

London Advertiser

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1924.

The Value of Home Work.

Hon. Dr. Cody, former minister of education in Ontario, told a gathering of urban school teachers at Kingston that home work was a good thing for children.

If given in an interesting and reasonable way, yes, by all means.

School hours are not long, and in the secondary schools 9 to 11:45 and 1:30 to 4 is not a long day.

As a general thing the home work is a good thing; parents find that it keeps the children employed in the evenings, and there could be nothing worse for the average boy or girl than to start wondering each evening, "Well, what shall I do, or where shall I go tonight?"

Teachers, too, in many cases, should have a training all their own in how to maintain discipline during school hours. Pupils in colleges are not men and women; they are simply large boys and girls. They need discipline, in spite of all the up-to-date theories that are afloat to the contrary. Many a man and woman can look back now and thank the teachers who were strict enough to make them realize that their schooling was a serious business, fitting them for their life's work. On the other hand there were the teachers in whose classes "a good time was had by all."

Canon Cody is right about a reasonable amount of carefully selected home work, and it should be made to bear as far as possible on the subjects in which the pupil needs special training.

Start at It Now.

The decision to investigate Home Bank conditions by the Ottawa government should not be confused with the prosecution of the officials of the bank. The latter is a matter now in the hands of the attorney-general of the province, and its commencement, through no fault of the attorney-general, has been too long delayed.

The people who lost their money in the bank got hit at once, and they had no option in the manner of their getting hit. It is six months since the crash came, and that is ample time to have had the trial and delivered the sentences.

The investigation by Ottawa is another matter. It was not asked for by the petitioning depositors of the defunct bank, but it was suggested by them, and it meets with their approval. The Dominion government has been asked to make good the losses sustained by the shareholders, and it has not refused to consider the suggestion in some form or other. The government owes it to the public to make this investigation a real one: it is entitled, both on its own behalf and for the sake of the depositors, to be able to intelligently put its finger on the places where good banking was departed from and where the raid on the funds started.

The decision to investigate cannot be taken as an evidence of shirking responsibility; rather it is a sign of a desire to have responsibility placed where it belongs.

The work should start now; the whole miserable business should be laid bare, and blame should be put where blame belongs. The inquiry should be of such a nature that at its conclusion the proper course for the government to take should be very plain.

Mr. Raney's Questions.

Hon. W. E. Raney does not have much success in his attempts to ask questions of Premier Ferguson. On the question paper of the legislature appears the following question in Mr. Raney's name:

"1. Does the government intend to advise the lieutenant-governor to proclaim the Sale of Securities Act? 2. If not, does the government intend to introduce a bill at this session of the legislature to protect the public against fraudulent stock flotations? 3. If not, why not?"

In plain English, Mr. Raney was asking if anything was to be done about blue-sky legislation to curb the selling of worthless stock to the people of Ontario.

The premier gave the following illuminating reply on the government's attitude:

"1. It is improper for any member to ask the government what advice it intends to tender to the lieutenant-governor. 2. This is under consideration. 3. Answered by the above."

In the next case Mr. Raney ventured on ground that was even more dangerous:

"1. Is the policy of the government, in making appointments to the civil service in the different ridings of the province, to consult the sitting member in each case,

or to consult this sitting member only when he is a supporter of the government? 2. Has the government, since it assumed office, made any appointment on the recommendation of a member of the house not a supporter of the government?"

Or, once again in plain English, the former attorney-general wanted to know if the Ferguson government was following the old style of party patronage. To which the premier gave the answer:

"1. In making appointments the government consults the minister in charge of the department for which the appointment is required. 2. All appointments are made on the recommendation of the responsible minister."

Quite so. And the ministers, all being good Conservatives, can be relied upon to see that the appointments all go in the right and proper direction.

As a matter of fact Mr. Raney must have been attempting something in the line of humor when he asked if any appointment had been made on the recommendation of a "member of the house not a member of the government." Does Mr. Raney imagine that a Liberal or a U. F. O. would get an appointment from the Ferguson government? The sign "To the victors belong the spoils" has been nailed across the front door of the legislature.

Religious Instruction.

In New York a meeting was held at which leaders of Roman Catholic, Protestant and Jewish faiths participated. The reason was for considering the religious instruction of children attending school.

There was no desire to make use of the schools to teach religion, but for making certain that each child received instruction in the faith of his father.

There is a growing feeling that this has been sadly neglected, and that feeling is grounded in absolute fact.

There is a great big and very apparent need today for better business ethics, for more real honesty in the carrying on of public business.

Bank smashes, oil scandals, commissions and bribes for the sale of armaments—these are a few of the high spots. They all point to one thing, viz., the need for a great spiritual awakening, and a deeper appreciation of what real religion means.

It is primarily a sacred duty of the home, but because the home neglects it is not sufficient reason why it should be allowed to lapse.

The men back of the New York gathering are certainly on the right track.

A Needed Change.

Official Hangman Ellis—if such is his title—says that a bungie was made of the execution of Eskimos in the far north on February 1.

This may be so or it may not be so. No word has come back yet to verify such a statement.

Apart from that there is the fact that we have not made much progress in the carrying out of the death sentence. True, a great deal of the publicity with which these affairs used to be surrounded has been suppressed, but there is still much of the touch of gruesome happenings.

The logical scheme, so long as the law of our land calls for capital punishment, would be to have a central place for executions, or perhaps two, east and west. At these points every detail could be worked out to complete the sentence with the best of order and precision. Mishaps would be eliminated as far as humanly possible, and an official notice that the execution had been completed would mark the last act of the law in punishing crime.

Killing Miners.

Figures from United States show that there were 2,452 men killed by accidents in the coal mines there in 1923.

There have been more safety devices put in, but the total loss means there is far too much blood spilled in this business.

Figured out in tons, it means that a miner is killed for every 250,000 tons taken out.

Note and Comment.

And no doubt the ice man next summer will say that ice is dear because they had to get down and pry it off the bottom.

A cow killed at Starling, Conn., has got into the newspapers. In its stomach was found a watch bob, toy pistol, foot rule, three spikes, several screws and a salt shaker. It probably rattled so much when it walked that it had to be killed to keep the rest of the cows in the same barn.

H. L. Williams, who wrote "Tipperary," the song that British troops sang during the war, and which has a tremendous sale in the allied world, died at Coventry. He never made anything from the song, the profits going to the publishers. It takes a sharp man to tickle the public fancy and watch the gate receipts at the same time.

Tavish Mactavish

From Paris comes this delightful tale of womanly pride and professional pique. One Mile, Virginia Comes, a maiden of 56 seasons, dearly loves to sing. She sang in the cathedral of Notre Dame with such vigor that the priests, rudely comparing her voice to that of a cornet, expelled her from the church.

The good lady, in revenge, then composed rude words about the clergy, and added injury to insult by singing them to the tune of the "Marseillaise" just outside the church. She was summoned to appear in court, and there told the magistrate that, as a matter of fact, it was the choir and congregation who were out of tune, and that her own singing was always on the right note.

On refusing to give an undertaking that she would make no further disturbance, she was fined 25 francs. One sympathizes with the good priests, recalling memories of one or two home-made singers in our own church, but at the same time the robust spirit in defense of art and this joyful psalm of rebellion at the idea of a mere magistrate deciding on questions of singing is to be commended in a country so far removed from art as France has been for some years now.

When I see some worthy churchman or public man declaiming against an ultra modern fashion I am always reminded of a certain good doctor in the old village at home who used to laugh at the obvious symptoms and grow serious at some minute characteristic of a disease that no one paid much attention to. He was a good doctor, too, and people had to be very ill indeed before he couldn't help them.

When, for instance, I see an extremely prominent pillar of the church in Manitoba sternly and very solemnly condemning the use of knickerbockers by the girls of his congregation I hear an echo of the old medical chuckle and almost unconsciously look for something more serious and less obvious on which to exercise judgment.

It is popularly supposed that there are no Jews in Scotland on account of certain similarities in their business outlook and owing to the consequent competition. Judging by a recent outcome of the liquor problems of the country to the south of us there are very few genuine bootleggers in Scotland or else all the bootleggers are of Scottish descent which the gods forbid. Over \$1,250,000 has been extracted from the pockets, or is it sporrans, of Scottish brewers, by the simple yet entirely legal means of refusing to pay for the rum bought from the distilleries of the heathery hills.

Glasgow, Dundee and Leith are the chief sufferers in this pillage and it is an amazing thing to me that any Scot would allow merchandise to leave his hands without payment in advance. The race is sadly deteriorating.

The Pistol Peril

(From the Los Angeles Times).

THE chief magistrate in Greater New York is a Judge McAdoo and he has prepared a measure which is being pressed in congress by Senator Copeland and others. It is directed at the vast horde of American gunbarrelers and the intention is to put the automatic pistol out of business. Some of the states have passed laws to regulate the sale of revolvers, but this measure would permit federal action and would cover the whole country. It would absolutely forbid the importation of all weapons into this country and would impose a government tax of \$100 on every revolver manufactured and sold in the United States. Registration of all weapons would be required and there would also be a very heavy sales tax on cartridges and ammunition.

The American Bar Association has recommended some such form of federal enactment and the international conference of police chiefs joins in the program. The constitutional validity of such a law will have to be assured. The provision of the constitution which gives the people the right to bear arms did not contemplate a band of pistol-toting burglars shooting their way through the bodies of our judiciary. The makers of firearms might object to restrictive legislation, but the welfare and safety of the nation would be advanced by the adoption of the proposed measure.

On Cuttin' Taxes

THE councillors and aldermen are makin' faces long and grim; they swear to cut the cost of things to figures willow like and slim.

"We spoke of economy at the polls, of how we'd stand behind each home, and cut the frills and fads, by heck, and leave 'em nothin' but the bone."

So each new thing that comes along that looketh like a T-pone stinks; they grab the hoe, the axe and saw, likewise the fork and garden rake—they turn the thing upon its edge, they whack until it's black and blue, then seize upon the trusty axe and cleave the bloomin' thing in two.

These hounds upon the civic chest they give each fad one awful chill, they use a stick of dynamite to blast the rascal another mill.

Meanwhile the common folks around what pay the bills like me and you, we're lookin' on to raise a hope that all these cuttin' moves be true.

We'll turn the grindstone for them, birds to sharpen up their little axes, if they'll keep peltin' on the job of carvin' down our share of taxes.

COULD NOT READ ENGLISH.

A prospective patron entered the consulting room of a well-known oculist and said: "Meester, I want to get my eyes tested for a pair of glasses."

The oculist placed him in a chair and held a printed card 20 feet away from him. "Can you read that?" he asked.

"I can't do it, meester."

The oculist then pushed the card to within ten feet of the man. "Can you read that?"

"No, I can't."

The oculist stuck the card under the man's nose. "Can you read it now?" he cried.

"No, meester," said he. "I ain't never learned to read English."

The Guide Post—By Henry van Dyke

ANSWERING FOOLS.

Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him. Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit.—Proverbs xxvi, 4, 5.

This looks like contradictory advice. But it is really a careful view of both sides of the same subject. Some letters are so unreasonable, some questions so impertinent, some arguments so foolish, and some attacks so full of blind prejudice, that to answer them is to descend to their level.

Silence is the best reply. Christ gives us an example. (Matthew xxvii, 12.) On the other hand some forms of folly are so vain, virulent, and dangerous that they need correction.

The ignorant and conceited should not be permitted to drive automobiles, or to write text books, or to claim censorship in church or state.

A searching inquiry is often the best answer to this kind of foolishness.

Christ gave an example of this when he replied to the Pharisees by asking them a question which they could not answer. (Mark xi, 27-33.)

But for us frail and fallible men, in the daily run of life, I think it wise to follow the first counsel of Solomon oftener than the second.

To go around the world trying to expose the folly of all the complacent, foolish people would be a tiresome, endless, fruitless task.

It would not make them wiser, nor us happier. Starting out in "The League to Enforce Humility," we might find ourselves high up in "The Self-Satisfied Society."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Advertiser welcomes letters discussing matters of public interest. It is necessary that the name of the writer be sent as an evidence of good faith, but not necessarily for publication.

Oriental Labor.

Vancouver Resident of Many Years.

Says the Competition Is Not Fair To the White Population.

Editor of The Advertiser:

Sir,—Thanks for the very breezy letter sent in by M. G. Hay on conditions in British Columbia. It's encouraging to hear of the prosperity expected; being a working resident of Vancouver for 14 years, I got tired of waiting for the elusive boom.

Regarding the Orientals in Vancouver and surrounding districts, to say these do not compete with white labor is a very mistaken conception of conditions existing in British Columbia. The chief industries of British Columbia are mining, fishing, lumber. Now take about 35,000 Japs and Chinese away from the two latter important industries and there sure will be some good pickings for a few white men.

Agitation against their entry into Canada is most certainly just, for these Orientals have bought up most of the good market gardens around Vancouver and sell their product cheaper than the white market gardeners can start to grow it. But for the protection of the white man, the fishing industry would be completely Oriental. I would like to hear of the nature of work done by the Chinese white men would not be glad to do in our fair city of London.

VANCOUVER WORKER.

Start School Too Young.

"Ancient" Believes Seven Is Early Enough For Any Child To Commence School Attendance.

February 27, 1924.

Editor of The Advertiser:

Sir,—Our educational system has got to a stage where it is ruining the life of this country. Schools are at the public expense turned into day nurseries. Then the adolescent act keeps young people from earning their living after they are suitably equipped for it.

Any child passing a certain examination in necessary subjects (not facts) should be allowed to leave school if desired by the parents, irrespective of age, as it is knowledge, not years, that should count.

Another result of our educational system is that there are altogether too many studying for the professions and too few for producing business. After a boy or girl has attended high school (let alone university) in a city he or she is unfitted for rural life, with the result that in a few years there will be no farmers or producers of agricultural products.

This, I believe, is one of the chief causes of crowding in cities, of the unemployment.

The youth of today are educated to an extent where they are useless for any manual labor, and if they cannot get a living by head work they

simply will not work at all, and many drift in to crime, petty stealing, burglary, etc.

We know that everything has its "cause," and "effect" and a study of these is worth while. I believe seven years of age is soon enough for any child to attend school, and we find children who started at that age could pass the entrance exam, at from 11 to 15 years of age. Do the kindergarten do any better, or as well?

The cost to the public must be reduced. First, by not forcing school attendance by an age limit, which is too long at both ends. Second, by cutting out the unnecessary fads now taught at public expense, but which should be borne by the parents of those who teach them. Yours, ANCIENT.

Press Notes

RATHER CRUDE, TOO!

Pictures of a not a few American politicians are being done these days in oils.—St. Catharines Standard.

BUT IT LOOKS BETTER.

A photograph shows Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Fairbanks en route, with Doug carrying both grips. Mary seems to have him well trained.—Detroit News.

TRYING TIMES, THESE.

Speaker Lemieux about now must be trying on the knee breeches which, Ottawa dispatches state, he is to wear for the future during the sessions of the Dominion parliament.—Brantford Expositor.

BEFORE HIS FINISH.

Papa—I hear that Charlie Green is going to be married next week. Little Robert (whose ideas on the subject are somewhat confused)—The last three days they give him everything to eat he asks for, don't they papa?—Yorkshire Post.

AN INNOVATION OF THE CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

Lunch Counter Service Between Toronto and Winnipeg

For the convenience of its patrons, the Canadian National Railways are now operating Colomist Cars equipped with lunch counters on "The National" between Toronto and Winnipeg, leaving Toronto 10:45 p.m. daily, arriving Winnipeg 4:10 p.m. the third day, and from Winnipeg to Toronto leaving Winnipeg 12:30 p.m. daily, arriving Toronto 7:20 a.m. the third day. Hot tea, coffee and boiled sandwiches, pie, jam, milk, bread, butter, baked beans, etc., may be purchased at the lunch counter at any time during the day.

This service is of course in addition to the regular dining car service operated on the above-mentioned trains.—Advt.



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PROFOUND REGRET.

I gaze upon your rounded form With famished eyes and dry lips burning. And in my heart there brews a storm— A storm of everlasting yearning.

I am so reminiscent of those things for which I'm ever craving; You were the object of my love; You were—but why continue raving?

I loved you once, yet I must ask That from that love you do exempt me; Your shape's the same, but now—alas! Old labeled bottle—you are empty!

Furthermore, a dentist is the only man who can tell a woman when to open and shut her mouth, and get away with it.

Over in England it is said they are making movies much worse than American movies. Which only proves again that nothing is impossible.

Isn't it about time the principal in that Teatime Dome scandal turned over some new leaves?

Yesterday we got a note for the money a friend owes us. The note said, "I can't pay."

"Melba Breaks Farrar's Record."—Headline. And after hearing the latter on our phonograph we came near to breaking it, too.

It looks as if McAdoo is going to be bombed for president.

By the look of some people in the morning their bootleggers must frequently commit the unpardonable gin.

CONFLICT.

"Some interesting subject, let's discuss," one maid suggested. The other's face showed vague regrets; She wasn't interested.

"Let's talk of me," the first implored. The other wagged her fuzzy head; She couldn't stand to be thus bored; "Ah, now, let's talk of me," she said.

There must be some beauty to bobbed heads. You can always shingle one out of a crowd.

The new three-quarter-down cloaks for the ladies can be had, we understand, for one quarter down.

DOLEFUL DITTY.

A dark-eyed, doleful, dusky bride Is Angeline Narcissus; She always looks on the dark side; She's sure a pessi-missus.

Our idea of a sensible man is a man who always has enough sense to stop drinking when it's his turn to buy.

The only certain thing is that the robin who made his appearance here three weeks ago will never again be in a condition to repeat the error.

A subscriber wants to know if the hunchback of Notre Dame is a football player.

BUT NEVER A KNOCKOUT. Why spend ten dollars to see a prize fight when you can go out any time and for no cost at all witness the great battle between the taxpayers and the tax rate?—Winnipeg Free Press.

SAYS ADVERTISING HELPS GROWERS

Fruit Association Head Asks Change in Present Tariff Rate.

Canadian Press Despatch.

Hamilton, Feb. 27.—Fruit growers from all parts of the province are attending the annual convention of the Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario, which opened a three-day conference here today. Paul Fisher, Burlington, president, declared that growers must advertise their products. Tariff changes were advocated. A cent on a box of berries, the present rate, was about equal to nothing. "Are we downhearted?" the president asked in concluding. "No, we have the most favored fruit district in America, but we must use our intelligence to the utmost and so put the industry on the sound economic basis it deserves."

The most important insect pests were the subject of an address by William Ross of Vineland. They were, he said, the pear scilla, a honeydew fungi, the grape hopper, and the green apple aphid. These could be controlled by delaying spraying until the buds were at the bursting point, said Mr. Ross, but further applications are necessary to control the apple aphid.

POLICE OFFICIAL WOULD BAR ARMED FOREIGNERS

Calgary, Feb. 27.—Canadian customs officials were criticized by Magistrate Sanders in police court here yesterday for allowing immigrants to enter Canada "armed to the teeth." The point arose when Auro Wilhelm Laine, Finlander, was remanded on a charge of carrying dangerous weapons, being arrested in possession of a heavy calibre revolver and dagger, of which he was quite proud, evidently thinking he was in the "wild and woolly west" of dime novel fame.

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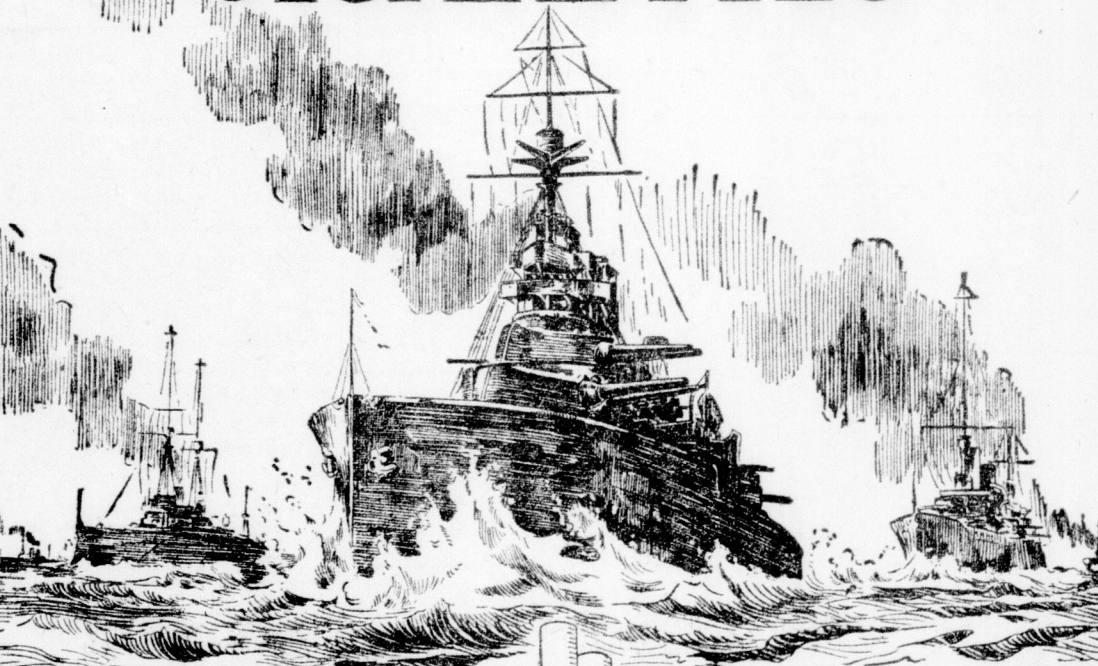
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