

THE GUARDIAN

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CHARLOTTETOWN SATURDAY, SEPT. 12, 1953 Rural Electrification

The need for a Province-wide program of rural electrification has been emphasized repeatedly by our agricultural organizations, and the announcement by Premier Matheson of the Government's policy in this respect will be received with great interest. The chief difficulty in the way has been the financing of such a program by private enterprise, since the sections most in need of this service are least likely to afford substantial returns for the heavy initial investment in line construction. The Government now proposes to solve this problem by building the necessary lines, with the principal suppliers erecting plants where required.

The policy will necessitate a great deal of detailed planning, and will undoubtedly involve a large expenditure of money. But the alternative, of failing to provide the services required, and continuing to mark time while other Provinces are forging ahead, would prove a much more costly policy in the end. Our future depends largely on developing our agricultural industry, and the first and foremost problem in this connection is retaining our younger people on the farms. We have lost far too many of them already, and this exodus will go on at an accelerated rate if vigorous measures are not taken to offset it.

It is to be hoped that the time is not too far distant when a system of cheap electrical power will be made available for the whole Maritime Provinces which will place us on a par, industrially, with other sections of Canada. In the meantime, rural electrification cannot wait for this long-talked-of development. The Government has legislative authority for making a start on the program, and there is no question but that in principle it will have the full support of every member of the House and every responsible farm organization. It must be prepared to meet criticism with regard to the details of the scheme, and be on the alert to correct administrative errors which are bound to occur in a project of such proportions. But the main thing is to get the policy under way. This is what the Government now proposes to do, and we can think of few government measures in recent years which are of more far-reaching importance.

4-H Clubs

A number of 4-H Clubs held their achievement days at the Souris Exhibition this week and attracted much favorable comment. The activities of these fine organizations are now Canada-wide and it is pleasing to note the success they are scoring in this agricultural Province.

As far back as 1924 a 4-H Club team from this Province participated in swine judging at the Royal Winter Fair at Toronto, the members being Messrs. Harold Smith, of Pownal, (newly elected member of the Legislature for the Belfast District), and Edmund Robertson, of Mount Mellick. This was seven years before the clubs became organized on a Dominion-wide basis, and since that time great progress has been made provincially. Today in Prince Edward Island the organization has 22 dairy calf clubs, 3 beef calf clubs, 2 mixed calf clubs, 5 poultry clubs, 1 grain club, 11 garden clubs, 5 food (domestic cooking) clubs, and 75 clothing clubs, representing a total membership of 1,700 distributed widely throughout the Province.

These clubs of young farmers between the ages of 12 and 21 years are sponsored in collaboration with the Provincial and Dominion Departments of Agriculture. The origin of their title lies in the pledge which all members take:

"My Head to clearer thinking My Heart to greater loyalty My Hands to larger service My Health to better living."

The club slogan is: "To instruct oneself is to enrich one's life." The program is aimed particularly at encouraging a wide variety of junior activities designed to develop personality, character and leadership and to foster community spirit and high ideals of rural citizenship.

The clubs are now active in all the Provinces with a Canadian council at Ottawa to co-ordinate the work and organize the national competitions. Care and judging of beef, swine, poultry, grain, gardens, farm machinery and so forth are primary undertakings.

It is an easy thing to set up 4-H agri-

cultural or homecraft clubs by groups of boys and girls numbering as few as ten. This is a worthwhile project which adult agriculturists would do well to encourage in every way. It is one very practical approach to the important problem of maintaining our younger farm population. All interested, therefore, should make a point of attending the Rural Youth Fair at the Exhibition grounds here next Friday, when the Club Finals for the Province will be conducted.

Educational Bottleneck

Prince of Wales College entrance examinations have been for years the goal towards which the greatest efforts of pupils and teachers have been directed in this Province. Teachers were judged very largely by the proportion of their students who successfully passed that test. The students themselves were thus set apart as being capable of profiting by higher education and few there were who did not do credit to their teachers and their Province.

Today, however, people are not willing to accept the winnowing process but expect all young people to have a taste of higher education. The Minister of Education himself, the Hon. Keir Clark, has referred to the examinations as a "bottleneck" and indicated that the old name will be dropped in favour of simply Grade 10 examinations. He expressed the hope that all might pass from Grade 10 to 11 and then to 12.

It would, indeed, be ideal if all students could take and profit by all that the educational system has to offer, but it is well known that abilities differ and that while some students could go on to advanced work at an earlier age there are others who need more time for preparation or whose abilities can better be developed along non-academic lines.

The Departmental Reports in recent years have stressed that the entrance examinations are not ruthlessly applied to keep out students of average ability but that there should be an ordinary passage from one phase of schooling to another. The difficulty, in part, is due to the automatic grading of pupils in some schools and the giving of too high marks in others so that the entrance examinations come as a shock of hard reality after years of illusion.

The Minister is right, that Grade 10 should not present a stumbling block to large numbers of scholars; but the answer is to be found in more careful grading, particularly from Grade 8 and the application of suitable remedial teaching in the schools. To simply knock down the barrier to further advancement would mean a lowering of standards which would cost all students much of the value of the years they are devoting to attaining an education.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow, the 15th Sunday after Trinity, 16th after Pentecost.

"There were giants in those days" is a fond thought about the pioneers but times have not altogether changed for the worse. It is difficult to imagine anyone today entering imported produce in an Exhibition as seems to have been done in 1879.

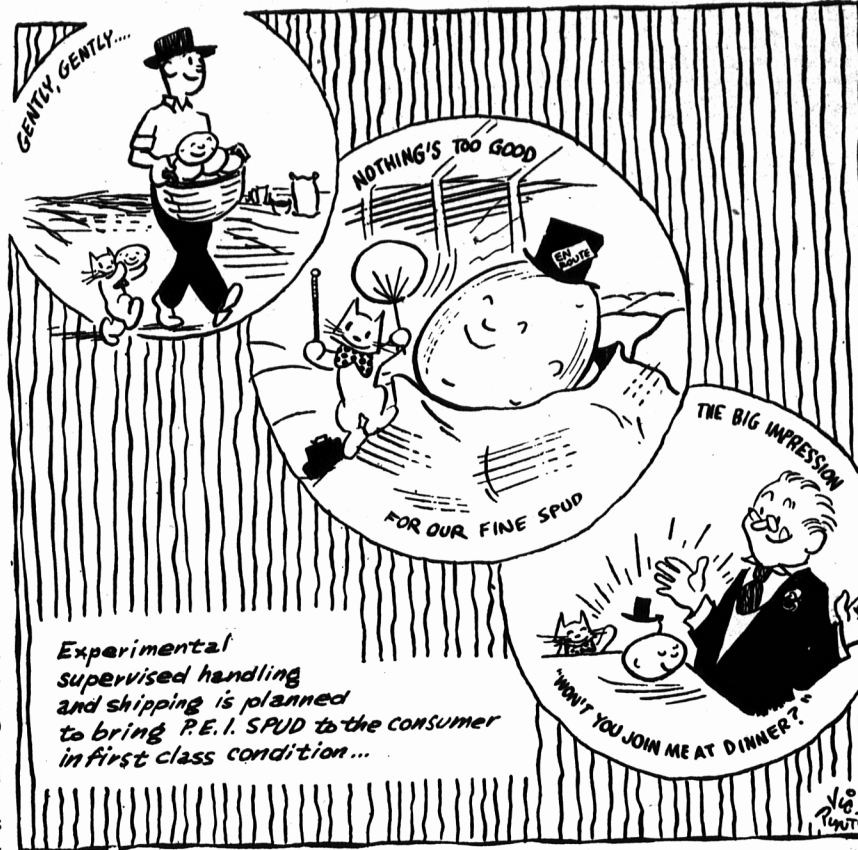
It might look like an easy solution of the problem of plenty and hunger existing side by side for Canada to give away 50,000,000 bushels of wheat. It has long been observed, however, that it is much more difficult to give wisely than to sell. It is doubtful if our wisdom is a match for such a task.

This date 1609 Henry Hudson, English navigator in the service of Holland, entered the river which now bears his name. The following year he discovered Hudson Bay and Hudson Strait. Early in 1611 his crew mutinied, and set him, his son, and seven others adrift in a small boat. Nothing further was heard of them.

This Province is standardising on grade twelve as the requirement for university matriculation, following the practice which is being adopted in the Atlantic Provinces. Although High School students will require an additional year to matriculate they are not the losers thereby. The extra year should be as valuable educationally as any other course they might go into.

Hospital insurance should theoretically divide the cost of hospitalization amongst all subscribers instead of having it borne by the particular individuals who are victims of ill health. In practice it has been found that it also results in greatly increased hospital costs as members try to "get their money out of it" by unnecessary stays in hospital. The New Brunswick Medical Society is taking steps to correct the abuse which is estimated to cost Maritime Blue Cross-Blue Shield subscribers an additional \$2,000,000 a year.

So He'll Arrive In The Pink



The Poet's Corner

THE VANTAGE POINT
Tired of trees I seek again mankind,
Well I know where to hie me - in the dawn.
To a slope where the cattle keep the lawn.
There amid billowing juniper reclined myself unseen, I see in white defined
Far off the homes of men, and father still.
The graves of men on an opposing hill.
Living or dead, whichever are to mind.
And by noon I have too much of these.
I have but to turn on my arm, and lo.
The sun-burned hillside sets my face aglow.
My breathing shakes the bluet like a breeze.
I smell the earth, I smell the bruised plant.
I look into the crater of the ant.

Old Charlottetown

NEWSPAPER ITEMS

From The Islander, April 8, 1864:
The first annual meeting of the stockholders of the Union Bank was held in the Court House, in the Colonial Building, on Tuesday last, when the following gentlemen were chosen directors for the ensuing year: Messrs. Owen Connelly, Charles Palmer, George Davies, W. W. Lord, Henry Hazard, Thomas Dodd and William E. Dawson. We understand that Mr. Palmer is to be president, and James Anderson, Esq., cashier. The Bank is to be held in Gates Brick Building, north side of Queen Square, which is now being fitted up for that purpose.
A highway robber, sentenced at the last term of the Supreme Court, in Georgetown, to three years imprisonment, and 39 lashes at the commencement of the period, and 39 lashes more at the termination of his imprisonment, received the first installment of his sentence at Georgetown on Monday last, in the presence of a large concourse of people.
On Wednesday, the 16th inst. Mr. George R. Mayhew, tanner, of Margate, New London, discovered that his dwelling, house, had been opened, and some \$200 worth of leather stolen. The leather was ready for dressing. The thieves obliterated every trace of their operations, having returned the tan-bark to the vats and replaced the covers.
Sometime between Saturday evening last and Sunday morning, the store of the late Mr. James Peake was burglariously entered, and money to the amount of some twenty-five shillings stolen. With a brace and bit the thieves cut away sufficient of the back wall of the building to allow a man to enter the store, whence they entered the counting room, and finding one of the desks locked, with the brace and bit cut out a large piece of the stout hardwood cover, and through the hole thus made, rummaged the desk, in one part of which were the few shillings taken. It was a bold affair, and the act is startling in view of the fact that bars, bolts and shutters are of little consequence when burglars can so readily enter premises through the walls.
A public meeting of the tenants on Township No. 29 was convened at Creapud East school room on Monday, the 14th ult. for the purpose of taking into consideration the plausibility of forming a Tenant League, or otherwise of adopting a mode of

Notes By The Way

Road maps tell a motorist everything he wants to know except how to fold them up again. - Niagara Falls Review.
Scotland has started cattle raising western style. We don't think those cowboy songs will sound any less mournful on the bagpipes than on the guitar. - Edmonton Journal.
Two professions have reached the point on this continent where desperate measures soon will have to be taken if they are to provide the number of graduates demanded. They are the twin occupations of physio-therapy and occupational-therapy. - Windsor Daily Star.
Winston Churchill, that valiant knight, was a sad drone at Harrow although he enjoyed reading books. Parents and teachers on this solemn day may look on him as a traitor, but we dare to quote his words: "Naturally I am biased in favour of boys learning English; and then I would let the clever ones learn Latin as an honor, and Greek as a treat." - Ottawa Journal.
Farmers and orchardists everywhere—who know the gamble of pitting time, work and money against the chance that Nature will prove unfriendly — will readily sympathize with the Annapolis Valley apple growers who found forty-five per cent of their intended 1953 harvest lying on the ground after the wrath of a hurricane had passed by. Such misfortunes are procedure tending to their emancipation from the shackles of the proprietary system — the Lanc Commission having failed to secure for them the right to purchase the fee simple of their respective lands at a just and reasonable rate. The meeting was numerously attended; and a banner was to be seen floating in the breeze bearing the words "Vox Populi, Free Land for a Free People; United We Stand, Divided We Fall."

The Age Old Story

And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these. And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth; for there is one God; and there is none other but he; and to love him with all the heart, and with all the strength, and with all the mind, and to love his neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices. And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God.

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AGENTS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE

The Passing Scene

By Observer
SCHOOL DAYS! SCHOOL DAYS!
The 18th century Robert Blair wrote of "the schoolboy, with his satchel in his hand, whistling aloud to bear his courage up." Well, I suppose schoolboys still carry satchels of a sort and on proper occasions they whistle but not, I think, to bear their courage up. Times have changed for the schoolboy, as for everybody else, since Blair's time, and in no social relationship is the change more noticeable than in the relationship between the boy and his school.

According to the social historians school-going in the early part of the 18th century was a pretty gloomy business especially for boys from the poorer families. Perhaps the happiest boy was the one who had no chance to attend school at all. There were very many in that category.
I was reading recently about conditions in England at that time and, if the reports are only half authentic, they reveal a situation of misery and near slavery which seems almost incredible. Most of the "schools" were in reality nothing more than back sheds in private houses, always ill-kept and often unsanitary.
The teachers were for the most part "half-starved and half-literate." About the only teaching technique they knew was the somewhat dubious art of bludgeoning the heads of the pupils on the chance that through the bruises and scars some bits of knowledge might seep in. The strange thing was that sometimes it did.

In the main, however, school-going must have been pretty much of a waste of time for all concerned. The boarding schools of the period were a bit better for those lucky enough to qualify for admission, but not much better. Their chief aim apparently was to propagate the nobilish temperament which was then at its highest historical peak.
The chief "sport" of the bigger boys was hounding and beating the smaller ones, while that of the smaller ones was hounding and beating one another. For the rare sensitive and life was just one preparation after another. In some recorded cases it was literally unbearable.
Another school "sport" much in vogue and which received official sanction as being in "the national interest," was bare-fisted fighting. As soon as a youngster was old enough to run around he was considered old enough to fight with his bare hands. Special inducements were offered boys who showed "promise" in this skill.
All in all, the boy who did not have any great aptitude for bullying and who did not possess the necessary strength to beat down his adversaries, including his teachers, did not have much for which to look forward on his way to school. To wonder he was in the habit of whistling to bear his courage up. Present-day boys who whistle school-ward bound must do so for the sheer joy of anticipation. Never was there a time in the history of youth when boys had less to fear and more to exult about in the matter of school-going. Some say that so far as discipline of any kind is concerned the present generation is in a state of complete ignorance.
Most schools, I am told, do not even possess any physical instrument of correction. Even the smooth little strap which only a few years ago was almost sure to be hidden in the teacher's desk to be taken out only in times of serious provocation has been thrown into the discard.
In one extreme case which I read about recently school officials were reported as favouring the disciplining of the teachers by the pupils. For instance, if in the opinion of the pupils' council the teacher proved to be unsatisfactory in any of her duties and responsibilities (these, too, would be prescribed by the said council) she might be required to "stay after school," alone and unattended, as punishment for her inefficiency. Again, if the said teacher should fail to show proper respect for the "self-expression" practices of her pupils (such as kicking her in the shins from time to time), she could be summarily dismissed from her post at the request of a simple majority of the school membership.

I shouldn't imagine that this sort of thing will become standard procedure in the near future, but you can never tell. There are strange ideas at work in the educational field and teachers in many regions are being tied and bound with regulations and precepts, counsels and instructions, which I am sure must at times make them feel like whistling to bear their courage up. And those who for some reason, physical or psychological, are unable to whistle, are in a sorry predicament indeed.
There is nothing new in the fact that everybody knows a great deal more about the art and practice of teaching than those who are actively engaged in the work. That has always been the case. The best teaching skill has never yet been found in a classroom.
The only new thing about it is that nowadays the fact is generally and officially admitted, whereas in less enlightened times it was usually only presumed in silent fashion.

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