

School Failures

This Province is not the only one concerned about the problem of scholastic failure. The Quebec Royal Commission on constitution problems heard evidence that student failures, reaching as high as 70 per cent in high schools, cost the Province of Quebec more than \$4,500,000 in 1941-52.

The failure rate is low in the junior grades, 12 per cent of pupils repeating elementary classes, but by the 7th grade the percentage jumps to 50. The failure rate in high school, as stated above, is no less than 70 per cent. These are students who must take the year over again if they are to continue their education.

It may well be that the education youngsters are getting today is superior to that of a few years ago. Methods are employed which experiment has proven to be effective. The physical surroundings are in almost every case far more conducive to study than in former days.

Formerly pupils would drop out and take up occupations which held more interest for them, so that the weeding-out process was more or less continuous. Even so, failure was by no means an unfamiliar school companion.

Talking Signals

Radioactivity is one of the new words brought into usage by the development of atomic power; consequently, its social standing is not too good. However, it can have good connotations as well as the other kind, as is evidenced by a report from London to the effect that certain roads which had been dressed with phosphate slag are giving out talking signals.

Thus far the signals are effective only in steering drivers in a straight line of traffic; but, if past scientific achievements may be taken as proper criteria, it will not be long before they will replace road signs, highway numbers, and all the other paraphernalia of modern traffic.

Unbalanced Moose

Mentally unbalanced moose pose a problem both strange and sad for Canadian wildlife experts. Recently government biologists reported that half the moose in the Province of Nova Scotia seem out of their minds, the National Geographic Society says. Their antics, briefly, are unmooselike.

Moose madness is known to occur in individual cases as the result of brain disease. Sometimes this can be traced to long-term diet deficiencies. Gradual deprivation of certain minerals and vitamins seems to be the cause in Nova Scotia. As the province's climate has grown warmer over past decades, vegetation has changed somewhat too.

Albert Einstein, propounder of the theory of Relativity, was born at Ulm in Wurttemberg, this date 1879. The family moved to Munich and then to Milan. Albert also moved about considerably. The publication of a number of scientific papers brought him academic appointments at Zurich, Prague and Berlin.

they are hemmed in. Daft moose—even moose in their right minds—are no animals to trifle with. Largest of the world's antlered creatures, the majestic, ungainly monarch of the woods can be both perverse and unpredictable.

A few years ago in New York State, where moose had not been reported in 70 years, the people of Troy were startled when one wandered into the suburbs. In 1933 a Royal Canadian Police boat rescued a giant bull moose several miles in the Atlantic off Labrador, bucking high waves and swimming straight toward Europe.

The Alaska Railroad, troubled every winter by moose parked on the right-of-way, has spent thousands of dollars on devices to scare them off, including oscillating red-and-white headlights, rockets, flares, artificial wolf scent applied to the tracks, snowballs, steam hoses, and even electrically-charged "moose-movers" protruding out ahead of the engines.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Prince of Wales College entrance examinations are no more. For generations youthful scholars have looked towards "Entrance" as the great goal of their school career. Only the name has gone, however, and in its place today's youngsters must face "Provincial Examinations."

A high immigration rate and prosperity have almost always gone hand in hand. It is understandable that labour representatives should not want to share jobs with immigrants when there are already unemployed Canadians, but employment is not a rigidly fixed quantity.

The city of Ottawa got out of an embarrassing situation rather neatly but at the expense of would-be lottery speculators. The city neglected to collect a tax amounting to \$16,000 for the benefit of the civic hospital but broke even by making use of confiscated lottery ticket money.

Forty countries have agreed to restrict oil pollution of the world's seas and beaches. Under the rules adopted at a recent conference only emergencies will justify dumping oil at sea. To seabirds the decision is literally a life-saver.

The concern expressed by Prime Minister St. Laurent at possible United States trade restrictions is shared by a great many people in this country. The policy of both Governments since the end of the Second World War has been to aim at the freeing of trade from fetters of all descriptions.

Sentiment usually plays the major role in selection of state birds, but it bowed to reality in a recent Rhode Island contest. The Rhode Island red hen, noted for its succulence and egg-laying ability, walked off with the honor in a statewide election.

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Draw-It-Yourself

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.

PROGRESSIVE EDUCATION

Sir—It is devoutly to be hoped that progressivism (both crypto and avowed), and self-styled "middle of the roadists," and the nondescripts who have been sniping at us from the shadows of their anonymity, will read the article on Progressive Education in the May 14th issue of Collier's.

Old Charlottetown

and P. E. I. NO JUDGE "This being the day appointed by law for the opening of the Hilary Term of the Supreme Court, there was a numerous assemblage of jurors, barristers, etc."

POTATO MARKETING

Sir—In your issue of May 7th there is a letter signed J. L. Dewar in which he is pleased to refer to Free Enterprise as a Sacred Cow, and ridiculous individual freedom.

THE AGE OLD STORY

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches. EARLY WILDERNESS Early Canadian maps did not suggest the existence of Lake Winnipeg until a sketch map of 1734.

'ARSENIC AND OLD LAGE'

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THE POETS CORNER

ON THE BEACH The broad beach, seaward and the sea's irregular rhythm. Great dunes with their pale grass, and on the beach Driftwood, tangle of bones, an ocean. Now coarse, now carved and delicate—whorls of time stranded in space, deaf ears listening To lost time, old oceanic secrets. Along the water's edge, in pattern casual As the pattern of the stars, the pinpoint air-holes. Left by the sand flea under the receding spume Wink and blink out again. A gull drifts over. Wide wings crucified against the sky— His shadow travels the shore, upon its margins You will find his signature: one long line. Two shorter lines curving out from it, a nearly Perfect graph of the bird himself in flight. His footprint is his image fallen from heaven. —John Hall Wheelock in The Yale Review.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Higher golf scores would result if players told the truth, the hole truth and nothing but the truth. —Saskatoon Star-Phoenix. The world is in a pretty pickle and the fellow who planted the first cucumber is responsible. —Moose Jaw Times-Herald. Then there was the fellow who didn't buy his wife any nylon because he couldn't figure out how much 15 denier was in Canadian money.—Stratford Beacon-Herald.

In many a case the person who yields to the itch to write has a tough time scratching out a living.—Kitchener-Waterloo Record. A department store owner in the southern U. S. has been elected a judge. Speeding fines will now likely be \$4.98 up.—Hamilton Spectator.

An Ohio man of 85 plans his first automobile tour this summer. At least there's no mystery about how he lived to be 85.—Hamilton Spectator.

It's now a certainty that the (U.S.) rank of army corporal will virtually disappear next year. Under a new system of noncom ratings just approved, about ninety-eight per cent of all corporals will become "specialists third class."—Newsweek.

The reason so many middle-aged men complain that modern food doesn't taste as good as Mother used to make, is that when Mother cooked for them they didn't parch their tongues and taste buds to the consistency of an achman's leather mitt by smoking all day. —Peterborough Examiner.

A survey shows that women university graduates, when they choose matrimony, are as contented as other wives. They do not feel frustrated if unable to follow a career. There is no suggestion their education is wasted if they do not use it throughout life in a profession. The benefits of their education are passed along to their children.—Windsor Daily Star.

The lie detector is no modern device. It seems ever since man has lived on this earth he has been concerned about liars and how to detect them. The ancients had some fairly reliable tests. The orientals, for example, gave a suspect a handful of rice to chew. If he could spit it out, he was innocent. If it remained dry and he couldn't get it out, he was guilty. They reasoned that a gully man would be afraid and this would dry up his flow of saliva. Solomon's lie detection scheme, with two women claiming the same child, would be hard to beat. He rightly reasoned that the true mother would rather deny her claim than have the child killed.—Kitchener-Waterloo Record.

Actually there's just a slight difference between keeping your chin up, and sticking your neck out—but it's worth knowing.—Bowmanville Statesman. Chewing on a rubber cigar is again recommended as a way to whip the tobacco habit, but we still say that a real addict would last only so long before lighting the El Latex and smoking it.—Port Arthur News-Chronicle.

Sterile Senate (St. Catharines Standard) The Senate formerly performed a useful function in finding out facts and discrepancies which would save the public money. Now the report is that it has thrown in the towel, its finance committee, which was adorned by the faithful and able Senator Fogt, is out of business. Making note to the effect that in the budget speech of Mr. Abbott, the word "economy" was as conspicuous for its absence as the word "compassion" would be in a decree from the Kremlin in Moscow. The Ottawa Journal comments, "A Senate finance committee used to do an admirable job. Headed by Senator Crerar, experienced and wise, it was used to delve into expenditures, summon heads of departments to explain why they asked for so much money. This committee, entirely non-partisan, neither preached nor criticized; its job was to produce facts, to try to let us know where we were going. This year the Senate finance committee hasn't been heard from; nobody, apparently, has bothered to call it."

The fault, it is charged, is with the Senate itself. Or is it? If an able group of Senators found after hard experience that no matter how faithfully they tackled public accounts, how much time and energy they devoted to effect economies in government, that whatever they accomplished would only prove futile, what else could be expected from intelligent men of standing? While the Cabinet has usurped the functions of the House of Commons to an alarming degree, there is no longer a shadow of independent action or thought by the ranks—the Senate itself has been made into a nonentity. The Ottawa Journal, speaking of the members of the Senate, states "they are seemingly content to have that branch of Parliament degenerate completely into something just ornamental and social. If that is true in all its significance, it is hastening the day surely when the Senate of Canada will either face reform or extinction. Advocacy for the latter is already being heard. The double-crested cormorant which inhabits some inland lakes is about the size of the loon, blackish in color.

Advertisement for Kellogg's Bran Flakes. Features a large image of a box of Bran Flakes and a man holding a box. Text includes 'TREMENDOUS', 'Canada's Favorite Bran Flakes', 'FRESHER, CRISPIER, TASTIER—AS ONLY', 'Kellogg's CAN MAKE 'EM', and 'THE JENKINS PHARMACY Rexall Corner Gt. Geo. & Kent Sts. Dial 4219'.