

Covers Prince Edward Island Like the Dew... Published every week-day morning at 165 Prince Street...

FRIDAY, FEB. 26, 1959

The Natural Way

Between theory and practice there is often a wide difference. This difference is nowhere more marked than in the controversies waged over educational methods.

There is much evidence, Dr. MacKinnon said, that those who plan school curricula have misjudged the natural capacities of pupils and have set too slow a pace for the covering of school work.

One reason is the system's neglect of what he aptly called "educational deadlines"—arbitrary ones which nature herself imposes.

Young people, Dr. MacKinnon cautioned, are often more capable than adults think they are. Underestimating their abilities is a common mistake.

The same warning, we note, is being sounded by leading practical educationists across Canada and in the United States, where the "soft approach" to teaching appears to have originated.

What is this about Indian girls winning three trophies in an Irish dancing contest in North Vancouver? One boy, from Limerick, Ireland, also took part in the contest, but he didn't get anywhere.

First Weather Satellite

The satellite boosted into orbit by a U.S. Vanguard rocket from Cape Canaveral the other day may prove of more practical importance than any of its famed predecessors.

Cloud observations from a satellite could give the meteorologists a view of the entire weather pattern of the earth. Though this would have significant advantages for the military, the immediate benefits to civilians are likely to be such that there is little doubt that the weather satellite is predominantly a civilian venture into space.

through these openings photo-electric cells record the reflection of the sunlight off the clouds, sea and earth below. These cells translate the reflections into electric impulses, which are stored in a tape recorder.

Man's ingenuity has seldom been put to better advantage than in this remarkable device for keeping a weather eye upon the earth. The satellites which will track more precisely the hurricane and the tornado are several years away yet; but we now have a tool that supplements the present indirect methods of weather forecasting, with almost endless possibilities of development in its field.

Good Word For Potatoes

One trouble with marketing potatoes is that people generally don't eat enough of them. The myth still lingers that they are fattening and have relatively little food value.

A noted Canadian dietitian, Mrs. Agnes Higgins, executive director of the Montreal Diet Dispensary, told delegates to the Fruit Wholesalers Convention the other day that not only are potatoes an excellent non-fattening food item; there is strong evidence that they are helpful in prevention of common types of heart disease, since they are a great source of potassium, lack of which contributes to cardiac disorders.

Commenting on Mrs. Higgins' statement, the Fredericton Gleaner observes: "A 42-per-cent reduction in Canadian consumption of potatoes in the last quarter century, partly due to the unfortunate misconception that potatoes are fattening, may thus have had some part in bringing death and crippling disability to thousands of Canadians."

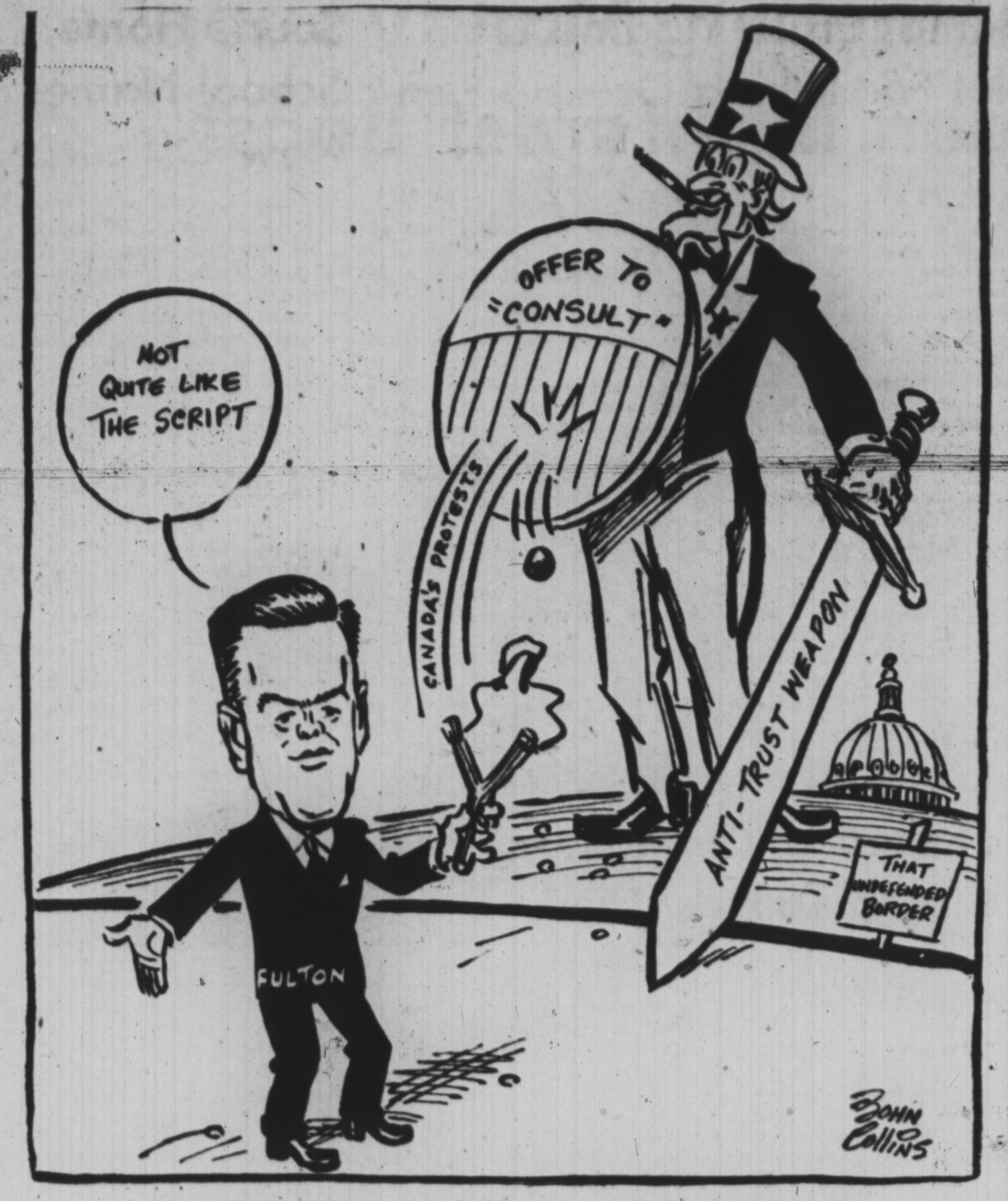
Here, surely, is a fine basis for an intensive educational campaign. And since, by common consent, potatoes grown on this Island are the best in the world, when properly prepared and cooked (with their jackets on, preferably), there is no reason why our farmers should not profit by this expert testimony.

EDITORIAL NOTES

When is a cow a "good" cow? R. F. Dixon, supervisor of herd improvement for the Province of Alberta, answers the question this way: "A good dairy cow should have a lactation of 10 months with a dry period of 6 to 8 weeks and should calve yearly. A butterfat yield of 300 pounds or more should be attained in a 10 months lactation.

Premier Smallwood's clash with the I.W.A. in the loggers' dispute in Newfoundland is causing concern to fellow Liberals in other parts of Canada. He has been accused by Arthur Laing, Liberal leader in British Columbia, of ignoring party principles in labor matters.

My impression: A good time was had by all! Then rose the Minister of Education to brave the fray. He dramatically waved a cheque to show just what cheap skates the Federal Government is in reality. An Island farmer had been paid the sum of sixteen cents minus fifteen cents for exchange as a subsidy for something like sixty bushels of potatoes.



DAVID AND GOLIATH-NEW VERSION

OTTAWA REPORT

Mr. Chevrier's Complaint

By Patrick Nicholson

So, the few Liberal Members in the House of Commons just cannot perform all their parliamentary duties, according to the loud complaints of Hon. Lionel Chevrier.

There are so few Liberal M.P.s that they just cannot staff both the House of Commons and Parliamentary Committees at the same time, he said. It is unfair to the Liberals for committees to sit while the House is sitting.

Perhaps Mr. Chevrier would prefer not to have these overlapping sessions; then Parliament would be here not for six months but for perhaps ten months each year. Would other M.P.s prefer it that way?

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.

APPALLING TOLL

Sir,—This year's Yule traffic toll in the United States came to an appalling total of \$94. I do not remember the exact figures for Canada, but, per capita, the toll was considerably higher.

This is an annual catastrophe which the American and Canadian public seems to take "in stride." Oddly, although Dr. Linus Pauling, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, and various liberal groups throughout the two countries can get all worked up over the possibility of a relatively few deaths supposedly caused by fallout from nuclear testing, I have yet to see any of them holding indignation meetings in Unitarian churches calling for a universal ban on automobiles.

Autobodies. I am, Sir, etc. A READER, Charlottetown.

FROM THE SIDELINES

Sir,—Since I have taken part in a number of model parliaments I have a special interest in that democratic institution, the Island Legislative Assembly. Herewith are my impressions and observations of the proceedings during the latter part of the sitting on February 17, 1959.

As I entered the Premier was in the process of whitewashing the late lamented federal Liberal regime while vehemently blackballing the present inauspicious (remember the Bennett catastrophe) Conservative Government in Ottawa. The Opposition House Leader was indignant to hear the federal government called stingy and to hear that heartening cry "my fellow Canadians!" taken in vain. Mr. Bell without hesitation gave the Premier a verbal blow for blow. (The House I am sure must be guided by a set of parliamentary rules completely in the category of "Top Secret", otherwise how could Mr. Speaker have allowed Mr. Bell and the Premier to carry on this entertaining but unnecessary and time-consuming political sword play without either even acknowledging the Speaker to be present?) The Provincial Treasurer with one foot on his desk courageously helped the Premier along by heckling with most diligence of purpose the outraged Opposition leader.

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REST ROOM NEEDED

Sir,—We have read in your paper, where there is to be a wharf built in Charlottetown at a cost of two million dollars, which will no doubt be an advantage to the city. Why don't we petition the Federal Government for a grant to build a rest room with toilet accommodations for the public, which is so badly needed, and have it placed on the piece of land which was given to the farmers in bygone days as a market place for their produce, and which rightly belongs to them, but has been confiscated by the city for a parking area.

What other city of its size is without a public rest room? The farmers and their families come to the city to do their shopping and leave hundreds of dollars especially a round Christmas with the merchants and business men every week, and after walking around all day, are unable to rest their feet for a few minutes, simply because there is no place to rest, unless one walks out to Eaton's, where they have provided a beautiful rest room with toilet facilities for their customers. Unfortunately it is rather out of the way. To bad some other outside firm wouldn't set up business in the centre of the city. Our local department stores are not interested in accommodating the people who help to keep them living, for without the country people, they would not exist. And what do we get in return?

Every autumn scores of sportsmen from Charlottetown flock to our farms and run all over our property without as much as "by your leave" and without any consideration of damage.

Some of those are good sports, no doubt, but a great many are quite undesirable, and they think they have the right to use our farms as they see fit, even to cutting Christmas trees for their use. Then again when our young men find work in town to earn a few much needed dollars, the hand is outstretched to them, but the hand of the tax collector, demanding \$25.00 for the privilege of working in your fair city. Now, I think its about time the farmers got a square deal. So much is planned and no expense spared on the tourists, but I wonder what those tourists think, when they ask to be directed to a rest room, and are told that the city doesn't boast of such a luxury.

Wake up, City Fathers, and do something about it. I am, Sir, etc. FARMER'S WIFE, Mt. Stewart, R. E.

TEN YEARS AGO

Electric power was turned on Saturday evening in O'Leary less than 72 hours after a fire destroyed the village's electric power plant. The current is being provided by a temporary power set-up. It is understood the Government may build a power line from Mount Pleasant along the Western Road from which it may be possible for companies which service areas along the way to purchase power.

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Caseley had a narrow escape from serious injury, or possible death, on Thursday morning, when the car in which they were driving, was struck by a jitney; at what is known as the Margate Crossing at Kensington. Mrs. Caseley escaped injury, but her husband received cuts and scratches from broken glass.

THE POSTS CORNER

TO-A STARRY NIGHT

O Mystery that moulded dust And gave it choice of fate: To orbit on in ways unjust; Or purge itself of hate:

How vain it is to serve the dream With artifice and lies. When atom-blast and missile-scream Foreshadow earth's demise.

Whence comes the right to tumble man From his frail perch of bliss And frustrate every move to ban The fearsome lethal kiss?

O Mystery that fathered Joy, We ravish it with tears; And speed the bomb with base alloy Of faith and pagan fears.

OUR YESTERDAYS

(From The Guardian Files) TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (Feb. 20, 1934)

While packing cranberries last fall for Messrs. Paul A. Murray and Co., Mr. J. V. Oatway enclosed his address in one of the shipments overseas, and yesterday received a reply from a resident in Edinburgh, Scotland, in which the writer stated that the shipment had arrived in excellent condition and was now in cold storage.

The Montague Primrose Hockey Club held a successful skating carnival in the rink on Monday evening. The winners included Winnifred MacDonald, Mildred Killam, Ralph Morse, R. Crosby,

All Should Have Anti-Polio Shots

By Herman N. Bundesen, M. D. BEFORE this year gets a year further along I want you and your entire family to get your anti-polio vaccinations, unless you already have done so.

Sure, it's still cold outside and the warm weather polo season may seem like a long way off. But it will be here before you realize it. Besides, you can't wait until the very last minute to get your inoculations and expect them to give you adequate protection.

It has been almost four years since the vaccination program was begun. You would think by this time certainly everyone would be protected from polio and all its heartaches.

Yet about 44,000,000 Americans under the age of 40 have failed to take advantage of the vaccine which is available to everyone.

This includes 15,400,000 persons under the age of 20 and 28,700,000 between 20 and 39 years old. ALARMING NUMBER

Now this is an alarming number of people—two out of every five Americans under the age of 40.

Why haven't they been inoculated? Oh, they come up with all sorts of reasons. Most of them cite fear and uncertainty of the vaccine as their main reason for not being inoculated or not having their children vaccinated.

Others concede that they merely "haven't taken the trouble" to seek vaccination. Opposition of husbands has blocked some well-meaning mothers, and some complain about the cost of the vaccine.

HOW WILL THEY FEEL? How will these persons be able to live with themselves should a member of the family be stricken with paralytic polio this year? The national polio season begins in June and reaches a peak in August. That doesn't give you very long to make up your mind about getting the series of three, and maybe four, inoculations.

I recall saying to myself as far back as 1955 that the introduction of the Salk vaccine meant that I probably wouldn't have to write about polio any more.

CASES HAVE DROPPED Since that year, the national number of polio cases has dropped for three consecutive years. This is contrary to the usual trend, which sees years of high polio incidence following low ones.

Do we need any more proof that the vaccine works? Yet here I am, writing another column about polio and all its tragic implications.

If you 44,000,000 un inoculated people will go out and get the vaccine, maybe I won't have to write anything about it next year. If you don't do it, maybe you won't be around to read what I do write.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

P.A.R.: What causes a wide irregular crack, lengthwise and almost full length, in the tongue? Answer: What appears to be a crack in the tongue is usually a split in the heavy coating in the tongue.

Such a coating may result from mouth breathing, stomach or lung disturbance, or from a general disease such as diabetes.

Harry Clay, Robert Clements and Calvin Hillech.

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NOTES BY THE WAY

A British medical weekly says that an adult shrinks about half an inch every 20 years. We started to fill state and federal income tax blanks and shrank our 20 year quota overnight.—Milwaukee Journal

A woman reported the disappearance of her husband to the police. "Is there any message you wish us to give him in case we find him?" she was asked.

"Yes," she said. "Tell him Mother didn't come after all."—St. John Telegraph-Journal

We have often felt that the dashboard clock is a rather useless addition to most cars. Most drivers who can afford an auto can also afford a wristwatch, surely. Once the clock breaks down, it is seldom repaired and sits there, a prime target for any gadget fiddlers who get into the front seat.—Kingston Whig-Standard

It would be a foolhardy husband indeed who would suggest to his wife that the lipstick she uses is something she could do without. Yet this is the conclusion implied by the fact that lipstick is regarded, for excise tax purposes, as a luxury. Among other "luxuries" subject to the tax are shaving cream and baby oils.—Sudbury Star

Big ranches are a part of the Alberta story. Yet, in recent years, the cattle market has been served more and more by cattle from the smaller producers who each contribute a few head to the large total. No doubt this has been accelerated by recent high prices for cattle, a situation brought about to a great extent by the high U. S. demand.—Calgary Herald

There is a thing about cake; eating it and having it is a trick that precious few have mastered. A nod that includes politicians. In the last election Canada voted for cake. Indeed, it was offered no other choice; the two major parties simply promised it different varieties—spending (Conservative); tax cuts (Liberal). Overwhelmingly it chose the former flavor. Now the country at large evidently wants a second helping. Second helpings have to be paid for.—Vancouver Province

A Canadian growing a little long in the tooth says that when he was a boy there were gangs of youngsters who became involved in fights and caused trouble, being, he thought, just as bad as some modern juveniles. He agreed the present situation was more serious as a threat to law and order. Why? Because the old gangs were confined to small areas close to their homes but now, with cars, they can spread their mischief over a whole city, disturb more people and are far harder for the police to find.—Ottawa Journal

The fellow with a foreign car is faced with the problem of finding a girl small enough to fit into it.—St. Thomas Times-Journal

Before we criticize the people of Central Canada for not buying more Maritime coal let us make doubly sure that we are doing our level best to sell more coal to them. What has the Dominion Coal Board to say about this? The fire directed by J. Clyde Nunn of Antigonish and Millbrook, Inverness, at buyers of coal in Central Canada, may have justification to a degree, but let us not look for scapegoats to take a beating for our own coal salesmanship failings.—Cape Breton Post

A year-end report from Gogama, Ont., on big game casualties reveals that collisions with locomotives killed nine moose, or one for each 16 miles of railway track in this district; one-third of such kills since 1955 occurred in June, 20 percent of them in September. Cows were much more accident-prone than bull moose—only seven of 26 adult moose killed by trains since 1955 were bulls.—Ontario Forests Bulletin

The new U. S. space agency has set rigid standards for the first man to go into orbit. He must have a university degree in engineering or physical science, and he must be a test pilot with at least 1,500 hours flying in superb physical condition. Less than forty years old and not more than five feet 11 inches tall, although it doesn't matter how much he weighs. Of course, it goes without saying that he must have a certain disregard for the future.—Toronto Telegram

MAXIMS

The greatest pleasure in life is doing what people say you can't do. He that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Clarifying The Berlin Issue

By George Stinch Canadian Press Staff Writer

President Eisenhower has made it clear that the Allies have no intention of shooting their way into West Berlin if the Russians carry out their threat to withdraw from that occupied city and turn their duties over to the East German government.

He put it into these words at his weekly press conference Wednesday: "We are not saying that we are going to shoot our way into Berlin. . . . If we are stopped, it will be somebody else using force."

What the president was saying, in other words, is that the West doesn't intend to shoot first if it comes to a showdown in the problem of maintaining Western garrisons there and taking in supplies for the 2,200,000 West Germans now living in the old German capital.

Eisenhower left unanswered the vital question of whether the Western forces would shoot back if the Communists opened fire in any attempt to supply the beleaguered city. Presumably they have expressed their determination to maintain access to the city.

But Eisenhower obviously was trying to make it clear to the Russians—and to the world at large—that the responsibility will be theirs if a shooting war develops out of the Berlin crisis.

His statement, in fact, was a direct reply to a Moscow declaration by Premier Khrushchev Tuesday that it would be the beginning of war if the West tried to shoot its way into West Berlin after Russia turns the occupied area over to East Germany.

The West faces a formidable supply problem if the Soviets go through with their plan and attempt to prevent the Allies from moving supplies through East Germany and into West Berlin by land transport.

The current situation finds no counterpart in the 1948 blockade when the Soviet blockade in Berlin opened a land blockade of the former German capital by refusing to permit American and British supply trains to pass through their zone. The Allies took to the air and flew 2,343,315 tons of food and coal into West Berlin in the next 18 months.

DIFFERENT PICTURE NOW But present-day Berlin is far different from that of a decade ago. In 1948, West Berlin was a stricken, war-devastated city with limited supply requirements and a considerably smaller population. West Berlin today is a bustling, heavily industrialized city with a big appetite for food and other materials.

It is for this reason that the West needs and wants a conference with Moscow on the Berlin problem specifically and the German question generally. The Soviet Union also may want to reach some arrangements with the West, if only to give its action in reneging on its Berlin responsibilities some semblance of respectability.

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