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Published every week day morning except Sun- days and statutory holidays at 165 Prince Street, Charlottetown, P.E.I.

Member Canadian Daily Newspaper Publishers Association and the Canadian Newspaper Publishers Association
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"The strongest member is weaker than the weakest link"

A Fight For Equality

The subject of federal responsibility for education has been raised by a select standing committee of the Legislature, which has urged that, in view of rising educational costs, some special assistance from federal sources be sought "without infringement upon our constitutional provincial rights."

There is no reason in the world why federal control should follow federal support of education. That is an old alibi for inaction, arising from the fact that under the British North America Act each provincial government was given the exclusive power to make laws in relation to education within its boundaries. This has not stood in the way of federal support for technical and vocational training; why then should it be insisted on with regard to academic training?

The Canadian Teachers' Federation has consistently opposed this interpretation, and much valuable information on the subject is contained in its booklet issued last September on "The Cost of Education." Therein it is emphasized that equality of educational opportunity is a basic Canadian right, and that, in the majority of the country, it is intimately linked to our educational system, the federal government must be concerned with the adequacy of the education of its citizens, irrespective of their geographical location. Consequently, it cannot ignore the obvious differences in educational standards which exist between the provinces.

Apart from the flimsy objections raised under the B.N.A. Act to federal support for education, however, there is another and more basic obstacle, in the Federation's opinion. This obstacle is public apathy. "The typical Canadian citizen," it says, "is either unaware of, or undisturbed by, the gross inequalities which now exist..."

When a sufficient body of Canadian taxpayers forget their geographical location and demand that equality of educational opportunity become something more than an empty slogan, then progress toward this goal will be realized."

So, the more said about this matter at every session of our Legislature the better. And why not at Ottawa as well? The goal to keep in mind, as the Federation booklet points out, is the obtaining of "substantial equalization payments on the national level in the field of elementary and secondary education." This objective will undoubtedly be realized some day. In the meantime we should lose no opportunity of keeping it in the forefront.

The Electoral Problem

Among the criticisms voiced "in regard to the report of the Royal Commission on Electoral Reform which was tabled in the Legislature recently, the one most frequently heard is that the report does not go far enough in recommending a democratic electoral setup. This critic has to do with the system of electing Commissioners to a provincial vote in addition to a proportional vote in the franchise. The recommendations are for retaining this system, though with stricter limitations on the exercise of the property vote.

EDITORIAL NOTE

One slot machine you can gamble on without breaking any law, notes an exchange, is the one in the telephone pay-station booth.

provinces, and would undoubtedly simplify the whole process... But it was a unique problem which the Commission had to deal with in this connection, and it is worth noting the reasons given in the historical introduction to its report for recommending retention of the old system.

It is noted, first, that this old combination of Councillors and Assemblymen was the only solution which would meet the wishes of the two old Houses when they were consolidated in 1893... In the second place, and more important, it solved the perennial problem of making an electoral system work in a very small province. Thirty members seemed the only logical number: more meant too many for the voting population; less seemed insufficient to maintain a proper balance between the number of members and the number of cabinet ministers.

The nature of the Executive Council has also had a marked effect on the Assembly and its election... There are nine ministers, and this has been found a workable figure: more means too many and not enough for each to do; less means too small an executive for discussion and administration. But nine ministers in a 30-man house is one of the highest proportions in the world, and it imposes severe limitations on the Premier's selection of a cabinet and the power of the Cabinet in relation to that of the House. This point, it is emphasized, has had an important bearing on the composition of the House.

It is noted, moreover, that because of the lack of county administration and the limited amount of municipal administration, the method by which some 50,000 Island voters elect thirty members affected in unusual ways the functions which members are expected to perform. There is no doubt that these and other factors outlined in this section of the report played a large part in shaping the Commission's findings.

Since the report will not come up for discussion until the next session of the Legislature, there will be ample time to study its implications. Meanwhile, public reaction in the way of constructive criticism is to be welcomed, and should be of service to those responsible for deciding, ultimately, upon its merits.

The Determining Factor

Canadian manufacturers who complain that high wages were their products out of foreign markets should take a look at some of the evidence produced at the U.S. congressional hearings on President Kennedy's request for authority to reduce tariffs in the neighboring republic. Wages are higher there than they are in this country, but that, according to Secretary of the Treasury Dillon, is not what counts. What counts is the unit of labor cost—the cost of the labor required to produce a specific product.

Wages, Mr. Dillon emphasized, are only part of the total. Health, welfare and social benefits must be figured in, and they are generally more extensive in other countries. Most important is productivity—the amount that a worker and his machinery can produce in a given time.

Mr. Dillon gave this illustration: Wages paid to American coal miners are approximately eight times as high as those paid to Japanese coal miners. Yet the U.S. sells tens of millions of dollars worth of coal to Japan every year. An important part of the reason is that the American miner, with high speed machinery, produces coal about 14 times as fast as a Japanese miner, so the over-all unit cost is smaller. This is striking confirmation of an old truth which was recognized back in the days of Adam Smith, but which has tended, nowadays, to be forgotten.



THE SPIRIT OF '62 OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Great Program of Rehabilitation

The philosophy of Canada's prison system is undergoing a Christian change, from the brutality of the bear-coat to the benevolence of a Big Brother. A significant milestone was the recent opening by Justice Minister D. Fulton of a "minimum security farm" near the site of the incarceration of criminals, Montreal's St. Vincent de Paul penitentiary. This 650-acre farm is the first of six planned across Canada. It will house up to 90 prisoners who have earned minimum security by their good conduct. There they will be able to earn maximum rates of prison pay, working as farmers. They will sleep in dormitories, eat together, and even be able to take correspondence courses to improve their post-release earning capacity.

Free from the corral of high walls, floodlights and guns, the farm-prisoners would find escape comparatively easy. But this too is part of the new philosophy, intended to teach concepts of discipline themselves. "These camps are a forward step in the organization of our new penitentiary system," says Mr. Fulton. Only about every four Canadian convicts is by nature the gun-going type, dangerous to society if released. Under our medieval bear-coat system, young and old, hardened criminals and offenders alike were housed as sadists, were all herded together and treated the same. The contrast in the new system snowballed with resentment against punishment, to convert

Syrian Crisis Worsening

The Syrian crisis is beginning to show signs of developing into an international crisis that could involve as many as six of her neighbors. "Observers say that unless the disunited at Home and Aleppo are pacified rapidly, the Syrian situation could fester to a point where it could jeopardize the unity of our Arab world."

PUBLIC FORUM

"BLOPPY" LEGISLATION "Sir, a few lines to say we are still around to read your most interesting paper. At this time of year, we are interested in following the proceedings in the House but your editorial staff still take first place. We know that our government members are trying to do their best for us; yet, at this distance it seems to us that not enough thought goes into some of the planning—not enough 'long range thought', and the result is legislation which seems sound on paper is far from practical when tried out. In the matter of regional high schools, Legislation now requires a majority of districts in a designated area to favor the plan and the dissenting districts must let their representatives vote to conform. A bit like dictatorship but from the standpoint of the happenstance, it is a pity to feel that the original legislation was by far the better. To equalize the regional rate of the government agreed to pay all expenses above \$8 per thousand from the districts participating in the plan. This rate was set for two years (we believe) and what happens then? A 30% rate? The school age was changed from 15 years to 18 years with the thought that this would make the student slower and force free education through Grades X and XII. But it now appears that the student would be in School Act (Section 53) also has to be changed to 15 in the new edition."

Why not say: "Free education up to and through Grade XII, provided the student shows ability and application required, regardless of age. This would include students who become seriously ill or any other reason, were operating at a loss in paying Grade XII before the completion of the school year 1960-61 (or

Why not, Sir, etc., we are LIVING COUSINS Bouria B.R.A.

Real Problem Of Alcoholics Why He Drinks

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen ALCOHOLISM is a mental and physical disease with social and financial implications. The main question is not how much the individual is to drink but why. The aim of treatment is to help the victim manage his daily problems without having a relapse upon alcohol or other drug.

Most alcoholics are under tension, which may be relieved by any form of treatment that can be successful. In addition, they must stop drinking long enough to start a program of re-education. Some physicians begin by substituting another drug, a tranquilizer, for alcohol. These measures may help ease the nervousness but they must be used lest one had habit takes the place of another.

Disulfiram (Antabuse) or citrated calcium carbimide (Tetra-sol) help the individual stop drinking long enough to be indoctrinated into a new way of life. These drugs are deterrents and produce extreme physical effects in small amounts of taking. Under treatment, besides discouraging the alcoholic from drinking, they motivate him by demonstrating he can get along without drinking.

The majority of alcoholics are emotionally immature, and like children, must be taught to meet the realities of living and to assume a certain amount of responsibility. They must realize that problems cannot be escaped through alcoholic oblivion. Furthermore, complete and total abstinence is the only answer.

A third method of re-educating is through organizations such as Alcoholics Anonymous. This is a spiritual approach, leading to a type of tranquility that is a realistic happiness and health for the future.

Whatever therapy is tried, the alcoholic must try to understand the realities of living and to give up drinking. Many cannot tolerate boredom, dissatisfaction, anger, and some mild toxic mushrooms are hidden ambitions and cravings but lack the determination to achieve what they want, as a result they become irritable, disgruntled, and restless.

Dr. Van Dellen will answer questions on medical topics if stamped, self-addressed envelope accompanies request.

BRAIN INVOLVEMENT M. Z. writes: "Our 2-year-old child has been sick for a year and he seemed to be no sicker than any other youngster with this disease. Now the doctor thinks the boy might have had an associated encephalitis. Is this possible?"

DOG LICKS Sandra writes: "I have heard when a dog licks a sore this will seal and heal the wound. Is this true?"

REPLY I assume you mean dogs (not lick their own wounds). I doubt if it seals and heals but it does clean the wounds. Many animals do this but I don't know whether it helps or hinders healing. Injured dogs usually tear out the stitches of a large wound and remove the bandages, often to their own detriment.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT— Be consistent in your commands to children.

NOTES BY THE WAY

A judge in Naples has written and suggested that parking men condemned to jail for automobile accidents should be allowed to serve their sentences during weekends only. He points out that it would not only permit them to serve their sentences during weekends only but also support their families, but should also keep them off the roads during weekend traffic. Mattino, Naples speaks.

Hunting The Mushroom

Mushroom hunters head for the woods in springtime to search for the succulent morels and other fungus treats. Morels are favorites among the elite of edible fungi. A veteran mycophile, or mushroom lover, and enticer, Joseph headed morels as "crisp, aromatic and nutty. These species are the superior delicacies."

Unfortunately, the morel cannot be cultivated in the wild. In fact, just one mushroom is grown commercially in the United States—the meadow mushroom (Agaricus campestris).

Knowledgeable mushroom hunters, however, can easily find edible varieties among the 2,000 species. They come in assorted flavors—peppery, bitter and nutty. Some species are eaten as aroma of ripe apricots and anise. One genus, Lactaria, produces a savory juice that may be milky white, blue, or orange.

Growing mushrooms are 90 percent water, and they surge up with the power of a hydrating life. Young mushrooms have forced their way through pavement. The mature mushroom is the fruit of the fungus. Its sole function is to produce spores. Some species release a half-million spores per minute continuously for three or four days. One variety of puffball, Lycoperion pyriforme, functions intentionally. The pressure of a single raindrop striking the puffball will eject a million spores into the air. Mushroom spores are so buoyant that a beam of light projected into a laboratory tube of spores will cause them to churn up like rain. In still air, some spores take two and a half hours to fall 100 feet.

chewed Amanita muscaria to induce their frenzied state. Unlike green plants, mushrooms do not have chlorophyll. They cannot manufacture their own food, thus must live on the organic remains of plants and animals. A few species are parasitic, but most flourish in woodland humus.

The mushroom develops from a microscopic spore, which corresponds to the seed of green plants. The spore sprouts into an underground system of branching filaments and cord-like strands called the mycelium. DEPLETES SOIL The mycelium usually spreads radially as it depletes the soil of organic food. When there is a proper balance of warmth and moisture, little knots appear. These develop into mushrooms. In a few hours, the maturing fungus rises from the circular mycelium, often forming the "fairy ring" of folklore.

Our YESTERDAYS From the Guardian Files TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (April 5, 1937) Announcements 100 persons who were recommended for admission to the Massachusetts Bar recently included Miss Kathleen A. M. Fairchild formerly of Georgetown, P.E.I. Miss Fairchild is the first woman native of Canada to be admitted to the Massachusetts Bar. Only 34.9 percent of the 488 persons who took the Bar examinations were successful.

Kenneth MacKenzie of the Bank of Commerce is a staff in Charlottetown was guest of honor at last night at a dinner at the Canadian National Hotel, tendered in his honor by the members of the Gryo Club of which he was an active member. Mr. MacKenzie has been transferred to the Halifax branch.

TEN YEARS AGO (April 5, 1952) Firemen battling a stubborn blaze yesterday afternoon which gutted the Harwood Apartments, North River Road. Before the blaze was extinguished seven of the 14 apartments had been badly damaged and suffered from smoke and water.

Mr. Lillian Powell, Kent Street, Charlottetown, left yesterday by plane en route to England to attend a luncheon with members of her family and friends.

PLAIN OF FILTER TIP CIGARETTES

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