

Thoughts For Our Time

By His Eminence Cardinal McGuigan

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Canadians are frequently said to be guilty of the folly of taking over mistaken theories at about the time others are ready to discard them. No doubt this is an overstatement, but there is enough truth in it to warrant our being continually on guard, particularly in what pertains to education, public morality and reading habits.

We are living in an experimental era in which novelty has become a byword. So many theories are being taken up and set aside that it is difficult to keep abreast of them. Before we pay any serious attention to any of them, we ought to be sure to consult the experience of others who have tried them.

It is the question of reading which I should like especially to bring up today. It is only too possible due to a surprising breakdown of intellectual communication in modern times, for a book written years ago in England, Germany or France to be only now making itself felt on this continent.

Some might be inclined to regard this kind of retarded action as quite impossible. But it is not impossible at all; and the recent flurry over the writings of the French writer Andre Gide is a case in point.

A few years back the works of Gide began to flood the bookstores of Paris. He became widely acknowledged as a prophet and moralist, though by Christian standards he was advocating complete moral perversion. The immediate effect of his books was to debauch a whole generation. Parisian youth were particularly infected, with the result that, for a time at least, it looked as though clean living and high thinking would be no more.

In time the intoxication began to wear off, but not before irreparable harm had been done to the nation at large. Gradually Gide's writings were relegated to that peculiarly continental category: "For export only." The foreign students in Paris, who form coteries around men like Gide and Sartre, continued to worship him, but his real influence came at last to an end.

Today Gide is passing into a new phase. He is being translated into English and, if report be true, is reaching an ever-growing circle of English and American readers. What does this mean? It means that our year men and women are beginning to fall at this late date for the same old filth that sapped the moral strength of Paris a short generation ago. They imagine, of course, that they are being very modern, whereas in point of fact they are but taking up a fad that others, now disillusioned, have laid aside.

ment preached by our Lord, not flight from the material in order to achieve the spiritual, but flight from everything in order to be receptive of the new regardless of whether it is good or evil. "I hated homes and families and all the places where a man thinks to find rest; and lasting affections, and the fidelities of love, and attachment to ideas—I hold that every new thing should always find the whole of us wholly available."

Novelty for its own sake! Availability for its own sake! Fervor for its own sake! But never anything for the truth that may be in it, nor the peace and order which it may promote. It is this distorted kind of thinking which leads directly to distorted morality.

In another place, Gide advocates a philosophy of complete indecision, or as he called it, indeterminability. Invited to take a walk with a young lady, a certain Boris replies: "Yes, I'd like to. No I'd rather not." To her far-from-surprising "Why?" he retorts: "It's too hot. It's too cold." This oscillating condition of flux was for him a pattern of liberty. It was a way of life, and a source of art. But it communicated to the youngsters who followed him a moral apathy which did much to destroy themselves and their nation.

It now looks as though the English-speaking world is going to embrace the rejected Gide. There is some excuse for succumbing to an old error in new dress. But there is none for falling into an old one in the same old dress. The whole principle of adopting what others cast off is vicious in the extreme. Let us take care lest here in Canada such a principle become the dominant characteristic of our national life.

Strange But True
By F. H. MacArthur
The human body is composed of solid and fluid. Fluid being more abundant in youth, it gives softness and pliancy to the flesh. In old age the flesh is dry and hard.

Let us take a look at the kind of thing Gide has to offer. He knows, for example, as we all do, that St. Augustine described our earthly state as one of enduring restlessness. We are restless because we have not yet reached our ultimate goal, union in God. But it is not a perversion of this observation of Augustine's to hold up restlessness as a goal to be sought for its own sake? Is not this in effect to seek NOT to be united with God?

Yet such is Gide's teaching. "Come," he writes, "in order to disturb." He is not merely, as Mill once said of Bentham, a questioner of things established. He is one who questions for the sake of questioning. Disturbance, agitation, restlessness, are for him states to be sought and lived for their own sake.

Famous Actress Dies



At one time one of the best-known actresses in North America, Fanny Ward, who was at least 79 died in a New York hospital on Sunday, after suffering a stroke.

was another tiger he flew into a rage, broke the mirror and then fled in the forest in great fright. The soil is mother to weeds, but only stepmother to flowers.

YOUTH AND ROTARY - The Boy's Work Committee of the Charlottetown Rotary Club held the spotlight at luncheon yesterday when four of its members, Rotarians George Walters, Wallace Rodd, Russ Sellers, and Fred Large spoke briefly of their work.

That Body Of Yours
Continued from page 2
ed the way for other valuable uses to man.

C.P.R. - EARNINGS
MONTREAL, Jan. 28 (CP)—The Canadian Pacific Railway today reported net earnings of \$3,073,068 for December, 1951, compared with \$4,858,790 for the corresponding month in 1950.

IN MEMORIAM
In loving memory of our dear husband and father, Richard Pope Newman, who passed away January 27th, 1944.

MOORE & McLEOD Limited
WILL BE CLOSED
WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY
January 30th and 31st
FOR STOCKTAKING

THE CENTRAL GUARDIAN

This column is reserved for news of local interest, but advertising of a newsy nature may be inserted at five cents a word, strictly payable in advance.

COOK'S STUDIO for perfect pictures.

SPECIALS ON Machine and Machineless Permanents. Call Prince Beauty Parlor 2545-L.

WINDMILL'S SPECIAL TODAY. - Fried Oysters, choice of potatoes, green peas, cole slaw, beef, bread and butter. 65 cents.

R. T. HOLMAN LTD., Charlottetown Store, will be closed all day Wednesday and Thursday for stock-taking.

MACDONALD RADIO SERVICE 180 Kent Street. Radio repairs, sound equipment. Disc Recording, Rogers Majestic and Stewart Warner Radios.

POLICE COURT—A man charged with being drunk and incapable was sentenced to \$20 and costs or 20 days by the Stipendiary Magistrate yesterday in the City Police Court, and another man, convicted of the same charge was remanded until today for sentence. One other offender charged with "disorderly conduct" was fined \$10 and costs of 10 days.

FUNERAL YESTERDAY - The funeral of James Wood, Lake Verde, was held yesterday morning from his late residence to St. Joachim's Church, Vernon River, where Requiem Mass was celebrated by Rev. Urban Gillis, who also officiated at the grave. The pall bearers were James Redmond, James McKenna, Richard Weatherly, Owen Callaghan, John McEabern, J. W. McVarish. Interment was in the church cemetery.

MAGISTRATE'S COURT - A resident of St. Avarad's was fined \$5 and costs or 10 days by the Queen's County Magistrate, Mr. Gilbert A. Gaudet, when he was convicted of operating a motor vehicle without a drivers permit. A resident of Summerside was fined \$20 and costs or 30 days when he was convicted of possession of intoxicating liquor in a place other than his own residence. The case of a resident of Charlottetown charged with "receiving and possession of stolen goods" was further remanded until January 30, for sentence.

PERSONALS
Miss Mary Callahan of Quebec is on a visit to the City and is guest at the Charlottetown Hotel.

Philippon-Wilson Wedding
A very pretty winter wedding took place at St. Dunstan's Basilica in Charlottetown, on December 31, 1951, when Rosemary Wilson, daughter of Mr. James A. Wilson and the late Mrs. Wilson of Charlottetown, and Robert Philippon, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. Alphonse Philippon of Gorham, New Hampshire were united in marriage.

That Body Of Yours
Continued from page 2
In Archives of Industrial Hygiene and Occupational Medicine, published by the American Medical Association, Drs. J. L. Fetterman and V. M. Victoroff state that the electroencephalograph, working in with other clinical and laboratory surveys, can help in removal of persons from jobs they should not hold, measure mental capacity following a brain injury, detect latent or underlying seizures such as epilepsy, estimate the effect of environment and toxic (poisonous) agents on brain action, and separate hysterical from organic brain disorders. In law or medicolegal cases, it is of special value in determining mental capacity in testamentary cases, guilt in criminal cases, latent and actual brain damage in compensation cases, and malingering in law suits claiming total loss of vision, hearing and touch.

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The Passing Scene

By Observer

A FARM PROBLEM

The Federation of Agriculture is concerned over the fact that young men are leaving the farms for supposedly more lucrative work in industry. It is, indeed, a matter for grave concern to anyone who is anxious to see this Province take and keep its rightful place in the economic and cultural life of the nation.

More than any other Province in Canada and, perhaps, more than any other community on this continent, we on this island depend on agriculture for our material well-being. Anything that tends to hinder agricultural development must in the long run work harm to the prosperity of the people as a whole, not merely to that of the farmers and their families, for, of course, whatever little industry goes on in Charlottetown, Summerside, or elsewhere, is tied up, directly or indirectly with the basic work of the Province. This must always be taken into account in any discussion of our economic problems.

Adverse Effect
Whatever the cause or causes, regardless of whether the outcome be wise or foolish for the individuals concerned, the fact is that many young men who would make excellent farmers are turning their backs on their fathers' way of life. Should the trend continue or be accelerated it is easy for anyone to predict the adverse effect it will have in the next thirty or forty years on the whole fabric of our Provincial life. There just won't be any Prince Edward Island. At least, not in the sense that many of us know it and love it now.

Abandoned
Last summer an old friend and I drove towards East Point by way of Cardigan, the old St. Peter's Road, along Five Houses, Mount Hope, New Zealand, and other little places with intriguing names steeped in Island lore and history. Every now and then, about every mile or so it seemed, my friend, who knew every inch of the countryside and something interesting about each little nook, would exclaim: "There's another abandoned farm" or "What a pity such fine land is going to waste!"

It was, indeed, a distressing sight and no one who loves the Island could be apathetic about it. Abandoned farms. Waste land. Wilderness, where once great fields of grain flourished and flowers grew. Erstwhile good pasture, now weed infested. Old houses, once the homes of healthy, robust families, falling in ruin, with no one to care for them or about them. Cold bleakness where in other days there was warmth, energy, and life. These farms were probably never rich, but certainly they were places where fathers and mothers found a measure of contentment; and where children played in carefree abandon.

I thought of the hardy pioneers who came to these regions, and by the aid of strong arms and stout hearts made themselves homes. They knew hardship, of course, and their lot was sometimes cast in dreary places. But they knew, too, what it was to lie down in peace, and I am sure they must have experienced a sense of satisfaction as they laboured to pass on to their children a goodly heritage in the intrinsic values of life.

One Who Would
I know at least one man who would like nothing better but, unfortunately, he is now a slave to a machine which in his youth he dreamed of as a deliverer. I came across him in a large industrial city in the centre of the United States. When I told him I knew P.E.I. he well he talked about it as if he never wanted to stop. As a boy, he told me, and until he was in his middle twenties, he had lived on a farm on the North Side. Like so many other young farmers he had been able to "turn his hand" at almost anything, an ability which he felt could be put to better use elsewhere. So, he left home and came to the States. That was thirty-five years ago. Since then he had worked in one place and another and, except during the depression years, had done fairly well. That is to say, he had managed to get along from one pay day to another.

What about the old farm on the North Side? I asked him, though I knew pretty well what had happened to it. "Well," he answered, "there's not much left of it now. Father and mother have been dead for quite a while. There are only two brothers of us. The other is in Boston. I haven't been back since mother died. My brother and I thought we wouldn't sell the place, as some day we might like to go back and work it, but we haven't been able to get enough money together for that. Now it's all gone to ruin and it isn't worth anything to anybody."

What can be done to remedy this state of affairs? Probably nothing so far as the present state of farm abandonment is concerned. I think something, perhaps many things, might be done to check the trend so far as it concerns the future. It may be that the Provincial Government could begin some financial policy by which it could come to the aid of young and promising men who are now kept back by lack of capital with which to purchase the machinery that today seems essential to profitable farming. This, I agree, might be helpful but I do not believe it would get at the root of the problem which I take to be more psychological than economic.

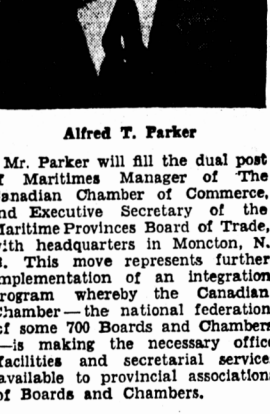
TRY OUR SEEDS SEND FOR CATALOG Arthur Vesley York, P. E. I.

Mark Importance Of Maritime Chamber Of Commerce

MONCTON, N. B.—Recognition of the increasingly important role being played by the Maritime Provinces in the expanding Chamber of Commerce movement in Canada was marked here today at a ceremony jointly presided over by President R. B. Perrault of The Canadian Chamber of Commerce, and President F. W. Curtis of the Maritime Provinces Board of Trade.

The occasion was the official opening of the Canadian Chamber's first permanent office in the Maritimes, an office which also will serve as headquarters for the recently re-organized Maritime Provinces Board of Trade. This latter organization is a voluntary federation of Boards of Trade and Chambers of Commerce in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland.

Other key Chamber personnel taking part in today's ceremony were D. L. Morrell, the Canadian Chamber's General Manager, and Alfred T. Parkes.



Mr. Parker will fill the dual post of Maritimes Manager of The Canadian Chamber of Commerce, and Executive Secretary of the Maritime Provinces Board of Trade, with headquarters in Moncton, N. B. This move represents further implementation of an integration program whereby the Canadian Chamber—the national federation of some 700 Boards and Chambers—is making the necessary office facilities and secretarial services available to provincial associations of Boards and Chambers.

shown that farming is not simply a job, often an unpleasant one, but a vocation to which able men are called. It is just as important and, in its way, just as sacred as any other vocation that might be mentioned. No young man of spirit and adventure wants to be tied to anything he considers pointless, unromantic, drudgery. Our shame we have tacitly, if intentionally, encouraged such false concept of the farmer's life. It is no wonder, then, that a farm boy's chief hope some day, when he is old, will be able to escape farm and all its work. More about this late

FOR BRONCHI ASTHMA YOU CAN'T BEAT BUCKLEY'S MIXTURE

ART EXHIBITION
A collection of fifty colour prints of famous paintings is now on display in the Prince of Wales College Library and may be seen by the general public from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. each day until 31st January.

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D. D. McLeod & Son
ORWELL COVE
JANUARY 26th TO FEBRUARY 16th
20% OFF—Dry Goods, Shirts, Underwear, Hosiery, Flannelette, Stamped Mats, etc. Boots and Shoes, Rubbers, all kinds, Horse Rugs, Paints, all Hardware. GROCERY SPECIALS

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