

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew"

"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN TUESDAY, FEB. 9, 1954

Invalid Oath

There was a report current a few weeks ago that a number of bishops in Poland had taken an oath of "loyal faithfulness" to the Communist government of that country.

Recently L'Osservatore Romano, official organ of the Vatican, issued a statement in which it confessed itself unable either to confirm or deny the news that had come from Warsaw.

"An oath," continued L'Osservatore Romana, "taken under such conditions, is invalid. The Polish Government knows it very well, but for the oppressors of Warsaw all this does not count. They will use it as a pseudo-legal weapon for further violence."

Undoubtedly this statement by the Vatican newspaper will be received by civilized people everywhere, regardless of their religious backgrounds, with a good understanding and with the utmost sympathy for those Christians who, for the time being, have to contend with the hatred and violence of a Godless and callous tyranny.

Ontario's Example

Educational "frills" are out in Ontario, at least as far as provincial school construction grants are concerned. According to an announcement by Education Minister Dunlop, municipalities will get aid in providing regular classrooms, but not for auditoriums, swimming pools, music rooms, gymnasiums and so on.

"That," comments the Financial Post, "is the way it should be. In the next 10 years we are going to have to build a lot more schools in Canada and hire a lot more teachers. That will mean that local taxes, already high, are going to go higher.

Britain's New Rifle

Sir Winston Churchill's announcement that the British Army has adopted a new rifle, says the London Economist, was something that happens only once in a lifetime. Over 50 years have passed since as fundamental a change as this was made in the basic weapon of the individual British soldier.

FN stands for "Fabrique Nationale d'Armes de Guerre," a Belgian firm from Liege, and .30 represents a caliber slightly larger than the .28 with which Britain's own new rifle, the now discarded EM-2, was first tried out in the initial trials after the war.

infantry weapon. Experiments were therefore begun, on the one hand to develop a new self-loading rifle and, on the other, to determine the optimum caliber and velocity for modern war.

The decision about the size and type of bullet proved easier than the decision about the rifle. NATO took up the problem in 1951 and the verdict, when it came, was essentially a NATO recommendation. As a result, the forces of all the NATO countries are now to standardize gradually on a rimless cartridge of .30 caliber firing a high velocity bullet which, wherever manufactured, will fit into any of their rifles or automatic weapons.

The fact that the great reserve of manufacturing capacity for small arms ammunition is in the United States and that the American Army has long used weapons of .30 caliber was certainly one of the main reasons why this size of round was eventually chosen as standard; though the Americans, like everyone else, will not be able to use the new cartridge in their present weapons without modification.

Naturally it would be a great advantage to the North Atlantic alliance if its members could all use the same type of weapon. Nevertheless, agreement on small arms ammunition already means a standardization of chamber, barrel and ejector, and this means that by far the greater part of the problem is solved.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Many here will extend congratulations to Judge H. L. and Mrs. Palmer on the admission to the Alberta Bar of their son Jim. He is the fifth generation of his family to follow the profession of law and many will bespeak for him the success which has been achieved by his worthy predecessors.

A group of heart specialists studying the giraffe, according to the Scientific Information Service, hopes to solve the riddle of how the animal's heart can pump blood all the way to its head. If they are successful, they may be able to discover the reasons for high blood pressure and hardening of the arteries in human beings.

Now that Canada has emerged as an important Power that is an ally of the United States, many Americans feel that wide and accurate knowledge of this country is necessary, and with this in view the University of Rochester has announced the inauguration of a Canadian Studies Program which will later develop into an Institute of Canadian Affairs.

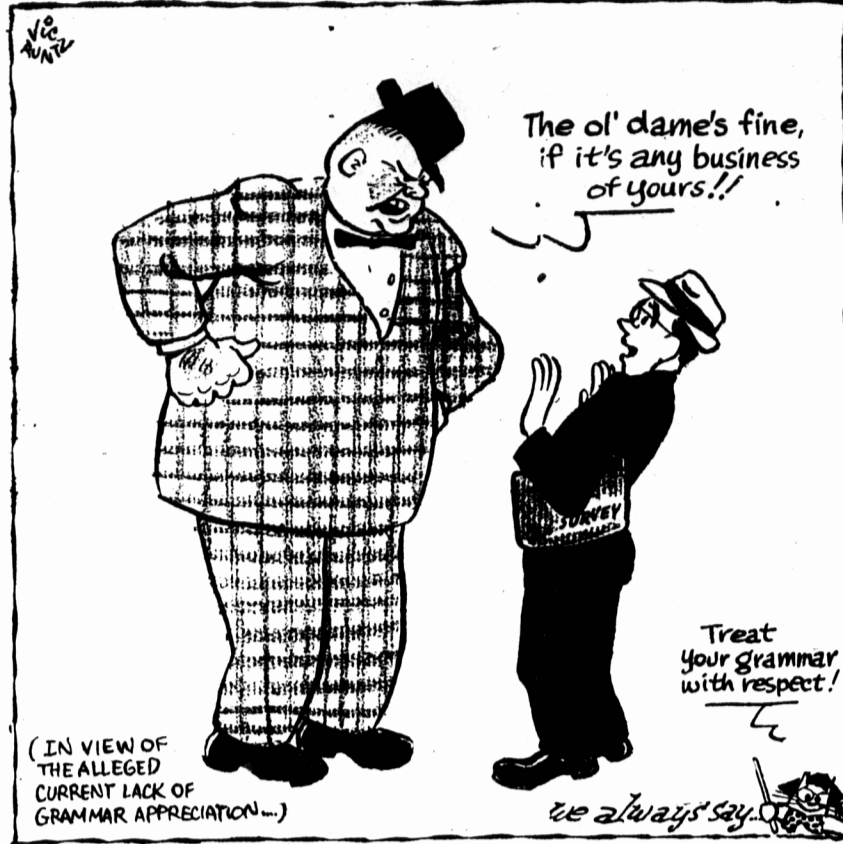
Edward Henry Carson, Baron Carson of Duncairn, county Antrim, Irish statesman, was born this date 1854. Of commanding presence and magnetic in appearance, and speaking with a musical brogue, he was one of the formidable yet attractive legal orators of his day.

The presentation of "Queen's Scout" certificates to 26 candidates at Government House Saturday afternoon was a history-making event in the life of the Association here. It speaks well for the future of scouting besides reflecting credit on those providing leadership today.

Of the 93,352,000 tons of world merchant shipping, 18,584,000 tons is under the British flag (or 22,356,000 tons if Commonwealth registrations are included) and 27,237,000 tons under the U. S. But the Manchester Guardian reports that the British fleet is still the largest in operation since as much as 13,000,000 tons of the U. S. fleet is kept in reserve.

For a moment, let us assume that Prince of Wales College lowered its standards and everyone passed. We would then be confronted with a situation identical to that in the hypothetical contention of philosophy that if everything were green nothing would be green. Philosophers maintain that you recognize the green only by contrasting it with another color.

"How's Your Grammar?"



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.

P.W.C. STANDARDS

Sir,—I have been following with great interest and not a little amusement the current verbal exchanges concerning failures at Prince of Wales College, and education in general.

I was particularly interested in the three letter series started by "Parent" complaining about the failure rate at Prince of Wales College; the reply by Dr. MacKinnon, and the reply to the reply by "Another Parent".

Both these parents are, I have no doubt, conscientious and intelligent parents. Unfortunately, they are intelligent enough to recognize that a serious difficulty is present in our Educational system. They are misguided in their attempts to place the blame on Prince of Wales College.

The first Parent says all the blame cannot be placed on the students for the failure rate. After all, they passed Grade X, and passed entrance examinations set by Prince of Wales College. "Parent" doesn't say, but the assumption is obvious, that since they passed matriculation to Prince of Wales College they are ready for Prince of Wales College. If they fail therefore, it is not their fault, but the fault of Prince of Wales College.

Parents number one and two both complain bitterly about the overloading of courses at Prince of Wales College and cite the minimum standards of other high schools.

True, Prince of Wales College has higher standards than most other high schools, and for a good reason. Prince of Wales College is not just a high school but a Junior College, and as such its main purpose is in preparing students for further academic studies.

I am a former student of Prince of Wales College, and I am glad that I attended a "hard" school. When I went away to University I often heard the saying that if you can pass at Prince of Wales College you can pass anywhere.

Prince of Wales College has a high academic and scholastic standard among Educational Institutions, a standard of which we as Islanders should be proud.

What is really being suggested is tearing down this wonderful standard and substituting a mediocre standard. To borrow a quotation from a recent article in an edition of Collier's magazine, these parents are advocating the "establishment of a cult of mediocrity" on our fair Island.

Before I have every teacher up in arms, I wish to state that I myself am a teacher in one of our City schools and I know something of which I speak.

I am, Sir, etc. A. M. CITY TEACHER Island, 1898.

Notes By The Way

To make a list of your faults, compile a list of the faults of others which irk you most. —Kitchener-Waterloo Record.

"Recommended reading for these winter days is the plant catalogue. There's romance, there's mystery—plus colour, imagination and a vigorous literary style."—Ottawa Journal.

A grammarian advises against the use of "hackneyed expressions." And one of the most hackneyed of all hackneyed expressions happens to be "hackneyed expression" itself. —Ottawa Citizen.

"The destinies of all mankind, well may be involved in the launching of a Connecticut shipyard of the new United States Navy submarine, Nautilus. For that launching concerns man's first attempt to drive a ship by atomic power. Actual application of atomic energy for such a purpose long and impatiently has been awaited. Capable of cruising around the world without once coming to the surface because her atomic engine requires no air; longer than the length of a football field and with an estimated speed in excess of 30 knots, the warlike potential of such a ship challenges the imagination. Equally vast are the possibilities which may be opened to a world at peace."—Montreal Gazette.

How pleased they would be! How pleased they would be! How pleased they would be! How pleased they would be! How pleased they would be!

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.) OFFICIAL RESIDENCES "Of the various official residences of different governors here, Governor Patterson on his arrival first resided at Fort Amherst, from where he removed to a house on Queen Street, Charlottetown. Governor Fanning during his administration occupied the whole block situated within Great George, Richmond, Prince and Sidney Streets, having his mansion erected upon the south corner; the remainder of this estate being utilized as an orchard and garden: The dwelling-house in 1850 was destroyed by fire; subsequently the estate was disposed of in building lots, the (old) site of Zion Church being among the number.

Governor DesBarres's residence was situated in the common, west of the brook at Spring Park. But Governor Smith, with his family, choose his quarters in the Barracks, amidst the bustle and turmoil of a garrison life. Governor Ready, too, during the first term of his administration, made the Barracks his home; but a stately edifice for his occupation was erected at Holland's Grove, north of Fitzroy Street. His Excellency on his return from England in 1823 moved thither, Governor Young on his arrival also selected the same place of abode, where he remained until the completion of the official residence at Government Farm (Victoria Park) when he became its first occupant."

—Pollard's "Prince Edward Island, C. I. TEACHER Island, 1898.

turned out on the hard everyday world, inadequately prepared to meet life's standards and so fall in their first year of living? And fail they would, because no one can lower the standards of our modern society which is so fiercely competitive.

No, parents, the answer lies not in lowering the standards at Prince of Wales College, but in raising the standards in our schools. Space does not permit me to enlarge upon my theme today, but I wish to follow this letter with one telling why I think the standards in our schools are so low, and what we can do to raise these standards.

Before I have every teacher up in arms, I wish to state that I myself am a teacher in one of our City schools and I know something of which I speak.

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The Passing Scene

By Observer

A SERIO-COMIC DEBATE Several readers of this column have chided me (gently, I must admit) for not commenting before this on the wonderful time members of the Commons have been having over their self-awarded pay boosts. My correspondents were not all cantankerous Conservatives, either. At least one of them was as Liberal in his political leanings and enthusiasm at the time of the last election as Mr. St. Laurent himself; I think he still is, as a matter of fact.

To tell the truth I have wanted to bring the matter up several times, but kept putting it off until the parliamentary debate on the second reading of the bill had taken place. Not that I was innocent enough to believe that there would be much opposition to the measure; however, miracles do happen occasionally, and I wanted to be sure that one wouldn't occur in this case before wasting time or space on the matter.

I think it will be generally agreed that a Parliament, like any other organized group of men or women, deserves a little amusement now and then. It must be trying to have to sit all day and listen to statistical reports, arguments, departmental accounts, and, above all, routine speeches. The thing that interests me about this pay boost is not the legislation itself as much as the opportunity it gave honourable members for a little diversion into facetiousness. Mr. St. Laurent, whom everybody respects, is ordinarily a seriously minded man. But even he could not resist the temptation to have a little fun out of the pay boost legislation. This is shown by his insistence that each man in the Commons should have the right to vote as he liked on the "principle" of the bill. In other words there would be no whip, no compulsion, no official influence, to govern the conscience of any man.

The thing that amazes me when I turn from the humour of the situation to the actual vote which authorized the second reading (the only reading which means anything) is that 45 votes were registered against the "principle" of the bill. I should have thought that a 100% boost in income would be considered a very wonderful thing by anybody and everybody. I find it hard to believe that there is any man in this country, or for that matter in any other country, who would be hurt grievously to know that he was to get twice as much money this year as last.

How pleased they would be! How pleased they would be! How pleased they would be! How pleased they would be! How pleased they would be!

The debate itself, as reported by the press, is particularly amusing, made no less so by the half-serious vein that runs through it. Only the Liberals apparently knew exactly what they wanted to do. They wanted to double their indemnities and, quite logically, they voted unanimously to make their wishes come true. It was a matter of course that it was not particularly edifying, but it is clear, and so far as I can see it is about the only clear thing that emerges from the entire debate.

The two star players in the half-serious comedy are Mr. Knowles of the C.C.F. and Mr. Hansell of the Social Credit Party. Mr. Knowles thought that the proposed increase for himself was perfectly justified; he hated, however, to see any Senator receive the same benevolent treatment. Mr. Hansell's take-it-or-leave-it amendment was intended, so he said, to soothe the conscience of any man who was opposed to the legislation. He himself had no scruples about taking the increase—the bigger the better—but he would not for the world put any stumbling-block in the way of another who might not want the extra money.

As a matter of fact there was no need for Mr. Hansell's concern for another's conscience. There is nothing to compel the dissenters to accept the pay boost. They could destroy the cheques as they come in or return them to the Treasury un cashed or turn them over to some charity. As to Mr. Knowles' serio-comic jibe at the Senators, that was really uncool. Why should Senators, any more than Commons men, be obliged to suffer impoverishment?

There is, of course, a serious side to this thing. Usually, when a man, who is working for wages or salary, feels he should have a raise, he consults his employers about it. Sometimes they agree; sometimes they don't. In this case the people are the employers; at all events they must pay the indemnities. And, if the people are not the employers, who is? If the financial condition of the members was as unsatisfactory at the beginning of this year as it has been made out, it could not have been any better last August. Why is it that nothing was said about it then? Was it an oversight?

Have members of the Commons and the Senate the right to increase their parliamentary incomes whenever they feel like it, just by passing a resolution? If so, what is to stop them from indulging in the pleasant practice every now and then? If 10 thousand, why not 15 or 20 or 30? Who is to say when the limit has been reached? The members themselves? That might be alright, but for one thing: no man ever makes as much money as he thinks he is worth.

The Age Old Story The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all they that do his commandments; his praise endureth for ever.

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