

THE GUARDIAN

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Uniform Matriculation

Since High Schools were introduced into the Prince Edward Island educational system there has been raised from time to time the question of standardizing the courses and time required for university matriculation. For most students the requirements are Grade 10 and two years at Prince of Wales College. The third and fourth years are equivalent to the freshman and sophomore years in mainland colleges. Students attending the High Schools, however, take a year less to matriculate and can go from Grade 11 to either the third year at P. W. C. or into a mainland college.

No decision has been reached on the matter by the Government. Premier Jones, who is also Minister of Education, has indicated that there is a proposal that the High Schools go on to the same basis as the other schools and Prince of Wales College. The question is a bothersome one and there certainly seems no need for students to take a year more or a year less than others according to where they live. Its solution, however, must be tied in with our relations with other educational systems, particularly in the Atlantic Provinces. It would be a needless upset to reach a local decision on the matter and then have to change the whole system again on the basis of inter-provincial agreement.

Anzus - Answer To Aggression

The vast Pacific area with its half-dozen civilizations and the preponderant majority of the world's population is seldom accorded such interest in the western democracies as that aroused a few days ago by the meeting at Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station near Honolulu of the foreign ministers of Australia, New Zealand and the United States. Occasion of the meeting was the first session of the Pacific Defence Council, otherwise known because of the participating countries as ANZUS.

It is understandable that the conference should be hailed as marking the emergence for the Pacific area of a defence organization comparable to NATO. Sober reflection, however, at once suggests that ANZUS has a very long way to go before comparison with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization is possible. For, to provide adequately for the defence of the vast Pacific area, the participation of the United Kingdom, France and Canada, as well as India, Pakistan, Ceylon and other Asian states is an obvious sine qua non of success.

Yet the circumstances which prompted the creation of ANZUS are both understandable and commendable. Australia and New Zealand, not unnaturally, for reasons of geography if for none other, suffer from a sense of isolation. Again, for reasons of geography, they are barred from participation in a regional defence mechanism such as NATO. They look with justifiable misgiving upon an Asia in ferment, embracing an India in ferment, a new but not necessarily regenerate Japan, and the ominous shadow of Red China.

The Highway Safety Problem

Each Province appears to be grappling in its own way with the ubiquitous problem of mounting highway accidents. British Columbia, for example, has introduced a system of driving instruction for teen-agers which has far-reaching possibilities. In Vancouver 1,200 youngsters have received formal driving instruction, and of that group, according to the Vancouver Sun, only 2.7 accidents per 100 drivers has been registered, as against the common average of 6.9 per 100. The training costs \$28.75 in provincial funds, plus \$6.25 put up by the student. A provincial grant of \$7,500 permits the Vancouver Traffic and Safety Council to operate its training program in 18 schools. A grant of \$10,000 has been pledged for 1952-53. Other Provinces, doubtless, are keeping a close watch on the B. C. experiment.

Meanwhile, New Brunswick seems to be taking the lead in tightening its driving regulations. These regulations now define the major and minor offences which will make drivers liable to automatic suspension of driving privileges for 60 days, or for a period determined by the recently constituted three-man Highway Safety Board. For minor infractions a driver will have the benefit of three warnings over a period of

365 days before being convicted, while major infractions and commission of both types carry only two warnings. One important factor contained in the Board's authority is that "to suspend, cancel or prohibit" the use of a driver's license if it finds mental or physical incapacity because of the excessive use of drugs or alcohol. The Board also has jurisdiction as to the circumstances under which all suspended licenses will be restored. The new system, however, will not supercede the practice through the courts of prosecuting drivers for flagrant violations of the law in the operation of motor vehicles.

It is possible that both these approaches to the problem—through education and through more drastic penalties for abuses of the privileges of the highway—could be combined and developed into a workable system which all the Provinces could adopt, and which would cut down the toll of fatalities that have now reached such an appalling figure. Inter-provincial conferences have been called for much less important purposes than this.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Conservationists regard all forestry products as regular crops but, as pointed out by Mr. Frank Gaudet at the Illustration Station field day at Alliston, the growing of fir for Christmas trees is particularly attractive from even the short term point of view.

The death of two men in a gasoline storage tank explosion while dismantling the tank at Quebec is a grim reminder of the way the explosive fumes remain in any containers. Small containers are equally difficult to rid of fumes. A bottle which has been used to hold gasoline may explode and scatter glass splinters even after being washed many times.

The Department of Transport and the Cabinet will be studying the matter of the extension of the runway of the Charlottetown airport. The report of the engineers gives them the picture of the actual work involved. They can be assisted in arriving at a decision by information from local organizations which are interested in transportation.

Paris was liberated this date 1944 after a four-day battle in which 50,000 members of the French Forces of the Interior under General Koenig, supported by several hundred thousand unarmed patriots, fought the Germans in the capital. Not until August 24th, however, did troops of the French Second Armoured Division force their way into Paris and the next day the Germans officially surrendered.

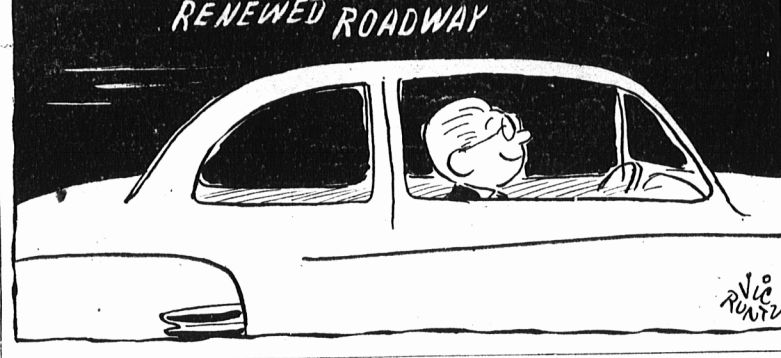
Tanks used to do most of their effective fighting when halted, because of the difficulty of firing with accuracy from a bouncing, rolling, turning platform. The Royal Armoured Corps recently put on a demonstration of Centurians, the type of tank which Canada has adopted. A stabilizer so effectively kept the gun on target despite the tank's lurching that the crew could fire with rapidity and accuracy.

A Victoria, B. C., department store wonders what happened to a particularly expensive tea set when Farouk lost his job as king of Egypt and was evicted from his palaces. The tea set was specially manufactured by English master craftsmen, who used 400 ounces of gold decorating it. It was worth \$110,000. The Victoria store is curious because the set was originally made for it, presumably as a display piece. But Farouk used his royal prerogative to acquire the set for himself.

In 1952, notes an exchange, Canada is a land of abundance, with scarcely a break in the pattern of bountiful production (either assured or in prospect) of all sorts of food. There seems no major disaster that can now overtake the Western wheat crop, estimated at 632 million bushels. This staggering figure has never been approached in the history of prairie grain growing. Other grains also promise to be in generous supply.

The target date for the completion of Norway's present defense plan is July 1, 1954. But much will have been achieved long before then. Instead of one standing brigade group, now the only regular force available, Norway will maintain two brigades, one in the south, the other in the north. The Norwegian brigade, which is now stationed in the British zone of Western Germany, is to be brought home, probably next May. Nine reserve brigades will be kept up to date by refresher training courses and ready to be mobilized, if needed. The home guard, a vital defense factor in mountainous and difficult terrain, will number 100,000 and is under army command. The air force, by that time all-jet, will number 226 first-line craft, 200 of them fighters.

Better Streets



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.

BORDEN LIQUOR STORE

Sir,—As a part-time resident of the Island and one who has enjoyed its hospitality, I feel I must voice deep concern about the opening of a liquor store at Borden, the gate-way to this fair Province.

In five years residence here, I have travelled throughout the Island and have come to know intimately many of its people. I have been attracted by their friendliness and interest in me, as a person. Never have I felt strange or alone because I was a member of another race. There is an attractive quality in people here which I have missed in British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario where I have also lived and I believe a background of sobriety has given to Islanders their own some characteristics. We know the use of beverage alcohol destroys the finer instincts and dulls the sensitive feelings. I am alarmed lest P. E. Islanders lose their greatest charm as a people.

I fear, too, that they will lose the safety of the highways which I have enjoyed as a motorist and which is a drawing card to tourists of the better class. It is a worthy fact that most road accidents are caused by drinking drivers. To sell them alcohol as they begin their journey through the Island is surely the height of folly.

Tourists will tend to come in smaller rather than larger numbers to the Island because it will have no longer to offer them what has been its chief attractions—likeable people and safety to enjoy its quiet beauty.

I am, Sir, etc., TOM SAKAMOTO, Central Bedouque.

TEACHING MORALITY IN THE DAY SCHOOL

Sir,—I found the school an excellent place to teach the fundamental principles of morality, honesty, truth-telling, fair-play, clean speech and regard for others; and for the future of the pupils their education. Every day I had occasion to teach these principles. I let a pupil get away with a lie without finding him out. My greatest difficulty was with bad language. It took me a year before I got the school cleaned up. I got the incultation of moral principles the most fruitful and best work I did.

But morality to be effective must be backed up with religion. I asked permission of the trustees



LITTLE BOYS FISHING

Nothing can be so quiet, so intent, as little boys with their round cropped heads bent— Their fingers curved and coaxing on a pole, Willing the fish to bite with heart and soul. No matter what they hook, it satisfies— A tiny perch or sunfish is a prize. No day too wet, too hot for them to be Enthralled by sport as old as history. They never heard of Isaak Walton; yet, With every bit of cotton line they wet, With every hook they bait, I think he stands Somewhere quite close to guide their awkward hands.

—Abigail Cresson in the New York Herald Tribune.

Notes By The Ways

All who rode the broad highway with Jeffrey Farnol will be lonely now that this master of the historical novel has gone to his rest.—Ottawa Journal.

Efforts to raise a memorial fund to honour George Bernard Shaw have flopped in Great Britain. This unlooked for result is not likely to enhance Mr. Shaw's "respect" for the intelligence of humankind in general.—Hamilton Spectator.

A book, listing the alleged misdeeds and scandals associated with ex-King Farouk of Egypt, will be issued soon by the Egyptian government. It should make interesting reading if it passes the censors.—Branford Expositor.

The economic lure of the far north so far has been confined largely to trappers and prospectors. Canada, up to now, has felt little pressure to seek new territories for her population. Unlike other countries, she has not yet fully taxed the ability of her more southerly areas to support the population.—Victoria Times.

The story is told of the French motor magnate, M. Citroen, who plucked by demands that the wealth of industrialists like himself should be divided up equally among the entire population, halted one of his detractors on the street and asked how much it was thought he was worth. "Forty million francs," was the reply. "And how many people are there in France?" asked Citroen. "Forty million," he was told. "Very well," said Citroen, reaching into his pocket, "here's your franc."—The Printed Word.

The countryside does not go so far as to claim that the quivery and gelatinous instability of these nerve-sandpapering years is due entirely to the passing of switchel as a summertime beverage. He does claim, however, that if more men drank this tangy, zealous drink more often many of the minor but irritating problems of the epoch would fade into proper perspective. Mother made gallons of switchel in haying time and it was a powerful morale booster on corn and potato heeding days. To a gallon of water she added about two heaping cups of sugar, a generous cup of molasses, a cup and a quarter of vinegar and a scant teaspoon of ginger. The drink had a pleasant, sweet-bitter flavor as it slid comfortably into the department of the interior. It had food value as well as assuaging a thirst when the sweat was running down one's nose and the temperature was near

to teach Bible lessons after school hours, once a week. The Roman Catholic children were not invited to remain. The course was very simple, consisting in stories of Jesus and his parables. I avoided special doctrines and anything that could be called denominational. For example I took the Lost Coin to teach the lesson of God as the seeking Father, the Good Samaritan, to teach the practice of helping others in need, the reality and nearness of God from the life and teaching of Jesus.

I found the pupils interested and responsive. The atmosphere of school life was purified, the pupils became co-operative in the improvement of the school. We enlarged the grounds, put a fence around, planted trees, cleaned and calcimined the interior; and in two years' time the inspector put us on the honour roll among twenty others in the county. I found the Roman Catholic children among the best in my school, in deportment and in scholarship.

Of all the occupations school teaching is the most fruitful of all that is good. It lays foundations of every good thing that helps boys and girls to make good in life. As a preparation for a profession or for getting married and founding a home it has no equal.

I am, Sir, etc., W. I. GREEN, Stanley Bridge, P. E. I.

the century mark. We are not opposed to flavored pop; some of the flavors are excellent. But we wish more men and boys knew the goodness of homemade switchel.—Ottawa Journal.

It is gratifying to learn that a group of public-spirited citizens of Winnipeg has organized in an attempt to help to solve the problem of the abuse of alcohol in Manitoba in a modern and realistic way. Known as the Committee on Alcoholism, the newly-incorporated organization will open an information centre where alcoholics, heavy drinkers, their families and the public at large can learn what it is possible to do to rehabilitate the person who has become a slave to liquor. Not too many years ago the habitual drinker was considered incurable. Today it is an established fact that the alcoholic can be cured.—Winnipeg Tribune.

Property owners in London fortunate in having edifices overlooking the route of the coronation next summer are reaping a profitable harvest from the sale of window space with offers as high as £50 for a single window seating seven persons. A good living room is worth £300. Ticket and travel agents in Britain are being overwhelmed by demands for seats. The other day there were criticisms in Britain over the civil list grants to the Royal family, but a coronation pays off handsomely, and while coronations are infrequent there are other Royal shows almost as attractive.—London Free Press.

In Edmonton, one night, some humorist blocked off part of a street by placing lighted flares around the roadway, thus making motorists suppose it was under repair. Very funny, except, as the Edmonton Journal points out, the joker got his flares from an excavation in a neighboring street and so created a dangerous trap for vehicles. That's the trouble with practical jokes. Too often their author doesn't stop to calculate the possible consequences. Interfering with warning signs is one of the most risky and foolish of all such pranks. If the culprit is an adult, he should be shown no indulgence when caught in this sort of monkey business; if a boy, he should be taught elementary lessons in good citizenship and encouraged to develop his sense of humor in less harmful directions.—Ottawa Citizens.

On first consideration this position seemed plausible but as I thought it over I knew I was not on the right track. Cats are not in the habit of taking the long view when it comes to their favourite pastime. When opportunity knocks they open the door without much careful weighing of issues.

To make the situation even more perplexing, I seemed to sense some sort of understanding between the cat and the mother robin only a few yards away. Often, I am ready to admit, my imagination plays tricks on my faculty of vision, but I could have sworn that as the cat walked sedately along she winked at Mrs. Robin. Now, ordinarily a cat's wink means no more than a politician's promises just before election day, but in this case I think it had significance. At any rate, after putting two and two together, I finally, identically, a famed scientist calls the most difficult of all mathematical operations) I arrived at a definite theory which I will put in the form of a one-act play entitled "WHAT PRICE SAFETY?" It has to add, however, that it is not offered for sale to the Dominion Drama Festival, chiefly because of that group's acceptance of distiller's money and trophies.

Place — A small grove near a mill dam. Time — A sunny morning in early summer. Characters — Mrs. Cat, Mrs. Robin.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

WALKING MATCH

"Quite a number assembled at Ludlow Hill on Tuesday evening to witness the walking match between Mr. J. R. Leggett, the champion heel and toe walker of the Dominion, and five men named, respectively, Marshall, Waugh, Baker, Adams and Binum, of Prince Edward Island. The match was to be for \$50, should the five men beat Leggett in the first fifteen miles. Shortly after three miles each of the five had, and to all appearances promised to be a fairly contested and exciting one; but through the mismanagement of those in charge, and the want of a referee, the contestants began to dispute amongst themselves, and the race was half over, Leggett retired from the ring, having fallen and hurt his knee. The five men continued their walk until the fifteen miles were covered; then came the demand for the \$50. Leggett claimed a foul, and said he did not receive fair play and offered to walk over again. Whether this was agreed to or not we could not learn, but up to the time of still in the hands of the stakeholder."—Summerside Journal, Jan. 6, 1881.

The Passing Scene

By Observer THE ROBIN'S NEST

Although I am often in or around the woods I had not seen a real, bona-fide bird's nest for a good many years until yesterday. It happened on this wise: I was just getting into the car after a bit of fishing when I noticed a robin drop something, presumably a worm, into a little clump of trees nearby. My curiosity aroused, I investigated, and there, almost in wide open view, was a well constructed nest with four cute little robins in it. Three of them were wide awake and looking out on the world. The other was dozing. All four appeared well fed and perfectly content, living symbols of faith and trust in a mother's protective care.

The mother herself watched me from a neighboring tree top, hoping, I doubt that I would not intrude too rudely on her family's privacy. I assured her that I had no such intention. At the same time I congratulated her on having such charming babies and, as is the way of mothers, she smiled and blushed.

I wondered how it was that this nest had remained undisturbed long enough for four infant birds to come to the time when they were almost ready to fly away on their own. It must have been a matter of several weeks. It was all the more surprising in view of the fact that the location is a course of a day quite a number of small boys go back and forth, for there is a mill dam only a few yards away. It may be that small boys have more respect for such things than they used to have when I was one of them. If that be the case, so much the better for our civilization.

But, whatever small boys might or might not do, I happen to know that in that particular locality there are any number of creatures on whom the onward march of moral progress has had no influence whatsoever. Any one of them would consider the breast of young robin a delicacy.

The most hateful one of all is the cat. Indoors you might think she was not capable of an evil thought. Robins know better. They have learned from bitter experience that the cat — any cat — is more to be feared than the atom bomb.

Strangely, as I was admiring the four young robins in their cosy bed, a big black and white cat walked by within a few feet of where I stood, pretending she knew nothing about the robin's nest and would not be interested if she did. I knew very well that this was too good to be true. No doubt cats have their better moments but the rest of us, but these moments do not stretch into days and weeks. That nest must have been there for at least a month, perhaps longer, and I would wager the value of all the fish I have caught this summer that Mrs. Cat, for all her seeming indifference, was well aware of the fact.

For a few minutes I speculated on what the actual situation might be. Perhaps the sly creature was biding her time, waiting for the little ones to grow a bit, on the natural assumption that they would taste better then. There cannot be too much nourishment in very young robins.

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