

"Greater Production" and the Vacant Lot

Figures Which Speak For Themselves—
They're Taking Interest in Halifax

(Halifax Mail.)
Controller McKee, convener of the Greater Production Committee, is greatly gratified at the interest being manifested in the vegetable garden proposition—vacant lots for cultivation are now available, and anyone wishing to make a selection can do so by making application at the office of the city assessors where a complete list is on file. The controller states that many citizens are going to plant vegetables in their home gardens this year. But it is quite true that there are many people in the city who have no home gardens and no backyard—the vacant lot proposition is one which a group of them might take up with very material advantage to themselves.

As to the possibilities in vacant lot gardening, the following as to results secured in Ottawa, where the greater production propaganda has been taken up with enthusiasm, is interesting reading:

For three years past the St. Andrew's church glebe (Ottawa) gardens have proved the possibilities of vacant lot gardening. Any one who doubts the success achieved have but to read the following examples of what has actually been done in the capital city under this scheme. Lot No. 31 produced:

10 bags of potatoes.
300 ears of corn.
200 cucumbers.
300 tomatoes.

Lot No. 18 produced:
12 bags of potatoes and a liberal supply of corn, pumpkins and squash.
These are but two examples picked at random. The Ottawa Vacant Lot Association is indebted to the west for the first experiment in vacant lot gardening, and its inception there was due not to war conditions, but to the problem which confronted cities on the prairie by reason of the enormous areas which had been withdrawn from productive uses and converted into real estate subdivisions, coupled with the desire of progressive citizens to promote civic improvement.

The vacant lot garden movement started at Regina in 1912, under the auspices of the City Planning Association, and while it was not easy to get people interested in the project at first, while many predictions of failure were heard, the idea finally took hold, and last year they had sixteen acres of what was formerly waste land under cultivation, and a produce of \$4,500. Preparations are under way to greatly extend the cultivated area this year, and the slogan in Regina is "the vacant lot garden movement for national service."

The work was begun in Calgary in 1914 by the Calgary Vacant Lot Garden Club. The number of lots under cultivation increased from 248 in 1914 to 990 in 1916. One instance is given where a worker from an investment of \$10 had a return of \$70 and the secretary in his report says the achievement is not exceptional. In Calgary the civic authorities and prominent citizens take an active interest in the work. Vacant lot gardening is also carried on at Medicine Hat, and other western points, and under the existing conditions of food shortage plans are being made this year to increase the areas under cultivation.

The movement has spread to the east, and has proved equally as successful. It has in the west. In Fort William it was the outcome of a co-operative effort on the part of the horticultural society and the city council. The original idea was to clean up the weed-grown vacant lots, and not only was this object largely attained, but the people who cultivated these lots were rewarded by a substantial increase in the supply of

table necessities. The Vacant Lot Gardening Association was formed last year and 268 lots were cultivated. The mayor, city clerk and council, took an active part in the management of the scheme. There are civic vacant lot gardens in Hamilton, and one man is reported to have raised forty-two bushels of potatoes on his allotment. A good deal of vacant lot work has also been done in Windsor, Ontario, and many families have benefited therefrom.

In Toronto the cultivation of vacant lots has been successfully carried on during the last two years. In 1915 the Toronto Vacant Lot Cultivation Association, under the presidency of Sir William Meredith, and the Toronto Rotary Club Vacant Lot Cultivation, started work independently and they had 120 gardens under cultivation. In 1916 the number increased to 300, and the success of the movement has been such as to justify plans for an extension of operations during the season of 1917. In order to secure co-ordination of effort these two bodies have united their forces and the prospects are that the work will be conducted on a much greater scale this year. A large number of plots have been pre-empted early in February. The approximate retail value of the product of the 300 plots in 1916 was \$9,000, and the value of the produce grown on some of the plots ran from \$80.00 up to \$76.65, depending on the skill and application of cultivation. In addition to this work there are elaborate schemes of backyard cultivation in operation in Toronto.

A POLICY OF DECEIT.

(Bangor Commercial.)

It appears that but one German newspaper published in all the address of President Wilson given at the time of the declaration of war and it is obvious that the German government was unwilling to take its people into full confidence. It was unwilling that the Germans should know that the United States is in the war in the fullest sense and will render every possible assistance to the Allies. It was unwilling to let the German people know of the plot to urge Mexico and Japan to war upon the United States. Berlin is trying to persuade the German public that the United States is in the war only in a desultory fashion and that we will content ourselves with the simple declaration of war.

From the outset of the great conflict the German populace has been deceived by stern censorship that permitted only German successes to be known. This is a policy that is now failing. The eyes of the Germans have been opened by the revolution in Russia, by the scarcity of food supplies, by the entrance of the United States and by the had news of the discovery of the treachery of their administration is coming to them gradually, but there is a day of awakening coming and it may come before the end of the year. The days of the Kaiser's reign are numbered but they may be brought to a close by the action of the German people rather than by the decision of the Entente.

GERMAN CROWN PRINCE NOW ON WESTERN FRONT

Amsterdam, April 17, via London.—The German Crown Prince now commands the German centre army groups on the Western front, according to the Frankfurter Zeitung. On the Crown Prince's right is Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria, and on his left Grand Duke Albert of Wurttemberg who previously commanded the German forces in Flanders. It was recently reported in the Entente press, says the newspaper, that the German Crown Prince had been sent home to Berlin in disgrace.

Lieut. Foster Among Wounded

Nephew of Premier in Casualty List—Lieut. Bruce Also Reported Wounded—News of the Soldiers

Lieutenant Fred Foster, son of Mrs. A. B. Pipes of Dorchester and a nephew of Premier W. E. Foster of St. John, has been wounded in the recent fighting, according to information received in the city yesterday. Lieutenant Foster attended Rotches College and, upon completing his course there, entered the Royal Military College at Kingston. After completing his studies there he was given a commission in an overseas unit.

Captain R. H. Bruce, quartermaster of the 3rd C. G. A., received word yesterday that his brother, Lieutenant A. Bruce, had been slightly wounded. He was a member of one of the local siege batteries which is at present in France. The 192nd battalion of Chatham has received word that his eldest son, Private James, had died of wounds in Boulogne, France. He went overseas with the 192nd battalion and after arriving in England was transferred to another unit.

Represented Province

Lieutenant F. J. P. Travis of this city was the officer selected to represent the province of New Brunswick at the memorial service for the late Duchess of Connaught at Westminster Abbey.

William Creighton, a U.N.B. student, came to the city yesterday and enlisted with the No. 9 Siege Battery. He is a son of J. D. Creighton of Newcastle, and is the fifth member of his family to enlist.

Lieutenant J. H. Crockett of the 9th Siege Battery, who has been in Quebec taking a special course in heavy artillery, returned to the city yesterday.

F. J. Carten of Fredericton, a former U.N.B. student, was in the city yesterday. Mr. Carten is a member of the 13th Black Watch Battalion at the front. He enlisted in Montreal with the 73rd Battalion and after arriving in England with that unit was transferred to the 13th. He is suffering from wounds.

Ottawa, April 16—

INFANTRY.

Wounded. J. L. Kennedy, 88 Sherif street, St. John (N. B.).
Slightly Wounded. Lieutenant H. S. Barker, Rothesay (N. B.).

Wounded. J. P. Foley, Caracquet (N. B.).

Died of Wounds. L. W. Crandell, R. F. D. No. 1, Hartland (N. B.).

MOUNTED RIFLES.

Wounded. Gunner M. C. Steeves, 475 St. George street, Moncton (N. B.).

ARTILLERY.

Wounded. Corporal J. F. Harvey, 130 P. O. Box, Fredericton (N. B.).
Gunner Wm. F. Taylor, Hillsboro (N. B.).

'PRENTICE BOYS OPEN FAIR

The 'Prentice Boys of King Edward Lodge, No. 30, opened a bazaar last night in their hall in Guilford street, with a large attendance. The room was tastefully decorated. Numerous games attracted a good patronage. Those in charge were: Country store, William Smith; air gun, William Price; gentle men's bean bag, Byron Craft; ladies' bean bag, H. Weaver; ten pins, Robert Jones and Stewart Watters; bagatelle, George Adams; wheel of fortune, John Gilmore; excelsior, Clifford Price; spindles, John Carlson; ball game, A. Worden; beer counter, Isaac McLeod; candy counter, Alfred Belyea, assisted by several ladies.

The prizes were awarded as follows: Air gun contest, tray, won by Anzel Duffy; ball game contest, Roy Campbell won a flashlight; men's bean toss, Harry Fairweather won a pickle dish; excelsior, S. Logan a salt and pepper set; ten pins, Fred McAuley an umbrella; ladies' bean toss, Mrs. Duffy, a clock. Nellie Reid won the door prize a five pound box of chocolates. The proceeds will go towards providing comforts for members of the lodge at the front.

King's Aid is Killed.

London, April 17.—According to the Daily Express, Brigadier-General Charles Buckley-Johnson, a famous cavalry leader, was killed during the brilliant cavalry charge which contributed to the capture of Monchy-le-Frenais. General Buckley-Johnson was an aide-de-camp to King George.

To Stimulate Cadet Corps

Organizer Appeals to the School Board

School Census Discussed

Truant Officer Authorized to Ask for Commitment of Incompletes to Reformatory

"The high school cadet corps is a disgrace to the city of St. John." This statement was made before the board of school trustees at its monthly meeting last evening by Captain R. Robinson Black, cadet corps inspector for the maritime provinces, in his plea for a reorganization of the cadet corps in the high school and throughout the city generally.

Captain Black said that the St. John board of school trustees was practically the first educational board in the dominion to put itself on record as being in favor of universal military training. The resolution was sent to Ottawa, but that was as far as the work went. He added that there are 8,000 boys in St. John who would be eligible for the corps, and yet there are but five companies, and three of these are affiliated with churches. The school trustees of the high school have done little or nothing.

"I have called on Mr. Myles, principal of the high school, two or three times," said Captain Black, "but he has not co-operated with me in the matter, and has said that the boys were busy with football or their other lessons." He told Sergeant Doane, who is instructor for this city, the same thing. At the conclusion of the captain's remarks, Dr. H. S. Myles was heavily burdened with many duties and that the boys had many claims upon their time.

Captain Black told of how the work was progressing in other parts of the province. "Halifax is not as I would like to have it," he added, "but it is improving. Corps have been organized in Sussex, Sydney and other points with very gratifying results. These drills are not to make soldiers of the boys, not to build up militarism or to create a military caste, but for moral, mental and physical training. We do never have a cadet corps while a principal takes a half-hearted attitude."

Dr. Bridges said the corps had been organized and launched on a fairly successful career by Lieutenant Gale, but with his withdrawal from the field it had gradually declined. G. Herbert Green, G. Herbert Green, Dr. H. S. Bridges and Mary McGraw, Miss Alfreda Miller, Miss C. Cella V. Kelly, Miss Mary V. Blanchard, Miss Edith E. Vincent and W. R. Shanklin, Montreal, formerly a teacher here. All communications were filed. An application for position of janitor was received from F. E. Christie and was treated in like manner. Beginning April 1, an increase in pay was granted Richard J. Elworthy, janitor in one of the small buildings.

A request to be given an opportunity to bid on supplying the slate black boards for the new school building was received from the Nonnenman Tiling Company. It was voted to pay full salary to William J. Tait, janitor of the high school for the past twenty years, during his illness. It was also voted to pay half salary for the month of April to the estate of Arthur W. Hickson, principal of the Centennial school, and to accompany the check with a letter of sympathy expressing the regret of the board at the loss of such an able teacher.

The report of the secretary showed that there were 7,832 pupils enrolled during the month of March, 7,084 belonging, and an average daily attendance of 8,885, or 80.06 per cent. The board of health reported two cases of diphtheria and one of suspected infantile paralysis. J. Boyd McNamee, truant officer, reported 72 irregularities, 21 truants, of whom 14 had been arrested, and that he had visited 65 homes and four schools. In discussing the matter of truancy, it was felt by the truant officer that the school officials were not being given full

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opportunity at the police court. The board decided after a brief discussion to instruct the truant officer to take all incorrigible truants before the county court judge with the view of having them committed to the Industrial School, because it was felt that the expense of \$200 a year to which the city would be put for the keep of each one there was less than it would be risking by having such youths running uncontrolled in the streets. While on the issue it was voted that Mr. Emerson, Mr. Green and Mr. Day be present at Fredericton as representatives of the board when amendments to the compulsory school law, as asked by the Trades and Labor Council, was taken up by the government.

Dr. Bridges said plans were already under way for a proper and fitting observance of the fiftieth anniversary of the confederation, and that the schools of the city would all hold exercises of some kind. The question of taking the school census was again brought up. Mr. Day thought that it could be taken for about \$1,000 when the assessment bills were delivered next month. Mr. Russell felt confident that it could be done for not more than \$400 if held over until January, when the assessors made their rounds. The matter was finally dropped, without any decision being reached.

The meeting adjourned about 9.40 p. m.

APPROVE CADET WORK

A very lucid and interesting address on the work of the cadet corps in Canada was given before the Rotary Club last evening by Captain R. Robinson Black, organizer and inspector of cadet corps for M. D. No. 6.

On the conclusion of the address it was moved by A. M. Belding and seconded by R. E. Armstrong that the Rotary Club expresses its hearty approval of the extension and continuation of cadet training in the public schools of the city and province. The motion was unanimously adopted.

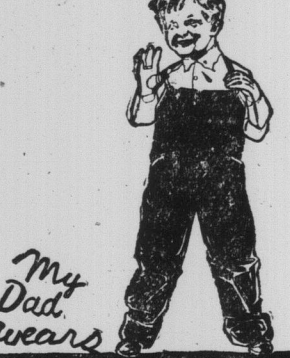
After the address of Captain Black the question of vacant lot gardening was informally discussed. H. L. Ganter, R. E. Armstrong, W. F. Burditt and others treated with the subject and suggested ways and means by which the Rotary Club might assist in the movement by the purchase and distribution of seeds to those who desired to go into this as a hobby to assist in the empire struggle. The funeral of Herbert S. Scott took place yesterday afternoon from his late residence, 202 Douglas avenue. Services were conducted by Rev. John Hardwick. Interment was made in Fernhill cemetery.

ENGLISH PREMIER URGES BIGGER CROPS IN AMERICA

In its campaign to awaken the country to a need of greater food production to meet the demands of the war, the United States department of agriculture on Friday began distribution of an appeal made recently by Premier Lloyd George to the people of England to plant more crops if they hoped to combat the submarine programme.

"While the premier's letter is addressed to the people of England," says a statement accompanying it issued by Dr. Beverly T. Galloway, directly the department's campaign, "it conveys advice distinctly applicable to the United States and should be heeded by everyone who can do anything to produce food or save food from waste."

In his appeal the British premier says: "We have now reached a crisis in the war, when to ensure the heroism of our armies at the front must be backed by



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"The farmers of this country can defeat the German submarine and when they do so they destroy the last hope of the Prussians."

Concert at Fairville

The members of Thorne Lodge, L. O. G. T., gave a concert last night in Temperance hall, Fairville. William Wood, of No. 10 Surrender Lodge, occupied the chair. The programme was as follows: Sketch, Second Time on Earth, Misses Sadie Dunn, Edie Reicker and George Gordon; mandolin solo, Walter Shepherd; sketch, The Doctor's Assistant, Harry and Frank Coleman, Harry Shiley and Grant Fraser; patriotic reading, Miss Inez Boyd; sketch, Two Pussyfoots, Mrs. A. Cooke, Misses Beatrice McKenzie, Ethel Blackford, George Gordon, John McEachern and H. V. Copp; cornet solo, Walter Shepherd; National Anthem.

The Royal Naval Canadian Volunteer Reserve Overseas Division

Never in its centuries of rule on the rolling waves has Britain's fleet done so great a work for freedom and humanity as in this war. It is saving the world from German "Kultur"—curbing their savage submarines—and keeping open the food lanes for neutrals as well as Allies.

Such a task needs thousands more men for the hundreds of new naval craft, and Britannia calls for Canadians to come over and help out. Here is your chance to "do your bit" with the best of the bulldog breed—to serve on the open sea where life has a tang and a man has a chance to keep clean!

And the British tar and his Canadian mates certainly make the most of this chance! Their love of cleanliness shows not only in spotless decks and shining brasswork, but in their own clean-shaven faces. These they owe largely to the Gillette Safety Razor, whose efficiency in its own line compares with that of the fleet itself. It is "Ready, aye ready" for action and a safe and perfect shave in any sea.

Slip a Gillette in your kit and enlist yourself if you can. If you cannot, see that some gallant lad fighting for you has one of these razors to give him a bit of home comfort.



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By "Bud" Fisher



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ALL RIGHT, BUT BE CAREFUL OF THE POINT!

WELL, THERE'S THE ARMORED BODY, THERE'S THE RADIATOR—

THERE ARE THE WHEELS—

—AND THERE'S THE "BREAK" SEE THE POINT?

YES AND JUST AS SOON AS I SHOW YOU THIS "CLUTCH" I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU WHERE THE "SHOCK ABSORBER" IS!