

THE CHARLOTTE TOWN GUARDIAN

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SATURDAY, MAY 7, 1927

THE TEACHERS' CONVENTION.

It has been well said that "No inheritance can supply the want of a virtuous education." To this end the first steps are taken in the home. "As the twig is bent the tree is inclined." A good education reflects credit upon its possessor. But, in the case of everyone, the greatest credit is due to the parents, guardians and teachers.

The meeting of our teachers once a year in convention is useful in the interests alike of teachers and pupils. By comparing experiences and listening to the addresses of persons who have made education a subject of special attention, the teachers obtain new and good ideas, and return to their work in the schools as "giants refreshed with wine." The pupils, on their part, are of course, impressed by the teachers, with the importance of learning and thinking and so, of gaining ability to act well their parts in the drama, the work of life.

One of the points discussed at the Convention held this week was that of the French language in the common schools. A resolution was, indeed, passed "regarding the amount of French to be taught for matriculation," and a committee waited upon the Superintendent of Education to request that less French should be required of matriculants. But the Superintendent did not hold out any hope that the request would be granted. Rather, he said, a more intimate knowledge of the French language would be required of those who aspired to the position of teachers in our schools. In this Canada of ours, where so many persons are of French extraction and love the language of the French people, the person of British extraction who can read and speak in French enjoys a great advantage. In the ordinary business of life at Montreal and other towns in the great province of Quebec, the man or woman who can converse with the people in French is a much more attractive person to deal with than one who can speak only English—and so obtain the greater number of customers. For service in the banks and other public institutions, the ability to understand and speak and read French is of inestimable value. Upon that account alone it is worth while to learn French. But for those who can read French there is opened up the grand literature of the French nation, with all the pleasure and mental cultivation to be derived from it. To obtain a correct knowledge of the history and condition of the world at large, ability to read French is, indeed, essential. Therefore, we think, that the Superintendent of Education did well when he declined to advise a reduction of the standard to which matriculants at Prince of Wales College must attain.

A WORLD ORGANIZATION.

Last Wednesday there were assembled in the Strand Theatre this city, some 200 representatives of what is undoubtedly one of the greatest, if not the greatest, organizations in the world today, namely the Junior Red Cross Society, which is now functioning in 38 of the

largest countries in the world, with a total membership at the end of last year of 9,600,000.

If greatness is measured by usefulness as well as by numerical strength, this organization is qualified under both counts, as may be seen by the activities of the fifty branches in this province with a membership of 700.

During the short time in which the provincial branches have been functioning these 700 members, out of the small membership fee which, according to the rules of the society, must be earned by themselves or saved out of their weekly or monthly allowances, they have provided surgical treatment for over 100 crippled children and have provided glasses for nearly 100 children who were found by the medical inspection of schools to have defective vision.

The purpose of the meeting on Wednesday afternoon was to show by plays, recitations, dialogues and drills the three-fold purpose of the organization, Health, Service and Good Citizenship. One of the most pleasing features of the meeting was the excellent manner in which these young people conducted it. The chairman was Miss Mabel Matheson, a pupil of Prince Street School. For poise, precision and dignity it would be hard for any presiding officer to do better.

The roll calls were responded to by the President of each Junior branch in the city, and as briefly as possible some of the achievements of each of these branches were stated.

Junior Red Cross is bound up with the schools, and has been warmly endorsed by each Department of Education in Canada. It depends in the first place on the interest and enthusiasm of the teachers to get it started; once started, the boys and girls carry on through their own duly elected officers. It is now organized in 50 groups in the Island, and Mr. H. H. Shaw stated at the mass meeting on Wednesday that he would like to see it organized in every classroom in the Province.

The permanence of this work is assured by the national organization which stands behind. We learn from the address of the National Director of the Junior Red Cross that there are now nearly 5,000 groups in Canada with a membership of 137,000. Although this movement began in our own country, it has taken firm root in the old, conservative countries of Europe, and now spreads out to every part of the civilized world. In all, 38 countries participate with a membership of over 9,600,000. As an educationalist in New Brunswick recently said in a public meeting: "When the History of Education is brought up to date, we will find that in the period following the Great War, the most remarkable influence on the educational system of the world was exerted by Junior Red Cross."

Through the work of Miss Mona G. Wilson and her staff of Red Cross Nurses, we have witnessed a great improvement in the public health of this province. To get the results of this work, we need the active participation of the people in personal hygiene.

This work of health instruction being carried on by the Red Cross Society is a service for all the people, and therefore should be supported by all the people; and in the Red Cross Campaign for Funds soon to be launched we feel sure that all the people in our province will give the Society their heartiest support.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Little lawn flower beds are becoming more numerous in Charlottetown, and adding greatly to its attractiveness. We cannot have too many flowers.

Notes by the Way

In the first Parliament of Canada, Sir John A. Macdonald was almost the only member who had an imperial title. It was in those days a rare distinction, much multiplied in more recent years. It aroused jealousy and bickerings. Hon. Mr. Cartier's many friends objected strenuously that he, with out whose powerful support Confederation could not have been brought about, had been slighted and they resented it. In the end Mr. Cartier was made a baronet which gave him a higher title than Sir John's, being hereditary, but as Sir George had no son the title ended with his death.

Hon. Alexander T. Galt also felt that he had been slighted, as he had been prominent as an advocate of Confederation and had wielded a very strong influence in persuading the English-speaking people of Lower Canada to accept the plan of union. After a time he was offered knighthood in the Order of St. Michael and St. George, but declined to accept it till he had acquainted the imperial authorities with the fact that he favored the national independence of Canada. No objection was made to this, and therefore he accepted the offered title.

George Brown, Edward Blake, Alexander Mackenzie, William S. Fielding, and many others among the public men of Canada in both the two great parties made it known that they had no desire for titular distinction when such honors were offered them or known to be within their easy reach. At length Canadian Knights became so numerous that such honors became distinctly cheapened in the public opinion of the country and it became known that in some cases these honors were practically purchased by wealthy Canadians, including not a few of the "new rich who made very generous contributions to the party funds of whatever party happened to be in power in the Mother Country."

Public disgust led to the action of the Canadian Parliament in terminating any further appointments being offered as rewards for party-political service in Canada. And yet in recent years there has been some reaction toward re-opening the way to imperial titles. It is asked: Why should Canadians be debarred from titles that are being widely distributed by royal favor not only throughout the British Isles but in most of the Dominions overseas? Such honors are bestowed exclusively in monarchical countries in which the sovereign is the recognized source of honor, and when the Distinction conferred is merited as a strength and support to the throne.

Republics have no orders of nobility, but more than one citizen of the United States has shown that he values a British title more highly than the plain citizenship of his native country, and has abandoned his citizenship to accept a title. And after all, it is apparent that nothing which has stood so long as these Old World titles can be without some foundation in reason.

MacLean's Magazine is conducting an inquiry to ascertain who is the Greatest Living Canadian, in the opinion of its readers. Short letters from some fifteen writers are printed in answer to the question. Many more letters have been received than have been published. The editors state, however, that so far a distinct majority favors Dr. F. C. Banting, the discoverer of Insulin. Next in the order of popularity is Dr. Charles F. Saunders, discoverer of Marquis Wheat. These are followed by Premier Mackenzie King, Sir George E. Foster, Sir Robert Borden, and Right Hon. W. S. Fielding, the two latter being tied. There are over 40 other names mentioned, including Right Honorable Arthur Meighen, Sir Arthur Currie, Jack Miner, E. W. Beatty, Sir Henry Thornton, Bliss Carman, Charles G. D. Roberts, George Young, Lord Beaverbrook, Hon. R. B. Bennett, Hon. H. H. Stevens, Sir William Mulock, Sir Robert Falconer and many others.

A highly interesting and important meeting was that of Thursday evening at which Mr. E. H. Scamling, of Ottawa, outlined the general plan for the celebration of Canada's Jubilee Anniversary. The general plan for the entire Dominion and the suggestions offered for the guidance of local celebrations were unanimously accepted as good, and progress was made by appointing the chairmen of the different sub-committees. Stress has been laid by the National Committee on the importance of having children take an active and prominent part in the Jubilee exercises. A moment's thought will show the value of this suggestion. Forty years hence,



By James W. Barlow, M.D.

That Body of Ours

ADDING YEARS TO YOUTH

D. Chas. Mayo, America's celebrated surgeon, tells us that ten years has been added to the life span during the last few years. "Someone has asked the question 'on to which end of life has it been added, to the youth end, or to the old age end?'"

The point of course being that it makes a great difference as to whether we are to remain young ten years longer, or to remain old ten years longer.

If the choice were to rest with us there is no question about which we would select.

And yet what about this business of remaining young?

The matter really rests on the three-fold life, physical, mental, and spiritual.

That the mental and spiritual outlook on life can keep one buoyant and young in spirit must be admitted by everybody.

However what about the body itself?

Just as the spirit can, be kept young, so can the body also.

What makes you old is that when you get away from the athletic pursuits of youth, that is the games you played in your teens or early twenties, including dancing, you perhaps cut out exercise entirely, or do very little.

You then get married, or if you didn't get married you got settled away into your life's work which meant regular hours of work, regular hours for meals, the ability to buy and enjoy a more varied diet.

And from a physical standpoint there are only three points to watch. The food, rest, and exercise.

Youth of body is maintained by eating an all round diet with a liberal supply of meat or eggs only if you work hard physically, by resting seven to eight hours at night, no more, no less, and by keeping your muscles, your blood vessels, and your nerves active by exercise that you enjoy. A vigorous heart and adequate lungs can only be developed and maintained by active exercise.

Blood vessels will thus retain their elasticity and this elasticity means youth.

FOR THE SCRAP BOOK

A SERIES OF LITERARY QUOTATIONS FOR BOOK LOVERS

Saturday, May 7th.

(Robert Browning born, 1812.)

The joyous Book of Spring Lies open writ in blossoms. —William Allingham.

The centuries are conspirators against the sanity and authority of the soul. Time and space are but the physiological colors which the eye makes, but the soul is light; where it is, is day; where it was, is night; and history is but an imperceptible and an injury if it be anything more than a cheerful apologetic or parable of my being and becoming. —Emerson.

THE PAINTER.

For, don't you mark, we're made so that we love First when we see them painted, —things we have passed Perhaps a hundred times, nor cared to see;

And so they are better painted— better for us. Which is the same thing. Art was given for that— God uses us to help each other so. Lending our minds out. Have you noticed now

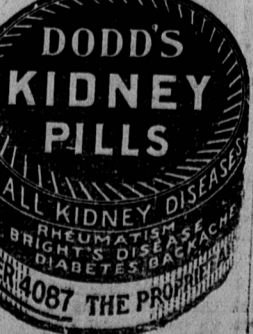
Your cullion's hanging face? A bit of chalk And, trust me, but you should though.

How much more If I drew higher things with the same truth! That were to take the prior's pulpit-place—

Interpret God to all of you! Oh, oh! It makes me mad to see what men will do. And we in our graves! This world's no blot for us. Nor blank; it means intensely, and means good.

To find its meaning is my meat and drink. —Robert Browning. (Fra Lippo Lippi)

when Canada shall be called to celebrate the centennial of her birthday, the boys and girls of today will comprise the active citizenship of a great and mighty nation.



WHEN THE DOMINION WAS YOUNG

THE FIFTH OF SIX HISTORICAL SKETCHES

By J. E. B. McCREADY

Vast in extent is the Dominion of today, from ocean to ocean, from the Great Lakes to the Pole. The swift revolving earth needs four hours to present it in panorama daily to the gaze of the sun. And yet in four years this almost continental area had been consolidated into one imperial domain by the empire-builders of 1867. In 1869 the Northwest was purchased, and with one tremendous stride our westward march reached the summits of the Rocky Mountains. Next year the watchfires of our van flashed upon the far Pacific. The Intercolonial was being built to make real the paper union between the Maritime Provinces and Old Canada. A little later the plans were laid to bind all the Provinces together with bands of steel, across a thousand leagues of land Howe had been checkmated in England, conciliated with "better terms," and given a seat in the Cabinet.

The new Province of Manitoba had been created with limited area that made it practically a French preserve. And there, as if to mock our hopes new born of the partial conciliation of Nova Scotia, rebellion reared its head and William McDougall, the newly appointed Governor, was turned back at the border. An armed expedition became necessary. And before its work was accomplished a Fenian army, 3,000 strong had appeared at Ogdensburg, only 50 miles away, threatening the national capital. I well remember the almost panic that prevailed in the early spring of 1870. The Civil Service Brigade were called out at 4 o'clock in the morning and served with ball/cartridges to guard the city. Parliament Square bristled with artillery and bayonets. The gold and silver from the banks in Ottawa was carted to the vaults beneath the Departmental Buildings. The Carleton Battalion was hurried off to Prescott. To add to the general alarm, a man on horseback was suddenly struck dead by lightning in a township across the Ottawa River. At the inquest there was found in the dead man's pocket a subscription in aid of the Fenian invasion, headed by himself with \$40, and with smaller subscriptions from his sometime respectable neighbours. Obviously the Fenians were coming to take the country and these had made peace with them in advance!

The first census of the Dominion was taken. The Treaty of Washington was negotiated, and a storm was raised against it. The Alabama Claims were to be settled and no recognition given to Canada's claims against the United States for the repeated invasions of our soil by armed marauders, equipped with United States rifles and bayonets, and United States service ammunition that had slain our sons and brothers at Ridgeway. A public debate among the young men, of the civil service chiefly, was arranged to discuss the treaty, and some of us who spoke against its provisions felt that we placed our official heads in jeopardy. The large hall was crowded, a hundred members of Parliament being present. Our speeches were printed in the papers of the following morning. The vote at the close was strongly against the Treaty. Old supporters of the Government prepared speeches to denounce it in Parliament. It was confidently predicted that the Government would be defeated. In the meantime Sir John Macdonald kept his own counsel, even from his colleagues it was said.

When the time came Sir John made the longest and the ablest speech that I ever heard him deliver. It was said at the time that it changed fifty votes. Certainly no other speech yet delivered in the splendid edifice on Parliament Hill ever proved half so effective in that line. He was able to give such an inside view of the negotiations, the obstacles encountered, and the international perils narrowly avoided, as fully convinced his old-time followers one and all, and many beyond the pale of his party throughout the country, that he had acted for the best.

But I am not writing history; I am but giving glimpses of men, of scenes and incidents in those strenuous days when the Dominion was young. There were Cabinet changes not a few during the first Parliamentary term. Ferguson Blair, President of the Council died in December, 1867. A. T. Galt had resigned as Minister of Finance in November of the same year. He was succeeded by John Rose, who resigned in October, 1869. There were several expectants, but Sir John Macdonald disappointed them all by bringing Sir Francis Hincks from the Windward Islands to take the vacant portfolio. He was getting an old man then, and the Opposition delighted to play upon his irritability. Sir Francis issued 25 cent script, bought up the United States silver which was everywhere circulating, and shipped it out of the country in millions. A mighty man in finance was he, albeit his signature as he wrote it, "F. Hincks," in diminutive letters, could be covered by a ten cent piece. Charles Tupper, who had hitherto buttressed the Cabinet from outside, was taken in and made President of the Council, succeeding Howe in that position, the latter being made Secretary of State. This was a political climate. There were other changes and shuffles, but let these suffice.

To speak in paradox, what field nights there were in those days. There were weighty topics to discuss and men of weight to discuss them. And there were riotous nights, too, in which the loose cushions from the chairs of that time flew, a score at a time, in every direction. Blue books, too, were favourite missiles, and some times left a blue mark where they struck home, not infrequently upon some peaceable non-combatant. One night, when it seemed that pandemonium had been let loose, a diminutive member from Quebec Province was doing great execution with three or four heavy blue books tied in his fur cap, and with a long twine string attached. With this equipment he was able to recover his ammunition again after having fired his shot. At length he struck the wrong man, John Pickard, of York, N. B., who caught him in the act and soundly caned him at his desk. Amid one such scene of flying cushions, slamming desk lids and music of muffled organs, Mr. Speaker Cockburn was solemnly appealed to by a distressed member to stop this intolerable noise. Mr. Speaker blandly replied that he had not noticed anything but what might be called "Parliamentary noises."

All are familiar with the change which comes over the House of Commons, when the House goes into Committee of the Whole, the Speaker leaving the chair and the mace being placed under the table. But all are not aware that a division taken in Committee of the Whole was in the early days taken by sending the yeas to the right and the nays to the left. One turbulent and ridiculous scene arising out of this method, long since changed, rises vividly before my vision. It matters not what the question was. John Sandfield Macdonald (then Premier of Ontario) was in the chair at the head of the Clerk's table. He had ordered a division of this kind in order to determine which of the two nearly equal parties of

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years and nays was in the majority. Members began quickly to cross the floor in opposite directions. In the rush the opposing elements met in the open space in the centre of the Chamber. Here began a struggle. It was not a contest of wordy argument, but one of muscle, of physical strength and endurance. Each party sought to hold its own forces intact and to make as many captives as possible. There were charges and counter-charges, tugs of war, assaults and reprisals. Old and young joined with great hilarity and spirit in the mimic battle. Mackenzie and Rymal seized Sir George Cartier and, lifting him bodily, carried him over to their side, but he was speedily rescued by his giant henchman, Dr. Fortin, from Gaspe, who strode across the floor like Hector or Diomed upon some Trojan battlefield and, seizing the little Baronet beneath one arm, bore him back within the lines. Mackenzie himself was captured a little later in the fray, but was in turn rescued by Reform muscle. Sir John, too, was threatened, but eluded his pursuers by one of his best "double shuffles" and found safe shelter amid a phalanx of the nays. The Chairman was forced from his seat in the ludicrous conflict, and to save himself leaped upon the table, and even there was hardly beset by those who would carry him off. He beat off his assailants with an umbrella. I think it was a borrowed one, from the vigour with which he wielded it, and there were broken ribs before they were driven off. While the fight was thus progressing in the centre of the battle field, the opposed right and left wings were having a hot engagement near the main entrance. A group clenched in close embrace had gone down on the floor, where Grit and Tory bit the dust together. Meanwhile there had been a pause in the centre, and then— The war that for a space did fail, Now trebly thundering swelled the gale. And "Sandfield!" was the cry. (Continued on Page 13.)

DAILY LESSONS IN ENGLISH By W. L. Gordon

WORDS OFTEN MISUSED: "Family" is both singular and plural according to use. "My family is going." "My family are all going." OFTEN MISPRONOUNCED: ir-reparable; accent after the p, not after the last r. OFTEN MISSPELLED: adieu; note the ieu. SYNONYMS: poverty, indigence, destitution, want, lack, pauperism, privation. WORD STUDY: "Use a word three times and it is yours." Let us increase our vocabulary by mastering one word each day. Today's word: POIGNANTLY; very painfully or distressingly. "She was poignantly conscious of impending trouble."

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