

The Evening Times and Star

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THE VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

Will the city of St. John take advantage of the opportunity to get a vocational high school, which would also be in part a cultural school, relieving the present overcrowded buildings, and have the government pay 25 per cent of the cost of the structure, 50 per cent of the cost of equipment and 60 per cent of the salaries, or will it wait another year or two years and then be forced to build wholly at its own expense another cultural school, making no provision for the great numbers of children between twelve and seventeen years of age who are now out of school altogether?

It is really these children the vocational work would reach and keep in the schools. They are now on the outside with no chance to get in, since the curriculum does not meet their needs and ability and cannot do so. Moreover, if they demanded room in the present buildings it is not there for them—some twelve hundred of them. Is the school board to take no account of them? Is its duty performed when it takes care of the others and permits these to go without a proper education? Then there are the nearly four thousand pupils in school who are retarded because the curriculum does not meet their needs and ability. Are we to go on catering only to those who want a classical course? Are we to go on with 1,500 in the first grade, less than half that number in the seventh grade, and little over a dozen in the twelfth grade? Instead of keeping the children in school we are chasing them out, because we are insanely wedded to a system which meets the needs of the few and not of the many.

Will the parents of the children remain passive and rob their own children of their rights?

Will the business men of St. John who want industrial expansion for the city refuse to interest themselves in having young people trained for industrial life? Are they content to have nearly four thousand retarded pupils in the schools and that twelve hundred on the outside, most of them idle?

Will the taxpayer turn down the opportunity to get a school for whose erection and upkeep the government grants such hitherto unheard of assistance?

The duty of the vocational committee is clear. It cannot turn down this proposition, but it will be the more enthusiastic if public bodies come to its support. The Board of Trade, Commercial Club, Trades and Labor Council, Retail Merchants' Association, Rotary Club, Gyro Club and other organizations can do the city a great service. They should not let the opportunity pass. They want St. John to go forward. They should act, and act now.

SCHOOL PROBLEMS.

Irregular attendance at school was a subject of very interesting discussion at the recent meeting of the Educational Association of Nova Scotia, convened in Truro. Dr. Bingley, superintendent of Glace Bay schools, said that the average school attendance in Nova Scotia was but 61.6 per cent of the enrollment. The harmful effect of this condition of affairs is obvious. It increases the average cost per pupil, injures the pupils affected, and is detrimental to the classes and the teacher's work. The frequently absent pupil either lags behind or retards the class. Dr. Bingley also noted that after a certain grade the boys leave school, so that in Grade X the girls outnumber the boys two to one. Certain remedies were suggested by Dr. Bingley, as follows:—

"First—A revision of the curriculum, with emphasis placed on technical education and half-time schools in co-operation with employers. The proposed change would involve considerable expense, and the speaker declared that the Federal authorities should be called upon to help.

"Second—The establishment of truant schools and schools for backward children, and a change in the truancy laws. Under the present arrangements he declared that too long a time elapses before a remedy can be applied, and that the percentage of attendance had not been materially increased since the law had been put in force. As a remedy for those cases in which boys were employed under age, he suggested that it be made compulsory for boys to get a certificate of age from the supervisor before they could be employed. He said that every large town should have its own truant school.

"Third—There should be provision made for those pupils whose parents were too poor to send them to school.

"Fourth—A tax on the parents for every day lost by their children, as sug-

gested by the superintendent of education in 1920, would be effective in inducing parents to see to it that their children were in school. He suggested that it be collected quarterly."

Of course the real solution of the irregular attendance problem is a provincial law properly enforced, as suggested by Mr. N. Mark Mills to the New Brunswick Teachers' Institute. In no other way can the best results be attained. Aside from that Dr. Bingley makes excellent suggestions regarding more attention to vocational training, schools for backward children and truant schools. Since schools must be provided they should meet the needs of the children, and all the children should be there to get the benefit. Otherwise the educational system is not complete and does not function as it should.

Dr. Catten of Acadia University drew the attention of the Association to the matter of mental tests, saying that nothing had been done in recent years that had been such an aid to education as the study of this question. He claimed that in twenty minutes he could by these mental tests grade a child more closely than the teacher who had had him for a year, or even the parent of the child. If he is right this is a remarkable gain to educational work, and recognition of mental tests should be accorded by all educational authorities.

It would be a great gain to the cause of education if the information given to teachers in their conventions could be passed on by an educational campaign, in the provinces to boards of trustees and parents. There would then be a greater general desire to endorse expenditures necessary to carry out a wise educational policy.

Referring to Premier MacKenzie King's visit to Washington the New York Evening Post says:—"Whatever the progress and outcome of a new Canadian treaty, the essential features of the old and serviceable Rush-Bagot treaty should be retained, as they doubtless will be. Drastic curtailment of armament should continue, even at risk of handicapping American efforts to reduce liquor smuggling across the border. No minor consideration should be permitted to detract from the example of peace and amity which the two great nations of North America have given the world for a hundred years and more across a practically unarmored border."

The labor situation grows more serious. The American government is preparing to take emergency measures to ensure a supply of coal for public utilities. The railroad shopmen's strike continues. There is talk of a walk-out of Nova Scotia miners and a possible strike of railroad men. The city of Montreal is threatened with a strike of city employees, including the police. The threat of serious labor troubles at a time when business is beginning slowly to recover from the great depression cannot but arouse a general feeling of anxiety.

There are too many drunks in the St. John police court and there is too much open as well as secret drinking in the city, in violation of the law. It has become a public scandal. There is no fixed condition in regard to the consumption of liquor. Conditions either become better or worse. If they become worse those responsible for law enforcement must accept the responsibility and the ultimate consequence.

We are told that "the national Division of the Sons of Temperance will ask the governments of the United States, Canada, Mexico and France to adopt such legislation and take such steps as will effectively put an end to the smuggling of intoxicating liquors between St. Pierre, Mexico, the West Indies and Canada and the States." That would be neighborly legislation, and it ought to be adopted.

Montreal La Presse—"Our opinion has not changed in regard to the serious question of the police union. We do not consider such a union has the right to declare a strike. If a right like this were exercised by men who are charged with the duty of protecting life and property, it would be immoral. The sincere regard we have for the policemen prompts us to tell them this truth frankly and courageously and in their best interests."

The Irish Free State forces have captured Limerick and are making steady headway against the rebels. The worst feature of the struggle is the wanton destruction of property by the latter when they find they cannot hold their ground. They are today the real enemies of Ireland.

The agreement of the League of Nations regarding the Palestine and Syrian mandates removes a well-grounded fear of trouble in that part of the world. There are still difficulties to overcome, but these are of minor importance.

The movement to get a Health Centre in St. John is making headway. It deserves universal support. Could \$100,000 be put to a better use? The sum is not large and should be readily available.

FIFTEEN MINUTES OF RADIO EACH DAY

By Edward N. Davis

Formerly Technical Electrical Expert For U. S. Government

THE RADIO LIGHT HOUSE.

One year ago, there were placed in commission three radio transmitting stations near the entrance to New York Harbor for the purpose of guiding ships into the harbor from the high seas during heavy fogs. The stations were of the usual commercial type employing quenched spark gaps and were adjusted to the wavelength 1,600 meters. The United States Bureau of Lighthouses established the transmitters at Sea Girt Light Station on the New Jersey coast, on Fire Island Lightship, and on Ambrose Lightship at the entrance to the harbor.

During the foggy weather which often prevails at the harbor entrance, these three stations may be heard at intervals, the Ambrose Channel station transmitting groups of single dashes, Fire Island groups of two dashes and Sea Girt groups of three dashes. To avoid continuous interference between the signals themselves they are transmitted on different schedules and sent fairly rapidly, Sea Girt for example sending over forty groups of dashes each minute.

The equipment on the vessel which makes use of the signals from these radio lighthouses consists of a special form of loop receiver operated in conjunction with a magnetic compass so arranged that the direction of the source of the signal received from any one of the three stations may be readily noted. The system makes use of the directional properties of the loop receiver the bearing being taken when the coil is in the position of minimum signal, that is, at right angles to the line of direction of the signal.

The complete apparatus necessary on a vessel equipped for the use of this system can be installed at moderate cost and is a valuable aid to navigation. Any number of vessels so fitted can secure bearings from the radio light stations simultaneously.

The system here described is the reverse of that employed by the United States navy which maintains radio compass stations on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. The navy method uses several shore stations fitted with loop receivers, each of which takes a bearing on the vessel desiring to know its location. The operator on the ship transmitting distinguishing signals for a minute or so enables the shore operators to adjust their equipment and determine the bearing from each station. The three or more bearings are telegraphed to the vessel from a central control station.

Either of the systems accomplishes the result of giving the navigator three bearings from fixed points, which are sufficient to enable him to plot his location on a chart.

The effective range of lighthouse transmitting stations depends principally on the sensitivity of the receiving apparatus employed on the ship which is usually sufficiently sensitive to render the system operative at distances of from thirty to one hundred miles.

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RADIO AS A CAUSE FOR DIVORCE!

Radio as a cause for divorce presents a difficulty in connection with a science that has always been associated with technical investigations and has never been considered to enter into the field of domestic relations.

Proceedings recently instituted in the District of Columbia Supreme Court are based upon charges by the wife of a radio enthusiast that her husband instead of properly supporting the child and herself, devotes his money and time in purchasing quantities of radio equipment and books on the subject.

It is apparent therefore that too close attention to the art, providing it deprives a wife, both of the society of her husband and the necessary financial contribution to the support of herself and offspring, may result in a sort of domestic "static" which is considerably more serious in its effect than the interruptions of the summer thunderstorm.

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THE SEA AND THE HILLS.

(Kipling.)

Who hath desired the Sea?—the sight of the heave and the halt and the hurl and the crash of the comber wind-hounded? The sleek-barrelled swell before storm, grey, motionless, enormous, and growing—

Stark calm on the lap of the line or the grey-eyed hurricane blowing His Sea in no showing the same—

His Sea and the same 'neath each showing—

His Sea as she slackens or thrills? So and no otherwise—so and no otherwise hillmen desire their Hills!

Who hath desired the Sea?—the immense and contemptuous surge? The shudders, the stumble, the swerve as the star-stabbing bowsprit surges?—

The orderly clouds of the Trades, and the ridged, roaring sapphire thunder—Unheralded cliff-haunting flares and the headless low volleys thunder—

His Sea in no wonder the same—

His Sea and the same through each wonder! His Sea as she rages or stills? So and no otherwise—so and no otherwise hillmen desire their Hills!

Who hath desired the Sea? Her menaces swift as her mercies. The in-raging walls of the fog and the silver-winged gleam that disperses?—

The unstable mined berg going south to declare it; White water half-guessed overside and the moon breaking timely to bare it;—

His Sea as she serves him or kills? So and no otherwise—so and no otherwise hillmen desire their Hills!

Who hath desired the Sea? Her excellent loneliness; And her outermost Than forecourts of kings, and her outermost Than the streets where men gather

Inland, among dust, under trees—inland where the slayer may find her arms, and the bosom whereon he must lay him—

His Sea at the first that betrayed—at the last that shall never betray him—

His Sea that his being fulfills? So and no otherwise—so and no otherwise hillmen desire their Hills!

THE CANDID ADMIRAL.

(Vancouver Sun)

Rear-Admiral William S. Simms has been noted before for his candor. His extreme outspokenness has not only kept him in hot water on previous occasions but has won him official rebuke.

Now he has done it again. Speaking on modern warfare the admiral said: "If we are attacked we will use gas, and we won't care how, when or why."

The dignitaries who signed the Washington treaty can draw delightful agreements full of promise and hope. They said this, for instance:

"We declare our assent to such prohibition, agree to be bound thereby as between themselves.

The signatories to this document know much about human nature and therefore is a better prophet.

Knowing human nature will do more to end war than treaties and diplomacy.

THE MANITOBA ELECTION.

(Ottawa Journal.)

The expected has happened in Manitoba. Some few, taking their facts from their wishes, predicted a better showing for both the older parties, but most people with knowledge of conditions in the west, anticipated what has taken place. In one sense, the result is a good one. It gives one party sufficient of a following to carry on without the logging of other groups by which the Norris government lived.

Nor need the country have much fear of a Progressive administration. A Farmer government in Ontario, although it has done no particular good, has done no particular harm; nor have we discerned anything particularly radical in the Farmer government in Alberta.

Under the circumstances, and knowing that farmers, despite the radical claims of their platform, are really conservative at heart, Manitoba has no cause for alarm. This all the more so, seeing that both the Conservatives and Liberals have elected some strong men and will constitute a vigilant and constructive opposition.

There is one thing, however, which Manitoba teaches. It is that the Farmer movement is more deep-seated in the west than many of us were prepared to believe. For better or for worse, the movement is with us; and the sooner we face the facts the better it will be for all concerned.

In British post offices the women clerks are often checked to women, while civil to men. Sauce for the goose is not sauce for the gander.

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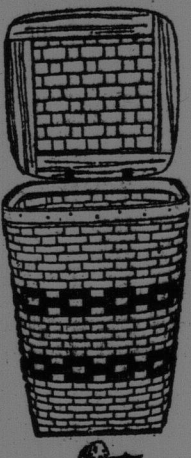
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