

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, MAR. 25, 1952

Reforestation Agreement

Of great interest is the announcement made in the House of Commons yesterday that an agreement has been signed for a joint Federal-Provincial programme of reforestation on waste land in Prince Edward Island.

A striking example of successful reforestation was reported the other day from Norfolk County, Ontario. This project was started in 1918 and is now paying substantial dividends.

The logging, it is emphasized, is not an overall cutting of the forest. It is a thinning out of the trees to permit others to grow still larger and straighter.

The areas of waste land in this Province are comparatively small, but for many years our leading agriculturists have been emphasizing the need of a vigorous reforestation programme.

Supports Proposal

The Moncton Transcript warmly commends the suggestion of Senator McIntyre for a Federal-Maritime conference to discuss Federal aid for power development in the Maritimes.

"As Senator McIntyre points out," says our Moncton contemporary, "when disaster hits a group or groups in other sections of Canada, Federal aid is generally forthcoming, and promptly."

West Indies Trade

Hope for a federation of the British West Indies with Canada was expressed the other day in Halifax by a member of the Legislative Council of the island of Grenada, who arrived recently by the Canadian National Steamship Line to discuss trade between Grenada and Canada.

many things which can only be supplied by a warm climate, such as sugar, molasses, tropical fruits of all kinds, and raw materials required for Canadian industry.

From many points of view the proposed federation would be desirable, at least insofar as freer trade is concerned. This might be accomplished without political alignment.

This Province would certainly benefit under a freer trade arrangement with the Caribbean colonies. We did so in the past, before Confederation, and prospered exceedingly over a period of years.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Annunciation. Lady Day.

The Legislature resumes this afternoon, the debate on the Address still being the main order of business.

There is always a "first-time", and the M.C.A. is unfortunately experiencing it at present. May the plane and its occupants be speedily located.

Nothing like a practical demonstration. At Gillingham, England, Mr. J. Blundell Jones, a farm institute lecturer, was telling an audience the right way to feed laying hens.

The proposal of the Malan Government in South Africa to pass legislation limiting the jurisdiction of the South African law courts shows what may be expected from the abolition of Privy Council appeals.

Michael Davitt, Irish nationalist politician, was born this date 1846. His father having been evicted in 1851 the boy started life in a Lancashire cotton mill.

Perhaps we will be having the Teachers' Federation, following the example of the Agricultural Federation waiting on the Legislature and explaining their views and desires. This could be followed by the Labour Federation, defining their point of view, and the Prohibition or Temperance Federation outlining their ambitions and demands, etc., etc.

The impact of defense purchases upon the Canadian economy has been substantial (says The Gazette), but it hasn't measured up to early expectations.

There are at least two sides to every question. In the matter of the rising generation, the most often expressed opinion is that they are not to be compared in efficiency, etc., with those of the past generation.

As will be noted from today's news columns, the appointment of a Superintendent of Schools for Charlottetown, in the person of Mr. K. A. Parker, headmaster of Mount Allison Academy, Sackville, has been made by the school trustees.

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Needed: An Axe To The Root



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.

THE TEACHER'S STATUS

Sir.—In our letter of yesterday, we gave a general survey of the attainment of our present status of teacher's license in Prince Edward Island, and showed by quotations that it is generally conceded (by all fully qualified to know and understand that teachers are such a vital necessity to the welfare of our nation) that teachers' qualifications, without question must be of the highest efficiency.

We shall now give, as promised yesterday, a short summary of the status of the teaching profession, 1949, recently completed by the Canadian Education Association.

This survey of education is not a hurried decision, but rather the result of two years' study by special committees of the Association under the very capable chairmanship of Dr. M. E. LaZerte of the University of Saskatchewan.

As the preface to the report states, "they (the recommendations) are offered by men in senior positions in Canadian education who have had extensive training and wide experience in both educational theory and administration."

The report covers the whole field of teaching in Canada. Chapter I—Selection and Training of Teachers; Chapter II—Teacher Supply and Demand; Chapter III—The Economic Status of Teachers; Salaries and Pensions; Chapter IV—Living and Working Conditions; Chapter V—Teaching as a Profession.

These chapters, we believe, indicate very clearly just what conditions are found in the various phases of the teacher situation and how these unfavourable conditions may be righted. The purpose of these letters is to deal mainly with selection and training of teachers, that and that alone we shall summarize from the authoritative report.

"The purpose of this chapter (I, e., on Selection and Training of Teachers) is to give a brief description of teacher education in Canada, and to offer recommendations for its improvement. The recommendations are based on findings published in the 1948 C.E.A. Report on the Status of the Teaching Profession, on suggestions offered in replies to questionnaires from heads of teacher-training institutions, on trends and informed opinion revealed by recent publications in Great Britain and the United States, and on the Committee's judgment of what is desirable and practical in Canada."

The present standard pattern of teacher preparation in Canada is general education through high school (Grade XII) for elementary school teachers and through university for secondary school teachers, followed by one year of professional training before certification and entrance into service. As a rule, the teacher-in-service is required to attend one or more summer sessions and to pass inspection for two years before a permanent certificate is granted.

"The committee believes that the pattern of teacher education in Canada would be improved by a closer association with the university environment. Attendance at a university is now ordinarily regarded as an essential in preparation for any profession worthy of the name."

The Age-Old Story

Behold, my servant shall deal proudly, he shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high.

lecture courses and more time to practice teaching and other experience likely to be of value. "Emphasis would be placed on quality of personnel. Entrance to a profession of enhanced dignity would be recruited to an increasing extent from those specially gifted and of better-than-average background."

"Emergency employment of unqualified persons as teachers might be rather general for a short transitional period. But this practice would not be permitted to lower standards by making it possible for those so employed to set a precedent without the full period of teacher education. Eventually the greater prestige of true professional standing would attract not only a sufficient number to make good the shortage but a great proportion of young people of superior quality. Thus, education would attain a new high value not only as a career but as a public service."

How does our Island selection and training measure up with that recommended by the very efficient and exhaustive report of the C.E.A.? Is our Island status higher or lower? The answer is only too evident.

Over the years, the Prince Edward Island Teachers' Federation, whose aim is continuous advancement of education, has been struggling towards that end. As a teachers' organization, we realize only too well our weaknesses and shortcomings. Our biggest drawback we feel, has been to get sufficient, young people of ability and interest into the teaching profession. Even when we did get them in, many left to enter other occupations, apparently more attractive. The main reason, but not the only one, has been that of low salary and little or no increment as an inducement to remain with the profession. True, as the Premier has stated, the Government has paid considerably to salaries, and for that we are grateful—but when one considers how low salaries were before the increase was made, the large percentage increase becomes rather insignificant.

This year, again, the Federation has asked the Government for what other Provinces would consider an altogether too modest increase. In meeting the Government, we had two objectives in mind: a reasonable general increase to make up for the rise in cost-of-living since 1947 (the year of the last increase), and yearly increments based on experience over a period of years as an incentive to keep teachers from leaving the profession. At present our yearly increase is \$12.50 (\$50 every four years), other Provinces usually paying \$150-\$300 yearly.

No one can deny that the Island teachers in trying to improve our lot or even hold ground have been anything but long-suffering, exhibiting at least a suppressed patience. We are, indeed, very happy to hear from our Provincial Secretary that the Government are at this session of the House making an adjustment upward in salaries. Since quality and cost go hand-in-hand, and since Mr. Darby is looking for quality, and rightly so, we anxiously await to see what degree of quality improvement the Minister has in mind, as indicated by his increased educational budget. Unquestionably, the Island has any number of young men and women to fill the order. Who in this Province, interested in improving our teacher situation will not look anxiously forward to the urgent request of Mr. Darby's budget—WANTED—several hundred sincere young men and women from Prince Edward Island who are willing to dedicate their life to the noblest profession in the world, school teaching. If the offer is made tempting enough, Mr. Darby need have no fear that his order will not come near the filling point.

No, it is only too evident that we mature youth with one year's

The Poet's Corner

EPITAPH

From "Ding Dong Bell" Three sisters rest beneath This cypress shade, Sprightly Rebecca, Anne, And Adelaide. Gentle their hearts to all On earth, save Man; In Him, they said, all Grief, All Woe began. Spinsters they lived, and spinsters Here are laid: Sprightly Rebecca, Anne, And Adelaide. —Walter de la Mare.

cannot improve our educational situation by going backward—by lowering present teacher standard at Prince of Wales College. We surely must go ahead; and let us all pray that our educational authorities in whom the electorate has placed a trust, shall be guided by kind Providence so to do.

We have humbly tried, in all sincerity, by these two letters, to lay before the public the picture of our Island status of teacher training and that advocated by an efficiently authoritative committee of the C. E. A., together with many opinions of people of unquestioned ability and interest. What our future program here on Prince Edward Island should be is only too clear from the evidence laid before us.

We sincerely pray that all those interested in our educational progress (and who should not be?) will not only defend with every means at their disposal our present system of certification, but will also do everything possible to advance our Island educational status in general that our young people may be at no disadvantage in comparison with what opportunities other provinces have to offer. (Should there be anyone interested in securing the report referred to above—The Status of the Teaching Profession—we shall be glad to give the necessary information for obtaining same.)

Personally, and on behalf of the Prince Edward Island Teachers' Federation, we wish to thank you most sincerely, Sir, for space in your very valuable paper. I am, Sir, etc. J. A. S. WILLIAMS, General Secretary, Prince Edward Island Teachers' Federation

Federation Office, Charlottetown, March 24.

TEACHERS' QUALIFICATIONS

Sir.—Someone has said: "I am not interested in opinions but in reasons." Undoubtedly a man in the Hon. Walter E. Darby's position will be interested to with respect. However, I do think that we should examine some of the reasoning in Mr. Darby's opinion on teacher training.

The press reported that Mr. Darby in addressing the Provincial Legislature said that "dedication to profession is more important than extent of education for a teacher." But surely dedication and training are not two opposing factors in a teacher. Actually we want teachers who are both dedicated and well trained for their important work of moulding the lives of our young.

If the length of training has any bearing on a teacher's sincerity then a larger training period should indicate a deeper earnestness, as it involves a greater sacrifice of time and money. Can we imagine any employer (business or professional) turning down an applicant for a position because of his superior training, saying in effect: "No, you can't be interested in this job because you're too well trained for it?"

Have you noticed too, it is always our most interested teachers who are eager for improvement and additional training? They are the best attenders at refresher courses. No doubt they recognize that our present complex school curricula (greatly changed since Mr. Darby's teaching days) require mature well trained minds. Is it sensible to expect an immature youth with one year's

The Passing Scene

By Observer APHORISMS OF MARCUS AURELIUS

Every year about this time I re-acquaintance with Marcus Aurelius, Roman Emperor and philosopher of the 2nd Century, A.D. It is an excellent Spring tonic; and acts in much the same manner for the mind as sulphur and molasses was once reputed to do for the body.

The thought occurred to me that for today's column it would do no harm if I were to share some of the thoughts of that great man with those who might not have the leisure to delve into his writings. The fact that the Provincial Legislature is in session makes it all the more timely, for Aurelius, so history declares, was one of the greatest political practitioners of all time. The fact that he was a Stoic rather than a Christian philosopher is of little consequence for much of what he had to say is applicable to all times, places and circumstances. Good is good, whatever its origin.

Without further preamble I quote a random some excerpts from his Discourses in the hope that my readers (if there are any) will find them interesting and helpful:

No man can do me a real injury because no man can force me to misbehave myself. Do not quarrel with fate, or be uneasy at the present, or afraid of the future. Let every action be done as though it were your last. Do not open your thoughts upon other people nor pry into the talk, fancies, and projects of another, nor guess at what he is about or why he is doing it. Be cheerful; depend not at all on foreign supports nor beg your happiness of another; don't throw away your legs to stand upon crutches.

It is the custom of people to go to unfrequented places to see the sea-shore and to the hills for retirement. This is an idle fancy, for it is in your power to withdraw into yourself whenever you have a mind to it. One's own heart is a place the most free from crowd and noise if only one's thoughts are serene and the mind will ordered. Do not forget betimes to retire to this solitude.

Do not suppose that you are hurt, and your complaint will increase. A thing is neither better nor worse for being praised. An emperor will shine none the less though its worth be not spoken of. The greater part of what we say and do is unnecessary. This applies to thoughts also for imperinence of thought leads to unnecessary action.

Never be misled by the fear of censure or reproach. When honesty prompts you to say or do anything let not the opinion of others hold you back. A truly kind man never talks of a good deed he has done but does another as soon as he can, just like a vine that bears again the next season.

Be not discouraged or out of humour because practice often falls short of precept. Try to consider the good qualities of your opponents, such as the enterprising vigor of this man, the modesty of another, the liberality of a third, and so on. Consider the course of the stars as if you were driving through the sky to keep them company. Nothing what is past nor what is to come need afflict you; for you have only to deal with the present and this is strangely lessened if you take it singly and by itself. Be not heavy in business nor disturbed in conversation nor rambling in thought.

If anyone report you not to be a honest man, let your practice give him the lie. No one can hinder you from being just and sincere. A man of integrity can never be concealed. His character is wrought into his countenance. Gentleness and good humour are invincible, provided they are of the right stamp and without hypocrisy. This is the way to disarm the most outrageous person, to continue kind and unmoved under ill usage, and to strike in at the right opportunity with a just rebuke. It is becoming to a man to stand clear of affectation, remembering that nothing is more scandalous than a man who is proud of his humility. Do not drudge like a galley slave as if you wished to be plied or wondered at. Do not take your whole life into your head at a time nor form an image of all possible misfortunes. When you wish to retire to sleep early in the morning, ask yourself: "Was I desirous for nothing but to doze beneath the counterpane?" If you receive a blow from Fortune, think you are at a game of skill. Whatever is agreeable to the Universe is so to me. Whatever the seasons bring is fruit to me. Observe that the most unpromising appearances have their own appropriate charm.

Think upon nothing but what you would gladly tell about, so that if your soul were laid open there would appear nothing but what was sincere, good natured and public spirited. A man thus qualified makes right use of the divinity within him. Cultivate proof against vanity and the impression of pomp and power. When you have a mind to look into philosophy, do not spend too much time in logic chopping. Try to bear with the ignorant and thoughtless.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

SOUTHPORT FERRY WHARF

A large meeting of electors residing south of the Hillsborough was held in Pownall Hall last evening. Among the public men present were Messrs. Henry Beer, M.P.P., Donald Martin, M.P.P., and Angus D. MacMillan, M.P.P. Mr. Francis Campbell presided and Robert Stewart acted as secretary. Resolutions were adopted urging that the wharf on the Southport side be extended to the channel, that a new contract for the ferry service, separate from the Rocky Point ferry contract, be entered into, that sufficient dock accommodation be provided for each boat, and that a suitable waiting room on the town side be constructed for the convenience of passengers.

John Boyver, Esq., said he believed that if the wharf on the Southport side were extended to the channel, a good strong steamer could ply until the ice makes. The ice which forms on the flats on that side was the great obstacle, and if the wharf were extended as proposed there would be very few years that there would not be a good crossing. Henry Beer, Esq., said there was the question whether or not, if the extension were made, the ice would jam in the channel. On the other hand, when the westerly wind drives the ice over on the Southport shore and it packs, no boat that can be made can get through it. The proposed extension, which seems to be the only means of overcoming this obstacle will carry the wharf almost to the middle of the river, and the swell and spray which will fly over it on stormy days late in the fall may make it impassable. Mr. Beer recalled that ten years ago it was proposed to bridge the Hillsborough, and the Government of that day obtained a survey report from Bertrand Store, Esq., of the question whether or not it was feasible. Without giving an opinion as to its feasibility, he thought the Government of the present day would do well if they took measures to obtain from competent scientific men a plan and estimate of the work.

—The Examiner, Jan. 30, 1881.

IMPORTED METHOD

Manufacture of satin was introduced in England in the 17th century by Protestant refugees from France.

I am, Sir, etc. J. H. LOVE, Charlottetown, R.R. No. 3