

THE GUARDIAN

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CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, JAN. 8, 1953

Legion Silver Anniversary

The Charlottetown Branch of the Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League is celebrating its 25th anniversary this evening, which is also the same anniversary of the Provincial Command. Our war veterans were organized for some years, of course, before merging with the great ex-servicemen's organization and both before and after identifying themselves with the Legion the Branch has followed a policy of enlightened patriotism and brotherly concern for fellow servicemen and their families.

It has not put "veterans' benefits" on an unduly high plane. It is insisted, of course, that other things being equal a veteran should always be given preference in government employment over a non-veteran. It has never asked that veterans be chosen for posts for which they are not qualified. The Legion's vigilance in seeing that veterans get the break to which they are entitled has gone far towards putting many in approximately as good a position in life as if they had steadily pursued their own career rather than giving up years to the service of their country.

For long the Charlottetown Branch was also the sole branch in the Provincial Command but today there are thirty others keeping alive the spirit of comradeship and the ideal of service which has been the Legion's reason for being. We salute the Legion!

Good Health Record

Figures compiled by Dr. Louis I. Dublin, vice-president and statistician of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, reveal that the death rate in Canada from all causes in 1952 was approximately 8.8 per thousand population—a new low for this country—or about three per cent less than in 1951. The estimate is based upon official records for part of the year, supplemented by the more up-to-date figures for the two and a half million policy-holders in Canada.

Apparently the outstanding feature of the fight against diseases was the progress made against tuberculosis. The death rate from the disease in 1952 is likely to break below 20 per 100,000 population, or a ten per cent improvement over the previous minimum recorded in 1951. Only five years ago the death rate from tuberculosis was double that of last year, and in 1932 it was four times as high, which is indicative of the progress that is being made in the control and abolition of what used to be one of the chief killers. In the fight against tuberculosis one of the most effective weapons is the early detection, diagnosis and treatment.

Mortality among both mothers and infants also showed improvement, but still leaves room for advance. The infant mortality rate fell below 40 per 1,000 births last year, which although about half the rate of 20 years ago can be improved and offers a challenge to all concerned.

In all diseases, chronic and communicable the record showed improvement, but accident mortality indicated a rise and revealed that continued intensive efforts are still needed to reduce the toll of preventable deaths from this cause.

Thoughts On Education

Canadian Education, in its current issue, publishes in full the excellent addresses delivered at the twenty-ninth convention of the Canadian Education Association in Toronto last September. One in particular, entitled "Schooling versus Education," by Dr. Sidney Smith, president of Toronto University, will repay close study by all interested in educational problems.

Dr. Smith draws an important distinction between the memorizing of the steps of a certain technique, and the memorizing that provides a solid basis for future intellectual exercise. When a child memorizes the declensions of an inflected language, or the multiplication table, or the musical scales, or the Ten Commandments, he is mastering the tools of learning, and laying the foundation on which reckoning, reasoning, comprehension, and expression are based. That is part of education; one might call it pre-education. It differs in an important aspect from technical schooling, such as memorizing the keys of a typewriter or the various parts of a machine. In education, the emphasis is upon

equipping the individual not merely to acquire information, but to develop his own intellectual and moral powers, to acquire good taste and critical judgment, to apprehend those things which mankind in its striving for enlightenment and wisdom has found to be good, beautiful and true. It is a process not without pain. "I am thoroughly in favour of making dull things interesting," Dr. Smith states, "but I question whether it is really a kindness to make difficult things easy. There are difficult things that must be done, whether we like it or not, and schooldays are a poor preparation for life if our pupils are not taught to face a problem courageously, whether it be interesting or not; to persevere in it steadfastly, whether it be arduous or not; and to work at it conscientiously, without guessing, cheating, or copying."

While agreeing that learning should be useful, Dr. Smith argues that the pupil has a right to an education that is useful for living a life, not merely a schooling that is useful for making a living. There is, however, another objection to substituting schooling for education, and it must be faced with great seriousness, for it goes to the root of our political philosophy. Under an oligarchic form of government, it is logical to reserve the best education for the ruling classes and school the rest to be efficient workers. But in a democracy, where all have a voice in their own government, all the people need the education that rulers need everywhere. The essence of democracy is to be found in the free competition of ideas. "If we want free competition of ideas, it must be our endeavour to give our youth the widest opportunity to formulate, develop, and express ideas, and this means, not only schooling, but education. Ideas, the weapons of democracy, must be forged by thought and tempered by experience. One cannot produce them 'in vacuo'. It is impossible to teach people to think without providing something to think about and developing something to think with."

Forestry In Norway

Major Odegard O'Mejer, consul for Norway in Ontario, has outlined some of the principles of forestry practice in his native land. All the forests in Norway have been cut through hundreds of times, and some effort to control cutting has been in vogue since the 16th century. These have gradually evolved from loosely-enforced royal orders to strict control now in practice.

It is the custom for authorities to mark every tree to be cut. These must not only be a certain size, but must be felled in a specified manner to avoid damage to adjacent trees. Besides, about 20 healthy mature trees per acre must be left to provide for natural reseeding. There are rules about leaving low stumps, six inches high. Tree-tops are supposed to be trimmed and left lying flat on the ground, so they will absorb moisture and rot quicker, as well as being less of a fire hazard. If there should be an outbreak of fire, all able-bodied men in a district must fight it.

Norway does not depend on wood resources much more than Canada does, but the big difference is that Norway grows them as they are used. That day is not yet close enough to allow accurate forecast, but Canada's woods will need Scandinavian-style care sooner or later.

EDITORIAL NOTES

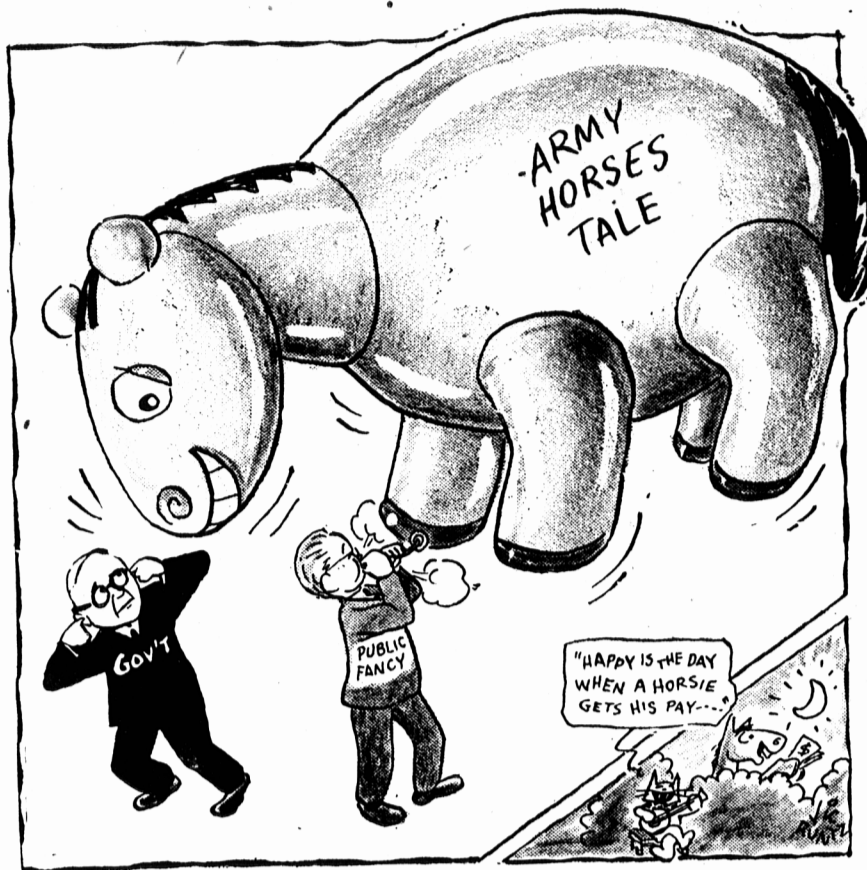
John Field Debrett, founder of Debrett's Peerage, was born 200 years ago today. He published fifteen editions of his "Peerage", the first in 1802, before his death in 1822. He also published the "Baronage of England" in 1808 and edited the "British Imperial Calendar."

A strong guard should be put on Laurier House and the coronation chair supposedly used by James VI (age one) when crowned King of Scotland. The nationalists who raided Westminster Abbey for the Stone of Scone might well try to retrieve the chair brought to this country by the late Prime Minister Mackenzie King.

The need for a home for youthful delinquents was generally agreed by the magistrate, crown prosecutor and chief of police in the course of sentencing two youths to jail for theft. Certainly a farm could provide more desirable influences for youths than being associated with older prisoners in the county jails.

The co-operation between the Forum, the City Playgrounds Commission and service clubs in providing regular hockey practice sessions for youngsters is to be highly commended. Recent winters have been such that it is almost impossible to depend upon the outdoor rinks which formerly provided the training ground for the small fry.

Growing Disturbingly Large



The Poet's Corner

THE BLIND His darkness held no colour and no beauty; No harmonies of green—no changing sea; No moon shone in his night however lovely It shone on Galilee.

Perhaps his soul cried out for loneliness Groping along the joyless, lonely years. But who was there to heed a poor man's need Or dry a poor man's tears?— Until One came who walked with fishermen; He turned aside and listened to the plea That echoes and re-echoes from the past "Oh Lord, that I may see!" —Lucy Gertrude Clarkin.

From A Lost World

Discovery of a coelacanth off the coast of Madagascar recalls the tales of "lost worlds" so popular among science fiction writers and movie makers. Certainly, it is as astounding as the finding of a dinosaur would be. In 1938, when a similar discovery was made and London notified, scientists refused to be trapped into what they considered a hoax and for some days they did nothing about it. When they did decide to examine the fish, its body had decomposed. Fortunately the same skepticism was not shown this time, and the present coelacanth is at least partially preserved.

Two factors give the find special value. From the study of fossils, scientists believe the coelacanth was a missing link between fish and mammals. That is, it was one of a group that developed the rudiments of legs, and an air bladder, an accessory breathing device that in other species later became a true lung. A second exciting thought is that this presumably extinct species has survived through some of time, and if instruments fully capable of exploring the deepest ocean floors can be devised, what "lost worlds" may be found? The coelacanth existed 250 million years ago, but reached its highest stage of development during the Jurassic period—130 million to 155 million years ago. This was a time of great change and progress in nature. The Rocky Mountains were just emerging. The seas had expanded, with broad sheets of shallow, probably warmish water covering much of the earth. A warm belt 60 degrees wide covered the globe, with mild belts on either side. The circumstances were favorable to the development of marine creatures into higher, more complex forms. For those who loved sea food, it was a profitable period. Fish in modern form began to develop then, as well as long-tailed lobsters and the broad, crab-like type. The genesis of the modern bird is also traced to this period.

On the other hand, nature restored balance to this alien, primeval world by developing flies, cockroaches, crickets and beetles. It was the "age of reptiles," for it was at this time that these creatures reached their highest stage with the development of the Ichthyosaurs and dinosaurs—a form of life now extinct, but resurrected for purposes of comparison during election campaigns.

After the Jurassic period the coelacanth was by-passed by evolution. Its fossilized remains have been found in Europe, and it was thought not to have survived changing conditions. The discovery off Madagascar alters that opinion. Undoubtedly it will inspire intensive efforts at exploration of the mysteries still to be found in the ocean depths.

Notes By The Way

We are impressed by a sign which appeared recently in a store window in South Carolina. "Try Our Easy Payment Plan, 100 Percent Down No Future Worries About Payments." —Peterborough Examiner.

Yet another writer in a woman's magazine advises girls to fascinate men by being good listeners, but we counsel our young female readers against this type of self-torture. It is just as effective to feed a man plentifully and elegantly, taking your head off all the time. —Peterborough Examiner.

The Mau Mau revolt, unpleasant as it is, is only a part of the great war sweeping the dark continent of Africa as the glaring light of the 20th century finally penetrates its shadows. The white man has largely contributed the new conditions that face the native populations. But responsible or not, he can not do better than help to ease the transition of the backward peoples to their new role in the world. To oppose the change would be retrogressive in purpose and hopeless in prospect. —Victoria Times.

New efforts will be made in the House of Commons, it is announced, to persuade the Government to remove the income tax "floor" on medical expenses, whereby the taxpayer may deduct only the amount in excess of four per cent of net income. The Government actually collects income tax on sums applied to medical expenses up to four percent of net income, and of course on any expenditure in excess of the specified maximum. A Government so concerned about the public health insurance is most illogical in denying tax relief whereby people could easily care for their own health. —Toronto Telegram.

Victoria must heed appeals from the Kootenays for government action to end permanently the lurking threat of renewed violence by the fanatic Sons of Freedom. The alarm at recent minor Freedomite depredations expressed by Kootenay railwaymen and the Associated Boards of Trade of BC is well founded. Nearly all the 2,500 Freedomites have lived up religiously to their 1950 pledge to refrain from violence while the Government helped them start a new life. A few irresponsible have marred a fine record. —Vancouver Sun.

"Look out," shouted the front seat passenger to the driver. A dark object had loomed dimly into the reaches of the right-hand headlight. It was a small car on the road, jacked up with one wheel off, apparently unattended, with no lights showing. The driver continued on and presently came upon a lighted garage. He turned in and as he had the small car and said, "You'd better get some light turned on that car of yours or someone's going to be killed." "Oh, that's all right," was the answer, "my wife's in the car." —Niagara Falls Review.

There are a great many people these days of the motor car whose exercise is almost restricted to the winter time with, perhaps a brief spurge in the summer holiday season. They seldom, if ever, walk more than a block at a time, and never engage in anything more strenuous than leafing over the daily newspaper. Then comes the heavy snow of winter. They find they have to walk as the driving is too heavy, and, invigorated by the brief taste of winter air, they decide to shovel off the path and the laneway, too. Or they see some fair damsel in distress, her car wheels spinning in the snow, and the spirit of chivalry aroused in their manly chests, they "give a hand." It's all quite

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

MAIL FROM ENGLAND

"We have the pleasure of congratulating our readers, that through the exertions of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, a separate Mail Bag is from henceforth to be made up at the Post Office in England for this Island, and it is most earnestly to be wished that the House of Assembly will seriously take the matter into consideration, and further the designs of the parent Government, by devising some plan for the sure and speedy conveyance of the Mails after their arrival in Pictou. If this desirable object is accomplished, we may receive the Mail in twenty-two hours after its arrival in Halifax. It is of little use to us that the Steamers arrive in ten or twelve days, if we have to wait nearly that time for its transmission from Halifax to this Island, a distance of about 160 miles. In Toronto they had their letters more than once before we received ours in the course of the past summer." —Royal Gazette, Jan. 28 1841.

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The Passing Scene

By Observer

UNIFORMITY IN THOUGHT?

In a recent speech an American sociologist of note remarked that one of the very real dangers facing the Democratic world in 1953 is the increasing demand in some responsible circles for uniformity in thought. He finds the situation all the more alarming, he says, because of the fact that Americans seem to be taking the lead in the dangerous trend.

If it be true that there is any significant trend towards arbitrary compelling of intellectual uniformity, it is possible that we are in far greater peril from that than from any other potential danger. Indeed, if thought control under any guise or in any form or by reason of any conceivable crisis were necessary and advisable, what would be the sense of opposing either Communism or Fascism? Either of these tyrannies is possible only when men surrender their right to independent thought. In that is the base in which each of these evil systems rests.

No reasonable person will deny that in times of national peril the government of any country has a moral right and a clear duty to do everything possible to safeguard its security from any act of disloyalty overt or covert. Fifth columns are more and more becoming sources of grave danger. Even loyalty boards and loyalty tests may be necessary.

But when standard political beliefs are converted into evidences of loyalty and are in practice made the first qualification for government jobs of one kind and another it is time to reconsider the foundations of which democratic institutions were built in the first place. The idea that in democratic lands everybody ought to think pretty much alike or, if they differ at all, their differences should be manifested only in private things, is actually one of the most undemocratic ideas possible.

We cannot with good grace hold belief in political and intellectual freedom if in practice we deny it. That is the position of the Communists of today and it was the position of the Fascists a decade ago. The free world is trying to combat that sort of thing with all the resources, human and material, at its command.

It would be one of the great tragedies of history if, in the process of showing the fallacy of totalitarian methods and practices, Democratic communities on whatever level were to use the same methods and practices they profess to despise. The common purpose without common agreement in all things that make up that purpose. Unthinking, regimented acceptance of any kind of political philosophy, good or bad, is one of the first steps to tyranny. The manipulation of thought in any matter whatsoever by an arbitrary group, call it government or by any other name, is a spiritual imposition on the ideal of freedom.

It was on the solid foundations of unity in diversity and toleration of differences in belief and opinion on any issue, fundamental

or incidental that the Democratic ideal was built. These are not luxuries to be taken or left alone. They are the absolute essentials for living as free men. Without them there can be no political integrity.

The only final and absolute authority that pure Democracy knows anything about is the uncoerced judgment of individuals; that has been arrived at through discussion of both agreements and differences, not through the glorification of the one and the suppression of the other.

It is safe to say that truth can never be legislated, though doubtless there are times and occasions when legislation that has been thoughtfully conceived can help it along. As long ago as the middle of the 17th century the distinguished English philosopher John Locke saw this clearly. "The truth certainly would do well enough," he wrote, "if she were once left to shift for herself. She seldom has received and I fear never will receive much assistance from the power of great men. She is not taught by laws nor has she any need of force to procure her entrance into the minds of men."

Locke is saying in effect that men who allow others to do their thinking for them are not free, not even if other men's thinking should turn out, as it well might, to be superior to their own. The moment any individual loses or surrenders his "inalienable" right to do his own thinking—not necessarily unaided—the man's integrity and becomes a tool, a machine, a bond-servant.

Our faith in Democracy can remain a living, working force only so long as it is the faith of individual men and women living together in communities that are both united and free; united in purpose, free in thought and understanding.

Common agreements in thought, arrived at in the democratic way and not enforced by arbitrary fiat, are, of course, helpful social instruments, but no agreement, for expediency's sake is of the slightest moral value. There is nothing in the world that can properly be substituted for "the infinite worth and dignity of the individual soul."

The Age-Old Story

What profiteth the graven image that the maker thereof hath graven it; the molten image, and a teacher of lies, the maker of his work trusteth therein, to make dumb idols? Woe unto him that saith to the wood, Awake; to the dumb stone, Arise, it shall teach; Behold, it is laid over with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in the midst of it. But the Lord is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him.

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