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

FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 1946

Our Educational Outlook

That was an inspiring review and forecast of education in the Province given by Mr. Lloyd Shaw, Director of Education, at this week's conference. Mr. Shaw is an optimist, but a practical one. He sees the deficiencies in our present system, and is doing his level best to have them remedied. Perhaps he is a little too hopeful with respect to the institution of higher schools throughout the Province, but much better to aim high than have no objective at all. The sum and substance of our educational problem is money. Hitherto we have not had the wherewithal to adequately provide for the educational needs of succeeding rising generations, and unless relief is brought from Ottawa as the result of the present conference it will continue to be so. It takes money to provide accommodation, equipment, and competent instruction, and in the rural communities that money is not available. To realize Mr. Shaw's ambitions, and those of all right thinking people, relief must come from elsewhere, and therein is kernel of our fiscal need demand on the Federal Government. Unless Premier Jones returns with a $5,000,000 per annum subsidy, there is not much chance of Mr. Shaw's dream being realized.

It must have been encouraging to our readers to learn of the greatly improved attendance at school, due to the Baby Bonus conditions, the appointment of an attendance officer, and the extension of the school age. Also heartening was the disclosure that there has been a 50% increase in the salaries of country school teachers since 1941. At this rate, and provided we obtain the fiscal need subsidy we anticipate, it will not be long, as educational development goes, before we will be in a position to make the country dominie a feature and a fixture in our Province, a position to which those endowed with the ability of imparting knowledge and leading youthful minds in the way they should go, would aspire as their life's work.

Canadian Agricultural Program

Reference was made in Tuesday's issue to the official Canadian Agricultural Program for 1946, which was announced in summary form following an agricultural conference at Ottawa last December, the full text of which has now been published in pamphlet form by the Agriculture Supplies Board of the Dominion Department of Agriculture. The booklet runs to about 50 pages, and contains a wealth of statistical matter as well as textual references. The following excerpts give only the high spots of the report, which is recommended to all our agricultural readers as one of great interest and value:

It is suggested that in 1946 a greater percentage of wheat and barley acreage might well be sown on summer-fallow. The world demand for livestock products is still strong and Canadian agriculture would be improved by maintaining production of livestock products at as high a level as possible. At the same time the decrease in the production of hogs can only be arrested if there is an increase in the production of feed grains.

A wheat acreage of 23,414,000 for the whole of Canada and 22,566,000 for the Prairie Provinces is suggested for 1946. It is expected that in the latter provinces the wheat acreage may expand somewhat at the expense of oats, but an expected increase planted to coarse grains in Ontario and Quebec will tend to offset this possibility. In barley, the greatest possible acreage is desired this year. At least 8,000,000 acres for all Canada is recommended.

An objective of six million hogs has been set for the inspected slaughter in 1946. This is the minimum number which would make possible completion of the contract with the United Kingdom for 450 million pounds of bacon, and at the same time provide supplies on a rationed domestic market at a level which should prevent the development of a tendency to divert marketings into non-inspected channels. While there are indications that marketings in 1936 may not reach this total, the confidence of producers in attempting to attain it should be increased by the prospect that any possible reduction in export requirements in 1947 may be more than offset by removal of present restrictions on supplying of domestic demand for pork products.

Recommendations for 1946 call for a total milk production of slightly less than 18 billion pounds, an increase of two per cent over the 1945 total. For creamery butter the total requirement is 310 million pounds. To achieve this requirement an increase of 17 million pounds over 1945 production will be necessary and unless the downward trend of production in the Prairie Provinces is reversed it is doubtful if this recommendation will be realized.

In view of the improved position of cheese with respect to the supply for domestic consumption, the production recommended for cheddar cheese in 1946 has been set at 180 million pounds. This amount would provide for the filling of the contract with the British Ministry of Food which calls for delivery of 125 million pounds of cheese for the year ending March 31, 1947, and in addition would provide 5 million pounds for export to other countries and 50 million pounds for the domestic market.

Reference is made in the report to the fact that Prince Edward Island was the only province showing an increase in egg production last year. The quantity of eggs available for export in 1946, after allowing for a continued heavy domestic use due to meat rationing, is estimated at 93 million dozen. Lighter chick hatches in 1945 as compared with 1944, will be reflected in reduced poultry marketings in comparison with the peak figure of 315 million pounds in 1944. A contract had been made with the United States Government for a large block of Canadian poultry during 1945, but this was cancelled with the close of the Pacific war. The 1946 outlook for poultry meat is somewhat uncertain. Should meat rationing remain in effect a continued high level of domestic demand may be anticipated.

In potatoes, the recommendation envisages "a normal situation of reasonably small exports and imports." For canning crops, it is regarded as likely that renewed export outlets will be found for some of these products of the 1946 and subsequent packs.

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

Premier Jones gives the assurance that he did not break his journey to Ottawa at Montreal to interview Premier Dupelssis on the Dominion-Provincial Conference. All the same, he could not have employed his time better in doing so.

* * * *

There is a mistaken idea that solemnity betokens piety, and piety goodness. The celebrated Rev. John McNeill, when Minister of Cooke's Church, Toronto, was celebrating Holy Communion with his Kirk Session lined up in front of him. In the middle of the sermon, he leaned over the pulpit, and ejaculated: "For goodness sake, men, smile and look pleasant! No Christian could possibly feel so bad being good as your looks indicate."

* * * *

Warrant Officer T. S. Hubbard who is playing such a prominent part as official stenographer in the war trials in Germany is a Charlottetown boy, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Hubbard. Before being appointed to the staff of Hansard, Mr. Hubbard senior was a reporter and his wife Flo Dewar proof reader on *The Guardian*. So young Tom has journalism in his veins from both parents, and brings credit to them and his native Province in the success he has attained in the Army overseas.

* * * *

Jeremy Collier, Anglican ecclesiastic, died this date 1726; was a staunch Tory and supporter of the Stewart cause, for which he got into trouble during the reign of William III, and was obliged to go into exile for some years; but his time was not misspent as he wrote numerous books on social and religious questions which enjoyed great popularity; he was the first and foremost leader to attack the immorality and profanity of the stage, in particular censuring Dryden, Wycherley and Congreve; his work and propaganda did a great deal in bringing about a reformation of the stage; the time seems to be again ripe for another Jeremy Collier to make his presence felt.

* * * *

Mr. J. O. Hyndman made a timely contribution on the Confederation issue by his letter yesterday. The teachers from all over the Province being in conference, the subject was bound to appeal to them, and no doubt they will return to their respective schools prepared to follow the advice so well given by Mr. Hyndman. We must develop a provincially-minded population, and then Canada will take care of itself. "First things first," should be the motto, and the interests of the Province hold that place. It is only an educated democracy that is any good, and the first essentials of democracy is knowledge of what are our rights, privileges and prerogatives.

* * * *

Accidents continue to take a heavy toll in Canada, as evidenced by the following figures recently tabled in Parliament: Persons killed in motor accidents Sept. 1, 1939 to June 30, 1945, 9,028; persons injured through traffic accidents Jan. 1939 to Dec. 1944, 149,019; fatal accidents from drowning Sept. 1, 1939, to Dec. 31, 1944, 5,097; fatal accidents at level railway crossings Jan. 1, 1939 to Dec. 31, 1944, 727; injuries at level railway crossings Jan. 1, 1939 to Dec. 31, 1944, 2,264; persons who died in conflagrations Sept. 1, 1939 to Dec. 31, 1944, 1,221, on basis of data for three years 87 per cent were in homes; persons killed from other accidents Sept. 1, 1939 to Dec. 31, 1944, 22,488, number injured not available.

* * * *

The Dominion Day controversy is a sample of the utter waste of time in Parliament. The public are not interested in it. Nationalism in Quebec only becomes absurd among a small element. The rest of the nation is just as nationalist as Quebec, except for a few mild reactionaries, says *The Letter Review*. Good taste should have prevented an attempt to alter a historic name, which linked the national holiday with a particular event. Just as France names the Fourteenth of July "Bastille Day" for historic reasons, and the U. S. calls the Fourth of July "Independence Day," Canadians have celebrated the national birthday under an appropriate title. It might, equally well, have been called "Confederation Day", but to name it "Canada Day" is to make the celebration a meaningless one to the citizens of Canada, whatever it may be to the publishers of Almanacs. The public will continue to refer to the holiday as the First of July

Notes By The Way

Ontario Veterinary College will give awards to children for doing acts of kindness to birds and animals. That will help, of course, but it would be better to teach them to be kind as a matter of ordinary human decency. —Windsor Star.

Three-hour crossings of the Atlantic by jet-propelled planes are forecast. This is not a new prediction nor is it fantastic. Experts know it can be done. The accomplishment of this almost incredible speed will force us to revise our ideas of time. It will mean the virtual destruction of that factor in our lives. Consider what three-hour crossings will mean. One will be able to arrive in America actually earlier than he left Britain. For instance, a plane leaving London at 8 a.m., would reach New York at 6 a.m. the same day. It is difficult to grasp, but it is true. —Windsor Star.

The de luxe streamlined cars which many railroads are planning sound very inviting. But a continuing flow of letters from our readers makes it plain that no number of new features designed for their comfort will offset the discomfort of being constantly subjected to tobacco smoke and smell while travelling. Thus we hope that a feature stressed by one road — ashtrays in the side walls of each pair of seats—does not mean the railroad companies are giving up their efforts to confine smoking to certain cars. —Christian Science Monitor.

Sir Ben Smith, the food minister, is sad. He thinks the public should sympathize with him. At Christmas he lamented that there was a "hell of a black market in turkeys," and he didn't know what to do about it. Now a racket in oranges and lemons is exposed to him. Says Sir Ben: "It's a sad thing to contemplate that there are such vicious people in the land." That's all. The public have a duty here. They should be conscious that they are hindering the food minister in any and all their under-the-counter deals. They know he has a big job to tackle. But equally the public knows that this is precisely why the food ministry is in existence. —Sunday Empire News.

These examples of "absolute stupidity" he encountered in the army were given in the Commons by G. H. R. Rogers, (Soc., Kensington N.) in a maiden speech: A commanding officer forbade men to whistle on duty, and put five sergeants on charge for doing it. The same colonel put his dog on seven days CB with bread and water for misbehaving himself. A group of urgently needed radio operators completed their training under great pressure—and were then put to scrubbing out a Yorkshire woollen mill which had not been cleaned for 50 to 100 years. —London Express.

That long a-a-a-a-h you hear, that wave of relief you feel sweeping throughout the English-speaking world, comes not because the Iranian crisis has dissolved, the Russian riddle dissipated, or fascism departed from Spain and Argentina. No, none of these. But Winston Churchill has just said, "This is me." That roar of triumph, those shrieks of glee, those lifted heads those shoulders squared—whence and why? Millions, otherwise free and proud, who have too long felt secret shame, can now face the purists eye to eye, and even sneer a bit. Winston too says, "This is me." —Christian Science Monitor.

Alexander Sutherland of Shubenacadie is one of those who seem to disprove the claim made so often nowadays that everybody over 70 should quit work and live on a pension. Whether or not that claim is sound in general principle, Mr. Sutherland finds it possible to carry on each day in one of those often-over-looked jobs so important to community life. At 84, he carries the mail in his village. He begins at half past six in the morning and continues until sometimes 11:30 o'clock at night; in between times he works in a store and, at proper season, cuts his share of a hay crop. —Halifax Herald.

The visitor who arrives in Bermuda at the rate of 300 miles an hour and up immediately rushes to hire a carriage which will take him around at a maximum rate of ten miles an hour. The twentieth century is none too good for him when he wishes to get to Bermuda, but while there he prefers the nineteenth. The struggle will end, no doubt, as all such struggles do. The horse will not disappear, but be subordinated. Motorists will dash from St. George to Ireland Island in 40 minutes. The beauty of land and sea will remain eternally, but the quaintness for which we hurrying moderns crave will diminish because we are in such a hurry to grasp it. For modern man, often homesick for the past, kills the thing he loves. May our Bermudian friends keep alive at least a little of their charming out-of-dateness'. —New York Times.

The Poet's Corner

IS IT NOT APRIL ?

Is April then not April any more,
Her thin green door
Unlatched for violets and gilded willows,
With soft-spread pillows
Of moss upon the stones beside the brook?
And look—oh, look!
The moon a high and silver feather showing
That winds are blowing
The candle of the night, a soft white flame!
It is the same.
And in the pond, small chilly minstrels stringing
Their lutes and singing
Hoarsely and sweet, of old loves lost and found
The year goes round.
Why does the heart twine back through trellised years?
The spinning spheres
Bring back so many things they put to flight—
Why then tonight
Is it, with apple-mist upon the bough,
Not April now?

—Yetta Gillespie, Christian Science Monitor.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

IN DEFENCE OF P. W. C.

Sir,—I sincerely trust that His Worship Mayor MacDonald was incompletely reported in Wednesday's Guardian. No reflection on your reporter is intended, Sir, but in a short condensation of any speech some isolated points necessarily receive prominence, which taken apart from the contex, may indicate a distorted view. Such, I trust, is the report of Mayor MacDonald's opening remarks to the Teachers' Federation.

His Worship is reported as stating—"Prince of Wales College is the bottleneck in the educational system of the Province." I am unable to find the word "bottleneck" in either of two dictionaries at my limited disposal, so it may be too recent a colloquialism. However, I think a fair definition of this term, which has become so familiar in war-time, would be: "A reduction or stoppage in production caused by factors over which the productive forces themselves have no control." Applied to His Worship's remarks this could be translated into: "A failure to pass examinations caused by some defect in the educational system over which the students have no control."

Before applying this definition to our enquiry, let us first examine some of the Mayor's other remarks. His Worship feels qualified to assert that, "if he had the doing of it, the rural teacher would get ten times as much salary as the teachers at Prince of Wales, for they did ten times as much work." This, despite the fact that he assures his hearers that he has never attended P. W. C., nor presumably taught school, but grounds his authority for such an elaborate statement on the right of free speech. This type of speech is indeed free, Sir, but would proceed more appropriately from a tub in Hyde Park than from the Chief Magistrate of a Capital City. Rural teachers, under his proposal, would receive about $15,000 a year and upwards. If they had ten times the salary of P. W. C. teachers. Or, conversely, if we give the P. W. C. staff one-tenth the salary of rural teachers, the wage scale of the former would be graduated from about $180.00 a year downwards.

Nor is it open to His Worship to call such an absurdity as the above a mere expression of opinion: he goes on to say that his "arguments are not mere opinions, they are based on figures". Whereupon he implies that because 600 students try entrance and 45 enter fourth year, the difference represents (for the most part) students unfairly "plucked' in their examinations by some "bottleneck" in the system.

Why not let us be fair. Our educational system may very well be at fault, permitting as it does the granting of a license to teach upon the completion of a few months at P. W. C. But why blame the College itself? If only half those who try entrance can now pass the examinations, will anyone contend that a greater percentage of pupils would pass if they were prepared for such examination by teachers themselves permitted to slip more freely through the "bottleneck"?

I do not know if the same system still prevails, but I recall some years ago when, in common with others, I used to make a few dollars reading those same matriculation examinations. Talk about howlers! It is inconceivable that the writers of some of those papers expected themselves to be teachers nine or ten months later. Naturally I have never corrected any examination papers at P. W. C. itself, but I know of one P. W. C. graduate who, in a subsequent examination in Physics, answering a question on refraction as to why a stick appeared to be bent when thrust into a glass of water, explained: "The stick is not really bent at all, this an optical illusion." And that student had passed through the "bottleneck"!

Why this almost continuous attack on P. W. C., its teachers, and its system? If a rural school teacher subsequently attends a University and gets promoted to the P. W. C. staff, does he ipso facto acquire horns and a tail? Although not widely experienced, I have taught school in this Province, and His Worship may rest assured that it is doubtful if there exists a teacher, rural or P. W. C., who is not thrilled, (pleased is a too inadequate word), when any pupil or student shows signs of "catching on" to what is being taught. Next to that of the parents, (and sometimes not necessarily next), there is no satisfaction comparable to that of the teacher at a student's success, in the classroom or out of it. I know, because I have bragged insufferably about successes in after life of pupils of mine. The pleasure of explaining something new to a pupil and seeing him grasp it is second to none. "Plucking" a student who has failed to grasp it is the most disappointing task a teacher faces.

Looking back on my days at Prince of Wales my only regret is my lack of attention to the subjects as they were presented. I have felt for many years that we permit our teachers there to live and die without any little word of encouragement or appreciation. Many seeming commonplaces that fell from the lips of Dr. Steele, for instance, in English classes, have stood me in good stead in later years; and had I paid all his remarks the attention they deserved, this letter, at least, would have been properly written and correctly punctuated.

When our Dominion-Provincial arrangements are complete at Ottawa we expect our teachers, all of them, will be better paid; in the meantime let's stop the bickering over bottlenecks and give our teachers, all of them, a little moral support.

I am, Sir, etc.
PARENT.

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Old Charlottetown

(P. E. I. Magazine, 1900)

III

The opening of our Colonial Parliament in the early 1840's was a very grand function. The Lieutenant-Governor, dressed in his military uniform, with his outriders, aides-de-camp and secretary, the officers from the garrison and the naval officers all in full uniform, preceded by the sergeantat-arms, drove from Government House to Parliament Building, where the soldiers from the barracks were drawn up in line. The booming of cannon announced His Excellency's arrival, and crowds lined the streets to see the show.

* * *

The Provincial Building was rather unpretentious. Its arched windows and doors were the only indication of its importance. It was a wooden building about fifty-five feet long, and about thirty-five feet in width, situated on Queen Square at the north side of the present Market House and about thirty feet in from Queen and Grafton Streets. This building was divided into two rooms, the Council Chamber and Assembly Room, with a hall about eight feet in width between them, and an ante-room off each chamber. Over the hall were the galleries for each House, and as they were small, few people could be admitted to the opening.

The building was afterwards used for post office, court house, and police court. It was eventually moved to Euston Street and made into tenaments.

The other buildings on Queen Square were the round Market House, St. Paul's Church and St. Paul's Sunday and week-day school.

* * *

In May of '43 the cornerstone of the present Provincial Building was laid, and by the next spring the stone work had risen only to the lower window ledges. The portico was not the same as now, the heavy stone work and arches were not there, but there were four handsome round pillars on each side, front and back; they were then only half way up; apparently they are the same pillars that are now on the balcony. The building was finished with only the portico, but changed some years after, which improved its appearance very much.

There had been a few brick houses built in Charlottetown previous to this time, but nothing so grand as a stone building had before been contemplated. The stone had to be brought from Nova Scotia and also the stone cutters and builder. Many watched it with pleasure, and at last when the stone work of the Provincial Building was completed, the ground was levelled off by a gang of criminals who were brought every day from the jail, chained to the cart they hauled along. The men not only levelled off the ground, but broke up the useless stone and spread it all around the building. Criminals had in the same way to keep the streets in order, and it was a much harder lesson to them and greater example to others than their punishment is now.

* * *

Everyone who has seen views of Charlottetown in the olden time, has noticed the round Market House. It was situated on the north side and close to the present Post Office. The roof of the building was carried on fully seven or eight feet beyond the main wall all around, and supported every ten feet or so by posts. Around the main wall and fastened to it by hinges were flaps about two feet broad, which could be raised and made into tables, supported by iron or wooden supports.

Sometimes when the tables inside the Market House were all in use some of the country people were obliged to exhibit their goods, such as butter, eggs, homespun country socks, etc., on the outside tables. Hucksters always used them for their gingerbread dogs and hens, beer and candy, and the roof formed a verandah; any one sitting by those tables was protected from the sun or rain.

* * *

Every year, late in September, a Fair was held on the Square about the Market House; then it was that the people from the country made a greater effort. Many from far and near came to town, bringing their fat cattle, horses, pigs, etc. Every available space inside and outside the building was taken up. As there were no posts or fences to tie the animals to, owners of stock had to tie them to carts.

Everything was primitive in those days, but Fair-day was a gala day for the hucksters. Everyone who could provide a semblance of a tent, even four posts stuck in the ground and covered with patchwork quilts, old sails or something of like nature, brought there her beer, cakes, apples and plums, for the refreshment of the hungry people.

Places of entertainment and "good stabling" were few and far between, and as Charlottetown was then famed for its mud, Queen Square on Fair-day was ankle deep.

* * *

The streets in spring and autumn were something like the Square; there were no sidewalks then nor for many years after; all had to walk in the middle of the street, both summer and winter. Ladies wore trained dresses on the street for it was the fashion, and considered graceful, but the mud was destructive and many handsome dresses were destroyed. If persons attempted to walk close by the houses or shops, they were liable at any moment to pop into an open cellar hatch or go through a broken one, and in winter the snow banks were not cleared away except from the doors, so you may be sure the walking was dangerous.

Children were often run over and badly injured by horses and sleighs, and as country people with their loads very rarely used sleigh bells, a law had to be passed insisting that every one who drove a horse and sleigh through the town must have a bell attached.

In spring and autumn it was no uncommon sight to see ladies standing on one foot trying to extricate their rubber shoes from the mud. A few years later — when the American rubber boot was worn—it often shared the same fate. The only good promenade we had in those days was the Queen's wharf, and ladies were often seen taking a constitutional there in the early morning.

(To Be Continued)

PARADE SEATS TAX FREE

LONDON — (CP) — Seats rented to spectators from stands or windows along London's Victory parade route June 8 will be exempt from entertainment tax.

We Get Sympathy From Another Island

(Nancy Hodges, M.L.A., in the Victoria, B.C. Daily Times.)

Every so often some ignorant or misguided person in authority— or out of it—affronts our local pride by leaving Victoria off the map so to speak.

Sometimes it takes the form of publishing a picture in a Federal government publication of one of our cherished local beauty spots—and describing it as Vancouver.

At others we are totally ignored. As when some supposedly Dominion-wide reference alludes to Vancouver as the most westerly extremity of Canada. Thus leaving us more or less out on the limb of our own island—cut off, in more ways than one, from the rest of Canada.

Perhaps because misery loves company, according to the old saw, I chuckled when I saw that another island, at the eastern extremity of this Dominion, suffers the same harsh treatment on occasion.

Prince Edward Island recently smarted under such an affront, with the result that it was brought up on the floor of the Federal House.

When Mr. W. Chester McLure M.P. for Queens, rose in his seat to ask, according to Hansard:

"Is the Minister of Trade and Commerce aware of the fact that a branch of his department published a map of Canada on which the province of Prince Edward Island is not even shown?"

As was to be expected, the Minister to whom the question was directed had no knowledge of the omission and delayed answering until two days later.

* * *

Then the heinous offence was revealed—or partly so. For it appears that the Federal Department of Trade and Commerce had published the offending map of Canada in the New York Times.

It was part of a program to lure American tourists to this Dominion. And as Prince Edward Islanders are as tourist-conscious and as proud of their island and its attractions as we are of ours, I can quite understand why they reeled under this blow.

And its omission from the map evidently was the crowning insult to a long-smouldering sense of injury.

After reminding the House that P.E.I. had been neglected under the terms of Confederation, and still felt neglected, Mr. McLure mournfully alluded to this latest slap as "an advertising blast which has rocked us right down to the ocean."

The honorable member was, however, somewhat mollified by the Minister's assurance that he would look into the matter.

And would not allow such omissions of the cradle of Confederation from advertising by the department in question. But the matter didn't rest there.

For the P.E.I. representative had another bone to pick with some other benighted unknown who evidently doesn't appreciate that little Island's claims to recognition.

So Mr. McLure exhibited to the House a beautiful little calendar. He admitted that he hadn't been able to find "who put it out, who authorized it, or anything else."

It was made up of tourist scenes and tourist views throughout Canada, starting on the first page with Ottawa's Parliament Buildings.

* * *

But his complaint was, that while it showed two or three views of every other province, Prince Edward Island was notably conspicuous by its absence.

My sympathies are all with the P.E.I. people who have thus been slighted, for we have been in that boat, too. And I'm wondering if we are in that calendar?

After all, to paraphrase the poet, what can the tourists know of Canada who only the mainland know?

It's time that the rest of the world knew that this Dominion doesn't stop at Halifax and Vancouver, but includes a beautiful island on its east coast as well as on its west.

So if this blurb of mine does anything to help put Prince Edward Island on the map again, I shall feel that I have done my good deed—if only a poor column—for today.

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