

The Charlottetown Guardian

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FRIDAY, APRIL 19th, 1918

THE BUDGET SPEECH

In his first budget speech, published in this issue, Premier Arsenault has again set an example in brevity, definiteness and moderation. It is evident to all that the Premier is giving and is going to give the province a square deal. He has nothing to conceal, nothing to make excuses for; what the province needs he purposes doing for it as far as its resources will permit; what it does not need will be sternly cut out of the appropriations. He recognises that in some instances penuriousness would be the worst form of extravagance, that such items as education, necessary public works, the care of the sick and the unfortunate, our agricultural development, cannot be pared too closely without detriment to the province. His remarks on the expenditures for last year wiped out whatever criticism has been indulged in by members of the Opposition and left little room for further discussion. The fact that Mr. Bell's criticism was an almost verbatim repetition of his last year's speech with reference to the expenditures for the previous year is in itself abundant evidence that there was no room for criticism.

As to the estimates for the coming year it is evident they have been pared down as closely as the requirements of the province will permit with safety. However these will be discussed and if it can be done without injury to the province we feel sure that Premier Arsenault will be the first to acquiesce in the reduction. The session has so far been a thoroughly business one and neither the Premier nor his colleagues—nor, we trust, the Opposition—will care to waste their own or the country's time in useless political haggling in the face of the tremendous issues in which the country is involved. We therefore look for a continuance of business along the lines so well laid down by the Premier who, in the speeches he has so far delivered and especially in his first budget speech, has shown that he is not only an absolutely fair but a fearless leader.

THE WAR

Looking backward over the past week with its fluctuating hopes and fears we should now be in a position to review the war situation calmly. The Germans began this present offensive on March 21, four weeks ago yesterday. The offensive had been prepared for by Germany's greatest strategists; it was to be, and no doubt was, the greatest military attack in the history of the world. German genius prepared and German leadership delivered the attack at the point and on the time chosen by themselves. Their thrust into our positions, the retirement of our armies looked like a German success. Was it? Had our armies, after four weeks of unparalleled slaughter to themselves and employing the number of men and guns that the Germans did, pushed their way into enemy territory, pushed part of the enemy's unbroken line back some twenty or thirty miles, leaving their line unbroken and strewing the waste territory with our dead, would we have called it a success? With the unbroken enemy still before us, with our dead piled in heaps over miles and miles of ground, with our attacking forces diminished by half or more, would we have rung our church bells in celebration of a victory? We certainly should not; we should have felt, as the millions of men and women in Germany feel today, that we had accomplished in vain, that what we had accomplished was in no way commensurate with the price we had paid. Germany had intended this for the knock out blow, she had put all her strength, her ingenuity, her unquestioned military genius into it and the result of her four weeks effort is failure to accomplish her purpose and little less than disaster to her armies. She had intended to roll up the British army on one side and the French on the other and after four weeks of unparalleled effort she has failed. May we not safely assume that the blow she failed to deliver with all her initial strength will still increasingly fail with her waning strength against the continually reinforced strength of Great Britain and her Allies?

Pessimism in view of what has occurred is unworthy of Britons and contrary to British spirit. British troops have retired

before now in the face of overwhelming odds, they have fought before now with their backs to the wall, "but ever upon the topmost wall the banner of Britain flew," and it will be so in the fight they are so gallantly waging now.

ALL TOGETHER

The Daily Telegraph received a letter from a well known farmer dealing somewhat sharply with the question of exemption from military service for farmers and farm laborers, and commenting rather severely upon the amount of advice offered to farmers by politicians and professional men, concerning increased production. This correspondent, it may be said, has a son at the front. Other letters of similar tenor have been received from time to time, and they invite comment because they indicate an unfortunate and perhaps an increasing misunderstanding between some of those who control our greatest industry, agriculture, and those who carry on other industries and employments. The letters complain in a general way that the farmers are misunderstood by other classes and that while the necessity for increased production is being strongly urged upon them, the very men necessary to produce the increase are either already in uniform or are about to be called to the colors. In this, the very crisis of the great conflict it is more than ever necessary that all classes in Canada should recognize the necessity for united purpose and resolution in connection with the war, rather than dwell upon or emphasize the difficulties and even the injustices some of which are bound to accompany the working out of selective compulsion as applied to the whole country. Obviously a man cannot be a soldier and serve on the farm at the same time. Some may be called to the colors who should be left on the farm, and some may be left on the farm who should be in uniform. But that is true also of factories, and of the professions. There must be a constantly increasing effort through wise discussion and prudent action to minimize the incidental injustices and difficulties of applying the Military Service Act which was approved by the country for the purpose of reinforcing our divisions at the front. The need of constant reinforcements was never so clear as it is now.

Our correspondents display considerable dissatisfaction with many of those who are giving advice to the farmers in these days. As a matter of fact no one can compel the farmer to take anyone's advice, and if the advice given is impracticable and does not appeal to the farmer's judgment he will reject it. But much of the advice is good, and the purpose behind most of it is not to teach the farmer his business but to assist him in realizing how tremendous is the need for intense effort this year, not only on his part but on the part of every man, woman and child capable of doing anything in support of the war. The farmer should understand that people in the towns and cities are receiving advice just as he is, and while they cannot follow all of it, it is a fact that a great deal of it is accepted and carried into effect for the purpose of aiding the common cause.

This is a time in which we must keep before us the example of our armies at the front. A constantly increasing burden is placed upon their strength, their valor, their resolution. We in New Brunswick do not yet know how much we can do, but it is a fact that all of us can do much more than we have yet done. It is no time for misunderstanding between classes. We must get together. We must assist, rather than dispute. We must not put the load upon the other fellow. We must remember daily the situation at the front where our armies are fighting "with their back to the wall." It is an hour for individual effort and a deep sense of individual responsibility. And each man must sweep before his own door. The farmers will do their share, and they must have assistance and co-operation. The work they do was never so vitally important as now, and they can be depended upon to do their utmost.

THE NAVY LEAGUE OF CANADA

We wish every success to Mr. W. G. Ross, of Montreal, and his colleagues of the Navy League of Canada. They seek to make Canada a far more effective partner state of the Empire in the matter of seapower, and they do well, for the Canadian of the remotest West must now realize that but for the seapower of England's providing Canada would have a very poor Canadian outlook today. Sir Robert Borden has shown himself to be sympathetically interested in the proposals of the Canadian League, which include the formation of boys' naval brigades throughout the Dominion—Canadian Gazette.

YOUR PROBLEMS SOLVED

BY REV. T.S. LINSKOTT, D. D.
(All rights reserved)

Dr. Linscott in this column will help you solve your heart problems, religious, natural, social, financial and every other anxious care that perplexes you. If a personal answer is required, enclose a five cent stamp. No names will be published; if you prefer, sign your initials only; or use a pseudonym.

AN UNHAPPY MAN:—There is one thing wrong; you are not in your element; you are like a duck without water. The Infinite is your element; your heart craves God and you know it not.

HARD LUCK:—I am sorry you are out of work and surely there is little excuse for it in these strenuous days. I will tell you what I did in similar circumstances when living in the biggest city in the world. There were tens of thousands out of employment during a period of great trade depression. Working men in squads were walking about the streets carrying banners and chanting as they walked, that they were out of work. Others lingered at the street corners, and in the bar rooms, telling their hard luck stories. I joined none of these gatherings but worked hard every day seeking employment, starting out at six o'clock in the morning and walking till six in the evening. I tramped London all over in the six weeks thus engaged finally had the good news to take to my young wife, that I had got a position. The thing for you to do is to keep up your heart, have faith in God, work hard at seeking for work; keep going and you surely will get employment.

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louson

SILENCE IN GOLDEN

Eugenie du Maurier.

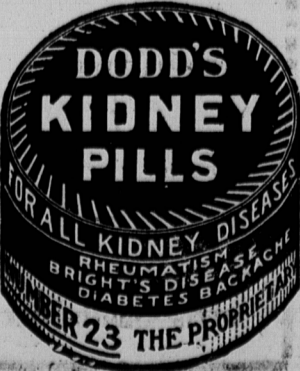
When little things irritate you, be silent. When someone speaks sharply or unkindly to you, be silent. To retort unkindly would only make the matter worse, besides causing a loss of dignity. Remember if it takes two to make a quarrel. When alone you will be glad that you refrained from answering. "Words better left unsaid come back to grieve us when we think them dead." When slander is going on its rounds keep still. If you cannot say a good word be silent. There are times when silence is one of the greatest virtues conceivable. It requires great strength of character to remain silent in the face of some things. But it is a battle nobly fought and won—a victory over self. And that is a great victory. Sometimes it is a victory over an assailant also. To speak is easy, but it often means defeat. Speech well chosen is a God-given gift. Mere babbling, making undue use of one's vocal chords, invariably shows the vacuity in the region Dame Nature originally very carefully arranged to be furnished with red and grey matter for the good of its possessor and the world at large. Many, many times do we see instances of "speech being silver and silence golden."

A MESSAGE FROM FRANCE

The following letter has been received by Miss Ruth Metherell, Bloomfield as an acknowledgement of a Xmas stocking sent several months ago.

Ward B 2
Norfolk War Hospital
Thorpe Norwich
England
March 17, 1918

Dear Miss Metherell:—One of our lady visitors came around the other day to see some of us Canadian chaps who had come in the day before and amongst other presents I got your stocking, and the letter enclosed. I must thank you very much for same. It was left over from Xmas but I assure you it was opened with the same anticipation as though it was the festive season. I was invalided from France in about a week ago, I am still confined to bed and expect to be laid up for some little time yet. I belong to the 21st Battalion, an Ontario Battalion, I come from Toronto, my home is there, which is quite a distance from P. E. Island. It is indeed nice to know the people at home are thinking of us out here. Such little presents as yours



go a long way to brighten a chap up. It certainly will be nice when it is all over and we come "Marching home again."
 Well I must bring this letter to a close now as I don't feel up to much writing as yet. I should like to hear you at any time. Again thanking you for your kindness I remain,
 Yours sincerely
 455570 PTE. R. A. BREWITT

PARCELS RECEIVED

Miss Sarah Arsenault, Central Red-croix, has received the following letter from her brother:
 Dear Sister:—Just a few lines in answer to your kind and welcome letter glad to know that you are keeping well. For myself I can't complain as we are getting nice summer weather here at present. Today is like a day in July. I trust you are getting it nice at home and you are enjoying it while it lasts. I received your parcel today and I sure appreciated it as it was in good condition and was most

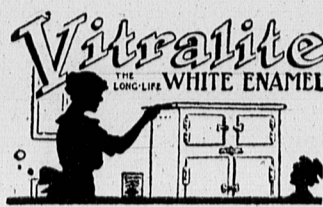
very welcome amongst the boys. I also received another parcel a few days ago from the Bedeque Red Cross and many thanks to the ladies of the Red Cross who are so kind to think of me. We are on rest at present after doing a little work in the line. It is not so bad out here after all.
 Well dear sister excuse this short letter as I have no news and I am writing it in a hurry. I think its time that the conscripts were over here helping us. I will now close trusting this note finds you in the best of health and enjoying life. From your loving brother
 AUGUSTINE

THAT KHAKI LINE.

Canada's men went forth to battle. Many, gallant, brave and fine. Now they stand in ruined Belgium A dauntless khaki line.
 They are men from the rolling prairies. They are men from the mountains high. Who will fight for the cause of free-

dom. And if need be, they'll die.
 They heard the cry of Belgium. They heeded the call of France. And they stood by the flag of Britain. In this great gambling chance.
 Some brave lads sleep beneath the sod. And from France they ne'er will come. But the rest though few in number. Cheer and cry "Carry on."
 God grant that they may conquer. Those whose struggle has been sublime And we murmur hopefully to Him Lord save that khaki line.
 —Laura McDougall, Argyle Shore

An Englishman addressing a gathering of American sailors, congratulated on his patriotism one of them who had an eagle tattooed on his chest. "Oh," the sailor said, "that's nothing. I have an American flag on my back and I'm sitting on the Kaiser and Hindenburg."



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