

The Charlottetown Guardian

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No Partisanship?

Speaking at Rotary yesterday on the subject of the Dominion-Provincial youth training plan, Mr. R. F. Thompson, the Supervisor stated that an essential part of the plan is that no racial, political or religious discrimination must be shown in the selection of young people.

This, unfortunately, has not been the case in this Province. As we pointed out last November, twenty-three youths under this scheme were sent to Fredericton, N. B. for forestry training—every one of them of Liberal families. If Mr. Thompson is not aware of this fact, no doubt he can find the information on file at Ottawa. It is surprising to say the least, that the Supervisor's attention has not been directed to this gross example of political partisanship, which was a matter of common knowledge and criticism two months ago.

The Potato Situation

An improvement in seed potato prices during the spring months is anticipated by the compilers of "The Agricultural Situation and Outlook 1938," which is published at Ottawa under the authority of the Federal Ministers of Agriculture, and Trade and Commerce. The unusually large fall movement of seed together with the reduced yield of late varieties are cited as likely factors in improving prices next spring. A larger seed acreage is expected next season and this may require all available stock.

Reviewing recent developments in the seed potato industry, the report says the movement from the Maritimes by water during the fall months to November 1 totalled 1,600 cars as compared with some 500 cars during the corresponding period of 1936. The annual quota of 750,000 bushels to the United States ending Nov. 30 was practically exhausted. With the duty increased to 60 cents from Nov. 1 until the end of February, there will be comparatively few shipments to the United States until March 1 when imports under the new quota will again be admitted at the minimum rate of 45 cents per 100 pounds. Argentina again purchased substantial quantities from the Maritimes. Whether this will continue is problematic as the Argentine government has withdrawn active support of the importations of seed potatoes and is concentrating its efforts on a plan to produce sound certified stock within its own boundaries.

In Prince Edward Island fair quantities moved in October to the United States and Argentina but growers were reluctant to sell at 25 cents per bushel, the prevailing price at the farm. Although the Bliss Triumph acreage was more than doubled in Nova Scotia, all available seed was shipped and a further increase in acreage of this variety is expected in 1938. The best shipping season in years was experienced by New Brunswick with approximately one million bushels moving to Nov. 1, chiefly to South America.

In table stock, the returns during the early part of the 1937-38 shipping season indicate that prices will be lower than in 1936-37. The increased Canadian production together with one of the largest yields on record in the United States will probably have a depressing effect on the market throughout the entire season. Returns to producers to Dec. 1 averaged 23 cents bushel in Prince Edward Island and about 19 cents in New Brunswick, as compared with 50 and 44 cents respectively in 1936. The Ontario market for Maritime potatoes will be reduced because of an increase of 1,500,000 bushels in Ontario. Last season 216 cars of Maritime potatoes were received on the Toronto market during the months of September and October as compared with 17 cars during the corresponding period 1937.

Export market possibilities for table stock at the present time, the review states, are not encouraging. The existing U. S. tariff of 75 cents per 100 pounds is prohibitive at present price levels and with the heavy production in that country is does not appear likely that prices will reach a sufficiently high level to permit Canadian imports on a competitive basis.

The Drama Festival

The Prince Edward Island sub-regional drama festival, which takes place Friday afternoon and evening in the Strand Theatre, should prove of unique entertainment value. No fewer than five one-act dramas have been entered by different amateur teams in competition. One of these is an original play written by Mr. Harry E. Foster, Charlottetown, whose play "Nocturne" won the P.E.I. and New Brunswick regional contest last year and was presented at the Dominion festival at Ottawa. Though it failed to win the favour of the Dominion adjudicator, it was commended by reviewers as a brilliant effort. This time the author has entered the lists with "The Fool's Playground", a work no less original, but quite different in theme and treatment. It is much to Mr. Foster's credit that he refused to be discouraged by last year's results at Ottawa, but has put his experience on that occasion to good use.

The presentation of the Charlottetown Little Theatre Guild's one of the earlier plays by Eugene O'Neill, noted American dramatist, The Summerside Guild, the Trinity players, and the Ligonier players, have each a promising entry, the latter play being dramatized from a story by John Buchan, the name under which Lord Tweedsmuir, Governor General of Canada, continues to give pleasure to readers throughout the English-speaking world.

Each of the teams has worked hard at rehearsals and the result should be creditable to all concerned. The adjudicator, Mr. Malcolm Morley, of London, England, is a well known

dramatist, producer and actor and his expert criticism and selection of the winning play, at the close of the contest on Friday night, will be awaited with the keenest interest.

This is Prince Edward Island's first opportunity of staging a sub-regional drama festival. It is hoped that public appreciation will be shown by a very large attendance.

Stands By B. N.A. Act

With the opening of Parliament renewed interest is being taken in Prime Minister King's plans for introducing social and other legislation independent of provincial rights. Mr. King's proposal, as it stands, is that a system of unemployment insurance, national in scope, can best be established through an amendment to the British North America Act, inasmuch as it seems to the Federal Prime Minister that to proceed by each province passing enabling or concurring legislation would be uncertain and unstable. Premier Duplessis, of Quebec, replies to this by pertinently asking Mr. King: "What stability and certainty do you think there would be in federal legislation on unemployment insurance which could essentially be changed or modified every year by the Federal Parliament?" For the provincial authorities to agree to the procedure urged on behalf of the Federal Government would mean the sacrifice in the realm of local government of something real for the apparent. They would surrender to the central government at Ottawa a measure of provincial autonomy without surety of the perpetuation of the benefits which should accrue through the transfer. The Government of the Province of Quebec, Mr. Duplessis informs Mr. King, considers that the best elements of stability and certainty are "within the British North America Act," and that it is much better to preserve the stability of the Constitution.

Editorial Notes

Scott reached the South Pole this date 1912.

How grieved the genial Minister of Agriculture feels at losing the brewery stallions.

There is always something to keep the rabbit's tail short—ice haulers complain of the paucity of the ice crop and its immaturity.

A good deal of wire-pulling is going on in connection with the forthcoming Mayoralty election, and it seems pretty certain there is not going to be an acclamation.

The Joint Congressional Committee at Washington have agreed that U.S.A. supplies be kept equal at all times to the average annual domestic consumption and exports for the last ten years, plus a reserve of 15 per cent of this total. Marketing quotas will not become effective until supplies reach 35 per cent about average exports plus domestic consumption, or about 940,000 bushels. The compromise on 940,000 bushels allows for a normal crop plus from 100,000,000 to 200,000,000 bushels on hand as carry over from the preceding harvest.

What do you mean when you use the words "let", "bless", and "before"? "Let" may mean "allow" or it may mean "prevent" or "hinder" as a let ball in tennis. "Bless" may mean curse. "Before" may mean split apart or it may mean adhere. "Before" in "before the war" refers to the past, and in "a golden age is before us" implies the future. Other opposites: to stone a man and stone a cherry; to seed a field and seed a raisin; to fish a garden (spread fish fertilizer) and fish a pond. No wonder that lawyers wrangle over the meaning of words in wills and why students of the Constitution seem to interpret it differently.

Here's welcome news for people who attend formal banquets or hotel and restaurant dinners—an hors d'oeuvre can now be termed an "apitaiser". That was the name a committee of four men selected from nearly 1,000 suggestions submitted in a contest by the United States Mid-West Hotel Show for a "simplified Americanized name" for those cheese and caviar doo-dads that precede a meal. The prize-winning suggestion was submitted by two contestants, Mr. Roy L. Alcatorre, restaurateur of New Orleans and Mr. Ludwig Urban, Buffalo, N.Y.

Civil war in Ireland is the dreadful prospect ahead of Britain. "Self-determination" was the policy agreed upon in the matter of nationality as the outcome of the Great War, and "hands off" in the matter of internal disputes. The former Irish Free State claims that Northern Ireland is part and parcel of their country, and now that they have changed their name to Ireland they demand that the Northern counties be incorporated with the southern. This is the issue with which the conference with Great Britain now being held in London has to discuss and satisfactorily solve or—the arbitration of civil war.

Radical Nazis of Offenbach, as one step in their fight against Christianity have developed a ritual to take the place of Christian baptism. It was tried out with great pomp and ceremony in that city. The "christening" took place in the Offenbach community house, a former synagogue. Instead of an altar, the Nazis set up a table adorned with flowers, above which hung a large picture of Chancellor Hitler, surrounded by the flags of the Nazi local and of the Brown-shirt storm troops. Before the table stood two old oaken chairs, wreathed in flowers, and a medieval cradle, also wreathed. The local Nazi leader entered the parents' home, and with military salute notified them that the march to "baptism" could now begin. Then he headed the procession with a detachment of storm troops. An organ played solemn tunes as the procession reached the community house. The grandparents took their places in the two flower-bedecked chairs. The father faced his parents, gave them his last child as a symbol of his will to do his duty by his family, race and country, and received their blessing, after which the procession reformed and the Nazi "blessed" infant returned to its home.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Our national income produced in 1932 has been estimated at 39 billion dollars. The President estimates that our national income in 1937 reached 68 billions. Our income, he tells us, is to raise it to 90 or 100 billions. Every one must applaud such an objective. No one in his senses can really desire to see a smaller income for the whole American people, or believe that he can stand to profit by such a smaller income. Nor is there anything inherently impossible in the goal the President has set. Our national income in 1929 was slightly more than 80 billion dollars. With our improved technological resources since that year, there is no reason to suppose, if full utilization of them could be achieved, that we could not reach an annual income of 100 billion dollars within a decade. When the goal of 100 billions has been reached, there will be no reason for stopping there.—New York Times.

Once there was a woman who did a big wash. She hung her clothes on a line. The line broke and all the wash came down. She did her washing over again and spread it on the grass to dry. A dog with muddy feet came along and walked all over the clean white clothes. The woman did not get angry or lose her temper. She just said: "Isn't it queer, he didn't miss anything?" That was true patience. But only people who do washings know it.

India's first air-conditioned train recently made a demonstration run from Delhi to Agra and back. Four coaches were used for the journey, which was a revelation to those on board of modern methods of travel and comfort for passengers in that hot country. The air-conditioning recently made it possible to maintain a steady temperature inside the carriages, the air being renewed every four minutes. Each coach accommodates fourteen first class passengers, being divided into five two-berth compartments and one four-berth compartment.—Exchange.

It would seem that those who would think in terms of money would find the experiences of the past and see how little was the profit. The financial systems of nearly every country of Europe were wrecked by the World War. The Japanese bankers make as an excuse the tendency of China toward Communism, and the United States is powerless to resist the maelstrom of propaganda. Unless Japan sees in the hope of victory the prospect of ruling all China with an iron hand, it must face the probability that China, disorganized and vanquished, will fall victim to all sorts of disrupting influences.—Detroit News.

Where is there recorded in the annals of the white man a greater feat of endurance than that provided by the frozen North? The Indian boys had to live off their own sweat and blood, hopelessly crushed and held by a fallen tree—and with medical attention 100 miles away?—Ex.

In Kansas City the other day all traffic came to a standstill for one minute in recognition of the fact that an entire year had passed without the loss of a child's life due to automobile accidents. Kansas City may well be proud of its record, an achievement largely due to the education of its school children in the first principles of safety. This instruction was not superficial. It was not abandoned after the first few days, but intensified as the year progressed. Through constant repetition of warnings the children were made to comprehend the eternal vigilance is the price of safety.—Chicago Herald and Examiner.

A feature of the annual report made by Dean Ackerly of the Columbia is a map of the world illustrating "The Black Page of the Twentieth Century." The plague is the spread of Government censorship and the dying out of a free press. Brazil is black on the map (although Assistant Secretary of State Summer Welles only recently explained that Brazil wasn't really a dictatorship.) Mexico and the United States are white, but gray spots appear on the map of Canada (Alberta and Quebec).—New York Post.

A number of the most distinguished journals in the South and a number of its leading citizens are expressing views which show a new open-mindedness toward such legislation as (the Federal Anti-Lynching Bill). If it seems necessary, in order to complete the elimination of lynching, to back stringent State laws with a Federal act penalizing the Federal statute concerning kidnapping, these leaders of Southern opinion are prepared to take this step. This breach of view is a welcome development and constitutes a happy omen for the future of the nation. It gives promise that the day may yet dawn when the tragic blunders of reconstruction will be forgotten and forgiven. But the presence of this sentiment—doubtless still in the minority—presents in our judgment only another reason for caution and restraint by Congress. The passage of a Federal anti-lynching law should wait for this new outlook to develop and spread spontaneously. It would almost certainly be checked and defeated by hasty action.—New York Herald Tribune.

A gentleman entered a store in Timmins on Monday afternoon last. "Will you do me a favor, friend?" he asked one of the clerks. "Surely!" was the kind reply, with the cautious reservation added, "if I can." "Well, please tell me the date of the day after tomorrow." "Then please tell me if it is morning or afternoon?" "It is afternoon," said the clerk. "Do me just one more favor," said the gentleman. "Please tell me what day it is." "Monday," responded the clerk. "Well," said the gentleman, "that is tough! I haven't known anything much since Friday." The gentleman sighed as he left the store. "What I don't like about Christmas," he said, "is that there is so much lost time."—Timmins Advance.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion of interesting questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

THE LIGHT QUESTION

Sir—Mr. Wheat's latest letter, published on Saturday, at least sheds some new light, from a different angle, on a situation which to most citizens is still somewhat obscure. While his figures in respect to savings are not entirely correct, suggesting gains for some users which they will never be able to realize, they do demonstrate that the savings which will accrue from the rates now agreed upon are really quite small over the rates presently in force. Mr. Wheat has failed to make quite plain, however, that the domestic rates which have been effective during the past year—the rates which showed the really big and worthwhile savings—were secured under the Maritime Government Commission from the Maritime Electric when it was under United States ownership and control. When the Canadian company took over from the Associated System a very great reduction in book value is supposed to have taken place. All that they then passed along to their customers in Charlottetown was to advance the date by a few months at which the fabled "objective" rate of necessity became the "permanent" rate.

In the securing of the great reduction which the objective rate involved immediately for many householders and after the elapse of a few months for all householders the former Commission gave away absolutely nothing, shut no doors, approved no agreements, and incurred only costs which were easily absorbed from its ordinary revenues. What a contrast from the present settlement, in which for very minor concessions from a new company which had taken over the property in the midst of a depression from a deeply involved concern, the City Corporation is barred for many years to come, perhaps for all time, from even looking for another reduction on behalf of its citizens, while the possibility of the power users and rural customers getting any redress for their very real grievances becomes much more involved and difficult. All over America electric utility rates have been continually reduced as cheaper methods of production have been perfected and as consumption was increased. But in Charlottetown reductions are now to cease for years under a agreement made by the City Corporation. Some of the Councillors have been honestly and conscientiously believing it to be a good settlement. And the City is saddled with a decadent system of public utility valuation—the cost of production less estimated depreciation—rates have been continually topped under the advancing prices of the boom days to protect the great holding companies which were then buying up individual plants all over America at prices far above their original cost, and to ensure employment of public utility engineers and valuing firms who fattened on such fees as those charged in Charlottetown which in the settlement were transferred from the shoulders of the tax-payers of Charlottetown to the shoulders of the same citizens who in respect to the Maritime Electric in Montague, Georgetown and along the rural lines.

I am, Sir, etc.

UNDELUDED.

THEORIES OF LEARNING

Sir—I have read with a good deal of interest several letters on education that have recently appeared from the pen of Mrs. Ruhmah S. Frank. This writer, who is a lady of distinguished literary ability, occasionally makes observations and expresses opinions that appear to me to be her own and quite original, and when she does so, she is always interesting and usually convincing. Not so, however, when she utters such modern slogans and quoting modern psychologists. Some of these modern slogans are, "Some are gifted at mathematics," "Some are gifted at art," and they will still be going strong when the names of all modern psychologists are lost in oblivion.

Let us now examine again the main argument of the advocates of reform in our P. E. Island system of education. It is, in effect, that the classics and mathematics occupy too large a place in this system, and that this fact is the main cause of all our educational ills.

Now Mrs. Frank practically admits that all down through the Christian era, educationists

throughout all the western world insisted on Latin and Greek, geometry and algebra as an essential part, or "sine qua non" of a sound comprehensive education. This fact she admits; but the fact, she argues, has always had for its basis a grand illusion, or to use her own words "a false theory of learning." This false theory she tells us consisted in a belief that there was some comprehensive and fundamental principle in these subjects that in fact never existed in them. It is hard indeed for the average reader to swallow this "false theory" explanation. It is about as hard for him to do so as it is for the average reader to believe Mrs. Eddy, the founder of Christian Science, when she explains away the reality of matter as a great illusion of the mortal mind. And it is almost equally hard for the average common-sense man to believe that all down through the Christian ages, educationists have insisted on Greek and Latin, geometry and algebra as being essential in a sound comprehensive education, but that in fact this insistence was founded on a great illusion or on a false theory of learning. Surely, by way of a better explanation, it is scarcely necessary to point out as President Stanley of Dalhousie University has recently done in a letter to the press, that in respect to art and learning, we are the inheritors of Greece and Rome. And we may well go further than President Stanley has done, and argue in respect to our Christian religion, that while it undoubtedly had its origin in Palestine, nevertheless the history and progress of the Christian gospel is so essentially linked with the learning of Greece and Rome, that it is hardly conceivable how we can get away from this learning till the very end of the gospel dispensation.

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how soon or late that will be, who now can tell us? Now in respect to the question of mind-training projected by Mrs. Frank, it will, we think, be hard to convince the average educationist in Prince Edward Island that all subjects are of equal value. Of course Mrs. Frank does not say exactly this. She does submit however in the authority of Thorndike and other modern psychologists, and other modern mathematicians, nor Latin grammar, nor the grammar of any language whatever, has any pre-eminence in respect to mind-training. Needless to say, this proposition is in contradiction to the traditional theory of fundamental subjects to which we have just referred. It is in notable contradiction to the immortal Plato, who wrote over the door of his academy, "Let none presume to enter here who has not first made acquaintance with geometry." It is, we believe, in contradiction to the opinion of nearly every high school teacher in Christendom, who will tell us that as a rule, when a pupil enters high school in arithmetic, grammar and arithmetic, and other subjects whatever, when he enters deficient in these two subjects, all other subjects come with difficulty to him. Twenty years ago in British Columbia the public school teachers and the high school teachers became so convinced and agreed on this point, that they persuaded the Department of Education in that province to reduce the high school entrance examinations from an examination in 12 subjects, to an examination in five subjects; and of these four subjects, grammar and arithmetic were still considered chief, not alone because the teachers considered these two as fundamentally related to the study of all the other subjects, but also because they considered proficiency in these to be a distinctive mark of "a well trained mind."

But would it not be a pity, Sir, if teachers on Prince Edward Island should spend too much time on conflicting and bewildering theories of psychology, when they might be better employed teaching a little Latin, geometry and algebra, not forgetting English grammar, nor yet forgetting entirely how to plant a potato, nurse a baby, or make a good apple pie? I am, Sir, etc.

our school curricula is wholly unrelated to another. Personally I think it hard to prove that such unrelation exists; and anyhow, many of your readers will not so readily assent to Dewey's proposition as Mrs. Frank does. It is, I submit, a very generally accepted opinion that training and ability in one subject assists a student in acquiring ability in another subject; however unrelated the two subjects may appear to be. And for high authority on this point we again refer our readers to Plato, who taught his pupils, that he who would attain to the conception of "pure beauty" must first study in the hard school of exact truths revealed in arithmetic, geometry, and astronomy. Finally I wish to point out that Mrs. Frank has contradicted herself and Dewey on this point in a former letter where she argued, I think with good sense, that the study of mathematics assisted a student in the art of correct reading; I presume she meant in respect to accurate observation of words and careful interpretation of their meaning. To argue, indeed, that training in any one subject does not assist in the study of another ability in another subject, is to argue that habits of correct logical thinking, attention to rules and first principles, concentration and perseverance, all acquired in the study of one subject, is of no avail whatever in the study of another subject. This is to argue, in short, that there is no such a thing as general principles or universal laws that apply to the proper study of all subjects. To this last proposition modern psychologists, those who have assisted in the acquiring of wheels of the mind go round, may give their ready and easy assent, but it will, I think, be a hard proposition for the philosophers to swallow.

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WHAT IS YOUR AIM?
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