

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than
the Weakest Ink.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1947

He Spoke For All Of Them

While the Provincial Treasurer, Mr. Hughes, is getting the brunt of the criticism for retaining the special health tax as ordinary revenue, it should be remembered that this is a matter of Government policy and that every member of the Jones administration must accept his own share of responsibility.

Hon. Dr. MacMillan complained that the Government had collected \$60,000 and had spent only \$10,000 on extra milk tuberculosis treatment.

Hon. Mr. Hughes: "We don't recognize that the tax was collected specifically for that purpose."

Dr. MacMillan: "You are not dealing fairly with those helpless creatures." He cited the case of a man in Charlottetown with a family of eight children, who was receiving \$30 or \$35 a month.

Dr. MacMillan: "Only 14 families with other occasions, and my hon. friend always makes the same reply. I claim that you are not dealing fairly with these people."

Hon. Mr. Barbour: "We only have about 14 families with children that we pay to in the whole Province, and about 68 single families."

Dr. MacMillan: "Only 14 families with children and you can't give them enough to keep body and soul together. I would not like to say that new officials are being hired at the expense of these tuberculosis victims, but when you deprive these people of the chance of living decently, and inadvertently create more tuberculosis which this Province has to look after, I say it is very poor policy."

Mr. R. Bell cited cases similar to the one mentioned by Dr. MacMillan, and suggested "that if the Minister sees fit to exceed this \$16,000 estimate, and make it \$30,000, there will be no criticism."

Hon. Mr. Stewart: "I am a member of that committee and we have some very pitiful cases." He believed they should be given as much as possible.

Dr. MacMillan: "How is it that you never exceed the estimate?"

Mr. Stewart: "We will exceed it this time."
Mr. Bell: "We have a tobacco tax and a liquor tax. We know that the liquor tax is going to be enhanced a hundred-fold. I would ask that the Minister consider this matter. When this tax was imposed the idea was to spend it on health, not to put it into general revenue."

Hon. Mr. Hughes: "I cannot agree with that."
Dr. MacMillan: "Take the money that comes in on your tobacco tax and use it on extra mural treatment."

Mr. Hughes: "I cannot agree to earmark it for any particular service."
That seems to have exhausted the subject in the opinion of Government members, for they said nothing more.

British Agriculture Bill

The British Labor Government's policy on agriculture, reviewed in a recent official publication, includes the following controls which will be of interest to Canadian farmers:

(a) The prices and other market factors of wheat, barley, oats, rye, potatoes, and sugar beets are fixed in the year before these crops are to be harvested.

(b) The prices and other factors affecting fat stock, milk, and eggs are announced for a period of one year and also minimum prices and other conditions, including quantities, for a further period of two years.

applied earlier in cases where an owner or occupier has failed to comply with a direction from the Agricultural Committee. In the case of an owner the land would be purchased compulsorily. An owner-occupier might be required to let his land to an approved tenant.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Discovery of potash in Southern Saskatchewan it is said will "revolutionize" Canadian agriculture, which hitherto has imported \$4,000,000 worth annually of an average cost of \$40 for fertilization purposes.

Councillor Rowe told Barking (Essex) Food Committee that a friend who asked for seven pounds of potatoes got four pounds of potatoes and three pounds of mud. Perhaps next time he will get full weight of clean Island spuds.

Labor Minister Mitchell disclosed in a return tabled that the Government paid approximately \$125,000 to transport 2,876 Poles from Halifax to distribution centres in each province. Transportation from Italy to Halifax was paid for by the British Government.

St. Matthias, the disciple selected by the casting of lots for appointment to the apostleship in succession to Judas. Some critics identify him with Nathaniel, a qualification for election was association with the apostles from the baptism of John till the Ascension.

So British Columbia also benefits considerably from Government aided grain freight rates. Agriculture Minister Gardiner, in a return tabled, said the Government has paid more than \$1,700,000 annually for the last three years for freight assistance on feed grains used in British Columbia, viz., \$1,428,211 in 1943, \$1,714,965 in 1944, \$1,750,192 in 1945, and \$1,859,725 in 1946.

Thomas Bowdler, M.D., English literateur and philanthropist, died this date 1825; he enjoyed a private fortune and devoted himself to literature, becoming famous as the editor of The Family Shakespeare in ten volumes published in 1818, in which all words and expressions were omitted which might offend the prudish sense.

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"When long ago as an excited schoolboy I was once taken by an elderly relative into the public gallery of the British House of Commons (writes A. J. Cummings), what puzzled me greatly was the easy, almost conversational, tone of the debate then in progress; the calm and friendly atmosphere in that dimly lighted chamber. I had rejoiced in the mental picture of a seething mass of angry Conservative and Liberal politicians, glaring at one another across the floor of the House, shouting bitter epithets of denunciation, one side not on speaking terms with the other. To my disappointment it was not a bit like that; and my disillusionment was complete when I saw Joseph Chamberlain, at that time in his old age, leave his seat on the Front Bench and walk over and sit down for a quiet chat with a Liberal Member who had just been making a mild personal attack on him."

When shall we bury them? asks Peterborough Post. "The Toronto Globe and Mail says that there are 89,000 'old-fashioned' wooden poles sticking up out of the streets of the provincial capital; the Hydro owns 50,000 of them, the Bell Telephone Company owns 23,000 and the Toronto street railway owns 7,000. During the past 25 years another 25,000 poles have been removed, and the wires put underground, by the Telephone Company. The Hydro says that it would cost a great deal of money to bury their wires. Nevertheless, they will have to be buried sometime, not only in Toronto, but in Peterborough and other Ontario cities. The poles themselves are ugly, and the web of wires which they carry is ugly, and the fact that the poles can never be quite straight make them unsightly, like a parade of drunken Calisthumpians lurching down the principal thoroughfares. It will be a long time before all wiring is carried underground in conduits, but that day is coming. It would be as well to remember that fact whenever our town planning makes it possible to bury some wires while doing other necessary work."

Saskatchewan holdings of Canadian Utilities Limited, exclusive of the unit at Lloydminster, have been purchased by the Saskatchewan Power Commission at a price of \$3,600,000. The purchase means with the exception of a private company and a few isolated units, the "electric power system of Saskatchewan is now under public ownership." Previously, the provincial government purchased the Prairie Power Company for \$1,462,000, and the common stock of the Dominion Electric Power Ltd., for \$420,000. The purchase means an additional 419 miles of transmission and 217 miles of distribution lines for the Saskatchewan Power Commission and includes 21-oil and three steam generating units, with a total of 11,147 new consumers in 38 new electric unit communities. Operating revenue of Canadian Utilities holdings in 1945 was \$956,497. Systems at Indian Head, Yorkton, and Prince Albert are included in the purchase, as well as generating plants at Wilkie, Kerrobert, Kindersley and Rosetown, and their transmission lines "general rate structure on electrical energy as an indirect method of tax adjustment." "Serious study is being given to granting of monies in lieu of taxes, however," Mr. Phelps stated. "It is anticipated that whatever provision is made will be retroactive to January 1, 1947."

Old Sam Gompers, America's great labor leader, once said that "the worst crime against a people is a company which fails to operate at a profit. His verdict still stands as blue-ribboned as the day it was pronounced. He was not a capitalist, but a man who believed in the rightness of the profit motive. He was not a socialist, but a man who believed in the rightness of the profit motive. He was not a socialist, but a man who believed in the rightness of the profit motive."

The Commons is a home of feeble oratory. There are far too many men in it who cannot properly be said to be heard in any much more commodious than a telephone booth. They have all spent money on election costs to enable them to go to Ottawa, but they will not spend \$50 on a few election lessons to enable them to be heard when they get there. Why should the nation provide them with a costly gadget to amplify their speeches? We are not expected to supply them with wooden legs or false teeth; why should we give them a false voice? —Peterborough Examiner.

Italians who cheered wildly as their armies rumbled Franco in the back now tear and trample the American flag in Rome because they don't like the Italian peace treaty, which the United States helped to bring. Apparently defeat is not always chastening. —Fort William Times-Journal.

The planting of new trees in Britain's forests and woodlands had to be reduced during the "forest year" ended September, 1946, to the lowest figure since 1921. This fact is disclosed in the annual report of the Forestry Commission, just published. Despite considerable stocks of nursery plants grown in anticipation of post-war planting, only 6,810 acres were sown or planted with new trees.

Notes By The Way

In America in danger of becoming Maginot-minded? Reliance on her possession of the atomic bomb is one form of Maginot-mindedness. General Eisenhower pointed out the other day, Economic isolationism is another form of the same thing, seeking to hide behind high tariff walls from the economic pressures of less fortunate countries. —Christian Science Monitor.

An extremely unpleasant feature of the displacement of the steam locomotive in recent years by Diesel and electric is the whistles which the newer types are equipped. They give forth sounds such as never were on sea or land unless made by some prehistoric god-earth-shaking internal disorder. Heard at close quarters, they fairly lift off the top of one's head, and distant tends to them not the slightest enhancement. The old-style steam locomotive whistle, on the other hand, except in its more excited moments, was a friendly sort of greeting. Its long-drawn-out salute heard in the night, when one was in a train, in farm-house miles away from a railroad, was profoundly reassuring. And new it is gratifying to know that at least one railroad has seen the error of its ways. The Baltimore & Ohio's new steam locomotive whistle of the Robert E. Lee or the whistle of the Priscilla of the late lamented Fall River Line. We are quite willing to settle for the return of the good old-fashioned locomotive whistle, and the sooner the better.

Tourists in Scotland are no longer to have palm oil on their tawdry "Scottish" souvenirs mass-produced in other countries. That is one of the objects of a national competition organized by the Scottish Tourist Board, in association with the Scottish Committee of the Council of Industrial Design, which aims at developing a prosperous souvenir industry. It will encourage Scottish productive skill and protect it against cheap-jack exploitation. —Edinburgh Scotsman.

The plan of Lord Forrester to spring surplus hydroelectric power from Sweden and Norway to British industrial centres by undersea power cables is much more than an engineering project. It is a social project. It will create a few similar proposals for linking European power, fuel resources, and transport into technological unities we find the most hopeful prospect that Europe may live better and peace without war. —Chicago Daily News.

A conservative dresser wants to know what paint remover to use on Christmas trees. —Edmonton Journal.

An Afton, Iowa, woman called to Slico life insurance agent to buy a policy. She is 96 years of age, which is the lifetime according to insurance mortality tables. Insurance experts say that of 100,000 persons at the age of 10 years, three will be alive at the age of 95 and none at 96. Mrs. George Hart of Afton has now passed her 96th birthday and is one of a million who outlive the mortality table limit. Longevity seems to run in the feminine side of Mrs. Hart's family as her maternal grandmother lived to be 94. Her two sons and one daughter, all now aged 75, 73 and 73 and have celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. —Vancouver News.

The cause of continuing ice poppily needs all the attention it can get. The question should be studied here with a view to action by commercial and trade organizations. The value of United States exports to the U.S. is \$1,000,000,000. The U.S. exports to the U.S. are \$1,000,000,000. The U.S. exports to the U.S. are \$1,000,000,000. The U.S. exports to the U.S. are \$1,000,000,000.

Because attendance has increased many fold in high schools during the past thirty years, the type of high school study has necessarily changed. The causes for these changes are fairly obvious. In British Columbia the abolition of formal entrance examinations based upon the academic ability of pupils has removed an obstacle to the admission of weaker students academically.

This tremendous influx of pupils into our high schools has created problems arising from varying ranges that did not exist thirty years ago. This condition has become more marked by a growing tendency to promote pupils from grade to grade, not only by the criterion of intellectual capacity, but from increasing sentimentality which refuses to deny to any pupil the opportunities of attending school in an environment made up of other children of his own age, interests and maturity because of his inability in the elementary school to achieve certain standards. Consequently, for maximum effectiveness, provision must be made to meet the situation that is presented by wide variations in ability found among pupils grouped together in the same grade for instructional purposes.

While theoretically, perhaps, students should proceed at that rate of which they are individually capable without regard to the limitations of other students, such theory must be conditioned by practical considerations. Such considerations not only preclude the formation of a large number of ability groups, even in large schools, but require

2719 in Scotland—against 9,206 acres the previous year. Shortage of manpower was indicated as the chief reason for the limitation of operations. —Edinburgh Scotsman.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

TUBERCULOSIS PROBLEMS

Sir,—For great public service in bringing to the attention of the general public, urgent problems concerning tuberculosis, there is much commendation due and being extended to Hon. Dr. W. J. P. MacMillan, Mr. R. R. MacQuinn, correspondents of letters to the press, and to you for editorial support.

In common with a large majority of our citizens, I wish to add my support, but all factors have been so capably and completely discussed and published that there is little, if any, that anxious supporters can add, except to suggest that, before the coming session of the legislature, a public meeting be called where citizens can gather and make a united demand for action upon their Government.

Interested individuals are agreed that the Executive of the T. B. League should give leadership by calling such a meeting. I am, Sir, etc.

ANOTHER CITIZEN.

Composite High School In Victoria B.C.

(Following is the text of an address by Prof. H. L. Smith, M.A., principal of Victoria High School, Victoria, B.C. Mr. Smith is a former Prince Edward Islander, a brother of Mrs. K. S. Rogers, Charlottetown, and has been prominent for some years in educational circles in Western Canada. He was an outstanding athlete as well as student in his younger days, when he played on the Abegweit team.)

Since many of the changes under discussion at this conference have already been introduced into the high schools of British Columbia, it is my intention to make some attempt to evaluate the results already achieved, especially since 1935, when a revised program of studies was adopted by the Department of Education for the secondary schools of that Province. Many of the observations which I shall make have been related to my experience as principal of Victoria High School, Victoria, British Columbia, a composite school of some twelve hundred students, offering Academic, Commercial and Technical options—Grades IX to XII—four-year course leading to High School Graduation, either with or without University Entrance.

The special topic which I wish to emphasize is the means by which content and method can be differentiated to meet the individual differences which exist among pupils of such a wide range of ability and interests as comprise the student body of a modern high school. In my opinion, these results have best been achieved in a composite high school rather than in specialized schools, for various reasons which will be apparent as I proceed.

Perhaps our educational institution of our national life occupies so pre-eminent a position as that of the modern High School. In recent years its importance has been further enhanced by a necessary change of its range. From an institution under university domination it has developed its individuality until its comprehensive curriculum now offers a wide range of subjects to meet the immediate community demand.

The State, moreover, has come to realize its obligation to all its future citizens in the matter of education, not merely to the fortunate few who are accepted intellectually. Unreluctantly superintendents and principals will now accept as criteria for attendance the ability of the student to profit by the high school course as a socializing agency.

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While theoretically, perhaps, students should proceed at that rate of which they are individually capable without regard to the limitations of other students, such theory must be conditioned by practical considerations. Such considerations not only preclude the formation of a large number of ability groups, even in large schools, but require

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Old Charlottetown (And P.E.I.) BEARS AND WILDCATS

From the Debates and Proceedings of the House of Assembly, March 28, 1874: A petition from Richard Kelly, James Kilbride, William Adams and others, inhabitants of townships Nos. 10, 11 and 12, was presented to the House by Mr. Richards, and the same was received and read, praying for the renewal of the Act to establish a reward for the destruction of Bears and Loup-cerviers.

Hon. Mr. Yeo said that it was a well-known fact that, in the remote parts of the country, wild-cats were numerous and very destructive to the smaller domestic animals. The Indians had been induced by the reward offered by the Government to destroy great numbers of them; but as the Bill providing for that reward had expired, there would no longer be any inducement to the Micmacs to kill them. Half a dozen of them were sometimes seen at a time, and they frequently made great ravages among flocks of sheep, which caused a very serious loss to farmers in newly settled parts of the country.

Hon. Mr. McEachern was of opinion that a reward should be provided for the destruction of bears, as they were very destructive at times, although not now so numerous. In his District wild-cats were not very numerous, but those parts of the country where they were very troublesome should be protected from their ravages, and the best way to do this would be to offer a reward for their destruction. Very few persons went out to shoot bears and loup-cerviers for amusement.

Hon. Mr. Haviland said that in order to carry out the principle of the petition, a direct money grant was required, and all measures requiring such a grant should, according to the 25th rule of the House, emanate from the Government.

Mr. Speaker declined putting the question, owing to its conflicting with the standing rules.

for maximum efficiency not more than three ranges of ability levels. Among factors that contribute to this restriction are the following: The mechanical difficulties of the time-table; and The necessity to provide a diversified grouping, or for group electives required for certain courses—e.g., University Entrance.

Although there are objections to the present system, still, on the whole, when all considerations are duly weighed, experience has provided it to be a desirable method of grouping students. Two, or at most three, criteria will be adequate for the purpose of distributing pupils according to ability levels. When all is said and done, probably the best of these will be the estimate of the student's ability to do the work as expressed by his previous record of scholarship.

Intelligence quotients or mental age ratings should be used as modifiers, or, in the case of retarded pupils, should probably be given even more consideration than in the case of normal pupils. The unit system of instruction is in use. Homogeneous grouping can be employed with even greater success because of the adaptability of unit systems to the enrichment of subject matter and provision for remedial work for retarded pupils.

Nowadays, ninety-five per cent of the Grade VIII pupils proceed to high school, and ninety per cent far longer than formerly. Perhaps the most cogent reason for this high percentage as applied to our own local conditions is the fact that the present programme of studies provides a wide range of subjects to meet the immediate community demand.

The following comparative curriculum has been prepared for the Victoria High School organization sheet for 1945-46: Grade IX—463; Grade X—418; Grade XI—283; Grade XII—176.

The work can be done by careful administrators and counselors to reduce mortality in the student population, particularly in the earlier grades of high school attendance. Of prime importance are the selection of curriculum and assignments to teachers who are fitted by nature to deal generously and in a humane manner with pupils of mediocre and inferior ability.

The bright student needs very special consideration. In the first place he should receive instruction from a teacher of his own range of mentally. Boys and girls with unusual mathematical ability, for example, frequently never get the joy from the subject of mathematics to which they are entitled, because the instruction given, though excellent for the mediocre student, fails to stimulate their imagination by virtue of constant repetition and over-meticulous elaboration of the obvious. This situation can be corrected only by the careful differentiation of our students according to their general ability ranges.

In addition to the enrichment of the units as already suggested, the British Columbia programme of studies has made special provision for the gifted student by providing in the four-year high school course Senior Matriculation options carrying university credit in the special sciences, after he has completed the three years of general science required as a prerequisite. An opportunity is also afforded

gifted students, even though they are what might be termed academically-minded, to enrich their courses with Industrial Arts and Commercial options, practical subjects which will be invaluable to them in life. The vice versa is also true. In the same way the slow student requires, perhaps, even more guidance and training than does the bright one. The materials and methods used must be adapted to his capacity. The instructor must care more for the student than he does for his own comfort or his teaching record.

Modern methods and revised curriculum have done much, particularly for the slow student. The withdrawal of competitive examinations has removed an obstacle to progress, since instructors can now devote their time to the best interests of the students, whereas, formerly, often their teaching reputation depended on their ability to pass such students by a process of cramming. With ability grouping, materials can be selected and method adapted to the needs of varying groups.

With the approval of the Department of Education, the Victoria High School has in recent years been privileged to offer to slow-learning students certain modified courses to meet their special needs. In providing for these courses the greatest care has been exercised in putting the teacher to the student. As a consequence the results achieved have been most gratifying. For example we have Home Economics and Science. I wish to make special mention of a Science course offered last year to some twenty students, which, for want of a better name, we called Biology (X). This class was placed in charge of our teacher of Biology, from whom few instructors anywhere have greater capabilities to stimulate and inspire his students. This course which was adapted to their needs was an unqualified success.

Similarly, practical mathematics was offered as a substitute for general mathematics; and other courses, already mentioned, modified and adapted to the requirements of slow-learning pupils.

(Continued on Page 5)



BAB-LOCK-HYTHE

In the time of wild roses As up Thames we travelled Where 'mid winter-hoods ravelled The lily unclosed.

To his old shores the river A new song was singing And young shoots were springing On old roots for ever.

Dog-daisies were dancing And flags flamed in cluster, On the dark stream a lustre, Now blurred and now glancing.

A tall reed down-weighting The sedge-warbler fluttered; One sweet note he uttered, Then left it soft-swaying.

By the bank's sandy hollow My dipt cars went beating, And young shoots were springing, On old roots for ever.

High woods, heron-haunted, Rose, changed, as we rounded Old hills, and meadows, To meadows enchanted.

A dream ever moulder, A fresh for our wonder, Still opening asunder, For the stream many-folded; 'Till sunset was pinking The West with pale flushes; Behind the hills, a lurid, The last light was dimming;

And the lonely stream, hiding Shy birds, grow more lonely, And with us was only The noise of our gliding.

In cloud of gray weathered The evening o'er darkened, In the stillness we were joined; Our hearts sang together. —Laurence Binyon.

Canada Should Pay Debt To Britain

(John Atkins in "The Scene") Canada still owes Great Britain an incalculable debt on war account. Our recognition of our responsibility to share Britain's losses has been niggardly and unworthy of a nation committed to doing its share in world rehabilitation. Instead of Great Britain being in debt to us, because we refused to bear our share of war losses, we should meet a greater part of our obligation.

The fate of Canada and the United States to pay Britain a fair share of the total war losses, thus enabling world trade to resume in time to avert much suffering, has driven Britain to a susterly drive severe for people who needed, above all else, a surcease from deprivation. The inescapable residue of totalitarianism of war must linger too long in many ways in Britain for the good of a people who cherish individual freedom. Socialism may be a necessary form of government for a condition of austerity but it cannot produce the abundance necessary to restore trade abroad and prosperity at home. The British Government appears to realize this. It is refraining from socializing the secondary export industries upon which it must place its greater reliance for recovery.

The cheapest way for Canada and the United States to make their contribution to world recovery is to recognize the loan to Britain for what it is in equity, a debt to Britain, and wipe it off, thus enabling Britain to wipe out the existing war debts which are hampering her trade and ours.

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