

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1954

The Late Senator Jones

The sudden passing of Senator J. Walter Jones at Ottawa yesterday came as a shock to all our citizens, and will be received throughout Canada with more than ordinary regret.

A man of warm personal feelings as well as convictions, his human side was perhaps what the public appreciated most. He had been called "our unpredictable Premier" because he could usually be depended upon to speak his mind, sometimes humorously, more often bluntly, but always to the point.

Those who were intimate with Mr. Jones were in a better position than others to measure the full stature of the man, his dynamic energy and conscientiousness. Widely travelled, broadly educated, he was also first and foremost a native son of this Province, intensely devoted to its soil and to its interests at home and abroad.

Prince Edward Island has suffered a great loss in the death of Senator Jones, but it is naturally in his home where this loss will be felt most grievously.

Coffee For Votes

There are more ways than one to win nomination as a political candidate. At least that is what a man down in New Jersey believes and he is going to do his best to prove it.

The plan may work or it may not; but, certainly, nominations have been secured in the past by less tangible gifts. Should the gentleman be nominated as a result of his generosity he will still have to face the final election which will mean more and

more coffee and more and more cake; for, once altruism is set in motion, there is no limit to the demand made upon it.

Joint Urban Services

The point was made at the Charlottetown branch of the Community Planning Association that providing water, sewerage and other services for the Charlottetown area is a job for a combined authority rather than the three separate municipalities.

The problem of overall planning of services remains, however, and tailing a unification of the area into a single municipality some other solution must be sought. There might well be a series of joint boards or committees representing the three municipalities and charged with supplying a particular service to the whole area.

It would still be necessary to come to an equitable and practical financial arrangement. That might be done by charging the joint authority a fair price for installations already owned by the several municipal authorities. No new money need be found for the purpose because the agreed price could immediately be advanced to the joint authority in the form of a loan by the municipality.

Youthful Ambassadors

At Saint-Germain-en-Laye, France, 400 children from kindergarten to seventh grade are receiving practical instruction in international relations as well as the usual instruction that goes with a school curriculum. The school, the only one of its kind in the world, is for the families of soldiers, sailors, airmen, and diplomatic officials, who are stationed at the Supreme Headquarters, Allied Power, Europe, commonly known as SHAPE.

All in all this experiment should help in building up and promoting a friendly atmosphere among people of various nationalities, something which is very necessary these days. These youngsters from 12 nations, which are knit together for common defence and security, may actually be called ambassadors. In the class-room and on the playground they will have much to teach their elders about the necessity for mutual tolerance and forbearance.

EDITORIAL NOTES

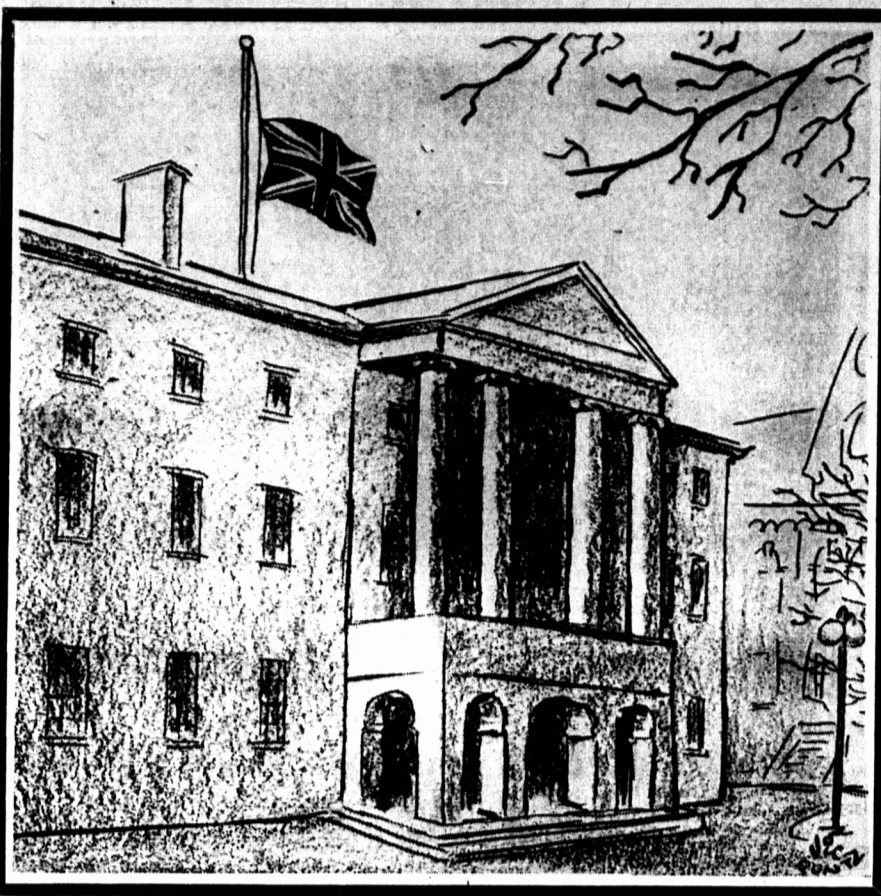
All Fools' Day.

Considerable light has been cast on the educational situation in the Province as a result of the work of the select committee of the House. Such an enquiry serves, amongst other things, to enable members and others to learn the facts, always a useful contribution to any discussion.

The third annual P. E. I. Fat Stock Show and Sale is being held today. These sales are a great convenience to both buyers and sellers, enabling buyers to pick up just what they want without a lot of inconvenience and giving the seller the opportunity of displaying his stock to prospective buyers.

Blackwood's Magazine was first published in Edinburgh this date 1817. It at once became one of the great literary and political influences of the times. William Blackwood, the publisher, had served his apprenticeship to the bookselling business in that city and settled there after experience in Glasgow and London.

An Island Champion Passes



PUBLIC FORUM

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

ONE-ROOM SCHOOLS

Sir.—Dr. MacKinnon in his Presentation on Education (Guardian March 25) disagrees with those who criticize the one-room country school. "If it has a good teacher it can and does do a great work and it can do just as well by its pupils as the fancy big city school."

I do not know the average enrolment of the one-room school. I know of one with 11 pupils, one with 30 and one with 15. There may be some smaller, some larger, but no doubt the average is about 25 or less. These schools may have all the grades from 1 to X inclusive. They may have pupils who range from an intelligence quotient of 75 to an I.Q. of 110 or higher. (The 75's can be very time-consuming). School assemblies at 9:30 and dismissals at 3:30. There is one hour for lunch and two an hour recess period for recess. The teaching time is two hundred eighty minutes or four hours and forty minutes.

Here are the examination subjects of Grade X—English Literature, Grammar and Composition, Canadian History, British History, Geography, French, Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Science, and Hygiene. Duplicate that for Grade IX. Drop French, Algebra, Geometry and add Spelling for Grade VIII. Duplicate VIII for Grades VII, VI, V. As well there are Grades IV, III, II, and last but certainly not least, Grade I.

Table with columns: Grades, Subjects, Approximate number to be taught each day. Rows include X, IX, VIII, VII, VI, V, IV, III, II, I.

Divide 280 minutes among 51 lessons, 5 1/2 minutes for each lesson. Who can teach anything in 5 1/2 minutes?

The city school with one grade to a room can give 30 to 45 minutes to a lesson. Can a lesson be taught in 5 1/2 minutes as it can be taught in 30 to 45 minutes?

I don't suppose anyone actually goes try to teach anything in 5 1/2 minutes. But since there are only 5 1/2 minutes for a certain lesson, minutes must be borrowed from something else. Grade I and Grade X seem to get priority. The Grade I group knows nothing and must have a foundation laid. The Grade X group is expected to know everything for Entrance Examinations. "And in between on the misty flats the rest drift to and fro".

It is quite possible that Dr. MacKinnon has found students in P.W.C. who have come from one-room schools. These are, for the most part, pupils with a high I.Q. They had teachers who spent a great many extra-time periods with them. For every one who gets to P.W.C. there are hundreds who drop out with an "honorary degree" of VII or VIII and an actual education of about Grade V or less. With a little more time put on them they might have a fair education. The child of similar intelligence and environment in the city school surely must have a better chance.

It would be interesting to check the I.Q. of the one-room pupils entering P.W.C. with those from the city schools. I think the average for the one-room product would be so much higher that there would be pretty fair proof that it is not because they came from the one-room school but in

WHITHER AGRICULTURE?

Sir.—The most outstanding feature arising from the series of agricultural meetings held in this City during recent weeks, was probably, an address delivered by the Deputy Minister of Agriculture before the Agricultural Council of Prince Edward Island and subsequently reproduced in the Guardian of February 27. Although details covered only the first and last year of a forty year period, presumably the intention was that it should indicate the general trend of the intervening years. The report is copious and evidently entailed much effort in assembling the information given, but the fact that production values were omitted, hinders fairer comparisons and makes deductions more difficult.

The story is a depressing one and will in no way tend to encourage boys to remain on the farm or adopt farming as a vocation. The failure in agricultural promotion effort is all the more striking when one recalls that previous to the year 1912 the Department of Agriculture consisted of a "Commissioner" with office staff sufficient only to make notations, transcribe and file data. In view of subsequent reduced production and persistently decreasing achievement under much more favourable appointment and facilities it must be conceded their predecessors in office, and farmers to whom was extended leadership, are jointly entitled to commendation upon their attainment under admittedly adverse opportunity.

Following the general election of 1912 and the advent of a new administration a miniature upheaval occurred in the Department of Agriculture. The Commissioner became a "Minister"; a Secretary of Agriculture was secured, who eventually became a Deputy Minister; a general fieldman was brought from the Province of Ontario; an additional fieldman was engaged as Livestock Superintendent, and, as time went by, and need arose, additional assistants were recruited. Technical experts were brought from abroad under whom were developed and, from which were generated local replicas of no mean dimensions, all of whom were used to expound the mysteries of animal reproduction, of crop promotion and grading of farm products as sold under expert salesmanship, and exported.

Backing this array of talent, towered a rejuvenated Experimental Farm with its wealth of experience and record of achievement, ever ready on moment's notice, to share of its love in the even of uncertainties. The Dominion Department of Agriculture, Livestock Division, entered the picture with unreserved ambition, contributing generously of its resources, mental, physical, and financial as a coadjutant in this agricultural promotion venture. Finally and as a climax to this elaborate service build-up, there was inaugurated under the sponsorship of the Provincial Department, a Federation of Farmers, only, who would shape, direct and control rural destiny. It was decreed that all other commodity servicing units should become subservient to the new colossus and pressure to that end was not withheld.

This portrayal of development reasonably unfolds in scope and imaginary capacity, the drama of

The Age Old Story

Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou son of David. And Jesus stood still, and called them, and said, What will ye that I shall do unto you? They say unto him, Lord, that our eyes may be opened. So Jesus had compassion on them, and touched their eyes; and immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed him.

agricultural organization as introduced and successively extended in the interest of rural emancipation, following the 1912 awakening. The results obtained are impressively, though disappointingly, disclosed in the manifesto issued by the Deputy Minister in his agricultural review covering a forty year period. It may be interesting to reproduce some extracts from that report for the benefit of those who may have failed to give it more than the superficial once-over reading, and even those who may have passed it up.

It may be noted that during the period covered, farm population decreased 8,623 or 15%; occupied farms decreased 3,976 or 28%; farm acreage decreased 107,050 acres; improved land decreased 123,395 acres; land under crops decreased 63,734 acres or 13%; woodland increased 38,127 acres—a sort of back to nature movement.

Gross grain production decreased nearly one and one half million bushels or 18%; hay crops decreased 40,000 tons or 23% and yield per acre 16%; potato acreage increased 27%, in volume 18.5 but decreased in yield per acre 11.5%; cattle holdings decreased 16,000 head or 16%; horses 17,000 or 47%; sheep 57,000 or 63%; hogs increased 16,000 or 22%; or an overall drop in livestock holdings of 74,000 head or 25%.

The poultry industry record makes a more palatable story, with an increase of 239 thousand birds or 31%. The wool clip decreased 160,000 lbs. or 60% but the fleece weight gained only 3 ounces per unit, notwithstanding that, the remnants of this industry is now practically confined to pure bred breeders and sheep fanciers.

These recessions occurred despite the fact that well over three quarters of a million tons of chemical fertilizers at an estimated 30 million dollars plus outlay, was used to boost field crop production and a slightly lesser valuation spent for supplementary livestock feeding purposes.

These quotations will prove shocking to farmers and others who have been basking in the assumption that agricultural progress was being made in the Province. The incredulous may even refuse to believe, but the quotations are from departmental statistics, furnished by a top level official of long association with, and responsibility for, departmental activities and must logically be accepted as correct. All this backsliding has occurred since the time when the "Commissioner" became a "Minister" with a trial of talent at his command.

There is a supplement to this report that seems quite interesting and if it could be fathomed, might prove that ray of hope required to restore faith in farming. It may be noted in reading, that despite the serious recession in production, it appears farm real estate and other inventory values increased tremendously in value during this period. Farm lands and buildings

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Notes By The Way

"Give your work the best you have and it has little chance of getting the best of you." — Sudbury Daily Star.

A recent unexplained meteor may indicate that a bunch of idiots on another planet are fooling with the hydrogen bomb. — Hamilton Spectator.

Moscow Radio has beamed a program to British which included skirling bagpipes and Scottish songs, sung in English by Russians. Maybe, now that the Russians have beaten Canada at hockey, they're getting ready for an even tougher assignment: To recite Burns in the original, with an Ayshire accent. — Ottawa Citizen.

There is a further problem concerning humor, to which actors and other public performers will attest with deep sadness. Not only do people often laugh at the wrong times, it is generally difficult to decide whether they are laughing with the speaker or at him. This is why humor is not popular with dictators. They can never be sure if it's on their side. — Montreal Gazette.

What may prove to be a life sentence against driving a motor car has been imposed on a reckless young fellow of ninety-five. A despatch from Market Livingston, England, says "George Dobson, ninety-five, was convicted of driving his motorcycle without due care and attention after he collided with a car while trying to retrieve a bottle of liquor slipping out of his pocket. The court ordered him not to drive for three years." — St. Catharines Standard.

In a speech here the other day Mr. Robertson Davies, editor of the Peterborough Examiner and also a leading authority on the theatre, said Canada is "a nation of slovenly speakers." The voices we hear daily on buses and sidewalks are credited with having increased 180%; implements and other equipment 85% and depleted livestock herds by over 200%.

This gross increase value runs over 80 million dollars or 2 million dollars per year. It does seem strange that inventories of any declining industry should increase in value so phenomenally. Then there was the annual expenditure for chemical fertilizer and supplementary livestock feeds, aggregating more than 1-1/2 millions yearly, that must have materialized from some source before being spent. The whole report requires clarification in order to remove it from the conundrum classification in which it now reposes.

According to the results of a survey, as quoted by Dr. Lea Steeves of Dalhousie University, the most arduous work in modern society is done, not by the tired businessman, not by the harassed intellectual, but by the housewife. Apparently the "female of the species" is not merely "more deadly," but also more hard-working than the male. Even as a pure matter of physical movement, women in the course of their daily chores probably walk as much as do most men in a week. And while a man generally has only one job to fill his day, a woman's day is filled with diverse and cleaning the basement and acting as psychiatric counsellor to a teenage daughter. — Halifax Chronicle-Herald.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

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