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MONDAY, MAY 14, 1928

FISHERIES COMMISSION.

WHEN a Royal Commission is appointed to enquire into the workings of any business, at a cost of several hundred dollars a day, a finding of some kind must be arrived at, and the public must be given a quid pro quo.

A Royal Commission on the Fisheries of the Maritimes and Quebec was appointed some time ago, and the Commission went promptly to work and have as promptly reported to the Federal Government. Their report is not unanimous. Four of the members recommended that steam trawlers be prohibited from operating in Canadian waters. The chairman submitted a minority report objecting to this. An exchange commenting on the report, says in part:—

Considerations on which the majority base their judgment are that the steam trawlers are foreign-owned and manned; that the products secured through their use are inferior; that in consequence of their use the market is over-supplied; that off-shore fishermen suffer greatly from destruction of their gear on account of the use of trawlers, which, moreover, are said to destroy the feeding grounds, destroy the spawn of cod and haddock and deplete the fisheries by taking immense quantities of immature fish. In the light, therefore, of what the majority regard as the total effect of the trawlers on the general prosperity and contentment of the population of the country where their operations are carried on, and among the workmen "on whose realm they encroach," they declare that "steam trawlers operating from Canadian ports seem to us to have no claim to privilege or tolerance, particularly in the present circumstances in the Maritime Provinces."

The stringency of the recommendation of the majority of the Commission under this head will surely stir up controversy, and before the conclusions on which that recommendation is founded are accepted as conclusive, due consideration needs to be given to the minority report of Mr. Justice MacLean, who not merely dissents from the majority, but he offers certain constructive suggestions. He holds that before trawler fishing is terminated in the manner proposed, reasons for so doing ought to be stronger than any that were stated to the Commission in the course of the inquiry. International regulations governing the operations of trawlers, he believes, might modify some grievances that were alleged. In any event, the chairman is emphatically opposed to proceeding to the definite course advocated by his colleagues, and it is very apparent that his attitude in this respect is not likely to be shaken unless and until a "scientific investigation" can prove that the contention that the Maritime fisheries are becoming depleted through the activities of the trawlers is unanswerable. Responsibility one way or another will of course rest with the Government. It will be for that administration to consider and judge the full significance and bearing of the majority's recommendation. If the trawlers to which objection is taken are foreign-owned, there is a reminder that they are under British register, and if they are prohibited from fishing out of Canadian ports they may still fish off Canadian coasts. Their catches will be taken then into United States ports and thence exported to Montreal and other centres in the Dominion, for it is declared that if the trawlers are turned away, the fishermen who remain will by no means be able to supply the home market.

It is certain that the number of men engaged in the fishing industry in the Maritimes has materially decreased in recent years. That was one of the disquieting features of some of the evidence heard at the Royal Commission inquiry.

THE LETTER AND THE SPIRIT.

ACCORDING to an old Hebrew law, when a stranger entered a city and enquired the direction to a certain locality, the person enquired of was obliged to accompany him a mile if necessary to point out the way. The Jews of the time were very strict in the observance of this law. Anyone refusing such an act of kindness to a stranger was very properly considered an unworthy citizen. There were, in these days as in our own, those who observed the strict letter of the law.

When the legal limit, the prescribed mile, was reached, the guide, in many cases, refused to go any farther. The stranger was no better off than if he had not been guided at all. The guide, however, had fulfilled the letter of the law. He had gone the prescribed mile, and his legal duty was performed.

In all ages the letter of the law, rather than the spirit of it, has been the rule in many lines. It is the old Pharisal spirit which depended upon appearances. The outside of the platter was kept scrupulously clean, but the inside, the part that really mattered would not bear inspection. The outside of the sepulchre, no matter how carefully whitewashed, was full of rottenness.

We have not yet conquered the old Pharisal spirit. We still observe the letter, we still go over the prescribed mile, forgetting that the real observance of the law may lie in the second mile. No credit is due to the man who does his prescribed duty, who stops at the stroke of the clock at the end of the legal working day, leaving the work unfinished. No credit to the man who supports a law in words while he disobeys the spirit of it. A man may save his conscience by securing through others, say through a bootlegger, what he cannot buy without violating the letter of the law.

"The letter killeth; the spirit giveth life," said One of old, and it is as true today as then, and shall always be true. "The letter killeth," killeth the soul whether of the individual or of the nation. Persistent literal obedience, persistent pretence and evasion, undermines the national soul and eventually kills it.

In these days of sumptuary laws, which by undue severity or by their unreasonableness, have antagonized the great majority, this obedience is sapping the moral and spiritual life of the nations which try to enforce them.

Let us not forget that mechanical observance of the law is not observance, but a damning Pharisalism that eventually kills.

Notes by the Way

THE high cost of living is something in which every household-er and boarder is interested. And nobody knows what it is. The Bureau of Statistics at Ottawa has made what at best is a crude estimate of what it costs a family of five week by week for rent, food, fuel, light and some other of the necessities of life. But the cost thus estimated covers but part of the ground, and while the statisticians would have us believe that there has been but little change from year to year and most frequently in a downward direction, the contrary is true.

From year to year some article unknown before or known only as a luxury before have become necessities of life. The telephone and the automobile are examples of this class. A past generation managed to get along without one or the other of these modern inventions, both so popular and so useful as they are known to be. And radio is fast advancing from the luxury class to that of a fancied or real necessity of the household. Some things like postage stamps, cost less for the single stamp, but cost the individual user, the household and the community far more than before. There are many instances of this paradox in which reduced prices have increased the cost of living.

Taxes, whether federal, provincial or civic go on increasing, and of this increase those who estimate the cost of living take no account. The demands of churches, orphanages and charities for money to carry on their all-important services increase from year to year, even where population is being steadily diminished. To the rich this matters but little, but to the poor, or the very considerable middle class dependent upon a small fixed income from salary or investment, it is a matter of vital moment. Year by year as these persons grow older the earning power of the bread-winner, once sufficient, becomes less and he must be cared for by others at increased cost.

The outlook for lower costs of living is not bright. A taste of better streets, sidewalks, and other improvements has increased the demand for more. Governments, small or great, take pleasure in spending public money to enhance their own popularity. Never before were so many vast and costly new projects in contemplation as now by our rulers at Ottawa. A huge Waterway for sea-going ships from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the Great Lakes holds the centre of the stage. Apparently there is no thought of economy or retrenchment. Borrowing and spending with a lavish hand will go on and on. And while that goes on the cost of living will increase.

And as living costs mount up, the Dominion Government unloads year after year more burdens upon the Provinces. It is characteristic of the King Government that it has placed one-half the cost of old age pensions upon the Provincial Governments—a matter of millions. It has also withdrawn the grant in favor of technical education begun by the Union Government some ten years ago. The grant to agricultural education had been withdrawn before. Thus with its right hand our present Liberal Government imposes a crushing burden upon the Provinces, while with its left hand it lops away the previous federal grants for agricultural and industrial education.

The impression prevails in England that the Canadian Government does not want British immigrants. That view of the case has been expressed in the British Parliament and in leading English newspapers. It is based on facts like these:—Australia and New Zealand, three or four times as far away from Britain as Canada is, received 176,000 immigrants under the Empire Settlement Act during the period 1922-27, as compared with 74,000 who came to Canada. Of £18,000,000 voted by the Imperial Parliament for assisted passages, only £3,500,000 has been expended, owing to unwillingness on the part of Governments overseas to accept intending settlers. The question is being asked in England, "If Canada is not able to absorb more British, why is she able to absorb a far greater number of non-British?" And to this question no answer is forthcoming.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

A long step towards Summer has been taken during the past few weeks, and we are now nearly there.

Some remarkable fish have been taken and remarkable fish stories told in the past few days.

Since Jack Miner's visit the birds are being regarded with a more kindly spirit than formerly, and boys and girls and birds are showing a more cordial companionship.

All eyes are now turned towards Toronto when the Dominion championship in youthful oratory is to be decided this week. Whoever wins they are all evidently going to have a good time as Toronto has thrown its social, provincial and municipal doors wide open to the contestants and their friends.

Modern Etiquette

By ROBERTA LEE

Q. On which side of the plate should the knives and the spoons be placed?
A. On the right side.
Q. Is it permissible for a maid to suggest to her mistress a manner in which a task may be simplified?
A. Yes.
Q. What should one possess, who wishes to hold an envied place in society?
A. The art of correct speech and intelligent conversation.

That Body of Yours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

A WEEK'S DISCUSSION ABOUT FOOD

I speak about food very often because you are just what your food makes you.

You are like a machine or a boiler in that the fuel in the boiler makes heat and power, just as food does for you. But as you know the coal in a steam boiler never becomes a part of the steam boiler, whereas your food makes the heat and power just in the same way, but also makes the cells of your body, repairing them as they get broken down by use or work.

And so from the standpoint of living there is really nothing more important than food.

You are not surprised then that in Berlin next year one whole week is to be spent by scientists in studying the matter of food.

There are so many angles to the food question, that only careful thought will give us real valuable information.

Three individuals eat the same kind and amount of food, do the same amount of work, get the same amount of sleep, and one will lose weight, one will gain weight, and the weight of the third will remain stationary.

Change the food stuffs, but give the same amount of work and rest, and even different results will be found.

And so when these scientists get together they will take up each food stuff, and show just what its work will be in the body and how the body will handle it.

Foods will be classified as essential foods, that is foods that the body must have to maintain health and strength.

Then foods that are classed as luxuries, and refreshment beverages, will be shown as to their value or lack of value to the body.

Then ways of preserving and storing food will be discussed, because it is certainly of the utmost importance that food can be stored or preserved for years without loss of food value.

Preserving food from insects, and protection of food from contamination, are likewise vital subjects.

Then the management of the kitchen, the diet for the family, and for the man, the nutrition of mother and child, the diet of the sickroom and economical ways for the family to handle its food supply, all offer much that will call for thought and discussion.

This will not be a one man or a one school convention, but will be made up of research men who are chemists, biologists, physiologists, and anatomists.

And you and I will await the result of this conference because the information should be of great practical value to everybody.

HOUSEHOLD SCRAP BOOK

By ROBERTA LEE

A Nailing Hint

When driving a tack or small nail into a place where it is difficult to hold it with the fingers, thrust it through a little strip of paper and hold the end of the paper while driving.

Nauseous Medicine

If one will chew a piece of orange peel, or take a tiny bit of cayenne pepper before taking any disagreeable medicine, it will render the medicine tasteless or palatable.

The Meat Grinder

When the meat grinder requires oiling, use a drop or two of glycerine. This will prevent any disagreeable taste or smell and will act as a lubricant.

DAILY LESSONS IN ENGLISH

By W. L. Gordon

WORDS OFTEN MISUSED: Avoid the use of "former" and "latter" when possible; they tend to weaken a sentence.

OFTEN MISPRONOUNCED: demotion; e as in "men," not as in "deed," accent after first i.

OFTEN MISPELLED: reticent; c, n, y, s.

SYNONYMS: humiliate, disgrace, dishonor, debase, degrade, shame.

WORD STUDY: "Use a word three times and it is yours." Let us increase our vocabulary by mastering one word each day. Today's word: PERSUASION; having power or tendency to persuade; the state of being persuaded. "I am open to persuasion."

Daily Selections FOR Guardian Readers

May 14, 1928

GOOD BUSINESS—A false balance is abomination to the Lord; but a just weight in his delight.—Prov. 11:1.

PRAYER—Lord, we would acknowledge Thee in all our ways. Do Thou direct our paths.

"WHAT DO WE PLANT?"

What do we plant which we plant the tree?
We plant the ship, which will cross the sea.
We plant the masts, to carry the sails;
We plant the planks to withstand the gales—
The keel, the keelson, the beam, the knees;
We plant the ship when we plant the tree.

What do we plant when we plant the tree?
We plant the houses, for you and me.
We plant the rafters, the shingles, the floors,
We plant the studding, the lath, the doors,
The beams and sidings, all parts that be;
We plant the house when we plant the tree.

What do we plant when we plant the tree?

The Land We Love

By Frank Yelch

The Aluminum Industry in Canada

Q. What is the extent of the aluminum industry in Canada?
A. The output of manufactured aluminum in Canada in 1926 was valued at \$1,917,810 from twelve plants, all located in Ontario. The capital invested is nearly \$4,000,000. Most of the production was in kitchen utensils although aluminum is increasingly used in a wider range of articles. Imports of the raw material amounted to \$4,870,000 while exports of the manufactured articles as well as ingots and bars totalled over \$7,000,000.—Baron Aylmer.

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