

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink".

CHARLOTTETOWN, TUESDAY, AUGUST 28, 1951

"The Right Kind Of Opinion"

"It would be unrealistic to suppose", says Professor Wilfred Eggleston in a special study on the press of Canada prepared for the Massey Commission, "that the men and women who own, or those who actually get out the newspapers of Canada, have always in the forefront of their minds the service which the press of Canada can render to the cause of nationhood by dissemination of constructive news or by sponsoring of the right kind of opinion."

Mr. Eggleston, in a volume entitled Royal Commission Studies, published by the King's Printer, Ottawa, has a lot more to say in similar vein regarding the shortcomings and inadequacies of the newspapers of Canada. It is sufficient, however, to observe that his dislike of the newspapers rests on the ground that, in his opinion, they fail to disseminate "constructive" news, whatever that may be, and that they do not sponsor "the right kind of opinion."

It would be interesting to know what Mr. Eggleston means by "the right kind of opinion." Unfortunately, he remains woefully vague on the matter. It may be inferred, however, that "the right kind of opinion" would be the kind of opinion that Mr. Eggleston happens to agree with. If editorial opinion in Canadian newspapers were all of "the right kind" as laid down by a Professor of journalism, itself an anachronism, then editorial writers would find it difficult to distinguish their function from that of propagandists.

If by "the right kind of opinion" Mr. Eggleston means "opinion of the left", he will find all he wants by listening to the CBC. Newspaper readers, meanwhile, will continue to form their own opinions by reading the views of the right, the left and the middle-of-the-road, freely expressed in the columns of every newspaper in Canada.

Unexalted

A House committee in the United Kingdom has investigated the complaint of a member that he had been delayed and obstructed on his way to a sitting of Parliament by policemen who charged he failed to observe traffic rules. The committee came down hard, found there had been no breach of the member's privileges and went on to explain that these privileges apply to members only insofar as they are necessary in order that the House may freely perform its functions. It added:

"Such privileges do not exalt the member above the ordinary restraints of law which apply to his fellow-citizens. They do not discharge the member from the obligations to society which apply to him as much, and perhaps more closely, in that capacity as they apply to other subjects of the Crown."

Quoting the above comment, the Ottawa Journal adds: "A prideful parliament is a dangerous parliament, at Westminster, Ottawa, Canberra or any other capital. Members are given their duties and their privileges by the free people and they are expected to serve these people not their own vanities."

Livestock In Warfare

A special organization established by the Federal Department of Agriculture is pushing forward measures designed to protect the livestock of the country in the event of enemy bombing attacks. This group is known as the Animal Health Emergency Organization, whose members comprise trained officials fully capable of dealing with such a threat. It is pointed out that world scientists have warned that biological attack has now been so perfected that it could be used successfully in wartime to work havoc on a country's livestock and so strike a crippling blow at food resources.

The new body has been set up to expand normal services of the Health of Animals Division and the essential diseases, through co-operation of provincial departments of agriculture and private veterinary practitioners. Its purpose is to detect, report and isolate diseases which might be spread by an enemy bent on curtailing and destroying food of animal origin.

The organization comprises a central headquarters committee located in Ottawa, with committees functioning in all Provinces, these being headed by the federal department district veterinarian. Membership consists of federal and provincial de-

partment of agriculture officers, veterinary practitioners and other key personnel. Sub-district committees, headed by the department veterinarians in charge, are being set up in the 100 sub-districts on the pattern of the provincial committees. These will function to instruct persons concerned in the action and procedure necessary in detecting and reporting promptly the appearance of any abnormal condition connected with animal disease.

The necessity of having such a useful organization can be readily realized. A blow to the health of Canada's dairy herds, its beef cattle, hogs, sheep and poultry flocks would be a most serious matter. If the dangers anticipated fail to materialize, so much the better. The training in such precautionary measures will at any rate prove beneficial.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Like everybody else the experts are prone to mistakes. It was freely predicted that with a preparedness programme coming on top of a period of full employment there would immediately be a scarcity of consumer goods. It may be right around the corner but so far civilian production seems to have gone ahead rather than lagged.

A recently-published British Ministry of Works report states that about \$150,000 worth of goods, mainly household utensils, bedding and clothing, were provided by the Ministry as the United Kingdom Government's gift to Canada after the 1950 spring floods in Winnipeg. The first consignment, valued at \$20,000 was despatched by air on 48 hours' notice.

An extensive purge in the civil service of U. S. A. is in progress with a view to getting rid of Communists in responsible positions. Vice-president Barkley reports that between 2,500 and 3,500 persons have been separated from government service after loyalty inquiries. He made that statement in contending that the government has done a good job in getting rid of such persons.

Dr. Frank MacKinnon, Principal of Prince of Wales College, is a strong booster of the Maritimes and a supporter of Maritime education. But he comments in his survey for the Social Science Research Council that, competition being what it is, the existence of fifteen degree-granting institutions among a small population easily results in a harmful lowering of standards in colleges seeking more and more students.

The fourth Duke of Richmond, Governor in Chief of British North America, died this date 1819 of hydrophobia contracted from the bite of a pet fox, near Richmond, Upper Canada. On March 28th of that year he had transmitted to Lord Bathurst, without expressing an opinion, the papers respecting an appeal about a quarrel which had arisen between the Lieutenant Governor and Legislature of Prince Edward Island.

The faculty of medicine of McGill University reports that more than 2,000 applied, but only 116 can be admitted to the first year. The number of students accepted in first-year is determined by the amount of laboratory space and sinks available. Applications were received from all parts of the world. Medical students start a month earlier than other classes at McGill, with the exception of dentistry students.

Commenting on Dr. Needler's proposal to abolish the present closed lobster seasons on various stretches of the coast at different times and make the summer a prohibitive period in all the Maritimes, the Moncton Times says: "This would be a revolutionary change and, undoubtedly, will evoke a great deal of discussion and debate before any decision is finally made. But in the interests of sincere conservation of the crustaceans, the opinion of so noted an authority as Dr. Needler does carry conviction, and especially now when it has become evident that depletion of the fishing grounds has taken place."

In a column in The Rotarian "Human Nature Put to Work", Mrs. R. E. Mutch, Charlottetown, writes: "To make a person want something, suggest he can't have it. I discovered this old truism selling wallpaper. Turning pages of samples in the heavy books for hours, I found I could hurry the final choice after the customer had narrowed it to two or three. I would point to one pattern and say, 'I'm sorry, but I'll have to see whether we have enough of that one in stock.' Immediately this one became the choice. I would go to the back room where, I knew, there were a hundred rolls of it. Then I'd emerge with the paper. A look of relief would spread over the face of the customer. The sale would be made in no time."

No Rush At Either Time. When classes for learning trades are open. MEN WANTED. When skilled labour is required locally. TRADESMEN APPLY HERE. JOBS AVAILABLE. APPLY HERE FOR SPECIAL COURSES.

When Poets Disagree

(C. A. B. in the Winnipeg Free Press)

OTTAWA: A poet in Hon. Paul Martin's publicity section of the National Health and Welfare Department has plunged into a war of verse with the Sugar Research Foundation of Canada. The departmental jangler began it with a sonnet enclosed in family allowances envelopes attacking candy, pop, and pie. They make acids, he sang, which rot the teeth.

Space forbids the quotation of the entire Government poem dealing with dental hygiene but here are the provocative lines: Sweets in your mouth are used as food. By the germs in your mouth and that's not good. For they make acids and that is what causes peoples' teeth to rot.

The Government Pegasus tripped at the barrier of rhyming food with good; but let it go. Federal poets, like Mr. Abbott's estimates of surpluses, are entitled to some licence.

Dr. Robert C. Hockett, the sugar defender, also took a lot of licence in his lyrical reply. His letter with scientific quotations had cited many points to demolish the Federal poet's song that dental decay is produced by acids from carbohydrates (sweets). Among them:

Researchers have soaked extracted teeth in mouth acids and found that the acids attacked the teeth last and least in places where cavities are most common; other organisms in alkaline media attacked the teeth; acid is a relatively minor factor; many people are immune and the use of fluorine to increase immunity is a hope of the future; starchy foods are equally capable of producing acids; exclusion of all acid producing foods is a practical impossibility.

So what? Balance the diet: restrict food intake to a relatively few definite periods during the day; regular and effective oral hygiene, or as teacher says: Brush your teeth after every meal; and chew hard.

Obviously, Dr. Hockett could not get all those points in his versified reply but even short as it was, space here limits it to these lines:

Left over bits are used as food. By germs in your mouth but that's not good. So do not nibble all day long. Eat three square meals to keep you strong. Perhaps one snack right after school. And one at bedtime, the second rule.

Dr. Hockett's approval of "chew hard" seems to go along to a point with a recent iconoclastic statement by Dr. Hans H. Neuman, eminent Columbia University researcher on tooth decay. Dr. Neuman thinks nothing works but hard chewing: cites the marvelous teeth of some of the world's worsted natives who never heard of a tooth brush.

Let the children chew on hard bread, he advises; better still on raw sugar cane. The instinct of children to chew on pencils, leather and wood is wholesome. We'll go for the sugar cane but skip the leather and wood; most of our pencils are already chewed to the bone.

The best one can say for all these experts is that nothing about tooth decay has been really proved.

The Poet's Corner

BEAUTY IS MORE. More than dreaming, more than love is Beauty. Whether squeezed between the eyelids like a tear Or struck like dagger to the heart, to me It lives in substance like a shining thing, appears Like spindrift and deploys like rain. The curse Of dreaming is the sandbag touch that wakes The dreamer and unrhymes the poet's verse. While love too often dies with lovers, Beauty is blind. A separate peace with time. Beauty is blind. As love is blind, as dreamer to his goal, But Beauty burns like god's-fire in the mind, And holds a cool white candle for the soul. —Harold Applebaum in the New York Times.

Gambling Clues

(Daily Telegraph, London)

Evidence has been found to indicate that the Vikings who colonized the Shetland Islands off Scotland 1,000 years ago used gambling devices. Dice, counters, and other playing pieces were among relics discovered in recent excavations near the southernmost tip of Shetland. The unearthed Viking settlement was occupied from the Ninth to the 13th Centuries A. D. and exceeded two acres in extent. Excavation of the foundations of nine long rectangular houses with associated outbuildings, cobbled yards and enclosure walls has made it possible to follow the history of the settlement over the 400 years of its existence.

The 4,000 objects found, in and around the houses, indicated that the Viking peasants who arrived early in the Ninth Century, were interested more in peaceful colonization than in roving the sea or in piracy. Among the objects found, in addition to the dice, were glass beads, a fragment of a Tenth-Century trefoil brooch, shell rings and bracelets, pins and combs. The many animal and fish bones preserved indicated that the settlers depended for their livelihood on farming and fishing.

Also discovered were stone weights that had been attached to upright looms, on which the women wove a coarse cloth. Iron knives and sickles and also sinkers used in fishing.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

EARLY FARM MACHINERY

The first reaping machine is said to have been used in Prince Edward Island in the year 1830. This must have been of primitive manufacture, and was undoubtedly inferior to the machine imported in 1847 by the Royal Agricultural Society, which was sold at public auction two years later to Mr. Ewen MacMillan, of Brackley Point, for the sum of £20 10s, leaving a loss to the Society on its importation of £33. Hope was expressed in the annual report of the Society for this year that the introduction of this machine into the Colony "may eventually prove to have been advantageous, as it may be the means of directing the attention of both farmers and mechanics to the construction of machines whereby the labour of harvest may be both more quickly and cheaply performed." The report adds that Mr. MacMillan had expressed himself much satisfied with its performance—"it's only fault being that it is too heavy to be worked by one pair of horses."

The report notes that 246 threshing machines were in use on the island at this period. The culture of turnips, which a few years earlier was little practiced, had extended to nearly 2,500 acres, and the different ploughing matches which had taken place, as well under the direction of the Society as among farmers in different localities, evinced a laudable spirit of emulation. Potato disease was then widely prevalent, and the report recommends that every farmer plant one acre of the land otherwise intended for potatoes, with Indian corn. It cites the example of the American "Loyalists" who used to raise large quantities of Indian corn on this island.

The report lists the following life members of the Society at this time: the Earl of Selkirk, Lord Melville, Sir George Seymour, (absentee proprietors), Sir Donald Campbell, (Lieutenant Governor), Edward Cunard, Jr., Esq., David S. Rennie, Esq., John Houges Winslow, Esq., Hon. Charles Young. The annual subscribers numbered over one hundred prominent citizens.

BUBONIC PLAGUE

GENEVA, Switzerland Aug. 24 (AP)—Twelve cases of Bubonic plague have been reported from the villages in Yemen near the Saudi Arabian frontier, and an expert of the World Health Organization has been sent to survey the area the WHO reported today.

LARGE FAMILY

CHERTSY, England (CP)—A family who wanted to spend a day's holiday at this village had to hire a double-decker bus to get here. With children, grandchildren great-grandchildren and in-laws, the family of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Weston numbered 51.

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Notes By The Way. David Brown, of Brighton, Eng., thinks he has found a better mousetrap, but there is nobody beating a path to his door. He brought a six-foot box constrictor from South America to roam around his kitchen and keep the mice away. Mr. Brown says it works perfectly. He is a bachelor. — Associated Press. News report this week tell of the death of Frederick Stanley Pease, 81-year-old farmer at Mild River, Alta., who last year undertook a crop gamble and became the "Mustard King" of North America. Farming 10 sections of land in the Mild River district, Mr. Pease, with his sons, reared their first crop of mustard with their hot dogs, and proceeded to plant 1,700 acres in mustard seed. The land was planted in three and one-half days, and Mr. Pease then sat back to reap the benefit of his crop — a yield of approximately 600 pounds an acre, which produced a crop value of approximately \$56,000. — Sudbury Star. A Miami man took two prescriptions to his druggist. The druggist filled them both and in some way, interchanged the labels which gave the directions for using the medicines. In the meantime, he had been rubbing stomach medicine on his scalp each day and taking a spoonful of hair tonic after each meal. He might as well have saved himself the trouble and expense, for the scalp developed no powers of digestion and the stomach grew no hair. Perhaps Canada's inflation remedies, which do not seem to be working, are being applied in the wrong place. Have the labels been switched? — Vancouver Province. The names of Gilbert and Sullivan will be forever linked with English light music, for the gay little tunes and witty lyrics of the many light operas they jointly produced are still listened to with delight by peoples of many nations. A Londoner, Sir Arthur Sullivan was born in Lambeth in 1842 and soon showed great musical promise. His output of music was seemingly endless and his skill as a conductor made him in great de-

TAIPEH, Formosa, Aug. 26 (AP)—Chen Kuo-Fu, 50, once one of the most powerful men in China, died here yesterday. Until Nationalist leader Chiang Kai-Shek stripped them of power last November, Chen Kuo-Fu and his brother Chen Li-Fu, were leaders of the rightist element in the Kuomintang, the Nationalist party. Chen Li-Fu is believed in the United States.

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