

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION

"Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew"

"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."

CHARLOTTETOWN TUESDAY, SEPT. 29, 1953

A Composite High School

Reading a description of Charlottetown's junior composite high school which appeared yesterday gives a fairly clear idea of the difference between a modern composite high school and the austere collection of classrooms and an assembly hall which have characterized primary and intermediate education in this city and province.

There are the classrooms and auditorium, of course, but the auditorium is also a gymnasium and theatre. The lunch room and kitchen are presumably made necessary because the students of the two high school years will be drawn from all parts of the city, many of them travelling a considerable distance to attend.

The real difference, however, lies in the provision of such facilities as a sheet metal shop, carpentry shop, science laboratory, household arts department, including cooking and sewing rooms, and a library, with an adjoining office which can also be used for visual education or as a music room.

There are those who deplore the substitution of mass-production for craftsmanship in material things and there will equally be those who will deplore the adoption of techniques for mass education in place of the encouragement of intensive scholarship on the part of a highly-qualified few. The trend of the times, however, is to widen the base of the educational system to provide a certain amount of education for all rather than concentrate on the gifted scholars.

That this is not the complete answer will be obvious to even the most enthusiastic backers of the composite school. One thing at a time, however, is a good rule and once every student is provided with a chance to get a little more education it may be possible to give consideration to the encouragement of outstanding scholarship.

Close Check On Insecticides

Vegetarians do not have to worry needlessly about getting too much dichlorodiphenyl-trichlorethane in their systems. Medical authorities seem to be in general agreement that the amount of DDT used in insecticides sprayed on vegetables is not sufficient to be harmful to humans, especially after the repeated washings by rain and careful cooks before the vegetables reach the table. Canadian food and agricultural authorities keep a special check on the toxicity of insecticides and set down rigid rules about concentrations and uses of DDT and other bug-killers. The check is maintained in the knowledge that more toxic insecticides become necessary as bugs build up immunity to new chemicals. It has already been reported by agriculturists that "immunized" generations of bugs have built up resistance to present DDT concentrates, with the result that research is directed to more effective bug-killers that are still harmless to other forms of life.

Greenland in Transition

This is a red-letter month for the world's largest island, Greenland, which has now dropped its colonial status and become instead a part of the Danish kingdom, with the right to send representatives to the Danish parliament. This remarkable stride toward political maturity, notes an exchange, has been accomplished after a period of transition lasting only a few years. Before the war, Greenland was completely the ward of a paternalistic home government. Its economy operated in a vacuum; the 22,000 inhabitants of predominantly Eskimo stock were protected from competition and other disturbing outside influences.

Then, in the spring of 1940, the Nazis marched into the homeland, and the Greenlanders found themselves pretty much on their own. An emergency administration under Governor Eske Brun, who rose to the occasion, carried on until the liberation of Denmark. Economic changes occurred: to an increasing extent cod fishing and sheep farming replaced primitive sealing and hunting (the seal population was dwindling), and cryolite mining became important. Cryolite and salt cod exports provided the Greenlanders with dollar credits with which to buy food, fuel oil and other goods from abroad.

Greenland's recent development is of much interest to neighboring Canada, which also has an Eskimo population. There are, of course, many points of dir-

ference. The Greenlanders are of mixed stocks, as a result of two centuries of intermarriage of Eskimos and Danes and also Norwegians. There is practically no illiteracy in the country, and students may go to Denmark for advanced education.

The picture however is not entirely a rosy one. The rapid transition from a primitive to a somewhat more diverse economy has brought problems in a land poor in natural resources. Changes in diet have caused some concern in the field of health. Most buildings and facilities are antiquated, but to provide better ones requires capital which in large measure must come from the new fishing industry—and the methods of this industry are still relatively primitive. Yet there can be no question of Greenland's political, economic and cultural advances in recent years.

Stubborn Fanatics

When the Doukhobors came to Canada to escape persecution under the Czars, an order-in-council in 1898 granted them exemption from military service. In British Columbia they were denied the provincial and consequently the federal vote. They number 20,000, of whom more than half now live in B. C. The Community and Independent Doukhobors no longer cause trouble, but the small Sons of Freedom sect protests periodically against organized society.

The Sons of Freedom, notes an exchange, are the hard core of a problem that is being slowly solved as the majority of Doukhobors learn to live in good relations with other Canadians. They suffer from ignorance, bad leadership, and a group psychology as warped as it was in the days of persecution. Emigration and relocation have been proposed, without result so far. Persuasion has failed. But imprisonment, however necessary it may appear when laws are defied and property is destroyed, seemingly tends only to strengthen the fanaticism of these stubborn people. A successful method of dealing with this strange sect has yet to be found.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Michaelmas Day.

The North Atlantic played its part in making Exercise Mariner a real exercise in keeping the seas. In two world wars it was demonstrated that seamanship and sea-keeping qualities are as important as speed and gun power.

Lower costs of home construction are aided at by the Maritime Retail Lumber Dealers Association. It is proposed that the highly desirable result be attained in part by a standardization of mill work.

The new regime in the U. S. S. R. is paying more attention to agriculture than has been the case to date. It is all to the good if competition between Communism and Democracy becomes a contest to raise the standard of living in their respective areas.

The agreement on 250,000-strong "security forces" for Japan and 20-year "aid-for-bases" agreement between the United States and Spain would have seemed surprising indeed a few years ago but the long drawn out cold war with Russia and her satellites has effectively "changed the water on the beans".

Dr. Charles Kettering, long chief of General Motors research, says he doesn't want experienced men in his laboratory, because experienced men are always telling him things can't be done. He prefers youngsters who don't know things can't be done; they go ahead and do them. As he says, man's greatest fault is his automatic resistance to change.

Horatio, Viscount Nelson, Duke of Bronte, England's greatest admiral, was born this date 1758. He came of a family of clergymen. He joined the navy at twelve, sailing with his uncle. At the age of 15 he went on a voyage of discovery to the Arctic, followed by visits to every part of the West Indies. By the age of 20 he had received his first command, a brig, and six months later commanded a French prize on an expedition against Grenada.

Paris has a head start in the development of television by possession of the famous Eiffel Tower but by the same token she may well lose the distinction which the unique structure has given for the past sixty-four years. Such towers will soon become an architectural feature wherever they can be afforded and where equivalent skyscrapers are not an economic proposition. The Island Radio Broadcasting Company is to be congratulated on commencing construction of a tower which, if not so pretentious, will still be an impressive 150 feet high.

--And A Bouquet



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.

BREVITY AND CLARITY

Sir,—In the play "Hamlet", through the medium of simple old Polonius, Shakespeare tells us that "Brevity is the Soul of Wit (Wisdom)", but goes on to prove later, that Brevity can also be the soul of catastrophic confusion. The too brief "Help! Help!" of Claudius queen precipitated the untimely death of old Polonius, due to misunderstanding—a disaster that started an avalanche of succeeding disasters, as the story continues.

The question arises, when is "Brevity of the soul of Wit? When is it the soul of catastrophic confusion? What is the difference, and upon what does it depend?"

Let us take a "close at hand" example, the brief, artistic quotation from one of our school Readers: "Gentlemen, when the baggage lifts". Most readers will recognize this as an epitaph on one of the World War soldiers' monuments. It surely is an example of "Brevity" as the soul of wit.

"Now, we may call together a number of teachers and students—none under Grade XII—and ask each to explain what the poet meant by this five-word sentence—this brief, meaningful passage that touches our hearts and sets up a reverberation of stimulated thought, by its beauty, force and pregnancy."

I have a premonition that the answers will be hesitant, some blank, and all different. When my turn comes, I shall say at once, "I do not know, exactly". I have no hesitancy in this reply, because I believe that it is impossible for any person except the poet himself, to tell exactly what he had in mind when he wrote that passage. He gave us only the embryo of his thought, "The reward of well doing", and left his readers to complete the story. Why did he write thus?—Why? To stimulate thought in other minds. He had no intention of telling us "his own" thoughts; he wished only to start us thinking for ourselves, and if you will change the query from "What did the poet mean?" to "What do you think" the poet meant?" I shall readily explain that, for me, these five simple words embody the story of man from the miracle of birth, through the vicissitudes of life, the mystery of death, to the glory of the resurrection of one who has made the supreme sacrifice for others. Jesus tells the same story in "nineteen" clear, simple words, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friend."

I have not waited for answers from the group, for I feel sure, few, of this degree of culture, would attempt to do anything except express, as I have done, their own interpretations of the thought.

However, is it not interesting to consider the same story expressed by "one" artist, in "five touching words", occupies volumes, upon volumes, in our best libraries, as works of art, including the classics of the ages, covering thousands of years?—What is the answer?—

"Art for the sake of art" is a discordant expression as I read it. The poet artist writes, not for himself, but for others. The poet who succeeds in putting his message over, has the artist's pre-conception of the minds of his average readers—the people to whom he speaks and whom he wishes to reach. He is not merely exhausting surplus artistic steam. He knows the reading public to be of widely varied receptivity and cultural ability. Brevity has its place. Brevity and clarity are twin daughters of art, and may never be separated except at the expense of art itself. Clarity is the constant; brevity is the variable; and these, moreover, may never change places. Clarity must always main-

Old Charlottetown

(And F. E. L.)

NEWSPAPER ITEMS

From The Examiner, October 20, 1879:

A large fleet of sailing vessels arrived in this harbour today to land produce. The fleet consisted of twenty-eight sail of coastwise vessels and one sail of foreign tonnage. They all commenced loading on arrival.

Senator Haythorne writes in reference to Exhibitions. He advocates, firstly, the erection of permanent Exhibition Buildings, and secondly, the formation of a Society to encourage and control exhibitions. The Senator's remarks on these points are well worthy of consideration.

E. Burris, Charlottetown, advertises the opening of Terpinchore Hall on Thursday, the 30th inst. "During the present term instruction at his fashionable establishment will be given in all the latest styles of dancing, according to Prof. Danielle's 'unique and rapid system' including the Grand Amazonian March with its music, well suited for the Skating Rink or other parties, and Danielle Quadrille, and music, together with the Belle Canadian, Queen's Own Lancers, Lorne Quadrille, Highland Fling, etc., all of which have lately become so popular throughout the Dominion. A Juvenile Class will be opened on the afternoon of the same day, should a sufficient number offer, in which all the Department Exercises will be carefully taught."

G. W. DeBlois Esq., Water Street, sole agent for P. E. Island for the Albion Mines, Picou, advertises slack coal for sale at \$1.50 per ton, round coal, \$2.00.

Colonel Duvar, Inspector of Fisheries, is preparing a lengthy treatise on Lobsters. He will deal at length with their habits and means of fostering and propagating that valuable species of shell fish.

We were shown today by John Brecken, Esq., a large potato, of the McIntyre variety, raised by Charles Hynd, Esq., Brighton. It weighs 2 1/2 lbs., its girth being 11 inches, and round its length it measured 24 1/2 inches. It was raised, we are informed, on land manured with gypsum.

COVENTRY, England, (CP)—Vandals who chip pieces from a \$500 mosaic at a subway entrance here may be halted in future by an "electric eye." The newly-installed device will photograph anyone getting too close to the mosaic.

tain its seat, while brevity varies with the cultural degree of the divers minded reading public, as well as, with the plan and purpose of the artist.

I am, Sir, etc., ULRIC.

The Poet's Corner

SHADOWS

Are they shadows that we see? And can shadows pleasure give? Pleasures only shadows be, Cast by bodies we conceive, And are made the things we deem In those figures which they seem.

But these pleasures vanish fast, Which by shadows are expressed: Pleasures are not, if they last; In their passing is their best. Glory is most bright and gay In a flash and so away.

Feed apace, then, greedy eyes On the wonder you behold; Take it sudden as it flies, Though you take it not to hold. When your eyes have done their part, Thought must length it in the heart.

—Samuel Daniel (1563—1619)

The Age Old Story

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended; but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

10-YEAR SENTENCE

MONTREAL, (CP) — Norman Goudreau, 27, was sentenced Monday to 10 years in penitentiary after pleading guilty to armed-robbery Aug. 14 from a mid-town branch of the Provincial Bank of Canada. Goudreau pleaded guilty on arraignment last week.

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AGENTS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE

The Passing Scene

By Observer

THE STORY VERSUS HISTORY

A well known historian is quoted as saying that "the story book, not the history text, is the thing that has influenced and continues to influence mankind." This must have been a difficult admission for a historian to make, but his frankness will be rewarded, partially at least, by the many expressions of approval that will almost certainly come his way.

It is hard to understand why it should be so, but there does seem to be an almost universal bias towards the fiction sometimes at the expense of the fact, and sometimes in alliance with it. Truth may be stranger than fiction; it cannot be denied that often it isn't as interesting or exciting.

A distinguished preacher once put the following question to an equally distinguished actor: "How do you players, who deal only with things imaginary, affect your auditors as if they were real; while we preachers, who deal only with things real, affect our auditors as if they were imaginary?" "It is," replied the actor, "because we players speak of things imaginary as if they were real, while you preachers too often speak of things real as if they were imaginary."

I believe the history text books in use nowadays are somewhat better than they used to be. Certainly they couldn't be any worse and still retain a respectable measure of readability. The old ones (usually beginning with the coming of the Romans to Britain, although some in common use went back still further) were so formal in their approach and so statistical in their intention that any pictures they may have conveyed to young minds (or to older ones, for that matter) were necessarily so feeble as to be virtually meaningless.

At the same time the poets were able to take "airy nothings", breathe into them the breath of life and clothe them with living flesh. Romance is much easier to remember than history, and for some reason which psychology has not yet been able to explain it is often accepted as being more credible.

We might take, for one instance, Shakespeare's Macbeth. Every student of English literature is familiar, or at least acquainted, with this character whom Shakespeare pictures as an over-ambitious, callous scoundrel, with just enough moral compunction to distinguish him from the beast of the jungle. His slaying of Duncan is held up as a most despicable act of cowardice and treachery. According to the play he had no right whatsoever to the Scottish throne and could claim it only by turning assassin.

Historically, the story is very different. This is what Sir Walter Scott wrote about it: "Macbeth broke no law of hospitality in his attempt on Duncan's life. He attacked and slew him in open battle and not, as has been supposed, in his own castle where Duncan was a guest. In very truth, the claim of Macbeth to the throne, according to the rules of Scottish succession, was better than that of Duncan." But who remembers or cares to remember the Macbeth of history? He has been de-throned and exiled by the Macbeth of fiction, aided and abetted by genius. Again, the historical record says nothing about Banquo. Shakespeare was obliged to invent him, for how could there be a Banquo's ghost without Banquo himself? And without the ghost it is doubtful that the play would have survived. On such flimsy, ethereal things does fame often rest!

What was it that made Tennyson great? Well, I suppose it could be said that almost everything he wrote helped him towards renown, but there seems to be general agreement that his spasmatically written "Idylls of the King" was the one work above all others that brought him enduring fame. And yet there can be scarcely one fact of authentic history in any of the sections of that great poem.

There is even some doubt that such a King as Arthur ever existed, although I believe most historians are of the opinion that a tribal chief of that name lived in Britain's early history. Even allowing for that, which has never been positively established, practically everything in the "Idylls" may be considered fictional. The whole work was obviously an attempt to find a satisfactory issue in the eternal conflict between good and evil and to restore romance to a generation that was unacquainted with its grace and charm.

There were probably never such knights as the "Idylls" portray— "All sworn to vows Of utter hardihood, utter gentleness, And loving, utter faithfulness And uttermost obedience." But there was much need as there is much need now, for the magnificent ideals they represent. King Arthur, as a historical personage, may be but a shadow on the face of time. Nevertheless, as one critic points out, "because of the Idylls and the hopes they nourish, his name is carved indelibly upon the cornerstone of our civilization."

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