

THE ADVERTISER

H. G. HARRIS
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Kentville Patriotic Planting Club Successfully Organized

The Kentville Patriotic Planting Club came into existence Tuesday evening, March 13th, at a Mass meeting of citizens held under the auspices of the Kentville Board of Trade, President Saxby Blair in the chair.

Mr. George E. Graham in the opening address announced that in the heart of the town there were vacant lots aggregating forty odd acres entirely suitable for the production of food stuffs—and urged that provision be made to have this cultivated during the coming seasons. He pointed out that every citizen who did some gardening was performing practical service for the Empire. As a people we had encountered no hardships consequent upon the war—and a little manual labor was the least we could give. The farming districts were alive to the threatened food shortage—and they would make every possible effort to increase crops. That this was an opportunity for town to join with country—for the boy in the town to join with the boy in the country, and that the town boy would learn much from the contact. Undertaking such work we would do something practical to reduce the cost of living, and, if with this we combine simple living, the individual would enjoy better health.

Mr. Graham made a further plea for landscape or garden beautification in Kentville and its environs which offer great possibilities. The initial efforts might well start with the public school grounds—the love of flowers should be fostered in the young—not only the love of the flower itself, but the love of caring for them and studying their growth. Such an example placed before the young in and about the schools would be carried to the home, and through the home to the community.

In conclusion Mr. Graham offered cash prizes of \$20, \$15, \$10 for the best Kentville garden plot next season—the award to be conferred in a manner thought out by the committee consisting of Prof. Blair, Mrs. H. H. Wickwire and Mrs. Barclay Webster—and further assistance offered to the School Commissioners and Town Council for fencing in the public school grounds.

Mr. Graham was followed by Prof. Coit, of Acadia University who described the aims of the organization known as the Patriotic Planting Club of Wolfville, which are briefly:

1—To get every one in the town who has a garden to increase its size if possible.

2—To get every one without land, who is willing to care for a garden, a piece of land that he can work.

3—To get all those who join the Club to do their bit in raising staple crops on land, giving the Club land free.

Prof. Coit stated that the membership to date numbered 60 persons. 18 had offered land—9 had promised help with plowing—15 promised assistance by cash or seed contributions.

The great danger to us as individuals is, that we hear and read so much that we become hardened and feel there is nothing we can do, but Lloyd Gorge tells us "there must be no hanging back." The Earl of Derby recently stated—"the war is going to be long continued, and the struggle even more bitter than in the past, and that the critical period would come within the next few months. Every one cannot go across, but by the eliminating of the luxuries of living, by contributing financially, by offering our services wherever and whenever we can be of assistance, then every one—young and old—can do their bit." We must not leave it all to the soldiers in the trenches—

we must help Britain and the Allies solve the problem of producing greater quantities of food stuffs. Leaders in Britain and her Allies, as well as in Germanic States, point to the fact that the farmer is going to decide who wins this war.

Prof. Blair's address, practicable and trenchant, stirred the audience deeply. If, said he, there are forty acres available in Kentville, have it sure in your mind that this land should be producing something, whether it be peas or beans or potatoes, or the vegetables of the kitchen garden. The previous speakers had shown we were threatened with a food famine—

when we think of what our boys in the trenches are doing—for Heaven sake let us drop our frivolities and bestir ourselves like men and women in the time of crisis—all can help in this work young and old, women and children. Why is it that many of the boys and girls of our towns seem to look down on farm labor or gardening—seeming afraid to soil their hands in the mud maybe—the dignity of labor is determined entirely by the spirit which dominates it—what is education but "ability to do." Don't say "I'm so tired, I'm so tired, I must go to the moving pictures." Think of this work as national service and you will do what you have not heretofore done.

We want to get along this summer with less meat, if we can, and leave more for export overseas to the boys in the trenches. Encourage, as far as possible, the doing away with veal, so that the animal instead of being slaughtered when weighing 30 to 40 pounds can grow up to produce 500 or 600 of beef.

The following were elected officers of the Kentville Patriotic Planting Club:

President—Prof. S. Blair
Vice President—A. L. Pelton.
Secy-Treas—Laurie Ellis
Directors—A. A. Thompson, H. Oyler, A. E. H. Chesley, Capt Wm McBride, T. P. Calkin, B. Webster, Rev R. B. Layton, Geo E. Graham.
Vacant Lot Committee—H. K. McQuarrie, Geo C. McDougall, C. Lockhart, Jas Sealy, F. B. Newcombe.

Kitchen Garden Committee—R. T. Caldwell, F. C. Rand, Rev A. W. West, Dr W. B. Moore, R. H. Lamont.

Ladies Committee—Mrs. H. H. Wickwire, Mrs. Botsford, Mrs. Blair, Mrs. B. Webster, Mrs. P. N. Parker, Mrs. Wm McBride.

At the close of the meeting through the courtesy of Mr. Graham a series of colored stereoscopic pictures were thrown on the screen, showing town planting and gardening in the United States and a display of Nova Scotian pictures.

A vote of thanks was extended to Prof. Coit for his excellent paper.

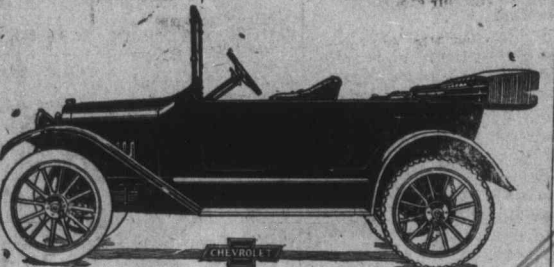
Settlers From United States Again Coming to Canada

The shortage of help in the Canadian West caused by the enlistments for the war has stirred the Immigration Department to extra efforts to meet the situation. Accordingly appeals have been made which have been spread in the United States and they are bringing results. Hon. Dr. Roche is in receipt of information from American agents that the movement to Canada this spring will be very large.

The agent at Grand Forks, N. D., wires that one day he had despatched 68 men, women and children, and 43 the next day. In five days he had forwarded 19 cars of settlers' cars. There will be three times as many settlers this year leave North Dakota as last year.

An amendment to the Education Act has been introduced in the Local House and among other changes is a clause relating to the retirement of school teachers with an annuity. It will apply to licensed teachers of the different classes who have taught for thirty-five years or who have attained the age of 60 years after thirty years of teaching service. Provisions are made for various disabilities, and the amendment gives all the details.

When meeting friends and conversing, don't forget to make plans for systematic planting of any plot of ground you may own.

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