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THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 1928

THE GREATEST DANGER

Speaking before the Canadian Club at Vancouver last week, Hon. R. B. Bennett, leader of the Conservative party in Canada, said that the "greatest danger in Canada is an uninformed and uneducated public, an uninformed democracy."

Everyone will agree with him in this. When a considerable proportion of the people are uninformed on matters of public interest the country is at the mercy of political tricksters, self-seekers and job-hunters. The uninformed can easily be misled and the vote of the uninformed is as effective in establishing or turning down a government as is the vote of the well informed.

In federal matters there are many questions which are of vital concern to all the people. Generally speaking the people are divided not so much by differences of opinion as to the merits or demerits of the question itself, as by party lines. No one can vote intelligently by merely following the lines laid down by his party. The question should be thoroughly understood before casting a ballot either for or against it. There may be some political questions which the ordinary man or woman cannot easily master. In this case, the conscientious voter will seek reliable advice and find out the pros and cons regarding it, and make up his or her own mind. And such advice is easily available. Few are so politically biased that, if asked for advice as to the relative merits of a policy, that they would deliberately mislead a honest enquirer for the sake of securing his or her support.

The franchise imposes a sacred duty upon all citizens and that duty implies an intelligent understanding of the question or questions involved. To vote without such knowledge is unworthy of any citizen and a crime against the country.

Party ties are undoubtedly strong and many who have been party bound for years will find it a disagreeable duty to withdraw their allegiance even for a cause but the honest, conscientious citizen will not hesitate to do it when he is convinced that the best interests of his country are involved. Of course he may be mistaken or misled as many have been by unscrupulous or ignorant leaders and this is why every person worthy of citizenship should do his own thinking, should examine and understand the questions at issue. Thus armed he will not become the prey of designing self-seekers, whose purpose is to advance their own ends without any regard for their country or its future.

Know thyself, know Canada and its needs, know your province and what it needs—but know them, not through party prejudice, but intelligently through their bearing upon the conditions to be affected—and know the men whom your are placing in charge of the country's affairs. With an electorate the majority of whom are well informed upon public questions a country is emphatically safe.

FARMERS' TOURS

That the gentlemen now on tour to Great Britain, Denmark and other countries in Europe, will learn much that will be of value to themselves and to Canadian farmers will not be questioned. Nor will there be any doubt as to the enjoyableness of the tour. Some will probably question the wisdom of sending political farmers, rather than practical farmers on such a tour. Some of the members of the present party are practical farmers, it is true, but their political, rather than their agricultural activities, qualified them for the mission they are engaged in, will not be questioned, but that by the way.

Notes by the Way

The opening of the Supreme Court in this city for first time in the new year is a matter of no inconsiderable interest to citizens who find it convenient to be present, and also to a large number who read the reports published in the newspapers. His Lordship, the Chief Justice, in opening his Address to the Grand Jury, made reference to the fact that there are six bills of indictment presented at this term, this being rather in excess of the number which marked the terms of former years.

It did happen in former years sometimes—more frequently than of late, if we remember rightly—that at the opening of the Court, the Sheriff presented the presiding Judge with a pair of white gloves, thus pleasantly intimating that there were no criminal offences to be tried. In those former years there were more people living in Prince Edward Island than there are today. We can remember also of reading that one or more of our country jails were empty in those former years. And now there are 24 prisoners in the one Queens County jail.

Twenty-four in one jail, 11 for prohibition offences, 3 for drunkenness, 2 for keeping disorderly houses, 3 for theft, 1 for vagrancy, 1 for highway robbery, 1 for assault and 1 for perjury. There is an unpleasant variety in the list, but still it seems worth while at the beginning of the year to take stock of the situation and find out where we are, and whether we are on the upward or the downward slope. We may be sure that in that aspect of our case we are not standing motionless.

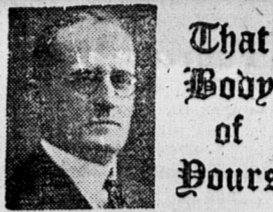
All good citizens would like that our province should keep the place it long held as freest from crime and vice of any in Canada. But in recent years that place has been kept by a steadily narrowing margin. Men still get drunk despite the well-intended prohibitory law. Now half the bootleggers are caught and they get off with first-offence penalties, or with only a penalty that they neither pay nor regard. Why are second and third offences still named in the law, since the words have become quite meaningless? All the time successive Lieutenant Governors have made no scanty use of the pardoning power in prohibition cases.

Many weeds grow in the farmers' fields. What would be thought of the farmer who would spend his time, year in and out, in trying to eradicate one variety only of these noxious plants? There are many crimes and vices abroad in the land beside drunkenness, lying, perjury, theft, robbery, burglary, fraud, and unlawful lust are among these dark and degrading vices, sins and crimes. And yet, is it not true that like the farmer above mentioned our moral reformers have devoted more time and effort to the suppression of intemperance than to all other vices and crimes taken together?

Where is the wisdom, the sense of proportion, the sound judgment that should guide the community in such matters? Must we accept the assumption that there is only one vice in the land that needs to be combated, and along with that the other assumption that there is only one weapon with which the battle must be fought? And that weapon prohibition? Be the answer to any of these questions what it may, conditions in regard to crime and vice in Prince Edward Island, are as they are, and no intelligent, right thinking person can be well satisfied therewith.

The two Canadian five-cent coins have been a nuisance in the land ever since the "nickel" was coined. And it is the more objectionable of the two. Whoever designed it ought to be retired from further activity in that line. The nickel is so near the size of the 25 cent silver coin that it is often mistaken for it and not infrequently is passed in mistake when the light is dim, or fraudulently palmed off on an unsuspecting person as a genuine "quarter." A deputation from the Retail Merchants' Association at Ottawa has asked for the withdrawal of one of the two coins in question. By all means let it be the nickel.

The days have now begun to lengthen a little at both ends, the sun rising earlier in the morning and setting later in the afternoon than it did a week ago. This is a matter of hope and good cheer for many. The sun is coming back northward bringing the glorious springtime in his train.



By James W. Easton, M.D. DESCRIBING YOUR PAIN

As you know a semaphore is a device by which a signal can be given at a distance. Someone had said that pain is Nature's semaphore, and thus you are given a message that there is trouble somewhere in that body of yours. Pain has also been called Nature's protest against something that is going wrong inside you.

Now that the magnitude or the severity of the pain is always a correct indication of the severity of the trouble. For instance an aching tooth can give an almost unbearable pain, whereas severe conditions such as pernicious anaemia, and early cancer, give no indication of their presence from the standpoint of pain.

You can of course understand the difficulty your physician meets, when you describe your pain. He wants to know its exact location. Just when it is most severe, whether motion increases its severity, whether it is dull, sharp, gnawing, boring, cramplike, and so forth.

Now generally speaking the pain occurs where the trouble exists, but a pain can be transferred to some distance from the original trouble, and this is called "referred" pain. And then another difficulty your physician meets is in the manner in which you are able to bear or withstand the pain.

Because there is no question but that while some folks seem to be braver, or seem to be able to withstand pain better than others, nevertheless there is no question either but that some folks are more sensitive, in fact, really feel more pain than others who have the same form of trouble. Thus the Jewish and Italian peoples, are thought to be more sensitive to pain than the German and English.

Further, a person in poor health, who has been subjected to pain for a long time, instead of growing "used" to it, becomes gradually less able to withstand it. Also fright is apt to increase pain.

There is only one point in all this, and that is that pain means trouble, and it is your duty in describing your pain to your doctor, not to exaggerate it, nor on the other hand to make light of it. Making light of a severe pain may lead your doctor astray, and perhaps cause a delay in taking necessary precautions.

Modern Etiquette

By ROBERTA LEE

Q. When "How do you do?" is employed as a formal salutation, what is the correct reply? A. "How do you?" or "Quite well, thank you."

DAILY LESSONS

IN ENGLISH

By W. L. Gordon

WORDS OFTEN MISUSED: Do not say "the enormity of the building surprised me." Say "enormousness." "Enormity" means the state of being extremely wicked.

The Land We Love

By Frank Yelgh

HOUSEHOLD SCRAP BOOK

By ROBERTA LEE

Too Much Salt.

When too much salt has been added to gravy, vegetables, or soup, while cooking, stir a little coarse brown sugar into it and the salty taste will disappear. Or add one tablespoonful of sugar and one of vinegar.

Ironing

If a small quantity of turpentine is added to the pot of starch, it will prevent the iron from sticking to the goods.

Cleaning White Paint.

Dirt can be removed very readily from white paint if water is used in which two or three onions have been boiled.

Daily Selections

FOR Guardian Readers

January 12, 1928

THE ALL SUFFICIENT ONE—Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether.—Psalm 139: 3, 4.

PRAYER—Lord, we commit our way unto Thee. Do thou direct our path.

TEARS

Mid the sunshine of life there are tears, When our skies are the brightest they gleam, Like the dew on the rose in the sunshine, They are part of our heart's tender stream.

For the heart that is tender and loving, In this life soon finds its alloy; For in friendship there are tears that we cherish, In sickness and sorrow and joy.

There are tears for the friends now departed, They cling like the dew on the vine, They somehow relieve like the rain-drops, They ease both our heart and our mind.

There are tears for our own life's failures, There are tears for the darkness and gloom, But they brighten our life at its ending, And help us prepare for the tomb.

Mid the sunshine of life comes a tempest, Relieved when the tear drops appear, So let us be glad of the tear drops, When they're over they bring us good cheer.

Prayers have been offered unceasingly, day and night, before the altar. It was organized and opened in 1909 and was placed in charge of the Sisters known as the Franciscan Missionaries of Marie. Since then the Sisters, robed in white, have always been at their post, and day and night their prayers have been offered up. The Sisters, two by two, take their turn for one hour at a time.

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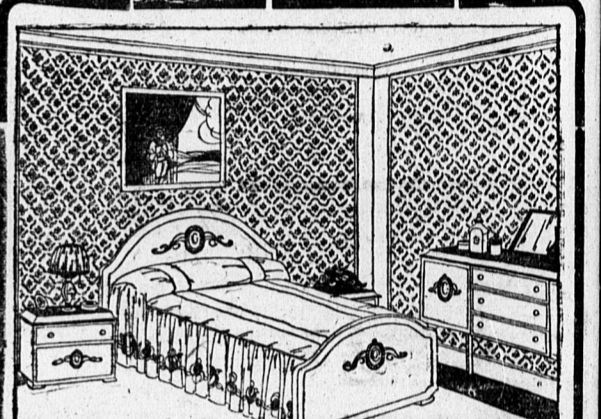
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