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A Plan Worth Trying

A bright piece of news in the elementary education field comes from the school board in Calgary. It has to do with a problem which is shared by educators and school officials everywhere: how to keep unusually bright pupils from being kept back by slower members of the same class.

The plan was brought forward by educators who feel that when bright pupils are not allowed to make the most of their mental ability they are likely to get into slovenly habits and lose interest in their work.

A Hopeful Sign

The unanimous approval of President Eisenhower's plan for the peaceful development of atomic energy by the United Nations may not have any immediate effect on the atomic warfare menace, but it is indeed a hopeful sign and its psychological results may be of great importance.

"When we consider the peaceful uses of atomic energy," says The Times, "the cure or prevention of disease, increases in the food supply, the provision of energy to take the great load of toil off men's back, further additions to knowledge — we are drawing back from that form of mutual suicide that is called war."

"The resolution is therefore an appeal for common sense, a drive toward sanity after the atomic madness. It does not, to be sure, confer any powers on anybody. If its provisions are carried out, a scientific conference will be held next summer at which as many phases as possible of the peaceful uses of atomic energy will be discussed.

"When we compare this frightful nightmare with the plan contemplated under the current U. N. resolution the disproportion

seems lamentable. The United States has allocated 220 pounds of fissionable material for use by other countries for experimental purposes. Britain has allocated 44 pounds. These contributions will accomplish something, but they will not save the world from destruction.

The attempt is well worth making for, as The Times concludes, "there is indeed hardly any middle ground. The choice is not between being comparatively well off and comparatively badly off; the choice is between hell and something that might in the end faintly resemble heaven on earth."

Spending Maintained

The largest element in maintaining national production is consumer spending and it has not only been maintained but has risen to a post-war peak. This is credited by the president of the Imperial Bank of Canada with averting the threat of serious depression which hung over North America a year ago.

The great post-war expansion in this country has not yet run its course, in the opinion of Mr. L. S. Mackersy, and the fears that an American recession would bring disaster to the European economy have proved false.

Private investment, government spending on goods and services and export demand had tended down, while investment in inventory had declined sharply. All of this, however, has been offset by the average man and woman who kept on buying—and the factors that enabled them to do so.

The banker explains that increased earnings of factory workers, a rise in armament pay, stability of interest and dividend payments and the higher unemployment insurance rates all helped to maintain consumer spending, as also did a reduction in income taxes.

For the immediate future, it is necessary to take into consideration the recent decline in defence spending and exports, but fears of depression have been dissipated and the possibilities of renewed advance are good.

The whole tone of the report is encouraging, although warning notes are sounded here and there. The general picture seems to be that this country stands at the gate of greater opportunity, but we must be aware of making mistakes along the way.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Thanksgiving Day, U. S. A.

The objective which the Canadian Red Cross Society will try for next March is up 1.31 per cent from last year and amounts to \$5,494,100. The Prince Edward Island objective will be \$27,400.

Canada's Navy now shares with the R. C. M. P. the distinction of having circumnavigated the continent. The Northwest Passage may not yet be an accepted trade route but Canadian ships have shown that it is possible at any rate.

The sentencing of 13 American airmen to prison by Communist China on charges of espionage would seem to indicate that the reading of comic books is as shockingly prevalent behind the Iron Curtain as outside.

It might be well for consumers to consider that the price support of butter may be saving them money. If the price dropped drastically, even for a comparatively short time, production would also be cut and in the long run the consumer would pay more.

The plan unanimously adopted by the political committee of the United Nations for sharing in the peaceful development of atomic energy is in origin Canadian. It has been sponsored, however, by the United States and amendments have been proposed and accepted by various countries including the U. S. S. R.

The Drama Festival got off to a good start at Parkdale last evening. It will be interesting to see how other groups compare in the production of plays of their choice. While the entries are not as numerous as last year, they are sufficient to provide three evenings of worthwhile entertainment, well worthy of public support.

John Gibson Lockhart, Scottish author and editor, died this date 1854. He married the eldest daughter of Sir Walter Scott and perhaps his greatest work was his "Memoirs of the Life of Sir Walter Scott." He wrote novels and a series of histories for children and was an early contributor to "Blackwood's Magazine." He moved to London and was long editor of the "Quarterly Review."



Point Of View

PUBLIC FORUM

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

POTATO MARKETS

Sir.—It was quite a surprise to see a letter over the signature of Mr. L. F. Simmons stating that there is a need of a one desk selling agency to control the shipments of potatoes out of the Province. Mr. Simmons may say he never said it. What else could he mean when he wrote: "There were just too many loaded and sold for the markets to absorb in a short period. He knows I am well that the only way to remedy a situation like that is to have an agency that has control of all the potatoes in the Province."

We heard a lot about what the potato and turnip dealers would and could do for the potato producers. Would Mr. Simmons as president of that organization tell us what they are doing or going to do about those dealers who are shipping carload after carload of potatoes to brokers in Montreal and Toronto and letting them cut the price to sell them? I wonder if those who allowed their opinions to be swayed for a petty reason feel good now that they know that the brokers of Toronto and Montreal control the price of our potatoes for the rest of the season. I suppose this is not compulsory. It could be called "free enterprise." The unfortunate part is that the economy of the whole Province has to suffer for the prejudices of the few.

I am, Sir, etc.

JOHN M. MULLIGAN  
Emerald, R. R.

"PILLING" THE PUPILS

Sir.—At a recent meeting of a City Home & School Association, the attending speaker gave a report of the smoothness and swiftness with which the chore of "pilling" the pupils was executed — forty-seven seconds flat, according to the Principal's stop watch. It almost shatters Joe O'Brien's hundred yard dash record at Montague given back at the days before the prevalence of zippers and the popularity of "Hollywood mufflers." Evidently, on that occasion at least, the pills went down more easily with the children than my letter did with the President of the Home and School Association.

Even though the time element is irrelevant to the principle at stake, there was a good deal left unsaid about the record-keeping task involved. The teacher has to keep track of who pays and who doesn't pay; of who is paying when he can't afford to pay; of who isn't paying when he should be paying, etc., etc.

A writer in an American magazine and some time ago: "The main fault of parents has been their gullibility." I would like to add: "and their inarticulateness." Thinking parents must be wondering which of their parental prerogatives they will be asked to surrender next. There are parents who will relinquish their responsibilities at the drop of a theory. That is because their vision doesn't project beyond the shadow of the extra leisure their relief from a given task will allow them. There are others again who accept the Utopian ravings of swivel-chair specialists as the ultimate in scientific living.

To those who are asking "What's it all about?" we say: The present day educational world is being rocked on its foundations by a subversive ideology which would make of both home and school "happy" places for the child to live in — that is places where everything is child-centered; where teacher and parent hop around with the fleetness of a jack rabbit removing obstacles from the path of youth; where, in sham intimacy, mothers play tidily-winks with their daughters and fathers, leapfrog with their sons. The exponents of this messianic view of education say to the parents: "Do not impose your old-fashioned standards and ideals on your child in this glorious new era of freedom and self expression. Consult us, we shall tell you how you can help bring up Johnny our way."

The dispensing of cod liver oil capsules is insignificant in itself, but it is indicative of an ominous trend. As Churchill would say: "It shows that the maggot is in the apple." Those parents who do not see in it a usurpation of their rights and an indictment of their capacity to care properly for their children are living in a false security.

In conclusion let me quote Dr. Miller MacLure's recommendation to the Home and School Associations: "I suggest that the Home and School Associations should institute a kind of devotional period at their meetings, during which selected passages from 'So Little For The Mind' would be read. I think that would do a great deal of good." So do I.

I am, Sir, etc.

W. J. ENRIGHT  
Charlottetown

NOTES BY THE WAY

In the end, the guiding principle in choosing a profession is not whether one can become rich and famous in it, but whether one will be happy in it. The man who hates his work, or is indifferent to it, will never give of his best; he cheats himself, he cheats society, he cheats life through. However humble the task, if a man is happy in doing it, he has found satisfaction in living.

—Hamilton Spectator.

A commanding physical feature of Montreal is the towering dome of the Oratory of St. Joseph, visible from almost all if not all points on the perimeter of the city. It is an expression of a commanding spiritual feature of the city's history, the life of Brother Andre. Our age is often condemned for its materialism, but such works as these associated with the name of Brother Andre prove that great faith still operates and that in a manner of speaking the day of miracles is not past.

The white man has run into an Indian ambush in his efforts to open up the St. Lawrence Seaway. The first shots in this battle for river rights were heard in the New York State court of claims when counsel for three St. Regis Indian chiefs filed a \$33,800,000 suit against the state. The Indians contend that title to Barnhart Island in the St. Lawrence River actually rests with the St. Regis tribe of Mohawks. The island, in American waters near Massena, is the site of the principal works of the St. Lawrence power project to be built jointly by the State of New York and the Province of Ontario.

—Saint John Telegraph Journal.

Death of a Toronto man under a load of eight tons of coal highlights a type of tragedy that occurs all too frequently. Sometimes other kinds of loads do the killing, but what ever the variety, responsibility should be demanded of those who dump them. Whatever buries or submerges can cause suffocation, and in these times of huge truck capacity a hazard of closer supervision. There is something suggestive of the refrigerator deaths of

Letters From Readers

(Ottawa Journal)

A correspondent sends us a letter intended for publication and appends the instruction that we must not change "the word or the order," indicating that if we have any right to claim this space and this consideration.

It needs to be kept in mind that the right to print involves equally the right not to print. The responsibility for what is printed in a newspaper or any periodical rests upon its editors, and a correspondent who seeks to use its columns has privileges but no rights.

The Journal welcomes letters from its readers on subjects of general interest, but Journal editors must decide what to print and how much to print — always provided, of course, that the sense of a letter must not be lost by changing.

The question of "a free press" does not arise. There is no more involved than making the best possible use of a limited amount of space on this page, and giving it the greatest possible degree of interest to the largest possible number of readers.

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I am, Sir, etc.

W. J. ENRIGHT

Charlottetown

children in this suffocation of persons under dumped loads. But municipal restrictions on abandoned refrigerators appear to be doing great deal to reduce the toll. Insistence on a greater carelessness, if nothing else, should help reduce the fatalities and injuries in bulk deliveries.

—Windsor Star.

Old Charlottetown and P. R. I.

A GALA EVENT

"On Monday, the 9th instant, at St. Paul's Church, Charlottetown, by the Rev. L. C. Jenkins, rector, the Hon. Keith Stewart, Commander of H. M. S. Ringdove, second son of the late, and brother of the present Earl of Galloway, was married to Mary Caroline, only daughter of His Excellency Sir Charles and the Right Hon. Lady Mary Fitz Roy, granddaughter of the late, and niece to the present Duke of Cumberland, and grand niece to the Duke of Grafton.

"The beautiful and accomplished bride was attended to the altar by Sir Charles and Lady Mary Fitz Roy, the Misses Jarvis, Haviland, and Palmer, who officiated as bridesmaids, and by Lieut. Fitz Roy, Mr. George Fitz Roy, and Mr. Arthur Fitz Roy, R.N., The Hon. Robert Hodgson, Acting Chief Justice, Mr. Solicitor General and Mrs. Peters, Col. Lane, Mr. Haviland and Mr. Spence Smith; and the officers and gentlemen of the Ringdove supported their worthy and noble Commander. A large circle of friends occupied the adjacent pews and the rest of the church, both above and below, was crowded to excess with well dressed people.

"Upon the cortege leaving the church after the ceremony, it was found that the horses had been taken from Capt. Stewart's carriage by the seamen of the Ringdove, and the bride and bridesmaids were drawn in triumph by the gallant tars, from the church to Government House, amidst the deafening cheers of the numerous spectators. A spacious and elegant tent had been constructed upon the delightful lawn of Government House, when soon after their return from church, the bride and bridegroom, as also Sir Charles and Lady Mary Fitz Roy, received the hearty congratulations of numerous friends. A large party afterwards to the number of between 70 and 80 sat down in the commodious hall of Government House, to an elegant 'dejeuner a la fourchette' during the repast the health of the bride and bridegroom was pledged in bumpers, of sparkling champagne.

"At the end of the collation the happy couple drove off to a cottage, delightfully situated on the bank of the York River, which had been fitted up expressly for their accommodation, and where they intend to pass their honeymoon."

"The day was most propitious, and Charlottetown presented a scene of gayety seldom or ever before witnessed. All classes seemed to join in giving effect to the joyful event, while the ships in the harbour, following the example of the Ringdove, were decorated with colours of every shape and variety."

—Royal Gazette, Aug. 10, 1841.

25-Page Book Condensation

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As a foreign correspondent for the New York Times in Moscow, Harrison Salisbury was forbidden to tell all he learned — but now he's home.

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I am, Sir, etc.

W. J. ENRIGHT

Charlottetown

The Passing Scene

By Observer  
ACADEMIC FEAR

Dr. Martin Essex, an American educator, said in a recent address that, because so much of the teaching in American colleges is in grave danger of becoming "sterile, dull, and meaningless." He gave the opinion at a conference on academic freedom attended by representatives of citizen groups, parents associations, and schools of various levels.

The fear he had in mind, or so it would appear from the text of the speech, was that which followed Governmental inquiries into alleged subversive activities in educational circles. In the course of these investigations very few Communist sympathizers were discovered; but quite a few professors and teachers in the Liberal tradition were subjected to suspicion, for no reason except that they had discussed with their students all the modern social and political trends, including Marxism and its Russian offshoot, Communism.

In the opinion of some of the investigators that could mean only one thing, namely, that the teachers were inclined towards Communism. That is exactly like saying that doctors are in sympathy with disease because they spend much of their time inquiring into its various phases, and that the scientists would like to see atom bombs fall on our cities because they have learned the secrets of the atom.

It all sounds very foolish, but it has had the effect of making educators and teachers very wary. They take the view — at least some of them do — that, if intellectual inquiry is to be looked at with suspicion, or even associated with political subversion, the less they indulge in it the better it will be for their own security of tenure.

Most of them, until they were put right by the subversion-hunters, doubtless felt that the more young people learned about the weaknesses and evils of Communism the less likely they would be to fall under its persuasive powers. If they were wrong in thinking that way, the only thing left for them to do was making serious inquiries into any doubts and thus ignore the facts of modern international life.

One of these facts is that 800 million people in the world are living under varying degrees of Communist control; most people in those countries which thus far have been preserved from totalitarian tyranny believe that the fact is highly deplorable; but that it is indeed a fact no one can deny. "You cannot prepare young people for democratic citizenship in a vacuum," said Dr. Essex. "One of the great purposes of education is to prepare our young people to be good citizens in a democratic society. If the teachers dare not discuss the issues of the day because of fear of reprisals, then you have lost the entire function of the school system." Does not that appear to be a sensible view?

It will be recalled that in the years immediately following the war, before Russia's intentions had been fully disclosed, a great many well-meaning persons in all walks of life were attracted to certain "Soviet-friendship" organizations which were growing up everywhere. Others, equally well-meaning, joined various social groups, whose sponsors, as far as any one could tell, were good and loyal citizens with no thought of subversion or anything of the sort. Later on many of these groups were revealed as "Communist-front" organizations; they had been so carefully camouflaged and so cunningly designed that they deceived the very elect.

Is it not reasonable to suppose that, if Communism and its insidious methods had been better understood, fewer responsible citizens would have succumbed to the propaganda that was put out in the name of friendship and social service? Today there are hundreds of disillusioned persons who are paying heavy penalties for their unintentional folly in joining a group whose real purposes they knew nothing about. After ten years or more — some of these organizations began before the war ended — their names come up in official investigations as instances of "fellow-travelling" techniques, when

actually their only crime was ignorance. Surely, if a free nation is to combat the evils of Communism successfully, its citizens must know what these evils are and by what processes they are made to entrap the unwary. High school and college years always have been critical years for young people. This was true long before Communism became a dangerous menace. It is especially obvious now; for, let us make no mistake about it, Communist bugleblows are never very far from any large campus.

The chief need, it would seem, is not to put Communism on a hush-hush basis—that technique never succeeded in anything and never will—but to make sure, and doubly sure, that Communist sympathizers are not given access to any school. There are ways of doing that without having to put everybody under suspicion.

We may be sure that every time a college teacher, who is qualified to refute the bogus claims of totalitarianism, refuses to do so for fear his intentions and motives may be misconstrued, the Soviet planners rejoice; for they know that ignorance of what their evil purpose is the chief aid to its propagation.

The Poet's Corner

BEFORE WINTER

The wind-whirl rolls her raged sleeves—  
Oh, shut my door against the dawn!  
Tonight the yellow tide of leaves  
Will lap the jetties of the lawn.

There's still a song on the south station,  
And still a leaf on the lower bough;  
But if a hope be dying soon,  
Give it a grave in the black hills now.

Oh, shut my door on the naked nest,  
A song once built in the high arena leaves;  
But call a name to eat, to west,  
Before the witch saws down my eaves.

—Edwin Quinlan.

The Age Old Story

Praise walth for thee, O God in Zion: and unto thee shall the vow be performed . . . Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causet to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple.

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