

Unity In Diversity

All too often those concerned about national unity feel that it is synonymous with uniformity; that variations in origin or beliefs are a source of weakness to the state. The folly of such an idea has again and again been demonstrated but such is its hold on many well-meaning people that it is well that the real principle should again be enunciated.

Dr. Sidney Smith, president of the University of Toronto has called upon Canadians to take stock of "the wealth of their diversities." He points out that Canada's blending of races and cultures in its national mosaic makes the nation strong and versatile. "If we can only learn the lesson that this mosaic of peoples, cemented by a common citizenship and a common allegiance, is in truth the firm foundation on which the structure of our nation must arise!"

This is indeed the central principle of maintaining a united nation and holds promise of the possibility of creating a united world. The great thing is that there should be many rather than a few lines of cleavage. That racial lines should be different from religious lines; occupational from political; cultural from age; geographic from educational.

If all these criss-cross the population in somewhat different directions the effect is to produce a rich and varied but at the same time cohesive community, one which can respond effectively to the demands of patriotism and which in future may be able to play an important part in a world community when and if it comes.

Potato Crop Irrigation

How the yield of early potatoes grown in southwestern Ontario during droughty seasons can be greatly increased through sprinkler irrigation is told in a news bulletin from the Federal Department of Agriculture. Proper use of irrigation more than doubled the yield of potatoes harvested early in July 1953, states Mr. J. M. Fulton, soil specialist. Experiments conducted at the Harrow Experimental Station, Ont., indicated a total need of about four inches of water per month. The portion that must be supplied through supplemental irrigation depends upon the amount of rainfall received. In 1953 less than one inch of rain fell from June 1, to June 29 so that it was necessary to supply potatoes with better than three inches of water through sprinkler irrigation.

The highest yield of marketable potatoes was obtained at the Harrow Station in 1953 through an irrigation program which involved five applications of three-quarters of an inch of water at six day intervals. Three irrigations with one inch of water at ten day intervals was not as effective as five lighter applications but did increase the yield by about one hundred bushels per acre over non-irrigated plots. Light applications at intervals more frequent than every six days were no more effective than five applications each of which supplied three-quarters of an inch. An irrigation program which used more than four inches of water per month proved to be a waste of water. It was not necessary to increase the amount of fertilizer used on potatoes grown under irrigation unless the quantity of water applied was greater than four inches per month. Soil moisture measuring devices such as the tensiometer and the available moisture meter with plaster of Paris blocks proved to be a valuable guide in establishing the irrigation program.

Delegated Highway Control

Last week Ottawa and the Provinces reached a provisional agreement on regulation of truck and bus traffic which goes beyond the boundaries of a single province. It is an arrangement, says the Ottawa Citizen, which should please most of the provinces, for the Federal Government proposes to delegate powers which, according to an opinion of the Privy Council in London, reside with Ottawa and not with the Provinces.

"What Ottawa is offering," says the Citizen, "is a bill designating provincial boards as the agents of the federal government in the matter of trucking regulations. In other words, the situation will remain as it is, but with legal sanction in order to meet the difficulty raised by the Privy Council decision. The technique is the same as that employed by Ottawa in connection with marketing schemes for farm products

—another instance of divided jurisdiction under the British North America Act.

"In waiving responsibility, the Federal Government is taking a line quite contrary to that advised by the Royal Commission on Transportation in its report of three years ago. At that time the question of jurisdiction over interprovincial truck rates and operations was still in doubt, but the Commission observed that if it were found that Parliament had the right of control, it should seriously think of using it.

"Last week's understanding means — assuming formal consent by the provincial governments and passage of the necessary legislation by Parliament—that the provinces will continue to set the rules, and these rules can vary from one to another. Maybe it will work out. Yet a confusing situation could arise. Saskatchewan, for example, might allow a trucking company operating between Calgary and Winnipeg to pick up local business within Saskatchewan, while Manitoba and Alberta might refuse this privilege. Load regulations might change at a provincial boundary. When the Trans-Canada Highway is completed, the possible effects of purely provincial control would be still more significant than at present."

A cardinal point, however, which our Ottawa contemporary does not discuss, is the fact that if the Federal Government assumed its responsibility for interprovincial highway control, it would be expected to maintain such highways as well. That is probably why it is so generous in delegating its powers.

EDITORIAL NOTES

A conference on methods of preventing pollution of the sea by oil has been going on in London. Delegates from thirty countries and observers from eleven others are trying to produce a convention which will put an end to man's pollution of the sea.

There is nothing new in President Eisenhower's call for a "practical way of getting along with the Communists in Indo-China." The "get tough" idea was poorly regarded even by Teddy Roosevelt, whose policy was to speak softly, but carry a big stick.

A small Russian naval vessel recently opened fire against Danish and Swedish fishing vessels which were fishing for salmon within the Polish 12-mile limit. Whatever other vessels should be recognized as entitled to come within three miles of other shores Polish and Russian ships should certainly be kept at their own established distance of twelve miles.

The Queen and her family are visiting the George Cross island of Malta. The island has always been a bastion of defence and was held by the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem from 1530 until 1798. It is the base of the Royal Navy's Mediterranean fleet and during the Second World War its successful defence probably did more than anything else to bring success to the African and Mediterranean campaigns.

The United States does not yet produce a jet commercial aircraft. It is significant, however, that the prototype of a tanker-transport planned by Boeing may be equipped with "reverse thrust" giving breaking power comparable to that obtained by the reverse-thrust of propellers. A "clamshell W" will reverse the flow of fast-moving gases from the jet engine's tailpipe and decelerate the aircraft. The development will make it practical for jets to operate from runways not significantly longer than those required for propeller craft.

The question of fluoridation of municipal water supply has become of increasing interest to a number of Canadian municipalities. In order to provide these municipalities with a competent evaluation of this matter the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities has requested the Health League of Canada to undertake a survey and investigation of the advantages and disadvantages of fluoridation of water. The Health League has agreed to undertake this survey and it is expected that the findings and recommendations of the investigation will be available in the next short while.

David Livingstone, Scottish missionary and African explorer, died this date 1873. His faithful followers carried his body across Africa from Tanganyika to Zanzibar. He was buried in Westminster Abbey. As a youth he had wished to go to China as a medical missionary but war with that country prevented and he was sent to Africa. Even on his first visit to that continent he made discoveries, including the Victoria Falls, which necessitated reconstructing the map of Africa. His third and last expedition was for the purpose of finding the sources of the Nile. Gordon Bennett of the New York Herald sent out Stanley to find the explorer and bring him back. Livingstone, however, refused to return.



Disturbing Note

The Poet's Corner

WRITTEN IN LONDON, 1802

O Friend! I know not which way I must look  
For comfort, being, as I am, oppressed.  
To think that now our life is only dressed  
For show; mean handy-work of craftsman, cook  
Or groom!—We must run glittering like a brook  
In the open sunshine, or we are unblest.  
The wealthiest man among us is the best.  
No grandeur now in nature or in book  
Delights us. Rapine, avarice, expense,  
This is idolatry; and these we adore:  
Plain living and high thinking are no more;  
The homely beauty of the good old cause  
Is gone; our peace, our fearful innocence,  
And pure religion breathing household laws.

—William Wordsworth.

Old Charlottetown

and P. E. I.

Lt. GOVERNOR MACDONALD

The following biographical sketch of the Hon. Andrew A. Macdonald appeared in "Dominion Illustrated," December, 1888.  
"The Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island springs from the Clanronald branch of the Macdonalds of the Isles. He is a son of the Hugh and Catherine Macdonald, of Panmure, and grandson of Andrew Macdonald, who purchased a great tract of land in the Province, and with his family and retainers emigrated from Inverness-shire, and settled at Three Rivers, P. E. I., in 1806, where he and his sons thrived for many years. He was born in the latter place in 1829, was educated at the County Grammar School, and by private tutor, and married, in 1863, Elizabeth, daughter of a former Provincial Postmaster General, Thomas Owen.  
"Mr. Macdonald was U. S. Consul and Agent at Three Rivers from 1849 to 1870, and represented Georgetown in the House of Assembly from 1863 to 1870. He was a member of the Legislative Council for the Second District of King's from 1863 to 1873, when he was made Postmaster General of the Province; P. O. Inspector from 1880 to 1884, and Postmaster of Charlottetown, in 1884. He has the high honour of being one of the Fathers of Confederation, having been a delegate to the Charlottetown Conference of 1864, and in the fall of the same year, to the decisive Quebec Conference. He was also a delegate to the Intercolonial Convention at Portland in 1868, member of the Board of Education from 1870 to 1879, and of the Executive Council from 1876 till the Confederation in 1872. In reward for his services to both parties, in the Free Education, Land Purchase, Railway and Confederation Acts, he was appointed Lieutenant Governor of his native Province, in 1884."

It is not one that concerns the comfort of the hen, and its security would be impaired if anything by its inability to quit the ground for a perch beyond the reach of hungry dogs—behind the experiments is the profit motive.  
And this is, we imagine, only the beginning. Nobody ever has written a poem dedicated to the wing of a chicken, and if this appendage becomes useless for flying the experts, inevitably will set to work to develop a wingless bird, a fowl to offer fewer problems to the amateur caver.  
All this will not matter much to the hen, which is not too bright an animal at best and not much given to flying or to introspection. Give a hen its daily ration of what a hen should eat and it will go placidly about its business producing eggs and, in due course, its allotted function in the preparation of a chicken dinner. Feathers or no feathers, wings or no wings, it doesn't mean a great deal to the hen.

Making Over The Hen

(Exchange)

Over in Maryland a scientist who thinks he can improve on Nature is busy on an interesting project—he is trying to develop a type of chicken lacking flight feathers and unable to fly.  
The expert has been working on this scheme for seven years and says he now has a flock of 1,000 hens that can barely get off the ground. They cannot get over an 18-inch fence and their nests and roosts have to be close to the floor or, in the alternative, ramps or steps must be provided.  
The explanation of all this effort to re-design the hen is that it would cost less to prepare the bird for the market if it did not possess these strong flight feathers in both wings. The question

NOTES BY THE WAY

An old Indian summed up the world situation thus: "Trouble is, nations smoke peacpipe but no body inhales."—Guelph Mercury.

A man's home is his castle just as long as he doesn't default on the monthly payments.—Calgary Albertan.

And it is a contravention of political ethics to call your opponent a traitor. A crook, yes, but a patriotic crook. Brandon Sun.

Alderman W. J. Bennett of Essex County Council England, advises job-seeking youngsters there can be "much greater joy in dirtying one's hands than in sitting at a desk."

"It needs to be understood in current discussions, that not all landlords are greedy and selfish, any more than all tenants are perfect ladies and gentlemen with a nice regard for the landlord's property."—Ottawa Journal.

We wish that some people would spend about one-tenth as much energy striving to make free enterprise and free competition a reality as they do in talking piously about it. Too many of them seem to operate on the principle that all-out competition is a wonderful, wonderful thing...in any other business but theirs.—Calgary Herald.

A bill providing for compulsory automobile insurance has been defeated in New York State Senate—a repulse for Governor Dewey—but its supporters may try again. The measure passed the Assembly. New York for some years has had a compulsory law, and it is estimated that the amateur caver's state's 4,000,000 motor vehicles are not insured. Only Massachusetts has a compulsory law. In Canada, Saskatchewan enacted it in the form of socialist insurance. Opponents of the proposed New York measure submitted some of the arguments which have influenced legislators here against compulsory

insurance, namely, that it would not cover cars operated by unlicensed drivers, thieves or hit-run motorists or uninsured drivers from outside the state. Toronto Telegram.

A lottery made legal is legalized theft. It is theft because it means the taking of something without giving anything of comparable value in return. In the same sense it violates the recognized principles of legitimate trade which should always be to the advantage of both or all parties concerned. It impoverishes the loser by depriving him of legitimate earnings.—Port Arthur News-Chronicle.

Conservation after all is a way of life to which all citizens must conform. Governments can enact laws and organizations can conduct campaigns; yet, in the long run, what matters most is the behavior of people while at work and at play. The farmer at work on his land, the timber operator taking off the annual cut, the man and boy with rod and gun, all individually and collectively, determine what our conservation effort will amount to and what the end results will be.—Farmer's Advocate and Canadian Countryman.

Princess Margaret went down a coal mine for the first time last week, at Calverton Colliery, near Nottingham, which is said to be one of the most modern pits in Europe. She descended the 1,680ft shaft in a 40 m.p.h. cage and returned almost an hour later, with only the faintest smudge of coal dust on her face. Her white overalls had one black mark. When she was asked if she would like to try to cut a piece of coal she grasped the miner's pick specially provided and succeeded in cutting a piece at the second attempt.

COMPANY HEAD HELD  
TORONTO (CP)—T. Julius Rusonik, 40, president of De Forest Cleaners and dyers, was arrested Friday night on an income tax charge. Police said a warrant taken out by the income tax department accuses Rusonik of not remitting several thousand dollars he allegedly deducted from employees' pay cheques.

WEIGHTY THEFT  
ORILLIA, Ont. (CP)—A thief with more than his share of rashness and courage Thursday night made off with a 128-pound Great Dane from a south ward home. Alan Deschamps told police the big, tan colored animal is missing from its kennel where it was tied.

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The Passing Scene

By Observer

STRUGGLE FOR KNOWLEDGE

In a booklet recently published in connection with Columbia University's bicentennial celebration reference is made to "the struggle for knowledge, one of the most exciting dramas of history." Just how exciting a drama it has been, how the struggle got started, and the ratio of advances to retrogressions are matters which will never be appraised accurately for, of course, man was reaching out for knowledge long ages before he began to make records of his progress.

Enough is known, however, to show that the human mind has never been content with observing what was close at hand; the doubtful and the hard to get at always have been more intriguing than the apparent and the obvious. The scientists are pretty well agreed that human life in some form has been on the earth for at least one million years, but that does not mean that the struggle for knowledge necessarily has been going on all that time.

In whatever way it may be explained (perhaps the Genesis story is as good as any), it is clear that at some period in man's evolution he became conscious of the power to reason, to think things out, to look before and after, to feel dissatisfaction to make choices, to rebel against his environment, to ponder on what lay beyond the mountains and the seas, to compromise gracefully with forces which he could not control.

The first objects of man's reasoning, one may suppose, were the elemental things which contributed to his simple needs and to his efforts to survive in a world of hypothesis and mystery. In due course the mysteries themselves came under the review of his reason and, gradually, what had been hitherto a "dreary, silent, obscure universe" took on meaning and purpose. But neither the meaning nor the purpose has ever been understood in its entirety, nor can it. "To know," said the philosopher, "is to know through the Veil. It is to know through the causes. We can know the causes of mathematics, as their causes are in us. But we are ignorant of the causes of natural phenomena; we can, therefore, neither know them nor comprehend them. To know the universe would be to have created it. Therefore, God alone possesses this knowledge; we can only be conscious of it."

No one knows for certain when man's crude and unordered speculative inquiry into his environment, the universe, and his gods—their benevolences and retributions—evolved into some systematic method of mental training. In his instinctive search for knowledge, apparently, the Greeks, who led in so many things, were the first to develop what is known as a science of education. Subjects of study were music and gymnastics; however, "music," as understood by the Greeks, covered almost everything intellectual.

Philosophy was taught anywhere and everywhere; even in the public baths and on the wrestling fields young men discoursed with visiting philosophers on the good, the beautiful, and the true. The particular philosophical view that a student might adopt was not important so long as he knew how to argue for it with elegance and good humour. To the Greeks the greatest values in the search for knowledge were the building up of dis-satisfactions and the intensifying of curiosity which then, as now, grew stronger with each new revelation.

The Romans went in for oratory almost exclusively. Cicero is supposed to have taught that a good orator was a perfect man. That seems a little strange, even a little foolish to us; but it must be remembered that to the Romans oratory meant a great deal more than speech-making; it covered, in fact, everything from long hours

of reading and thoughtful meditation (self-discipline) to the defence of a principle and the rallying of armies against potential enemies (public service). No less an authority than the poet, Milton was of the opinion that the kind of training that went into the making of a Roman orator would "fit a man to perform wisely, justly, and magnanimously, all the offices, both public and private, belonging to peace and war." A distinguished educator of the latter part of the last century was quoted as saying: "We in the present day can produce little in the way of education except by combining, blending, and modifying, where necessary, the culture of the Greek and the discipline of the Roman."

The struggle for knowledge has been intensified in our day a thousand-fold. The accumulation of facts revealed by science in the first half of the 20th century is greater by far than the aggregate of all previous history; and, true to the Greek concept of education, every new revelation has brought added dissatisfaction. As one hidden thing after another is brought out into the open there is a new sense of moral crisis and a new awareness of man's inability to use knowledge wisely and well.

It is becoming clearer every day that knowledge alone can be a very dangerous asset. It was not a professional theologian but a practising scientist of the greatest distinction, the late La Comte Du Nuy, who said: "We must hope that man will get to understand that the civilization in which he takes such pride will collapse unless it can be made to rest on more solid foundations than those provided by scientific arguments."

There is no doubt that knowledge is power, but it is not necessarily beneficent power. Nothing, except, of course, utter catastrophe if it should come, can keep the road to revelation and discovery from getting wider and wider as time goes on. The struggle for knowledge will not be lessened by fear of possible issues; science will not be halted simply because it has produced something which the scientists themselves look upon with fear and dread. It seems that the task of the immediate future is to seek some formula by which moral responsibility can catch up with knowledge. Man will not save himself by what he knows.

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