

The Passing Scene

By Observer

A recent news item to the effect that quite a number of matriculants at a well known university were unable to give the name of Canada's Prime Minister has set me thinking about the real educational status of our schools generally, not only here but all over the country.

What goes on in them? Are unimportant things being stressed at the expense of important ones? Are the schools adequate for our times? Are they, indeed, as good as they were, say twenty-five or thirty years ago? Are the teachers who staff them alive to their responsibilities and do people generally really care whether they are or not? Has the modern emphasis on "sport" a good or bad influence? Do we or do we not need a drastic overhauling of our entire elementary and secondary school system, an overhauling that might relate to a bit more closely with the pressing needs of particular cultural areas?

I am sure that these questions and many others of concern must be in the minds of a great many thoughtful people as they view the passing educational scene. Let me say here that I, like a good many other critics of our present school system, am a product of what might be called the "old school." Any reader of this column will probably be able to realize this without my mentioning it. It is about thirty-five years since I left High School. Allowance must be made for this fact in anything I write in this article for, of course, it is fashionable for the middle-aged to fancy that schools and all other institutions, for that matter were better when they were young. This year's matriculants will in all likelihood be making the same pretension thirty or forty years from now.

The Three R's

There is no doubt that in past years Reading, Writing and Arithmetic were given preferred treatment. I am even prepared to admit that they were accorded exaggerated places. It was felt that if the average child could learn to read tolerably well, write a good letter, and master the mechanics of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, fractions included, he was being given a fairly adequate foundation for other things that in due time would come within his scope of inquiry and knowledge. This emphasis seemed to work fairly well, although sometimes it involved a measure of wasted energy and lost labour. For example, I remember as if it were yesterday the occasion when a stern faced teacher instructed me, a boy of twelve, to write a letter, in which I was to apply for a job as night-watchman, to the head of a mercantile concern. In duty bound, and in dread of the consequences that I knew would follow my refusal to do so, I went to the task with all the enthusiasm I could command, which wasn't very much, for it seemed most unlikely that I would ever want to be a night-watchman. I may say that through all the changes and chances of this mortal life since then my mind hasn't changed in that respect, though, of course, I have the utmost respect for those who have a vocation for that kind of work.

Arithmetic

A popular problem in arithmetic used to go something like this: If twelve hours working five hours a day, could pull a certain load in

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SUNTERS' LADIES' WEAR

The Neighbors

By George Clark



"That was my last call, Mom, now I can help—oh, how nice the house looks!"

TRY OUR SEEDS SEND FOR CATALOG Arthur Vesey York, P. E. I.

Strange But True

By F. H. MacArthur

This is the story of the "Saucy Nancy", her crew, and Peter Barnes of Reagh's Cove Nova Scotia, who, by placing a deceptive light among the fir trees near his home, lured the little schooner to her doom on the rocks off Peter's Point, and caused the death of the ship's crew of six.

Three of the six on board perished when the Nancy went down. The others managed to reach shore, but later died from the cold of that Christmas Eve night in 1793. Their frozen bodies were discovered the next day among the branches of a tree where they'd sought shelter.

That somebody had visited the scene of the tragedy the night before was quite obvious. Why? Because one of the victims had lost a finger. The digit had been freshly cut off.

Peter Barnes was suspected. No doubt that finger wore a valuable ring, but nothing definite could be chalked up against him. From then on the villagers gave Barnes the cold shoulder, and his tragic death nearly a score of years later, was, they claimed, his just reward for a foul deed committed.

Another Christmas Eve is born in the year 1813, and we find Peter Barnes leaving William Pearce's tavern. Like that Christmas Eve of 1793, the night was stormy, and three in the tavern watched Barnes leave without so much as wishing him a Happy New Year. And later when they heard a cry for help, no one answered that call.

The next morning they found the lifeless body of their hated neighbor on the shore. In his clutched hand they discovered a valuable diamond ring.

Before leaving for the tavern Barnes had placed a lighted lantern among the fir trees. Somehow he lost his bearings and stepped to his death over the cliff at the exact spot where the "Saucy Nancy" met her doom.

Situated in Mahone Bay, N.S. lies a small tract of land known as "Sacrifice Island", and the story back of its naming takes us back to the days of Acadian rule.

Foremost among the early settlers was a young Swiss noted for his daring exploits and deadly marksmanship. The Indians feared and hated the Swiss youth because he was cunning as a fox, silent, and could shoot straight.

One day they killed a German settler and his wife and carried off their fair-haired baby girl. This put the settlers on the alert but the wary Indians kept hidden in the forest.

On the night following this tragedy, the Swiss youth observed a fire on one of the islands in the Bay. During the day all was quiet. Not a redskin came in sight. The following night the fire was seen again. So the Swiss thought it was time to investigate its cause. He knew the place well having paddled his course among the islands many, many times.

So with a couple of companions he set out on a venture which brought to light the following strange and startling story. Suspecting trickery from the savages the three approached the island cautiously. Not a redskin was in sight. Near the shore, however, they came upon a canoe, which was promptly damaged to frustrate their escape.

Creeping along a well-worn path that led to the summit of a hill, the seekers looked down upon the surrounding country. There below them in a deep depression of the island, they sighted seven warriors seated in a semi-circle, while an eighth, in the regalia of a medicine man, was attending a fire which had been lighted on a crude stone altar.

Eagerly the three looked down upon the strange scene which lay before their astonished gaze. All night they watched, while the wild Indian ritual went on. Come daylight the watchers saw the medicine man reach for a bundle that lay on the ground near his bed.

With guns trained upon the Indians they observed the medicine man bend over and then raise up with the fair-haired baby held fast in his arms. There was no mistaking his purpose now. He advanced towards the fire with the child held above his head. Instantly three muskets spoke, and three savages died in their tracks. Startled by the surprise attack the medicine man threw down his burden and tried to ease himself into the woods. But the Swiss was upon him in an instant, and, with the butt of his gun, knocked the savage senseless.

Of the eight Indians only one escaped death at the hands of the young Swiss and his followers. This M'comac, when questioned about the affair, stated that the Swiss was the cause of the baby's death. His people he said were afraid of his



Scout News and Notices

EAST ROYALTY SCOUT NEWS

Keeping the "Out" in Scouting

Keeping up with their past record of placing emphasis on outdoor scouting, ten East Royalty Scouts and their Scoutmaster travelled to Montague during the month of November for a week-end camping trip. Even though the weather wasn't warm, the mercury hovering around the twenties most of the time, everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

All the camp meals were well prepared by the scouts themselves, each having turns at cooking.

During their visit the Royalty Scouts together with the Montague Scouts took part in various enjoyable games, including rugby. To all no made this visit a pleasant one the East Royalty Scouts take this opportunity to extend a hearty thank you.

Scout Bazaar

Something new was added to scout activities at East Royalty recently when the troop staged a full time bazaar in their hall. All booths, ranging from spill the milk to bingo, were tastefully decorated and managed by the scouts. This indeed was a novel idea for raising scout funds and a very successful one.

Cub Christmas Party

On Thursday, December 20, the East Royalty Cub Pack and the Sixth Charlottetown Packs had a combined Christmas party, tree and all, at the Royalty hall. Needless to say with lots of presents, eats, and games for all, it was a great success.

Hockey

At last the long awaited season of winter, with all its outdoor activities, has arrived, to the joy of the East Royalty Scouts and Cubs who already have organized and started playing hockey.

So far the Scout team has won one game (10-4) and lost one (9-8), both games having been played with the Holy Redeemer boys. The prospects of a good team in both Scouts and Cubs this year at the Royalty are good.

The next games for both teams are planned for Saturday when the Royalty Cubs will take on the Sixth Charlottetown Cubs and the Royalty Scouts will meet the Holy Redeemer boys. These games, both being played at Upper Queen Street Rink, should prove exciting.

Line-ups for both games are as follows:

East Royalty Scouts: Goal, D. MacAusland; defence, D. Bullman, J. Gill, F. Corcoran; forwards, B. Doucette, P. Mustard, K. Kelly, K. Bryenton, S. MacDonald, G. Kelly. East Royalty Cubs: Goal, A. Walsh; defence, F. MacAusland, H. Livingstone; forwards, L. Robertson, D. Storey, F. Robertson, D. Miller, I. Ashley, C. MacKinnon.

gun, and were about to sacrifice the child to their gods when the white men intervened. Why? So a charm could be put upon the gun and kill its power.

There you have it, reader, the story that gave Sacrifice Island its name and today it lies among the other islands of Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia, as a monument to the memory of the little German girl who would have been sacrificed against the power of a gun in the hands of a fearless youth, whose only wish was to protect a child and others from the raids of the savage Indians.

BURNS

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Personal

Peter J. Morrison has left this morning for Camp Hill Hospital, Halifax, to receive treatment.

Miss Lucy Hagan has returned to her studies at Notre Dame after spending a very enjoyable holiday at her home in Kelly's Cross.

His many friends in Kelly's Cross and Augustine Cove are sorry to learn that Mr. John W. Murphy is seriously ill in the Charlottetown Hospital.

Miss Olga Forsythe has returned to Saint John after spending Christmas at her home in Parkdale. Miss Forsythe is on the staff of the Prince William Street branch of the Bank of Nova Scotia, Saint John, N. B.

Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Paynter, Long River, accompanied by their son Jack and his wife, of Summerside, motored to Charlottetown on Christmas day and were guests of Mrs. Paynter's mother, Mrs. Irene Matthews and sister, Mrs. Carrie MacNeill, Parkdale.

NORTH RUSTICO C.W.L.

The monthly meeting of the sub-division branch of C. W. L. was held on Jan. 6 with an attendance of about 30 members.

The meeting opened with the League Prayer by the pastor Father Robbin. The secretary then read the minutes of the previous meeting and reports of different convenors were also read and adopted.

Treasurer reported cash balance on hand and various subjects were discussed.

Father Robbin gave a talk on Family Life in the Parish and most necessarily in the home.

It was stated charitable baskets were given out at Christmas time. The meeting was adjourned by prayer.

Card Of Thanks

I wish to thank the Boxholders on Kensington R. R. No. 2, for the many gifts I received at Christmas. Also the many acts of kindness rendered me during the past year.

Harris Blakeney, Mail Courier.

Card Of Thanks

Mr. Franklin Hickox and Family wish to thank their kind neighbors and friends for all they did to help them during their sad bereavement. Also those who sent floral tributes, letters and cards of sympathy.

CHICOUTIMI, Que. Jan. 14 (CP)—Siamese Twins, both girls, were born here Saturday at St. Valier Hospital. They died shortly after birth. The twins were born to Mrs. Jean-Marie Fortin of Chicoutimi, who was reported to be in good condition.

Thoughts For Our Time

By His Eminence Cardinal McGuigan

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One of the big questions that faces us in 1952 is: What's wrong with the West?

The West, and the term pretty well means Western Europe and America, is becoming more despised throughout the rest of the world every day.

Russia which used to emulate the West, is now its chief enemy. The Near and Middle East which for generations was at least a protectorate of the West is now pretty well lost or in open rebellion. India has decided that it no longer cares especially for Western influence. The Far East, especially China, has gone out of the orbit of Western influence.

About the only seeming friend the West has left is its enemy of the West war Japan. And it had to be converted.

What's wrong with the West? Is it that the West has not enough military strength? Is the problem a military one? This much we know, that most of these problems arose after the West had equaled in history. If all that was acquired was military might, these problems should never have arisen. Even if we subjugated the world, that does not prove at all that the world would then be what it should be. As a matter of fact history pretty well proves that the conqueror's heel is no thing for human beings to live under.

Is the problem an economic one? Doubtless to some extent it is. It was for a better distribution of the world's goods that so many anti-Western revolts emerged. There was no social justice on either the national or international scene. When we hear the cries of China for the Chinese, India for the Indians, and, most recently, Iran for the Iranians, we know that their cries are directed to the West. But then is it an economic problem or a moral one? We are being accused of injustice, of acting unvirtuously, of immorality in our dealings. Economics as such, has nothing to do with virtue or justice. No, the problem is not economic. The problem is our morality.

Moral Ignorance

We meet the same situation if we ask ourselves whether the problem is a political one. We know that the western statesmen and diplomats have often been bested in political moves in the past decade. And this in spite of the fact that they have been well-intentioned and apparently trying to do the right thing. The whole trouble is that they do not know what the right thing is. This is moral ignorance and an ignor-

IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of WILLIAM E. MACKINLEY who passed away January 15th, 1942. Ever Remembered by Wife and Family.

IN MEMORIAM

In fond and loving memory of my Mother, Mrs. Fred S. Purser who passed away six years ago today, January 15th, 1946. Always Remembered by Her Daughter Bealy, (Mrs. Emmett Martin).

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In fond and loving memory of my Mother, Mrs. Fred S. Purser who passed away six years ago today, January 15th, 1946. Always Remembered by Her Daughter Ruth, (Mrs. Ceell Hamilton).

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