

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink".

CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 12, 1951

Canada's Uneven Growth

Analyzing the latest census returns, the Globe and Mail finds that our population gain since 1941 was 2,386,533 or 21 per cent. Between 1901 and 1911, the period of free land in the West, the increase was 34 per cent. In the next three decades the figures were 22, 18 and 11 per cent. When it is considered that one-sixth of the gain since 1941 was due to the windfall of Newfoundland, the nation's numerical progress in these last ten years has been nothing to cheer about.

"The dismaying fact," says our Toronto contemporary, "is that the gain, such as it is, has not been anything like even across the country. Ontario and Quebec alone account for about three-quarters of the total increase on the mainland. Alberta and British Columbia, the fastest-growing Provinces, nearly account for the other one-quarter. The percentage of Canadians living in Saskatchewan and Manitoba has fallen from just under 16 per cent twenty years ago to 11.5 today. It is the same story in the Maritimes.

The results of this unevenness in growth are, from the national point of view, uniformly deplorable. For one thing, there will be a strengthening of the already powerful position of Ontario and Quebec in Dominion affairs. After redistribution, it is estimated, the House of Commons will have 265 members instead of 262. Representation of the two central Provinces will go up from 156 to 161 or 162. Representation of the three Prairie Provinces will fall from 53 to 46. This is not a political shift that can be welcomed anywhere in the country. It is a still more serious matter that the disparity in rates of growth means a lack of balance in the Canadian economy, a shortage of traffic for the railways, an inequality in opportunities and services and a sense of grievance in the Provinces that are not keeping pace."

One way of reversing this trend towards over-population in the Central Provinces would be to encourage hydro-electric development and cheaper transportation in the Maritime Provinces. Unfortunately, when schemes of this kind are advocated by Maritime members at Ottawa, they get very little support from the bulk of the Ontario and Quebec members. At present the Government is pushing through the St. Lawrence seaway project which will be of tremendous additional benefit to Ontario, without any corresponding advantage to these coastal Provinces. This will mean further "inequality" in opportunities and services and a sense of grievance in the Provinces that are not keeping pace," which our Toronto contemporary deploras.

Surely it is obvious that the solution demands the serious attention of the Dominion Government, and a radical change in policy towards decentralization of industry and all that this implies in Maritime progress and development.

Taxes And Incomes

Taxation figures just released by the Department of National Revenue (says Industry, the publication of the Manufacturers Association) show that 2,231,970 people paid income taxes in Canada in 1949. Their average income was \$2,881 as compared with \$2,513 in 1948. They paid an average tax of \$224.

Engineers and architects topped the list with an average income of \$10,428, of which the tax collectors took \$2,460. They edged out lawyers, who had held first place the year before. Lawyers averaged \$9,533 in 1949 and paid an average tax of \$2,019. Doctors were in third place with an average income of \$9,009 and an average tax of \$1,660.

One of the biggest percentage gains was made by farmers, whose average income jumped from \$2,887 in 1948 to \$3,801 in 1949. Their tax in 1949 averaged \$340. Nurses were in last place with an income of \$1,604.

Employees averaged \$2,589, and their combined incomes made up 78 per cent of the national total. They paid an average tax of \$159.

The 1949 report contains an interesting statistical sidelight: In addition to their regular earnings from wages and salaries, employees received \$71,501,000 from investments.

Geographically, the revenue men found that taxpayers in Lethbridge, Alberta, had

the highest average income—\$3,477. Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario was second with \$3,143 and St. John's, Newfoundland was tied for third place with St. Thomas, Ontario with an average of \$3,131. Toronto had 344,000 taxpayers with an average income of \$2,949, Montreal 299,360 taxpayers with an average of \$3,078 and Vancouver 121,450 taxpayers averaging \$2,893.

Although 1949 was considered a good year for business, only 69.6 per cent of the companies listed in the report made a profit on their operations. The remaining 30.4 per cent suffered losses, as compared with 27.5 per cent in 1948.

EDITORIAL NOTES

H. M. the Queen will dine today with Benchers of the Middle Temple.

The festive season brings its own perils and more than ever it is necessary to exercise care if joy is not to be turned to sorrow by avoidable accidents.

The closing days of the special session of Parliament are especially favorable for the easy passage of Government bills, but the practice of saving them until members are thinking more of getting home than of proper discussion has little to recommend it.

The difference between the Communist and U. N. attitude towards rotating troops is readily explained by the fact that only on the U. N. side is there any idea that the natural desire of the soldier for home leave should be taken into consideration.

In spite of hard times, the British Government seems determined the people will have abundant plum duff and fruit cake for Christmas, and has bought the surplus United States raisin crop this year—an estimated 30,000 tons—for that purpose.

Henry St. John, Viscount Bolingbroke, English statesman, died this date 1751. He was schoolfellow and opponent of Sir Robert Walpole. He lost office when George I came to the throne but remained active in politics. One of his books "Patriot King" was used by Bute as a textbook for George III.

Professor Edgar W. McInnis, the new President of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs in succession to Mr. Victor Sifton, President of the Winnipeg Free Press, has had a distinguished literary career, begun many years ago in Charlottetown when he published a small volume of poems. His new position is the highest that can be bestowed on an authority on international politics.

The Department of Transport has been advised to discontinue hawking radio licenses from door to door, and allow radio owners to secure them from Post Offices, etc. This, it is claimed, will save \$100,000 per annum, which will be absorbed, however, in the appointment of 50 men to act as checkers and prosecutors of those who have neglected to acquire licences.

Gallup Polls are not always reliable but a recent one finds that, for the first time in ten years, a majority of Canadians are opposed to nationalization of banks, packing houses, telephone service and CPR. This shift of opinion must be partly ascribed to the disastrous results of British experiments in nationalization, partly to generally increased public interest in economic matters.

To replace Abadan. A message from a Vancouver correspondent states that Captain R. H. Meade, director of United States Navy petroleum reserves, reports the discovery of a rich oilfield in Alaska at Umiat, 350 miles north-west of Fairbanks and 180 miles south of Barrow. The geological formation is two miles wide and 40 miles long. Five test wells indicate that more than 150 million barrels are available.

Moving ahead. The Social Creditors are contemplating organizing a party in British Columbia. A rebel member of the present Coalition Legislature has intimated he will represent the S.C. He declares emphatically: "I have come to the belief that a Social Credit government similar to the one operating in Alberta would be the best for our province... a government of free enterprise, opposed to monopolies either of the right or left..."

In London, Ont., the other day Mr. John Fisher, radio commentator, labelled Canadians "copy-cats, pussy-footers, lacking color and sometimes phoney." He appealed "for more Canadianism." Mr. Fisher said the only part of Canada of the Royal tour that lacked "stiffness" was the final send-off in Newfoundland. There, in a little fishing village, were no ranks of soldiers, "no top-hatted brass hats." What Canadians needed to do was "to stop sniping at themselves," he said, "and learn to get behind things that are good." Advice which he might well take to himself,

The Kid From The Other Side Of The Tracks



PUBLIC FORUM

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

THE LIQUOR PROBLEM

Sir.—As has been said temperance means total abstinence. It means not drinking even a drop. Where does this spectacle in Christian lands come from? How did this alien grow up about our shores and purpose for money. What shall we do with Christianism is the problem. What has become of the Christian world? If Christianity means anything, it means that we must try to think of one another and govern ourselves accordingly. Here is a place for practical Christianity. It says "Look not thou upon the wine which is red, at last it biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder". A mayor of a city was to entertain a high official of state. He did not mention wine; when asked about it, his answer was no alcoholic beverages are to be served in my home. What an example! Not much like Charlottetown when our Prince and Princess visited here, was it? Jesus said, "Ye are the salt of the earth, but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing but to be cast out to be trodden under the foot of men." What did the Lord mean? He was telling his disciples that they must be a preserving influence in the world. It is the purpose of God to use his church as a preserving influence to save the world from its worst excesses and thus keep society from going to pieces altogether. Jesus said "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven." It may be clear that anyone who aims to do his best in the service of the master should embrace the ideal of total abstinence. Know ye not that they which run in a race run all but one receiveth the prize, so run that ye may obtain; and every man that striveth for the Master is temperate in all things. People that miss the mark are not free, Jesus said: "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."

Every Christian man or woman who will keep faith firm and steadfast possesses a note. A note of victory over doubt, the note of triumph that God loved us, that Christ died for us. We are in a land that is flowing with alcoholic beverages. What have we for the young people? cocktails, dances and card parties not just in dance halls but in many homes having a bad influence on the young, the so-called society Christians, hurting those that are weak. What can we do about it? We want our ministers to preach more against it from the pulpit. We want more action in standing up for the right and we want more people to have faith that Jesus Christ can do all things. I say stand on the platform that to so many seems mere idealism. Paul was an Jew, Christian and Roman. If Paul had hated one lot or compromised on the other, where would the gospel of Jesus Christ be? Let us put the mark as high as heaven and take our tempted fellow creatures by the

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) ROADS AND BRIDGES

"It is edifying to perceive how adroitly roads in this Colony have been carried the crow line over the most inaccessible localities. This is peculiarly observable on the Western roads, where a very slight knowledge of engineering would have constructed them level, and not longer than we find them. It does not seem to have occurred to the persons who laid them out, that a shorter line will more frequently flank a hill than crown it, and that an unnecessary expenditure of muscular force is one of the heaviest taxes that a farmer can pay. "If Sir Donald Campbell's idea of a Road Commissioner for each County were to go into operation it might be rendered the means of connecting a new and very accurate map of the Colony with Capt. Bayfield's Chart, at an expense merely nominal. Each Commissioner should be furnished with an odometer, to register the revolutions of the wheel of his gig, and a reflecting instrument to measure the angle at which by-roads diverge from the main highway, and also every bend and angle in those roads. . . . "In all large wooden bridges that we have seen in the Island, there is an enormous waste of hand, pointing them to that mark bid them strive toward it. This is no hour for retreat. God summons His people now as He summoned them years ago and is whispering to us "Follow me" if we would just stop and listen. "Deeper than thunder on summer's first shower On the dome of the sky God is striking the hour, Shall we falter before what we've prayed for so long When the wrong is so weak and the right is so strong!" I am Sir, etc., MRS. HEBER E. MYERS, Charlton, P. E. I.

The Age-Old Story

God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

timber. We have observed as much in the piers and abutments as should have constructed the whole bridge. This is, perhaps, to be partly attributed to the thriftless habit of thoughtlessly destroying an article which yet exists in abundance, in many parts of the Colony; but more we imagine to the vicious state of the law, which consigns a contract to the lowest tender, instead of confining it to approved mechanics. The result is that inexperienced and unqualified men are induced to tender at rates which would be ruinous, were it not that the Assembly generally manages that hocus-pocus, by paying, upon petition of the parties, a larger sum than they had contracted for. The natural consequence is that able mechanics are driven from competition, and the public ultimately pays more for a bad article, than it need have done for a good one, under better management." —The Islander, Nov. 29, 1850.

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HELP MAKE THEIR CHRISTMAS MERRY The Charlottetown Branch of the Canadian Legion this year, as previously, is appealing to the public for toys, and clothing for the underprivileged. Send also pocket sized magazines for dispatch to the fighting forces overseas. If you have any article to donate please send or phone the Legion—1222.

Lessons From Europe In Community Progress

By Leo P. McIsaac Part Three (continued) (All Rights Reserved)

EDUCATION

Education, today more than ever before, is a matter of defense. The great struggle today may be nominally between atheistic totalitarianism and Christian democracy, but fundamentally it is a struggle between ignorance and enlightenment. The weaknesses of our whole democratic system are traced day in and day out by orators and preachers, writers and philosophers to the lack of education. The Co-operative Movement, or our whole social system which we hope and pray can be satisfactorily revised, will crumble if an effective educational system cannot be agreed upon and carried out.

This lack of education does not apply only to Prince Edward Island or to the Maritimes. It is the same problem and question all over the world. The masses of the youth are not thinking; their outlook is generally biased, selfish and narrow. A new idea or proposal is not accepted on the basis of its soundness, after careful investigation, study and thinking, but on the smoothness and the pressure of the sales-talk with which it is presented.

Until we find some effective method of elevating the overall level of education and thinking, we may as well save our energy and forget about promoting plans for economic improvements or trying to build a social order based on the integrity and general attitudes of the people. The challenge that faces present day leaders is to open up the minds of the youth or to bring the standard of education of the younger generation up to a point where they can and will study the pros and cons of any question or proposal before making a decision. There have been many attempts and approaches to this problem and tremendous progress has been made.

But the challenge today appears to be greater than ever before. The night school, the kitchen meeting technique, the lecture tour, the radio broadcast, the vocational short courses, and various other methods have each made a great contribution; but after their first appeal wore off, their effectiveness waned.

The family allowance scheme has helped to keep the children in school for two or three years more, but the effectiveness of this plan, as far as schooling is concerned, is now too, being lost in many places. And the reason is that many of the older children can make more money picking blueberries or potatoes, or doing some other small jobs for a few hours a week than they can get in family allowances for the whole month. The Folk High School technique in Scandinavia has passed its peak; the Laissez Faire system, too, has failed. The short courses throughout the country, which were popular in the thirties, today, do not attract rural youth. In fact, the attitude of the young people seems to be that they are doing the promoters a favor if they attend a meeting.

Generally speaking, at such courses are found the same people who attended the short courses and meetings in the thirties. Our youth are unsettled; they are thinking only of fun and pleasure and getting ahead of their fellow men. The majority of them want to get ahead, but they seem to be more concerned in getting ahead of others than in trying to get ahead with others.

In area and countries, too, where the Final End or Eternal Salvation was the only doctrine preached or considered, a change had to be made. It is universally recognized that to preach religion to people with empty stomachs is rather useless; our Lord provided food for both the body and the soul. At the same time, we must not treat material education or social and economic techniques as ends in themselves, but only as important and necessary means to the Final End.

An improved system of rural schools could also be fitted into the plan outlined in the preceding chapter. Rural high schools are succeeding in countries with winter road conditions much worse than ours, and time lost from school is negligible compared with the advantages of the more practical and advanced training offered. At the present time the majority of our young people in country schools are obtaining an education and developing a mentally limited outlook of an untrained, disinterested teen-aged boy or girl who is teaching school only while she or he waits for something better to turn up. Junior education may perhaps be given in the small district school, but the larger unit is desirable for our older children, where they can have the advantages of fully qualified teachers in Science, Literature, History, Agriculture and can obtain a basic general education. Teachers' jobs must be permanent; they should receive salaries that will provide for a decent family living. Our aim must be to train our most alert young men and women as teachers, anxious to educate our own young people, and improve conditions at home, rather than have them go to other provinces and countries to improve conditions there. We must have more teaching in the fields of economics, co-operation and practical science in our schools. Nothing is more interesting or more appealing to your young people than

Regional high schools right across the Province should come within the scope of our ten-year program. However, even at the conclusion of this high school training, (which admittedly every young person could take), the young person today would not be fully prepared to face the problems of the modern world. The average number of young people reaching Grade V in our Island schools each year over the past five years is 1,945.

During this same period, according to official reports, an average of only 381 successfully completed two years of high school training or the equivalent. We can hope that those 381 attained sufficient background to go further, and are fairly well equipped to face the future and to make a contribution to our social developments at home.

However, it is apparent that the great majority of this group of people leave the Island for opportunities elsewhere. Therefore it is upon the group that left school anywhere from eight to fourteen years of age that we are trying to build co-operatives, farm organizations and a new social order. Is this feasible or can real success be expected? May we suggest that as a matter of preserving our democracy, a positive rather than a negative approach to education must be made.

If, two or three generations ago, compulsory education in the three R's was thought necessary in order to qualify people to live decently and to cope with the problems of those days, then must we not admit that compulsory education in citizenship, with a background in social and economic training and a clearer grasp of history, and the fundamentals of Christianity, is necessary to live properly in these modern and trying times?

Ruskin, writing at the turn of the century, recommends as a first principle for the successful organization of labor: "That there should be training schools for youth established at government cost, and under government discipline, over the whole country, that every child, from the country school, at the parents' wish, be permitted (and, in certain cases, be under penalty, required) to pass through them; and that, in these schools, the child should, with other minor pieces of knowledge hereafter to be considered imperative, be taught, with the best skill of teaching that the country could produce, the following three things:— (a) The laws of health, and the exercises enjoined by them; (b) Habits of gentleness and justice; and (c) The calling by which he is to live." (Ruskin, John: Unto This Last.)

Other reputed educational writers have also approved the principle of compulsory education when the voluntary system fails. MonSIGNOR J. A. Ryan writes: "... The State has a right to insist that its citizens shall be educated. It should encourage among the people such a love of learning that they will take the initiative and, without constraint, provide for the education of their children. Should they, through negligence or lack of means fail to do so, the State has the right to establish schools and take every other legitimate means to safeguard its vital interests against dangers that result from ignorance." (Ryan and England: Catholic Principles of Politics.) (To be continued)

The Poet's Corner THE WOOD, THE WEED, THE WAG (To his son) Three things there be that prof per all space And flourish while they grow asunder far; But on a day, they meet all in a place, And when they meet, they one another mar. And they be these: the wood, the weed, the wag. The wood is that which makes the gallows tree; The weed is that which strings the hangman's bag; The wag, my pretty knave, betokens thee. Now mark, dear boy, while these assemble not, Green springs the tree, hemp grows, the wag is wild; But when they meet, it makes the timber rot, It frets the halter, and it chokes the child. Then bless thee, and beware, and let us pray We part not with thee at this meeting day. —Sir Walter Raleigh (1592-1618)

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