

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1947

School Textbooks

As indicated in a report in yesterday's Guardian, there is this year a record demand for school textbooks, and an insufficient supply.

School textbook changes in recent years have been a constant source of expense and annoyance to the people in this Province.

There is also the need, felt and admitted by our educationists for many years past, of having our history books more in accord with the facts from the Maritime viewpoint.

It is strange to note that in the voluminous recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Reconstruction Committee, prepared for the Provincial Government in 1945 and tabled in the Legislature in March, 1946, there is no reference to this important matter of textbook changes and expenses.

Up to that time, school-book changes were few and far between. In 1928, after twenty years, the use of the Eaton Series of Readers was discontinued and the Canadian Series was introduced.

When the Eaton Readers were prescribed by the Board of Education, the prices were: Primer, 4 cents; First Reader, 6 cents; Second Reader, 9 cents; Third Reader, 14 cents; Fourth and Fifth Readers, 16 cents; the whole series costing forty-nine cents.

One recommendation of the Macmillan Commission is worth calling attention to today. That was to the effect that "all changes of textbooks for the following term be made, and the course of studies for all grades published and distributed to teachers and dealers, before the end of the preceding June."

There would seem to be ample work for such a committee today, or even for another Royal Commission to inquire into the whole question of our school and college textbooks, with regard not only to their cost and availability, but to their quality and usefulness as well.

Life Insurance Payments

Figures compiled by the Canadian Life Insurance Officers Association show that in the first six months of this year, a total of nearly \$91,000,000 was paid out to policy holders or their beneficiaries in Canada.

Taking the figures another way, ordinary life contracts made up \$68,000,000 of the total distribution to policy holders and beneficiaries, industrial contracts \$15,000,000, and group contracts some \$7,000,000.

The compilation as presented by the Association gives evidence of the magnitude as well as the variety of life insurance operations in this country, and offers a guide to the proportion paid to policy holders during their life time.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Even a poor man can experience some of the worries of wealth if he has an apple tree in his yard and wishes to protect the fruit.

Curiously enough the investigator who sought to discover the cheapest City to live in never heard of Charlottetown; if he did, he purposely ignored it to give the palm to his hometown of Winnipeg.

Our leading citizens are co-operating with a view to improve and enhance civic conveniences. The City Council, the Town Planning Committee and the Board of Trade are all up-and-doing in the public interest.

This is a "want" period in our present existence. We want more rain, more coal, more railway coal trucks, more oil, more gas, more foodstuffs, more school books, more pay, more pensions, more recruits, more dollar exchange, more patience and more gratitude for all we have hitherto enjoyed in plenty, while so many others have been in want of the actual necessities of life.

Prime Minister Mackenzie King, having set the country by the ears with his economic policies, now sits back and calmly declares it is up to the provinces to work their way out the best way they can, but not to look to him for assistance unless they surrender their independence.

Dr. Joseph T. Wearn of Cleveland, in the August issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association, urges that psychiatry be "integrated thoroughly in all fields of medicine."

John, first baron Campbell, Lord Chancellor of England, born this date 1779; he wrote Lives of the Lord Chancellors of England (seven volumes), and likewise Lives of the Chief Justices of England; was advanced in his ideas both of freedom and publishing, though somewhat contradictory; as a lawyer he knew the value of the index, and in the preface to his third volume wrote: "So essential did I consider an index to be to every book, that I proposed to bring a bill into Parliament to deprive an author who publishes a book without an index of the privilege of copyright, and, moreover to subject him to a pecuniary penalty."

The name "Pakistan", an artificial verbal compound, said to have been invented by a Moslem Indian student in Cambridge, is unknown to Indian history, says London Economist, and was not current in Indian politics until a few years ago.

While the French working population at the present time is approximately the same as in 1938, figures recently released show that the "productive" section of the population has decreased, while the "distributive" section has increased. The war, the captivity of the French soldiers and the deportations profoundly affected the demographic balance of the country and the distribution of the workers.

Notwithstanding cabling, radio and such like, the telephone is still the popular means of transatlantic communication. Re-establishment of full and unrestricted overseas telephone service from Canada to Australia, New Zealand, South America, Russia, the Philippine Islands, the West Indies and most European countries is announced in the Telegraph Journal by the New Brunswick Telephone Company, Limited, and in the case of Great Britain, Eire, The Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Portugal and Switzerland new low night rates have been put into effect.

Notes By The Way

The Iowa merchant who celebrated his 100th birthday on the 79th day of his life may not be here to do so in 1968; is a practical and sensible fellow. But if he lives to be 90 he probably will have convinced himself he is 110 and qualified to issue explanations of his extraordinary longevity. — Ottawa Journal.

"Every Egyptian was commanded by law annually to declare by what means he maintained himself; and if he omitted to do this, or gave no satisfactory account of his way of living, he was punishable with death. This law Solon brought from Egypt to Athens, where it was invariably observed as a most equitable regulation." — Herodotus.

No less than eight per cent of British expenditures in the U. S. in the last year has been for food and other items urgently needed by the Germans living in the British zone of occupation. To put it simply, the British have had to use the dollar to buy their own necessities as well as themselves. — Toronto Daily Star.

Westerners are not the only persons who are keeping their fingers crossed until the wheat is safely harvested. Many thousands of persons in European countries who face the prospect of near starvation, will read with eagerness the crop reports from the dominion. A poor harvest here would not only mean a dearth of wheat in the west and to Canada as a whole, but would add to the despair of those lands where food shortages have already caused untold suffering. — Winnipeg Tribune.

There is a shortage of nurses not only in Alberta, but throughout the Dominion. Hospitals which need nurses advertise in vain: every graduate nurse willing to work in Canada is already employed. There is no place for which additional nurses may be speedily obtained—except the displaced persons camps of Europe. In these camps are many hundreds of women trained as nurses, some of them highly qualified. It takes a man with the chance to come and work in Alberta hospitals? Most of them would gladly accept it. — Calgary Herald.

It is good news that the Ottawa cinder-block-house project is to have a fair trial. These simple, comfortable dwellings, to be sold for \$3,500 on payments of \$27 monthly, seem likely to satisfy a need which no other type of construction has been able to meet. — Ottawa Journal.

During the past several years, the Ontario department of highways has done a remarkable job in organizing and providing its maintenance on the highways of this province. The white lines, when they first appeared, were confined to a single white strip that marked curves or dangerous hills. This has been extended, with the aid of red and blue lines, so that any motorist who wishes to pay heed can know where it is safe to pass another car, and where he should wait. The sad part of the matter is the number who meet disaster. It is a pity that 1,200 teachers were put there for their safety. — Cornwall Standard-Freeholder.

A twenty-three-year-old Chicago youth, awaiting death in the electric chair for the slaying of a liquor store owner in a \$20 hold-up, penned a note of advice to other young men who may be starting on the road to being "tough guys." He wrote: "Get that five out of your head that you can make it. It takes a man with guts to get a job and work for what he wants." He learned too late, but his warning is sound. — Boston Post.

After three years in office, during which teachers' salaries have been raised and the larger school unit introduced in many districts, it must be disappointing to the provincial department of education to have to report at the beginning of this Fall term that 1,200 teachers gave up teaching jobs at the end of the 1946 school year. With only 900 new teachers, there remains a shortage of at least 300 teachers in the province. An undisclosed number of rural schools are still without teachers. — Regina Leader-Post.

The craze of souvenir hunting has turned ordinarily law-abiding folks, who would not for a moment think of stealing like a burglar, into thieves who take whatever they can lay their hands on. At the Canadian National Exhibition many of the exhibitors had to hire special staffs to watch over the goods on display. In the Automobile Building there were attempts to remove radios from the cars on view. Cigarette lighters were taken as "souvenirs," and one dealer caught a person trying to remove a tail light from a motor car. Clutch and brake pedal rubber pads were taken. Door handles, gear shift levers, ash trays and radio dials all vanished from the cars on view. — Toronto Globe and Mail.

The word "sterling" illustrates the difficulty sometimes encountered in arriving at derivations. The old belief (it was held as far back as 1300) was that "sterling" was a corruption of "Esterling" or "East-erling," the name applied at one time to traders from Germany, but this presumes the dropping of the heavily-accented "East," which is considered unlikely. The favored explanation is that "sterling" is a corruption of "steoring," or "coin with a star," although some connect it with the four starlings (usually called martlets) on a coin of Edward the Confessor. At any rate, the original sterling was Norman silver pennies, so a pound of them

Dr. Miller's Retirement

Reaction of Nova Scotians to the news that Dr. A. F. Miller is to retire as Superintendent of the Nova Scotia Sanatorium at Kentville will be mixed. There will be widespread regret at his decision, coupled with the realization that none has earned a better right to rest and leisure.

For 37 years Dr. Miller has served faithfully and well in the important work he chose as a career. During those years he has seen the Nova Scotia Sanatorium grow, under his direction, in accordance with modern equipment and usefulness. Today Dr. Miller is widely recognized as an outstanding authority on tuberculosis and the present Sanatorium plant is a concrete example of his ability as a healer and an administrator.

Dr. Miller will continue to live in Kentville, and it goes without saying that his retirement from active duty at the "San" will by no means end his interest in that fine institution. It has been his life-work and his continuing interest and counsel will be of the greatest value to its activities. The medical staff of the Sanatorium plan to honor Dr. Miller at a banquet on Thursday night, Sept. 18, at the Hotel Victoria. Dr. Miller will be present in spirit and Dr. Miller may be confident that he has the good wishes of a grateful people as he concludes a period of outstanding service for Nova Scotia.

Dr. Miller is a native of Prince Arthur Island, a son of the late Edmund Miller, for many years Principal of West Kent School in Charlottetown, and brother-in-law of the late F. J. Nash. He graduated from Prince of Wales College, Charlottetown, and received his Medical School at Dalhousie University from which he graduated with distinction. He specialized in tuberculosis research, and was for a time located at Sarnac Lake where he was in charge of the service to the individual who is being conducted by leading medical scientists. He returned to the Maritimes in 1910 to take over the important post from which he has now retired. Dr. Miller's services as consultant were of value to the Province in respect of the building of the Sanatorium here.

Out Of Line

It is regrettable but it is unlikely that the sensible comment by Dean Arthur Collingwood of the University of Saskatchewan, will evoke a logical response. When awarding a 500 scholarship to the most outstanding singer in the C. N. E. music competition, he remarked that "a good singer can be as valuable to the community as a good swimmer. There is a lot of difference between \$5,000 and \$500." He could have added, had the tea been brewed, that a professor is more valuable than a hockey player, although the latter's earnings give no indication of their comparative merit apart from suggesting that the professor is not as valuable as a hockey player.

The Toronto Telegram is of the opinion that if Dean Collingwood were to listen to a radio quiz program he would come to the depressing conclusion that knowledge, talent and service seldom if ever receive their just reward in cash. Indeed the award of automobiles, refrigerators, furs and a glittering service to the individual who is being awarded a scholarship, will evoke a logical response. When awarding a 500 scholarship to the most outstanding singer in the C. N. E. music competition, he remarked that "a good singer can be as valuable to the community as a good swimmer. There is a lot of difference between \$5,000 and \$500." He could have added, had the tea been brewed, that a professor is more valuable than a hockey player, although the latter's earnings give no indication of their comparative merit apart from suggesting that the professor is not as valuable as a hockey player.

And all around there is evidence to prove that what a person receives for a particular performance is no gauge by which to measure the intrinsic value of that performance. The President of the United States is paid but \$75,000 whereas one, Betty Grable, receives \$208,000 and another, Bing Crosby \$176,000, yet it would be extraordinarily difficult to support the proposition that the presidential service is less valuable and important to the community, nay to the country, because the occupant of that office lacks a strenuous form or the singular accomplishment of a crooner. In Canada there are some who contend that the \$23,000 paid the Prime Minister either does or does not represent the true value of the service he renders, but, since political bias has probably polluted their reasoning, no profitable deduction may be derived from their speculations as to the true value of the service rendered by Mr. Mackenzie King when directed with a chapely leg and a mellifluous voice.

The sense of value being what it is, there seems to be no alternative for a singer who wishes to win \$5,000 rather than \$500 to be ten times as good a swimmer as the singer. This will scarcely promote the development of art, but it may suggest, for the cultural health of the country, the necessity of offering better inducements to artists before they all become waterlogged.

GOOD-WILL VISIT

WINNIPEG — (CP) — More than 4,000 Shriners from Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota came to Winnipeg on a good-will pilgrimage to the cornerstone of a \$500,000 Shriners' hospital for crippled children was laid here.

SILENCE SYMBOL

The role is a symbol of silence and gave rise to the phrase "silence rook" meaning "under the rose" or in secret. The word was confused with Stirling, and so spelled. — Toronto Daily Star.



SONG FOR OUTDOOR DANCE

Heaven is bright By day and night, But the fierce turmoil of noon Is God's sweetest boon.

The sun is eternally the bell And the moon its echo, The soft wind on the flowers Is angel's speech.

Hope has no measure And love no conditions, All is sacred.

Whirl and leap high, Time and space and all Warm, proud things! Heaven is ever bright By day and night.

—Charles Angoff in American Mercury.

Old Charlottetown (And P.E.I.)

THE CITY ARTILLERY

The City Artillery having been the first corps to organize here, they were also foremost in equipment, and in providing themselves with military uniforms, therefore, in opening the Legislature in 1860, they were directed to man the Battery, fire the salutes, and furnish a guard of honour to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor. Accordingly two gun detachments were detailed and placed in charge of a non-commissioned officer in the Barracks Square, where salutes of fifteen guns each were fired; while the principal division of the corps, consisting of three lieutenants, two sergeants and fifty-six gunners, comprising the guard of honour, were drawn up in front of the Colonial Building under command of Captain Pollard. The crowd which had assembled to witness the early dress parade of these citizen soldiers was exceedingly large, but a great want was felt, viz., that of a band of music—the life and spirit of all military display.

As the hour of opening drew near, the booming of artillery was heard in the distance; then proceeded by a troop of cavalry under Major Davies, His Excellency arrived, and courteously acknowledged the honours awaiting him. When the ceremony of opening the Legislature was over, it was proclaimed by a second salute being fired; this being an old established rule with the Regulars when occupying the Garrison here and was continued by the Volunteers up to the time of Confederation. — Pollard's History.

The Plight Of The Jews

(Canadian Jewish Review)

By a sudden and complete overthrow of Christian principles inherited from the Jews which had been taught for centuries, and through a retrogression into the darkest depths of barbarism which need not have happened save for the reluctance of civilization to intervene in time, millions of Jews were murdered and hundreds of thousands of their survivors were beggared and degraded. People who once had happy, prosperous, and inviting homes now have none of any kind. No sort of restitution has been made for millions of dollars worth of property, and the wicked flourish in the midst of looted goods while the victims have taken on the appearance of a burden which no nation wants to face.

Of these poor, plundered people over two hundred thousand are called displaced persons. They are survivors of concentration camps, slave labor forces, and ghettos. Most of them live in remote camps in a state of lengthening despair. Although they are victims and not perpetrators, remember, they are cut off from the major currents of civilization. When they get mail it is after months have elapsed and the news they receive has passed into the bin of history. Time goes by and they become demoralized through inactivity, with nothing to displace horrible memories, crowded together and without the elemental privacy which decency demands.

Use of holiday time from the semi-annual dental check-up is urged by health authorities at Ottawa. Regular oral examinations at this season, and again in another few months, when there will be more holidays — at least for the children, will ensure against dangers to health and comfort. The experts remind Canadians that early detection is important for successful treatment to save teeth.

DENTAL CHECK-UP

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Where Silence Isn't Golden (Ottawa Journal) In the obituary notices of Senator William J. Harmer, whose death occurred this week, it is said of him that during his 29 years in the Senate he was never known to have made a speech, and that he became known as "Silent William from Alberta." We hope this was not written by way of eulogy or tribute, because whatever Senator Harmer's claim to fame or public gratitude—we all understand him to be an estimable gentleman—it can't be rested on the fact that he was silent in the Senate. The Senate, like any legislative body, is no place for silent men. It is a place for speech, for protest, for debate and discussion. When MacAulay wrote his oft-quoted line about Parliament being "government by talking," he wasn't scoffing; he was simply saying what is true, namely, that democratic representative government is government by talking. A silent member of Parliament is as useful as a fifth wheel to a coach; becomes nothing more than a name on a division list. And, of course, if all members of Parliament were silent, there would be no Parliament at all—no government.

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