

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION

"Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew"

"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, MONDAY, MAR. 24, 1952

What's Become Of The Economy Drive?

Just two years ago the House of Commons was in a first class tizzy about the necessity for economy in governmental expenditures. Estimates were being looked at with an eagle eye by the Opposition, and Cabinet Ministers were at pains to promise that steps would be taken to pare all items which suggested extravagance and waste.

Education And Farming

Some of the weaknesses in our educational system were brought forcefully to the attention of the Legislature last week by Hon. Mr. Darby, in speaking on the Draft Address. Many leading educationists are in agreement with him in complaining that the modern school system, with all its extra frills, is failing to emphasize sufficiently the basic subjects.

"Transcendentalism"

Foreign policy of the United States has recently been described by President Truman as one which "while springing from national self-interest, transcends it."

If "transcendentalism" means subordinating and placing second a country's national interest to the interests of other countries, then the United States is not alone on this continent in the pursuit of such a policy.

It is one thing for Canada to come to the aid of countries devastated by war or wracked by famine. It is quite another thing for Ottawa to underwrite the cost of "technical assistance" to teach India modern methods of farming, to provide Pakistan with irrigation projects and hydroelectric plants, and to teach the Burmese how to take a census.

If "transcendentalism" is to be the determinant in matters of foreign policy in Canada, it will mean the extension of our economic commitments to every part of the world where trouble is brewing.

can safely be substituted for hard-headed realism based on national interests as the cornerstone of Canadian foreign policy.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Apparently we have more of the 80-100 age class of citizens to the square mile than any other province in the Dominion.

Hon. C. D. Howe came from "big business" to run Government business; and now his assistant, Mr. Maxwell W. MacKenzie, is leaving Government business for "big business" of the multi-million class.

The Government of Nova Scotia is preparing to introduce legislation to permit all towns to impose a poll tax on gainfully employed women. The proposal has been made in Charlottetown from time to time and would have the merit of greatly widening the franchise.

It's an ill wind that blows nobody any good. The rising cost of horsemeat for feeding fur-bearing animals will have a tendency to concentrate ranching on the coast or elsewhere where relatively inexpensive fish products are available.

The Defence contracts confidently predicted by Premier Jones are worth more to this Province than even their monetary value. In addition to contributing to the security of this country they should provide valuable skills and equipment which will make possible greater efforts in future.

The twelve member nations of the International Civil Aviation Organization are pooling resources to learn about the behaviour of winds in the upper air regions. Even somewhat longer routes can be used with advantage when they mean the assistance of fast-moving tail winds.

The fur traders of London, most important fur market in the world, have decided that a new budget tax of 100 per cent of their products must have been a mistake. Dealers angrily pointed this out in a resolution to the government, warning that if the tax stays, it could mean the end of Britain's fur trade.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, American poet, died this date 1882. A noble and genial character, he was endowed with a spontaneous gift for story telling. While his ambitious works have been forgotten, his "Tales of a Wayside Inn," "Courtship of Miles Standish" and particularly "Evangeline" have achieved deserved popularity for their richness in tender pathos, sweet romance and stirring humanity.

It is difficult for financially weaker Provinces to side with Ontario and Quebec in holding up tax agreements. All Provinces would dearly love to hang on to the vestiges of sovereignty left with the surrender of their birthright. Had it only been agreed that the taxing authority be surrendered to the Provinces, tax agreements for the support of the Federal authority would definitely have been different.

It will be recalled when the Ming Sung ships were built by a subsidiary company with head office at Charlottetown, they were registered as Canadian ships and allowed to fly the Canadian flag, notwithstanding they had been in reality sold to the Chinese. The Federal Government footed the bill to the extent of \$12,000,000.

A democratic nation cannot afford to entrust its children to disgruntled, dissatisfied teachers. Prof. John Hughes, Macdonald professor of education and chairman of the department of education at McGill University, told a Montreal gathering the other day.

At present, we find the following requirements for the two recognized classes of teachers' licenses for the Island: Second Class - one year academic beyond Grade X, plus one full year professional training. First Class - two years of academic beyond Grade X plus one full year of pro-

High In Our Estimation



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.

TEACHER TRAINING AT P.W.C.

Sir,—On Friday morning, March 21, speaking on the Speech from the Throne in the Provincial Legislature, the Hon. Mr. Darby, Attorney-General and Provincial Treasurer, is reported as having made certain statements regarding the teaching profession to which we feel obliged to reply.

During the course of his address, Mr. Darby made an apparent condemnation of our present teacher-training system at Prince of Wales College, stating that we should soon drop the present system and revert to the older one of which Dr. Darby himself is a graduate.

Resolved that the Board of Governors of the P.E.I. Teachers' Federation reaffirm their approval of the present system of licensing teachers, whereby a second class license is obtained after one year normal being added to Grade XI standing; and whereby a first class license is obtained by the candidate's attending an additional year academic, or Grade XII, plus one year normal.

The school plant has been dealt with at some length. No school building, however well arranged and equipped, can function properly without an efficient and well-trained teacher. Such teachers cannot be secured and retained at current salaries so long as other avenues of employment offer such strong competition in salary or working conditions.

"Plans for the improvement of education must include: (1) The assurance of a salary sufficient to attract and hold a fair proportion of the more capable young people. Thus could some measure of teacher selection be exercised.

(2) A full year of professional training beyond matriculation for teachers of elementary schools. Heading the wise advice of this committee, Premier Jones' Government, at that time advanced the status of the teaching profession of Prince Edward Island, and surely, for this progressive step it is to be highly commended.

The Poet's Corner

INVOCATION TO YOUTH

Come then, as ever, like the wind at morning! O Youth, in the aged world renew Freshness to feel the eternities around it.

—Laurence Binyon.

The Age-Old Story

And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

There are some who suggest that aptitude for teaching is more important than training. Accordingly they propose that the best solution to our educational ills is to find young people with aptitude, give them the least training possible and they can work wonders.

My children are my greatest possessions. I should like their teachers to have aptitude certainly but I want their teachers to have the best training possible.

The problem of teacher-shortage cannot be solved until departments of education officials, superintendents and inspectors of schools, school trustees, teachers' federations and the parents and general public do some fundamental thinking about the question: "What kind of teachers do we need?"

The Canadian Teachers' Federation: "Those being certificated with a minimum of one year's professional training, feel hopelessly inadequate to assume the great responsibilities of the classroom."

Over against Mr. Darby's viewpoint, we could go on ad infinitum to express the viewpoints of Premier Duplessis, George Drew, the Royal Bank Newsletter, R.C.A.F. Survey, New York Times, all Canadian provincial teachers' federations, etc.—every one of these has the same urgent request for better academic and professional qualifications for teachers.

Notes By The Way

The new national defence headquarters building which the government may build is to have a bomb cellar. With the minister of national defence usually a target for the reform colonels and generals who serve as military critics for the Opposition, the building could also do with a storm cellar.

It develops from the census figures that the ratio between the sexes in the Canadian population has continued to shift in accordance with a long term trend in 1911 the excess of males was high; nearly 113 to 100 females; and though the proportion of males rose slightly in the 20's, it fell off again until in 1941 the ratio was 105 to 100.

Various provinces of our nation. In the meantime, we trust that our readers will weigh carefully the authoritative evidence expressed by those highly qualified to testify.

Aptitude or Training? Sir,—One hears and sees in the Press from time to time criticisms of our educational system, especially when money is being voted for education.

There are some who hark back to the good old days of education and say that the boys and girls cannot spell, read or write today as they could thirty years ago.

There are some who suggest that aptitude for teaching is more important than training. Accordingly they propose that the best solution to our educational ills is to find young people with aptitude, give them the least training possible and they can work wonders.

It may be that a course in biology beyond Grade X and one in health, together with aptitude of course, might launch a lad forth as a doctor on a brilliant career. I don't think I have the aptitude to be a doctor.

Perhaps a little explanation from a specialist egg producer could help clarify the situation for all concerned. It is true that all Grade A eggs look much the same under a grader's lamp but there is another side to the picture which can only be detected at the eating table.

It might be a good idea for those with doubtful minds, to have a chat with a producer, or better still, pay a visit to a modern poultry farm, and see for themselves how better eggs are being produced for the eating public.

This new suggestion of cutting out or down on the period of teacher training is based on the fact, they claim, that a lot of young people are deterred from entering the teaching profession because they cannot afford to spend a year in normal school.

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