

Mr. Parker's Address

There will, we believe, be widespread appreciation of the stimulating address given by Mr. Parker, superintendent of Charlottetown schools, before the Home and School Association last evening. Mr. Parker has had wide experience as an educationist, and he had the privilege last May of attending an important session on educational leadership at Alberta University, sponsored by the Canadian Education Association. He is enthusiastically devoted to his calling, as all good educationists are, and he made out a convincing case for the need of more expenditure on education in this Province.

Mr. Parker emphasized that the overall objective of public schools is to provide equal educational opportunity for every boy and girl of the nation. The success or failure of this program depends on the supply of adequately trained class room teachers. The kind of teachers we provide for our children will determine to a large degree the kind of society we will have. And it is here, Mr. Parker maintains, that our Island picture is "gloomy, to put it mildly." Two-thirds of our teaching personnel presently employed are not eligible for certification in the other Provinces, simply because as second class licensed teachers or lower, they have not the minimum required academic or professional qualifications. This fact speaks for itself, even though, as Mr. Parker readily admitted, it is not always the class of license which determines the quality of the teacher.

Mr. Parker's arguments would be still more convincing, we suggest, if he had modified his remarks about the critics of our educational system, who are concerned with basic values more than with mass production. These he dismissed for the most part, as "self-styled experts who know relatively little about the findings of research in child psychology," or "reactionaries and indolent school men who have failed to keep abreast of their profession." There is much to be said for "keeping abreast", especially in scientific subjects; there is also much to be said, where cultural and spiritual values inherent in education are concerned, for being able to look back, and see the long procession we are heading (for the time being) in true perspective. To do that requires mental stature, which we try to develop educationally by what Matthew Arnold—if we may be permitted to fall back to the Victorian age for an authority—called knowing and assimilating "the best that has been thought and said in the world."

Mr. Parker says truly that "the challenge of the day is how to incorporate into the practices of the school the knowledge that has been documented and proven by years of painstaking research." That would seem to take us back at least to the time of Aristotle—quite in conformity with Arnold's views. But Mr. Parker evidently doesn't mean that at all. "As stated many times," he says, "we have learned more about man and what makes him tick in the last fifty years than was known in the previous two hundred years." Why two hundred years only? Why not two thousand years, since the same reasoning would apply? When educationists speak in these terms it has perturbing implications. For it is in effect what the uneducated have been saying in every generation, with monotonous regularity.

They were saying it three half-centuries ago when William Hazlitt wrote: "We think, in this age of reason and consummation of philosophy, because we knew nothing twenty or thirty years ago, and began then to think for the first time in our lives, that the rest of mankind were in the same predicament, and never knew anything till we did; that the world had grown old in

stoth and ignorance, and dreamt out its long minority of five thousand years in a dozing state, and that it first began to wake out of its sleep, to rouse itself, and look about it, startled by the light of our unexpected discoveries and the noise we made about them. Strange error of our infatuated self-love!"

But it is only glancingly that this criticism falls upon Mr. Parker. He is not too complacent about educational trends. He frankly admits that under our present system the most brilliant students—those constituting "the great and priceless reservoir from which our statesmen, scientists, jurists, etc., are drawn," are frequently left to their own resources. He concedes—and it is a big concession—that "the charge of mediocrity and lowering academic standards so frequently levelled these days against the public school has a great deal of substance in fact." Isn't that precisely what the traditionalists in education are contending? Mr. Parker says that despite this fact every possible effort is being made to provide the exceptional child with the resources necessary to develop his latent ability. That being so, and such utmost effort being admittedly not enough to prevent "mediocrity and lowering of standards" as compared with the dark ages before the present lustrum, wouldn't it be better to go back a little—despite our haste to reach the goal—and see where we dropped the ball?

Maritime Requirements

The importance and advantages of the St. Lawrence Seaway project to the Central Provinces were clearly outlined by Transport Minister Marler before the Canadian Club here on Tuesday evening. Mr. Marler confessed that the direct benefits to the Maritimes "will not likely be so spectacular as those experienced in Ontario," a remark which can be classed among the understatements of the year. Indeed, it is not so much transportation as power development that the great industrial areas in close proximity to the project are interested in; and it is doubtful, as the Minister says, if it would have been possible to proceed with the scheme but for the impetus given by the need for additional electrical power.

But, as Mr. Marler says, anything that is done to improve transportation in one area is bound to improve the conditions of the country as a whole. This the Maritimes concede, but they have difficulty in making Parliament and the Federal Government see it in this light when it comes to launching Maritime improvements. As was emphasized before the Economic Commission recently, transportation and cheap power are our two biggest problems in this part of Canada. We must expand in both directions if we are to play our proper part in the Canada of the future. Mr. Marler, we trust, will do his best in support of any projects of this kind, which may require federal aid on a big scale but which will pay tremendous dividends in the future.

EDITORIAL NOTES

A political analyst reports that Premier Faure "is an accomplished politician who has learned how to adapt himself to the French governmental situation." What's newsworthy about that? Any politician can do as much after a little practice.

Newfoundland always has been noted for a high birth rate. It is now declared to be the highest in Canada. Equally important for purposes of population growth is the death rate—the lowest in the nation. It's a good combination, certainly. The thing now is to make industrial expansion keep pace with the population growth. And no one will deny that Premier Smallwood is trying hard to bring it about.



HE NEEDS TO GET A LOOK-IN

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.

FLUORIDATION TITILL

Sir.—The City of Toronto recently had completed arrangements for equipping its water supply with a fluoridation system when Forest Hill Village authorities issued an injunction of restraint on the process.

Since Forest Hill Village used Toronto water they had the power to stop, for a time, the fluoridating process. Canada has a ten year experiment in its lap from which a great fund of information has been garnered on the above mentioned fluoridation process, both natural and augmented. The three Ontario cities of Stratford, Brantford and Sarnia were selected for the test which has been proceeding now for more than ten years and which will be reported here in small part.

Stratford has natural fluoridation, 1.2 parts per 1,000,000 parts water; Brantford has a system of adding fluorides to its water supply since 1945; Sarnia has no fluorides in its water. It had been observed, prior to 1945, that Stratford children had a much lower incidence of dental caries than the children in other cities and the observation was made that the fluoride content of the water supply might be responsible for such a condition. After the equipment was installed at Brantford, in 1945, for fluoridating, a regular check was made on school children in the three previously mentioned cities and said check showed a reduction of caries in Brantford children, especially the younger ones. Fluorides are most effective during the prenatal period and in younger children, and after a few years, it was noted in Brantford that the incidence of dental caries in the young had dropped to practically the same figure as that in Stratford children. The reduction in decay in Brantford children was 67% over 1944 figures, whereas the incidence of decay in Sarnia was the same as before the experiment began. Children in both Stratford and Brantford, by check, have 67% less tooth decay than Sarnia children.

It is a natural assumption that the fluorides are of most help to those who receive them in their youth and anyone who does may have a good chance for excellent teeth during his or her lifetime. Fluorine is added to a water supply usually at the rate of 1 part per 1,000,000 of water and it is impossible to receive an excessive amount of the compound. In some naturally supplied water people drink 8 parts per 1,000,000 of fluoride without any harmful effect, other than mottling of the teeth.

The Death Watch Beetle

By Ronald Williams, Reuters Service, London

Scientists are looking to atomic research to provide a means to stop the ravages of the death watch beetle, which now constitutes one of the most serious threats to the country's ancient landmarks and historic buildings. If tests started a few months ago at the British forest products laboratory prove successful, death-dealing gamma rays from cobalt

will have already ordered equipment for fluoridating their water supply. We as citizens and voters of Charlottetown should let our Water Commissioners know our viewpoint.

I am, Sir, etc., F. G. HUTCHESON, Councilor, Ward 5.

GAME BIRD PROBLEM

Sir.—I heartily endorse the sentiments of the writer who signed his letter "Local Sportsman" regarding the Hungarian Partridge situation, and the problem of non-resident gunners. And problem it is going to be, as there are a few persons who are interested in having these gunners come here as long as there is a bird left to shoot, regardless of the future.

This question was brought before the Fish and Game Association last Fall, and no action was taken at that time due largely to the fact that the meeting was packed with people who derive a considerable income from non-resident gunners.

I do not think it fair play that these people, in order to make a few dollars, should jeopardize the sport of all upland game shooters. As the situation looks at present, the next year we will be forced to reduce the bag limit in order to preserve the birds for the non-resident gunner.

This is a serious situation to the shooters, and unless the Fish and Game Association takes a firm stand on the matter and are fully supported by the Government in any recommendation they bring forth to curtail the non-resident gunner, then I agree with "Local Sportsman" that in five years or less we will see the end of Hungarian shooting.

I am, Sir, etc., LOCAL NIMROD.

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Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Sundesen, M. D.

GELATIN STRENGTHENS BRITTLE FINGERNAILS. Do your fingernails split and peel easily? Here's a tip—try some unadorned gelatin.

Splitting fingernails are a vexing problem for many women, especially housewives. For some time now, relatively little has been done by medical science to relieve brittle nails.

But tests conducted by two doctors in Bridgeport, Connecticut, show that unflavored gelatin apparently has great value in preventing nails from splitting and peeling.

Daily doses (7 grams) of this gelatin in a glass of water, fruit juice or milk halted the affliction in all but eight of 36 women who took part in the survey, according to Drs. Saul Rosenberg and Kurt A. Oster.

Of the eight who were not helped, three discontinued the treatment after the first month, the test was carried out over a three month period, the approximate time required to grow new nails.

NOTE: IMPROVEMENT. While some women noted improvement after the first month, the test was carried out over a three month period, the approximate time required to grow new nails.

You can take your daily quota of gelatin in any of several ways. Empty the 7 gram envelope into three-fourths of a glass of water, tomato juice, orange juice or other juices, stir and drink.

If you want to take it in milk, mix the unflavored gelatin in one glass of whole milk, or mix it thoroughly with 3 to 6 tablespoons of instant nonfat dry milk in a glass, fill with cold water, stir and drink.

The gelatin will not dissolve if served cold, but the soft particles will be dispersed in the liquid. It can be taken hot in bouillon or broth. Empty an envelope of unflavored gelatin into one fourth cup of cold water to soften. Then add 1 bouillon cube and three-fourths cup of boiling water. Stir until the gelatin is dissolved.

If you wish, you can substitute three-fourths of a cup of any very hot broth for the bouillon cube and hot water.

D.W.: Can you tell me what can be done to help Morton's toe or neuralgia? Answer: A strip of leather about 1/4 inch wide and 1/2 inch thick, placed along the width, on the outside of the shoe, at the ball of the foot, has been found to give relief in this condition.

long, work slowly so that chances are remote of a building collapsing unexpectedly, as in the tropics. But they are thorough and have jaws of steel. Given enough time, they will reduce wooden beams of churches and historic buildings to hollowed-out shells.

There is virtually nothing that stops them. They have even been known to bore through an eighth of an inch of solid lead.

The death watch beetle got its name from a centuries-old superstition that the "tap-tap-tap" sound made by the beetle when seeking a mate heralded the death of someone.

What researchers hope, and the government experts are trying to find out by tests, is that the grammar rays would make the beetles sterile.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Canada has a great future. But Canada cannot reach her real destiny without hard work of hand and brain by Canadians trained to the task. It won't just happen. It will not come to us on a silver platter.—Lethbridge Herald.

Power development in the Maritimes, irrigation development in Western Canada, road and rail development in the North and Northwest—all have as much claim on Ottawa as the seaway and the natural gas pipeline. To be told so, as it will be again and again by witnesses before the Gordon Commission, should not alarm or embarrass it. What such people are reminding the government—they should not really need to remind it—is that it now has the opportunity to lead a massive, nationwide development program, which the seaway and pipeline will form merely two components. It now has the opportunity, through imaginative use of its credit, to put Confederation on a sound economic basis.—Toronto Globe and Mail.

It used to be said that "a man may work from sun to sun, but a woman's work is never done." It also used to be that many, if not most workers lived within walking distance of their jobs. They put in a 12 hour day, and it was hailed as a great advance when it became 10 hours. And an even greater gain when it got to be eight. But look what's happened. Workers in city offices and plants have moved to the suburbs. Offices and plants in which city residents work have moved to the suburbs. Look at any main highway during rush hours, and the two-way traffic is surprising.

Many of these people spend a full hour each day to and from their jobs. Maybe they do work for eight hours. But a half hour for lunch and two hours for transportation made it 10 1/2 hours. And when they get home there are at least one or two hours of chores that demand immediate attention. Eight hours? It's nearer 12 in most households today.—Philadelphia Bulletin.

As the country grows educational facilities must keep pace, with all this comes—greater accommodation, more scientific equipment and larger teaching staffs. Some solutions have been proffered—the creation of junior colleges, night schools and institutes of technology. These, of course, would have some effect in lessening the burden on the universities themselves. But the relief could only be temporary if more and more Canadian youths are determined to seek a full higher education. We may justly boast an abundance of far-seeing administrators and wise teachers. Yet there must be a limit to their achievements so long as money is lacking. The money simply has to be found and found reasonably quickly. To this pressing financial problem, both federal and provincial industry, business, alumni and citizens generally should address themselves in a spirit of aggressive co-operation.—Montreal Star.

Fruit growers in the British Indies fear loss of markets for their crops—oranges, grapefruits, lemons and bananas. An official spokesman in Jamaica, said the situation is very grave. That aster faces the West Indies citrus industry. It cannot be said that there is no remedy for this situation. The West Indies grow excellent fruit. And here in Canada we are increasing trade with the Caribbean Sea, these Maritimes nearer to the British Commonwealth, it is reasonable to suppose they would buy more of our products if we would buy their citrus fruits.—Sydney Post-Record.

A truly good woman—a woman loaded to the gunwales with morality and scruple—can find something to shock her almost anywhere. She is a natural censor. It is her ingrained capacity for censorship which has enabled her to change Man from a Warrior into a Toiler. When Man has won himself a five-day week the Censor sees to it that he spends the sixth day helping with the washing.

When Woman finally discovered that Man started wars in order to get away from her, she organized her own branches of the fighting services. And in South Africa she is now to impose her special standards upon the world of letters. She tastes the books, and if they are not to her liking, she rejects them—on behalf of men. Peterborough Examiner.

SHAMA'S SUPER - SPECIALS

THURSDAY FRIDAY AND ALL DAY SATURDAY

GROCERIES	MEATS
Lantic SUGAR, 10 lb. bag 83c	Grade "A" CHICKENS, lb. 49c
Red Rose TEA, 1-2 lb. 59c	Expected Friday FOWL, lb. 39c
Broken Pekoe TEA, lb. 89c	Maple Leaf Ribless BACON, lb. 59c
Jewel SHORTENING, 2 lbs. 55c	Regular Sliced BACON, lb. 47c
Maple Leaf LARD, 2 lbs. 45c	Picnic HAMS, lb. 45c
White Swan TOILET TISSUE, 6 for 79c	Shoulder (Young Steer) ROAST BEEF, lb. 47c
Perfection MILK, 6 tins 87c	Shoulder ROAST PORK, lb. 43c
French's MUSTARD, 2 jars 25c	Beef LIVER, lb. 35c
Five Roses CAKE MIX, 2 pkgs. 45c	Boneless CORNED BEEF, lb. 39c
Giant DUZ, with Towel 77c	Corned SPARE RIBS, 4 lbs. 59c
Raggedy Ann PEACHES, 2 tins 43c	
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