

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, NOV. 7, 1951

Examinations

Much has been said and written against examinations, both by those who must take them and those who set them, but examinations are still with us. The reason, of course, is that they are a very useful instrument.

They are crude and arbitrary no doubt, but so is the division of knowledge into the various subjects of the curriculum, and no one would try to teach a whole generation of youngsters on the basis that all knowledge is one and that they must simply plunge into the midst of it.

Educational standards are useful and necessary. They do not, of course, provide a true picture of each candidate for advancement or a position but they work reasonably well in establishing basic qualifications.

The function of the Atlantic Provinces Common Examining Board is to improve the effectiveness of examinations so that results are readily comparable, to make it as easy to place students from any of these Provinces as if they had gone through the same school.

Church And Charity Bequests Off

Canada Trust Co. reports that only one will in five now makes any provisions for religion, charity or education. People with small estates feel that succession duties, income tax, depreciated dollar and low interest rates make it necessary for them to leave everything to their dependents.

The regrettable fact is, says the Letter Review, that Canadians are losing their interest in charity, partly because exorbitant taxes take so much of the money they would normally use for this purpose; partly because governments, largely for political reasons, are taking over more and more of this field.

Canadians are also puzzled as to why public and private welfare agencies should require so much money for charitable purposes at a time of full employment and high prosperity.

Community Chest drives are running into trouble on this account. Toronto drive, as this Letter is written, has only just passed 50 per cent mark. Campaign objective (\$3,121,930) will not be reached by November 7 deadline.

Historic Mission

Until this year, notes the Ottawa Citizen, the peacetime departure of Canadian troops for non-combat duty abroad would have been considered a sensational event indeed. It is a measure of how far Canadians have come in their international outlook that they now take such a movement of troops almost as much for granted as the shipment of wheat or lumber.

This the Ottawa paper cites as evidence that the public now accepts Canada's obligation to help prevent war by assisting, among other measures, in building up armed strength abroad. The public accepts as a fact, also, that Canada's first line of defence lies overseas, rather than on the Atlantic and Pacific coastlines, and in the country's northern reaches. The quiet, almost routine manner in which these first Canadian troops are leaving for peacetime service is a mark of how far the country has emerged from isolationism.

The troops themselves are not expected to fight, but to help buttress the military section of the measures being taken to prevent a war. Yet while they may not engage in physical conflict, there is much that they might do on the ideological level; for except in Korea, the war today is being fought for men's minds. By their comportment, by the respect they show for the people among whom they move, the men of the 27th Brigade can be a factor in that war. They are bound on a historic mission of infinite importance to the maintenance of peace in the world. Canada wishes them Godspeed.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Two more days and we shall see the Princess and the Royal Duke.

An acclamation for Mayor would not be inappropriate, to be followed by a contest in February.

Humanity will have attained perfection when a clergyman can own a parrot without fear that his neighbours will lead the innocent bird into habits of profanity.

British "austerity" is to be continued under Mr. Churchill. He has begun by docking his ministers' salaries by \$3,000 per annum, and his own by \$9,000.

Sensational peace moves by the United States are predicted for today and are being awaited, no doubt, with hope on both sides of the Iron Curtain.

The winter's first Maritime death from carbon monoxide has been recorded. The poison gives no warning of its presence. It is never safe to remain in a closed car or garage when an engine is running.

Ottawa's entomologists are on the point of winning the battle against the spruce sawfly with the assistance of a virus. Now if only they could do something about birch die-back before it is too late.

The horse plough did the trick. Winner of the 11th annual ploughing match of the Royal Forest Agricultural Association at Winkfield, Berkshire, England, recently, was the only competitor to plough with a horse team. The other entrants—21 of them—all used tractor ploughs.

The first number of the London Gazette, official organ of the state for England and Wales, was published this date 1665. For that first year it was known as the Oxford Gazette because the court of Charles II had been driven there by the plague.

University students on the move. Two Toronto University graduates, 23-year-old Warren Wilkins, and his brother Douglas 21, of Toronto, have reached the U. K. on a round-the-world trip in a British car—a Land-Rover. They plan to cover between 40,000 and 50,000 miles in a year.

After studying the compulsory education laws of 48 nations, UNESCO announced that British and Tasmanian children are required to spend more time in school (ten years) than any others. Next: U. S. children, who in most states spend nine. Last in line: Indonesian children, who don't have to go to school at all.

Hotel keepers should note that members of the British Hotels and Restaurants' Association, at their annual luncheon in London, cheered a suggestion of Lord Lyle of Westbourne that every hotel should be allowed to keep pigs. They could, he said, be fed upon the hotel's pig-will and thus provide meat for the guests.

A resolution urging the Federal Government to adopt a program for the decentralization of Canadian industry will likely split both major parties if it reaches the floor of the Commons at this session. The resolution is sponsored by Clarie Gillis (CCF—Cape Breton South). The measure's on the order paper but may not reach the debate stage because of the pressure of Government business.

How not to do it. A friend of the Montreal Gazette told a story which it thinks represents the alltime low in salesmanship. She went into a store in Lachine one day to buy shoes and the clerk greeted her with, "I can tell by your face you've been suffering with your feet for 15 years." She let that pass, but when, a short time later, she questioned the high price of a certain pair of shoes, he offered, "If you spent as much on your shoes as on your lipstick, you'd be better off." With that she rose, told the clerk she came to buy shoes not to have her personal appearance discussed and left the store.

Too much political power in the free nations still lies in the hands of people who are unwilling to admit that Communism and Fascism are identical. Russia is not a danger to the world because the present Tsar is a little rougher with his own subjects than his Romanoff predecessors were, but because the present Tsar is even more of a troublemaker in international affairs than his forerunners. Free nations used to be able to co-operate with the Russian imperial Government against more immediate military dangers. In just the same way, the free nations should be quite able to co-operate with both Yugoslavia and Spain in international affairs, without making insulting remarks about either of the Governments.

Doing What Comes Naturally



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.

FERTILIZING INTELLIGENTLY

Sir,—I was interested in reading Dr. J. A. Clark's contribution to your agricultural column in Saturday's Guardian, Oct. 27, on the use of fertilizers in farm production; perhaps the more so as for the past couple of years or longer, I have been making a sort of lone wolf, unofficial study of fertilizer and fertilizing practices in connection with farm economics. Dr. Clark wrote from personal experience and observation as well as that of others with whom he has been associated in his long period of service to the country and his pronouncement will, to that extent, carry the weight of authority. It is more difficult for a layman to get a hearing but nevertheless facts gleaned from official experiment should be accorded at least a measure of consideration. The most noteworthy observation from Dr. Clark's remarks, on the development of the use of commercial fertilizer is that original or earlier conclusions arrived at, made way for later discoveries reached by way of further experiment. This at once brings forward the suggestion that we may not yet have attained to the maximum knowledge of fertilizer usefulness. It would, therefore, be unwise to refute as impracticable, claims advanced by any well established laboratory, just because such claims were not shared in by similar establishments doing other good work elsewhere.

The value of chemical fertilizers as a potent influence towards greater agricultural production at lower cost, is restricted to the extent of our experience in its use, perhaps more so, as its application in most instances is little better than guess work. Few farmers are well enough acquainted with the soil they are cultivating to determine what chemical nutrients it lacks or requires. For this reason, fertilizers can be wasted. Soil that already contains sufficient quantity of any ingredient required in the growth of seed being sowed, will not respond with more prolific growth by an additional application of this same ingredient. It is a waste of time, and energy, in addition to its original commercial cost.

Perhaps therein lies the secret of "expensive fertilizers" and a clue to its solution. "Know Your Soil" is a slogan that should occupy a prominent place in the mind of every farmer. This knowledge can be attained only by an efficient system of soil analysis, put religiously into practical operation before fertilizers are even bought. In this Province many thousands of dollars might be saved by adopting such a procedure.

Farmers might also profitably give consideration to a choice of methods now used in applying fertilizers to plant growth. It should be remembered that chemical ingredients used in ordinary farm fertilizers might better be recognized as plant food, and their application as crop feeding, administration as a plant balanced ration. The idea has already developed that plant growing requires similar feed treatment to that of animals, if growth is to be at its best and profitable. This conviction is firm, where authoritative experiments are being carried out. Then again, an erroneous idea prevails, that plant food must be placed in the soil to become available for root feeding, if the plant is going to derive full benefit. Plants do not receive the full complement of nourishment required for satisfactory growth from the ground; much of it is absorbed from the air and it may be readily observed when "crops" are denied this natural over-ground feeding, growth becomes stagnant or unnaturally lop-sided.

Experiments show that many plants obtain as high as fifty per-

Notes By The Way

It will take Calgary, the Sunshine City of the Foothills, a long time to get over the embarrassment caused by the weather here during the Royal visit. Seldom had there ever been an October day more cold and miserable. — Calgary Albertan.

Britons visiting United States industrial establishments are surprised at the tendency among all grades of workers in that country to take off their coats while toiling. But that's only because an American takes work seriously, as a Briton takes jokes, and a Canadian, fishing. — Ottawa Citizen.

Male nurses, through their division of the American Nurses' Association, have complained of discrimination against them by the armed forces. They say that they have to serve in the enlisted ranks, while their female counterparts, doing the same work, are eligible for commissions. Ah! The equal rights shoe is on the other foot. — Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics has just announced Regina's population as 69,928. This figure may come as a bit of a shock to Reginitians who for the past five years have credited themselves with the nice round figure of 70,000. Regina's chamber of commerce, based on Post Office surveys, puts the population at 72,500. The question comes up. What have the census-takers done with 2,572 Reginitians? — Regina Leader-Post.

In its 101 years of incorporation Peterborough has never had a woman councillor. It is time it did. The women of Peterborough are playing an increasingly important part in the civic life of the community. They have special interests, and a woman representative of those interests would have a special capacity to deal with them. Even in the general sphere of civic administration, the point of view which a woman alderman could bring to the Council and its committees would have a valid cogency. — Peterborough Examiner.

The contrast between how the U. S. tackles the problem of civil defence and what is being done in Canada is evident to any visitor motoring south of the border. As one approaches major American cities, huge highway signs warn that, in the event of enemy attack, those thoroughfares will be closed to civilian traffic. When the visitor checks into a hotel, he's given a card telling him how to protect himself in an aerial attack occurs while he is in the building. If he goes out on the street, he sees signs indicating where public shelters are located and how many people they will hold. Visitors to Canada get no such information. Nor do Canadians generally have any. Which country is right? Are the Americans or even more, of their nourishment through what is now recognized as foliage feeding. And why should this method be doubted? Noxious weeds are being sprayed with poisonous solution to destroy their growth—permanently, the idea being that the weeds readily absorb the poison which is rapidly carried to the roots, where the work of destruction is effectually carried out. If poison can thus be directed to destroy the unwanted weed, why can't plant food be similarly routed, to propagate growth? Both methods of plant nourishment should find room for thought on a modern feeding agenda.

There are further observations on this subject I would like to advance, but rather than prolong today's discussion to an embarrassing length, I will defer further comment at this time, but with your kind permission, will return again to the subject. I am, Sir, etc. J. A. GILLIES.

Windsor police are to crack down on jalopies, that automotive vehicle of ancient vintage and indifferent mechanical condition. They also will make a drive against impatient drivers, and renew their campaign against speeders. This merits public support. Jalopies, unless kept in good mechanical condition, are a menace to the safety of the public, and also to those who ride in them. Impatient drivers and speeders contribute greatly to the accident rate. Public safety is the primary consideration. But these factors also are an influence on our high insurance rates. The Windsor area has the highest rates in Ontario. (They are not the highest in Canada, as some believe. Montreal's rate is much greater.) — Windsor Star.

Names give individuality to houses, and a house cannot have too much individuality. Nobody likes to think that his home—his castle—is exactly like somebody else's; be it ever so humble, he wants it to be like no other place on earth. He does not plant his garden with exactly the same flowers and shrubs as his neighbor; his wife takes pains to make her curtains and furnishings a reflection of her own taste. This is all admirable and as it should be in democracy where it is everybody's right to possess individuality. Why not a name for the house, then? — Peterborough Examiner.

Restoring The University Seats

(New York Times Service)

LONDON — Legally Winston Churchill could use his slender majority to increase his party's strength in the House of Commons by about 12 seats. Politically, however, it may not appear wise to him to do so. In their election campaign the Conservatives pledged themselves to restore the 12 University Seats abolished by the Labor Government in 1948. Most if not all of these seats would certainly be Conservative. Had the Conservatives won the election by a big majority they could have reinstated the University franchise without leaving themselves open to the charge of attempting to "pack the House" as Franklin D. Roosevelt was accused of attempting to pack the Supreme Court.

With only a narrow victory over Labor however, many Conservatives now fear that if Churchill carries out his manifesto pledge he would be accused of attempting to bolster his party's Parliamentary strength by undemocratic methods.

Up to the last election of February, 1950, the University franchise was a distinctive feature of the British electoral system. According to this all university graduates were allowed two votes, one in the constituency in which they lived and one for the 12 representatives of seven universities. The custom dated back nearly 350 years. University representation began in 1603 when King James the First granted to Oxford and Cambridge the right to send two representatives each to the House of Commons. Later other universities obtained a similar privilege and by 1817 the number of university seats was further increased and the basis of the franchise widened.

The Age-Old Story

O Bless our God, ye people, and make the voice of his praise to be heard; which holdeth our soul in life, and suffereth not our feet to be moved.

Lessons From Europe In Community Progress

By Leo P. McIsaac Part One (concluded) (All Rights Reserved) HOME, SWEET HOME!

We said goodbye to England, to Europe and many new friends. The tug boats took our ship in tow and we squeezed out through the pier gates and were on our own. It was midnight when we struck the Irish Sea, and the propellers rolled. By this time, we had lost sight of the crowds on the docks who had been waving and shouting farewell to their friends aboard; many of them had been in tears, believing they had seen their children or relatives for the last time.

There were many immigrants aboard, many people who had said goodbye to home and were coming out to this vast, new land of opportunity, Canada. We became very well acquainted with several of them on the way across. There were two doctors, who were "fed up" for personal reasons with the British health scheme.

There were engineers coming out; there were farmers from Holland; there were several young women with small children coming out to join their husbands who had previously emigrated and found work in our country. But they were all headed for Ontario, or Alberta or the industrial sections. None of them had heard that there were any possibilities or opportunities in the Maritime Provinces. They all wanted to get "into the swing of things," but were heading for a ride on "the trapeze that was now flying." They were not interested in exploring a new area or undertaking an empire-building job, like their forefathers.

This immigration indicates the fact that Canada is a coming land; people all over the world are looking to Canada. They realize, better than we do, the vast resources and wealth that are here, either to be developed or exploited in the next couple of generations. It is possible, in fact probable, that the population of Canada will double within the next ten years. This will change the possibilities of our Maritime people tremendously. There will be a market for our farm products and our fish at home; Canada will not be depending so much on exports. "What are we, in the Maritimes, doing ourselves, so that we too can participate in this tremendous development, that is now gaining momentum in our country?" This question was foremost in my mind.

As we plowed around the Grand Banks of Newfoundland, we saw the fishing fleets out wallowing in the waves and the hardy fishermen, young and old, fighting the cold and pulling in their nets. This brought up other questions. People have been doing this for years, for generations, on the Grand Banks. Great stories, songs and poems have been written about it, and, although perhaps those fishermen have eked out a bare existence, has their standard of life improved in accordance with the amount of work, risk and drudgery they have put into their industry? The ship pulled into the beautiful land-locked harbor of St. John's and was tied up. We had a two-day stop-over here and went for a tour around the Avalon Peninsula. It is not the most beautiful or the cleanest city in the world, but it irked me to hear the blunt and sincere remark of one English lady, who said, "I have just written home, and said, 'We have arrived in St. John's, Newfoundland. What a dump! If this is an example of Canada, I shall be back on the next boat!' The Newfoundland guide said, 'This is Canada. This is home, and we are fond of it, and glad it is now part of Canada.' Someone else had a more abrupt answer, saying: 'This may be a dump to you, but it is a typical example of the results of British domination for generations and of the capitalist system given a free hand.' Silence and a heavy atmosphere were noticeable until we arrived back at the pier.

As we sailed out the harbor and ploughed through the fog off Newfoundland and along the coastline of Nova Scotia into Halifax harbor, the fragrance in the air told us we were home. It was a wonderful feeling, stepping on to the docks at Halifax and winding around the crooked road to Caribou. Aboard the ferry as we came within sight of the Wood Islands coast it was easy to realize that, in spite of all the wonderful things in the rest of the world, and all the riches of the industrial centers, home is home. It is a wonderful place to come back to. Yes, it is! This is the feeling of many thousands of Islanders, our brothers and sisters, who have gone away to work and use their brains to develop other areas. Frequently they come back to relax a bit and to see and enjoy the refreshing atmosphere of their old home. It is up to us, the generation of today, to assess the possibilities and make our Island Home not only a wonderful place to come back to, but a place that will be wonderful from all points of view, for ourselves and for our children to stay. This is our challenge and a challenge that cannot be met with talk alone, nor can it be postponed. It will take study, action and determination. Now, let us take a brief look at what has happened in other parts of the world, where other peoples have met our Island on these same problems for their "home lands". Perhaps by studying carefully their experiences, their determination, their successes and their failures, and appraising present trends and conditions at home, we can draw a blueprint or outline a plan, whereby we, each of us, with a clear-cut picture in his mind may work together and make Prince Edward Island, not only a "vacationland", but truly a "homeland".

Editor's Note: Tomorrow's installment will constitute the beginning of Part Two of Mr. McIsaac's "Lessons From Europe" and will comprise reviews of European, international and local conditions. The opening chapter, "European Review" will deal with consumer and agricultural co-operation, farm organizations, credit and finance, women's organizations, education techniques and facilities, general economic policies, and fishermen's policies.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

STORMY CROSSING

"The Courier, &c., had no chance of crossing until Monday last, in consequence of stormy weather. They made an attempt on that day, and after getting about half way across, were obliged to return, after being out seven hours, owing to the bad state of the ice. On Tuesday they again tried it, and succeeded; and returned on the following day, bringing with them an English, and the Colonial and American mails. The mails from Halifax did not reach Cape Tormentine until Monday night. Passengers—Francis Longworth and James Yeo, Esqs." — The Islander, March 15, 1860

The Poet's Corner

FROM "THE FAERIE QUEEN"

He there does now enjoy eternal rest And happy ease, which thou dost want and crave And further from it daily wanderest; What if some little pain the passage have, That makes frail flesh to fear the bitter wave? Is not short pain well borne, that brings long ease, And lays the soul to sleep in quiet grave? Sleep after toil, port after stormy seas, Ease after war, death after life doth greatly please.

—Edmond Spenser: 1552-99.

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