Voice of the Press

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CANADA

IF THEY CARRIED SIGNS.

It would be interesting to know if motoring behaviour on the part of drivers might not be considerably improved if the offender, in addition to a fine, were required to carry a sign on his car for a week, stating that he had been found guilty of negligent driving.

Very few negligent drivers would like to advertise their own incompetence in such fashion.—Calgary Herald.

IN TRANSIT

Like most sizeable communities, Kitchener has its quota of stray or homeless pigeons. One of the birds has become a practical hitch-hiker. When tired, he alights atop a motor car, rides a few city blocks,, then soars aloft and rejoins his mates. The less venturesome pigeons consider his action rather "flighty" but it rannot be said that the creature is dumb in the full sense of the word.—Border Cities Star.

NEAT AND TIDY.

It is difficult enough to keep residential premises neat and tidy without the constant trouble of picking up and disposing of a number of unwanted handbills every day. The greatest objection to the handbill, as we see it, is the method of distribution. If it is mailed in the proper way, then the householder can either read it or put it in the furnace, as he wishes. But when it is thrown in his doorway, it usually blows out on to the lawn and, by the time he gets it, it is just a dirty mess.—Kingston Whig-Standard.

PROMISES.

Critics of Prime Minister Bennett's startling economic reform policy are harping much just now upon his 1930 promise to end unemployment in Canada and claiming that he did not keep that promise, for which reason they doubt whether his present promises mean anything.

It may be that thoughtless people in 1930 assumed that Mr. Bennett proposed to perform an over-night miracle when he made that promise. It is certain that he had no such idea and certainly no one with a clear understanding of the economic situation as it then was could have entertained so foolish a notion.

As a matter of fact the Prime Minister has from the moment he assumed office up to the present time labored steadily, persistently and in considerable measure successfully to cope with the unemployment situation. True his approach to the problem was not as spectacular as was that of the United States President, but there is good reason to believe that ultimately his methods will be productive of more permanent results than those of the "New Deal."

Making the federal authority in generous measure responsible for maintenance of the unemployed he obtained sanction for cash contributions to that end immediately upon assuming office. Those contributions have continued to this date. Widespread distribution of this government money has certainly prevented the unemployment situation from assuming catastrophic proportions.

Another of his moves that also saved catastrophe was Government assumption of the wheat export situation at a moment when nothing short of a move so radical and unusual could have prevented complete collapse of the economic structure of Western Canada. That move was of as great benefit to urban Canada as it was to the people of the farms.

But the truly scientific move made by the prime minister to end unemployment was in his successful negotiation of the much discussed Ottawa agreements. It was evidently clear to Mr. Bennett that only in a revival of trade in export fields could there be any hope of permanent relief from unemployment. To depend upon the passing out of Government cash to remedy permanently such a situation would have been as foolish as to hope to be able to lift oneself by one's boot-straps.

The Ottawa agreements are making good. In the past nine months Canada's Empire export trade has increased over 27 per cent. That means a decided increase in gainful employment for a considerable number of the unemployed. In large measure it explains why it is that Canada's peak of 750,000 unemployed has been reduced to about 450,000.

Yet there are those who would have us believe that Canada's prime minister forgot his promise to end unemployment the moment he made it and that he has done nothing since then to implement it.—Calgary Herald.

DEFECTIVE AUTOMOBILES

Believing the condition of one of the cars involved was a factor in a recent fatal motor accident, a Toronto coroner's jury added a rider to their verdict recommending "that dealers in second-hand cars be required to get a certificate from the police department that a car sold is in fit mechanical condition to be driven on the highway."

This suggestion calls attention to the fact that not one province in Canada calls for an examination of automobiles before licenses for the same are issued.—Peterboro Examiner.

CAN BE CONTROLLED

Diphtheria is essentially a disease of childhood, and it is most important that all children, especially young children, be immunized. The records of cases and deaths in Toronto afford ample proof of the efficacy of toxoid.—Toronto Mail and Empire.

THE BORSTAL SYSTEM

One of the most interesting announcements in the Speech from the Throne was the statement that the Government was considering the adoption of what is known as the "Borstal System" in connection with youths sentenced to penitentiaries. There has been no previous intimation that the Government had under advisement this reform.

The Borstal system, so-called, is an effort to segregate youths from 16 to 21 from hardened criminals. It gets its name from the village of Borstal, Kent, where the early experiments on youths were carried out in an old convict prison, prior to the passing of an act in 1908 carrying into effect the principles of those urging that youths should not be sent to penitentiaries with professional and older criminals.

The rules and regulations under the act are based on the principle that up to a certain age every offender may be regarded as potentially a good citizen, that his lapse into crime may be due either to physical degeneracy or bad social environment, and that it is the duty of the state at least to try to effect a cure, and not to class the offender off-hand and without experiment with the adult professional criminal.

As a part of the system there have been founded in England Borstal Associations to provide for the after care of all persons discharged from Borstal institutions. This is a vital part of the system and it is claimed in England that two out of three Borstal youths are reclaimed.—London Free Press.

THE SPEED-CRAZY.

Sir Josiah Stamp, British economist, industrialist and president of the executive of the London, Midland and Scottish Railway, utters a word of caution when so many people everywhere are paying tribute to the god of speed.

It is refreshing to find a man of Sir Josiah Stamp's expert knowledge refusing to pay unqualified homage. As one who is primarily concerned with the economics of the subject, as applied to railways, he said in a recent address that he would not be excited by any additional acceleration until he knew the relative cost of obtaining it—and what sacrifices there might be of other amenities of comfort and safety.

To the ordinary observer the question often arises: Why the hurry, anyway?—Halifax Herald.

THE EMPIRE

TELEVISION.

This much is certain, however. One company in Great Britain and one company in Germany are now in a position to provide a service of "high-definition television" of real entertainment value. The features and movements of speakers or of one or more artists in a studio, events of the day or other film subject matter, and certain indoor and outdoor events can now be transmitted either instantaneosuly or within a few seconds (depending on the subject matter) for clear and faithful reproduction in the home on a screen about a foot square, accompanied by sound on the same receiver.—London Spectator.

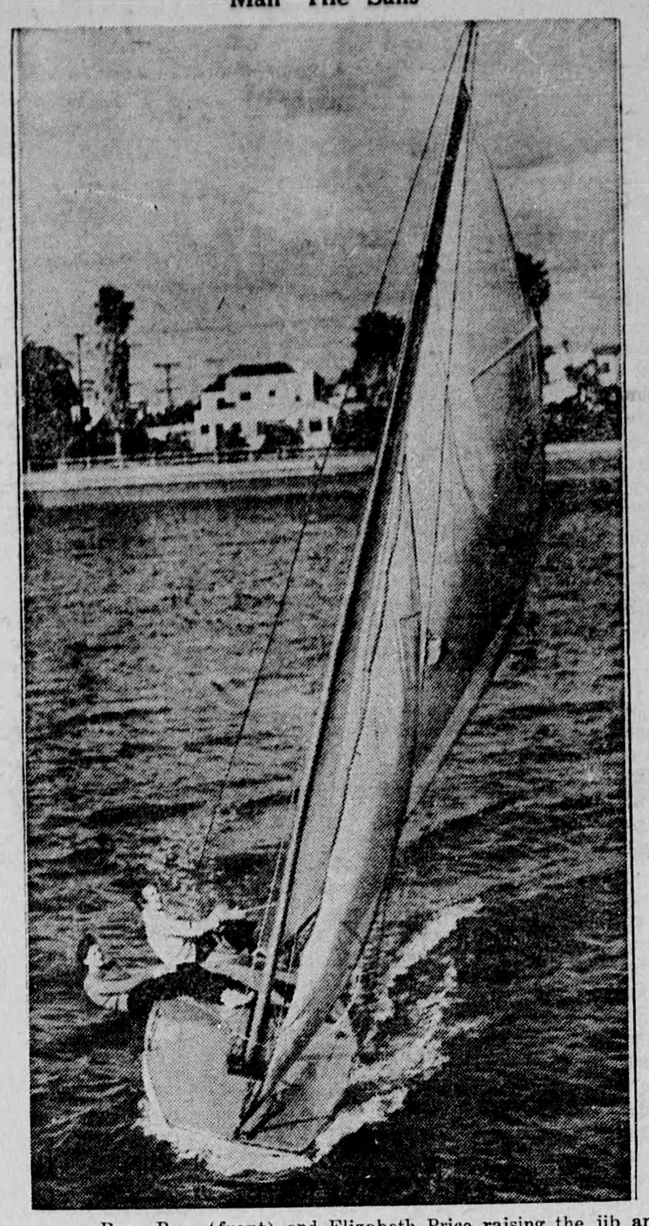
ART AND INDUSTRY.

British industry has been slow to employ designers and artists. Determined and successful efforts have lately been made to remedy the weakness, of which the Exhibition of British Art in Industry, at the Royal Academy is the latest. The tradition that beauty is just a matter of trimmings and ornamentation is dying. Simplicity and the fashioning of articles to do their job as efficiently as possible are producing things beautiful in themselves, and proving to be good business as well. —London Daily Herald.

DEATH ON THE ROADS.

When the death rate from accidents on the roads has risen to the record figure of 187 for a single week it is really time to examine critically the measures which the responsible authority, the Ministry of Transport, is taking to deal with this terrifying loss of life. The real test of that department's success or failure lies in whether it can bring about a drastic reduction of this tragic sacrifice on our highways ..... For the security of the public it is essential that the three kinds of traffic—motor, cycle and pedestrian — should be separated and provided each with its own track. This task should have been taken in hand a decade ago, but its cost will be immense, and there should be no illusions on that head. It will, however, save life and place this country abreast of foreign nations.—London Daily Mail.

'Man' The Sails



Rose Pase (front) and Elizabeth Price raising the jib and mainsail of their trim little scooter in which they will defend their Pacific Coast championship title during the mid-winter races on the Pacific coast off Los Angeles, Cal.

The Inventor's Path

Seldom, Says a German, Does He Profit From His Ideas.

The path of the inventor is straight, stony and beset with obstacles, according to Dr. L. Autzinger who signs himself Business Managing Chairman of the International Union of Inventors, in a gloomy article published in Die Umschu. He tells us that, of the 700,000 patents granted annually in the world, but a vanishing small number are of any commercial value. Amateurishness on the part of the inventors, inability to appraise industrial needs correctly, general insurance of what has been done in the past in similar fields—what patent attorneys call "the state of the art" — are responsible for this poor showing.

Although German chemists as a class are probably the best informed technicians in the world and therefore less likely to rush in where angels fear to tread, their successes are numerically no more striking than those of inventors in general. According to Autzinger, some 7,000 chemical patents are annually applied for in Germany. Of these the German patent office, the most efficient and exacting in the world, grants about 2,000. Not more than thirty or forty are commercially exploited.

Suppression Doubted

Successful patents in any field by no means disclose the most meritorious inventions, if Autzinger is to be credited. He charges that some are bought and suppressed because, if "worked," they would paralyze established industries.

How much truth is there in this oft-repeated tale of patents that are bought only to be pigeon-holed? Time and time again bills have been introduced in Congress which, if enacted in law, would make it compulsory to "work" a patent in a given period. Failing in this the patentee would forfeit his rights.

The proposal seems sensible enough. Yet when our legislators take testimony in committee meetings and learn how inventions are conceived and developed, they decide that the case for suppression is none too good. It turns out that a loom, a linotype machine, a printing press, any complicated mechanism can achieve its end if modified in a dozen different ways. Each is a good invention. About twelve patents are therefore obtained for as many mechanisms. Naturally the invention that meets industrial and commercial requirements most simply and effectively is introudced. The others are "suppressed."

Effect on the Public

But is this "suppression" as the term is usually understood? To compel a manufacturer to "work" these less perfect inventions on pain of forfeiture is clearly an injustice Nor does the public suffer. It loses nothing by the introduction of the single invention that presents the simplest solution of a technical problem.

A patent in the U. S. expires in seventeen years. It is rarely indeed that the patentee earns royalties for the complete term. If he sells his patent as soon as it is granted, years must be spent in further development. What the public could acquire in the form of a forfeited "suppressed" patent would therefore be little enough.

Can't Have Haircut Until He Pays Up Alimony Arrears

Willard Sanborn, of Chicago, a piano tuner, can't have another haircut until he pays up his alimony arrears.

So said Superior Judge Desort, after counsel for Mrs. Nina Sanborn asserted her husband squandered $5 for a haircut with all the trimmings but couldn't pay her $85 in alimony.

Commented the court: "five dollars is too much for any man to spend in a barber shop at one time. It is worse in the case of a man who owes his wife money. And it is especially worse in the case of a piano tuner. Anyway from the pictures I've seen in the funny papers, I thought all piano tuners had long hair."

Day And Night

Day, a spendthrift, rich in treasure,
Spills, with lavish hand,
Golden largess without measure
Over all the land.

Night, his thrifty helpmate, grieving.
After him doth range,
Gathering up his treasure, leaving
Only silver change.

Brings it to him, softly beaming,
Kisses him with pride,
Sends his wanton lordship gleaming
On another ride.

—Ralph Mortimer Jones in the New York Times.

APPROVES LATIN AS ENGLISH AID

Provincial Education Body Officer Sees Advantages

HELPS VOCABULARY

Windsor. — Champions of the teaching of Latin and Greek in the schools have been digging around for material to bolster their case They have discovered a statement written some months ago by Charles M. Ewing as president of the Classical Section of the Ontario Educational Association. He said:

COST IS LOWER

In the first place, the teaching of Latin and Greek is, relatively, not costly. It costs less to educate a student in the academic high school than in the vocational school. Moreover, in the ordinary high school the teaching of languages and literature costs less than the teaching of science.

My second point is that the teaching of the classics is not useless. It has been estimated that at least forty per cent. of the words in the English language are Latin origin, and tweve to fifteen per cent. of Greek.

In the case of medical and general scientific terms the proportion of classical words is much higher, probably nearly eighty per cent. Anglo-Saxon is the only serious rival of the classical languages; but the Anglo-Saxon literature is of relatively little importance to the ordinary student, while the value of classical literature cannot be over-estimated. Moreover, while a very large proportion of our Anglo-Saxon derivatives are smiple words (e.g., as he, there, good, child), Latin and Greek derivatives are the harder and less obvious words in general use.

REALLY PRACTICAL

Does it ever occur to my severely practical friends that the acquiring of as complete and accurate a knowledge of the English language as possible is essentially practical. It is just as practical to give our students a mastery of words as of hammer and saw, typewriter or dynamo.

Do we realize that the tools we most frequently use, in fact are always using, are words? Words are the vehicles by which thought is conveyed from one mind to another. If such vehicles are few and unskillfully handled, we shall have but a poor chance of influencing others by our thoughts.

The person who has studied Latin has obtained a mastery of the English language which few, with no such linguistic training, ever achieve. Surely none will be better qualified to take his place among intelligent men and women than he who has acquired a rich store of words, and uses them with accuracy and discrimination.

Every properly conducted Latin class is a laboratory in which many English words are examined, dissected and their significance understood. Why then should it be considered more in keeping with modern educational requirements to analyze chemicals or dissect botanical or zoological specimens?

HEARING WORDS

One often hears it said that the study of Latin and Greek is valueless because few pursue it in after years. As a matter of fact, an intelligent teacher makes Latin useful to his students from the very beginning.

For example, in the first few weeks the student becomes acquainted with such words as: hiberna a winter camp, pugno I fight, gladius a sword, specto I look. With delighted surprise he awakens to the fact that here is the origin of such English words as: hibernate, pugnacious, gladiator, spectacles.

Properly taught, he becomes an explorer in the romantic realm of words; words become familiar friends. Before they were dead like trees in winter, now they come to life like trees in full leaf.

A good classical teacher can add almost daily to the students' English vocabulary. In the course of a few days one teacher taught the following Latin words: integer whole, renovo I renew, relinquo I abandon, iter a journey, corpus a body; then from these he enriched their English vocabulary with such words as integrity, renovate, relinquish, itinerary, corporal.

NOT DEAD LANGUAGE

Again, there are many English words of classical origin just on the fringe of the students' conscience. In the ordinary wasteful course of nature many of these slip away and are forgotten. But if they are linked up with their classical "ancestors" in time, they are pinned down and the student ever after uses them with confidence and certainty. He may never read Latin after he leaves high school, but he has laid up a treasure which not even the most treacherous memory can dissipate.

Very frequently we hear the question asked: "What is the use of teaching a dead language like Latin?" As a matter of fact Latin still has marvellous vitality. In modern forms it is in constant use over more than half the surface of The Catholic University of Rome is attended by thousands of students from all over the world, who have no common language but Latin; Japanese, Brazilians and Filipinos exchange ideas in Latin; the lectures are delivered in Latin.

MAGAZINE PRAISE

In the May edition of the Canadian School Journal, the official organ of the Ontario Education Associaton, an articles entitled: "The Engagement of Teachers," contains the following extracts:

"There is a high correlation between the study of Latin and teacher success."

"Students who in secondary schools have shown their stamina by passing more than two units of Latin and mathematics, and have had an interest in teaching from the upper elementary grades through the secondary schools should be given first preference in training for elementary schools."

NOT FAST RULE

In conclusion may I say that advocates of the classics do not seek to impose the study of Latin on every pupil entering the academic department of our high schools who has a vague hankering after some dignified calling. But is is surely not too much to ask that every student who seriously contemplates entering one of the learned professions, or proceeding to the B.A. degree, should have some knowledge of a language which is so intimately bound up with our own language and literature.

Lest any of my remarks be misunderstood by my vocational, mathematical and scientific friends in the professions, may I say that nothing is farther from my thoughts than to underestimate the value of the work done in their departments.

MAN IS UNSTABLE

Evolution Held To Be Partly The Result Of Crisis

Probably no biologist doubts the validity of evolution. On the other hand, natural selection and the survival of the fittest, the very core of Darwin's theory, are no longer accepted as the sole agencies at work in the creation of new species and varieties. Since the days of Mendel it has become apparent that the mechanism of heredity is both delicate and complex. Moreover, there are the endocrine glands, with their tremendous potentialities for modifying the organism. Lastly, the relation of that organism to its environment is not nearly so direct and simple as Darwin assumed. How the more imaginative biologists think about evolution and especially the problem of man's descent is well exemplified by "The Coming of Man," a recently published book in which Dr. R. Broom, an English authority on amphibians, sets forth his own hypothesis.

It is generally agreed that life first developed in tne sea. How, then, did the first amphibian evolve? What was the bold animal that first ventured on land and adapted itself wholly or partially to life under entirely new circumstances? When we ask such questions it is apparent that natural selection and the survival of the fittest do not meet the case.

Dr. Brown holds that physical structure, courage, pugnacity, efficiency were not solely responsible for the transition. There was something unstable about the first adventurer that came out of the sea. He was like an unstable chemical compound that changes into something else—something out of which a reptile could evolve, something that was the result of a crisis.

Examine all the other animals, and the transition from an old to a newer form seems always to be the result of critical instability. Despite the convincing array of fossils that shows plainly enough how the one-toed horse of today evolved from an ancient five-toed equine animal not much bigger than a St. Bernard dog, the jumps are marked. Between five toes and four toes there is no gradual transition, nothing like a digital diminuendo.

Crisis, everywhere crisis, whether it be fish or amphibian, reptile or mammal. With man it is the same —one of the most unstable creatures ever evolved. In a state of something like fermentation, he has always been in a critical turmoil. Unlike the ant or the bee, he is not highly specialized. If he ever does settle down, his hisotry will be like that of most social creatures—a repetition over hundreds of millions of years of the same biological events and facts. He will cease to evolve.

King Replies to Woman's Letter of Good Wishes

Dean Lake, Ont. — Mrs. R. Maitland has placed away for safe keeping, a letter just received from the King along with one she got from Queen Alexandra many years ago.

Mrs. Maitland listened to the King's Christmas Day message over a telephone from a neighbor's home, and wrote a letter to Their Majesties wishing them a Happy New Year. The prized letter is the reply.