strong influence on Roumania, and for some time it looked as though she would be forced to join the Teutons. Somehow, she held out. Now the Russians are coming back. Roumania is a Slav country and in many ways closely related to Russia. Her sympathies are all with Russia. Add to this the very recent purchase by England of the entire available Roumanian wheat crop at a price of \$52,000,000 and we will understand that the chances of Roumania joining Germany are about an absolute nullity. Everything considered, the war is going mighty well for the Allies at the present time, with very good prospects of more Allies in the near future.

NOTES

Sir Thomas White has informed Mr Pugsley in the Commons that in a general way the Dominion Government is bearing the entire expense of Canada's participation in the war. This, it may be asserted, is the wish of the people as a whole.

Does anyone think that if Germany is victorious she will be in no condition, if she is in the mood, to attempt to make larger that place in the sun which success on the Continent will insure her? The truth is that a German triumph will place the Monroe Doctrine in greater peril than at any other time since it was first formulated.—Philadelphia Ledger.

The Frenchman loves France just because she is France. He desires no conquest. He hugs and cherishes that splendid French spirit of investigation and inquiry that has been the basis of modern freedom and remains the hope of civilization. There is no man or woman within the boundaries of the republic who would not a thousand times rather die than allow the people's France to be stamped out of existence by the Teuton's jackboots. We in Great Britain have grown during centuries of security to take things for granted. Our greatness and our independence seemed to be founded on an unassailable rock. We are only now beginning to realize that they are both insistently threatened. There has, in consequence, been a natural indisposition to surrender privileges and to submit to unaccustomed sacrifice.—London Express.

BOYS IN ENGLAND APPRECIATE HOME NEWS

The following letters have been received from Mr. James McBride, formerly of Scotchfort, and who is now in Shorncliffe in the P. P. C. L. I. preparatory to going to the front:

Shorncliffe, Dec. 2nd, 1915.
Dear Father—Just a few lines to let you know that I am well, hoping the safe arrival of this letter will find you all the same.
It has been raining here for the last two days so we are not doing very much work; the nights are very shaly, frost every night. The sun is clear up today, I hope will be in the English weather. I am not getting any letters from home at all as our mail is all going to France. We are supposed to be there so it travels all over the whole place before we get home. The last letters that I got from home were a few days ago, so much Christmas mail. I had a letter from Mrs. McDonald the other day. She told me she sent me a cake a few days before that. I have not received it yet, but I hope that it will come before Christmas.
I want to see a fellow from Regina that was wounded some time ago. He is in a convalescent home and while I was there a bunch of Canadian papers came in; among them was the Charlottetown Guardian, so I managed to get it away with me. There was quite a lot of news in it that was interesting. I was glad to see that Highland Regiment gets out here there will be some thing doing. I saw by a Halifax paper recently that there was quite a lot of Islanders in the casualties of the 26th Battalion. I also hear that there is heavy fighting on the Western front at least couple of days. I guess they will keep on the fighting all winter. The Allies are in better shape than they were last winter; they will use their artillery. I guess they have lots of ammunition now and they will knock everything to pieces. If it was not for the Balkans I do not think the war would last very much longer. I think this winter will settle it anyway as the Germans must be getting short of foodstuffs. I do not know how they are making out, they must be getting supplies through some neutral country. As for England I think there is lots to say here yet for one can always get any place like that. There is some trouble here, but I think it will come out alright. If those fellows who are making this trouble were in Canada, Sam Hughes would have them shot at sunrise. Well I guess this is all the news I have for this time so I will close hoping to hear from you soon. I remain your affectionate son.

JAMES.
Shorncliffe, Dec. 14, 1915.
Dear Father—Received your very welcome letter this morning. I got the papers that you sent me and I read them all over a couple of times as there was a lot of interesting news in them. I would be very glad of some any time you would care to send them.
We are making arrangements for our Christmas dinner. The Battalion supplies 84 cts. to each man for his dinner and by adding a couple of shillings each to that, I think we will fare off alright, better than the men in the trenches. They are very nice now with the cold and wet. The weather is anything but good here or in France at the present time and I am afraid there is no chance for peace this winter, but I guess you know more about that than we do for there is a lot more news in the Canadian papers than there is in the English. Mrs. Taylor and Doris are making up a Christmas box for all the boys that went away to the war from her house. I think there were seven altogether. She sent me a Christmas box with the letter but I did not get it yet. I think I told you that John A. sent me a box. I got it a few days ago and it was fine, a very nice treat. I had a very nice Christmas card from Mr. and Mrs. Edgar this morning and also a letter. I was very glad to hear that they have the siding at Scotchfort Station. It ought to be made good use of after such a long wait. I see by your letter that Dannie is still living. He must be getting leave from the front if he is going to Scotland.
The 4th University Company arrived here a few days ago and they are a very smart looking bunch of men, but a lot of them are very young.
Well, I guess I will close for this time, hoping to hear from you soon again and wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous new year, I remain as ever, your son.

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