

THE EDUCATIONAL HORIZON

PRESENTING NEWS AND VIEWS OF INTEREST TO TEACHERS AND ALL OTHERS SEEKING IMPROVEMENT IN EDUCATION.

OPTIMISM

Optimism is an attribute of successful people in every walk of life. The world is attracted by the cheerful, hopeful person, the chronic "grouch" is shunned. Certainly the chronic grouch has no place in the classroom. She is constantly complaining, and yet she seldom does anything to improve herself. She infects others with the "blues" and before long the whole school is a sad place. The optimistic teacher genuinely believes that things will turn out all right; she is never depressed. She has faith in herself; she inspires the same faith in others.

There is an attribute of optimism, the sense of humor, which is at one time practically prohibited in the school-room but is now regarded as an essential

SCOUTAGE

Shield-money, from the Latin word for shield. Money paid in place of service. Under Norman rule the service due from a single knight's fee was that of one fully armed horseman to serve in the king's army for 40 days in the year in the time of war. In 1159 personal service in the army might be commuted for a money payment—shield money. With the money from this tax the king was able to hire soldiers to fight for him.

RAYON

As early as 1864 a Dr. Robert Hooks suggested that gums and resins could be used, but it was not until 1885 that the first "artificial silk" was seen. It was developed in London, England. Rayon is a textile fibre made from cellulose—that abundant substance of which wood, cotton, vegetables—in fact, all plant life is composed. At first the cellulose used for rayon was obtained from cotton linters—the very short fibres left attached to cotton seeds after "ginning." Soon it was discovered that wood is also a plentiful source of cellulose, and so nowadays, spruce trees provide the raw material.

The trees are cut down in the forest then taken to pulp mills where the bark is removed and the wood crushed into small chips

to fabrics for clothing and other uses. Rayon is used in great deal in the textile industry. Thousands of filaments are combined into an untwisted rope then cut into short lengths by machine. It is then spun into yarn in exactly the same way as wool and cotton and used in the same machinery. Sometimes it is mixed with these fibres. In its continuous filament form, rayon is knitted into ladies' hosiery. The spun staple rayon is used for suits, dress materials and hosiery.

VOCABULARY GAME

Let the class choose some animal, insect, bird or fruit to describe, and then give them 10 minutes to think of suitable words which will describe them. Then divide the class into two teams and let them line up on opposite sides of the room. Players take the letters of the alphabet in turn, the first player beginning with "a." If dog is the animal chosen, the first player must give a sentence in which the word describing dog begins with a, as "The dog is an active animal." The player opposite now gives the sentence using a word beginning with b to describe dog. Thus the game proceeds until the entire alphabet has been used. A player who hesitates too long or who gives a word that is not suitable loses a point for his side. The team with the higher score wins.

CABINET

Cabinet used to mean a small room. Then, later, it came to mean secret advice. Still later, it was applied to the body of persons who gave such advice. This was the meaning given to it in Walpole's time.

There had been cabinets before the time of George I, but they had nearly always been selected by the King. He decided when they should meet and what they should discuss. However, since George I knew no English, in 1717, he stopped attending the cabinet meetings. This meant having another leader. Since the members of the cabinet were thought of as the King's ministers, the head man of this council was called the first minister or Prime Minister.

The ideas to be remembered about the development during the time of George I are these:

1. The King stopped attending the cabinet meetings.
2. The cabinet was chosen from the party in the majority in the House of Commons.
3. The head of the cabinet was called the Prime Minister, and he chose the members of his cabinet.

Another name for cabinet is executive council or government, and the party in the majority is called the government party.

Every member of the cabinet must be in agreement regarding the laws which are being made or the policies which are to be carried out.

LIGHTNING

When raindrops are very large they break up, in falling, into smaller drops. This breaking up causes a separation of the positive and negative electricity on the surface of the drops. When similarly charged drops run together again the amount of electricity is greatly increased. If the charge becomes too great for the drops to bear, an electric current passes from the cloud in which the rain is formed to another cloud or to the earth. The air in the path of this current is suddenly heated; hence the blinding flash.

Thunder is, of course, the vibration caused by the sudden expansion and contraction of the heated air. Though thunder sounds like a continuous roar, it is practically an instantaneous explosion. The roar is caused partly by the fact that the flash is usually several miles long. The sound from different parts of it reaches the ear at different moments; and the echo from adjacent clouds or hills is also heard. "Summer lightning" or heat lightning, is not a different variety, but is merely caused by the flash being below the horizon, or behind a cloud, so that only the reflection is seen.

Rain in a thunderstorm acts as a lightning conductor, carrying a great part of the electric charges safely to earth. Lightning is a huge spark of electricity. To get lightning, you must have a charge of electricity. An easy way to get it is to rub two different materials together. When you stroke a cat, you are rubbing your hand against the cat's fur. When you comb your hair, you are rubbing your hair and the comb together.

Whenever two things rub together, there is friction. Since charges like those we have mentioned above come from rubbing, they are often called frictional electricity. "Static" means "standing still." Charges of electricity often do stand still. But when you see sparks of static, the charges are not standing still.

THE SCHUMAN PLAN

The Schuman Plan calls for the pooling of the heavy industries of France and Germany and of any other European country which wants to participate—under control of a "joint high authority" whose decisions could be binding on member countries. The authority would seek to modernize production and improve its quality; supply steel and coal on equal terms to the French and German markets and to the other member countries; develop joint works; and improve and equalize working conditions in the member countries.

The Schuman plan was given President Truman's full and wholehearted support. "This proposal provides the basis for establishing an entirely new relationship between France and Germany and opens a new outlook for Europe," he said.

The Chancellor of West Germany, Konrad Adenauer, said that the plan would eliminate Franco-German friction over the Saar. With the Saar output going into a common pool, the question of whether the Saar was French or German would lose its significance. The coal-rich Saar basin has been a bone of contention between France and Germany for over 150 years.

The most valuable individual in an organization is the cheerful, hopeful human. Cheerful people refresh us; hopeful people help us; and in knowing this, it is everyone's duty to perform his or her part of cheerfulness.

HISTORY

1. Why was the control of the Ohio Valley important in the rivalry between Great Britain and France in the years immediately preceding the Seven Years' War? The French had located on the St. Lawrence River and the English along the Atlantic seaboard. As long as their settlements were small and separated by miles of wilderness, there was little direct clash between them though there was fighting between the two nationalities in other parts of North America. When, however, La Salle's exploration of the Mississippi was followed by the founding of New Orleans and the linking of it with Canada by the Illinois forts, the English became alarmed. Whether deliberately planned or not, the effect would be to shut the English into the narrow strip between the Appalachian mountains and the Atlantic. This became the more apparent when the French began to consolidate the shorter route between their colonies by making formal claim to the Ohio Valley and building forts at strategic points. There had been border raids before, such as those sponsored by Frontenac, but something of more far-reaching consequence was presaged when, in 1754, a force under George Washington was defeated in its attempt to dislodge the French who were building Fort Duquesne where Pittsburgh now stands. The struggle for the Ohio Valley now turned from a mere desire to control its trade by alliance or dominance of its Indians to a definite determination to occupy and settle it. The clash in 1754 was followed in the next year by a disastrous attempt by Braddock to capture Fort Duquesne. These events occurred before the Seven Years' War had actually begun in Europe. It is thus apparent that the control of the Ohio Valley was of vital importance to both the French and the English colonies and that the struggle for it was bringing the two nations to war regardless of their rivalry in other parts of the world.
2. Define the following terms as they are used in the Canadian system of government: Speaker of the House, Minister without Portfolio, the Speech from the Throne. The Speaker of the House is the chairman, chosen by the members of the House of Commons from amongst themselves to preside over all meetings of the House.
- A Minister without Portfolio is a member of the Cabinet who does not administer a department of the government.
- The Speech from the Throne is the address delivered by the Governor-General, the representative of the King, in opening a session of parliament. Actually the speech is prepared for the Governor by the government of the day, and its chief feature is an outline of the business to be dealt with during the session.
3. Explain how responsible government operates in the Dominion Parliament in regard to: (1) the selection of the Cabinet; (2) the public revenues. The Governor-General calls upon the leader of the party having a majority in the House of Commons to form a government; that is to select ministers for the various administrative departments. The leader is the prime minister, and he and the ministers thus chosen compose the cabinet. They must each seek approval of the appointment by seeking election by some constituency and thus the principle of responsible government operates both in the choice of the party and in the selection of the personnel of the cabinet.
- Responsible government operates in connection with the public revenue since all bills involving the expenditure of public money must originate in the House of Commons, the body elected by the people. Thus, if a cabinet refused to resign after an adverse vote in the House, it could be rendered helpless by the refusal of the House to vote supplies.

POINTS TO REMEMBER WHEN WRITING LETTERS

1. Be neat and accurate. Watch your spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure.
2. Don't divide a word at the end of a line except at the end of a syllable.
3. Indent the first word in every paragraph and leave suitable margins.
4. Fold your letter neatly before putting into the envelope.
5. Put yourself in the reader's place and keep his interests in mind as you write.
6. The writing of a good letter requires time and effort.

7. Your letters express your personality; try to make them interesting and entertaining. Search for and study letters that have been written by good letter-writers.

MATCH

1. Optician; 2. optometrist; 3. sympathetic nervous system; 4. aqueous metaphen; 5. ventricles; 6. plexus; 7. pineal gland; 8. ganglions; 9. allergic; 10. amphetamine; 11. caffeine; 12. cardiac; 13. audiometer; 14. platelets; 15. rigor mortis.
- (a) The rigidity of the muscles that occurs at death; (b) certain small corpuscles believed to play a part in the clotting of blood; (c) a conical knob of tissue protruding from under the side of the brain; (d) one skilled in the grinding of lenses for glasses; also one who deals in optical instruments; (e) an antiseptic solution in water; (f) an eyeglass specialist. He examines eyes and prescribes glasses; (g) the ganglia, which lie along the spinal cord, together with all the nerve fibres that grow out from them; (h) a drug present in coffee and tea; (i) an antiseptic solution in water; such solutions are referred to as non-irritants since they do not sting when applied to a cut; (j) an instrument for testing hearing; (k) the condition of being unusually sensitive to the protein in a substance which, in similar amounts, does not affect most people; (l) related to the heart; (m) the mosquito that carries the germs of malaria; (n) the two lower chambers of the heart; (o) inflammation of the gums.

HYGIENE OF DIGESTION

1. The amount and kind of food should be adjusted to the work of the body. Vitamins should be supplied.
2. The "balance" of the ration should be maintained.
3. The food should be clean and properly prepared.
4. Usually the heartiest meal should come after the day's work and should be preceded by a brief rest. Only when the brain or muscles are not working can the digestive organs get a proper supply of blood.
5. Eating between meals is usually a bad practice, especially in the case of sweet food, as it prevents proper desire for, and digestion of, the solid food which the body requires.
6. Water should be drunk in abundance (six to eight glasses a day), especially between meals, but not to wash down unchewed food nor to flood the stomach mealtime.
7. It is unnecessary to dwell upon the importance of thorough chewing. The smaller the surface particles, the greater the burden is put on the stomach. The starch digestion in the mouth may not be very extensive, but thorough mastication prevents overeating and too rapid eating, both of which produce more indigestion than do other causes put together. "Leave the table hungry" is a good rule for most people.
8. Ignore certain popular beliefs, such as not eating protein and carbohydrates together.
9. Exercise, study, worry, or any severe physical or mental activity at or near mealtimes interferes with digestion.
10. Regular attention must be given to the removal of waste from the intestine, as many illnesses can be traced to lack of care in this regard.

ASSIMILATION

Much of the digested food which is carried by our bodies is used for growth and maintenance. By a process called assimilation, digested food can be converted into living matter. This new living matter may be used for growth or to replace injured or worn out matter to maintain our bodies. By means of assimilation, the materials contained in milk may become fat; and substances composed of meat, potatoes, lettuce may become human matter.

COPERNICUS (1473-1543)

The ancient Greeks and Egyptians thought the earth was the centre of the universe. Ptolemy was an Egyptian astronomer of the second century after Christ. He wrote a book describing how the earth stayed fixed in a permanent place, while around it revolved the great hollow spheres of the universe. But Nicolaus Copernicus, a Polish astronomer, who was a young man when Columbus discovered America, realized a new truth in the science of the Heavens. He decided that Ptolemy had believed the earth was fixed and the sun moved around it with his observation of the Great Dipper moving slowly, night after night, around the North Star.

Copernicus understood that it was the earth's turning on its own axis which gave this effect of movement of the sun. He went to the University of Cracow, in Poland and afterward to Bologna and Padua, in Italy, to study astronomy and mathematics. He also prepared himself to practice medicine. For a time he lectured on mathematics in Rome. He returned to his native country, and then, having entered the priesthood, he settled in Frauenburg, Prussia, where he was canon of the cathedral and doctor to the poor. But his interest in astronomy continued and increased.

Copernicus concluded that the earth, itself a tiny part of the whole universe, not only rotated on its axis but also revolved around the sun in the company of the other planets. It was dangerous to give out such an idea in the 16th century. The church and scientists alike taught that the earth was the centre of the universe.

The writings of Copernicus were finally read by Pope Clement VII, who was inclined to approve them, but Copernicus himself would not let them be printed until near the end of his long life. A printed copy of his work explaining the revolutions of heavenly bodies reached him on his deathbed. The Copernican theory was then so startling that it was thought necessary to publish the book with a statement that it had no claim to be a fact, but was only one man's idea. Today the

theory is the foundation of the whole science of astronomy. He who knows most, grieves most for wasted time.

ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY

Developments of the St. Lawrence waterway as a defense measure is still under consideration in Washington. The waterway may be essential to provide an adequate flow of Canadian iron ore to the U. S. mills if the threat of war grows.

THE U. S. CABINET

The President has a cabinet, made up of Secretaries (heads) of the 10 departments of the National government. They report to him, and advise him concerning his policies and executive actions. As a cabinet, they have no legal powers and are not subject to the "want of confidence" principle that is a part of our control over our executive in Canada. They are appointed by and may be dismissed by the President but their appointment must be approved by the Senate. They are generally members of the same political party as the President, but are not necessarily members of Congress.

OIL PIPE LINE

Canada's first major crude oil pipe line is in operation moving oil from Alberta towards new markets in Eastern Canada. The line began operating when Premier Manning spun a valve wheel to send oil surging into the first 439 mile leg from Edmonton to Regina.

FLOOD CONTROL

A four million dollar dam on the Thames River near London, Ontario, is to be built immediately to control floods and provide a supplementary source of drinking water to London, Ottawa and Queen's Park are to share jointly 75% of the cost while 30 municipalities represented in the Upper Thames Valley Authority will pay the balance. The dam will be 2,000 feet long and will contain a

ALBERTA FIRES

The four most serious blazes were on a veterans' farm settlement, in a coal mine 700 feet underground, on three sides of a village, and in a vast brush-timber region. The most spectacular fire was in the Wanhsun district, 360 miles northwest of Edmonton, where flames destroyed farm homes, buildings, crops and livestock on a large government-sponsored veterans' settlement project. The blaze swept over almost 100 square miles.

At Mercoal, 190 miles southwest of Edmonton, miners toiled to seal off a fire 700 feet underground in the MacLeod River coal mine. Fall of smoke of varying depths of density, from the forest fire in Alberta, covered Eastern Canada.

This Department is conducted by the Prince Edward Island Teachers' Federation. Contributions are welcomed and should be addressed to: William MacFadyen, 8 1/2 Pelaine St. Charlottetown.

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