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

TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 1947

Post Office Affairs

In the course of a discussion in the House of Commons last week, on pay for rural mail carriers, it was shown that 4,000 were getting a bonus, 3,000 were not eligible because they made contracts this year and 7,000 were eligible but received no bonus.

It will probably be news to many that the Post Office Department of Canada had a surplus of \$11,000,000 last year. Tommy Church, Toronto, pointed out that the postal system of Canada only carried half the load its counterpart did in Britain and that the surplus should be used to improve the conditions for the working force.

It will be remembered that some months ago, there was direct promise of the return of three cent postage. The promise has not been implemented, and yet the Department declares a dividend of eleven million. It is most likely that the announcement of the return to three cent postage awaits the eve of the next general election.

Current Education Fads

Current education fads make it "impossible to combine an interest in Hawthorne and in hydraulics or in Adam Bede and in the atom." Mr. D. S. Mackenzie, associate editor of The Gazette, told the St. James Literary Society, Montreal. Current enthusiasm for mechanics made for the disparagement of "things of the past and things of the spirit," he added.

Speaking on Education in the Modern World, Mr. Mackenzie maintained that there was no difference, from the spiritual or moral point of view, in the problems of antiquity and those of today. "Physically and materially, yes," said Mr. Mackenzie, "but human nature changes little and that imperceptibly. Morally the world today is not much in advance of the ancient past."

Essentially the problems of modernity are those of antiquity, insofar as they concern human kind. Modernity was "not only a question of date but also of outlook," Mr. Mackenzie pointed out. "Our characteristic modern social and political problems agitated the city states of Greece as well as the philosophers of the Middle Ages."

Education for the modern world Mr. Mackenzie saw as "preparation not only to meet the contemporary questions that arise from the complexities of our current civilization, but also those basic to the relationship of man to man which have endured since creation and give promise to continue to the world's destruction. It is clear, unfortunately," he added, "that modern education has uniquely failed to grasp this simple fact."

Real problem of modern education Mr. Mackenzie saw as humanizing man, "to show him the spiritual ideals without which neither happiness nor success are genuine or permanent; to produce beings who will know not only how to split atoms but how to use their powers for good. Such knowledge is not to be gained from that form of education so unhappily popular today because it is described as practical."

Encouragement of technical education to the exclusion of the humanities "has reduced mankind to the sorry pass where he has nothing upon which to fix his affection save the atom bomb and the cinema star, the airplane and the comic strip," Mr. Mackenzie declared.

Shakespeare In The Crisis

John Drake, of Kidderminster, is one of those who thinks William Shakespeare "as always" covers the thoughts of all men of all opinions on all occasions.

So he thumbed through the Bard of Avon's works and put some up-to-the-minute quotations in a letter to the Spectator—quotations relating to Britain's post-war difficulties:

On the effect of the weather, overmoist during 1946: "What dreadful noise of water in mine ears!"

Fuel Minister Shinwell on a dead furnace in a country plagued by coal shortages: "I know not where is that Promethean heat that can thy light return."

On an application for a building license: "The rest is silence."

On a prophecy come true: "When brewers met their malt with water; Then shall the realm of Albion 'Come to great confusion.'"

Because the Spectator (and presumably Mr. Drake) is Conservative, there was one on a heavy government majority: "O it is excellent"

"To have a giant's strength, but it is tyrannous"

"To use it like a giant."

And, of course, one on support for nationalization of industry:

"Disceases desperate grow 'By desperate appliance are relieved, 'Or not at all."

And finally, one on a mood of studied optimism:

"Things at the worst will cease, or else climb upward"

"To what they were before."

EDITORIAL NOTES

National independence does not naturally connote progress. Ere's population has declined to an all-time low of 2,953,452—a drop of 14,968 in 10 years, preliminary census figures disclosed. Emigration since 1936 was 189,492.

Patients at the Sussex D. V. A. Hospital will be moved en bloc to the Lancaster Hospital in Saint John, in a few months' time, Mr. Walter S. Woods, Deputy Minister of Veterans' Affairs, declared in Saint John. Only in very special cases where it is in the interest of the patient and where he may need some particular treatment will any of them be moved outside of New Brunswick," Mr. Woods added.

Charles Diddin, English musician, dramatist and song writer, born this date 1745; wrote 30 plays and 14,000 mail carriers would not be considered small potatoes. The Opposition urged some standard of bonuses, either on the basis of mileage or number of boxes served. General Peakes suggested a point system on which wages could be graded. Minister Bertrand shied away from submitting a complete return on account of the clerical work involved.

All Army Cadet Corps with an enrolment of fewer than 20 will be disbanded by June 30, Defence Minister Claxton said in a return tabled in answer to a number of Progressive Conservative queries about Cadet plans. The minister said the 50,000-boy force, consisting of youths between 14 and 18, would have a training year extending from April 1 to March 31 annually. Sponsors would be notified that training of boys not qualified as Cadets will cease to be the responsibility of the Defence Department after the end of June.

Veterans Minister Mackenzie has given notice to the Commons of a motion for appointment of a select House committee "to inquire into and report upon control and disposition of canteen funds accumulated during the war." The funds were those from profits arising from army messes, canteens and other services operated by or for the benefit of army personnel as well as money derived by units through the sale of refuse and other monies received for the benefit of personnel of the Canadian Army. The committee would recommend legislation to cover its recommendations.

The agitation for the restoration of the kilt as the appropriate uniform for Canadian Scottish regiments seems to have subsided. A writer in Ottawa-Citizen thus comments: "Across the Dominion today, apart from military units, more than 175,000 people own and often wear the kilt. The number of Highland dancers in Canada exceeds 50,000 and, as for pipers and drummers, they are legion. Nevertheless 'Lochaber No More' wails across the barracks square. 'Jack' stands shivering in his 'trowsers', quaking with a fear that his only future means of identification as a Highland soldier will be his 'Balmoral hat' or 'cocked bonnet.' He is a sad, sad, Highland laddie as he thinks of the proud days when he was valiantly known as a 'lad from hell.' And in the deep recess of the Department of National Defence, someone is lurking fearful of the temper of 'dirk' and 'sgian dubh,' if the unholy order to abolish the regimental kilt is ever promulgated."

Premier Duplessis does not have much use for door-to-door distribution of certain kinds of publications, but he does appreciate the value of a free Press. Rising in the Quebec Legislative Assembly when the orders of the day were reached, Mr. Jacques Dumoulin, Liberal, Montmorency, referred to an article in the Gazette from their staff correspondent, and read extracts from the article which dealt with delays in getting the legislative program of the session underway. The member had read several paragraphs, and claimed that the article had infringed the liberties of the House, when Premier Maurice L. Duplessis intervened. "It is not a question of privilege but of appreciation," said the Premier. "The newspaper in the exercise of the liberty of the Press made certain statements. The newspaper has a perfect right to say that the work of the session does not advance and that there are too many speeches. It is a matter of appreciation which has a right to his opinions."

According to an Ottawa correspondent, Mackenzie King's present illness is believed to have confirmed him in his intention to relinquish the leadership of the Liberal party much earlier than many of his supporters had imagined. It is persistently reported that soon after the present session of Parliament a move will be made to organize a national Liberal convention, to be held in the fall, and for the purpose of selecting a successor to Mr. King. Those who profess to be intimate with the true inwardness of the Liberal Government and Liberal Party situation insist that if there is to be a change of leadership this year it will be extremely difficult to avoid a general election after the new Liberal chief is chosen. At least three of the ministers would probably be named as contestants in the leadership race, and there would be four unless Rt. Hon. L. S. St. Laurent, Secretary of State for External Affairs, decides to retire from public life in the fall and return to his legal profession. The other three would be Reconstruction Minister C. D. Howe, Agriculture Minister James Gardiner and Finance Minister Douglas Abbott. There are some Liberals who would add to this list the name of Hon. Paul Martin, Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Notes By The Way

"Liberty," said the late William Allen White, "is the only thing you cannot have unless you are willing to give it to others. That applies to political liberty and to the economic franchise as well. The wool hats and rednecks who think liberty is ordained for whites only ought to give the matter fervent meditation.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

The thing to watch on motions of censure is now many members refrain from voting. On May 8, 1940, Prime Minister Chamberlain had a majority of only 81 on a test vote, with 133 supporters of the government not present to vote, and two days later he resigned in favour of Churchill. In December, 1944, 155 members abstained from voting when the Churchill government received a majority of 349 on a vote of confidence. It did better in a test vote in February, 1945, but the elections in the following July showed that the vote of December, 1944, had been a straw in the wind.—Buffalo Courier-Express.

A Frenchman with a liking for curious figures has been counting up the time that a man ordinarily devotes to common occupations of life. He finds that a man of 70 usually spent about 19 years working, 23 years in bed, nine years amusing himself or being amused, one year in church and two years shaving himself. This last portion of time will slip back into comfortable complacency. They are tempted to measure 1947's prospects too much by the quantity of goods promised rather than by the quality of goods. We will require a more realistic finding will still stall over many lands, while millions of refugees long pitifully for homes. This year will not be lacking in its calls upon compassion. But it should afford a calmer, quieter opportunity for applying Christianity and democracy to the long-range adjustments which are still required for real peace-making at home and abroad.—Christian Science Monitor.

On the whole, 1947 looks like a less jittery, scarily year—like a more settled and reasonable year. There is some danger even that Americans will slip back into comfortable complacency. They are tempted to measure 1947's prospects too much by the quantity of goods promised rather than by the quality of goods. We will require a more realistic finding will still stall over many lands, while millions of refugees long pitifully for homes. This year will not be lacking in its calls upon compassion. But it should afford a calmer, quieter opportunity for applying Christianity and democracy to the long-range adjustments which are still required for real peace-making at home and abroad.—Christian Science Monitor.

Three hundred thousand countrywomen in Britain are to have a college of their own endowed with money raised by themselves. They are members of the National Federation of Women's Institutes, which has just purchased extensive property near Oxford for the renamed Denman College. Denman College is to be a permanent centre for adult education. It will provide a very low cost, specialized courses in all branches of Women's Institute work. Courses, though essentially practical, will have a theoretical side and students of handicrafts, agriculture, horticulture, and fruit preservation will also enjoy lectures and discussions on books, music, painting, citizenship and current affairs.—UK Information Office.

It appears that Calgary high school students are rather deeply interested in the great historical and literary traditions of the English-speaking world. There are the only explanations of the fact that the failure of the great British picture "Henry V" to attract any kind of audience from Western Canada or Crescent Heights high schools. When the film version of Shakespeare's play was shown, arrangements were made whereby tickets would be sold at a special rate (88 cents) to students at these two schools. But the response with margin. At Western, only 55 tickets were sold; at Crescent Heights, with a student body of 900, only 37. Accordingly, each of the two high schools had to be closed.—Calgary Herald.

City children, reared in homes and apartments with modern central heating, have missed one of the luxuries of a more primitive day. They do not know the comfort of a hot brick in bed on a cold night. In houses which depended on the parlor space heater and the kitchen coal range for heat, bedrooms in winter were places only for the untidy. Further beds and heavy quilts could dispel the worst of the body chill, but the feet remained a problem. It could be solved only by the application of local palliatives. These, in most homes, took the form of a flat-iron or a brick. One was heated on the back of the stove, or in the oven, for each sleeper, well in advance of bedtime. Then each person trotted off to rest, carrying one of the devices wrapped in thick folds of newspaper, when he made a dash for the frigid regions above.—Windsor Star.

Your readers may like to know of my unusual experience while listening to the BBC eight o'clock Music Hall. A lady of pleasing voice was singing a beautiful aria out of Madam Butterfly when, during dinner my glass tumbled, half full, unaccountably only with water, exploded into a thousand pieces with a loud report; the fragments were scattered over my wife and self and the greater part of the room. Found by me, that, by dipping another glass of similar make and contents, the note given out was in the region of top E or F. One of these fine days serious damage might be caused, resulting in a possible lawsuit. For the life of me I cannot think who would be the defendant, an interesting problem. The glass tumbler was thick and of the "unbreakable" type.—Philip Mancej in the London Times.

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 PREMIER AND UNIONS

Sir,—Up to this morning I had a little respect for the Liberal government here on P.E.I. but after reading the speech that Mr. Jones made at the Legion hall, I soon lost that respect. His remarks about unions here on P.E.I. showed that he does not know the first thing about a union. My dealings with Mr. Jones have proved that true. He put a sort of a labour act through two years ago but the way he handled it was not worth the paper it was written on. The reason was employees could organize a union, but when a ballot was taken to show the employer that it was the wish of the employees to have a union to protect themselves they would soon point out and ask for a Government man to come and take the vote. There being no Labour Minister here, we were beat and Mr. Jones knew it. He gave us an act but it was a fool's act and the working man was, as usual with Mr. Jones, the goat.

Last year a delegation waited on the Government about the matter. They promised they would change the Act. It was passed by the House. After that Mr. Jones again threw the amendment in the waste paper basket, so what is his idea of outlawing unions on P.E.I.? For a Premier his knowledge of labour laws is limited, and I would advise him to study labour before he goes blustering around to meetings saying what he would do with unions. Does Mr. Jones know that the workers on P.E.I. are the lowest paid people in Canada? I can prove that to him. The cost of living is the same here as any part of Canada. Then he has the nerve to say, "forget about this eight hour day stuff." By the way, the first let me get of last year I don't think that he put eight hours a day in the interests of the people on P.E.I.

When he mentioned that they would put their backs to the wall, he promised to consider the handing on the wall. If he is not afraid of being beaten at the polls, then I say prove it, and call an election. The service man was denied a vote the last time, but he won't again. I am sure that the Premier will be "down with labour and the working man's pay envelope." If Mr. Jones is willing to learn a little about labour, let him call a public meeting, and we will teach him fast.

I am, Sir, etc., VETERAN Charlottetown, March 2.

IMPROVEMENTS IN OUR SYSTEM OF EDUCATION

Sir,—In my last letter I said I would discuss in full details the changes that I consider might advantageously be made in our present system of education to make it a more satisfactory one to the majority of our people. For a long time being, I have observed the main complaint that has been urged against it during the present generation is that the work in rural schools is too light. It is overburdened by the inclusion in the course of studies of Latin, French and elementary Geometry and Algebra. The public is of course aware that a school child who is removed from the rural school, and while I am among those who put a high value on the knowledge he must have seen the handwriting of a little Latin, I have nevertheless been a long time being fully aware of the fact that the proper teaching of this subject in the common public school takes up more time than it is well afforded to, and it is by the teachers in these schools, and on the whole, I think it is well that the subject is now removed. I cannot however understand the logic or consistency of still retaining French in these same schools; for in my opinion the value of a little French, poorly taught, is of little value compared to a little Latin. In saying this I do not wish to be misunderstood. I am not a narrow one-language bigot. It must surely be a great advantage to be fluent in several languages, even if one were our own beloved fast vanishing Gaelic; and I would give every encouragement I could to our Islanders to retain in their schools and elsewhere their mother tongue along with English as long as they can. Moreover, Latin and French could still be taught in all well-run schools, but not as a common and high, and needless to say, in Prince of Wales College.

The removal of Latin and French from the one-roomed rural school would afford a great saving in time and energy for the teacher; but in the case of English including formal grammar and mathematics including advanced Arithmetic, Algebra and Geometry, I would not lower the standard in the least degree. I can see no absolute reason then, why students from the common rural school could not study for the teaching profession, even without knowledge of Latin or French, providing they were highly proficient in the more essential subjects. It is highly desirable of course that teachers should acquire some knowledge of Latin and French, although they would not be called upon to teach these in the



BEAUTY UNBOUND

Give beauty all her right! She's not to one form tied; Each shape yields fair delight Where her perfections bide: Helen, I grant, might please as he, And Rosamond was as sweet as she.

Some the quick eye commends, Some swelling lips and red; Pale looks have many friends, Through sacred sweetness bred: Meadows have flowers that pleasures move, Though roses are the flowers of love.

Free beauty is not bound To one unmov'd to clime; She visits every ground And favors every time. Let the old loves with mine compare My sovereign is as sweet and fair.—Thomas Campion.

public schools, and they would therefore begin to study these subjects immediately on their entrance to P. W. C. and to study them under proficient teachers, so that in a two years' course they would know about as much of these languages as the average teacher now does. Students entering P. W. C. from the several high schools of any graded school where Latin and French would be taught would naturally enter an advanced class in these subjects; and therefore, I can see no reason why the status of P. W. C. should be lowered in the least degree simply because students from rural schools were allowed to enter without a knowledge of Latin or French, providing they were highly proficient in the more fundamental subjects, English and elementary mathematics for instance. Anyway, it should never be forgotten that P. W. C. was established chiefly as a training school for teachers, and it should never be allowed to get away from this conception.

After the removal of Latin and French the remainder of the course would be very much as it is today. The course would then consist of English, history, geography and elementary mathematics and science. To these also should be added a really worthwhile course in music and drawing. This course would afford pupils an opportunity not only to study, but to enter examinations, but it would at the same time afford to any boy or girl who might desire it, the foundation of a very fair education within easy distance from their own homes, instead of having to travel from 5 to 6 miles to secure it.

Some of your readers may wish to enquire, "but what about the boy and girl the proverbial 'John and Mary' who just don't like the fair education to which you refer, who in fact don't like much book-learning of any kind, but who nevertheless may have all sorts of fine abilities in useful occupations such as farming, house-keeping, house-cleaning, blacksmithing, etc.?" To which I reply: there are on Prince Edward Island several thousands of very practical schools in farming, house-keeping and several hundred in house-building, blacksmithing etc; and after Johnnie and Mary have reached their saturation point in book-learning, let them enter any one of these practical schools that they may prefer, and forget about the composite high school.

In closing let me say a word about the possible extension of our present system. While I do not believe in the wisdom, if indeed the possibility of the sudden establishment of high schools over Prince Edward Island, I nevertheless do believe in fostering the gradual growth of high school centres. But it should be fostered along the line of least passive resistance, or rather along the lines of most active assistance. If for instance, Summerside and Montserrat on their own initiative have already established very successful and efficient high schools, there can be no good reason why other advantageous centres with a little encouragement from the government could not do likewise. And in regard to school-buildings and school-grounds, both in respect to usefulness and ornamentation there is surely no good reason, financial or otherwise why they could not be vastly improved. Every school district can afford at least a commodious one-roomed, well-planned school-building and a decent playground of at least one-half acre of ground well-fenced and beautified by surrounding trees. But finally, what is said that can be said in behalf of this or that system, the fact still remains that the great factor in education is the teacher. It was, I think, a great American educator who when asked to give a description of his ideal school, replied briefly that it was

Old Charlottetown (And P.E.I.)

ROW WITH GOVERNOR SMITH

During the early days of the year 1823 the settlers throughout the Island were thrown into a great excitement in consequence of the unexpected demand of the tax on their lands, known as quit-rent. In January of this year the acting Receiver General visited a thickly inhabited district of King's County, without giving any previous notice thereof, and demanded instant payment, or promissory notes payable in ten days, on pain of having their property disposed of by public sale. This so enraged the people against the authors of such severe measures that they resolved to hold meetings, and take steps against the tyranny to which they were being subjected. With this end in view a requisition was accordingly drawn up, signed by forty householders, and presented to the High Sheriff of the Island, requesting him to appoint public meetings of the inhabitants to be held in the three Counties, that they might have an opportunity of consulting together, and join in laying a statement of grievances at the foot of the Throne.

The Sheriff then appointed meetings to be held at Charlottetown, St. Peter's and Prince Town, on the 6th, 13th and 20th of March, respectively. The resolutions agreed to at the various meetings were embodied in a humble petition to be laid before the King, concluding with a prayer for the removal of Lieutenant Governor Smith. It inadvertently in several terms assumed the conduct since first he assumed the reins of government; he was charged in a recent issue of the paper, and in due time arrived, standing the deep snow on the ground the meetings were largely attended, and Captain John Stewart, of Mount Stewart, a prominent politician, was chosen to convey the petition to England to lay before the King. By the aid of some friend Captain Stewart escaped with the petition and in due time arrived safely in England. The result was the appointment of Colonel John Ready as Lieutenant Governor of the Island, who was received with a spirit of great satisfaction by all classes of the community.—Pollard's History.

just a log of wood with himself as pupil on one end, and a certain great American teacher on the other. Expressed in terms of space, from the log of wood to the British Columbia composite school as described in a recent issue of the Guardian, would seem a long, long way to go.

I am, Sir, etc., M. MCKENZIE New Haven.

1/2 AWAKE Nights 1/2 ASLEEP Days..

When you are fretted by irritable nerves, nervous headaches, or feel over-tired in daytime—your kidneys may be the cause. For healthy kidneys should do 2/3 of their work in the daytime. If they get out of order and fail, extra strain is placed upon them and they must work overtime at night. That is why time to use Doan's Kidney Pills. Doan's Kidney Pills help relieve this cause of night discomfort and disturbed rest. Help you enjoy restful sleep and awake refreshed. 143

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