

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink".

CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 1953

Educational Standards

There is notable difficulty in grading even livestock or produce but it is as nothing compared with the problems of applying standards of education. Yet our whole system of education today is based on inventing and applying standards to teachers' qualifications, to the subject matter of the curriculum and to the progress made by pupils.

Although it is rather like carrying water in a dip net teachers have somehow managed to apply the standards with which they are supplied and produce good citizens, qualified to take their place in the world and capable of adapting themselves to varied circumstances. Every child is, of course, unique. The teacher is aware that it is impossible for anyone not knowing him or her individually to lay down how innate capacities are to be properly developed. They know also that at every stage arbitrary tests will be applied to determine how far the educational process has been successful.

This is the familiar problem of every school teacher: how to develop the essentially individual capacities of the children entrusted to them and at the same time meet necessary standards of comparison with other children and other schools. In this Province we probably lay too much stress on uniformity. It is necessary so far as public school, high school, Prince of Wales College and university matriculation require some ready method of separating the qualified from the unqualified, but apart from these requirements it would be all to the good if teachers were allowed a greater measure of independence in carrying on their task. It would not, of course, ease the problem of administration, but it would enable the individual teacher to get on with education rather than producing uniformity.

Water Conservation Projects

As intimated in Parliament recently by Resources Minister Winters in reply to a question by Mr. McLure, the Government's new policy of aiding the Provinces in water conservation projects may be of service to Prince Edward Island, in connection with the rebuilding of dams and millponds. This will depend on the merits of each individual project—its size and importance to the community and Province, and the willingness of the local government to participate and bring it forward for consideration.

The Minister emphasized that the conservation of natural resources within the Provinces is primarily a provincial responsibility, and there is no desire or intention on the part of the Federal Government to evade that jurisdiction. The basic purpose of the bill now being drafted is to assist Provincial Governments in carrying out measures of a major character designed to conserve their water resources, and at the same time, reduce the hazard of serious flooding. Assistance of the nature contemplated has already been given through special votes of Parliament to various projects which were outside the scope of existing Conservation Acts.

Subject to funds being voted by Parliament, the Federal Government has informed the Ontario authorities that financial assistance will be given in the construction of a conservation dam on the Conestogo River. A formula has been used whereby the local municipality agrees to pay 25 per cent of the cost, and the Provincial and Federal Governments 37 1/2 per cent each.

The new bill before the House is intended to place this type of assistance on a statutory basis, and thus make it available to all Provincial Governments. The bill provides for federal contributions up to 37 1/2 per cent of the cost of major water conservation projects. A most important feature is the provision for the undertaking by the Provinces of ancillary conservation measures in conjunction with projects receiving federal assistance. This will ensure that any project to which federal assistance may be given will be a component part of an integrated conservation plan for the area in which the project is located.

When a Province wishes to undertake the construction of a water conservation project, and submits a detailed plan of the proposed over-all conservation measures in the area concerned, this plan will be studied with a view to assistance being given un-

der the Canada Forestry Act with respect to reforestation, as well as under the provisions of the proposed new measure.

No doubt our Provincial Department of Industry and Resources will make a thorough canvas of the possibilities of obtaining federal aid under the terms of the new policy. In view of our comparatively small area, special consideration may be given in assessing the merits of the projects. Conservation is becoming a serious problem here as elsewhere. As Mr. Winters remarked, we have come a long way from the early days when our resources were looked upon as inexhaustible. The most important factor now is to manage our renewable resources in such a manner that they will be, as nearly as possible, available in perpetuity.

Parliamentary Procedure

The purpose of having rules for the Legislature as for other organizations and meetings is to enable business to be carried on expeditiously, to enable the will of the majority to be made effective, and to enable the minority to be heard. So far as rules and orders are effective in attaining these ends they are appropriate.

Conditions change and it is understandable that rules of the Legislature adopted in 1922 and amended only once since that time may not be the most satisfactory for the conduct of business today. In particular, the rules state that in unprovided cases the rules of the House of Commons at Ottawa as in force at the time shall be applicable. There is no doubt that changes have been made in those rules since 1922 and it is desirable that they should at least be considered by the Legislature if they are to remain in effect for its deliberations.

The committee appointed by the House can be depended upon to give full consideration to both the reason for existing rules and the factors which might call for change. In any case the rules are for the protection of minorities as well as for other purposes. It should not be permissible, except as now in case of "urgent and extraordinary occasions" to suspend the rules except with unanimous consent. The majority has the right to decide but it has no right, apart from emergency, to silence debate.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The P. E. I. Teachers' Federation has set its members a strenuous programme for their convention. It is to be hoped, however, that individual teachers will be able to take time out to enjoy a personal welcome to the capital.

Bigger and more powerful atomic bombs and rocket missiles capable of speeds of more than four times that of sound are very powerful arguments indeed for establishing a society in which they will not be used.

The 37th Canadian Field Ambulance is making itself useful during the more or less static campaign in Korea by opening a free medical clinic for civilians at the unit's advanced dressing station. It is impossible to provide hospitalization but much valuable work is being done, particularly for children who make up about 40 per cent of the patients.

The 11th South African parliamentary election on the 15th will make little difference to that country's racial policies according to an official information release. The Nationalist Party advocates "apartheid", that is the development of white and bantu civilizations in separate streams; while the United Party also advocates segregation although not so rigorously as Dr. Malan.

Juan Ponce de Leon, Spanish explorer, landed in Florida in his quest for the fountain of youth this date 1513. He had accompanied Columbus on his second voyage in 1493 and was appointed lieutenant to the governor of Hispaniola. He conquered Porto Rico and was appointed governor but removed on the protest of Diego Columbus. He conceived the idea that there was yet another world awaiting discovery but perished in a search for the fountain of youth before attempting to find the new land.

"Resources for Freedom", the United States Paley Report, is the subject of the Bank of Nova Scotia monthly review. It indicates that from 1970 to 1980 the United States will depend upon imported supplies for 20 per cent of consumption at a level two-thirds greater than in 1950 when imports were only 9 per cent. The breakdown indicates that Canada will be a principal supplier of the increased demand. There is a warning, however, in the observation that for forest products Canada appears to be "overcutting to a substantial degree."

Among Life's Darker Moments



Old Charlottetown

And P. E. I. ADVERTISEMENTS

From The Royal Gazette, Sept. 24, 1833: W. Douse, land agent, offers two pounds reward for information leading to the conviction of persons having "at various times heretofore trespassed and cut quantities of timber on the estate of the Right Honourable Thomas Earl of Selkirk, deceased, without leave being first obtained."

Charles C. Davison, Charlottetown, offers for sale a "valuable farm, containing about sixty acres, fourteen acres of which are fit for the plough, situate at Wilmore Creek, Bedeque, and bounded in part by the public highway. This farm is in the heart of a flourishing settlement, and only a few yards from a grist and saw mill. Fresh fish in abundance may be caught at the door all the year round. Mr. William Craig will show the premises if required."

G. H. Chudleigh, plasterer, from England, begs to inform the gentry of Charlottetown that he carries on his business in all its various branches, including the execution of plain and ornamental cornices, colouring in distemper, etc. "As reports have been circulated that I am not capable of performing my work, I do hereby offer this public challenge: 20 Sovereigns to 5, to perform any branch, both in point of neatness and dispatch, with any person on the island."

Mr. Morris respectfully intimates to the inhabitants of Charlottetown and vicinity "his intention to open an Academy, on the Monday, the 7th October, in the rear of the Court House, where young gentlemen will be instructed, with care and expedition, in the following branches of Education:—The Latin, French and English languages, grammatically; a true and regular course of Arithmetic, Algebra and Italian Bookkeeping; Geometry, Trigonometry, Mensuration, Gauging, Theoretical and Practical Surveying, Dialling and Navigation, Geography, History, Mapping, and the use of the Globes, with Astronomy."

Capt. MacDonald, Tulloch, East Point, advertises for "a young Man of good morals to teach in a Private Family." Richard Rolfe, a farmer, offers for sale 150 acres of land on Township No. 33, four miles from Charlottetown, fronting the Princeton Road, and extending east to the Brackley Point Road, "the greater part of which is ready for the plough."

The news columns report the arrival here on Friday last from Plymouth of the "Royal William," bringing papers to the 17th of August; also the marriage in St. Paul's Church, by the Rev. L. C. Jenkins, of Julia, youngest daughter of His Excellency Lieutenant Governor Young, to John Philip Collins, Esq., Colonial Secretary and Registrar of the Island.

The Age-Old Story

Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things. And blessed be his glorious name for ever: and let the whole earth be filled with his glory.

Birds Lead Men To Honey

(National Geographic)

Many wild birds will take what food man gives them, but few can equal the African honey guide, who puts several men to work so that he may enjoy his favorite meal.

Various species of honey guide are found in Africa, says the National Geographic Society. At least one, the black-throated, or greater honey guide (Indicator), has been observed leading men to trees containing wild honey so that both bird and man may eat. For many years ornithologists were inclined to doubt that honey guides actually cooperated with African tribesmen to the extent that they showed them honey trees. But the reports persisted and gained acceptance after they were confirmed by outside observers.

Recently in a remote section of British East Africa, on the Mara River east of Lake Victoria, motion pictures were made of a greater honey guide leading Wandorobo tribesmen to a honey tree. The Wandorobo, a nomadic tribe of the colorful Masai, are hunters who maintain their way of life undisturbed by Western civilization. They have no herds of cattle and no permanent homes. They live on the meat of wild game, edible fruits and roots—and wild honey, their only source of sugar.

To obtain this honey the Wandorobo listen for the noisy, cheerful chatter of the greater honey guide, a bird somewhat smaller than a robin and one that, like the cowbird, leaves its eggs in other birds' nests for hatching.

When the bird is heard chattering tribesmen answer it with low, musical whistles. The honey guide then flies excitedly from tree to tree, always keeping the tribesmen in sight, until it approaches the honey tree. At the tree the bird's chatter becomes louder and more excited.

The tribesmen check on the bird by pressing their ears to the trunk of the tree. If the buzzing of bees confirms the honey guide's findings, they quickly kindle a fire and light torches to stupefy and ward off the bees. Then they cut into the trunk, apparently unmindful of the stings of bees not driven off by their Smoky torches. They extract the honey and put it into small skin pouches for easy transportation. Always the tribesmen leave some of their loot for the bird which feeds not so much on the honey itself as on the wax and larvae from the nest.

The partnership between the honey guide and man is reported to be declining as trade penetrates into the deeper sections of the jungle. Sweetener can be obtained from the traders without the labor involved in pursuit of the bird and attack on the tree. Only in areas far from Western civilization does the bird-man cooperation continue to flourish.

Notes From Another Island

By "Anson"

LONDON, England:—Of all the year's holidays perhaps none is more eagerly looked forward to than Easter, coming, as it does, as the first break in workaday life after the long pull through the winter.

When Easter comes, be it early or late—and it is a learned man who can calculate for himself, without looking up in the calendar, precisely when it will fall—when Easter comes we can feel with justifiable optimism that it won't be long till summer: or late weather is regarded with deep suspicion, as if fine days were either impostors or actors in some meteorological plot being hatched out for our discomfort; but at Easter and afterwards there are no misgivings: a fine day is taken at face value and no questions asked.

The fact that Easter weather is, however, frequently unkind offers little hindrance to the enjoyment of the holiday and the opportunity it provides to get out and about and go places. It is a welcome break, and would be a change from routine even if it were only marked by the eating of the traditional "hot cross buns" on Good Friday. But there is little fear of such limitations. Nowadays Easter is a truly holiday weekend, when the religious significance is apt to be overshadowed by more secular occupations.

Not the least of these are the soccer matches. Most of the professional football teams play two or three games over the weekend, and they are fraught with interest for many of these encounters, so near to the end of the season, virtually settle the vital (to the fans) problems of championship honours, and promotions and relegations to higher or lower divisions of the league.

There is much travelling up and down the country, visiting friends and relations, or seeking a change of air by the sea or in the country, wherever one's fancy lies. Some journey by rail, some by road. This is the season when many a motor car is driven on its first outing since last summer, since when it has been hibernating in the garage. The more rudely healthy of us go walking and camping on the way, determined to have the open air life do us good even if it kills us.

But amid all this children-out-of-school activity there is one man at least who can hardly be expected to find the time for any of it. He will doubtless be far too busy with great problems on his mind. He is the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and it is a safe bet he will be hard at work on the Budget he is to present on April 14th.

Notes By The Way

It is recalled that the talkies finished the careers of many movie stars without voices, and it remains to be seen what three-dimensional films will do to those without three dimensions.—Stratford Beacon-Herald.

Residents of the community of Lapinjärvi, seventy-five miles northward of Helsinki, again are reporting mysterious earthquakes such as disturbed their sheep last spring. Six shocks were felt one night recently. Tremors felt last spring were described as "earthquakes" by a seismologist at the University of Helsinki, but some witnesses insisted they were more like the vibrations set up by explosions.—Finlandia.

A short study of the psychology of different peoples shows that in general Anglo-Saxons have a higher civic sense than Latins. In England, for example, eight years after the end of the war severe rationing is always rigorously observed by the majority of the people. In that country, ceaselessly threatened by different kinds of poverty, a war regime has been maintained for almost 15 years without giving rise to the generalised abuses observable elsewhere. From that point of view the English deserve our admiration.—Le Solet, Quebec.

We pass on Canadian Grocer's report on the experience of a sales clerk in a market store. A shopper was looking for a can of kidney beans. The shelf happened to be bare and the clerk was asked if the store had any. The clerk rushed downstairs, brought up a case, opened it, stamped a tin with the price and handed it to the customer. She said, "Oh, I don't want to buy a tin. Could you loan me your pencil or give me a pen and paper? I would just like to copy the recipe for chili con carne."—Brandon Sun.

The Poet's Corner

TO THE BEREAVED

Come, let us march seven times Death's dark walls round, And sing our songs and step with quick sharp tread, And with our bright breath blow the dust from the ground, And shout and crown Love King and cry Death dead, O let us twist a wreath for his dear head, And drench it in his dew, and with the sound Of doves and flutes, O wipe the gash that bled, And press wet cloth on our wounded head, For it is Spring and Love is once more Lord, And from the dust of death the white brief bud Breaks through, and from the red hill of his sword A rose will flash out like a drop of blood, What walls can stand, though Death builds deep and strong, When Love strides seven times round with storms of song! —Joseph Auslander.

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