

THE GUARDIAN

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Vocational Training

In conjunction with the Dominion government, the Province is implementing a civilian vocational training programme to supplement the present educational facilities.

It is commendable that facilities should exist through which those leaving school may gain such practical instruction. In days gone by, apprenticeship was the means of "learning a trade."

The idea of apprenticeship was not wholly carried into the new world, and normally tradesmen arrived "ready-made" from the Old Country.

The current answer to the problem is vocational training under government aegis. It may be that this new method will prove superior to the old — and hard — way of apprenticeship.

In the meantime, let no one scorn the old way and cleave to the new, until the latter has truly supplanted the former in a fair field with no favour.

The easier things come, the easier it is to abuse them and the closer they must be watched. There may be a temptation to accept all and sundry who apply in order to score a numerical and "paper" success, for this innovation.

It would appear that if success is to crown vocational training efforts, the Department of Education will require a policy of competent screening rather than one of universal acceptance.

Politics Without Rancor

The tributes appearing in The Guardian to the late lamented Senator MacDonald from leading members of both political parties is striking evidence — if such were needed — that we do not take our politics too seriously in Prince Edward Island; at least there are other matters which, by common consent, are regarded as of much more consequence.

"George Drew's plea that we banish prejudice and hate from politics," says the Journal, "is one that can — and should — be supported by all our parties. All of us may hold to our convictions, have the privilege of believing in them passionately and fighting for them vigorously, but there can be no gain for anybody in making a difference of opinion a cause for hatred."

"All of us in Canada are Canadians, seeking nothing but our country's good. If in the quest we believe in taking different paths why should that be cause for hatred? No such hatred existed among our sons when, in glorious comradeship, they marched against a common enemy. No one asked them whether the companion by his side, on a battlefield or in a bomber, was a Protestant or Catholic, a Jew or a Gentile, a Conservative or a Liberal, of French origin or English. They were brothers in arms, which was all that mattered."

"There is one people, the British, who more than any other have made a success of parliamentary democracy. Not the least significant thing in the story of that success is that amid all their great controversies they refused to stoop to hate. Thus in the midst of the passionate Home Rule controversy political antagonists remained personal friends, notable examples being Morley and Chamberlain."

"Our own Sir Wilfrid Laurier, often assailed violently, always practised magnanimity; his unfailing kindness and courtesy towards political foes became a legend. It was Michael Clark — 'Red Michael' — who once stirred the House by telling it how, despite his tremendous philippic against his old leader over conscription, 'the first and noblest letter I received when my son fell in France came from Wilfrid Laurier.'"

"None of us should want our politics to degenerate into pillow-fights, without the good hard steel of controversy. But controversy with-

out rancor is the mark of the civilized mind. No truly educated man hates anything that isn't vile or evil — and there is nothing vile or evil in any of our parties. So let us all, for our own sakes, and for Canada's, shun and discourage the thing that has come in so much of Europe, where raving skeletons shout their bitter ideologies amid a welter of cruelty and violence."

EDITORIAL NOTES

More than customary sympathy goes out to Mrs. J. A. MacDonald on the great loss she has sustained, she being in the Charlottetown Hospital suffering from a heart condition.

One factor in the cost of milk distribution in Charlottetown is bottle losses, which amounted to over 54,000 last year. It is hoped that all our citizens will co-operate in reducing this unnecessarily high figure.

New Brunswick's lumber industry has little to fear from loss of United Kingdom markets. A comparatively small drop in price is all the encouragement prospective home builders need to induce them to take the plunge.

An exchange points out that while the average cost of an automobile has decreased 60 per cent in 35 years, in the same period the average cost of a dwelling has increased 193 per cent. The explanation of course, is mass production, not in tens or hundreds but in thousands.

With the introduction of the new liquor ration books old books begin to take on the aspect of souvenirs. It will be a long time before collectors find another certificate that the holder requires alcohol medicinally for a period of six months.

Toronto schoolmasters, in their monthly bulletin, protest against the idea that adding subjects to the curriculum necessarily means more education. With all the new courses the teachers are wondering how much time will be left for mathematics, English, history, science and music.

Col. George Drew said it, but it should be the watchword of every party. "I hope every Canadian will feel pride in the country in which he lives. There is no room for jealousy between us if above all else we recognize that we are all Canadians."

Queen Mary I of England died this date 1558; daughter of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon, succeeded her brother Edward VI; crushed Wyatt's rebellion; had her rival to the throne, Lady Jane Grey executed; married Philip II of Spain, quelled resulting insurrection; in war with France lost Calais; heresy laws were revived and nearly 300 Protestants were burned at the stake.

While welcoming the new Prime Minister regret must be expressed at his attitude towards representation of this Province in the Government. It may be that in size and industrial development we may be the smallest in the Dominion, still we are a Province with all the rights and privileges pertaining thereto, and we shall never be satisfied until we have one of our representatives a member of the Government "on the inside track" of Federal affairs.

It is encouraging to learn that during the third quarter of 1948 Britain's infant mortality rate fell to a new low record. The death rate, among children under one year of age now stands at 28 per 1,000 live births. The previous lowest was 31 per 1,000 recorded in the quarter ending last June. Ten years ago, the infant mortality rate stood at 42. The new figure just announced by the Registrar General, as well as being a new low record, points to a remarkable increase in the rate of improvement.

According to the Financial Post, Charlottetown's meat markets and radio stores are so far bearing the brunt of consumer resistance, with price the key factor in the former, and a combination of price and market saturation in the latter. Moderate resistance to shoes, fires, clothing, stoves and home furnishings shows up among premium price lines. People are generally shifting to lower-priced goods wherever possible. Jewelry, refrigerators, and furs appear strangely untouched by any form of resistance, as sales volumes continue at high levels.

Greater efforts are, needed to acquaint all home owners and those interested in home construction with the advantages of adequate wiring and the dangers and inconveniences of insufficient wiring installations, says G. W. Lawrence, new president of the Canadian Electrical Manufacturers Association. "Probably for less than five per cent of homes in Canada now supplied with electricity are adequately wired. Notwithstanding the excessive demands currently being made on power supplies we should wire adequately today for electrical living tomorrow."

Glistening scales of the herring are providing raw material for a new Norwegian industry. The thin luminous film which coats the fish scales is being processed by two new Norwegian firms into a pearl paste now in high demand by celluloid, plastic, and bakelite industries. The product is also used in the manufacture of artists' colors and nail polish as well as artificial pearls. A highly complicated process, the manufacture of pearl paste was a carefully guarded production secret until the last decade. German firms earlier produced the bulk of this product, importing their raw materials from Norway. Purchasers of the new Norwegian export item are pleased with its high quality. With its extremely rich herring fisheries, Norway is in good position to expand output to meet growing demand.



Notes From Another Island

By "Anson"

LONDON, England: Although we have a lot of history behind us, it is a lamentable fact that many of us — perhaps most — are very apt to forget it. Or even if we don't forget it, we take it very much for granted.

That's why nobody felt too big or too small to go out and look at the scene. From the East End and the West End came Tom, Dick and Harry, the missus and the kids; and out from Buckingham Palace came the King and Queen, with a party of Royal guests from Denmark. Out like the rest of us, to see the sights.

Stars of the American world of entertainment have been coming and going over here in such numbers in recent months that a list of their names would read like a Hollywood telephone directory. Most of them have appeared in variety shows in London and perhaps we shall see them all again next year. Some will come back — Danny Kaye for one. The season has ended now, however, and the stars arriving now will be here to make films, or else they are just passing through.

Film actor Robert Taylor arrived recently, but found some of his 'nightlight' stolen by another fellow. He did not mind, but the fact that the actor Taylor of London had already made news by fathering quadruplets.

Politics And The People

(Globe and Mail)

President Truman, in his one-man campaign which returned him to the White House, did not depend to any great extent upon the radio. He went out among the people, saw them and was seen by them, made some hundreds of speeches to small gatherings and large. He did not overlook radio, but he was wise enough to restore the personal touch to political campaigns, and we are sure the success of his effort will not be lost upon the political world. Governor Dewey was dignified, personified, was discreet, aloof, made fewer speeches and more radio talks — and he lost the election.

The tendency in recent times has been for government to grow away from the people, with prime ministers and cabinet ministers and presidents assuming that a face in the news films and a disembodied voice over the radio will satisfy the tax-paying public. We long have thought this an error, and Mr. Truman has proved it so. Everybody in the United States is familiar with the President's voice and features, yet they turned out in millions to see the man himself — they packed the streets of Chicago and New York, for example.

We have been missing the personal touch in government, have been putting our dependence upon a cold efficiency which is cold even when it isn't efficient. The radio frankly does not provide that touch, does not substitute for the appearance of a public man in his actual person. Many politicians suffer from the fond delusion that voices are hushed in a million homes and everybody sits about the radio receiver when the Minister of Indigenous and Miscellaneous Affairs comes on the air to read (badly) a manuscript somebody else wrote. It just doesn't happen that way.

And I will bring the blind by a way that they know not, I will lead them in paths they have not known; I will make darkness light before them, and spread things as shadows. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them.

—Eleanor Alletta Chaffer.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

NOTABLE ANNIVERSARY

It is 173 years ago today since the raid on Charlottetown by American privateers.

After the fall of Louisbourg Lord Rollo arrived with five hundred men in Port Joli (now Charlottetown Harbour) on the 17th August 1775 to take possession of Isle St. Jean (now P.E.I.) for the British. He immediately commenced the erection of Fort Amherst on the west side of the harbour, on which he mounted some 18 cannon. The barracks for the garrison of one hundred and ninety men were inside the Fort.

Before Captain Walter Patterson arrived on the 30th August 1775 as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Island, the garrison of Fort Amherst had been withdrawn to Halifax and the Fort had fallen into decay. By 1774 Governor Patterson had dismantled the Fort, Charlotte Town was therefore without any works of defence or troops.

On the 17th November 1775 two American privateers sailed into the harbour. They were the Lynch of six guns, ten swivels and seventy men commanded by Captain Nicholas Broughton, and the Franklin of four guns, ten swivels and sixty men, commanded by Captain John Selman. The crews of these ships landed without opposition and plundered the Town, after drinking all the liquor of the townspeople they could lay their hands on, they returned to their ships with all the booty they could carry, and called for an American port, talking with them three Government officials, Mr. Phillips Calbeck, the Attorney-General, who during the absence of Governor Patterson in England was acting in his place; Surveyor General Wright and David Higgins, a Naval officer. These men were brought before General Washington at Cambridge by the two Captains, who were severely reprimanded by General Washington for having done the things they should not have done, and left undone the things they should have done. The three prisoners were released with apologies and eventually arrived back to the Island, after having undergone severe privations and loss. Truly this date 173 years ago must have been one of excitement and unhappiness for the residents of Charlotte Town.

Notes By The Way

As far back as the Bible one gets an occasion was bemoaning the fate of its successor. And though the human race has not climbed far, still it is not notoriously less moral or less intelligent now than it has been in the past.—Winnipeg Free Press.

A newspaper correspondent says the greatest developments in the art of camouflage in recent years have been made by the Russians. He must have been about a long time to forget about the work of the beauty parlors in this country.—Kingston Whig-Standard.

One of the things that postage stamp collectors prize most is a stamp which is inaccurate in design, or contains a definite error. Postal authorities are sensitive about these things, and when an error or flaw is discovered they withdraw them from sale as soon as possible. The United States Post Office recently issued a three-cent stamp—one of the most used stamps of the day—in commemoration of the four chaplains of different denominations who went down bravely together with the army transport Dorchester when it was torpedoed by a U-boat off the coast of Greenland on February 3, 1943. The stamp is headed "These immortal Chaplains," and bears their pictures above that of the Dorchester sinking stern first. But one of the survivors states that the chaplains went down bow first.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

Relics from the British House of Commons have now been presented to the United States Congress and to each of the 48 states as a souvenir of the common traditions of the English-speaking people and in one respect, because 76 years ago the child must have had a lively imagination to visualize a parachute. But it still leaves us wondering what Mr. Morgan will do as 86, if he doesn't kill himself in the meantime in a jet-propelled plane.—Windsor Star.

Someone has said that in this country "we are raising up a race of mummies"—and to hear the speech of some of a newer generation these days is to realize that there is considerable truth in the observation. If any serious attempt is being made to teach diction in the schools of this country, to insist upon enunciation and articulation, the results are not

Notes By The Way

U. S. fishermen this year are reaping a record harvest of giant King crabs from the icy bottom of the Bering Sea. These crustaceans are the largest of all edible crabs, measuring up to five feet from claw-tip to claw-tip. The biggest ones provide about five pounds of sweet meat each; a pair of claws alone supplies more than a pound of salad makings. After it's boiled, King crab meat tastes like lobster. The claw meat is slightly covered with coral-pink skin which adds eye appeal to the dish.—Wall Street Journal.

A big American oil company has made available to oilburner manufacturers, royalty-free, a device developed by its researchers which reduces home fuel oil consumption almost 25 per cent. When a firm goes to these lengths to cut down its own income as well as the country's fuel bill, the millennium must be at hand—or else they aren't kidding about the work of this country.—Kitchener-Waterloo Record.

The most valuable single adjunct to liberty yet won by humanity in all its thousands of years of struggle is free speech and free press. Despotism cannot thrive where these exist. So long as men can speak and print the truth no Stalin can drive them like cattle in directions they do not wish to go. "Give light and the people will find their own way."—Guelph Mercury.

Mr. Walter Morgan, a Minnesota farmer of 76, fulfilled a "lifetime ambition" when he parachuted from an airplane at 10,000 feet. The story is a slight exaggeration in one respect, because 76 years ago the child must have had a lively imagination to visualize a parachute. But it still leaves us wondering what Mr. Morgan will do as 86, if he doesn't kill himself in the meantime in a jet-propelled plane.—Windsor Star.

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The Poets Corner SILENT WORDS More silently than the sound made by the wing Of a south-turning bird, the last leaf falls. Over the ruins of a forgotten spring The blue-jay calls. Forever the first prophetic sign is without within: the heart's pulse stumbles, slows, Knowing the hurt inevitable, the blade That reaps the rose. Always is mortal aware at the season's turn Of the shattered chord, the lost and broken tunes. And only in the mind the flames still burn Of defeated Junes. —Eleanor Alletta Chaffer.