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

CHARLOTTETOWN, FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 1948

Agricultural Conference

During the past few days Government officials, both Federal and Provincial, have contributed a great deal of interesting information on our agricultural problems, as well as many valuable suggestions for improvement and development. It is not, of course, the duty of officials to dictate Government policies, but there is no doubt that their advice should receive due attention. The agricultural conference which is being held this week, and which is the first of its kind to be conducted here, has already produced voluminous material for Government consideration,—all emanating from senior officials of the various branches of our Dominion and Provincial Agricultural Departments, who have had long experience in their work.

The reason for calling the conference was thus explained by the Deputy Minister, Mr. W R. Shaw:

"So many changes have taken place within recent years in the science, production and marketing spheres that even those who are in closest contact with attendant problems find it difficult to keep pace with rapidly changing conditions. In view of the number and variety of these problems, leaders who occupy positions of responsibility in agriculture feel an ever-increasing pressure from our farm people for information and direction on matters affecting rural progress. It would therefore seem necessary that a greater measure of concentration be directed to the study of rural programmes and that some organization be constructed among the technical men of this Province through which our combined knowledge on such matters may be pooled and a continued study be effected so that we all may be better able to meet our responsibilities as agricultural technicians and farm producers. This conference is called for the purpose of an intensive and exhaustive analysis of agricultural conditions in this Province, and the charting of a farm programme in accordance with our findings."

Our agricultural officials are among the best qualified men in Canada, and the conference now under way is another example of their zeal and initiative in all matters affecting the industry in this Province.

Their programme, when prepared, will doubtless be submitted to the Government, and through the Government to the Legislature for full and frank discussion. No more important subject is likely to arise during the coming session, and there is no reason why it should not be given priority. Incidentally, it may be noted that no programme, however valuable, is worth anything unless carried out. It is now over two years since a comprehensive report on Agriculture was submitted, along with other reports, by the P. E. I. Advisory Reconstruction Committee to the Government, and comparatively few of the many recommendations made therein have yet been implemented. That report dealt with soil erosion and other matters which apparently are still in the forefront as vital farm problems. It is to be hoped that as a result of this week's conference some concrete effort will be made to remedy matters. Otherwise the recommendations will just constitute another bulky volume to be read, pigeonholed and forgotten.

Education For Democracy

The Canadian Legion has performed many valuable services since its organization in the years following the First World War, but perhaps nothing more far-reaching in an educational sense than by its recent publication of a manual entitled "Canadian Democracy and Citizenship Action." In concise form, this booklet gives the essential facts about our British democracy and Constitution, and outlines the scope of study groups and "follow through" activities in furtherance of educational and citizenship movements.

In the words of the Introduction, its primary purpose is "to invite and to urge Canadians in all walks of life to make a closer, more intense, intelligent study of Canada, its geography and history, its ways of life and manners of citizenship, and, particularly, its functions of government—local, provincial and Federal. By informing ourselves more extensively and pertinently about the need for and the requirements of workable citizenship action each one becomes an abler participant in playing a full and significant part not only in making Canada a great nation but in enlarging Canada's national fitness to exert an influence for goodness and greatness among other nations. It is the inalienable right and the inevitable duty of each Canadian citizen to help in some measure to make Canada a nation we need and can pass on with national pride to the generations which will succeed us."

The manual is the result of a resolution approved at the 1946 national convention, accepting, as a serious obligation of the Legion, the responsibility "to make Canada a success in peace as it did in war, a move towards a better understanding of our Government so that more control may be rationally exerted by our interest, criticism and knowledge of the actions of our representatives in the Government." The resolution stressed "that no attempt be made to form party affiliation or direct associations with the Government representatives contrary to our present Constitution."

As a step towards carrying out the decision of this convention, committees on education for citizenship were set up by the Provincial Commands of the Legion with a view, firstly, to increasing knowledge of our whole government system—from the local school board and town council through Provincial legislatures to the Dominion Parliament, and with a view, secondly, to encouraging veterans to take part in educational and governmental activities on every level.

The manual now published does credit to these admirable objectives, and to all concerned in its preparation. Indeed, it might well be recommended as a serviceable textbook for our schools and colleges as well as for war veterans and the public generally.

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

The Spring momentum is here, evidenced by the annual meetings and conventions being held, not to mention the January thaw.

* * * *

The housing shortage is no respector of persons. The U. N. General Assembly is running up against it in an acute form in its attempt to select a European site in which to meet in September.

* * *

There is a lot of dirty, disreputable dollar notes in circulation, complains a business man. The Bank of England does not re-issue used bank notes. Once a bank note is paid in it is destroyed and only new ones are issued.

* * * *

What with the donation of recording apparatus to Summerside Academy it looks as if that wide awake town is out to control the political life of the Island. They haven't done too badly to date, even without such mechanical aids.

* * * *

That Attlee Government is considering the future of Newfoundland. Sir Gordon MacDonald, Governor-General of Newfoundland, is in London to give a report on the national convention elected to recommend future Government.

* * * *

Mrs. Malcolm Macdonald, wife of the Governor-General of Malaya, and her two children, are on a visit to her old home at Ottawa. She is delighted with the climate of Malaya, and says prosperity is returning to the populace now that the Japanese have been driven back to their own territory.

* * * *

Great internal improvements in the jail and Falconwood are recommended by the Grand Jury of Queen's and it is to be hoped the recommendations will not fall on deaf ears. "Safety first" should be the watchwords in the detention of prisoners and the insane as well as protection of their lives in the case of fire.

* * * *

Prince Edward Island should welcome the Dutch farmers who could fit in very readily with the life here. The Island is undoubtedly more akin to their homeland than is any other part of Canada. It would probably be asking too much to hope that there might be a few diamond cutters with them who could start a new industry here.

* * * *

Names of the members of the delegation which will visit Canada this month to discuss the flour supply to the West Indies are: Lt.-Col. A. Spencer, economic advisor to the British Guiana Government; Allan Storey of Trinidad, and G. G. R. Sharpe of Jamaica. Lt.-Col. Spencer arrived in Trinidad last week to hold preliminary discussions with the Trinidad Government. He is expected to visit Barbados and other West Indies colonies before leaving for Canada.

* * * *

Nearly two and a half million pounds of bulk food, bound for the hungry peoples of Great Britain and Europe, were shipped overseas by January 1st of this year by the Canadian Red Cross Society. These shipments represent more than half of the $1,000,000 food grant allocated from the Society's remaining war funds in October to ease this winter's food crisis abroad. Balance of the bulk foods has been purchased and is moving steadily toward the Atlantic seaboard.

* * * *

Edmund Spenser, English poet, died this date 1599, in his forty-seventh year. After a distinguished career at Cambridge he became known to Sir Philip Sidney, under whose auspices he published his *Shepherd's Calendar*, which at once gained him literary fame. In 1586 he published *Astrophel*, an elegy on his patron Sidney, and in 1590, the first part of his long allegorical poem *The Fairie Queene* appeared, the second part in 1596. His castle in Cork having been burnt and one of his children killed, he returned to England where he died in poverty and disappointment. His poetry is remarkable for grace and melody and a sumptuous imagination, and he enriched English literature with a stanza, called after him, the *Spenserian* stanza (eight lines of iambic pentameter, followed by an Alexandrine). For the influence he has exercised upon succeeding poets he has been well named "The Poet's Poet:" "Will was his guide, and griefe led him astray." . . . "Sluggish idleness, the source of sin."

* * * *

Fifty-two students representing the armed forces of Canada, the United States, Great Britain, South Africa and France, have been selected to attend the 1948 course of the Canadian Army Staff College which opens at Kingston on January 19, it is just announced by the Hon. Brooke Claxton, Minister of National Defence. The College is located at historic Fort Frontenac and the course lasts for 10 months, concluding November 26. The majority of the students, the Minister said, will be from the Canadian Army, but there will be two from the Royal Canadian Air Force and one from the Royal Canadian Navy, while Britain and the United States will be represented by two each and South Africa and France by one each. There is none from this Province. The object of the course is to qualify officers for second grade staff appointments in all branches of the staff and in both field and static formations during time of peace and war.

-Notes By The Way-

The storekeepers are probably the most trusting of men. Their confidence in the good faith of their fellow men is wonderful, and it is a shame that it should be destroyed by the shameless tricks of sharpers, telling pathetic stories of their hard luck or making professions of just coming to town and requiring goods, to be paid for with worthless cheques.— Chatham News.

At present, to say that the Canadian dollar is as good as the American is nonsense, and any one who has wide knowledge of both countries will agree, says The Northern Miner. When Canada has its existing mines working at full capacity, when hundreds of new ones have been developed into profit making, when our other national resources are in full utilization, it will be time for us to brag. Then our prosperity will be soundly based. At present our business boom is a hangover from wartime debt. It is built on paper, and business men who rely on it are due for a sudden burst of astonishment some day at the speed with which it can collapse. This must necessarily be a frontier country for a long time to come. If the United States still finds it worthwhile to spend millions at a crack on its frontiers, it's all the more reason why we should do so, too.

The U. N., like an inexperienced young "school marm," has made another ineffectual-sounding yelp at her unruly young small fry in Indonesia. This is the second time within a month that she has told Indonesians and Dutch to please stop fighting. The first time the little ruffians just made a momentary pause and then went at it again. That's probably what they'll do after their latest reprimand. Much bigger boys have to be contended with in the Greek situation. They are too much for the terrified school marm, so she assumes an air of injured innocence, keeps her mouth shut, and torments herself with dark thoughts. She would like to have the courage to administer a box on the ears or a sharp reprimand, but such action, she feels, would be her undoing. The amazing thing is that, despite her incompetence, she expects a fabulous salary, a palatial home and the dutiful respect of her pupils. — Hamilton Spectator.

This snow shovelling business is quite a technique. There are so many ways to go about it. Some get results, others don't. There is the man who stands and glowers at the falling snow and then gets out the shovel. He works and sweats and pants. Finally, he gets the snow cleared and he goes indoors for a cup of coffee. In the morning he wakes up and remembers he forgot to put liniment on his back and how it aches. Ooooh! There is the man who rather welcomes the chance to get out in the good fresh air. He waits until the neighbors are all at home to see him do his stuff. Then, he goes out and daintily works with the shovel until a semblance of a path is made through the white and beautiful. He never gets a back ache, because he never strains a muscle. Then, there is the family man. He rubs his hands with glee as he perceives the snow in the morning. He remarks on the glories of nature, whistles a trifle about how lovely the snow looks, and then hies off to work leaving the little woman to clear the snow. And, there is the man who just looks at the snow and waits for the January thaw. —Windsor Star.

"The moon does not heed the barking of the dog," says the old English proverb. But if there are any lunar inhabitants of high intelligence as the late H. G. Wells, writer of marvels, pictured them, they will certainly heed what is now happening. For in Australia, in Britain and in the United States those busybodies, the scientists, have lately been sending radar signals to the moon and getting an electrical echo back. The French scientists, however, are not content with echoes. They want to use the moon as a reflecting screen for television and make a record transmission to its surface and back, a distance of 477,714 miles. They would radiate either the portrait of a scientist, or a sketch of familiar French landscape so as to be sure to recognize it again in the event of the moon's rough surface distorting it. Now this scientific interference with the moon's amenities infringes the poet's copyright. Hitherto, the "queen of night" has been used to hang descriptions upon—"a ghostly galleon tossed upon cloudy seas," and so forth. But now it is reduced to a mere echo-sounding device of a television screen. And where is the poetry in that? If anywhere inside the moon, as Mr. Wells, imagined, there is an all-intelligent Grand Lunar he must already be apprehensive since he must guess how moon-struck are the inhabitants of Earth. —Ottawa Citizen.

Preserving Eggs

(Hamilton Spectator)

Dr. Gustav Egloff, who has been experimenting with eggs, told a meeting of the American Chemical Society the other day that science has a brand new idea for preserving eggs. According to Dr. Egloff, if eggs are coated with a thin layer of plastic, they will maintain their freshness without refrigeration for as long as a year.

Actually this isn't such a brand new idea, and we feel we must rise in defense of the resourcefulness and craftsmanship of all hard-working hens. Long before science assumed its present arrogant status, hens had been laying eggs with a thin preservative coat over the shell.

The trouble is that the egg-eating public, reluctant to eat eggs that look as if they have come from a hen-roost, have demanded that the hens' scientifically prepared product be washed, thus removing the preservative coat.

Chickens aren't such dumb clucks! As one old hen put it the other day, preserving an egg with a protective coat is a minor operation. Laying it is the tricky part.

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.

THE FIRST PEOPLE

Sir, — I should like to write several letters concerning the people of this Island, through your paper which covers practically the whole Island. First I would like to discuss the condition of the Indians. Many of our forefathers came out from England, Scotland or Ireland and mingled with the French who were here. The Indians were gradually hemmed into very small quarters, which is the reason why we now have so much tuberculosis and other diseases among them. They have not enough room to decently live on. They lack many of the necessities, those things which we feel are essential to life. They are a forgotten people to many. We must not forget that it was these hardy peoples who first lived here before our forefathers came. It is our duty to see that those few remaining ones should have the standard of life which we have and not be shut off in islands. As long as they remain as they are now it will be a breeding ground for diseases and certainly nothing to pat ourselves on the back about. Perhaps they were a cruel and atrocious people when white men first came but that was before they were Christianized. And who would expect them to peaceably give up their land to new-comers? What if some invadder were to endanger our Island now, would we not fight for it? Surely.

The Indian should be given land (not an Island, which no one else would think of living on), and supplied with lumber and all other essentials to build a comfortable home. Then he would farm or get a job at some business or other and likely intermarry with the so-called white people. As it is now, it is a wonder they have not rebelled. They have reason to. Depriving them of many of the essential things of life is certainly no credit to a civilized, let alone Christianized people, which we claim to be.

As I have lived, up until a few months ago, only a few miles from one of the reserves, I know what I am writing about. I have seen these poor people come to the mainland (Island) to pick berries or fish some oysters, by which means they make a living. I have seen them being driven off by people, because they were afraid of the Indians camping overnight and making a fire (under the tent) and on account of carelessness, probably burning down their timberland. The act of driving them off was probably justified, but if we provided them with land and houses, would we have need to worry about them burning down our timberland?

Many of the Indians do not drink sweet milk or fresh bread, and they have come often to my home to get a loaf of stale bread or a bottle of sour milk. It is certainly not because they would not like fresh "food" but just that they have been forced to eat it stale. It will also be noted that they always paid, an action which is evaded as often as possible by some of us. Indians are a very willing and obliging people. I have seen Indian women and children come with the men to the mainland, wade out up to their hips and fish oysters with all their clothes on, then lie down that way for the night. Is it any wonder they have tuberculosis? Whose duty is it to see that they are dealt with justly and fairly? It is our duty, and everything which we should have done and have not done we have paid dearly for and will continue to pay as long as we continue to make mistakes. In this particular case we will pay by disease. As long as human beings continue to live in such a manner, we cannot avoid it. I hope we have some unselfish Islanders who are interested in something else besides filling their own pockets.

I am, Sir, etc.,
FOR OTHERS

STILL HAS WIND

CAMBRIDGE, England — (CP) — With a little help from her family, Mrs. Agnes Annie Lockwood blew out 100 candles on her birthday cake.

CHICKEN

We are buying Chicken and Fowl Daily. Ship or bring them to

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Medical Research

(Winnipeg Free Press)

As 1947 was closing there came word from the Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, that a method had been developed there through use of the ultra-violet ray spectrum, for distinguishing between the chemical content of living cells. By this method Prof. Caspersson and his associates have discovered, as related in the New York times, that there is a difference between the chemical constituents of the nerve cells of normal and of mentally afflicted persons.

Once again medical research draws heavily upon the alphabet to trace its progress but at least the layman can understand the statement that among the major constituents of living cells is a highly complex group of substances known as nucleic acids. These acids contain a rare form of sugar known as ribose which exists in two forms.

Now the cell's outer envelope is called the cytoplasm and its nucleic acid has one form of the sugar and is known as ribo-nucleic acid. The yoke of the cell contains the other form of the sugar and has the name of desoxy-ribo-nucleic acid. These nucleic acids are composed of long chains of simpler units referred to as polynucelotides.

With this background the Swedish scientists led by Prof. Hyden, secured nerve cells from the frontal lobe (seat of the mind) of normal human beings and observed these under the ultra violet spectrum, and then compared the results with similar studies of nerve cells from the frontal lobe of those suffering from various forms of mental disease. This showed that the polynucleotide content of the nerve cells of those suffering from mental trouble of long duration is "very low", compared with the polynuceotide content of the nerve cells of normal persons. The deficiency was found to exist in the cytoplasm . . . the outer envelope of the cell.

Now research has turned its attention to the finding of a chemical that will stimulate the production of the polynucleotides and bring them up to par. Experiments are going forward on animals with a synthetic chemical known as malononitrile. These, at the moment, have been so revealing that a beginning has been made upon advanced cases of mental illness, with such encouraging results that the Swedish goverrment has made Dr. Hyden a grant to carry forward his work. There is word already of further chemicals promising relief.

Similar research into the nerve cells is being pressed in other laboratories. The road to success may be long but at least a start has been made which has as its goal already discernible on the horizon, the solving of the problem of mental disease.

FORMER ROMAN FORT

CARDIFF, Wales — (CP) — Cardiff Castle, built on the site of a Roman fort in 1082, was presented with its 450 acres of parklands to the city by the Marquess of Bute, whose family had owned it since 1766.

DROITWICH, England — (CP) — The judge in a woman's ankle competition failed to recognize the winner's ankles as those of his wife.

The Poet's Corner

FROM: RENAISSANCE

The world stands out on either side
No wider than the heart is wide,
Above the world is stretched the sky—
No higher than the soul is high.
The heart can push the sea and land
Farther away on either hand;
The soul can split the sky in two,
And let the face of God shine through.
But East and West will pinch the heart
That can not keep them pushed apart;
And he whose soul is flat—the sky
Will cave in on him by and by.

—Edna St. Vincent Millay.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

HALDIMAND'S PROPOSAL

From a memorandum dated 22nd March, 1764, relating to the number of French families then remaining in Nova Scotia, and who had agreed to take the oath of allegiance to the British crown, we learn that "in addition to the above (i. e., the families of Nova Scotia) there are three hundred on the Island of St. John's who have lately in a solemn manner, declared the same intention as those mentioned, to the officers there in command."

Colonel Halidmand, after whom Haldimand county in Ontario is named, wished to take them to his property there. On the 2nd December, 1766, Governor Wilmot writes from Halifax to Captain Williams, that "Col. Haldimand having applied to me for leave to take the Acadians on St. John's Island to settle them on his lands in the province of Canada, I very readily give my consent for so good a purpose . . . Col. Haldimand's undertaking being a public good, in order to enable him to succeed more effectually, it will be necessary that the people shall be at liberty to take with them a proportion of their cattle, and that they may build as many shallops as may be sufficient to carry them up the River St. Lawrence."

This design was not carried out, and thenceforth the remaining French settlers were allowed to dwell in peace.

—Warbuton's History.

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