

STUDENTS STUMPED BY MONTHS IN YEAR

At a special examination in Los Angeles, California, recently 11,000 high school students were examined between 16 and 18 years of age. It was indicated that 18 per cent didn't know there are 12 months in a year.

Sixteen per cent said they did not know why July 4 is celebrated as a national holiday. Three per cent shrugged in puzzlement when asked to look at a clock and tell the time of day.

Nineteen per cent thought the word "writing" was spelled with two 't's, and another six per cent did not know if the correct spelling could be found in a directory, encyclopedia, newspaper or dictionary.

Chronicles of Ginger Farm
Written Specially for the Acton Free Press by Gwendolene F. Clarke

One day last week I was at our local bank when an old gentleman came in. He was very frail and walked with difficulty, even with the help of a cane. But there was something about his expression that made me feel he was well content with his lot in life. Gone was the worn and harassed look that had formerly seemed to be a part of him. He came up to me with a smile, took a cheque from an envelope and said—"Look, it's come... I've got my pension!"

It was really wonderful to see the old gentleman's satisfaction—and certainly he was entitled to what he received. He was definitely not getting something for nothing... not when he was over 80 and had led a long and useful life during which time he had done his share towards supporting each successive government by the regular payment of taxes according to his income.

It makes me very happy to think of the number of old people, who, at long last, will enjoy some semblance of independence acceptable to their years. I like to think of the many grandmas and grandpas, possibly living with a married son or daughter, who will now have a small income of their own with which to buy little comforts for themselves without feeling they are taking it from John or Mary—however generous John or Mary may happen to be.

Or it may be that mother and dad, with the help of their combined pension, can now retain the old home which they had been so afraid might have to be given up for no other reason than the lack of funds.

Yes, Canada has certainly taken a big step forward by giving her old people this pension and with it a certain measure of security and independence. I wish the powers that be could be equally just and generous with the prematurely aged veterans of World War I. The present system in regard to "burnt out" pensions is a disgrace to any government.

An old soldier must practically give up any attempt at earning a reasonable living to receive the subsistence allowance from the De-

partment of Veteran's Affairs. It has been said that a man who has seen combat service is often prematurely aged, sometimes by as much as ten years.

In that case why should he not be entitled to the old age pension at 60—without a means test? Many old veterans at this age are incapable of steady, hard physical work. Part time work, however, is often quite possible and would add considerably to their income, their physical well-being and their self respect.

But no, the veteran must restrict his earning power to a mere pittance or else... One certainly comes across very distressing cases among those who are trying to live on a burnt-out pension. As one lady told me—"We just can't do it—so, much against our will, we have to find ways and means of getting around it."

Well, life has its problems, but sometimes I wonder if we would be less aware of some of the problems without a radio. This weekend we had company again so the radio was turned on very little. A short while ago, with our visitors gone, I tuned in for the news, wondering as I did so what had taken place in the last 26 hours. What did I hear... just another preamble about peace talks in Korea. It put me in mind of some of the soap operas. You know how it is—you catch the tail-end of some dramatic happening in the soap opera world, and then, maybe a week later, you hear part of it again with no progress having been made at all. You naturally say to yourself—

"My goodness, hasn't that affair been cleared up yet?" Of course we know everything possible is being done to bring about peace in Korea but the radio version certainly makes it seem a very long drawn out affair.

And then again, when I listen to news other than Korean activities, and hear all the ghastly details of murders, fires and accidents, I find myself half expecting the announcer will finish up by saying—"But Life can be beautiful!"

And now would you like to hear something really wonderful? Yesterday I killed two mosquitoes, and today I saw and heard a crow. "Can spring be far behind?"

Just in case you are wondering—all the cereal-box-tops—have now found a home.

\$167 Million Is High Insurance

Canadians last October bought a total of \$167.6 millions of life insurance, an increase of \$11.8 millions or 8 per cent, over October, 1950, reports The Financial Post. Total ordinary sales, were \$132 millions up 7.8 per cent and industrial and group life insurance sales were also higher.

All provinces showed gains in ordinary life insurance sales except Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan. Ordinary life insurance sales for the 10 months were \$1,237 millions, up 12.3 per cent, from the 10 months of 1950.

Poet's Corner
THE OLD-HOME PAPER

It's like a smiling, friendly face, it's like a voice you long have known. You see it in some distant place and rush to claim it for your own. The paper from your old home town has bridged the long and dreary miles.

And with it you can settle down among familiar tears and smiles. It speaks for every friend you know. It tells of scenes you yearn to see, it brings back joys of long ago, and tells of joys that are to be. And as you run its columns o'er your yester years come trooping back.

You fancy you're at home once more. And golden seem the letters black its speech is one you understand. It tells of griefs that you can share. It brings you in a far-off land. Glad messages to banish care. There among scenes and faces strange.

The Old-Home paper seems to be a faithful friend that doesn't change. A friend that you are glad to see.

Pollock and Campbell

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You learned then about the necessity for saving to get some of the things you want most. But has time dimmed your memory of the lesson you learned so long ago?
If so, remember — nothing has changed your needs for money in the future. Nor has any magic substitute been found for thrift.
Today, millions of Canadians are practicing their good habit of thrift by keeping up their life insurance payments to protect their families, while saving for the future. They've discovered that, to reach their goals, they must put money aside regularly.
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