The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like the Dew

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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."

PAGE 4 MONDAY, DEC. 8, 1958

High Qualifications

The new standards set for teachers' qualifications will, we believe, put this Province on a level with the most advanced in this field. It is a forward step; and, in course, of time, it may be expected to bring about improvement in the whole educational system. Before it can produce its maximum value, however, something more will have to be done to give teachers an incentive to pursue higher professional standing.

At the present time there is not enough difference between salaries paid second class teachers and those received by the fully qualified. When the Superior 4 license—the highest on the list—comes into the picture, the small "increments" will appear all the more inadequate. Without having any statistical data to work on, we should say offhand that there should be as much as three or four hundred dollars a year difference between the salaries paid teachers of Supeoior 4 license and those paid Superior 1 license holders. Certainly, it should be enough to make it worth while for teachers to work for the highest qualification.

And there is another need, already referred to in these columns: the need to reward superior teachers, whatever their professional qualifications may be. A Superior 4 license does not necessarily mean that the holder is a superior first class teacher. As in all other professions, there are varying degrees of talent and skill. Wherever talent and skill are found in extraordinary measure these qualities should be recognized in a tangible way, whether the teacher happens to be teaching on a Superior 4 license or on a permit.

Fire Prevention

Charlottetown and Halifax and, no doubt, other Canadian cities are checking their schools for fire hazards. Civic officials have been reminded of this need by the school fire in Chicago that took 90 lives.

It is well that the inspections are taking place at this time for, of course, the winter season is a particularly dangerous period for fires. But the possibility of fires in schools and other public buildings must be counted as a year round danger. Nor is it by any means confined to old buildings that lack modern preventive measures. A fire can take place and get out of control in the most modern building equipped with the latest devices.

We are of the opinion that inspection should be carried out periodically, summer as well as winter—perhaps once a month would not be too often. Most important of all, regulations concerning furnaces, basements, exits and periodical fire drills should be rigidly enforced at all times. One slight deviation from the rules of safety might very easily result in disaster.

Security Rates Compared

A study of Canada's old age pension program having been ordered by Prime Minister Diefenbaker, the Financial Post makes some comparisons with the social security laws in the United States. Such a comparison will be one of the chief aims of the government investigation.

The Post points out that under the latest proposed modification of the U. S. social security law, an American couple received as much as $2,286 a year. In Canada the current maximum for a married couple both 70 years old or over is $1,320. This makes Canadian payments look small by comparison, but a consideration of certain factors lessens the discrepancy.

In Canada about 99 per cent of people 70 or over receive $55 a month regardless of their previous earning power. Means test pensions of the same amount are available to Canadians from the age of 65. In the United States pensions start at 65, but recent figures show that only 62 per cent of those 65 and over are actually receiving old age security benefits. Another 12 per cent are eligible but are still working. A further seven per cent are receiving benefits under alternative plans and a group totalling 18 per cent, not entitled to old age security benefits, are receiving old age assistance based on means tests.

This indicates that only 72 per cent of Americans who have reached 65 are actually receiving old age pensions. The Post also calculates that on the basis of quoted figures the average U.S. social security payment is about $65 a month, campared with our $55.

The cost of the Canadian program is rising relatively slowly. Cost of the U.S. program, which is linked to the individual's contribution, is rising rapidly because more and more people are reaching an age at which their contributions are sufficient to make them eligible for pension.

While the $55 a month now paid our older citizens may not seem large, the Post points out that a married couple receiving $110 between them would have to have saved about $18,000 to buy an annuity at 70 which would pay them that much for life. Should they desire to preserve their capital it would take about $38,000 invested at four per cent to produce $110 a month income.

Tariff Reductions

The six countries making up the European Common Market—Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg—have agreed to reduce their tariffs by 10 per cent and extend it to all members of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). A report from Ottawa says that this news was received with "great gratification" by the Canadian Government.

Well, of course, anything that helps to strengthen Canada's trade with Europe is worth rejoicing about. A 10 per cent cut in tariffs is quite a concession from an area that in time hopes to make itself economically independent, or nearly so.

It is evident, however, that the action of the six countries is aimed not so much at GATT in general or at overseas trade in particular as at Britain, which is pressing for a European free trade area to include the six Common Market nations and the eleven other countries making up the Organization for European Economic Co-operation. This free trade idea is being held up, pending settlement of differences between Britain and France on how the plan should be implemented.

Canada does, of course, benefit by the concession. But whether or not this will be a long-term prospect will depend on the manner in which Canada and other non-European countries face up to the Common Market and Free Trade economic facts. The 10 per cent reduction in tariffs will have to be met by reciprocal action, if it is to have any permanent basis. Canada cannot expect to have the double benefit of low tariffs on exports and high tariffs on imports.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Veterans Minister A.J. Brooks, chairman of a cabinet committee appointed to look into the matter of "inequities in the railways' freight rate structure", has said that the committee plans to hear evidence from "experts". We must hope that not all the experts will be railway officials.

* * *

991,000 trees were planted in the forest district of Swastika in Ontario this year, according to the Department of Lands and Forests. This is believed to be the largest number to be planted in a district in any one year. The plantings included 408,000 white pine, 161,250 red pine, 206,000 white spruce and 75,750 black spruce. Ontario leads Canada in reforestation practices.

* * *

Attorney General Bonner of British Columbia says that his Government is still of the opinion that the Provincial Premiers should meet to protest new freight rates. If, as seems likely, the 17 per cent increase was only a sample of what the Railways hope to get in the near future, it is high time that the Eastern and Western Provinces made some really strong representations on the matter to the Federal Cabin-

THE THREE MUSKETEERS

The Path To The Stars

Werner Baedeler in Unesco Features

Manned travel to other worlds is probably nearer than it seemed a few months ago. At least that was the opinion expressed by specialists from some twenty countries who met recently in Amsterdam to review progress achieved in the different branches of astronautical science. For a whole week they discussed every aspect of astronautics with the knowledge and experience of some of the leading experts at at their disposal. Stars in this assembly of "star reachers" were the "fathers" of the Soviet and American satellite project. Professors Sedov and Werner von Braun.

There has been much talk about what the recording and transmitting equipment of Explorers I and II have taught us in respect to the physical conditions at the fringe of the atmosphere. In some cases the findings are in full agreement with theory and had been predicted for some years. But at the same time the Explorers reported just as the Russian Sputniks did surprising facts about a radiation belt whose existence no one had suspected.

ALTERED TUNE

When the first satellites approached an altitude of about 1,000 kilometres, the tune emitted by their transmitters as a guide to the intensity of cosmic radiation would alter its frequency back and forth, thereby indicating a tremendous increase in radiation. At first scientists believed that this change was caused by a fault in the recording gadgets, but they soon had to accept the idea of a radiation current circling the earth above the thousand kilometre limit, and always following the lines of force of the magnotic field which surrounds our planet.

Nobody yet knows how far this belt extends. Some scientists believe that it ends at an altitude of two or three thousand kilometres, others speak of six to seven thousand.

But, whatever the correct figure, the question remains: what would be the effect of this radiation belt on human beings? Does it present any biological and medical hazards for future space travellers?

RADIATION PROBLEM

The recordings made by the earth satellites indicate that the impact of electrically charged particles (of which the radiation in the belt is believed to consist) upon a material body like a satellite or a space ship, produces a kind of radiation which the scientist generally refers to as Bremsstrahlung. This radiation is composed of X-rays, which can certainly harm the human body if it is exposed to them intensively and for a long period.

For this reason some specialists suggested encasing space ships in a shell of lead several inches thick. Though this may sound a good solution from the point of view of radiation absorption, it creates new difficulties for the space-ship engineer, intent on keeping the weight of his craft as light as possible.

To meet these objections, other suggestions were put forward during the Amsterdam meeting. Professor Fred Singer of the University of Maryland - well known in astronautical circles for his unconventional ideas - suggested a sort of a "brush" which would sweep away the radiation particles within a narrow band, inside which a manned space station could then circle.

OTHER SUGGESTIONS

Of course, the idea of the electron - swallowing satellite which is to make a path for the manned station, depends very much on the origin of the radiation belt, and unless the theory on this, likewise suggested by Professor Singer, proves correct, there is not the slightest chance of the brush being feasible. In any case, as far as starting and landing operations are concerned, the space ships would still have to penetrate the radiation belt.

To avoid this it was suggested that their launching and landing sites should be built near the poles of the earth since, following the magnetic lines of force, the radiation belt extends only up to latitudes of approximately thirty degrees north and south, and then fades out. Thus, a manned space vehicle starting from somewhere near the poles would not encounter the belt at all.

But perhaps the most unconventional idea was put forward by von Braun himself. He waved away all the difficulties by saying: "The radiation belt is of no concern for the launching and landing operations of space craft. They will be through it in a matter of hours. And since the radiation is of comparatively low energy, we do not need to bother about it."

MANNED SPACE STATION

Of course," he admitted, "the situation is different for a manned space station. It could not stay within the belt unless it had a lead protection. But it does not need to stay there; there is ample space below the belt. At 700 kilometres' altitude a space station revolving in a real circle would have a practically infinite lifetime."

Von Braun is convinced that manned space flight will become a reality within a matter of years. That this idea does not seem as a remote as it did only a few years ago, is indicated by the interest lawyers and lawmakers are suddenly showing in the matter.

Thus slowly but surely the path to the stars is being cleared. It may still take years, even decades, but man has reached the threshold of the universe and, sooner or later, he will start out on the great adventure.

"Bathroom Of The Future"

Jerome Beatty in the Saturday Review

The September issue of a trade publication called Actual Specifying Engineer contains an article entitled "Bathroom of the Future."

In the first plce, the terminology has been altered, and we have a new concept for the American people — "the health room."

The health room has a sunken swimming pool which "allows the entire family to bathe together if they like. A sliding top can conceal the pool and by a touch of a button can provide floor space for entertaining."

There are 21 other marvelous features, such as "variable control health vibrator, power operated towel cabinet refrigerated health drink dispensers, three dimensional television, electronic memory scale and low frequency vibrating chair."

The health room has an electronic home laundry which "at the mere insertion of any article will wash, dry, press and sanitize it, and then ring a harmonic chime 10 to 15 minutes later when the cycle is completed." Then there is the "walk through power shower that automatically wets, soaps, cleanses, dries and scents the user as he slowly walks through."

I suppose you think the actual specifying engineers are kidding. Well, they are not. They have drawn a picture of the health room, which is three times the size of your living room, and they have even carried over one old-fashioned gimmick from what we used to call the bathroom: "A water closet with a power operated door."

Unfortunately, there is no place in the health room to park your car, so presumably people will have to walk out when they wish to go some place, although I cannot think of any reason why they should need to leave the health room.

The Chapel In St. Paul's

New York Times

In St. Paul's Cathedral, London, the American bugler played "Taps" and the British trumpeter answered with the "Reveille." The eternal round of sleep and awakening, deaths and rebirth, was the fitting symbol for all that went into the American chapel which was dedicated there recently.

The 28,000 Americans who died in Britain or from British bases in World War II will live in the record of the honor roll on the pedestal in the chapel. They will live because more than 3,000,000 Britons gave their small invaluable tributes, but most of all because of "the common sacrifices made by the British and American peoples during the Second World War."

Common sacrifices, common heritage, common ideals — it takes ceremonies like this to remind us that we and the British live in one world.

REPRESENTATIVES

Queen Elizabeth II and Vice President Nixon were representatives for all Britons and all Americans, as the relatives of the American dead who attended the dedication were the delegates for all the other thousands whose fathers and sons, brothers and husbands gave their lives.

The noble cathedral that Christopher Wren rebuilt of the white stone of Portland after the great fire in 1666 was the place above all others where one would want to have seen the American chapel.

That St. Paul's should have been standing on the Sunday morning in May, 1941, after the great blitz of London's City was like a miracle.

Twice during the war 500-pound high explosive bombs hit St. Paul's and about fifty incendiaries landed on its great bulk, and still, when V-E Day came, there was the cathedral intact amid the surrounding ruins. It was the stout heart of London that went on beating, a truimph of the spirit, a haven of rest.

PRECIOUS MEMORIES

Now and as long as St. Paul's Cathedral stands it will harbor sad and precious memories of our own American dead. The names that are inscribed there will commemorate the tragedy and glory that we and the British paid for and won together in a just cause. However much the living may have failed the dead in these frustrating years of peace, those who gave their lives earned a great victory. It could never have been taken

Losing Fear Of The Doctor

By Herman N. Bundesen, M. D.

TRYING to think of something to get your youngster for Christmas? It's always quite a problem, I know, to come up with something that will please the youngsters and serve some educational, or at least useful, purpose at the same time.

Well, what about one of those "Play Doctor" sets? I am not advocating any particular kind, but I do think that the youngsters will get a kick out of a toy stethoscope, candy pills and the like.

DISPELS FEAR

Even more important is that by familiarizing themselves with a doctor's technique and instruments, they are preparing themselves for the big trip to see a real doctor. The first visit to a doctor or dentist is a trip into the unknown. And most children have a natural fear of the unknown.

Moreover, far too often some parents unknowingly instill fear in their children, particularly fear of doctors and dentists.

FRIGHTENING IMAGE

A simple passing remark by some adult about an unpleasant medical or dental experience may create a rather frightening image in a youngster's mind.

Permitting your child to play at being a doctor will help put the medical profession in its proper perspective with him.

Moreover, if you play doctor with him, the results probably will be even better. This simulates some of the experiences he will have during the actual visit.

TAKE CHILD ALONG

As further preparation for that first visit, I suggest that you take your child along the next time you make an appointment for yourself.

Again, this helps serve as an introduction to the doctor or dentist and to his office and equipment.

However, I want to caution you against using force and threats to get the child to go either to the doctor's or dentist's office, office, unless, of course, it is an emergency. Using your size and strength to coerce a youngster only serves to stress his helplessness in the entire situation.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

A Reader: What is the normal sugar count in blood?

Answer: The normal blood sugar determined after a 12-hour fast is 80 to 120 milligrams per 100 cc. of blood.

OUR YESTERDAYS

(From The Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
(Dec. 8, 193)

Major C.L. MacKay returned by the Borden train last evening from a trip to Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal. He attended an Executive Council meeting of the Canadian Manuacturers Association at Toronto and was a guest at St. Andrew's dinner at the Royal York Hotel at Ottawa.

Prominent fur buyers have arrived in Summerside for the opening of the first fur auction sale of the season which opens today in the Town Hall under the auspicies of the P.E.I. Fur Auction Sales Co. Buyers from Paris, London and other European houses are also on hand for the sale.

TEN YEARS AGO
(Dec 8, 1948)

Bobby Lund, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Lund, Kent Street, received brusies and a general shaking up requiring medical attention when, at noon yesterday, he attempted to stop a driverless horse at the intersection of Prince and Kent Streets. The lad was caught between the wagon and a parked car. Atfer receiving attention at the Polyclinic, he was taken to the Charlottetown Hospital for an X-ray which revealed no bones had been broken.

Frank "King" Clancy arrived in the City by plane yesterday to conduct a school for referees and coaches. The "King" will work in conjunction with Pete Kelly, a former Abegweit player before he migrated to the big time with St. Louis and Detroit squads.

MAXIMS

The sword of the law should never fall but on those whose guilt is so apparent as to be pronounced by their friends as well as foes.

NOTES BY THE WAY

A grasshopper is lazier than a bee, but he has better manners. —Woodstock Sentinel-Review

Talking of international difficulties—there are even people who quit seeing each other because their dogs don't get along together.—Calgary Herald

Moscow's radio boasted this week of another great invention —a machine that enables the Russians to tell if a singer is any good. This saves them the trouble of hearing the singer sing.—New York Herald Tribune

A depressed-looking fellow wandered into a restaurant. A waiter bustled up. "What will you have, sir? Some cold shoulder?" "No, thanks; I had that this morning." "Well, then, tongue, sir?" "No, thanks; I'll get that tonight."—Ottawa Journal

And now we can tell what is around the corner December-r-r! —Brandon Sun

We wonder if that pet-shop owner in Gorizia, Italy who was charged with ill-treating a crocodile wept crocodile tears when he realized his fault.—Ottawa Journal

Adolescents, certain medical authorities suggest have as much need of special care as infants and the aged. We begin to fear that in another generation or two the only people out of cotton wool will be the middle-aged.—Ottawa Journal

The Poet's Corner

REMEMBERED WORDS

Why man, he doth bestride the narrow world
Like a Collosus; and we petty men
Walk under his huge legs, and peep about
To find ourselves dishonourable graves.
Men at some time are masters of the fates:
The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars,
But in ourselves, that we are underlings.

—William Shakespeare.

The Age Old Story

Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

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