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

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SAURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1944

A Momentous Year

At the threshold once more of another New Year, we can look back upon the past twelve months as being among the most momentous in world history. The outstanding event, of course, was the successful Allied invasion of Europe, an achievement absolutely unparalleled in military annals.

Events both at home and abroad have been thoroughly reviewed in the articles appearing in recent issues of The Guardian, including today's. It was a year of exceptionally good crops, and Prince Edward Island, the banner-farming province of the Dominion, achieved production records unsurpassed. This constituted our greatest war effort on the home front, an effort which would have been greater still but for farm labour shortage and transportation handicaps.

Throughout the war Prince Edward Island young men and women have rolled up a truly magnificent record of enlistments in the active service forces. It was only in recent months, however, that we obtained recognition of this achievement at Ottawa. Now we are conceded to lead all Canada in proportion to our population. While this is a matter of great pride and satisfaction, it also means a heavy burden of sacrifice. To the loved ones of our gallant lads who have fallen on the battle fronts, we can offer only our deepest and most respectful sympathy. "Their name liveth for ever more." As the years pass, this seemingly barren consolation will become more profoundly felt.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;
They have no lot in our labour of the daytime;
They sleep beyond England's foam.

It remains only to wish, to all our readers, a happy and prosperous New Year. Which raises another question—Wherein does happiness and prosperity lie? Savants have come forward with many answers, mostly wrong, and all of them too tedious for quotation here. The following lines by the late Sir William Watson offer as good a conclusion as any:

As we wax older on this earth,
Till many a toy that charmed us seems
Emptied of beauty, stripped of worth
And mean as dust and dead as dreams—
For gauds that perished, shows that passed,
Some recompense the Fates have sent;
'Twice lovelier shine the things that last;
The things that are more excellent.

A Retrograde Policy

In depriving Prince of Wales College of its playing ground, the Jones Government is acting directly contrary to the enlightened policy of the best educational authorities—which urge more and better playground facilities for both primary and secondary schools.

The standards laid down by the British Ministry of Education for primary and secondary schools in the future fulfill the hopes of reformers, whereas the P. E. I. Government is in the reverse.

The minimum area for the school site, including playground space, varies from half an acre for the smallest primary school to three acres for a free-form entry secondary school. Playing fields ranging from half an acre for the smallest primary schools to 14 acres for large secondary schools must also be provided, preferably on land immediately adjoining the site.

In selecting places for new schools, sites abutting on main traffic routes or necessitating children crossing such routes on their way to school should, it is stated, be avoided.

A wide range of accommodation, including practical rooms, art and craft rooms, library, assembly hall, and gymnasium, is specified for secondary schools. Playrooms must be provided in all nursery schools and classes.

Every type of school must have a staff room, accommodation for medical inspection and treatment, drying facilities, and adequate stor-

age provision. Separate dining-rooms accommodating at least 65 per cent of the number of pupils in not more than two shifts must be provided in all but the smaller primary schools.

No Manpower Policy

In a statement issued at Ottawa Brigadier James Mess made public his reasons for resigning his army post as Deputy Adjutant-General and Director of Recruiting. Brig. Mess had resigned on November 27, but retained silence as to the underlying cause for several weeks. He now declares that his position had become "entirely untenable" by the Government's policy of limited overseas conscription, designed to meet only immediate, pressing needs for infantry reinforcements. Such a policy, he maintains, fails to assure a sustained, adequate flow of trained soldiers to the battle fronts as long as they may be required, and leaves an open question as to whether future shortages will be promptly met.

The King Government's manpower policy still remains unstated and unknown. As the Sydney Post-Record points out, its order-in-council regarding 16,000 Home Army call-ups is not a policy, but an emergency measure rendered necessary by the lack of policy. It may or may not be followed by similar measures to meet similar emergencies. But clearly this hand-to-mouth use of conscription lacks method and definiteness of purpose. To confuse the situation still more, two ranking Ministers of the Crown, General LaFleche and General McNaughton, still persist in claiming that even the timid instalment of conscription the Government authorized in November would not have been necessary if voluntary recruiting had been given a "fair trial," implying apparently that there may be no further conscription measures while the war lasts. The whole situation is disquieting and discreditable. Perhaps before polling in North Grey, the Government may evolve and announce an honest-to-goodness manpower policy, which everyone will be able to interpret intelligently.

EDITORIAL NOTES

New Year's Day customary visitations will be observed as usual.

Only 20.13 per cent of films shown in Britain in 1943 were British made, Mr. Hugh Dalton, Board of Trade president, told the House of Commons. This was the lowest percentage since the war began.

Winter hand-book betting activities in the Dominion are expected to come to a standstill when the United States government ban on horse and dog racing becomes effective next Jan. 3. Hundreds of handbooks are operated in Toronto and during the winter the betting is chiefly on horse racing at southern tracks.

Canada has produced a radar product equal to that made anywhere and similar achievements had been wrought with other war weapons. "If Canada can do this in war, she can and must do likewise in peace," said Dr. Mackenzie, who is president of the National Research Council.

The Jesuits, or Society of Jesus (for which the letters S. J. are commonly used as an abbreviation) founded this day 1534 by Ignatius Loyola; the members all bound by three religious vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, to which a fourth was added later—to undertake any mission upon which the Pope might send them, even at the risk of life; three forms of activity are peculiarly the function of the order—teaching, preaching, and guiding Christians in the way of perfection.

Mr. John Bracken, national leader of Canada's Progressive Conservative Party, arrived by air on Wednesday in the United Kingdom, accompanied by Mr. Melville R. Jack, his secretary, after having attended his mother's funeral at Brockville. The political leader and Mr. Jack joined Col. Alfred Brooks, Progressive Conservative member for Royal (N.B.), and Mr. R. K. Finlayson of Winnipeg, advisor to Mr. Bracken, in a visit to northwestern European fighting zones after a short stop in London. Col. Brooks and Mr. Finlayson arrived from Canada Dec. 22, having preceded Mr. Bracken who was delayed by his mother's death. Mr. Bracken is expected to hold discussions with different empire leaders after his visit to the Canadian forces in Holland. He will concentrate on plans for post-war rehabilitation.

The song of the Islander:
Sweet fern and windy hay,
O' harsh and salty sea!
Here man receives his breath,
and here his breath goes free,
meeting the wings of gulls,
touching the slanted tree
Here man's breath is a tide
that beats with ecstasy;
here man's breath is a word
or shaped into a cry
from the earthly island flung
into the sea of sky.
Maple and windy grass,
O' harsh and salty sea!
Here man receives his breath,
and here his breath goes free!

First place in the first of a series of mathematics tests being conducted among all air cadet squadrons in the Maritime Provinces has been won by 101 (Moncton) Squadron, Command Air Cadet Headquarters announces. Median score was 84.4 per cent. Fredericton High School was second with a score of 82.2 per cent. Purpose of this series of standardized tests is to show cadets and instructors weaknesses in ordinary mathematical processes, and to assist them in such subjects as navigation, in which mathematics is important. Squadrons have responded with enthusiasm and competition is keen.

Notes By The Way

Aunt Hattie says she heard a man who liked red finger-nails and thought the hats women are wearing are beautiful. The matter is a complete mystery to Aunt Hattie because she says the man was not running for office.—Christian Science Monitor.

A Nova Scotia town with two deaths already reported and 30 cases under treatment is the latest Canadian community to have an epidemic of diphtheria. That is completely inexcusable now-days when there is such ready means of preventing its occurrence.—Brookville Recorder and Times

"The Constitution of the U.S.A." according to the Detroit News, "contains nothing that prohibits a woman from becoming President." It is a fair clause in there quick or prepare for the worst. That Lone woman ain't foolin'—Ottawa Citizen.

A lexicographer says that the English language is growing at the rate of 3,000 words a year. One of the latest which he has seen is "understatement," which by combining "misstatement" produces a meaning which is certain to become a favorite of the Government and its writing circles.—Peterborough Examiner.

On December 8 came a remarkable note from New York City. It was the first death from diphtheria in that city for that year, and the victim never had immunization. If a great cosmopolitan city with many races, can show such a record, there is no excuse for any small community in Canada to ever report diphtheria in that respect. St. Catharines is going strong, but it means eternal vigilance by the health department.—St. Catharines Standard.

A program is reported under way at the University of Toronto, a group of Germans now in that country by making known to them the principles and benefits of democracy. Since the prospective students are deserters from the German army, it would seem that their de-Nazification has already had a fair start. But the program may prove useful as an object lesson in what to do—or not to do—in an important post-war undertaking.—Springfield Republican.

An authority on elephants has announced that there is no foundation for the popular belief that an elephant has a long memory. He explains the origin of the occurrence at the Cheltenham Circus, when the elephant paused in the ring, stared at a retired colonel of the Indian Army, and promptly lifted the impoverished soldier with his trunk clean out of the six-foot enclosure. The elephant was penniless. Come, come. Was this coincidence? No. It was gratitude for a favor shown many years before at a party given by a Maharajah.—London Express.

It is good fun to play Indians and shoot arrows out of bows, but it is not so much fun to be blind. Yet, that is what has happened to the blind man, Leonard Barnett, whose eye has been shot out by an arrow. Bows and arrows are a lot of fun, but mighty dangerous in a crowded city. One bad shot and an eye is lost, perhaps forever. It is a pity that the fun of playing and they always will play cops and robbers, Indians and all sorts of games, but the fun of playing is not worth being maimed or crippled for life.—Windsor Star.

There are those who say Ottawa is a "cold" city—in the social sense. It is not so much cold as it is socially at the moment. It is inclined to resent strangers. We are supposed to be riddled with cliques and snobs, and people have written very bad books about our alleged addition to a party given by the University of Ottawa than of any other considerable city. The proof of what we say is that the children who seek it, is especially abundant at this Christmas season. Speeches are given at the party given by the Ottawa branch of the Red Cross Society for 61 British war brides in Ottawa, and it is very informal, but there were kind words and gifts for all left with an appreciation of the warmth of Canadian hospitality.—Ottawa Journal.

Almost every letter home, written by our men overseas, will beg for snapshots of family and friends. Pictures mean so much to men who have been away from all that they see and hear for as much as five weary years. And when the family tries to obtain a film for the camera, the fun begins! Film is scarce. In fact, at times film supply is not to be had. Dealers who do manage to obtain a few rolls save them for clients or those good customers. While all of us value snapshots, and like to record chapters of our lives on paper for the purpose of refreshing our memory at some future date, it would seem that the wife of a soldier, sailor, airman or merchant seaman should have a priority in the photographic supplies of this sort. The answer would be the setting aside of a special voucher from the Ration Board—Chatham News.

What seems odd about its use in this war is that the Germans, who have been able to see in their own country the destruction done by fire, as compared with blast, should continue to concentrate on producing blast effects with high explosives. They must know that the military value of V-2 is negligible in this war at least. It must, therefore, be considered possible that the use of this form of diversion, particularly directed against the preparations against the dangers of fire. It is not impossible that, which they might conceivably try, it will not be some fancy weapon, but surprise weapon to attempt to fire once more the day of London or some other important military base. As to the future, V-2 merely underlines the lesson of the German power in general, that strategic frontiers of rivers and mountains are as useless in drawing up of the next peace as the promises of dictators intent on war.—London Observer.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of the questions of interest. The Chairperson is desirous of the selection of a committee.

F. W. C. RINK

Sir—At Prince of Wales College there were two activities in which the majority of the students engaged. These two were the College socials and skating. Skating unquestionably occupied a premier position, for skating is a pastime in which almost all students have obtained a reasonable proficiency long before coming to Prince of Wales. Dancing—the main item at the socials—is to most a new and often mystifying experience, and in consequence does not attain the popularity of skating. Thus it can be seen that the Government, with one stroke, has eliminated one major student activity.

The Minister of Public Works has been grossly misinformed about the number of times the rink last winter was completely closed. His estimate of three times is entirely wrong. The rink was closed to multiply his figure by ten, giving thirty, he would come much closer to the truth. There were five "skates" held last winter, three with music in the evening, and two in the afternoon.

In addition to the skates, an intra-mural hockey league was conducted, both for boys and girls, and the regular schedule of this league was completed with the exception of the playoffs to determine the championships. The games together with the first and second team practices and second team games more than make up the other twenty-five times the rink was used, necessary to complete my estimate. It might not be amiss to point out here that last winter was considered a "poor" winter for the rink. During the winter before last, which was considered a reasonably good winter, there were at least twelve skates held in the afternoons and greater number of hockey matches were played. We consider that year more indicative of the value of the rink.

Is the Minister aware of the arrangements made to provide skating for the students this winter? We can only surmise that he has been able to secure one hour a week at the Forum at a cost of three dollars for each hour. The three skates held in the winter last winter averaged about three hours each, while those held in the afternoons averaged about two. To give an equivalent amount of skating time this winter would take us \$180.00 to make up the winter before last is a physical and financial impossibility. If we desire an intra-mural hockey league this winter, a further large expenditure of money will be necessary. Since College students are not actually employed, the money must come from their parents. To many parents, the sending of their children to the rink to College requires a considerable sacrifice, especially when one considers the increased rates of board and tuition. It is not surprising, therefore, that from these parents that the money must come to meet this added expense—an expense which would not exist if the College rink had been left standing.

The ideal of our, or any, education should be to "mens sana in corpore sano." Prince of Wales is well equipped to provide sound minds, but with the removal of the College rink the facilities for providing sound bodies, had enough before, now become criminally inadequate. It is said that 40% of the young men called up for military service in Canada were unfit. The Federal Government is taking steps to reduce this alarming figure—witness the work of Major Eisenhardt. It should not be surprising to point out the great body-building value of skating in the open air, most necessary to students, who by the very nature of their work must spend long periods of time indoors in cramped conditions. In view of this, the action of the Provincial Government becomes all the more incomprehensible.

The statements made by the Minister of Public Works—"boards badly needed at Falconwood," "improvement in appearance of college grounds," in the light of these facts, seem to us to be and inconsequential. We feel privileged to ask if the only rough boards obtainable on Prince Edward Island belong to the College, the road machinery, oil drums and other objects now behind the College, as factors likely to contribute to the aesthetic appearance of the grounds. The Government is "considering" building an administrative building behind the College. Surely it would be time enough to tear down the rink after the Government had decided to erect such a building, while they were only "considering." No doubt this "considering" process will occupy a considerable length of time.

I fancy that I can hear some of our farmers say, "Its nobody's business but my own how I farm my land. If I do so I'll get a loss that is my affair and I am not going to be dictated to by anyone." Similarly in our cities and towns many business and professional men and women refuse to take an active interest in public affairs. They believe in "letting George do it." That is not citizenship and no country or community can prosper if such a spirit prevails. It is almost entirely because of that feeling the Communist and Socialist Political organization have been growing so rapidly of late year and unless the adherents of the old time Conservative and Liberal Parties show a decided change of heart and cleanse their organization of many customs that create suspicion they will before long find themselves in a decided minority not only in Prince Edward

Editor, The College "Times"

FARMING SHOULD NOT BE A LOSING GAME

Sir—It is now four weeks since my last letter on grain growing appeared in your columns. In that letter I made a special appeal to the farmers of the Island to write to the Guardian Forum and state if and to what extent they regarded my figures incorrect when I placed the cost to the average farmer of Prince Edward Island of producing a bushel of oats at one dollar and twenty cents, instead of forty cents, the price at which oats are usually sold in this province or regarded as their value when employed as animal feed. Personally I feel that \$1.20 is below rather than above the actual cost. In my cost figures, which I gave in detail, I accepted those of the local Experimental Farm with the exception of manual and horse labor. Their figures were prepared in 1932, since which time there has been a material increase in all agricultural producing costs, E.G. threshing of all grains was placed at 40¢ per bushel. I am told today by large farmers that the usual cost is around 80¢ per bushel. If my figures are correct, and not a single farmer has taken exception to them, they mean that, instead of earning \$12.00 from an acre of their cleared land (30 bushels at 40¢), our farmers are actually losing \$24 per acre (30 bushels at 80¢, \$24.00). Now, this whole matter of producing on our farms at a profit or loss raises a very serious question. I am no Communist nor advocate of C.O.F. principles, but I believe very strongly that we have an inherent duty to the State, the community as a whole, I believe the time is coming, and

Best Holy Spirit, shield our braves
At sea, on land, in air.
Help us and help us carry on
And whisper low this word:
LOVED CHRIST, STAY NIGH.
Jehovah, King of Heaven and Earth.
Bring victory sure and make
Us brave, when we are weak
This for Thine Own Sweet Sake,
O CHRIST, MOST HIGH.
Just Lord, black war-clouds roll
And grant our leaders grace to pray
To Thee, their faith increase:
AND, CHRIST, RELEASE
The bonds of sin and self and shame
Here on Thy sad "foot-stool"
And then, my all men name Thy Name
And live Thy Golden Rule.
SOON, CHRIST, GIVE PEACE.
S. R. Burnett, F.J.I.
Ottawa, December 17th, 1944.



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