

Educational Demands

"Education—Measure of a Nation" is the appropriate theme for the Education Week program now in progress; and it is to be hoped that the discussions on the subject will stimulate public interest to the point where it will be maintained throughout the year, as well as during the week's activities. Special emphasis, we note, is being placed on high school education, both academic and vocational. There is also being circulated, by the P.E.I. Conference on Education, an informative pamphlet on the opportunities in the teaching profession, where the demands today are higher than ever before—and the real rewards, too, in the satisfaction that comes from doing a job that can have such an impact on the things that matter most to a community.

Take mathematics alone, which is indicative of the challenge that today's educational requirements present. The subject is treated in a recent issue of the Christian Science Monitor, which notes that, not so long ago, college mathematics courses were taken by future teachers, physicists and engineers with almost everyone else avoiding the subject like poison. The courses themselves were halloved by tradition—college algebra, analytic geometry, calculus; and for really advanced students, more calculus. Today, all that is worthwhile in college algebra, trigonometry and solid geometry are being built into the new high school curricula.

As new sciences become more important, they make significant contributions to mathematics. Even basic sciences are beginning to realize that this is a powerful tool for making decisions, and are requiring schools to keep a high speed computing machine busy takes a staff of two or three dozen mathematically trained specialists; and with hundreds of new machines manufactured each year, the number of "programmers" is increasing by the thousands.

High schools are only beginning to adjust themselves to this trend, but at all levels there is an intensification of efforts to meet the demands of today and tomorrow. Right back to junior curricula, where inefficiency is being weeded out. There is now a massive effort under way to remove academic retardation in reading and arithmetic, which is probably responsible for more "drop-outs" in later years than anything else.

Before Columbus

A noted Norwegian explorer, Helge Ingstad, claims to have discovered positive evidence of a Viking settlement in Newfoundland dating 500 years before the landing of Columbus in America. Reporting his find at a press conference in the Norwegian Embassy at London, he stated that the settlement at Lance aux Meadows on Newfoundland's northern coast yielded remains of a primitive forge, large nails, and a fragment of bronze.

That could mean much, of course, or nothing. But radiological checks dated the settlement at about 1000 A.D., and Mr. Ingstad believes this could be the "wieland" mentioned in Icelandic sagas telling of the voyage of Lief Erikson, Viking chief, to a rich country southwest of Greenland about that time.

Scientists heretofore have been

inclined to the descriptions given in the saga history, to place the site of Erikson's landing much farther south, on the New England or Virginia coast. "Wieland" implies a warmer climate than the Newfoundland coast affords. But it is claimed that this is a mistranslation of the syllable "wine" which might mean grass, not wine, in the context.

In any case, the excavations at Lance aux Meadows revealed traces of an ancient settlement on a sand terrace, with evidences of habitation that included the remains of a large hall about 48 feet long with ashes of a long fire in the centre. 12 radiological carbon dates, taken from the site, were all groupings around the year 1000 A.D.

Here is something, now, for Prime Smallwood to take hold of in his unflagging efforts to keep Newfoundland in the forefront. The Wieland of the ancient Vikings, no less, antedating by half a millennium the civilization that Columbus brought in his wake! Shouldn't there be more recognition at Ottawa for an historic priority of this kind? Some way of including it in the province's subsidy claims, for example? The Premier hasn't said anything yet; but with a federal election campaign under way, we may depend he's working on the idea.

Meanwhile the Canadian Government is playing it safe. It hasn't expressed any opinion, one way or the other, on the Ingstad discovery; but it has arranged for the preservation of the site at Lance aux Meadows as an historic site and is erecting wooden buildings around the remains to protect them for the future. It's not taking any chances on Mr. Smallwood denouncing it for negligence in the matter!

Still Pretty Hazy

Prime Minister Diefenbaker has endeavored to give a clearcut picture of the nuclear weapons issue. Canadians are eager to have their country do her full part in defense of the free world, and he maintains that this is also the Government's aim, while maintaining its own right to make decisions. He is hopeful of renewing talks with Washington on this subject. He hasn't yet stated specifically, however, the terms on which Washington is insisting, and those which Canada has proposed.

In its statement of January 30 the U.S. State Department said that in negotiations on nuclear weapons "the Canadian Government has not as yet proposed any arrangement sufficiently practical to contribute effectively to North American defense." This, as the Ottawa Journal points out, is the judgment of Washington, not Ottawa. It expresses the hope that the Canadian Government itself will say what has prevented the negotiations from being completed.

Since this issue has been dragged into the election campaign, the sooner it is disposed of the better. Then we can get down to issues of more domestic concern, without the distraction of further caustic interjections from the sidelines.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Studies of Mars through a telescope and sensing equipment, lifted by balloon to 77,000 feet, have confirmed the presence of water vapor and carbon dioxide on the planet. But for those who interested, U.S. scientists say that life on Mars would be "marginal at best."

The Globe and Mail notes, without comment, that on page four of its issue of the previous day, Dr. Claude Bissell was reported as announcing that the minimum salary for professors at the University of Toronto is being raised from \$10,000 to \$13,000. On page 24 of the same issue it was reported that the New York Yankees are raising Mr. Mickey Mantle's salary by \$15,000 to \$100,000.

Canada is not the only country that finds its defense problems in a state of flux. In Britain in the other day, Defense Minister Peter Thorneycroft announced that the British armed forces ministries are to be downgraded to the status of branches of an all-embracing defense ministry in what has been described as the biggest shakeup in the country's military history. The Admiralty and the War Office for they are known now will disappear.



WHITE HOUSE CACTUS COLLECTION

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Island Province Has Fine Voting Record

Who were the five electors of the eastern end of Prince Edward Island, who alone in their community failed to use their vote in last June's election? This is the sort of curious question stirred up by browsing in the 1968 page report of Canada's twenty-fifth federal general election, submitted by Nelson Casagway, the Chief Electoral Officer.

This leafy report tabulates the number of registered electors on the list for each of the 27,370 urban and 22,467 rural polling stations in Canada's 263 electoral districts. It lists the names—but not the political party affiliations—of every candidate in each such district. And it totals the number of votes which went to each candidate, as well as the number of ballot papers which were rejected because they were not correctly marked (there were 82,522 "wasted" votes in all Canada).

Thus we are able to see that, as has been published in our Island province achieved the best record for fulfilling their voting privilege of voters for their parliamentary representatives, 90 per cent of P.E.I. voters actually voted. At the other end of the scale, only 72.2 per cent of Newfoundlanders voted.

Second place of honour went to Saskatchewaners, of whom an impressive 85 per cent voted. How come, I wonder, that in the neighbouring province of Alberta only 74 per cent voted, so that those two adjoining prairie provinces chalked up the second best and the second worst turnout at the polls on that sunny June day?

In our most electorally conscious province, Kings had the best voting record—averaging 93 per cent of the entitled balloters. The palm goes to 14 rural communities of Monticello, where more than 95 per cent of the voters went to the poll. That may sound like a trans-Canada record, and so it seems to be until one examines what went on in the Yukon—where men are evidently still men and the Returning Officers know it.

Look at Canada Creek, for example, where there were 23 registered voters, but only 14 showed up to vote. No, it was our city-dwellers who couldn't be bothered to walk or be driven the necessary few blocks.

Toronto, Hamilton, Windsor and Niagara Falls all ran around 74 per cent turnout; in contrast, Ontario's Kenora County, embracing Penikese Island, the province's highest vote—89 to 90 per cent.

In Quebec, Montreal had a low turnout, while tiny Mierleine Islands saw 91 per cent. So too, across the country, the village, Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver had remarkably high turnout, as did the highest polls in their provinces.

The Colombo Plan

Ottawa Journal

In the Colombo Plan, as in other international aid programs, Canadians have to keep reminding themselves that the money is not to evoke gratitude but to build a more stable world.

It has not even been decided to insist upon efficiency in spending the money provided. The Colombo Plan is a charge of Colombo Plan and other aid programs for Canada and elsewhere, but it is a charge of proper planning and coordination. We have only a bits of the program, but it is known the pride Canada feels in projects she has supported such as the Warsaw Pact and the Panama Canal.

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Deep Depression. Affects Weight. NOTES BY THE WAY

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Belle. Deep depression is in many guises. There is a chronic form of its existence when the person is so convinced that he is crying spells. But this emotional state may be more insidious than the obvious one. It is energy, and drive. I have seen many individuals, usually men, who are so convinced that their festiveness mean the beginning of the end.

The end enjoyed good health for years but became discouraged because they were sure that their depression was deep. Their problem is accentuated when a physical examination and laboratory tests do not show any abnormality. In the past we might have blamed nerves or change of life. But the answer may be found by a few self-searching questions. The person is not more than 11111 unhappy; they are depressed. Why? In some instances, the cause is obvious, such as a divorce, the failure of a business, or the loss of a loved one. In other instances, the cause is not so obvious. It may be a disappointment in one of the children, or a failure in a compatible marriage. In others, the origin of the trouble lies so far in the past as to be forgotten.

Other elusive signs of depression often are mistaken for something else. There is an early morning waking, a loss of interest in life, a loss of libido, a loss of energy, a loss of initiative, a loss of initiative, a loss of initiative. The unconscious mind is turbulent and the individual long before the body is rested. Other depressive equivalents include feelings of guilt and self-disapproval. Talking over these things with a confidant or a qualified adviser often helps dissipating such useless feelings.

Weight dropping and lack of appetite also may be associated with depression. In common manifestations, especially when the attack is of recent onset, there is a loss of interest in life, a loss of energy, a loss of initiative, a loss of initiative. The unconscious mind is turbulent and the individual long before the body is rested. Other depressive equivalents include feelings of guilt and self-disapproval. Talking over these things with a confidant or a qualified adviser often helps dissipating such useless feelings.

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DRYNESS AND COLDS

M.T. writes: I can't seem to keep up the humidity in our apartment, and as a result I am suffering from colds and flu from colds during the winter. What can be done about this?

REPLY: A high humidity is not the only cause of colds. You may be passed from one individual to another, so avoid the use of common drinking glasses, towels, and close contact with victims.

SUFFOCATING COUGH

G.B. writes: I'm 74 years old and in good health for my age. I get spells of suffocating cough when I get into the bedroom. I have been told that it isn't helped. What should I do now?

REPLY: Return to your physician for a re-examination—or get another opinion.

STAPH INFECTIONS

H.H. writes: How are staphylococcal infections treated?

REPLY: Mild types, such as pimples and fells, are treated with increasing doses of ordinary antibiotics and cleanliness. The antibiotics are used in moderation.

SALT WATER GIMMICK

W.K. writes: I have heard that salt water is good for you. I have been told that it isn't helped. What should I do now?

REPLY: No, not even if the fish and seaweeds are fresh.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—

When travelling, take a long prescription for your glasses. Broken lenses can be replaced.

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The new Mexican contract to buy the Canadian oil fields in Scotia will help to keep Ontario's economy on the rails. Ottawa Journal.

It may be of some consolation to know that the contract to buy the Canadian oil fields in Scotia will help to keep Ontario's economy on the rails. Ottawa Journal.

Weatherman: "In the forecast for this afternoon, put down 'Assistant: "Are you sure? Weatherman: "Certainly! I lost my rubbers. I plan to play a quantum party."—Montreal Star.

The Geneva Stalemate

By Harold Morrison, Canadian Press Staff Writer

Soviet-United States nuclear test ban negotiations have bogged down at Geneva and B.S. officials are now hoping for an early resumption of serious bargaining. But that doesn't mean there will be immediate resumption of atmospheric testing.

On the contrary, there seems some possibility the two nuclear superpowers may enter some form of new, unending moratorium on above-ground tests. Canada's military and psychological and health officials are concerned that the U.S. offer to cut the number to seven if Russia would add to it a number of agreements.

Russia was asked at Geneva to have its own inspectors to be no hindrance of international inspection of suspicious Soviet explosions. Russia countered that the first job of the 17-country disarmament conference was to conduct a Russian on-site proposal. Technical problems of undertaking the inspection would be worked out later.

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Service Vote Is Important

Montreal Gazette

"The system as it now stands doesn't work. It's as simple as that," says the Gazette. These were the words used to describe the method of conducting the vote in the federal election. And they are the words of Mr. Justice H.A. Wilson, Chief Justice of Newfoundland.

Mr. Justice Wilson was referred to by the Gazette as having correctly written "St. John's East" on the envelope in which the ballot was placed, but that the word "East" has been scratched out by somebody, and the word "West" substituted.

The importance of this investigation was not only that it showed that the system of service voting had been abused; what is more, it showed how it had been abused. It becomes a matter of serious concern in a general election such as that to be held in April, when many constituencies will probably be decided by a few votes.

Measures should be taken by the Chief Electoral Officer to prevent the same services to prevent a repetition of what the Chief Justice has called "second-class cheating," and a shocking state of affairs.

The Poets Corner

PALACE OF ART A Lady fair, Carlotta yelped was she not her bowser with a pleasure house, a shelter for the poor, a place where a sto as it were, where those who were, where those who were, where those who were.

And so she hired; And her servant did; And she opened to let in heavy plates; That would support her Dome of hidden things; And so 'gan to grow—her Palace fine.

But an odd wind blowing Her hired ones ceased to labor; And the half-columns stayed; And about her palace together; Will they be finished? Carlotta said; And meanwhile, careless, trims her hair.

Relio Ray an—W.H. Doucette, Charlottetown.

Middle Age: Too Late For A Baby?

Is it too late, too difficult or too dangerous to start a family with you in your middle age? Digest, one middle-aged mother tells, candidly, what it's like to welcome your first-born and how you and your partner together read "Middle-Age Motherhood For Me!"—one of 38 articles of lasting interest in the March issue of Reader's Digest.

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