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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink."

CHARLOTTETOWN, FRIDAY, MAY 28, 1948

P. W. C. Convocation

Today's commencement exercises at Prince of Wales College are, as usual, a matter of much public interest. The lengthy pass list published in yesterday's *Guardian* is evidence of the increasing number who are benefiting from the College facilities, as well as of the increased responsibilities devolving upon the teaching staff. Students and teachers alike are to be commended upon their earnest efforts during the past year, and the graduates particularly upon reaching the goal of their immediate ambition.

There has been agitation for years past to have the College courses "streamlined" to meet popular requirements. In matters of this kind, however, haste does not necessarily mean progress. A couple of years ago a special committee at Harvard University made an intensive study of this very question, with some interesting results. In brief, the committee found it was time that education in the United States aimed at something more than mere training—at the turning out of a multitude of specialists who may be altogether ignorant of everything save the one subject in which they have specialized. The report recommended a return to the basic idea of education as a many-faceted culture; the attainment, as nearly as may be, of a slowly ripening wisdom rather than a particular knowledge which stops short at narrow margins which it has neither the time nor the training to cross.

What is of special interest in the Harvard recommendations is that they involved the abandonment of a degree of individual student freedom in the designing of the curricula. They urged a return to a more Spartan era wherein certain subjects are set down for obligatory study upon which the student must, willy-nilly, spend one-half of his time. They assumed that the student with his inevitable predilections for and against certain branches cannot be the best judge and final arbiter in what will contribute most to giving him the mental equipment needful in later years.

There was no suggestion in the report of belittling the vocational and special training which is essential today to the student who is compelled to make a living. It maintained only that the humanities have been too long disregarded for the type of education whose sole purpose is "cashing in" with the minimum of delay and mental effort.

It is to the credit of Prince of Wales College that this guiding principle has been followed down through the years. Its students have benefited from this wise policy much more, perhaps, than they can appreciate at the present time.

One thing, however, remains to be emphasized. "It is disappointing," said Mr. L. W. Shaw, Director of Education, in a recent statement, "to find that the number of young persons choosing the teacher training course at Prince of Wales College has not shown any substantial increase for the current college year. There are fifty-two taking the course. We should have double that number to care for the normal wastage. With reasonable beginning salaries now established, there is a great challenge to our young people to serve effectively and well their native Province by entering the teaching profession." These words should be weighed carefully by graduating students.

Atomic Control Plan

Of far reaching importance are the majority recommendations of the Atomic Energy Commission of the United Nations, which are to be debated in the Security Council and at the next General Assembly, to be held in Paris in September. In the opinion of Mr. Frederic H. Osborn, Deputy United States representative on the Commission, who addressed the National Defense College at Kingston, Ont., on the subject yesterday, a deadlock is likely to result, as it did during the two years in which negotiations were carried on at the Commission level.

Briefly, the control plan of the majority provides for an international agency which would own all uranium ores or other fissionable materials as spon as they were taken from the ground, and which would operate and control all plants for making and using nuclear fuels, exercising ownership over these plants in the sense of a trust exercised on behalf of the signatory states jointly. Nuclear fuels would not be produced in quantity beyond that required for actual beneficial use, including research and development. Research with non-dangerous quantities would be permitted to nations and private agencies subject to appropriate controls by the international agency. When power from nuclear fuels became economically feasible, the international agency would build plants and sell power to nations requiring it, provided the necessary financing were forthcoming and conditions of security permitted. Quotas for the allocation of plants among nations would be set forth in the treaty itself.

The international agency would maintain an inspection force of international personnel to detect and prevent the development of clandestine activities. The ore resources of the world would be surveyed and, except for those ores bearing other useful materials, mined only under instructions of the agency. The agency itself would conduct research with its own personnel, including research on weapons when necessary.

The principles involved have been approved by all of the nations now or previously members of the Atomic Energy Commission with the exception of the Soviet Union, Poland and the Ukraine. "It seems unlikely," says Mr. Osborn, "that any different plan could be developed which would sufficiently safeguard the security of all nations to make possible its adoption, or that the Soviet Union will accept the present plan until Soviet ideology has been changed to meet the realities of the world situation." This at present would seem to be a pretty forlorn hope.

On the other hand, according to General McNaughton, Canadian representative on the Commission, the majority members are certain that they have evolved and set forth in their reports the technical framework of a system of control which will be satisfactory and which, in the end, will be accepted and implemented by all nations. The debate at the September meeting of the General Assembly would present "a bold challenge to the forces of reaction, of ignorance and of timidity to face up to the new conceptions of international organization which recognize the inescapable facts consequent upon our entry into the atomic age." He did not minimize the resistance which has still to be overcome, but maintained that to date "a very remarkable progress has been achieved, and we can go forward in confidence with a task which is in the interests of all people and to the real advantage of all nations."

— EDITORIAL NOTES

Prince of Wales College closes for the current session today, but will continue as usual for special classes. The Faculty has yet a while before they can claim release from their labours.

* * * *

The railway wage question will be settled sooner or later. It will be most unfortunate if the 'later' is after workers, railways and the public have borne the cost of a strike.

* * * *

It seems incredible after all that has, and is, being done for the prevention and cure of tuberculosis here that we should head all the Provinces in the death rate from that dread disease. Can it possibly be that our vital statistics are better and more meticulously kept than those of other Provinces?

* * * *

The Canadian Legion has shown itself enthusiastically in favour of large scale immigration. There is certainly no other one policy which offers more hope for continued and increasing prosperity than bringing the population of this country more in line with our extent, resources and communication facilities.

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The official figures on the Island's contributions to the Dominion treasury and our subsidies give the impression that the Island is being carried by the other provinces. What the figures do not show is the taxes paid by Islanders through purchases from industries located and taxed elsewhere.

* * * *

Bee keeping seems to be booming just now. As a result of the use of modern insecticides beekeeping is becoming more important to the farmer. With other pollinating insects out of the way seed production could show a serious decline unless their place is taken by a sufficient number of honey bees.

* * * *

Mr. Ilsley's flat statement to the Commons that putting the Canadian dollar at par with the American dollar had no effect on our exchange position is rather surprising. Until now most comment has been to the effect that the move greatly reduced the investment of American funds in this country. The fact that high prices have had little effect in reducing consumer demand for imported goods seems to have convinced Mr. Ilsley that the American investor is also insensitive to the question of price.

* * * *

Lord Avebury, 1st Baron, English banker, politician and scientist, born this date 1834. He sat in Parliament for Maidstone and for London University successively, being vice-chancellor of the latter. He was best known as the author of *Ants, Bees and Wasps; Pleasures of Life;* and for being mainly instrumental in passing the Bank Holiday Act of 1871, which provided for statutory public holidays, not only in banks but in business generally: "Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under the trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the blue sky, is by no means a waste of time."

* * * *

Mr. T. L. Church, M.P., is 75% wrong in accusing the Maritimes of lack of enterprise in developing industries. The fact is that almost every industry, started and developed in competition with Central Canadian industries has been wiped out by Toronto and Montreal capitalists, who have paid a premium for the stock, closed out the business by transferring it to the central provinces. The claim invariably is that they have a market at their door and besides easy and comparatively cheap transportation across the border. The charge of lack of enterprise is wholly untenable, especially in view of the fact that Maritimers make good wherever they settle. What is our handicap is the new trend of export brought about by Confederation. Our natural trade is north and south, whereas Confederation compelled us to change that to west and east with only a third or fourth rate railway service to accomplish the trick. It is not lack of enterprise we suffer from but want of profitable markets due to the long expensive hauls to the markets Confederation promised but has done everything possible to prevent fulfillment. Adding insult to injury Montreal and Toronto draw all our monetary resources there, utilizing them to finance their own enterprises to our detriment.

-Notes By The Way-

It is claimed a cougar will run miles to avoid a human being, but personally, if we came across one, it could stand still and achieve the same effect. — Saskatoon Star-Phoenix.

Ten thousand Britons under Dominion auspices, will come to Canada by air this year and the ships will carry plenty more. It is simply defeatism of the first order to conclude that Canada cannot absorb these newcomers. — St. Catherines Standard.

Those who have enjoyed the hospitality of Winnipeg residents and come to admire their fine civic qualities will not be surprised at the outcome of a private test made by a Toronto man while visiting the Manitoba capital. Addressing 12 envelopes to himself, he dropped them at various points about the city as a gauge of the honesty of the finders. Eleven of the letters were returned to him in the mail, unopened. — Victoria Times.

When supplies of cod liver oil were interrupted during the war, Canada started manufacturing it, and worked the industry up to one worth $500,000 annually. It is revealed that this industry has been able to withstand foreign competition, and has become permanent. There is no reason why it should not be so. This country has a large cod-fishing industry, and cod liver oil is just another example of what can be done in Canada if brains and ingenuity are applied to specific possibilities — Windsor Star.

A Montana State College student, married, a father, and a veteran of 36 air combats, was killed by a college employee in an incident growing out of a campus society initiation. This is only one of many tragedies connected with collegiate pranks which are part of academic history. But the circumstances make it particularly regrettable. We are not against fun. But it would seem, with a more mature student body in colleges, that this would be a good time to curb the senseless dangerous excesses of hazing and initiation in favor of a little more concentration on the serious business of education in a serious world. — Guelph Mercury.

All too often the term "working class" is used in a narrow sense, applied to those who do physical labor and those who wear overalls and have greasy hands. We fear that it is often used in that sense for the purpose of creating a picture of class-difference, and to place the balance of Canadians in an isolation of "non-workers". Laborers, artisans, farmers, merchants, clerks, managers and all others who receive payment for the jobs which they do are members of the working class. The income tax collector passes them not by and he leans heaviest on the gate of that section of the population which works to keep the other groups working. Canada has no separate and distinct group which can be correctly or with honest intent described as being the "working class". — Moose Jaw Times-Herald.

To cook potatoes well, without breaking them up, is a vital matter for homemakers in Britain, rationed to three pounds weekly. It seems cosy cookery is not, as you might imagine, cooking in a nicely heated kitchen under pleasant conditions, but just another fuel-saver for Britain's homemakers. "Cosies," which fit over saucepans, kettles or casseroles, are made of old felt, blanket, tweed material or curtain serge. Double materials is used and a thick layer of newspaper inserted between the two pieces of cloth. The results is a "cosy" which is something between a soft dish cover and a fez. Here's how it works. After two minutes' boiling, the saucepan is put under the cosy and placed on heat-retaining material, such as a wooden table or thick pad of newspapers. The food cooks gently without spoiling and will keep hot for hours. — Brandon Sun.

In Thunder Bay the sharp decline of sheep can be traced directly to marauding wolves and bear. Losses have discouraged farmers from their attempts to build up this branuch of agricultural development. In 1936 only 450 pounds of wool was shipped out from the lakehead. Then with the help of the Kiwanis club which backed two-year notes in favor of boys and girls of Thunder Bay farms, 110 news flocks were introduced to the district. The plan worked well. All notes were paid off and in 1944, 12,000 pounds were shipped from the twin cities. Then the wolves and the bears began their nefarious attacks and the industry has steadily dwindled. Last year, for example, one farmer lost 35 ewes and lambs, which were attacked by wolves, which often raided flocks in broad daylight. That meant a loss of that particular farmer equal to the entire profit on his flock for a year. It is said that a good dog will keep away bear. But the best protection against the wolves is a gun. An increase in the bounty for wolves in the district might do the trick. — Fort William Times-Journal.

HALIFAX — (CP) — An innocent bystander when two automobiles crashed here has launched a suit against both drivers for $11,854. He is Henry D. Lawrence. After the cars collided they careened over the sidewalk, striking him.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

TEMPERANCE OR PROHIBITION?

Sir,—I cannot understand the Provincial Government's attitude in refusing to set before the public the obvious points of superiority which the New Temperance Act has over the Old Prohibition Act of 1900 and its amendments of 1918 and 1937.

It may be that the Government believes that the people of this Province are now moving along with the peoples of other lands in a broader outlook and with a saner viewpoint so that no comparisons need be made; that it believes the people can be depended upon to vote for the New Temperance Act because it is the sanest, most reasonable, and yet, withal, the strictest piece of temperance legislation any Island Government has ever submitted to the electors for their approval.

To a large extent, such an argument is sound. Anyone who takes the trouble to examine the old liquor legislations of 1900, 1918, and 1937 can see, when comparing them with the New Temperance Act, what a streamlined job the new legislation is compared to those liquor laws of yesteryear.

But it is well to remember that common sense and reason do not always prevail at elections and plebiscites any more than they do in business transactions. Glib-tongued salesmen have been known to sell gold bricks which were not gold, and, according to the New York police, have been even known to sell the Woolworth Building to gullible strangers from "the sticks". It is still easier for fluent speakers touring the Province to sell to well-meaning persons, especially women, the idea that Prohibition means a law-abiding people and that all other liquor legislation means a lawless Province.

But the difference is that the buyer of the gold brick has at least a brick to show for the money he has handed over to the salesman; the buyer of the Woolworth Building has at least a nicely-engrossed parchment, while the buyer of Prohibition has nothing. He has nothing, because Prohibition, so far as liquor is concerned, has never existed in this Province nor in any other spot on this earth. Moreover, the buyers of the brick and the Woolworth Building, while losing their money, have at least benefited the salesman; but the buyer of Prohibition has contributed to and is therefore partly responsible for the turmoil and the lawlessness which inevitably follow the enactment of prohibitory liquor legislation.

It is because of these facts that I consider the Government of this Province remiss in its duty when it does not place before the public the facts upon which the people are to vote at the coming plebiscite. Since it does not and, apparently, has no intention of doing so, I should like to attempt the task. For, certainly, I have no desire to again experience the conditions between 1918 and the beginning of the war when all the jails were full of Prohibition offenders, when Island waters were dotted with the sails of rum runners, and when there was a moonshiner working in practically every woods.

There is an organization in this Province known as the P. E. Island Temperance Federation. The members of that organization are men and women who are not, as the name of their organization implies, temperance people, but Prohibitionists. They are people who do not believe in the temperate use of alcoholic drinks but who believe in enforced total abstinence.

Many of them go so far as to deny all medical science with respect to the use of liquor in certain illnesses and would refuse it even when it was prescribed for them by a physician. And they would, by compulsory legislation, force the remaining 90 per cent of the population to be total abstainers against their will.

Such men are dangerous. Not merely for the reasons Caesar gave for Cassius being so, but because they are illogical and because they give to their representations an air of sanctity which impresses so many of our women folk.

So far as their sanctity is concerned, I shall only comment on it by saying that I know at least a score of total abstainers, all of them good church members, who intend to vote for the New Temperance Act. With respect to their illogicality, we have the press and other reports of their recent meeting in Charlottetown.

At that meeting, a Rev. Mr. MacWilliams is reported to have said that the Montreal civic authorities had recently cleaned up the red light district of that City by putting many of the women in jail and by running the rest out of the municipality. Mr. MacWilliams implied that was the proper way to wipe out prostitution—by compulsion. He said if the Montreal authorities had followed the principles of the Provincial Government here which, he said, claims it will restrict the sale of liquor by making it easier to procure, they would not have put the women in jail but would have added to the number in the red light district and would have invited the men to patronize the district on the ground that the more business the women did, the more moral they would become.

With your permission, I should like to answer this fallacious argument in my next letter.

I am, Sir, etc.
A BELIEVER IN TEMPERANCE.

LIQUOR AND THE BIBLE

Sir,—People of Prince Edward Island were amazed when they read a letter in the paper from one who signed "Seeker For Truth", who informed us that Jesus drank alcoholic wine at every meal.

Is it possible that "Seeker For Truth" could believe for one moment that the spotless Lamb of God, the One of whom the Voice from Heaven declared, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased", would drink alcoholic drink such as is sold at the liquor stores and beer parlors that causes our young people to stagger home at all hours, some so drunk they have to be carried to cars and taken home; and also causes the many terrible things that are happening in our country today, murders, fights, broken homes, and even cause a mother to throw her baby in a hot stove?

"Seeker For Truth" must have his mind seared with alcoholic drink to have such a thought of the One who gave his life to save the world from all this wickedness. It seems hard to understand how anyone could believe that Christ would be guilty of such despicable conduct. The Bible tells us "that as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he."

The people in Jesus' day drank grape juice at their meals, for they did not have the clear water as we have it. The juice was squeezed from the grapes into their cups and taken as we take water or tea today, and in Jesus' farewell talk with His disciples he said he would not drink it again until he would drink it new with them in his Father's Kingdom.

"Seeker For Truth" considers all temperance people are "zealots" or in other words "fanatics". The Bible tells us that "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." Would "Seeker For Truth" dare to place Jesus in the class of the unwise?

If "Seeker For Truth" is really from Summerside, why does he not come out in the open and give his real name? Perhaps he may be the same writer who some years ago wrote letters trying to condemn our Prohibition Law, and signed as his address a street and number in Montreal. Then when the matter was investigated there was no such person in Montreal and address given was a vacant lot which was to be a playground.

I trust that after the experience of the "Cullen Amendment", Prince Edward Island will vote to have our old Prohibition Law enforced and let the breweries see that they cannot have control over us.

If we lack wisdom, we may ask of God, and in getting wisdom get understanding, the Bible says, and may our leaders realize that revenue cannot be compared with the precious lives of our young people.

I am, Sir, etc.
JEREMIAH SIMPSON.
Cavendish, P. E. Island.

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EARLY SCIENCE LESSONS

"Prince of Wales was a public institution supported by public funds. Principal Anderson did not assume that public opinion of education was entirely negligible; but he strove to guide and control the public mind, check the enthusiasm of visionaries bent upon new and untried experiments. The College was based upon the grammar schools, and the policy was uniform, to deny entrance and drive out all boys who were incapable of profiting by them. If the boy had no aptitude for books, he should not waste his time, but had better betake himself to the land, the sea, or the workshop, lest he might fall into that abyss of unemployment and poverty that lies between a profession and a trade. . .

"But in time the rising cry for the practical, for science, was heard upon this far shore. Principal Anderson was compelled to meet the charge, that the old system was obsolete, by establishing new courses in French, natural philosophy, chemistry and agriculture, but without increase in the number or pay of his staff, with which the reformers and the tax-payers were equally satisfied. He, himself, was adequate for all these new tasks. . .

"Physics or natural philosophy, as it was called, presented no difficulty. He established a course that occupied only one hour of the year. It was purely experimental. He procured an air-pump, and fastened to the nozzle a bottle commonly called a 'square-face'. A boy bold enough to enquire why a cylindrical bottle would not serve the purpose was sent from the room; the course was experimental. Principal Anderson would not himself deign to operate the machine, he had engaged a mechanic for the purpose, and stood by with an air of sardonic amusement, and triumph when the bottle burst in pieces.

"The course in electricity followed. The apparatus was a long stick of sealing wax, a piece of silk, and a bottle with two pieces of gold leaf suspended within. A smart boy who had made private study of electricity referred to it as a Leyden jar; it was an electroscope, the mechanic corrected him; and that boy too was sent from the room.

"An experiment in chemistry followed. Two harmless substances were placed in a mortar, borrowed from a chemist's shop. They were ground to powder by the pestle, a loud explosion followed accompanied by a foul smell that pervaded the whole room.

"To complete the course, electricity was given a renewed experiment. A dozen boys were set in a row grasping hands; the end boys were given a moist sponge connected with wires attached to an induction coil and battery, as it was explained. The mechanic did something; the boys were thrown to the floor. They thought he had taken advantage of his position, and seized the mechanic; and the lesson ended in disorder. The course in science for the year was finished. Principal Anderson had yielded to the modern, scientific spirit and to the reformers of education. 'Tomorrow morning at eight o clock, he said, 'we shall resume Arnold's Greek Prose Composition'."

—From reminiscences of student days at P. W. C. by the late Sir Andrew Macphail.

The Poet's Corner

THE HUMAN SEASONS

Four Seasons fill the measure of the year;
There are four seasons in the mind of man:
He has his lusty Spring, when fancy clear
Takes in all beauty with an eagle span:
He has his Summer, when luxuriously
Spring's honey'd cud of youthful thought he loves
To ruminate, and by such dreaming high
Is nearest unto Heaven: quiet coves
His soul has in its Autumn, when his wings
He furleth close; contented so to look
On mists in idleness — to let fair things
Pass by unheeded as a threshold brook:—
He has his Winter too of pale misfeature,
Or else he would forego his mortal nature.

—John Keats.

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