

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, TUESDAY, NOV. 27, 1951

Too Much Optimism At Ottawa

Official Ottawa quite naturally tends to be optimistic about the achievements of departments of government. It is desirable that such should be the case. It is not desirable, however, that such optimism, unsupported by objective and factual information, should mislead the Canadian people regarding the progress that has been made in the realm of national preparedness.

Progressive Conservative leader George Drew suggests that defence and rearmament would progress much more rapidly if the Federal Government were to "fire every one of those propagandists who have been issuing glowing stories from the Defence Department" on the state of Canada's preparedness.

"Remember," Mr. Drew declares, "we have an effective procedure by which the people of Canada can be told what is being done. Let the trained representatives of the Press of Canada tell the people the accurate facts, as they have been doing for years when they are given that opportunity."

Fine Or Imprisonment

It is becoming more generally recognized that the present state of the law as to imprisonment in lieu of fines is most unsatisfactory. Apart from the factor of inflation which makes unjust the old ratio of "\$10 or ten days", there is the method of payment.

To the man of substantial means or credit a fine is just that much monetary loss. To others who cannot readily lay their hand on the required sum, it is the equivalent of imprisonment without the option of a fine.

It is to be hoped that when the new revision of the Criminal Code is adopted there will be contained in it provision for the payment of penalties by installments.

Auxiliary Services

An exchange notes that to a considerable degree, Canadian forces in Korea have had to depend for comforts on British auxiliary services. Canadian services have not been established, although organizations such as the Salvation Army, Knights of Columbus, YMCA and Canadian Legion appear willing to undertake this task.

Dependence seems to have been placed on British auxiliary services largely because the Canadian authorities felt that the 25th Brigade would not be in Korea long enough to make a Canadian welfare organization worth while.

Canada's overseas forces now include a brigade in Germany, and it may be expected to remain there for years. It, too, would welcome the auxiliary services.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Within a month of Christmas.

Mr. George Drew is to broadcast on the "Nation's Business" over CBA tonight.

Kurt Meyer, ex-prisoner of war in Canada, seems to be enjoying his "imprisonment" in Germany by living part-time at home.

The adult education of nurses, or secondary courses in the theory and practice of nursing, is a much appreciated innovation here, from which nurses, doctors and patients will benefit.

Public servants as well as pensioners are having some encouragement. The president of the Civil Service Federation of Canada has indicated that a general salary increase may be expected before Christmas.

This must surely be the unkindest cut of all. The Brockville Recorder and Times admits that recent political speeches may lack wit, but gives assurance that they are funny nevertheless.

Quebec's move in changing the title of Provincial Treasurer to that of Minister of Finance certainly has the merit of conveying a more accurate idea of that minister's duties. After all a treasurer looks after accumulated funds. A financier does not wait for them to accumulate.

The merger of Austin and Morris in England must be embarrassing to Mr. Churchill in his attempts at denationalization. A firm which turns out almost half the nation's cars has, as the socialists put it, become ripe for nationalizing.

Let it not be said that there is no romance in the Canadian system of chartered banks. One of the banks' reasons for wanting a five-day week, as told the Commons by the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance, is that the marriage prospects of women employees will be improved by having the extra day free.

Madame de Maintenon, second wife of Louis XIV, was born this date 1635. They were married secretly in 1684 about a year after the death of the queen. Her influence coincides with the unfortunate half of Louis' reign when persecution was rife. She founded the school of St. Cyr for three hundred poor girls. Her "Lettres" are nearly the best French prose works of her century.

If Princess Elizabeth is to act as deputy for His Majesty on a visit to Australia in January, she will need all the preliminary rest her medical adviser recommends. Three weeks is neither here nor there when the five weeks strenuous time, night and day, week-day and Sunday, which she and the Duke spent while visiting in Canada, Washington and New York is considered.

Airplane flying has its risks for airplane companies as well as passengers. The widow and four children of Lorne Thomas McLean, Vancouver, killed in a plane crash May 9, 1949, have been awarded \$47,900 damages by Mr. Justice J. O. Wilson in Supreme Court. The damages were assessed against Pilot George W. Lutz of Vancouver, who was piloting a sea-land plane for Associated Air Taxi Company, when Mr. McLean lost his life in a crash.

A discussion on the alleged partiality of radio broadcasts of parliament took place in committee of the House of Commons last Thursday when the CBC chairman, Mr. A. D. Dunton defended the C. P. excellent summaries. The existing setup looked best to him. But if The Canadian Press and other agencies wanted to charge more for services then it might become more economical for the CBC to have its own news staff. But the CBC did not want to do that if it could be helped. The CBC now pays The Canadian Press \$108,220, British United Press \$35,000, and Agence France Presse \$4,000.

An Ottawa dairy has filed in Ontario Supreme Court a writ asking \$50,000 damages against Melville S. Ritchie, secretary-treasurer of the Ottawa Valley Milk Producers' Association, and charging that attempts have been made to cut off its supplies of raw milk. At the same time, the dairy obtained from Judge A. G. McDougall an interim injunction restraining Mr. Ritchie from interfering with relations between Stinson's and its suppliers. In an affidavit, President Victor Moore of the dairy alleged that Mr. Ritchie approached the dairy's suppliers and told them "immediately to stop shipping milk to Stinson's dairy because he alleges the company is going bankrupt and that these suppliers will not be paid for their milk."

More Health To The Healthy



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.

A JOYFUL NOTE

Sir.—As I watched Santa Claus on parade in his beautiful float with music and reindeer both in Charlottetown and in Summerside bringing joy and happiness to hundreds of children, the thought just struck me, as King Arthur's Court was built by music, happiness here on earth is built in a large measure by the smiles and cheerful faces of our children.

When Time who steals our years away Shall steal our pleasures too. The memory of the past will stay And half our joys renew.

TIMELY WARNING

Sir.—As one of the many thousands of persons who have lost their sight through the carelessness of youths and through the negligence of parents and guardians who allow children to play recklessly with bows and arrows, asking you to remind your readers of the importance of eliminating dangerous habits among the children of this city and province.

I refer particularly to the alarming increase in the use of home-made sling shots which many of the children of this area are currently using, and to add to the danger, the sling-shots are usually loaded with metal staples often powerful enough to break windows.

For those of us who are paying the penalty of carelessness of children who have caused us to live in a world of darkness, the dangers involved are obvious, and I sincerely hope that the lesson we have learned will be accepted by parents and guardians who are responsible for the conduct of today's children.

"FROM SCENES LIKE THESE"

Sir.—Some time ago I read an article in the Family Herald from the pen of Maud M. Ken, women's editor. She had been to a shower and had seen a young Scottish girl who had just been in Canada one week and was interested in and curious to know about Canada.

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Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.) WITCHCRAFT

"About two weeks ago a middle aged woman, from Lot 67, came to town, with a number of her friends, to make oath that she had not bewitched her neighbours' cows. Her affidavit was not taken, as the refusal will probably confirm her supernatural reputation in the settlement.

The cow having been fed on straw during the winter, the young grass, instead of being converted into milk and butter (as the owners very unreasonably expected), went to put a little beef on their bones. Let them next winter feed their cattle well, and they will not, twelve months hence, slander and libel their neighbours for bewitching the milk and butter from their bone-rattlers.

many are taken in spring and fall. Still farther on is the wood-lot where gunners used to sit and wait for the incoming geese and ducks and many were taken on the wing.

Coming back to the mill as boys we stood on the bank of the pond and prided ourselves in our ability to throw small flat stones so that they would skip many times on the smooth surface of the water.

Presently a trout jumps for its prey; there's a ripple quite small, but gets larger and larger as it hastens shoreward and we think of that little word carelessly spoken which sounds worse and worse till some one suffers reproach.

Then there is the bullrush that refuses to bow its head in any storm, and seems to challenge youth to resist temptation and avoid reproach. "Many symbols indeed."

Among the pleasant memories of youth are the crisp winter nights when we gathered at the pond, lit a fire, donned our skates, chose a partner and skated gracefully over the smooth ice.

Oh, yes, Glenwood has assets that are overlooked today. Leaving the valley we pass the home of our local truckman who is well known for his service ability. Next is the mechanic shop and the owner's name is not only Jack but he is Jack of many trades for in passing we may hear the ring of the anvil as some iron submit to his hammer, or it might be the buzz of the saw or planer as some wood takes on a new form.

Nearby is another store and among other things the motorist can have his car replenished with gas and oil. Next is a turkey ranch where hundreds of broad breasted Bronze-sired proudly about and are a sight to admire. Then there are a few cosy cottages where the working man hangs up his tools and enjoys the peace and quiet of home.

Public Forum

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Lessons From Europe In Community Progress

By Leo P. McIsaac Part Two (continued) (All Rights Reserved)

EDUCATION

Today, when Athletic Communism is making headway in so many countries, there is a greater need for a sound educational system than ever before. Our educational system on Prince Edward Island seems to lack vital force. While some 2,000 children start to school every year on the Island, an average of only about 400 successfully completed Grade Eleven or its equivalent during the last three years. And worse still, we find from a careful check of the Department of Education reports that an average of 195 drop out from Grade Seven to Nine, each year on the Island.

"These figures are supported in a recent Canadian survey of graduates and drop-outs from Canadian schools in 1948. (Second Report of Canadian Committee on Practical Education, February, 1950, pp. 49, 104 and 105.) The same survey also states: "In spite of attendance laws and Family Allowance requirements, about 25% of drop-outs in the general sample, and 20% of the city sample occur up to and including the age of 15."

Our young people are not anxious to teach; a new government policy of giving an annual grant of \$100 to students who have studied teachers' training at Prince of Wales College, has not helped. In 1950, 88 entered "Teachers Training" classes. In 1951, 56 entered for this course. Many rural schools are still without qualified teachers; how are those teaching positions to be filled? They must either be closed—each year more and more will close each year for the lack of trained teachers—or they will be staffed with some older, untrained youth who are totally unfit to mould the minds of our children. We must soon have larger school units, with fewer teachers paid higher salaries.

Of those 560 who successfully completed Grade XII at Prince of Wales College (and who did not graduate), from the years 1935 to 1948, only 298 or 53.2% reside on the Island now. Of the 171 who went on to graduate, only 53 or 31% are settled here, or plan to return to Prince Edward Island. Of the 118 living Island graduates of St. Dunstan's University from 1934 to 1948, only 76 are on Prince Edward Island or plan to return, and of those 76, 27 are priests.

In other words, only 116 graduates, only 49 laymen have settled at home. Is this the aim of our college and university? Why is this "export our brains" policy being promoted? Where will the future support for our colleges come from if this trend is not arrested? Is not submitting to or encouraging such a trend a way from the land, just as socially injurious as encouraging divorce?

An investigation of Farm Forum statistics discloses a signal lack of progress in rural adult education: 1937-38 1947-48 1948-49 1949-50 1950-51

Table with 5 columns: Total no. organized discussion groups, Total no. active and meeting regularly, Total no. inactive from previous season, 1937-38, 1947-48, 1948-49, 1949-50, 1950-51

In 1938 we had 387 active groups; in 1950 we have 64. Where are the other 323? In 1948, eleven forums disappeared; in 1951, there were 49 casualties. Why such an alarming increase in the death rate? Will there be any active groups at all next winter?

In all this picture, a sober question should present itself; in these times of radio, press, and short-course facilities, what, basically, is wrong? Why such results as quoted above? Our young people who are leaving home for work in industry are not skilled, nor, generally speaking, even well trained at any particular trade. They seem to "just want a job", and are satisfied to work in the lower wage brackets, as unskilled labourers. True, we cannot expect them all to become farmers; but of the hundreds who are leaving the farms every year, and of those who are staying home, very few seem interested in improving their qualifications.

Our new vocational training school at Prince of Wales College is one of the most modern and best equipped schools of its kind in Canada. Some of the best vocational training short courses available anywhere have been offered to our young people during the last three years. But the vocational school is not being patronized, nor seriously considered by those who could profit by this training. For instance, in the 1949 program, (if we deduct the number of students in the sewing and cooking classes—nearly all young women from the city area; and those who took the night classes in draughting and carpentry—also mostly city residents) there were only 235 young people who actually completed trade and vocational courses at this school.

Of this number, 79 were on short, one or two week vocational courses such as egg grading, practical veterinary work, tool sharpening, etc., leaving only 56 young people who completed courses which might better qualify them to be recognized in Special Trades. (Several of those 56, incidentally, were from the city.) Reading, too, is highly indicative

more farm homes; one of them has electric lights and running water in both house and barn, which is convenient indeed. Who will be next? I am, Sir, etc. THOMAS GORRILL

Are thou not from everlasting O Lord my God, mine Holy One! we shall not die.

The Poet's Corner

LAST SEASON Here on the beach at the foot of the jagged rocks, The young fawn died. Shot by a wanton hunter. He swam to the island. Staining the salty tide With the shy red blood of wildness. Here he fell, brought to his knees By the gathering dark. His bitter requiem the breaking Autumn seas. Here he lies with his dark eyes wide on death. His slender legs unmoving. Young and alone he learned How brave is man and how unloving.

The Age-Old Story