

Covers Prince Edward Island Like the Dew
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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."

An Unfair Oath

Canadians are apt to be a bit smug when oaths of loyalty are mentioned. The oath of allegiance as administered in this country, however, would cause an American college professor or anyone else to shudder.

There was a time when we were content to have naturalized citizens and office holders swear simple fealty to the sovereign. Today, however, the oath of allegiance in general use reads as follows: "I swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her Heirs and Successors, according to law, and that I will faithfully observe the laws of Canada and fulfill my duties as a Canadian citizen. So help me God."

The would-be citizen or official must not only swear that he will avoid high treason but he must also swear that he will obey the law, an undertaking which must result in practically everyone who takes the oath breaking it in very short order.

Wearing Tartan

The rather remarkable popularity of tartan today results in it being worn and used with small concern for appropriateness from the point of view of its history and origin. The Scots, although a few may growl at the unwarranted use of their own particular clan's tartan, are on the whole pleased rather than otherwise at the recognition which their colourful garb is obtaining.

Generally speaking the proper wearing of a particular tartan depends upon the territorial origin of a family. Those living in a particular Highland area looked to the local chief for protection and wore his tartan. They were usually but not by any means always of the same clan. The tartan which all British subjects may properly wear is the Royal Stuart.

The most recently developed tartan is unquestionably that of the Province of Nova Scotia which has been approved by and registered with the Lyon King of Arms. Any Nova Scotian has the indisputable right to wear it. It is said to have the deep blue of the sea, the green of the forest, a white line of surf, a line of gold denoting the Royal charter and a red line denoting the lion rampant on the Nova Scotian crest.

If any people outside of the Highlands of Scotland are entitled to a tartan of their own it is certainly those of Nova Scotia. By a legal fiction a plot of land at Edinburgh Castle is Nova Scotian soil and there the baronets of Nova Scotia stood to be enfeoffed. To more practical purpose the settlers from all parts of Scotland who came out without benefit of great land grants have succeeded in maintaining and developing their traditions and have passed on a great heritage to those who come after.

Molotov "Mellowness"

Russia's Foreign Minister Molotov has made a name for himself as a stern, unbending, unsmiling diplomat. It could be said of him as Caesar is reported to have said of the lean and hungry Cassius: "Seldom he smiles, and smiles in such a sort as if he mocked himself, and scorned his spirit that could be moved to smile at anything." That was the state of affairs up until a month or so ago; since then, according to reports from Geneva, Mr. Molotov has been seen to smile and even to laugh out loud on numerous occasions.

Western officials are wondering what it all means, if anything; and, as is usual in democratic councils, there are different opinions on the subject. Some, the more

sceptical ones, see in the sudden change an old-fashioned political ruse, intended to entrap the unwary. Others, more inclined to charity, are trying to persuade themselves that Mr. Molotov really is a changed man and is trying by means of smooth words and friendly gestures to make amends for years of churlishness. Both these views are interesting and each has something intriguing about it; but it would be unwise to make either the basis of any hard and fast conclusion.

The hard fact is that, thus far, Mr. Molotov has not said one word at Geneva which would indicate any fundamental change in Kremlin policy; as for doing anything by way of confirming his new warmth of manner, not one constructive act appears in the record. The world will hope that orders have gone out from the Kremlin for more co-operation with the West in efforts to reach a peaceful understanding. It will take more than bright smiles and hearty handshakes on the part of Mr. Molotov to bring this hope to fulfillment; at the same time, it would be a mistake to assume that no change in Russian policy can ever come about. It looks that way at times, but "while there's life there's hope". Meanwhile, whether it means anything or not, Mr. Molotov's mellowness may help to shed a little more light, even if artificial and temporary, on the dark places at Geneva and elsewhere.

EDITORIAL NOTES

A note appearing yesterday was in error. Today the birthday of H. M. the Queen is officially celebrated in the United Kingdom. It is also the birthday of H. R. H. the Duke of Edinburgh.

The Red Cross water safety program last year brought training to no less than 3,668 persons and it is hoped to reach 5,000 or more this year. The efforts of the many interested workers has undoubtedly saved lives and also brought safe enjoyment within reach of a great many youngsters.

Although prices are slightly below the high of 1951, Ontario farmers are making more money on hogs than ever before, according to the sales agency which markets hogs in that Province. The greater volume today more than makes up for the slightly lower than record price.

Despite widespread complaints about cold and wet weather there has been a phenomenal growth of grass in this Province. Other crops are, perhaps, less easy to judge but it seems that farm production has a chance of reaching a very high level.

That five Asian powers, the "Colombo powers" are admirably qualified to act as cease-fire supervisors in Indo-China is the wise suggestion of the British Foreign Secretary. Mr. Eden's proposal, however, does not seem to appeal to Mr. Molotov who would add Poland and Czechoslovakia although they seem unlikely Asiatics.

Canada has a new building code, the first major revision since the original one published in 1941. The National Research Council hopes that more than 100 municipalities will adopt the standard rules. Builders frequently express the opinion that unsuitable and greatly varied building regulations add to the cost of housing and prevent much development that is really desirable.

The reason for protection in years gone by was to allow the development of "infant industries." Today a spokesman for Canadian manufacturers takes the view that, "We have gone too far down the road of industrial development to try to return fully to the agrarian days, where we are bound to head unless we do recognize the need for balance (between free, wide open markets and a closed door tariff policy)."

Red tape has a habit of clinging long after its reason has ceased to exist. It is satisfactory, therefore, that the rule which required prospective citizens to file a declaration of intention a year before their application for citizenship has now been abolished. The rule served little useful purpose and sometimes caused applicants to have to wait a year after they were entitled to citizenship under the law.

The Crystal Palace was opened in Sydenham by Queen Victoria this date 1854. It had originally been erected in Hyde Park, London for the Great Exhibition in 1851. Mainly of glass and iron, with wooden floors, it was designed by Sir Joseph Paxton. Its floor space of 21 acres was intended for the permanent exhibition of the art and culture of all nations. Symphony concerts were held there for many years and the Handel festival every three years from 1859 until 1912. It was partly burned in 1866 and finally destroyed by fire Nov. 30, 1936.



Possible Unforeseen Developments

Old Charlottetown and P. E. I.

WARREN FARM

On the west side of the (Charlottetown) harbour lies the fort or Warren Farm. When the French had a garrison, and extensive improvements in this place; and here the commandant chiefly resided. Afterwards, when the Island was divided into townships, and granted away to persons who were considered as having claims on government, this tract was reserved for His Majesty's use. Governor Patterson, however, took possession of it for himself, and expended a considerable sum in its improvement. The late Abbe de Calonne (brother of the famous financier) afterwards obtained the use and possession of this place during his stay on the Island, and the family of the late General Fanning have (by some means) obtained a grant of this valuable tract, the improvement of which is now altogether neglected.

From An Account of Prince Edward Island, Etc., by Mr. John Macgregor, quoted in the P. E. Island Register, Oct. 7, 1828. The paragraph which appeared in our last respecting the Warren Farm, taken from Mr. Macgregor's forthcoming work on this Island and the neighboring Colonies, is calculated to convey an erroneous impression. The property in question was granted, in the year 1799, by order of His Grace the late Duke of Portland, then Secretary of State, to Charles Alexander De Calonne, the Minister of the unfortunate Louis XVI. Upon the death of Monsieur De Calonne it devolved to his son Charles Hearie Louis De Calonne, a Captain in the Chasseurs Britanniques, who died at Malta; when it became vested in the late Abbe James Ladislas Joseph De Calonne, as heir and executor to his brother and nephew. To relieve the Abbe from some pecuniary distress, the late General Fanning was induced in the year 1807, being then in England, to become the purchaser of this property, the possession of which has since been confirmed to his daughter, in the most gratifying manner, by His Majesty's Ministers.

ANCIENT SYSTEM

Chinese used inked fingerprints as signatures on documents as early as the 7th century.

NOTES BY THE WAY

A proposal for compulsory periodic re-examination of drivers has been placed before the Ontario legislature's select committee on highway safety by two experts, Mr. W. A. Bryce, of the University of Toronto's safety director, and Provincial Police Commissioner E. V. McNeil. The suggestion merits the closest consideration. Mr. Bryce believes that drivers should not only be re-examined from time to time as to their driving ability but for physical and mental defects as well. Quite rightly, he points out that it is possible for a driver to have a license for 64 years - between 16 and 80 years of age - without re-examination.

Nova Scotia who are anticipating, or dreading, as their inclinations may dispose them, the advent of television in this province in the Fall, will take an interest in recently released news stories concerning the progress of visual communications. Twenty-five countries now have television facilities, including Canada and the United States; sixty-five television stations are now in operation, in countries outside the North American continent, and their programs are received on four and three-quarter million television sets. And this world-wide growth of television is not entirely a local or regional phenomenon; Britain, indeed, which started television on a systematic basis eighteen years ago, now has seven stations which cover most of the country, and accounts for nearly three and a half million of the sets in use outside of this continent. But Latin America is also well forward; six countries have twenty-

The Oppenheimer Case

(Wall Street Journal)

Any person who accepts a position of responsibility must know that he cannot responsibly limit his freedom to act as he pleases. A man who becomes president of a bank must know that he will arouse suspicion if he associates with people whose financial integrity is open to question. A minister of the gospel cannot engage in activities which might pass unnoticed if engaged in by the layman.

The man who accepts public office does so knowing full well that he himself is no longer the sole judge of what he can do and what he cannot do. His responsibility of the public officer, the fact that by being in the service of the public a person accepts the obligation to conform to certain rules and standards, was epitomized by the late justice who in a decision in a case which involved the right of a policeman to engage in political activity.

Justice Holmes said in effect that the policeman did indeed have the Constitutional right to talk politics but he had "no Constitutional right to be a policeman." In other words he gave up the right to act entirely as he pleased when he accepted a position which limited his rights.

The principle that Dr. Oppenheimer applied in this relatively minor case arises again in the more serious and important case of Dr. Robert Oppenheimer who was suspended as atomic adviser to the Government. The Security Board which studied his case has found Dr. Oppenheimer to be a loyal citizen. It found no evidence that he had handled secret information improperly. Nevertheless it concluded that it would be inconsistent with the security interests of the nation if his case had found Dr. Oppenheimer to be a loyal citizen. It found no evidence that he had handled secret information improperly. Nevertheless it concluded that it would be inconsistent with the security interests of the nation if his case had found Dr. Oppenheimer to be a loyal citizen.

The facts about Dr. Oppenheimer are not disputed. As early as 1937 he was deeply involved in associations with members of the Communist party, gave financial support to the party and moral encouragement to its cause. He was accepted by Communists as a fellow-member; he characterized himself as a fellow-traveller.

In 1942, when he became engaged in the early atomic bomb work, he ended his overt association with the party. But his sympathetic interest in the party continued until 1946, when he first indicated an affirmative rejection of it. And his association with members of the party was maintained until a very recent date. There is no evidence that this past activity and friendship affected Dr. Oppenheimer's own loyalty. But it did lead him into some strange attitudes towards the security program of which he was a part and for which he had some responsibility.

In instance after instance Dr. Oppenheimer seemed to take the position that the ordinary requirements of the security system did not apply to him because he could make his own personal judgment as to what was proper or improper. In several cases he withheld information about Communist activity of other scientists when, in his own personal judgment, he thought it not pertinent, or believed the individual to be nevertheless trustworthy. It may well be that the loyalty and security standards set up to safeguard our atomic projects were unnecessarily severe. It may be that some of them were silly. It is undoubtedly true that they were irksome to many of those to whom they were applied. But no man has a right to think that because he is brilliant in a highly technical and abstruse field then he is above the rules and safeguards by which a society tries to protect itself from the frivolous those rules may seem to him.

And a man who so places his own judgment against the safeguards of the law must expect in the end to be judged himself by his fellow men.

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The Passing Scene

By Observer GREAT BOOKS

I was in the United States Midwest in 1947, the year when the "Great Books" program (which had been started some years before that) was given a great deal of publicity and accorded much popular favour by the establishment of a Foundation headed by Dr. Robert Hutchins of the University of Chicago. Dr. Hutchins, it should be added, has been a strong supporter of the idea, and its chief interpreter, from the start.

Most of the financial support comes from the Fund for Adult Education, a subsidiary of the Ford Foundation, which seems to be involved, usually in a big way, in about every new venture in American education. Last year Great Books received upwards of a half-million dollars from the fund.

At the time (1947) the idea took on the character of a popular fad. There was hardly a city of any size, especially in the Mid-West, that did not have at least one adult discussion group where selections from the great books of the past 2000 years were studied intensively. There was, of course, some controversy as to its merits. Supporters of the movement claimed that, in its emphasis on the ideas and thought which he helped to create our present civilization, it laid the groundwork and even the structure of a good liberal education.

Its opponents and luke-warm adherents were of the opinion that it laid too much stress on the classics and not enough on modern thought and technology which, after all, the forces which people of this generation have to make use of in the working out of political and social problems. In short, while the idea might be a good one in theory, it was hardly practical enough for these busy days.

While some of its early popularity has worn off—this happens to every new idea in the field of education—it remains a movement of considerable influence. At the moment there are approximately 1200 Great Books discussion groups in various parts of the country; I believe there are some in Canada as well, but I haven't happened to see any figures that might indicate their strength. Most of the Universities and Colleges in the United States have experimented more or less seriously with this Great Books program; but only one, St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland, has made a specialty of it. In that institution—the third oldest college in America—the entire curriculum is based on it. A few other subjects are given places—physical and biological sciences, mathematics, languages—but only so far as they can be tied in with the Great Books seminars. Dr. Benjamin Fine, educational writer for the New York Times, and a noted educator, recently gave a first-hand report of the program at St. John's, and, apparently, he thinks the experiment has been a success. This, in brief, is the way it works. Each student is given a certain assignment from one of the selected books—130 are currently included in the program. Two evenings in the week a number of students meet with their tutors and discuss their individual impressions. There is no lecturing, as such, and there are no "right" answers to any question that might be raised. The idea is to develop open discussion and critical thinking whether or not this thinking meets with the approval of the group or of the tutors is not considered im-

portant. The tutor's chief function is that of guide; occasionally he is called upon to help clarify some thought or idea a student has encountered in his reading. This goes on for the full four years course up to graduation. One requirement is that the book to be read must be a little above the ability that might normally be expected of the student. This is the only way to stimulate thought. Obviously, a student who reads only what he can comprehend easily is not likely to be stimulated intellectually.

Is it all worth-while? Well, graduates of the College, most of whom go into post-graduate studies, say that it is. Dr. Weigelt, president of St. John's, is sure of it. "In so far as we educate men and women to think," he said in an interview with Dr. Fine, "to express ideas clearly, to analyse problems, and to make rational and intelligent decisions, we are confident that we are meeting squarely the challenge to higher education."

Whatever may be said of formal studies and discussions of this kind, there is reason to suppose that, in our haste to make education ever more and more "practical," we do not make use enough of the great literature which has helped, and is even now helping, to mould the general cultural history of mankind. It would seem that the principle of the Great Books movement could be tried out in almost any school. The list would not necessarily have to include all the names which in the opinion of Dr. Hutchins and his fellow-classicists represent the best in the history of literature. Some of these are quite out of reach of the average, or even of the higher than average, school and college. There is, however, one thing that should be stressed in any concentrated study of literature; the sights should not be set too low. Its primary purpose is to raise the level of reading and, especially, of the thinking that goes with it.

The Poet's Corner

Evening on Lake Leman
It is the hush of night, and all between
Thy margin and the mountains
Dusk yet clear.
Mellow'd and mingling, yet distinctly seen,
Save darken'd Jura whose cap
Precipitously steep; and drawing near,
There breathes a living fragrance
From the shore
Of flowers yet fresh with childhood;
On the ear
Drops the light drip of the suspended oar,
Or chirps the grasshopper one
Good-night carol more.
—Lord Byron.

The Age Old Story

And the angel of the Lord called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad; neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.