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

SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 1947

English in High School

To the Kirkconnell-Woodhouse report on "The Humanities in Canada", referred to in these columns recently, Prof. J. F. Ledy of the University of Saskatchewan, has contributed a significant section upon the place of these studies in secondary education.

He points out the humanities as such—languages, history, etc.—begin at this time and that many students will go no further than high school, and, therefore, it is important that the high school student should receive competent instruction, designed to develop and sustain a continuing interest in the humanities.

So long as the matriculation standard of the university held, at least the secondary grades were exposed to the humanities. Then with the large influx into secondary schools which has marked the past two decades, came many students who could not cope with literary studies, Prof. Ledy quotes: "Some aspects of the humanities are too abstract and difficult to be educative for a substantial section of student population. They are extremely valuable for those who have the intelligence to profit by them, but in their more difficult aspects are not universally applicable to high school students."

Prof. Ledy in discussing this attitude remarks: "The true nature of the attack upon the humanities in the secondary school is thus revealed to be essentially anti-intellectual, an estimate which is confirmed by the growing criticism, among educators of the same school of thought, of pure science and advanced mathematics, in favour of the applied aspects of these subjects," a statement which might be studied especially by those persons apt to burst into nebulous oratory concerning "education for living."

Mr. Ledy gives over a special chapter of his report to English. He shows that within the past few years grave concern has been expressed by educational authorities on this continent, concerning the standard of English among junior college students. So low is it that remedial classes are the order of the day,—even at Harvard University! Our education reformers would do well to note this significant fact, for it is allegedly on the ground that more time is needed for the study of English that the old classical studies are being eliminated.

Merchant Shipping Problem

No sooner does Halifax announce that it has landed a shipbuilding order from Argentina, than the Government, through Reconstruction Minister Howe proclaim that that is to be Federal policy. "The Government feels," said Mr. Howe, "that the time has come to reorganize our peacetime shipping administrative machinery so that it may be better able to assist and encourage our shipping and shipbuilding industries to maintain themselves in a healthy and efficient state. The Government attaches much importance to this objective both from the general economic and the defensive standpoints. There is no question in our minds," the Minister continued, "of trying to support a large merchant navy merely for National prestige. We do feel, though, that a merchant navy adequate to our needs should be retained. It should be one of the duties of the proposed organization to keep those needs constantly under review and advise the Government on the general Canadian merchant shipping and shipbuilding situation. A merchant navy," said Mr. Howe "is basically an industry which, like other industries, has to pay its way if it is to survive. It is, at the same time, a definite part of a nation's defensive armor, and a considerable factor in the nation's economic structure. We are now in the merchant shipping business in a big way and we have a big merchant shipbuilding potential in this country," commented the Minister after giving the House figures to show the size of Canada's Mercantile Marine. When the ships on charter to Britain are returned, Canada will have a tonnage exceeding 1,540,000 gross tons, six times as great as that in 1939. This country today had 17 major well-equipped shipyards employing over 16,000 men and with orders for 122 various ships totalling over 300,000 gross tons.

British Progress in Education

Despite the hard battle for survival which the people of Great Britain are fighting, they appear to be making steady progress educationally. Last April, for example, the statutory school-leaving age was raised from 14 to 15 years. This would have occurred in 1939 under the Education Act, 1936, but the change was postponed on account of the war. Meantime, the Education Act, 1944, has been enacted, and the exemptions allowed by the earlier Act to children over 14 who found "beneficial" employment are not permitted by the 1944 statute. The latter provides, too, for compulsory part-time education up to 18, but this provision cannot be put into operation until the county colleges planned for part-time schooling are available.

In spite of the current shortage of manpower and the loss to employment of a large number of young people, the British Government considered of greater importance the extra year of education which these young people would receive, believing "that the long-range

prosperity of a democracy depends on the education and training of its people." It is estimated that the raising of the age will entail an increase by September, 1948, of some 350,000 more school children than in 1946. But because of the fall in the birthrate in the 30's, the schools will have fewer children than before the war. Moreover, on September 1 next, when the first of the extra children begin to attend school, there will be only about 130,000 of them; the rest will start school on September 1, 1948.

The Ministry of Education budget provides for large grants to local education authorities, more money for free milk and meals at school, higher expenditure on the school building program and the training of teachers, and bigger grants for students going from school to university. Under the teachers' emergency training scheme, designed for men and women who have at least one year of national service, over 10,000 students are now attending intensive teacher training courses. In addition there are 14,600 in the regular colleges training primary teachers. After leaving the emergency training colleges the students spend two years on the job before they are fully qualified as teachers. It has been announced that the Ministry of Education will spend at least £24,000,000 on its building program this year.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Germans made the fatal mistake of invading U. S. S. R. tomorrow's date 1941.

Congratulations are in order for Miss Phyllis M. Aitken of this city who has been awarded an entrance scholarship by Dalhousie University.

Washington denies that it is taking over the airport at Gander which will remain in possession of Newfoundland Commission Government. It is intended raising landing fees as it is now operating at a loss.

It will be noted that at Montreal fur sales, "selected full silvers" were 70 per cent sold at an average of \$18.52. That is the kind of stock we should produce and develop, being sure of a market where quality and taste count.

So Premier Jones is so satisfied with the agricultural future of the Province that, on a recent journey abroad he took the trouble to wire home "to acquire additional land for the growing of feed for his prize herd." That is the sort of optimism that pays dollar dividends.

To coin a phrase "this is it." We had become hardened to the idea of atomic bombs, radio-active clouds and bacterial bombs, but now on top of it all comes a report from Cambridge, Mass., that the ultimate in horror has been produced. The general idea is to have aircraft emit supersonic waves which would upset the nervous systems of the whole population!

General Sir Claude John Eyre Auchinleck, G.C.B., G.C.I.E., C.S.I., D.S.O., O.B.E., born this date 1888; had extensive service in the East as well as being the expert member on the Committee on Indian Defence; from his General Headquarters at Delhi in India, he skillfully directed military affairs in the East, both during the war and in the critical period of transition in India, in 1945; President Truman awarded him the Legion of Merit.

They come to Canada now as they used to go to Britain. Mr. Walter P. McDonald, Plant Investigation Officer of the Victorian Department of Agriculture, is coming on a six months' tour of Canada and the United States. He will study methods of growing tobacco and the elimination of disease and pests. Tobacco has been grown in many parts of Australia for 100 years. The average annual production of usable leaf over the war years was £4,728,000 (\$15,318,720). The annual consumption is approximately £24,700,000 (\$80,028,000).

Prof. Lothar Richter suggested in Halifax Thursday that Maritime industry might be rehabilitated by means of "trading estates," according to a C. P. report. Dr. Richter, who is head of Dalhousie University's Institute of Public Affairs, is an outstanding authority in his field, and his suggestion that such development companies, creating complete industrial areas, a balance of plant space for complementary industries and all necessary facilities, and offering locations to individual manufacturers on a rental basis, is well worth serious consideration.

The funeral takes place this afternoon of Mr. J. Harry Williams, one of the best citizens of Charlottetown ever had, quiet, unobtrusive, eternally diligent, and meeting the world and its difficulties with a smile. His sudden "passing" comes as a shock but had he had the choice it is probably the way he would have preferred, from here to There, without any undue trouble to any one, in the twinkling of an eye, and in the midst of a pastime to which he had devoted a great part of his life, in the chapel of the Knights of Pythias. Mr. Williams will be greatly missed by a large section of the community who will extend their sympathy to the suddenly bereaved wife and family.

How generous the Federal Government is in providing accommodation for a non-existent staff. Mr. A. J. Brooks, Royal, N. B., was informed in reply to a question that the opening of an Income Tax Office at Campbellton, N.B., had been deferred because of the difficulty of getting a trained staff. Space had been rented from a Mrs. Rosenhek at \$875 a month from date of occupation. An estimated \$35,000 in repairs and alterations would be necessary and would be payable by Government. In view of the delay in opening an Income Tax Office, "the renting of the place for other purposes is under consideration," the department of Public Works

Notes By the Way

Inexperienced investors who daily about the curb are likely to find themselves in the street. — Kitchen Record.

We are incurably old-fashioned, and we cannot help shuddering at the thought of the ten "best made-up" women, remembering the day when a woman suspected of "painting" was considered almost a social outcast. — Windsor Star.

They call them litterbugs in New York City and last year the Newham magistrates collected \$107,000 from 47,000 litterbugs. In case you don't know what a litterbug is, he—or she—is a person who drops discarded newspapers, cartons, candy wrappers, or other debris, on the streets. It might be a bad idea to have some such law here. It would tend to keep our streets cleaner. — Niagara Fall Review.

An honorary degree, doctor of science, usually bestowed only on professional scientists, will be awarded to an amateur by Bowling Green State University at the university's commencement, says Science Service. The amateur is Leslie Comus Pellier, an amateur astronomer who has discovered 10 comets. The amateur has been hunting comets and observing the stars for more than a quarter of a century. Pellier's degree will be his first, as he did not attend college.

The more democratic a government is, the more its policies reflect the temper of its citizens. A democratic people with a well-developed national sense of humor would not be likely to ask for anger in their government's firmness. Most of us are blessed with some sense of humor. If only all of us could get in this happy sense upon world affairs and fix it there, it might even be that we could warm, by a few degrees, the atmosphere of international politics. — Calgary Albertan.

The idea that all or most business men are racketeers, greedy and selfish, is false as it is repugnant, an ugly caricature of the class nature which make a horror of Europe. What may be, though, is that some business men don't understand the full implications of the attack being made on free enterprise, and consequently are showing little wisdom in efforts to preserve it. It might be well for some of them to look at the lives of some of the world's great men who are living in. — Ottawa Journal.

Under conditions as they exist in the world today retention of the War Measures Act is necessary despite the fact that under its authority any government may take steps completely in defiance of the rights of the person which we as a British people cherish. Nevertheless, it is a sorry commentary on the mind and spirit of the present day that suspicion and fear are so rife in the world that even the sanest of men is willing to forego his liberties in order to achieve some degree of protection against the predatory actions of his neighbors. — London Free Press.

A committee of trained experts at Berea pooled their minds to explain why crows swim in a circle, reports The Louisville Courier-Journal. Country crows find their perch on tree limbs, hillsides, corn stalks and other slanted objects. This causes them to put more than one-half of their gross weight on their legs on the down side. This results in over-development of the down leg. It becomes stouter than the other leg. When a crow is swimming, therefore, the stronger of the two legs is utilized with more vigor, causing the crow to swim in a circle. To prevent refutation of this hypothesis, the committee determined whether the crow will swim clockwise or counterclockwise by observing which direction the crow faces when he alights.

Texas courts have held that a motorist who is blinded by the headlights of an approaching car while driving at night, and who hits something while so blinded, is guilty of negligence. The case which produced this ruling arose after a motorist, travelling at forty miles an hour, crashed into a parked truck which he was unable to see because approaching headlights had blinded him. He was killed, his heirs sued the truck owner, and the defendant replied that the driver had failed to exercise proper care. This contention, the court upheld, and its ruling is worth nothing. A driver, it held, must anticipate the presence of objects in his path. If a head light blinds him, it is up to him to slow down or stop until he regains his vision. If he does not do so, and hits something, it is his fault. — Guelph Mercury.

Vittorio Mussolini, son of Benito, newly arrived immigrant living in the Argentine, says he is "just another Italian immigrant. I never had much interest in politics. I have less now, and you can be sure that I have no intention of mixing in Argentine politics. I am broke and have to earn a living." He is not, however, "just another Italian immigrant." It was Vittorio, husky, arrogant son of the Duke who he visited Hollywood in 1937, when he boasted indignantly of his feats as a flying officer in the war in Ethiopia. He had dropped bombs on the undefended villages of the subjects of Haile Selassie, and he recalled with relish with an artistic and aesthetic picture in red, orange and brown a bursting bomb made against the Ethiopian scene. Even Hollywood was sickened by this callous bragado and Vittorio was given the cold shoulder the remainder of his tour. — London Free Press.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

A SPINSTER REPLIES

Sir,—In a recent issue of the Guardian a gentleman who signed himself "Islander at Heart", wrote a letter on Bachelors vs. Spinster and asked, to come to Boston to look the market over. Being a spinster and on behalf of my friends I say this: Stay at home and save your fare. If those so-called old maids wanted to live on a farm on P.E.I. they would have stayed there in the first place. No woman who has lived in the U. S. for fifteen or twenty years would care to go back to the old homestead even if she is not in her own kitchen. And as for girls coming to the U. S. to marry a rich man, everyone knows that rich American men do not marry domestics. But they are a fine lot of women just the same and the man who does marry them does not have to turn to bicarbonate of soda for relief, and as for the patter of little feet in rural school districts, the whole truth is, pay the teacher a living wage and you will find many young men and women happy to stay at the profession. I am, Sir, etc.

ISLANDER IN BOSTON.

FINANCING A HIGH SCHOOL

Sir,—While recently discussing our educational problems with a resident of our City he exclaimed: "I cannot get in this city a High School diploma for my son!" That statement should lead the contemplative to view with alarm the present serious situation which I have described in a previous letter.

How can this project of High School building be financed? First, may I emphasize (and some of the speakers at the Legion meeting please note) that if any of our citizens think that this government, or any succeeding government, is going to present us with such a building then these people are due for a disappointment—and why should all this be expected?

Summerside, and they know what co-operation means up there, built a fine school building which today houses both the Public School and the Academy, and which structure was made possible by the flotation of a bond issue at 6 1/2 per cent interest, and the fact that the city had not have this been called. Can we do such as this?

If the Provincial Government can be persuaded to make a considerable donation, and I believe they should, to a modern building, all well and good, but the whole burden of this project should not be borne by the real estate tax payer. I would suggest that the financing should take the form of an educational tax so that every householder, every head of a family, in fact, every wage earner within the area served by this School should have a part in this very worthy cause.

For instance, why should a man on a good salary while sending his school and high school six children expect the property owner to finance such an institution while he, himself, does not choose to own property?

Again, should the erection of a memorial to those, our heroes, who made the supreme sacrifice in the war be contemplated, I believe that it should not take the usual form of a marble slab, a fitting memorial would be an assembly hall, a library, a gymnasium, or even a swimming pool which could be paid for by public subscription and would serve as a nucleus to this necessary enterprise. How would such a name sound—the Memorial Assembly Hall, or the Memorial Library? In fact, the building might then be well named—The Charlottetown Memorial High School.

Eminent Church Leader

(Moncton Transcript) The Maritime Conference of the United Church of Canada is indeed fortunate in its selection of Rev. W.A. MacQuarrie, of Souris, Prince Edward Island, as president. As a successor to Rev. J.H. Freestone, of Moncton, the new president follows an exceptionally able Christian leader who has enriched the Conference with his counsel and leadership during his tenure of office. But the new president is eminently well qualified by training and Christian experience, to discharge the duties that go with this high and important office.

Mr. MacQuarrie is a graduate of Pine Hill Divinity Hall and Dalhousie University. He has served in several parishes in the Maritime Provinces, and his friends and admirers are not confined to the United Church denomination. People of all religious faiths who have had the privilege of knowing him will congratulate him on his election and will congratulate the Conference on its excellent choice.

Probably never before in history has the need been greater for clear and vigorous Christian leadership. The challenge that confronts the Church has never been greater. Injustices, sorrows, and troubles of life seem to be more pronounced, requiring the wisdom and courage of strong Christian leaders to give guidance and help in such matters. In the new president the Maritime Conference has a leader possessed with those qualities necessary in advancing the cause of Christianity.

Under the capable direction of Mr. Freestone the Maritime Conference during the past year. It was fitting that the Conference should express its gratitude to Mr. Freestone for his outstanding work, able leadership and Christian guidance, sentiments which will be shared by all who are familiar with his work.

King Potato

(St. John Telegraph-Journal) Directors of the Maritime Winter Fair, which is held annually at Amherst, have just decided that a Potato Day will be a feature of the next show. Championships will be offered for New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, and there will be a grand championship for the three provinces.

We are glad to note this appropriate, if belated, recognition of the potato, which is the principal crop of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island and holds the same place in the agriculture of the prairies. There are areas in these Atlantic provinces where farmers talk about the different varieties — Green Mountains, Kathmandu, Bliss Triumphs, Irish Cobblers and the like — in the same tones of reverence rose fanciers use when they speak of American Beauties, Talsmans, Better Times and Ophelias.

And, come to think of it, potatoes are far more important than roses, and much more difficult to do without. The world's 2,500,000,000 people grow and eat more potatoes than grain. The extent to which some countries depend on them was dramatically and tragically shown by the Irish famine in the 1840's caused by a blight which struck the potato fields. The potato failure was largely responsible for the great wave of emigration which, in a few years, cut the population of Ireland in half.

Potatoes are the basic food of Belgium, Germany, Poland, and to a lesser extent, Holland, France, and the Scandinavian nations. Here in Canada, nothing bothered housewives more than the brief periods during the war when the potato bins were empty.

The universal dependence on potatoes is a funny, too, because their popularity, as history goes, is of comparatively recent date. They grew originally in Chile and Peru. Heronimus Gardan, a monk who accompanied the conquistadors to South America, took potato seedlings back to Spain with him in 1553, according to some historians. At Offenburg, Germany, there is a

issue for a period of, at least, twenty years which could be floated for less than one half of the Summerside rate. Friends and neighbors, let us get together, all for one—one for all, build a place of learning that will be a monument to our endeavors, a temple to our fallen, a Composite High School for Charlottetown that will prompt our children and our children's children to renew our children in the real sense of the words: "They builded better than they knew."

statue to "St. Francis Drake, introducer of the potato in 1580." Sir Walter Raleigh planted potatoes on his Irish estate in 1583 and is probably better known for that than for his other accomplishments.

Yet the potato was slow in catching the fancy of Europeans. As late as 1688 few were cultivated in England and the Royal Society issued a proclamation that potatoes were healthful, filling, tasty and should be grown in greater quantities. Seventeenth century members of the Royal Society would be amazed at the volume of potatoes the world now consumes—317,381,223,000 pounds in the last year for which figures are available.

Over accustomed ways the birds return. Dofying miles and tempests in their flight; Instinctively they know (we will not learn) That they are in safe keeping day and night. They rest their weakness on a Tender Power. Although their wings are tiny He is Their King where Spring is waiting, and some hour— Some golden hour we waken to their song: And if we listen with that inner ear, When on some happy day the birds rejoice, There may be more than melody to hear. Or melody that merges in a voice Speaking all gentle and reproachfully. "Learn of the birds who will not learn of Me."

Old Charlottetown (And P.E.I.) INDIANS & LENNOX ISLAND In the year 1888, the chief of the Micmac tribe presented a petition to the Governor of Prince Edward Island, praying for a grant of land to his tribe, which he represented as consisting of five hundred souls. This number seems to have been exaggerated; for the Governor, in writing to Lord Glenelg, in reply to an application for information, states that the number of Indians on the Island did not exceed two hundred. The Governor recommended a grant of Lennox Island — the property of Mr. David Stewart—to the tribe.

This island of about 1,600 acres at the mouth of Richmond Bay, so far as is known had always been Indian headquarters, although a secondary resort was at Morell on the southerly side of St. Peter's Bay. Before the time of steamers to Prince of Wales, they came across in their birch bark canoes from Cape Tormentine to Cape Traverse; up the coast of Bedque Bay, going a short distance up Wilmot Creek, then carrying their canoes across the narrow neck of land, only a mile or two in width; passing through Traveller's Rest and on to Raynor's Creek, and when over the waters of Richmond Bay to Indian Island, as the Island of Lennox has often been called.

Apparently it was not until 1870 that the island was purchased by the Aborigines Protection Society of London, England, for about £240 sterling, and given in trust to Judge Young of the Probate Court, the Indian Superintendent.

Until within comparatively few years the chieftain of the Micmacs was hereditary in the Francis family, an intelligent, strong-willed people, but under the Dominion law the office is now elective, the term being three years, and any one of the blood, if chosen, can rise to the position.

It is said that a tribe of Indians kinred to the Micmacs — the Abenaki — also visited Prince Edward Island in early days. They belonged to the great Algonquin nation which roamed over the northeast part of the continent. Like the Micmacs, their path in making excursions across Northumberland Strait would be from Cape Tormentine to Cape Traverse. The great probability is that although the distance is about eight miles it was much narrower in very early days — possibly there was a connection once — and this part having become the usual crossing was no doubt traditional.

TAKE LONG DRINKS

Water is necessary to enable every living creature to breathe and digest its food.

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