

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink."

CHARLOTTETOWN MONDAY, APRIL 17, 1950

Mass Education

The charge that mass education in North America has resulted in "a sort of lowest common denominator of dull mediocrity," was made before Ontario teachers by Dr. W. G. Hardy, Professor of Classics at the University of Alberta.

It is obvious that the opposite policy would have little support here. To concentrate on educating a few outstanding scholars to the exclusion of those of only average ability would be considered undemocratic and the greatest flowering of genius which might result would not be regarded as enough to compensate for depriving large numbers of students of such educational opportunities as they may have the capacity to exploit.

Granting that universal education is the only acceptable policy for this country, the question is, how are we to combine opportunity for all with a proper regard for the special genius of outstanding students. One possible solution would be to organize special courses which could be taken only so long as the student maintained higher than average marks in the basic subjects of the curriculum.

Certainly some method must be found of preventing the waste of talent which is such an unfortunate aspect of present day educational policy.

Protecting The Public

The powerful margarine interests have been able to obtain abolition of the federal tax on their product in the United States. The tax comes off on July 1, but there is still a fly in the oleo ointment. U. S. restaurants will be compelled to identify colored margarine when they serve it.

A fleet of new-type trailer laboratories will roam the U. S. constantly to make one inspection a year of the nation's 525,000 eating places, to ensure that restaurants observe the regulation of serving margarine in triangles, or else of stamping the word "margarine" on each individual serving, or otherwise identifying it by label or tag.

Also, restaurants serving coloured margarine must have a notice to this effect displayed conspicuously, or otherwise set forth on the menu "in type or lettering not smaller than normally used to designate the serving of other food."

Similar exacting rules will apply to margarine sales in grocery stores. All colored oleo must be packaged in containers of one pound or less. The word "oleomargarine" or "margarine" on the label must be in type or lettering as large as any other type that is on the label, and each part of the contents of the package must be contained in a wrapper similarly designated.

50th Anniversary Number

Congratulations to a Newfoundland contemporary, the Corner Brook's "Western Star", which has turned out a 50-page special issue marking its fiftieth anniversary. In doing so, it has put all Canadian newspapers in its debt for the wealth of information it gives about Newfoundland's West Coast.

Readers are reminded that Newfoundland's pulp and paper exports now exceed the value of its fishery exports, and that this change from dependence on one industry has altered the country's whole economic future. The standard of wages and physical well-being in the company towns of Corner Brook and Grand Falls is substantially above the average. The work of Corner Brook hands—newsprint—is sold for nearly thirty million U. S. dollars annually, and is therefore a most important contribution to the favourable side of Canada's trade balance.

"Perhaps we have been partly at fault in not getting our message across to the people of Canada," the Star editor states. "We have been politely hopeful that they would find out for themselves, but now have come to the conclusion that a little missionary work would not be amiss. We are disturbed at the thought that other Canadians are beginning to look on Newfoundland as rather a poor relation. When our tremendous resources are more thoroughly developed, we shall be among the richer provinces of Canada."

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Progressive Conservative Association is meeting in Ottawa from now until Wednesday. The greatest credit is due to those who, in spite of long periods in the political wilderness, continue to serve their country by active participation in the party's activities.

Islanders may not be prepared to concede that New Brunswick seed potatoes are comparable in quality to their own, but it has been made quite clear recently that in the matter of publicity for their efforts, New Brunswickers are at the head of the class.

It has been estimated that a transcript of the proceedings of the Massey Commission by the time its work is complete would stretch over three miles, proof, if proof be needed that Art, indeed is long, though life is short.

American officials are now trying to persuade Britain to concentrate on atomic development other than the bomb. Such voluntary specialization is impossible, however, without a full exchange of information, which does not seem to be the situation today.

Henry Vaughan (1622-95), Welsh poet and mystic was born this date in the ancient territory of the Silures, Wales, hence called the "Silurist". He is considered to be the last of the "metaphysical" school and his work is chiefly characterized by an imaginative love of nature. His works include, Poems, Silx Scintillans, Thalia Rediviva, Mount of Olives and Hermetical Physic.

Three British M. P.'s want a conference to consider setting up an Empire assembly to "consider to what extent Empire countries can supply goods at present being imported here from dollar sources." In any such scheme it would appear that Canada would be both on the inside and out with the other dollar countries.

Is this freedom or slavery? The British Labour Government announces that Government members must report to the party whips when they enter the House, and will not be allowed out of the building without permission from the whips. Certainly the unfortunate members will earn their indemnities, but Mr. Attlee has learned that daily vigilance is the price of safety.

Dresses, wedding, airwomen, for the use of—The quartermaster of the R. A. F.'s Far East Air Force has an unusual item in his stores—two wedding dresses for the use of airwomen who may marry during their tour of duty in the Command. Of different design, they are in white figured satin, complete with veil and coronet wreath of orange blossom. A fee of \$5.00, to cover the cost of cleaning, is charged for the loan of these wedding outfits.

Canada is not filling even her greatly reduced United Kingdom bacon contract. Past performance shows that it is certainly not the lack of capacity to produce that is at fault. The Old Country deliberately turned to other sources of supply and production here was naturally curtailed. Either a firm Government policy of long term purchasing or the raising of restrictions so that the actual state of demand may be judged are necessary if adequate supplies are to be produced.

It wasn't so "futile" after all. The winning cartoon (to concern international affairs) of the \$400 1949 national newspaper awards was drawn by Jack Boothe, of Toronto Globe and Mail. After doing a series of cartoons attacking vigorously the Liberal party, the cartoonist climaxed it with a cartoon published on election day, June 27th, showing the Liberal Cabinet Ministers walking the plank and captioned prophetically "June 28th". On that date, however, when results revealed not a single cabinet minister had met such a fate, Boothe's cartoon for the day was the above mentioned award winner, a tiny Stalin, hacking away at a huge cross "Christianity". Its caption: "Futility."

The world's first inter-planetary travel bureau opened in New York recently. "More than 200 atom-age pioneers," said UNESCO features "rushed to make reservations on modern rocket space-ship cruises to the Moon, Mars and beyond. The rocket ships Lunarian, Martian, Saturnia and Solar Queen are scheduled to leave daily, except Sundays and holidays, from New York space-port in Central Park, on March 15, 1975." The Museum of Natural History—where the travel bureau office was—received a great boost from this. Note, however, the date: 1975. It is significant, for there is little doubt that by then the first rocket will have landed on the moon and man will have begun a new physical exploration into space and time.

"Oh, If I Had The Wings Of An Angel--"



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.

PROVINCIAL BUILDING

Sir,—It seems regrettable that for the second time in a year that the historic Provincial Building of the Province of Prince Edward Island should be chosen as a background for advertising purposes, however worthy. Buildings of this kind are held in honour, and that honour is greatly cheapened when a bill-board is stuck up. The servants of the Crown in this day and generation do not seem to give enough serious thought to decisions of this nature.

I am, Sir, etc., "VICTORIAN".

TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY

Sir,—In your issue of April 15 "Citizen" writes expressing concern about the probable route of the Trans-Canada Highway. He surely is justified because why should a couple of men, even though they happen to be Premier and Engineer, decide this very important issue?

There is no doubt that these gentlemen are conscientious and will decide on what they consider to be in the best interest of all concerned, but after all they are only mortals and so are subject to mistakes.

Therefore, because this matter will affect the residents of a very large part of this Province, not only of this generation but also many future generations, it is urgent that a public meeting be called as suggested by "Citizen"; then if a wrong decision is made by the Province there will at least be some hope of having it corrected on the grounds that it was contrary to the expressed opinion of many citizens at a public meeting, otherwise there would be no grounds on which to seek a correction.

Due to the delay of a week in signing the agreement with the Federal Government there is yet time to call such a meeting. Who will do so?

I am, Sir, etc., "WEST RIVER".

Sir,—As the Trans-Canada Highway is under consideration please allow me a little of your valuable space to offer a few comments on the question. Let not the powers that be open up any unnecessary new roads for that highway to become a burden on the Government for future upkeep, but let the money be expended on the roads that we already have in modernizing and rebuilding them for all traffic, including the tourist traffic, which would accommodate all concerned.

This Island is the end of this Highway and it is not as if we had to build a great thoroughfare to reach something away beyond, and when tourists arrive at Borden, the gateway to the Province, there are three main points they want to reach, viz.: Charlottetown, Summerside and the National Park; and most of them will want to call at either Summerside or Charlottetown on their way out to the Park. These towns have nice summer cabins where some might lodge and traffic back and forth to the Park.

All goes to show that we have enough roads now to attend to without adding unnecessary ones

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

CIVIC NUISANCES

From a letter appearing in The Islander, Saturday, Jan. 24, 1946: "Sir,—In your paper of the 11th inst. you call the attention of the public to the necessity of removing those inconveniences from the streets of Charlottetown, which all appear to acknowledge; but as you very justly say, 'to make any movement would be quite out of the order of things.' There is one thing, however, which to remove, I think, for one, the 'order of things' should be disturbed; and that is, the pouring of whiskey wash down our streets, which, to those persons who have the misfortune to live adjacent to the distilleries, is very disagreeable, — sometimes flowing, for some depth, up to the very doors of their dwellings. We have no less than four overseers for removing nuisances in the streets of Charlottetown, and I do think they should be more attentive to their duty."

I am, Sir, etc., OBSERVER.

The Age-Old Story

Lord who shall abide in Thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in Thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and walketh righteously.

IMPROVE BUS SERVICE

FORT FRANCES, Ont.—(CP)—Bus riders here are getting better service these days. The Fort Frances Bus Lines Ltd., recently added a new 27-passenger transport to its rapidly growing fleet. An hourly daytime schedule now is in operation in North Fort Frances.

TOURISTS AND DOLLARS

The tourist industry is Canada's second greatest single source of needed foreign exchange, ranking only behind pulp and paper exports.

Archbishop Morrison And Co operatives

(St. John Telegraph-Journal) The death of Archbishop James Morrison, Roman Catholic Bishop of Antigonish, removes from the scene a man who had been a prime mover in the encouragement of co-operatives in Eastern Canada. Chancellor of St. Francis Xavier University for many years, he was one of several outstanding clerics, all associated with that institution, who decided that adult education could improve the economic lot of such basic producers as farmers, fishermen and miners, as well as of other classes.

The first step in the program, launched in the 1920's, was the organization of study clubs, which provided instruction in fundamental economics and showed thousands how to attain a measure of financial security and independence. Credit unions were the next step. These fostered systematic saving and taught the lesson that by putting one dollar aside every week you could have fifty-two dollars at the end of a year. In addition, they made loans available to participants, at low interest rates.

Other outgrowths of adult education included co-operative buying and selling agencies for farmers and fishermen, which have been of great value to primary producers in many sections. There have also been some highly successful co-operative housing ventures. The co-operative movement, which has spread through Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island and gained a strong foothold in Quebec and Newfoundland, is often credited to the St. Francis Xavier movement, because that university, under Archbishop Morrison's chancellorship, has done so much to promote it.

Archbishop Morrison, who was given the title of archbishop by His Holiness the Pope, was, at the age of eighty-nine, the dean of the Roman Catholic hierarchy in Canada. In his long and distinguished career he served his church in his greatest devotion, built St. Francis Xavier University up to a point where it is now internationally known, and, by his sponsorship of co-operatives, opened new opportunities to a vast number of people.

BURGLES TO BABIES

MONTREAL—(CP)—Everything from burglar tools to baby carriages will go to the block when the police department holds its annual auction May 10. There will be 30 lots of burglars' tools, 10 baby carriages and items of clothing and jewelry unclaimed after police received them.

TELEPHONE ADVANCE

The first automatic telephone exchange in Australia was opened in 1912 at Geelong in the state of Victoria.

The Poets Corner

THE SANDS OF DEE
O Mary, go and call the cattle home,
And call the cattle home,
And call the cattle home,
Across the sands of Dee;
The western wind was wild and dank with foam,
And all alone went she.
The western tide crept up along the sand,
And o'er and o'er the sand,
And round and round the sand,
As far as eye could see.
The rolling mist came down and hid the land;
And never home came she.
'Oh, is it weed, or fish, or floating hair,
A tress of golden hair,
A drowned maiden's hair
Above the nets at sea?
Was never salmon yet that shone so fair
Among the stakes of Dee.'
They rowed her in across the rolling foam,
The cruel crawling foam.
The cruel hungry foam,
To her grave beside the sea;
But still the boatmen hear her call the cattle home,
Across the sands of Dee.
—Charles Kingsley (1819-1875)

THE CAT'S MEOW

COBOURG, Ont.—(CP)—Ray Watson heard a queer sound coming from the engine of his new automobile as he drove to work recently. When a garage mechanic looked under the hood he found a black cat, covered with oil and grease, glaring back at him in outraged dignity.

MARATHON MOVIES

The popular length of a movie in India is about five hours.

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