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WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 1929

THE EDUCATION COMMISSION

The appointment of an education commission by the Provincial Government is in accordance with a promise made to the Teachers Federation when the members of that body were on the point of quitting their duties as teachers because of insufficient salaries. The assurance was given to them at that time that an independent commission would be appointed to look into the whole educational question. Though somewhat belated—the teachers were given to understand that the commission would be appointed by the first of the present month—the first step towards implementing the promise has been taken, and the matter now rests with the commission to see that a thorough investigation is made of all the problems connected with our educational system. The commissioners are men of standing in the community, and should perform a work of value to the province under the able chairmanship of Dr. Cyrus J. Macmillan. The difficulty of continuing the small rural schools, the question of centralization, of grading, of curricula and not least, of adequate remuneration in the best interests of efficiency and service, will doubtless be given very serious consideration. The sittings of the commission, and the report which it is hoped will be filed by the middle of September, will be looked forward to with much interest by the Province generally.

POTATO PROSPECTS

Recent reports, both from Canada and the United States, indicate that the acreage under potatoes this year is considerably less than last year, while there are indications of a distinct falling off in the yield per acre. Prophecies with respect to market prices are always uncertain, but in the circumstances there are good prospects for the marketing of Prince Edward Island potatoes this year. The Guardian understands that certain dealers are already around, offering the farmers 70 cents a bushel. Caution should be exercised in closing with any offers of this kind. The price, we believe, will be considerably better than this. In any case, the farmer may as safely take the risk as the dealer. If the dealer is prepared to lose money at seventy cents a bushel, the farmer can equally afford to do so. In view of the fact that the acreage in potatoes this year is about one third less than last year, the demand already being made for certified stock warrants the assumption that the price will well repay the farmer for his labor. At the same time, the decision of our growers and shippers to have compulsory inspection of all stock shipped will have a distinct tendency to enhance the price of table stock; and it naturally follows, if the price of table stock goes up, the price of seed stock will go up with it. The farmer is a free agent in this matter, and will doubtless act according to what he considers his best interests, but from present indications he would be well advised not to make any hard and fast contract with any dealer. The most he should do, we believe, would be to contract for a minimum price of seventy cents, and any maximum he considers the stock is likely to reach. An article in yesterday's Guardian, clipped from the Toronto Globe, notes a decline in the Ontario crop this year, and states further that "the average price for the 1928 crop was not more than thirty-five cents per bag, compared with around eighty cents for Prince Edward Island stock." There is no reason why

Island potatoes should not fetch top prices this year as well in the Ontario market, and there is every reason to believe that with the assistance of the Maritime Trade Commission the Central Canadian market will be considerably increased.

LIBERAL PROTESTS

Influential Liberal journals which must respect public opinion if they would retain their standing in their constituencies apparently realize that the King Government must do something worth while if it would save the party from inglorious defeat in the next election. The Montreal Herald is perhaps the most outspoken of the Liberal newspapers, and is, no doubt, representative of public opinion in the province which gives the King Government its entire majority in Parliament. Quoting from the official figures as given in a Government return, the Montreal Liberal paper says:—

"For the eight months ended May, 1921, Canada's exports of farm produce to the United States were valued at \$147,450,713. Immediately after that date the United States put up the duties on Canadian farm products and have kept on increasing them. Here is the result—for the eight months ending May this year, our exports of farm products to the United States amounted to \$38,485,868.

"This represents a drop of \$108,964,847—in eight years! Now Congress has before it a bill to shut out the remainder and make the United States a closed market to Canadian farm products.

"Meanwhile Canada continues to provide the United States with the best foreign market of all the countries with which the Republic does business. For the 12 months ended April last we imported from the United States dutiable goods to the value of \$336,064,577, and \$30,420. This represented an increase of \$120,188,530 as compared with our imports from the United States in the previous 12 months.

"When is the worm going to turn?"

CONSTANT PRESSURE

One reason why we buy largely from the United States and sparingly from Britain, says the Vancouver Province, is that we are constantly having the merits of American goods forced upon our attention. American magazines circulate among us in their millions, and shout at us in large type and colors of this and that and the other American manufactured product. And if we throw down the magazine and turn on the radio, it is no better. A dulcet voice from San Francisco tells of the superlative qualities of somebody's something or other and promises, if we listen, that presently he will sugar-coat his bill with a bit of jazz or a grand opera selection. We may think we are not influenced. But some day we shall want to purchase a certain article and shall find that while we know nothing of several of the brands available, we have been hearing and reading about another for weeks. It seems like an old friend and we buy.

A BRITISH COMMENT

The opinion of the British people on Sir Esmé Howard's proposal to enforce prohibition in the British embassy at Washington is thus summed up in G. K. Chesterton's Weekly: "His action is objectionable for a number of minor reasons, as, for example, that it signifies his partisanship in a domestic political dispute; but chiefly for this; that it has never hitherto been the practice of His Majesty's representatives to adopt the barbarian customs of the countries to which they have been accredited. Even in those days when cannibalism was publicly practised in several parts of the world, stewed baby was always strictly excluded from the menu of the British legation."

Notes By The Way

Mergers and combines of large corporations are being made throughout the United States and Canada on an unprecedented scale. Banks, railways, hydro-electric companies, building companies, pulp, paper and lumber companies, chain stores, and many other lines of corporate activity are getting together and uniting their forces. Recently a merger of hydro-electric corporations was announced by J. P. Morgan and Company of New York with a capital of \$650,000,000.

There are not a few persons who look upon this movement with alarm and who are asking, What will the end be? In sensing this feeling of alarm, Governor Roosevelt of New York State has asked the Attorney General to investigate and report "whether any provisions of the law, in letter or in spirit are being violated."

Much critical discussion is going on in the press of New York and elsewhere in regard to the effect these huge mergers have upon the public utilities of the country and the people whom they serve. The New York Times speaks of the alignment of the public utilities of the nation in three great groups, that of J. P. Morgan & Co. in the East, a like group in the Middle West and the third on the Pacific coast. Billions of capital are involved, sufficient to overshadow all forms of industry or business in the country and to challenge the Government itself. Present conditions are in large part the result of the concentration in a single country of an enormous mass of the surplus gold and wealth of the world. And the almighty dollar never before had so many eager and strenuous worshippers. That is not altogether hopeful symptom.

Ramsay MacDonald, before he even hoped to become Prime Minister, wrote and published in the Sunday Times of London a sensational article which is now giving himself, his Government and party no end of trouble. In the article referred to he dealt with the subject of racial minorities and kindred topics boldly, and expressed extreme views. It appears that the article was written months before it was printed, and was printed months before it created anything approaching the angry sensation which the writer's elevation to the Premiership has given it.

The reverberations have become loud and long and have powerfully disturbed France, Italy, Germany and other nations on the continent. Paris journals of wide circulation and influence now denounce the writer and his doctrines. One of them exclaims, "National minorities!"

"They comprise the biggest nest of international frauds ever invented. They are the most dangerous torpedo of the imagination of the Versailles negotiators could manufacture for the purpose of blowing up European peace."

The scandal is being spoken of and discussed in the British and U. S. papers as "Ramsay MacDonald's Bad Break," the Prime Minister's indiscretion, and so on. His reputation as a diplomat and a statesman have been tarnished.

Abundance of good home-grown oats, we repeat, coupled with the large importation of Quaker oats and other breakfast foods made from oats enforces the lesson that somebody should establish a plant for producing good oatmeal on this Island, and stop the importation. We do still produce starch from potatoes and why not oatmeal from our oats, as an earlier generation did?

The Mother Country's troubles are many these days and call for the sympathy and help of the more prosperous outlying Dominions. We but half realize the crushing burden of debt, taxation and unemployment which have long distressed the Old Land. To these are now added new labor troubles, a very serious drought and water shortage along with a prolonged heatwave that are quite unusual over there.

Prince Edward Island potatoes command a premium in Toronto and the Canadian West, as they do also in other lands outside the Dominion. This is something for our farmers to be proud of, and every effort should be made by way of careful selection and inspection, to preserve and perpetuate our present reputation for shipping only potatoes of high quality.

The Education Commission just now appointed contain some good men who have a fairly difficult task assigned to them. It need not have been composed exclusively of Liberals, as there are many of other political complexions in the numerous school districts and teachers who may feel that they are not represented on the Commission in a manner quite to their liking.



That Body of Yours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

DEVELOPING ARCHES OF THE FEET

I often wonder if folks with flat painful feet ever think what is happening to their whole body—physically and mentally—as they pound along.

Nature provided a wonderful springy arch in the foot which was meant to take the "jar" off the whole body.

When this arch loses its spring, and the foot goes flat on the ground then the whole weight of the body is allowed to reach or strike the ground. The jar from this goes right up the legs and spinal column to the brain.

Nature has put cushions between the bones of the spinal column which lessen the jar somewhat, but nothing can take the place of a good springy well arched foot.

One of the disappointing things you see every day is the individual, quite young, who has adopted arch supports and seems quite satisfied to use them the rest of his life.

Now there are times when it may be necessary to wear arch supports for awhile. You have been sick, or perhaps of a good weight, and need support for your feet if you are to get about at all.

But flat feet can be avoided or corrected in the majority of cases if you are willing to devote ten to twenty minutes of your time daily for that purpose.

The simplest method is to walk across the room on the outside edges of the feet with the toes turned inward.

This forms the foot almost into the shape of a claw, and the more arched and claw like you can get your foot the more you are developing the muscles that hold up the arch.

Walking across the room this way, say six times night and morning, is necessary.

Trying to pick up a ball or other object with the foot also develops the arch.

Walking across the room this way, Major von Gruber a German medical officer has invented a device where the patient is required to walk up and down a sort of staircase which makes it necessary to walk on outside edges of his feet, and to grip or claw the little wooden steps in order to hold on.

If your arches are right down and rigid, then a properly fitted arch support is necessary.

Don't wear arch supports until you have tried to develop an arch. If you fail to develop it, then you are justified in wearing arch supports.

THE LAND WE LOVE

BY FRANK YEIGH

THE MICMAC INDIANS

Q. Who are the Micmac Indians? A. The Micmac Indians are one of the many Algonquin tribes of red men whose habitat was, and still is, in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, where a few survive in reserves under Government Control. The French called them "Souriquois." Cabot records having visited them in 1497, and Corte-Real in 1501. They were for many years bitterly hostile to the British following the conquest. Only a comparatively few survive, some of the places named in the Maritime Provinces are attributed to them.



PUSSY WILLOWS

At winter's end to you might happen. As down you turned by a windy lane. To catch a sight of the first spring-willow.

The pussy willow, the flowering willow.

Spring's first child, the laughing willow.

She's dressed in silver, she drinks the rain.

Sea green flowers, with gold dust showered.

She hath, and lone in the woods stands she.

She alone by the dark curved thorn wood.

Shining she by the slender red-wood. Only she in a spray of silver.

Shines like stars and laughs like the sea.

She'd draw your heart with her light, glad beauty.

She'd move your heart with a joy like pain.

To thank high Heaven for the flowering willow.

Community Welfare

(Paper read at recent annual meeting of Women's Institutes by Mr. W. R. Shaw).

Community improvement in its various details has been under consideration since the days when men first gathered together in groups and founded the first principles of co-operation to more effectively protect and maintain human life. Down through the years leadership has been exercised and improvement has been made until we would imagine that with the experiences of the past to guide us, and customs and laws established for the betterment of mankind, the citizens of today would have fully solved the question of Community Welfare, and life would have reached almost to the idealistic stage. An analysis of conditions, however, reveals the fact that a greater measure of thought, care and labor is necessary under present day conditions, to make our communities healthy, attractive, wholesome and appealing than was required in the yesterdays of time. The increasing complexities of the age in which one lives, the changing condition demands a radical remodelling of standards, a closer study of human emotions and desires, a keener appreciation of the wishes of youth, a broader outlook, a higher intellectual atmosphere that moulds the thought of our people into grooves that inspire and morally strengthen, and the building up of such a home life and home community society, that will offset the distractions of the day, and the outside attractions of the night, and create an appeal to the loyalty and love of all its citizens.

One of the sages has said that "there is no wealth but life, and that country is the richest that has the largest number of happy human beings." Our effort then should be to develop the largest number of happy human beings in our rural communities, which means that our efforts should be well balanced, and be concerned with more than merely arranging for light entertainment. Our program should be social, educational and economic. Community improvement requires a high idealism, a spirit of public service, and a sincere effort at cooperation, a cooperation that is based on service and not upon the principle of pecuniary benefit. The dividends to the individual in the latter come in the form of cheques, in the former in the shape of a more beautiful character for the patron who serves. The human product going out from a Community, reflects that Community's moral and business standards the character and work of its citizens and the quality of its homes. It is very necessary our community training be such that our human exportation and visitors abroad command recognition through their one hundred per cent qualities.

Community life in the preceding generation was superior in many respects to that of today. The spirit of cooperation was more in evidence, the home life was probably more wholesome, social intercourse was more pronounced possibly the flowing bowl, developed convivially, but at any rate the work of the day was made less exacting by an active expression of neighbourliness, and the resting hours were whiled away alongside the comfortable hearth fire among friends. The possibilities for literary and educational advancement were limited, but nevertheless information on public affairs was broad and general, and the old days produced men and women who in moral rectitude and intellectual distinction compare favorably with those of today. The possibilities of the time were developed to the full. Books were scarce, but those available were good, and thoroughly digested, while the practice of debate not only in public, but at the fireside, gave an outstanding facility in public speaking, and in the accumulation of facts. In many respects the people of today could with great advantage copy the standards of those of the preceding generation.

The establishment of the moving picture houses, the Theatre, the dance hall, and various other forms of amusement in the urban centers, the development of the motor car and the ease with which old and young may move from one place to another, the change in methods of marketing, the doing away with home manufacture, the buying through mail order houses, the establishment of cash trade, the breaking away from the local store, have all combined to disrupt what was formerly more or less of a snug little intact, social, and business community proposition.

A complete change in Community Life has occurred, new conditions arising willow. The silver willow, the laughing willow, Who saith and singeth, the blissful willow, "Life returneth from Death again."

—F. L. D. Bidwell.

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