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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest link."

New Bugbear

Until a few days ago we thought we had heard all the arguments against Federal support for education. Then, we happened to come across the text of a speech delivered in the Commons by Mr. C. W. Carter, Liberal member for a Newfoundland riding; and lo and behold, staring us in the face was a brand new bugbear. Let Mr. Carter himself describe its ferocious character: "I agree that there is no danger (respecting Federal aid to education) foreseeable in the life of the present generation or during the time this Government might be in power or during such time as any party in this house might be in charge of the Government or during the time any of the personalities in this house might dominate the political scene. But we know that time like an ever rolling stream bears all its sons away. Old parties pass on, new parties take their place. ("Hear, Hear" from some honourable members, who evidently recognized the words of an old hymn.) Personalities disappear, new personalities come on the scene. ("Hurrah" from some honourable members.)

"If (and here Mr. Carter gets into the meat of his subject) the present trends continue, who can say what type of personality will dominate the political scene in Canada in 40 or 50 year's time? We all know what happened in Italy and Germany when education came under the direct control of such personalities as Hitler and Mussolini. Who says it cannot happen here? I do not want to appear as a prophet of gloom, but I think if we face facts honestly we cannot rule out the possibility of such events happening in Canada."

So, there it is: It would be dangerous for the Federal Government to establish the practice of helping the Provinces meet the needs of education because forty, fifty or a hundred years from now Canada might be under the iron hand of a wicked tyrant who will use the schools for his nefarious purposes. Mr. Carter doesn't appear to have too much confidence in the staying power of Canada's freedom; and he seems unaware of the fact that if a Hitler or a Mussolini did arise in the dim future it wouldn't matter very much, as far as his rapaciousness was concerned, how the costs of education were being met. He would be a very poor dictator who allowed such a little thing as that to cramp his style.

Anyway, Mr. Carter won a "hurrah" from some honourable members, no mean achievement for a backbencher these days.

Political Requirements

A hard look at present-day politics at Ottawa is taken by that veteran parliamentarian, Senator C. G. Power, in the current issue of the Queen's Quarterly. The Senator believes that the typical member of Parliament is a full-time "career man" rather than a part-time amateur, and should live up to the part. This involves a reassessment by all parties concerned, including the public, to whom much of the comment is directed.

The public, argues Senator Power, must abandon the practice of selecting its representatives on the basis of wholly antiquated standards inherited from the Victorian era. The MP now has eight months' work instead of three. He is adequately compensated. Why not require of him a full time return? Yet politics remains, one of the only full-time fields of endeavor wherein the applicant deems it advisable to boast of his ignorance of the job which he seeks to obtain.

"If he has no knowledge of governmental activities as they touch every class and every individual in the nation, let him slay at home," says Senator Power. "He may be of some use to his own business, he is useless in yours. If he does not as-

sociate himself with some group having views not necessarily identical, but at least with some similarity to his own, he is a single voice crying in a wilderness of futility. The selection of a representative should be made on account of the competence of the applicant and his understanding of the whole problem of government, not because he is a joiner of clubs and lodges, or a bell ringer, a constant attendant at civic receptions, and a front rank mourner at funerals.

"The member himself must, and will if a discriminating public exacts it, realize that he must be prepared to work harder at his job, study more, to prepare himself better, to be less inclined to accept party slogans, or leaders' opinions. He can take part in study groups, committee work, master one or two subjects well—labor legislation, finance, external affairs—speak not too often but with knowledge and after marshalling facts.

"And the leaders of parties, particularly those in office, must understand that, however convenient it may be to have at their disposal a docile and disciplined party, they owe it to their country, their supporters and themselves to provide an army which will be composed not only of generals and desk thumping privates but will have trained replacements for the higher ranks. The young and inexperienced who show some indication of aptitude and ability should be encouraged and given opportunities for distinction and public notice. The greatest threat to party success, and indeed the direct way to national political ineptitude, is to allow bright, ambitious young men to become politically atrophied by neglect and consequent indolence and frustration . . .

"I would sum up by suggesting that the ever changing and greatly accelerated tempo of political life requires first a better understanding by the people themselves of politics and politicians; secondly, a greater concern by political organizations and party leaders for parliamentary supporters; and thirdly, a clearer and more general recognition by all concerned that a vigorous expression of his own, or his constituents' views, by a member of parliament does not necessarily imply a loss of confidence in leaders, or party disloyalty; that political parties and governments can function successfully in democratic countries without rigid discipline and strict uniformity of thought and expression."

It would be well for every voter, as well as all our members, to study Senator Power's words carefully. They contain a lot of mature thinking.

EDITORIAL NOTES

U.S. farmers lost crops last year valued at \$37,000,000 as a result of grasshopper and cricket damage. A USDA survey indicates that more than 22 billion acres of range land in 19 western and midwestern states are threatened with light to severe grasshopper damage in 1957. The greatest build-up of infestation appears to be in Minnesota and North Dakota.

The Bureau of Statistics, reporting on the lower volume of tourist business from the United States last year, mentioned lack of U.S. heat waves, the steel strike and bad weather in Canada as the chief factors behind the reduction. Another, unquestionably, was the discount on the American dollar. If there is one thing Americans don't like it is to be told that their money is not the most valuable in the world.

Risks in cheese manufacturing may be reduced considerably as the result of research work conducted by British scientists. They have been able to develop a phage-resistant medium for growing cheese starter cultures. Phages are organisms that attack and destroy the acid-producing bacteria in cultures. When this happens the cultures are rendered useless and, if used, can result in heavy losses of product. Since phages are always present in cheese factories they represent a constant threat to success in cheese-making. With the new medium, starter cultures may be grown in spite of the heaviest phage contamination. It is estimated that the discovery may lead to a saving of between 30,000 and 100,000 tons of cheese in a single year.



SENTIMENTS OF THE SEASON

OTTAWA REPORT

Mr. Martin's Health Plan

By Patrick Nicholson

Ottawa: Hon. Paul Martin has brought his favorite project of a national health insurance plan a big step nearer completion.

"Only a very narrow margin separates Ottawa and the Ontario government now," our Minister of Health and Welfare told me on his return from two days of discussion with Leslie Frost, Premier of the key province of Ontario.

It is recognized here that this national project can only become a reality if Ontario will agree to join it. Ottawa has made an offer to all provinces to share the cost of a diagnostic and hospitalization service, provided that a majority of the provinces representing a majority of Canadians will participate.

So the cooperation of six provinces, with a total population of at least 8,500,000, is needed before the proposal can be put into effect. So far British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Newfoundland have indicated their willingness to join. A least two more provinces, including one of the big central provinces, must also join to meet the majority qualification. Quebec is regarded as a non-starter under present conditions: the participation of Ontario is therefore essential to the fulfillment of Mr. Martin's hopes.

ONTARIO: NEAR PACT This explains Mr. Martin's great and obvious pleasure on his return here from his meeting with Premier Frost. Ontario, he now believes is about to come to terms with Ottawa. Manitoba is also about to join, which would make up the necessary quota of provinces. For the necessary quota of provinces, the Province will join soon, the Minister told me. This is not P.E.I., he said, and although he would not pinpoint the province, I believe that it is Nova Scotia.

As we discussed this progress in the government lobby of the House of Commons, I commented to the Minister that I thought he looked very tired.

"The weekends, when the House does not sit, are the only times when I can do any work in my own constituency," the energetic Minister explained to me. So he had been down in Windsor, where he had managed to attend no less than nine political rallies, these started with a dance on Friday night, and ended with two church suppers on Sunday. In between he had sandwiched such events as the dedication of a plaque at a Rumanian church, the opening of a Maccourt home for crippled chil-

ren, and a gathering of a Holy Name society. "It's not for your profession or mine," I remarked, "but some people enjoy rest and relaxation at weekends."

Switching in the topic of health insurance, however, Paul Martin's expression immediately shed its fatigue. He is convinced that the health plan would be of immense benefit to millions of Canadians. And I know that nothing could please him as much as to get this project launched as a crowning glory to his ten years of achievement as Minister of Health and Welfare.

A LONG WHITE BEARD It would perhaps be cavilling to point out that national health insurance is a hoary old skeleton in the Liberal party's cupboard. This year is the 40th anniversary of the party's first promise to give the electors such a service in return for their support. It was a Liberal plank before Paul went to High School; it remained no more than a plank through many years when he tried unsuccessfully to persuade his colleagues in the cabinet to implement it. Today there is widespread belief in Ottawa that the cabinet's sudden affection for this hitherto neglected pet in its 40th year of age is bound more closely with the electoral health of the Liberal party than with the continuing health of impoverished Canadians.

But Paul Martin has always felt that the policy of health grants to the provinces from his department has been building up towards the point where the country would have enough facilities to meet the demand. Now, in terms of hospital beds, that point has been reached, he believes.

We are still a little distance from the comprehensive coverage which he would like to see, and which is a "must" in Ottawa's offer to the provinces. The Ontario proposal would ultimately be compulsory for all; but at first it would cover perhaps no more than 84 per cent of Ontarians. In B.C. and Saskatchewan, Mr. Martin points out, the coverage today of provincial hospital plans is about 91 per cent.

But, in the view of the Minister, only a very little now separates the cabinet from its immediate target. If that little gap is bridged, credit for building the bridge and indeed for the wish to build that bridge, must go first, last and all the time—to the federal level—and to that one man, Hon. Paul Martin.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

CITY HOSPITAL POSITION

Sir,—I would like to comment on a front page news release in your paper of this (Saturday) morning concerning a special hospital problem. The release was attributed to Dr. Lorne Bonnell, Minister of Health. Since the Charlottetown Hospital was included in the statement through his reference to "the three large hospitals and one of the small hospitals in this Province" I feel obliged to outline our position in this matter, so as to avoid and offset any inferences or interpretations accidentally or otherwise implied in this report.

Staphylococcal infections have always been treated in hospitals. The statement that such organisms have been found in hospitals "in recent months" is quite meaningless. Infections of the skin, boils, carbuncles, abscesses, infections of the ears, sinuses, bone and of many organs are commonly caused by the staphylococcus.

2. The treatment of these conditions has never presented us any special problem. Isolation of cases, effective control of antibiotics and all routine procedures used to control infections of any type have been effective without any alteration of our techniques.

3. We have not had, nor do we have now, any clinical problem with either cross infections, nursery infections or contamination of clean surgical wounds.

4. I feel your readers should know that no patient entering the Charlottetown Hospital need worry about exposure to infection.

5. I feel the intent of the release must have been to give credit to the Laboratory Council of P.E.I. for the very effective services they have set up for bacteriological services to the public, even though in referring to these services no such specific reference was made.

I am, Sir, etc., J.A. MCMILLAN, M.D. Chairman, Medical Board Charlottetown Hospital.

Books Reviewed

I JOINED THE MOUNTIES, recollections by Oscar Olson, published by Pageant Press, \$3.50. This book is one of the many flooding the market which is concerned about The Mounted Police and the North. The American publisher apparently is trying to cash in on the recent wave of interest in that noble body of forty-five hundred men who patrol our vast country from sea to sea and from the 49th parallel to the Arctic wastes.

The account of Mr. Olson's twenty-five years' in the Force is a dawdling, winding one. Although interesting in spots the book proves that one's every day experiences are only basically interesting to the person concerned. Much space is devoted to what somebody or another said to the author and what he said and thought at the time. The jacket blurb makes a statement about the "amazing retentive memory for detail" shown by the writer. One could assume that he carried a tape recording with him, if such a device were available a quarter of a century ago.

His accounts of his service in the north are quite interesting, but a good deal of hearsay evidence about some northern incidents could have been better left to government reports. Much space is used in recounting his service on Parliament Hill during the war. This is not the adventure story which the jacket cover promises with its hissing Northern Lights and lonely dog team wending its way through tall timber. We are given instead an incident about the Force and a detailed run through of disjointed and unrelated facts. The initiated will find this book will bring back to mind many almost forgotten memories of the Force. Those who are younger will find the going slow, without the glamour that the red coats inspire more romantic writers.

HIGH BORDER The Pyrenees mountains separating France from Spain reach as high as 11,000 feet.

Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Bundesen, M. D.

TRY THESE EXERCISES TO RELAX TIRED EYES It feels good to sit down and relax after a busy day at the office or factory, doesn't it? But the next time you do, try exercising your eyes instead of closing them.

If you have been using your eyes for a long work at a desk or machine, hour after hour it might be a good idea to relax these strained muscles every once in a while. RELAX MUSCLES One way you can do it is simply by rolling your eyes. Not only will this help relax muscles that have been overused, it will stimulate other eye muscles which haven't been given much use, if any at all.

Rolling your eyes won't help improve this vision, nor will it make your eyes any healthier. But it does not cause any harm, either. And I think you'll find that it definite helps to relax them.

There's another exercise, too, that may help provide a certain measure of relief from strain caused by close work. It's just as simple as the one I've already mentioned.

All you have to do is fasten your gaze on some distant object briefly and then transfer it abruptly to something nearby. Do this several times, alternating between the distant object and the one near by.

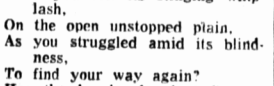
ORTHOPIC TRAINING

I don't want you to confuse these relaxing exercises with those used in orthopic training. Exercises as advised by ophthalmologists help to correct cases of crossed eyes, squint and the like.

The two exercises I have cited above won't help cure any such trouble.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

W. C.: Is it possible for the blood to show a high percentage of sugar and for none to be found in the urine? Answer: This may occur in some instances.



PRAIRIE SNOW Have you seen snow on the prairie. When the wind whips it over the banks. And it blows like white smoke rolling.

From huge subterranean tanks, Have you felt its stinging whip-lash. On the open unstopped plain, As you struggled amid its blindness.

To find your way again? Has the brush of velvet fingers, As it floated gently down. Made you think that God in His Glory.

Must well have loved the ground? Harsh, cold and unmeasured, Or soft from Heaven's purse, Like most of nature's treasures, It's both a blessing and curse.

—Marion Hislop in Regina Leader-Post.

The Age Old Story

LET the Lord be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of His servant.

OUR YESTERDAYS

From The Guardian Files, TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (February 18, 1932) Mr. C. C. Gillis, Chief Engineer of the S. S. Harland, leaves this morning for Ottawa, as a delegate to the Grand Council of National Associations of Marine Engineers. Mr. Gillis expects to be absent from the City about a week.

Mr. J. W. Boulter, Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Prince Edward Island returned to Canada this week from Britain where he, together with Hon. Lewis Smith, Minister of Agriculture for New Brunswick, endeavored to have the British Government remove the embargo against Canadian potatoes.

THE new car ferry "Ardeweg" is expected to reach Borden in early June, it was learned yesterday. The ship's engines were turned over for the first time only recently and engineers and other technicians were aboard during the tuning-up period to ensure smooth-working efficiency.

Prince Edward Island Fox Ranchers hailed with delight the announcement that the Dominion Government is undertaking to guarantee a minimum price for fox pelts under the Agricultural Products Co-operative Marketing Act. Island ranchers state they suffered loss at the last pelt sale at Montreal.

NOTES BY THE WAY

We know how many miles an hour our planes go faster than sound. How many they go faster than necessary is a matter of opinion.—Brandon Sun

England's Old Vic Theatre is paying its first visit to Washington and this is an occasion for rejoicing, it should be said, for London's famous Shakespearean company apparently is as delighted as Washington itself.—Washington Star

After centuries of expressed sympathy or condemnation for people who are known as chronic worriers, psychologists have come up with the verdict that it is normal to worry. Just think how much comfort it would be to the worriers to have had this information years ago.—Estevan, Sask. Mercury

If the California man, now on his way by slow boat to an island paradise in the South Pacific because he is tired of "Creeping civilization", will let us have his phone number or the address of his palm-hatched hut, he can get ready for his first sub-tenant.—St. Catharines Standard

The most constructive and realistic comment we've heard in a very long time about tax reform comes from the Chamber of Commerce. We refer to the proposal for "deferred tax reductions." This is merely the familiar wartime device of compulsory saving contrived through taxation.—Financial Post

In the craving to have a fireplace in these days of oil heating — much more practical and much less troublesome to have heat in liquid form which can be piped rather than shovelled — we build one and put it in an electrical device, resembling an open coal fire. We can't toast marshmallows by it or even roast chestnuts successfully, but at least we have a fireplace connected only by a remote mental link with the chimney.—Peterborough Examiner

The finally sculptured cover of a sarcophagus in which the Roman Emperor of Mesopotamia, Lucio Valerio Valeriano, was laid to rest 1,300 years ago has come to light among the vineyards along the Domitian canal road just north of Naples. A peasant ran into the piece while digging a hole to plant a mulberry tree. He discovered the cover, without its box-part, turned upside down like a giant bathtub — it was probably used as a cattle trough for a century or two in the Middle Ages before it disappeared underground in some upheaval.—The Italian Scene

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