

THE Charlottetown Guardian

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THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 1915.

THE SPEECH

The opening of the Fourth Session of the Thirty-seventh General Assembly of the Province yesterday will go down as one of the most important and memorable in the history of the Island. Seldom has there been a larger or more interested attendance of the general public, and never has the Union Jack played a more important part in the proceedings.

The speech itself, for the greater part, dealt with the war and the part played in it by the Province. Testimony was borne to the generosity of the Islanders, especially to the Belgian Relief Fund, our contributions not having been surpassed by any community of equal numbers elsewhere.

Satisfaction was expressed with the Government's co-operation with Provincial Committees in a gift to Britain and her Allies, our farmers and other loyal citizens having presented one hundred thousand bushels of oats as a direct contribution.

But more important than the contribution of our means has been the contribution of our brawn and sinew. Not only from our home province, but from every part of Canada and the United States our sons have volunteered to uphold the flag, and fittingly enough, the company of artillery, now in training for Halifax, formed the Guard of Honor to the Governor, giving visible evidence of our loyalty and patriotism.

Generally, the most important announcement in the speech was that stating that a further reduction of debt had been made during the past year. We are safe in saying that not another Government in the Empire will be able to make a similar announcement—and this, too, not only without impairing the efficiency of the public service, but after adding to public utilities in a manner unexcelled any time in our history.

Confidence was expressed in the future of the fox and oyster industries which, it was claimed, would be benefited ultimately by the more conservative methods and better organization now coming into operation as the result of the financial disturbance due to the war.

The abundant prosperity of the agricultural industry was duly noted, and also the development of a thoroughly matured plan of agricultural education suitable to an agricultural province. When this organization has time to make its effect felt, there will be practically no need for a "back to the land" cry, as the rising generation will take to intensive farming as readily as the Belgians prior to the devastation of their territory by the devouring Huns.

In line with this policy has been the generous support given to Women's Institutes and Exhibitions and Fairs throughout the Province. Too much importance cannot be attached to this department of the Government's enterprise, and we are sure, and know, that it is appreciated by our agriculturists irrespective of their political leanings.

The debate on the address, which begins to-morrow, should prove of unusual interest, and no doubt will be followed closely by our readers as recorded in our daily reports.

SIR WILFRID'S DILEMMA

Another Liberal caucus will be held in Ottawa to endeavor to come to some decision on the Opposition policy to be pursued in Parliament. Already two have been held, and as the result Sir Wilfrid introduced a vote of censure on the Government, on which occasion he threw all pretense of a truce to the winds and delivered a bitterly partisan speech clearly indicating the depths of his Imperial sentiments.

It is said the Pugsley element dominated the last caucus and demanded a fighting policy. They have got it, and now the more moderate men are dissatisfied and wish Sir Wilfrid to make a strategic retreat. The contretemps would be amusing were not the Empire in a life and death struggle. As it is the action of Sir Wilfrid has demonstrated once more to the world that he is loyal and patriotic just so long as it suits his own particular interests.

A statesman, a man of stamina would have retired from leadership rather than place himself in a false position at the dictates of a noisy crowd of followers attracted by the "rustle of the hay." Not so Sir Wilfrid. He prefers to stick to leadership with its emoluments rather than maintain the truce which he was the first to suggest and which the dignity of statesmanship demanded.

Sir Robert Borden has given his answer, and the language and tone are in pleasing contrast with the petty-parochial fault finding, jeers and sneers of the Leader of the Opposition.

"MY RIGHT HONORABLE FRIEND," DECLARED THE PREMIER "HAS CHOSEN THE MOMENT TO OPEN FIRE WITH A VOTE OF WANT OF CONFIDENCE AND TO RAISE ISSUES OF A PURELY PARTISAN AND CONTROVERSIAL CHARACTER. I DESIRE TO INFORM HIM THAT WE DO NOT SHRINK FROM HIS CRITICISM OR FROM THE ISSUES WHICH HE RAISES, CONSCIOUS AS WE ARE THAT, CONFRONTED BY THE MOST TREMENDOUS RESPONSIBILITY EVER IMPOSED UPON THE SHOULDERS OF CANADIAN PUBLIC MEN, WE HAVE STRIVEN IN THE PAST AND WILL STRIVE IN THE FUTURE TO DO OUR DUTY TO THIS DOMINION AND TO THE BRITISH EMPIRE."

The acceptance of Sir Wilfrid's challenge has changed the situation in an instant. The Liberals do not know exactly where they stand or what attitude to assume. Hence the necessity for another caucus to straighten out matters. It will not make much difference what policy they adopt. They have already shown their hand. They are opportunists in every sense of the word. Opportunist free

traders, opportunist protectionists, opportunist labor sympathizers, opportunist capital exploiters, opportunist Imperialists, opportunist Liberals, opportunist patriots and opportunist loyalists. Sufficient for the day with them, is the opportunity it affords to advance their personal interests. Policy they have none, and they know, at least the more moderate of them do, that they dare not challenge an appeal to the people. Here also they are opportunists, for they are anxiously waiting for something to turn up that will afford a suitable election cry to offset their disloyal opposition to Sir Robert Borden's emergency naval policy.

CANADIAN SOLDIERS

There has been a good deal of criticism of the backwardness of Canadians in enlisting and very unfair comparisons made as to the relative standing of Canadian and British born in the Canadian contingents that have been sent to the front.

The alleged disloyalty of Canadians and the comparison are both unfair and misleading. In the first place there are no statistics available as to the number of Canadians who enlisted and who could not be equipped in time to join the departing contingents but we know that there were some thousands who did and were obliged to wait.

We know also that within the past few years over a million people born in the British Isles came to Canada. That means that more than one eighth of our population are British born.

An extraordinary proportion of these are young men, who migrated to the Dominion without other members of their families, to make careers for themselves. Tens of thousands of these Old Countrymen are of military age, and all of those who enlist are set down as born in Great Britain even if they have been with us for ten, fifteen or twenty years.

Many thousands of Canadian-born have enlisted and others are ready to do so as soon as there is a real call for their services. Each time the Government has appealed for men the response has been overwhelming. From many points have come complaints that volunteers could not be accepted as fast as they offered. The Canadian Militia Department is working in complete co-operation with the British War Office and it cannot well enlist, equip and offer troops faster than the Imperial authorities are prepared to take them.

If the British War Office asks for a more rapid enlistment the response of the Canadian-born will be satisfactory. General Hughes has said that three more contingents can be got together in as many weeks and Sir Robert Borden has declared that Canada can furnish up to 300,000 men. In view of these facts it is unfair to Canadians to make the unjust comparisons that are so frequently heard and to build up from those comparisons an allegation of want of loyalty among Canadians.

SOME SHIPS AND GUNS

What it costs to kill Germans and to have the Germans return the compliment may be inferred from the fact that the latest pattern naval and military guns have to be fed with shells each of which costs thousands of dollars. In a sea fight if the large guns on a dreadnought only fire ten shots each and the smaller guns fire twenty-five shells the cost of the ammunition consumed is \$800,000. The type of shell fired from the German Howitzers costs \$6000 each. Even the small field guns are loaded with shells which cost over \$10 each. The German 8.4 quick firing guns require a shell costing \$250 and the projectiles from the Kaiser's fortress cannon cost \$1,500 each. A single discharge from the heaviest calibre guns in the British Navy costs \$4000.

When it is remembered that in the waters in the vicinity of the Dardanelles and the coast of Asia Minor, battering its way to the Golden Horn, is the greatest fleet joined in action in the history of the world, the cost of the present trip to Constantinople may be guessed at with the probability of missing it by many millions of dollars.

It is interesting to note that the number of units, including the destroyer and submarine flotillas and the supply and other non fighting vessels in these waters totals more than eighty. Two of the largest of these ships would practically balance in the scales the entire fleet of 132 ships composing the famous Spanish Armada.

The two largest ships in the fleet are the Queen Elizabeth and the Warspite, the tonnage of each of which is 27,500 tons and each carrying eight 15 inch and sixteen 6 inch guns, the others graduating down to 12, 10 and 9 inch guns.

A Russian fleet of nine battleships carrying 12 and 10 inch guns and two cruisers each carrying twelve 6 inch guns is threatening Constantinople from the Black Sea and the Bosphorus.

A GERMAN LIE NAILED

The German Consul at Chicago, Baron Kurd Von Reisswitz, as a sort of offset to the stories told of German atrocities, had published in the Chicago Journal an affidavit by a man, Frederick Meyer, who told of having enlisted in "the Fourteenth Company of Grenadier Guards at Liverpool, of having fought at Rheims where he was wounded; of having been taken to Millbank hospital in London, where he found German soldiers under treatment—three who had both eyes gouged out, three whose tongues had been cut out and two with their ears cut off.

Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British ambassador at Washington, had the matter brought to the attention of the war office in London. It made careful investigation and sent this succinct reply: "First—There is no record of any man of the name of Frederick Meyer or Meyer having at any time served in the Grenadier Guards.

"Second—No such unit as the Fourteenth company of the Grenadier Guards has ever existed. "Third—The Grenadier Guards were not at Ostend during the month of September nor have they ever been at Rheims; nor would it have been possible to transfer troops from Ostend to Rheims between September 17 and 19. Moreover, no British troops have ever been in Rheims during the present war.

"Fourth—If wounded at Rheims on September 19, as stated in the affidavit, it would have been impossible for this man to have reached the Millbank hospital in London on September 20.

"Fifth—No man of the name of F. Meyer or Meyer has been a patient at the Millbank hospital. "Sixth—No German soldiers have been treated in the Millbank hospital."

Whether the Chicago Consul made the story out of whole cloth or was provided with it ready made by Meyer, it may be difficult for the Potsdam authorities to determine before conferring the order of the Iron Cross upon either one or both, for doubtless the Potsdam authorities must recognize such an effort on behalf of the good name of the Fatherland. In view of the result of the investigation by Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, however, nobody outside of Germany will hesitate to call it a Potsdam lie.

NOTES

A republic of Northern Portugal is reported to have been established in opposition to that which has its seat at Lisbon. Portugal's case appears to be an aggravated one of a common disease of democracy. It has more patriots than places with salaries in which to put them.

A CRITICISM

Sir—I was surprisingly interested this morning in reading a two column proclamation of the food we eat, the vegetables we grow or try to grow, our unpaved roadways—leading to our wharves etc. Can it be possible, if England is such an ideal place to live in, that one half of our population—who are English or descended from the English, could have endured this shocking life, of eating butter from a paper bag, and watched the "BRUSSELS" on the pigs feet immaturely sprouting.

"Oh would some power the gittle gie us To see ourselves as others see us." I and Sir, etc., GLIB CROAKER.

"DUM-DUMS" USED BY ENEMY IN THE SUEZ CANAL FIGHT.

CAIRO, March 14.—The battlefield on the eastern bank of the Suez Canal yielded evidence of yet another instance in which—Germans, and the Turks, too, violated the rules of civilized warfare.

First, a large quantity of ammunition fell into the hands of the British, nearly the whole of it being for rifles, and revolvers. The cartridges are all dum-dum. The revolver cartridges have a flat lead nose and four slits in the body of the bullet. On the base of both kinds of cartridges are the letters "D.V.M.," indicating that they were manufactured by the Deutsche Waffen and Munition Fabriken, a large German concern which manufactures Mauser rifles and the ammunition packages that contain them, in the case of the rifle ammunition, marked "Fertig Metal Patronen," or ready metallic cartridges, together with the name Calcutta, and the description "Aufsehrat" or gods for export.

The cartridges were doubtless originally made there for the use of sportsmen in India, and it is at present a mystery how these cartridges came into the hands of the Turkish soldiers.

Meanwhile the Djemal, balked in his ambition to march in triumph into Cairo, has opened a great campaign against the Jews. A number of them have been arrested and are waiting on charges of being Zionists. Zionist organizations are being rigorously proceeded against.

The Hebrew language appears to be as aggravating to the Djemal as a red flag to a bull. He instructed the post-office, which acted on those instructions, to prohibit the use of Hebrew correspondence. Turkish and Arabic are the languages to be used. Naturally English also is condemned, but, so the post office instructions say, "American" may be used in writing abroad.

HUNGARIANS FEEL PINCH OF HUNGER.

LONDON, March 15.—The Morning Post has the following from Budapest, Hungary: I witnessed scenes to-day at the City Hall I shall not forget for some time. The bakers and grocers were told to appear at the City Hall this morning in order to get the slips of paper which would entitle them to one or two sacks of flour from the mills. Two sacks contain 170 mubs of flour, and before the shop of every baker and grocer 500 people have been standing since early in the morning waiting for the baker or grocer to come and divide his meagre stock among them. How much one customer can get one can imagine, yet the struggle in the City Hall, as well as on the streets before the bakers' and grocers' shops, was one that showed how real the pinch of hunger has become. At the City Hall 400 bakers were standing before a door on one side of the corridor, and 400 grocers on the other side, from early in the morning until late in the afternoon, as it took ten minutes to finish with each one.

At last, towards 6 o'clock in the evening, the bakers received the slips, but by the time the last of them got to the mills, some three miles away, these were closed, and new torture and anguish awaited these shopkeepers. They dared not return home without flour, for the hungry people outside were threatening to smash their doors down.

The price of food is so high already that everybody is of the opinion that it is impossible that the war can last longer than October, for by the time the new harvest is reaped the civil population, at least in Austria-Hungary, will be on the very verge of starvation.

In regard to bread, it has now been decided that a coupon system is to be inaugurated, and it has been decided that a family of five members is to have 150 rolls and 19 loaves of bread monthly. This would mean that a growing person would have half a roll for breakfast and the same for lunch and dinner.

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DAILY SELECTIONS FOR READERS OF THE GUARDIAN

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COUNT ME IN!

When you count your many friends Who stand by you in every need, Of the days of long ago, When our lives were young and vibrant With the joys we cherish so; When you make your list of loved ones Who have stood through thick and thin, Who have loved and still are loyal, Do not fail to count me in!

When you look ahead and wonder What the years will bring to you, Who will still your friendship cherish, Through the years remaining true, When you make your list of friendships That through years have changeless been, When Life's final list is entered, Do not fail to count me in! And that is why I prize so high Your friendship strong and true, And that is why I'd pay the "price" For a warm hand-shake with you.

CONFIDENCE AMONG LONDON FUR DEALERS

The following extract, from the London Times of March 4th, will be of interest to those engaged in fur production:

London has been up to now the chief fur market of the world, and, in spite of war, there is no likelihood of its losing that position. On March 18 the China sales are due to start, while four days later the rooms in College-hill will be thrown open for the first big general sale of the year.

The principal result of the war will be the absence of the German and Austrian buyers, and as every spring the have attended in ever-increasing numbers, there will be a noticeable reduction in the number of buyers. This is the factor which may influence prices. In the narrow streets, which run down from Queen Victoria-street and Cannon street to the riverside possibly three-quarters of the offices and warehouses are occupied by fur and skin merchants, and not one of them, so far as could be gathered from opinions expressed yesterday, regards the coming sales with anything approaching anxiety. The common belief is that the market will be quite well supplied with the Austro-German element and still supply enough buyers to keep business up to the standard of the past. Moreover, it is confidently believed that there will be the same readiness to purchase as in normal times, though possibly the wonderful figures of last year will not be repeated. During the sales of last March 183,754 skunk skins were disposed of in the morning of the day, in the afternoon of which 136,623 opossum skins, 80,242 racoon skins, and 3,602 civet cat skins were sold. In all over 4 1/2 millions of musquash skins were sold.

It may be found when the sales begin that there is a slight diminution in supplies, Canada and the United States send most of the skins that come to the London market, and the existence of "a state of war" has kept no fraction of these supplies out; but from other places there seems to have been some decline in shipments. The Leipzig fair was once a source from which a certain quantity was received, but it will, of course, contribute nothing this year. The market, however, draws upon the whole world, and very probably a reduction in shipments from one quarter may be made up from another.

PRINCE OF WALES VISITED HOSPITAL

In a letter from Le Teouquet Nursing Sister Glint who left Canada with the First Contingent, writes of a visit paid to the hospital there by H. R. H. the Prince of Wales. The letter was sent to the Royal Victoria Hospital Nurses Alumni.

Sister Glint writes: "We had a surprise visit from the Prince of Wales last week. One of my patients saw three officers strolling up the driveway and exclaimed: 'By jove! That looks like the Prince of Wales!' and glancing towards the steps, I saw him running up into the hall. Fortunately, my orderly had just finished scrubbing the floor, and the ward was tidy, as ours is usually the first visitors come to. Presently he came in with the colonel—just the way seems to be in public. As it was a private informal visit, no one announced him, and beyond that the men standing at attention, he was not officially recognized, though he saw we all knew who he was. He looked at a few notices on the walls and asked several questions about the patients in our ward. In the next ward he recognized a school friend, and had a chat with him, as well as talking to the other officers and privates. He stayed about twenty minutes complimenting the hospital and said he would 'write to his father about how well the Canada boys were established. He signed the visitors' book 'Edward' with him were Lord Claude Hamilton and Colonel Barry and they had walked from the next village, coming from the front by motor car.

"H. R. H. was in khaki service-dress, with bulging pockets and the medals and decorations bore I ever saw. He looked very well, and the minute he was outside, produced his pipe and started off at a good pace in the middle of the road to visit another hospital."

Further, Sister Glint writes: "Don't believe all the Canadian papers say about the Prince of Wales' great charge.—Lady Evelyn Farquhar, wife of the commanding officer, was here yesterday, and told me they had had an arduous march of 16 miles, then went right into the trenches and in the next 48 hours had to sustain an attack, and many had frost-bitten feet before they were relieved. They were quite steady and behaved well, but as for gaining a mile and a quarter of ground and driving the Germans in confusion before them such a thing never happened. I hope the Canadian press will not commence to boast of every Canadian company that fires a shot. It would be something like the undue praise given to the London Scottish who merely performed what dozens of regiments of the line were doing every day for months without a word of mention. To do them justice, the members of the corps themselves disclaim all credit and are much annoyed that such a fuss has been made over them because they are Territorials. No regiment or contingent can hope to equal the achievements of the British army which has fought and died these last six months, and it might as well be acknowledged now as later."

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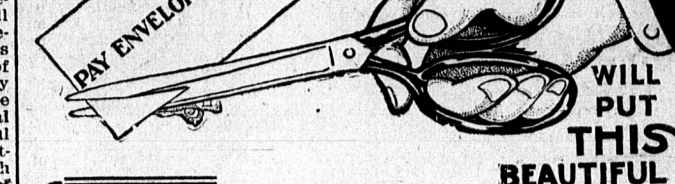
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