Canadian Education Week

(Under the auspices of The Canadian Teachers' Federation)
February 3rd to 9th, 1935

The General Theme: Education: Highways to Life.
General Slogan: Equal Educational Opportunities for all Children.

Daily Themes:

Sunday, February 3rd: The Highway of Character.
Slogan: "An honest man's the noblest work of God."

Monday, February 4th: The Highway of Reading.
Slogan: "Reading maketh a full man."

Tuesday, February 5th: The Highway of Healthful Living.
Slogan: "A sound mind in a sound body."

Wednesday, February 6th: The Highway of the Skills.
Slogan: "Knowledge leads to power."

Thursday, February 7th: The Highway of Arts.
Slogan: "A thing of beauty is a joy forever."

Friday, February 8th: Highway Maintenance.
Slogan: "The Labourer is worthy of his hire."

Saturday, February 9th: Highways, Old and New.
Slogan: "The old order changeth yielding place to new."

PROGRAM

MONDAY, Feb. 4th—Canadian-wide Broadcast, 11.00 p. m. to 11.30 p. m. Speakers: Prime Minister R. B. Bennett, Dr. Tory, President National Research Council; Mr. Woodsworth, Leader Canadian Commonwealth Federation; Miss J. Norris, First Vice-President Canadian Teachers' Federation.

TUESDAY, Feb. 5th—9.00 p. m., Dr. B. C. Keeping from Station C.F.C.Y., Charlottetown.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 6th—7.15 p. m., Mr. C. B. Jelly, from Station C.H.G.S., Summerside.

THURSDAY, Feb. 7th—9.00 p. m., Miss MacMillan, from Station C.F.C.Y., Charlottetown.

FRIDAY, Feb. 8th—Maritime hook-up: N. B., 9.30 p. m. to 9.40 p m., A. S. McFarlane, Chief Superintendent of Education; N. S., 9.40 p. m. to 9.50 p. m., Chief Superintendent of Education: P. E. I., 9.50 p. m. to 10.00 p. m., H. H. Shaw, Chief Superintendent of Education.

Prince Edward Island Teachers' Federation

L-4653-2-2-11

MIDDLETON SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

A splendid concert was rendered by the pupils of Middleton School on Deceber 20th the proceeds going to provide additional books for the school Library. The hall was artistically decorated for the occasion, presenting a very Christmassy appearance. The pupils acquitted themselves in a very capable manner, in many cases displaying unusual talent showing that they had been carefully trained by their teachers Miss Elizabeth McCardle and Miss Helen Buntain.

Mr. W.J. Reid acted as chairman in his usual capable manner and the programme was heartily enjoyed by a capacity audience.

The following is the programme—

Instrumental music was rendered by Mr. Jerome Ranahan in his own inimitable manner.

Chorus—"Santa Claus is Comin' to Town." School.

Welcome—Buddy Craig, George Campbell, Marion Wright, Mae Bradshaw, Shirley MacKenna.

Recitation — "Dolly's Speech, Pauline Wright.

Dialogue—"Strike in Santa Claus Land," Scenes 1 and 2.

Song—"Last Year's Christmas Dolls," Mae and Reta Bradshaw Marion Wright, Ruby MacKenna.

Recitation—"Christmas Turkey" George Campbell.

"Christmas Fun" — Bobby Reid, Buddy Craig, Marion Wright, Eldon Wright, Mae Bradshaw, Russel Smith.

Motion Song—"Christmas Stockings"—Russel, George, Francis Smith, Eldon Wright, Malcom and Everett Bradshaw.

Recitation—"Joke on Pa," Buddy Craig.

Christmas Flag Drill—13 Senior Pupils.

Dialogue — "Dinner for One, Scenes 1, 2, 3.

Recitation — "Christmas Star," Wanda Bradshaw.

Dialogue—"A Slight Misunderstanding", Mary Mulligan and Joseph Campbell.

Closing Exercise—"The Christmas Spirit."

Santa Claus.

National Anthem.

After the programme a real jolly Santa arrived on the scene and distributed from a beautifully decorated tree a treat, donated by the Middleton Women's Institute, to each pupil.. The teachers were also the recipitents of beautiful gifts from the pupils.

Public Health And Education For P.E. Island

An eductational campaign to teach better care of the teeth, teach better habits of living, more reasonable diet, better care of the teeth, and more thorough mouth hygiene and mechanical cleansing is to be carried on during the month of February in Prince Edward Island. This great Health Campaign, possibly the greatest cooperative health measure which has even been undertaken in Prince Edward Island, will give every man, woman and child in the Province the opportunity of learning these very essential facts

It is the Canadian Dental Hygiene Council, a nationwide organization, which is undertaking the campaign in Prince Edward Island, and it has received the most spontaneous assistance from the Departments of Health and Education.

The boys and girls of today are the men and women of tomorrow, and they will be healthier, happier, more efficient to carry on if they have learned early in their lives the proper method of care of their teeth and gums and mouths.—B. C. Keeping M. D., D. P. H. Chief Health Officer.

SCIENTISTS FIND FASTER WAY TO RELIEVE COLDS

1. Take 2 Aspirin Tablets.

2. Drink full glass of water. Repeat treatment in 2 hours.

3. If throat is sore, crush and stir 8 Aspirin Tablets in a third of a glass of water and gargle. This eases the soreness in your throat almost instantly.

Ache and Discomfort Eased Almost Instantly Now

When you have a cold, remember the simple treatment pictured here . . . prescribed by doctors everywhere today as the *quick, safe way.*

Because of *Aspirin's* quick-disintegrating property, Aspirin "takes hold"—*almost instantly.*

Just take *Aspirin* and drink plenty of *water* . . . every 2 to 4 hours the first day—less often afterward . . . If throat is sore, use the *Aspirin* gargle.

But be *sure* you get ASPIRIN. It is made in Canada and all druggists have it. Look for the name Bayer in the form of a cross on every *Aspirin* Tablet. Aspirin is the trade mark of the Bayer Company, Limited.

DOES NOT HARM THE HEART

Twenty-Five Years A King

The Story of a Splendid Era

1910 1935

By The Hon. Mrs. Francis Lascelles

(World Copyright)

THE MAKING OF A KING

It was inevitable that the arrival of a second son to the Prince and Princess of Wales at Marlborough House, London, on the third of June, 1865, should not arouse the same national rejoicings as the coming of the first had done, two years previously. Nevertheless this event caused great satisfaction to the young parents, Queen Victoria, and to all who were anxious that the Succession to the Throne should be adequately secured. From the first, the Prince of Wales made up his mind that his two sons should not endure the strict and unhappy upbringing that he himself had had at the hands of his father, the Prince Consort, and his mother, the Queen.

To attain this ideal, however, the future King Edward VII found that he had a difficult nut to crack, in the determined views and rigid, regal outlook of his mother. The conflict of wills and the great contrast in temperament between Queen Victoria and her eldest son is now a matter of history. The fact was that her marriage to Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha had completely altered the whole character of the Queen. It is being gradually revealed through Memoirs and Letters that she was by no means in her girlhood and young womanhood, the strict, severe woman she afterwards became when a wife. She had inherited much of the gay, "bohemian" spirit of the Regency period and loved dancing and other amusements. It was the Prince Consort who caused her to become "Victorian" in the sense that we now associate with the term. But feelings or thoughts which she suppressed or controlled in herself, the great Queen was unable to avoid transmitting to her eldest son.

King Edward VII, when a young married man, believed in living a full and rounded life, and with his magnetic and beautiful Danish Princess Alexandra he had made his London home a gay and glittering social centre. Marlborough House and its "set" soon began to be obnoxious to the Queen, and it reveals much when it is recorded that the first dinner visit of Her Majesty to her married son's home, did not take place until he celebrated his Silver Wedding—twenty-five years after he had first crossed its threshold with his lovely bride. But if the Queen did not approve of the Prince's life or of most of his friends, she had a genuine liking and admiration for the Princess of Wales, and as a grandmother, the Reigning Sovereign left nothing to be desired. Her two grandsons filled the Queen with pride and delight, and with her usual determination and thoroughness she began making plans at once, for their future. It is said that she even contemplated taking them away from Marlborough House and bringing them up according to the German pattern of her recently deceased and adored husband. To this course, however, her son and his wife were resolutely opposed. The inference that he was not considered a proper father for his sons, enraged the Prince of Wales, although he bore it with the calmness and forbearance that he tried so hard to practise when his mother's real attitude to him was made manifest. From infancy, Prince George, Frederick, Ernest, Albert (to give the present King his baptismal names) received the same loving parental care and attention as did his elder and more important brother, Prince Albert Victor. The nursery at Marlborough House and that at Sandringham House were in advance of the period as regards taste and freedom, and here the future George V and his brother passed some of their happiest days.

At regular intervals they were taken to see their august grandmother and it is a fact that to this day, the King has never lost a certain feeling of awe for Queen Victoria. Kind and gracious as she was, she could not forget she was a Queen as well as a grandmother. She exacted due respect to her rank from her grandsons and was in the habit of putting searching questions to them to find out their general knowledge, and particulars of their home-life. When at the age of six and a half, Prince George and his brother were put under the tutorship of the Rev. John Neale Dalton, then curate of Sandringham, the step did not at first meet with the approval of the Queen. For a curate to be tutor to her important grandsons, hardly seemed fitting, but Mr. Dalton's earnestness and simplicity of manner, soon won her confidence and regard. The memory of his first tutor is a very happy one for the King, and he has never forgotten the man who did so much to mould his childhood and youth.

The Prince of Wales and especially the Princess were insistent that cramming of any kind was never to be indulged in by the two Royal children. Nevertheless, Mr. Dalton succeeded in instilling the foundation of good behaviour and a wide education. He was certainly a little mortified when Prince George, in answer to a question, once told him that Napoleon surrendered himself at the Battle of Trafalgar, but despite this the Royal parents were more than satisfied with their choice of tutor. Subsequent years vindicated their judgment. When Prince George was twelve and Prince Albert Victor fourteen, their father decided to enter them as naval cadets in the "Britannia." Queen Victoria thought the decision rash and ill-considered but her son was adamant on the matter.

"Fresh air and manly society will do them more good than musty books and stuffy rooms," summed up his attitude, based, of course, on his own unhappy youthful experience.

The Princess was not so enthusiastic as her husband to hand over her two boys at such a tender age to the Navy, but it was not long before the "Sea-King's daughter" was won over to the project. All his life, love for his mother has been one of the dominant influences in the life of King George. Despite her many social duties, the lovely Princess Alexandra was a very real mother to her two boys. She romped with them in the nursery and in the gardens and nearly every evening would spend an hour before dinner in telling them fairy tales and other romantic stories.

During a visit to an army hospital during the War, a delirious youth kept calling out, "Why don't you come, Mother?" and with tears in his eyes the King turned to the matron beside him and said:

"As boys or man, that is the cry of our hearts, when in pain or trouble."

On the "Britannia" as a naval cadet, Prince George mixed for the first time with lads from humbler homes than his own and the experience was one that he enjoyed to the full. He was extremely proud of his first uniform and was very gratified when his mother clapped her hands in delight when she first saw him thus attired. Queen Victoria soon became reconciled to the fact of her grandsons being naval cadets, and, characteristically enough, made special enquiries from the officer in charge of the ship, Captain Fairfax, as to their progress and behaviour. Needless to say the replies were always satisfactory, but if the truth must be told, the Princes were not any more "quiet and well-behaved" than any of the other harum-scarum lads on board. Discipline, however, was strictly maintained and vast as the change of environment was to the two boys from Marlborough House, no extra allowance was made for them on that account.

At twelve years of age the King George of today was attached to H.M.S. "Bacchante" which made memorable voyages round the world. To send out his boys at such an early age into the world of men for three years, was a courageous and daring step for a Royal father to take, but not once to his dying day did King Edward VII regret it. If he had any regrets it was in not allowing his eldest son, the Duke of Clarence, to continue his naval career after the "Bacchante's" voyage was over. It may be that the Duke's untimely death in 1892 might never have happened had he "stuck to the sea" as he so fervently wanted to do.

What was denied his elder brother was granted to Prince George and for the next fifteen years he was destined to live mainly on board ships of the Fleet. This period of his life was undoubtedly the happiest time in the King's life. The years of his boyhood and young manhood were spent afloat and it has left a mark which never has been and never can be eradicated.

When His Majesty was serving in the Navy, some local Mayor went aboard the ship and was shown round. He expressed an intense desire for just one word with "His Royal Highness," as he kept putting it. Just as he was about to leave the ship, a cable was being drawn in, and the young Prince was in charge of the job. The Mayor stumbled over the rope and the men had to pause. "I wish you would get out of the damned way," came the polite voice of the Prince, and His Worship stood nearly petrified. The officer who was showing him round the vessel touched him on the arm and said:

"Come away; you have had your wish. His Royal Highness has spoken to you; what more do you want?"

His Majesty has a vivid memory of an incident which once happened in the West Indies when he was attached to H.M.S. "Canada." He was only eighteen and after a little chaff from his two companions he agreed to have his fortune told by a very aged native soothsayer sitting outside of a hut. The old man gripped the Prince by the hand and looked long and earnestly at the smart naval youth in front of him. Then without a word he rose, lifted both hands aloft and brought them slowly down on the top of the Prince's head. The "client" looked bewildered and then he laughed when one of his friends cried out: "He's crowning you King of the Island! You'll have to give him a sovereign now." This was given, but the oracle would not explain his action by one word. One of the observers of the incident was present at the Coronation of King George at Westminster Abbey in 1911, nearly thirty years later and that scene flashed back through his memory, as perhaps it did to that of the King, as the Crown was being placed on his head.

Upon another occasion the Prince was told off to receive a party of notabilities who were coming aboard the ship. The foremost man of the party, knowing a little of the etiquette of the Navy, realized that he should salute the quarter-deck on stepping aboard. He gazed round him for a moment and then said in a whisper to His Royal Highness: "Where is the quarter-deck?"

The young Prince smiled broadly and then said, as grave as a tombstone: "That's all right, sir; so many people are coming aboard that we have moved it."

Although absorbed in his naval career, the King never neglected any opportunity of extending his general knowledge, and when on leave and on holidays at home, he kept in touch with the affairs of the day. As he approached manhood he became a special favorite of Queen Victoria, who saw in her sensible, level-headed sailor-grandson many of the traits of her dead husband. The friction, however, between his father and his grandmother, which, however much it might be concealed from the public, could not escape the notice of those behind the scenes, always distressed the "Sailor Prince."

There was much in the social life of his father that never really appealed to him. His wide travels and contacts with all kinds of men, had made Prince George, young as he was then, a shrewd judge of character, and there were a few members of the Marlborough House "set" for whom he found it hard to hide his dislike. But the gay and cheery temperaments of his parents were always a tonic to him when at home, and the long letters he received from them while at sea were eagerly expected. These, by the way, are still preserved at Sandringham.

Then in 1892 came the sudden and unexpected death of the Duke of Clarence—an event which brought a momentous change into King George's life. It is a fascinating if rather fruitless speculation to wonder what the course of events in Britain would have been, had the Duke of Clarence been spared to ascend the Throne. There were considerable differences of character and temperament between the two brothers, although they were always inseparable "chums," but the Duke undoubtedly resembled his father much more closely than his younger brother. During the Ulster crisis of 1912-1914 a die hard veteran Brigadier-General roundly declared in Mess one night in Ireland that "had the good old Duke of Clarence been on the Throne, there would have been no pandering to Home Rulers and Radicals." With his innate modesty, the King himself firmly believes that his dead brother would have made a more ideal Sovereign than he, himself, has done, and it was this feeling which mainly caused the King to dread his Accession years before it took place. Happily, events have proved how ill-founded His Majesty's doubts of himself were, and the success of his reign is rather striking proof that it is not essential to be heir-presumptive to a crown, to wear it with distinction and grace. A Canadian politician who had a chat with the King, when, as Prince of Wales, he was in Quebec in 1908, asserted that the Royal visitor said to him:

"I never expected to be Prince of Wales, and what is more, I never wanted to be."

Whether this was said or not, it cannot be denied that it was not with nay great enthusiasm that the King entered in 1892 into that wider and more responsible sphere of life which was now his destiny. No time was lost in emphasising his new importance and status. He was created Duke of Cornwall and York, Earl of Inverness and Baron Culloden (titles now held by his own second son) shortly after his brother's death and the following year his marriage to Princess Mary of Teck was made the occasion for widespread national celebrations. The hitherto obscure "Sailor Prince" was now indeed in the limelight, but the fact caused him no great pride or joy. But he understood his father's anxiety to fit his only surviving son to discharge his increasing public duties as a man. King Edward may have had his faults; as a monarch he was not always so sagacious as his admirers would have us believe, but as a father of a future King of Greater Britain, he was wisdom personified.

He treated his sailor son as a man, remembering how he had once resented the pontifical manner of his own parents. The tours of the Duke of York at home after his marriage and later his well-remembered overseas visits, were all planned and instigated by the Prince of Wales so as to familiarize his rather shy son with State ceremony and official procedure. On the death of Queen Victoria and after his own assumption of power, King Edward created his son Prince of Wales, and during the short Edwardian reign of nine years, as his father's deputy, the Heir to the Throne was kept busy indeed.

As the years passed he became more reconciled to his position. King Edward made it his business to introduce his son to all his Ministerial advisers, but at this time the politicians and the deep-voiced sailor had little in common and neither Mr. Balfour nor Mr. Asquith were greatly impressed by the personality of the Prince of Wales of that period.

"He looks at you straight in the face for a long time and says nothing at all," commented one Minister after seeing the Prince at an audience, standing beside his father.

Little did the politicians of that time know that the silent, straight-glancing Heir to the Throne was taking mental stock of them all and storing his conclusions in his memory for future use. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman was almost the only statesman in King Edward's reign who perceived the sterling gifts of the Prince, and this genial Scotsman got on as well with him as he did with his Royal father. In his day Sir Henry had been a victim of the underestimation of his friends and foes—particularly the former, but he surprised them all (as King George was destined to do), when his time came.

It can be safely said that the death of King Edward in May, 1910, at first weighed down the man who was to succeed him. With all his experience and training he did not "feel himself a King" as he put it to a naval friend at the time. But when he did ascend the Throne he found that his knowledge and ability to handle difficult problems, were not so meagre as he imagined. In the early years of his reign His Majesty owed much to two women—his Consort and his mother. Queen Mary in public and in private is a model of refreshing common sense and as an admirer once said, "She soothes your nerves at once by her presence and voice."

In times of strain and anxiety the King always knows where to turn for advice and consolation and he availed himself of this in pre-war days when he was, as it were, finding his feet. Queen Alexandra's love for her only surviving son, and her pride in his success as a King, was patent to all observers. In many anxious moments before the War and during it, a harassed King drove to Marlborough House to see his mother and seek her advice. Before her memory failed her, Queen Alexandra's experience was invaluable to the King in many foreign and domestic problems, and her favorite expression "That is what your dear father would have done" was enough to sway him to her point of view.

The making of a monarch, especially a successful one, is an interesting and instructive study, and the story of King George's rise from comparative obscurity in the Navy to the "fierce light which beats upon a Throne" is an engrossing one. For his first twenty-five years he never dreamed he would ever become a King; for his last twenty-five years he has never ceased to be one, in the best and fullest sense of the term.

(To be continued next Saturday)

HEALTH by Dr. [illegible]

A HEALTH SERVICE OF THE CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES IN CANADA

A common experience of life is to endure the pain and inconvenience caused by a sore throat. All ages and both sexes are apt to suffer. The adult who has been smoking too much or who had neglected the simple rules of healthy living may, under such circumstances, find that his throat is sore. Sore throat may mean inflammation of the tonsils, pharynx or larynx. There is a constant inclination to swallow. In the acute cases, there is some fever, headache and general discomfort.

As adults, we show no hesitation in complaining when our throats are sore, and as adults too we are very likely to forget that young children do not usually complain when their throats are sore. Yet it is the sore throat of a young child which is of real importance, because this may mark the onset of a serious condition.

The sore throats of children are discovered by the doctor who, as a matter of routine, examines the throats of all children who come under the care. Many inflamed throats subside and return to normal without any further trouble. Others are followed by complications as the acute inflammation spreads from throat to ear or bronchial tubes, leading to a chronic inflammation unless properly treated.

The two most important conditions which may follow upon sore throat in children are nephritis and rheumatis fever. Nephritis comes promptly under medical care because it demands attention through the appearance of blood in the urine of the puffiness of the face.

Unfortunately, rheumatic fever, in children, does not usually give rise to the acute joint pains which occur when it is an adult who is attacked by the disease. As a result, cases of rheumatic fever in children are not likely to come under medical care promptly.

The danger which accompanies sore throats is not in proportion to the severity of the throat condition. The mildly-sore throat may mark the beginning of rheumatic fever which is so serious because of the damage done to the heart in many cases.

There is only one safe way to deal with these cases, and that is first of all, to find out the condition of the throat of any child who is unwell. If the throat is inflamed, the child should be isolated and kept in bed until his temperature is normal, and then watched, during the following month, to make certin that there are no complications.

Questions concerning health, addressed to the Canadian Medical Association, 184 College St., Toronto, will be answered personally by letter.

ELEVEN COURSES AT CHINESE DINNER

An Engishwoman living in Siam, writes about a Chinese dinner.

"Before the meal hot scented cloths were handed round, on which the guests wiped their hands. No Plates, knives, or forks were provided. The food was placed in a big dish in the middle of the table, and the guests helped themselves. For soup a china spoon and individual bowl were provided. Meat was taken out of the dish with chop-sticks. The following was the menu:—(1)—Crab meat and potato fritters; (2—shark's fin soup; (3) pigeon soup; (4) duck skin (the skin alone is roasted and eaten with a red sauce between bread); (5) pigeon's eggs stewed with mushrooms; (6) turtle soup with lotus seeds; (7) mushrooms stuffed with fish; (8) baked fish with ginger sauce; (9) rice with dried fish eggs, ginger, &c.; (10) rice custard, with fresh fruit and jelly; (11) China tea in bowls without milk or sugar.

NEWSY NOTES

BY AGRICOLA

NATURE NOTES, JANUARY 1935

On the last day of January, the local time of sunrise was 7 hrs. 24 minutes and sunset was at 17.03 astronomically; which being interpreted is 3 minutes past 5 p.m. The day was thus 9 hrs. 39 min. long, a gain of 59 minutes since the Winter Solstice. (Note that 17.03 is read one-seven-zero-three.) The above data are intended to apply to our region of 46 deg. North Latitude.

In school days one early learns that Longitude has an important bearing on "local" (or sun) time. With extended knowledge comes the fact that the time of rising and setting depends on latitude as well, whilst a third factor is the season of the year. Thus a sun-dial figured for 48 deg. N. Lat. would read 16.58 at sunset on the last day of January, and would differ from our dial till the time of the Equinoxes. At that season there would be a fairly close agreement in time from Lat. 40 to Lat. 60 North. If we wish for Standard (or as we say "town") time, we must add 12 minutes to our "local" data for 46 deg. N.L.

The Department of the Interior publishes a pamphlet on "Standard Time" and Time Zones," and this contains the most reliable calendar of time that I know of.

On the 11th of the month I caught three "white-footed" mice (Peromyscus leucopus) in the pantry. They would not take the cheese bait, but were readily caught by a little rolled oats placed in the "cup" of the trap. There has not appeared a domestic mouse (mus musculus) in the house for two years, its place being taken by the "White-foot", which normally is an outdoor species.

In late summer and fall I often encounter insects which have managed to enter the house, and attracted by the light, are scrambling up and down the window panes. Some of these intruders are doped with fly-spray and put in storage, for examination in the winter. Several wasps were taken this way but on looking them over the other day, there were found to be only two species. One, however, was the new species, Vespa norvegica, proposed by the late F. W. L. Sladen, formerly Dominion Apiarist. The other species was the common "Yellow-jacket," Vespa diabolica of Saussure. Wasps, it may be mentioned, are primarily divided into two great groups: (1) those whose eyes do not extend down to the mandibles; and (2) those with eyes touching or nearly touching the mandibles. The two species named fall into the former group. Vespa diabolica is the more yellow of the two; the yellow band on segment 1 (nearest the waist) is plain, narrow, and interrupted (or broken in the middle), and the other yellow bands are wider, "embayed" with black. Vespa norvegica is more extensively black and all the yellow bands are narrow, not interrupted, and not embayed. The discovery of Norvegica brings the P. E. Island list of wasps up to six species.

During one of the January thaws a species of Caddis-fly (?) was taken in the kitchen but was not identified. Insects often take refuge in the cellar as the cold of autumn increases, and in winter a mild spell brings them up. From this circumstances the naturalist is often fortunate enough to secure material for winter study.

Coming back to astronomical matters, our satellite (the moon) will be new and in perigee on Feb. 3rd: it will also be in the neighborhood of Venus and Saturn on that date. Feb. 16th is full moon, and the satellite will be in the vicinity of Mars from the 18th to the 20th, and nearing Jupiter 21st and 22nd.

DIVERS TONGUES

It is not so long ago that an Australian newspaper offered a prize for a poem, which should be in "English" not to be understood by anybody but an Australian. This, it is said, would not be difficult to write if one used such words as "dinkum" and "wurlies,"—words perhaps originating in the aboriginal dialect.

R. H. Newell, one of the Editors of the New York Sunday Mercury in the long ago, once wrote a poem not only distinctively American, "but of such a character that only America could have produced it." This was achieved by making free use of Indian place-names and the absurd designations sometimes tacked on to mining towns and villages. This literary effort is too long to quote in full; but the imaginary traveller visits

Dog Hollow, in the Green Mount State,
Was his first stopping-place
And then Skunk's Misery displayed
Its sweetness and its grace.

In the long run our tourist is convinced that "home is brightest after all"—

So back he went to Maine, straightway,
A little wife he took;
And now is making nutmegs at
Moosehicmaguntic cook.

(The jape in the penultimate line alludes to the making of wooden nutmegs by means of a lathe; an industry alleged to be peculiar to the Northern U.S.A. at that date.) This poem, however, is a kind of literary tour-de-force rather than an example of divers tongues as was the Australian effort.

This brings me to a consideration of "English as she is spoke" nearer home. I recall the story of a Scottish minister who came to a charge in the Southern part of the Island. On the occasion of his first pastoral round of visits, he called on the Mac Somebodies and was made heartily welcome. So impressed was he with his reception that he talked of it to the next family he called on and finished off by eulogizing the Mac Somebodies as "real homely people." Here was an opportunity not to be neglected and the expression soon found its way to the homely people, who scarcely spoke to the poor man when next he called. Homely, in Scotland, has the meaning of "pleasantly familiar," but on this continent it first came to mean "commonplace," then "ugly." Now that we have degraded the word, we must be content with the puerile "homey."

A mistake of the same kind was made by an Englishwoman who came to live in Halifax. Shortly after her arrival and before she had time to get acquainted with the niceties of the language, she met an acquaintance, "all dolled up" on the street, and began to tease her: "My word," she said, "You do look a toff!" Whereupon the other bawled her out for classing her as a "tough." A toff, of course, is a swell.

A language as vital as the English must necessarily have many accretions and much flexibility: but the printing-press, the radios, and the talkies, not to mention the heritage of classical literature which is the glory of Anglo-Saxondom, will keep us in step, all marching together. Our language will not disintegrate as did that of our predecessors, the Romans.

BIRD NOTES

Only blue-jays come to our feeding-station, but they have a "feast of fat things." In pelting foxes there is a layer of fat to be scraped off the skin: this, boiled down, gives a tallow which (I am told) makes a very white soap. When the melted grease is run off, there is part of the fatty tissue left in the pan, and this is greatly favored by the sprightly jays, who make daily visits to the station.

The riddle of bird migration has puzzled naturalists ever since the days of Gilbert White. Some have supposed that birds fly south in autumn because of a failing food supply. Others tell us that it is because of the increasing cold, or the reduction of the ultra-violet rays.

An instinct inherited from the birds of the Great Ice Age has been imagined to account for the northward flight, whilst some observers consider that the migration to colder regions is to avoid the plague of tropical insects which would infest the nests. All of these suppositions have their weak points. Many birds remain here, having solved the riddle of the food supply and the colds the glacial theory of migration is doubtful, and the nests which I have examined always gave evidence of severe infestation of some insect of the Hippobosca tribe.

A contribution to this disputed question was made by Dr. Rowan in his book "The Riddle of Migration" published in 1931. Professor Rowan experimented with crows and juncos at Edmonton, and came to the conclusion that the immediate stimulus to migration was the varying length of the day. Birds, caged in early winter, were supplied with electric illumination till 1 p.m. each day. In January the reproductive organs of the male birds had attained their full summer size, and when the captives were released they showed no inclination to migrate. Other birds, which had not been specially illuminated, and whose organs were in a dwindled state, were liberated in midwinter, and up to 80 per cent disappeared. Dr. Rowan concluded that "birds usually migrate when their reproductive organs are in a transitional stage, either waning (after breeding) or waxing (before breeding) when the endocrinal or interstitial tissue of the gonads is most abundant or active."

The layman would thus glean that the migratory activity of birds is due to some hormone induced by seasonal changes in the duration of daylight: and a hormone, it is well to remind my readers, is a secretion, poured into the blood-stream by one of the ductless glands, and serving "to hasten or slow the activities of susceptible parts." Not very much is known yet of these "chemical messengers," "stirrers-up" or "trigger-pullers" as Sir Arthur Thomson calls them.

BOMBAY, Feb. 1—(By Canadian Press)—India is getting ambitious in international sport. Not content with inviting an Australian cricket team to tour this country at the end of this year, the Indian Control Board is negotiating for a visit from the South Africans in 1937-38.

E. R. BROW

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