

THE GUARDIAN

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President and Associate Editor, Ian A. Burnett, Associate Editor, Frank Walker.

"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, OCT. 18, 1951

Better Schooling Methods

The problem of secondary school education in Canada is dealt with authoritatively in the final report, just received through the courtesy of the Provincial Department of Education, of the Committee on Practical Education sponsored by the Canadian Education Association. The report is fairly brief, but it makes many constructive recommendations which will no doubt be studied very carefully by all concerned.

Emphasis is placed on the general aim of all high school education, which is to assist in the development of good citizens. This involves assistance in the development of the child as a responsible member of society and as an independent individual. Courses of study, methods of teaching, and manner of administration must all contribute to this end. But perhaps of equal value are the school's various activities in which student participation in democratic processes can be encouraged. Also, the quality of the teachers is important and it is essential in this connection that higher qualifications be maintained, with commensurate remuneration, longer periods of training, better methods of teacher selection, and recognition of work experience as part of the qualifications for teaching.

The committee found grave deficiencies in the basic education provided by secondary schools. Both employees and employers attach primary importance to a solid grounding in the basic fundamentals of arithmetic and in oral and written expression. "What is needed," the report says, "is not necessarily more school time devoted to these subjects, nor more advanced work in them, but a stronger emphasis on thoroughness. A revision of these subjects in objectives and in content, and possibly in methods of presentation, is required."

It is also noted that secondary schools have been slow in developing courses in agriculture as a major industry of Canada. This has been due, in part, to the fact that such schools in rural areas have generally been small and therefore able to offer only one course. It has been due also to the mistaken concept that agriculture is an unskilled occupation requiring no training other than that which a rural boy may acquire through experience on the home farm. The truth of the matter is, that agriculture has become more and more a business in which, to be successful, a person needs a technical training as well as a good general education.

"Courses in secondary schools in rural areas should place emphasis on the specific skills required on the farm and should also give attention to the economic problems of the farmer: conservation, marketing, farm organization, consumer problems on the farm, management of farm labour, farm accounting, and the like," the report states. "Attention should be given also to the means of making farm life more attractive: electrification, sanitation and health, recreation, and modernization of the farm home. Perhaps the greatest problem encountered in connection with developing suitable courses in agriculture is to secure well-qualified teachers with the necessary technical and professional training."

It is recommended specifically in the report that agriculture be offered in all secondary schools in rural areas and include, where possible, practical courses such as farm mechanics, farm management, soil conservation and marketing.

Proof of Age

An exchange notes that the question of proof of age in connection with the new Federal old age security pension still is arising. To be eligible for the pension it is necessary for the applicant to provide documentary proof of age which should be submitted at the same time as the application. It is appreciated, of course, that some people may not have such documents as birth or baptismal certificates available. Consequently the Federal Welfare Department has listed a wide variety of documents which are acceptable as proof of age.

These include: Marriage or communion certificates; entries in family Bibles, church rolls or registers; military service or insurance records; naturalization documents, passports, immigration records; teaching certificates, school certificates or prize records; public records such as assessment rolls, city directories, voters' lists, jury lists; medical documents of all sorts, including

hospital and doctors' records, druggist prescriptions, vaccination records; pension and superannuation records of all kinds, including both public and commercial or industrial employment; record of membership in adult societies, lodges, clubs, etc.

This does not exhaust the list by any means. The point is that any record which will indicate beyond doubt that the applicant is 70 years old on Jan. 1, 1952, or older, will suffice.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Open season for geese starts today, except brant which are safe until Nov. 1.

This is National Immunization Week, but far too little activity seems to be taking place locally. Perhaps a better time would have been at or before school opening.

From the interest taken by the Duke of Edinburgh in the steam locomotives, it seems likely that he will want to try his hand at operating a diesel when the Royal couple reach this Province.

Charles Edward Mudie, founder of Mudie's Library in London, was born this date 1818. A philanthropist and deeply religious, Mudie published "Stray Leaves", a volume of hymns and verses.

Last year protests were made in the House of Commons that certain constituencies were sending apples to members to obtain free advertising in the House. This has been followed this year by Northern Ontario sending potatoes to the Prime Minister for a like purpose.

The Toronto Exhibition has been receiving criticism for the quality of entertainment provided but it would seem to have nothing on Indianapolis. There even a side-show barker was severely shocked, perhaps because of a defect in the microphone slung around his neck.

Continuous service on all exchanges will replace the present system of "emergency calls only" on rural exchanges after nine p.m., when the new schedule of rates for the Island Telephone Company is approved. A dial system for Charlottetown is also proposed and should be in operation by 1953.

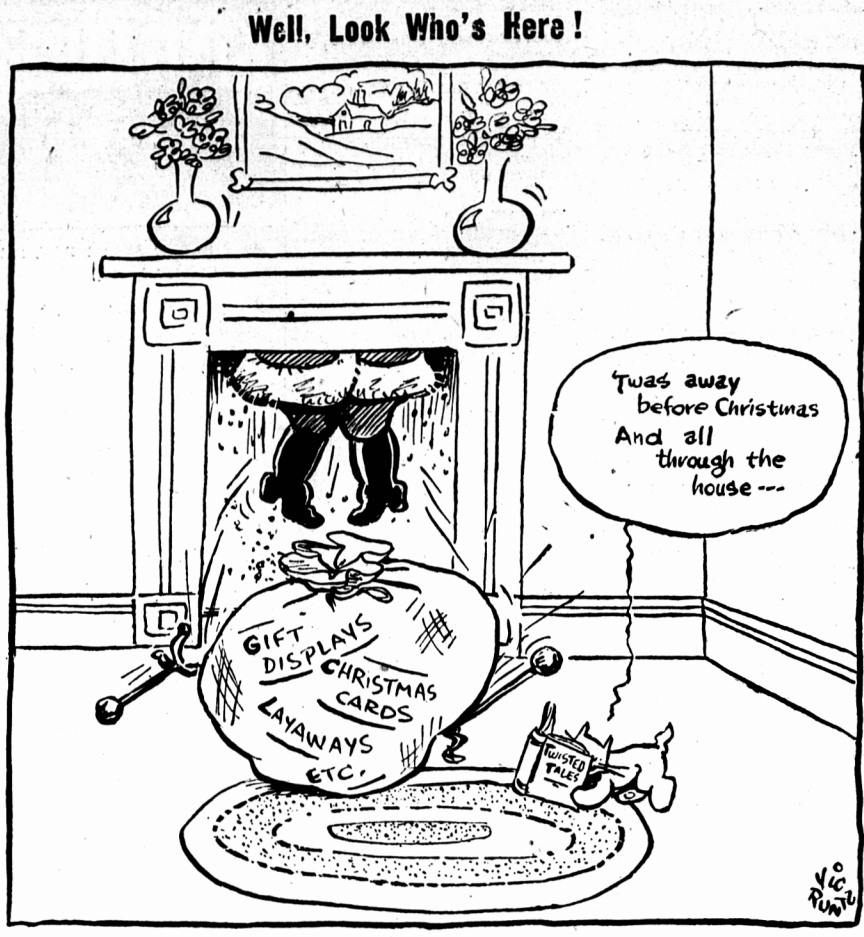
According to the Canadian Press there was one item missing at the Ottawa Royal banquet, which had been served at other luncheons and dinners so far in the Royal Tour—cocktails. Ottawa Board of Control had decided unanimously that no alcoholic beverages would be served at any function at which the city was host. This was the case here on the occasion of the visit of the King and Queen.

The Post Office Department is in the unhappy position of being "damned if it does and damned if it doesn't" pay its way. It shows a deficit in the year ended March 31, 1951, for the first time since 1939, as reported in the department's annual report, tabled in the Commons. The deficit was \$1,326,788, with total revenue \$105,545,456 and total expenditure \$106,872,245. It compared with a surplus of \$1,888,914 the previous year. The report noted that "continued increase in the cost of operation has resulted in a steady worsening of the department's financial position", which no doubt will result in further increase of postage.

The Canadian Medical Association is considering the adoption of a national service but independent of the Government. The President, Dr. Kelly, says the "positive approach" of the C.M.A. is a prepaid voluntary care scheme similar to the Manitoba Medical Service. Families with small incomes would receive aid from the Government to pay the cost of the health insurance. "In five Canadian provinces the medical profession has co-operated with the Government in giving medical care to old age pensioners, blind pensioners and the like," says Dr. Kelly. "It has proved we can work with Governments, and more efficiently than is the case under the British plan."

This is the safest Province in Canada for mothers at childbirth, according to figures published in the Toronto Star. For 1949 the maternal death rate was 0.4 per thousand for Prince Edward Island, the only Province below one. We had the lowest rate in the period 1926-30 also, although it then stood at 4.6 per thousand, as the table shows:

Table with 3 columns: Province, 1926-30, 1949. Rows include Canada (5.6, 1.5), Newfoundland (4.9, 2.0), Prince Edward Island (4.6, 0.4), Nova Scotia (5.5, 1.1), New Brunswick (6.2, 1.0), Quebec (5.2, 2.0), Ontario (5.8, 1.3), Manitoba (5.5, 1.3), Saskatchewan (5.9, 1.2), Alberta (6.6, 1.0), British Columbia (6.1, 1.0).



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.

USE OF CHEMICALS

Sir,—In your editorial dealing with "the use of poisonous chemicals in the growing and processing of food", I note that, according to the London Economist, quoting from a speech by Lord Douglas in the British House of Lords: DDT had been found in mother's milk; human teeth placed in a glass of cola rapidly dissolved; a cow treated with penicillin yielded milk which would not turn to cheese, and though it was mixed with the milk of 200 other cows, still no crumb of cheese resulted. I agree with the comment concerning the "dramatic" and "horrific" content in the above verbal pictures; but the point in which I am chiefly interested (and the more so, considering the authoritative sources of the information) is their relationship to the facts. Certainly I would not be inclined to go to the columns of your distinguished contemporary—The Economist—for fiction!

It is interesting, however, to see the conclusion that "neither in production nor in processing is there any evidence that they (the poisonous chemicals) are having a bad effect on general health". On the other hand, while your British contemporary comments "Meanwhile, the use of chemical fertilizers and insecticides is essential to the expansion of world food supplies"; it seems to this reader that while the latter assertion may be true enough, based on our present agricultural know-how, technology, and cultural practices, one may reasonably express doubt that this process can go down the centuries, healthfully and constructively? Frankly, it seems to me that we are still, for all our science, pretty primitive in dealing with not only the products of the good earth, but (quite as important) also their distribution. The limiting factor, it seems to me, is just how to market the abundance which the world's farmers are quickly learning how to produce. Then, too, there are those three rural giants waiting to serve the hungry world tirelessly, once the nations learn and desire to outlaw WAR: mechanization, irrigation, and hybridization!

I am Sir, etc. "FOOD & FEED".

The Poet's Corner

HUNTSMAN Little man, little man, where have you been? Farther and nearer than ever were seen. Little man, little man, what did you there? I wakened an atom asleep in its lair. I shattered the atom and shattered the fine power to destroy or deliver mankind. In the lair of an atom where no man had trod, I came upon Lucifer challenging God. —Mary White Slater.

MOSCOW, Oct. 17 (AP)—The Young Pioneers, Russia's Communist organization for children, now has 19,000,000 members throughout the U. S. S. R., an official announcement said today. The organization includes children from 10 to 16 years of age, formed into brigades

Notes By The Way

A 106-year-old St. Louis man should be done to ensure that their acquaintance extends beyond official circles. An automobile which would permit them to stand up would help. —Ottawa Citizen.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. L.) NEWSPAPER ITEMS From The Islander of Dec. 14, 1849: The Colonial Secretary, Hon. T.H. Haviland, announces that His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor has been pleased to approve of the appointments of Henry Palmer, Esq., as Consular Agent at Charlottetown, and of Hugh MacDonald, Esq., as Consular Agent at Georgetown, for the United States of America.

Remember when: The dollar was a dollar, income tax was only a formality, horses wore ear nets, the Gay Nineties was an experience and not a movie, the girls knew how to waltz, bureaucracy was something they suffered from in backward countries, there was enough in a sermon to think about for a week, inflation was a word in a text on economics and hitching posts had not come to be museum pieces? —London Free Press.

Cramped in a two-door convertible and driven through the streets of Ottawa at a fair clip, for the most part, Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip were not to blame for the frustration of thousands of people who were unable to have a good look at them. The royal visitors might have wished to stand up and show themselves where the crowds were thick, but in the circumstances they could hardly do so. The respectful desire of the public to see the Princess and her consort should have been anticipated, for Canadians have known them only through pictures. Ostensibly the royal couple, whose wish was to have their tour made as informal as possible, came to this country to meet Canadians, and more

The Age-Old Story

O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me... If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me... How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee... Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

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Lessons From Europe In Community Progress

By Leo P. McIsaac Part One (continued) (All Rights Reserved)

THE NETHERLANDS IN TULIP TIME

Someone once said that, "human communities need diversification in order to develop the material and incentive within them; that other nations of different habits are not enemies but godsends. If you require of their neighbors, something sufficiently akin to be understood with something sufficiently different to provoke attention and great enough to command admiration". How true this is in the small countries of Europe, with their different background and habits, where, today, they are intermingling more than ever before, and learning to understand each other!

Their auction system is entirely different from ours. It is controlled by the producers themselves and the marketing centres are equipped with the most modern methods of packaging, storage and merchandising. The flowers, butter, cheese or whatever the product happens to be, is put up in a standard or uniform package, offered for sale after inspection and after giving the name of the producer. The auctioning is done by means of an electrically operated clock which performs the work of the auctioneer.

Up in front there is a gallery where the auction-master and his clerk are announcing the article, operating the clock and recording the sales. All the seats of the buyers or dealers are on a slanting floor facing the clock. On each seat there is a number and a press button, which enables the buyers to come into contact with the auction clock. After the product has been described or in the case of flowers, shown to the buyers, the hand of the auction clock begins to move in an anti-clockwise direction. The dial plate is numbered from 100 to 1, and so, as soon as the hand comes to the number the buyer wants to spend on a parcel of flowers, or plants or butter or cheese, he simply but quickly presses the push button on his seat, the hand stops and an electric light flashes on behind the corresponding number on the clock.

A buyer may purchase only a limited number of parcels each time, usually not more than five boxes of cheese or butter, or five parcels of flowers, so that a big financier cannot buy all that is offering at once at a price of his own.

This also keeps the price in line with the demand and allows all the buyers a chance to get what they want. The clerk jots down all the data, the name of the buyer, the number of the article, and the price of each sale which is automatically carried into the paying office where the buyer pays for the article before he takes delivery.

Through the kindness of the I.F.A.P. officers in Paris, and the Dutch officials, we had been invited to attend a conference of the European division of the I.F.A.P. in Holland, of which agricultural cooperation was the theme. From Brussels we travelled through Antwerp, which the Belgians claim to be the world's greatest seaport. In some respects, they may not be far astray; it is internationally recognized as a port where cargoes can be loaded and unloaded more speedily than at any other docks in the world.

It was tulip time in the Netherlands and we were away to it shortly after we crossed the border. One is soon told politely that the official name of the country is the "Netherlands", meaning lowlands, and not "Holland". Holland actually applies only to one county, the older section of the country around Haarlem.

On getting into the Netherlands one soon recalls the stories he has read and heard about this country which is so different from any other in the world, and the differences before you are the differences, the flat low country, the canals, the windmills, the dykes, the farm buildings very often joined together and in the early weeks of spring, the tulips. What a sight! The conference was held at Bentveld, not far from Haarlem. Delegates came from Italy, France, Germany, Belgium, Austria, Luxembourg, Holland, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, England, Ireland, Scotland and Iceland. It was really an international convention, and discussions were carried on in three different languages, French, German and English. Translations caused some delay but the friendly spirit of all and the eagerness for understanding was encouraging.