



O'LEARY GRADUATING CLASS MEMBERS

O'Leary High School students received their grade eleven diplomas at closing exercises in the O'Leary Public Hall Wednesday evening. The standings for the year were read to an overflow audience by the principal Lewis

MacKenzie. The salutation was delivered by Vance Griffin and Valedictorian was Nancy Campbell. Rev. Heber Kean addressed the graduates. A program of songs by the classes was an entertain-

ing feature of the evening under direction of music teacher Mrs. Rogan. The graduates (shown above) are left to right: SEATED: Harriet Smith, Karol Bernard, Joan Hardy, Ann Livingstone, Betty

MacCausland, Erica MacNeill. STANDING: Norma Horne, Cynthia Kennedy, Vance Griffin, Evan Harris, Mr. Earle Jelley, teacher, Nancy Campbell, Sandra Rogers, Erna Morrison. (Photo by F. Weeks)

Reveals Wide Variation In Cost Of Destroyers

OTTAWA (CP) — Estimated cost of destroyers of the same type built in different Canadian shipyards varies by as much as \$4,000,000 or more, Defence Minister Pearkes disclosed Thursday in the Commons estimates committee.

He gave estimated cost figures for the Restigouche class destroyer, six of which are being built in five different shipyards. The seventh, the Restigouche herself, was commissioned earlier this month.

Estimated cost of the Gatineau, being built at Lauzon, Que., was \$17,150,000 while the estimate for the Terra Nova, exactly the same type of ship, was \$21,839,000. The Terra Nova is being built by Victoria Machinery Depot.

Estimates for the other five were: Restigouche, Canadian Vickers, Montreal, \$18,986,000; Chaudiere, Halifax shipyards, \$19,403,000; St. Croix, Marine Industries, Sorel, Que., \$19,575,000; Kootenay, Burrard, North Vancouver, \$20,540,000; and Columbia, Burrard, North Vancouver, \$20,657,000.

NO FIXED PRICES

In reply to A. D. Hales (PC—Wellington South), Mr. Pearkes said there is no fixed price arranged between the shipyards and the defence production de-

partment before construction begins. "That seems strange," said Mr. Hales.

Mr. Pearkes said destroyer contracts are not let by tender. They were allocated to the various shipyards. This was considered desirable to maintain a nucleus of trained shipbuilders if expansion was required as it had been in 1950.

Mr. Hales asked how the estimated cost compared with the actual cost in the case of the Restigouche.

Mr. Pearkes said he did not have the figures.

Some members of the committee, now studying defence estimates, suggested that officials of the defence production department be summoned to testify.

EFFECTIVE AGAINST SUBS

Opposition Leader Pearson asked whether Mr. Pearkes considered Canada's anti-submarine forces effective in light of the atomic submarine which could fire missiles while submerged.

Mr. Pearkes said he is con-

vinced the Restigouche class is an efficient submarine hunter and destroyer working in conjunction with land-based and carrier-borne aircraft. Mr. Pearkes added that the Second World War frigates are not as efficient as the new destroyers.

Mr. Pearson asked why, then, were the frigates kept in operation. The minister said there was a definite role for the frigates in supplementing other warships and for inshore or possibly convoy work.

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THOUGHTS FOR OUR TIME

BY HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL MCGUIGAN

FREEDOM DEMANDS TRUTH MUST BE HELD SACRED

In this issue, we return once again to a topic whose importance and significance is so vital that it merits repeated consideration on our part, viz that of Truth, which Christ Himself identified with Himself when He said: "I am the Truth." So essential is respect for Truth to human behavior that the Truth Himself said that our very freedom depends on our holding it sacred. "The Truth," He said, "shall make you free."

It is with a great ache in our hearts that we notice how the world today is manifesting a shameful indifference to truth. Most observers of the modern scene will accept this statement without demonstration. To anyone who would question this, we would point to a few examples chosen at random: the conflicting reports appearing in the daily press, the promises and assurances of politicians, the exaggerations, if not positive falsehoods, of modern advertising, etc. The common man, himself, seems to have lost the notion that lying is a sin, of a nature to disturb the conscience.

To what may we attribute the cause of this degradation of truth? There must be something at the bottom of it, though it may be difficult to analyse it. In his *APOLOGIA* Cardinal Newman charged Dr. Kingsley with poisoning the wells. This metaphor admirably describes the radical source of the unnatural attitude toward truth today. For four centuries the devious speculations of modern philosophy, doubtless for the most part unknown to itself, have been poisoning the wells of truth. And it is at these wells that the modern mind has drunk its fill.

NEED COMMON NOTION

It is no longer a worthwhile occupation to discuss the truth of one proposition or another. The possibility of such an engagement depends on a common acceptance of the notion of truth. Before the adventures of modern philosophers into the field of critical analysis, a common notion of the meaning of truth was the basis of every argument. The medievalists may have disputed such questions as the number of angels who could occupy the same minute space; which may not have been such a waste of time as is commonly imagined. At least, it was not so fruitless as a Christian today attempting to argue with a materialist.

For the point is that the springboard of medieval controversy was a common conception of truth, the attainment of which is the raison d'être of every argument. Though the modes of reaching truth were subject to dispute, their common argument as to

the essential properties of truth, its necessity, universality, immutability, and its independence of the human intellect, made possible the ultimate settlement of matters of disagreement.

Today, such a happy meeting ground no longer exists. Consequently the punishment for the ambitious attempt of modern philosophy to throw up a Tower of Babel to pierce the sky of all mystery is a confusion of the meaning of words. For the same reason, at the outset of all arguments with unbelievers one is obliged to meet his opponent with the ancient question of Pilate: "What is Truth?"

For the modern mind, truth has lost its objective character. It is no longer an aspect of things, but of the mind alone. Universality, necessity, permanence and stability no longer find a place in the notion of truth.

TRUTH IS MANIFOLD

The objection is often made to the Church, that she believes that she alone possesses the truth. The implication here gives us an insight into the modern conception of truth. What is it? It is that truth is manifold; if truth depends on the individual mind, then what difference does it make whether the reports of the same event conflict? What difference does it make if advertising concerns make contradictory claims, etc.?

There is also another aspect to this modern notion of truth. Instead of being limited to the individual mind, truth today is indeed sometimes given a more universal character: it is made to participate in a semblance of objectivity.

In the ideological theories of some modern forms of government, the truth of things is made to depend on a conformity to the very mind or idea of the state. Whatever the state decrees is

true for all its subjects and must be the object of their respect. The state thus usurps the office of the Divine Mind and orders all things to itself. When several states assume such authority, a vigorous campaign of propaganda becomes a prime necessity, involving innumerable lies.

But the poisoned well is deeper than appears at first sight, because it touches the Divine. God is the centre of Truth. Things derive their truth from their conformity with the Divine Mind; the human intellect, on the other hand, depends for its truth on its conformity with things. By an exigency of its nature, it must bow to the thing it knows. Ultimately its obedience is to God. Subsistent Truth, from Whom flows all truth.

That is why truth is sacred. Modern idealistic philosophy has severed the roots of truth in the Divine. Truth has become secular and does not call for reverence. It is here that the well of truth today reveals its most bitter poison.

Without judging which rejection came first in the history of modern thought, we see the inevitable loss of both God and truth when the mind rejects the one or the other. By reason of the identity of God and Truth, an age characterized by an indifference to truth, is necessarily also characterized by atheism.

MARKS 75TH BIRTHDAY

QUEBEC (CP)—Henri Gagnon, former president of *Le Soleil* and of *The Canadian Press*, Thursday celebrated his 75th birthday. Mr. Gagnon joined *Le Soleil* in 1913 and was with the newspaper 41 years. He also was vice-president of *L'Evenement-Journal*.

KEITH CARMICHAEL

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Only Single Question Asked

OTTAWA (CP) — Opposition members asked only a single question of cabinet ministers as the Commons opened Thursday.

G. Roy McWilliam (L—Northumberland—Miramichi) asked whether proposed layoffs of government employees at the citadel in Halifax might be delayed in view of unemployment conditions in the area. Acting labor minister Fairclough replied she would look into the matter.

Normally, the question period lasts for a half-hour or longer.

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaya (Reuters) — Fifteen Communist terrorists ambushed a police vehicle in Perak State and wounded two policemen, the government said Thursday.

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