

Editorial Page

The Drop-Outs

With so much public money being spent on education in Canada—from 1945 to 1960 the total increased from \$186 million to \$1,426 million—there is increasing concern over the problem of school "drop-outs", the youngsters who do not take full advantage of their educational opportunities. An indication of the magnitude of the problem is the recent statement of Ontario Education Minister John Roberts that, in his province, of every 100 pupils who enrolled in Grade 9 in September, 1956, only 25 reached Grade 13 in September 1960. Another significant statistic is that for the whole of Canada only half of those who enter grade school carry on to enter high school.

In an attempt to sort out the reasons why so many boys and girls leave school The Atkinson Foundation of Toronto has recently financed a study made by St. Christopher House, a social service organization that operates in the mid-town section of Toronto. It is interesting that a preliminary report on this survey, published in the Toronto Star, makes no mention at all of economic reasons as a factor in school dropouts, a contradiction of the frequent charge that many Canadian children must leave school and go to work to help the family budget. A few of the drop-outs were simply slow

learners; a few more were round pegs in square holes, youths who might have done well with trades school training but were at sea in academic courses, or vice versa.

But the main reason why the St. Christopher House teenagers dropped out of school was found to be "just plain boredom." And apparently the chief cause of this lack of interest in education lies not in the school system or with the teachers, but in the attitude of parents. The newspaper story puts it this way: "When the majority of youngsters who felt they could go no further were asked what they thought they were qualified for, most of them said unskilled labor, factory work, car washing, shipping, etc. About 75 percent of those who drop out of school and find a job—either on their own initiative or through the National Employment Service—say they enjoy working but would like to get further training. A significant factor here is that a good percentage of parents are indifferent as to whether their son or daughter works or stays in school."

Perhaps a good point on which to conclude is the remark of some anonymous sage to the effect that those who ask where the younger generation is going should consider where it came from.

Business Slower

If business grinds to a slower pace this weekend it won't be surprising. We can imagine that merchants will put in one of their busiest weekends and be no further ahead financially.

Actually this is the weekend the new provincial sales tax gets its baptism in Ontario. What day does it start? Well we really aren't sure. Most of the literature seems to say the tax goes into effect after September 1 and that would be September 2, but don't take our word for it.

Then too, the merchants will have to be a little more adept at figuring what three per cent of everything is and consulting a chart to be sure they have the right answer.

Of course customers will be eyeing it all carefully too, to be sure they aren't paying unnecessary tax. There may be the odd shopper that will want to pay individually for items under 17 cents to avoid paying the tax on a total grocery or similar order.

Another Holiday?

Monday is Labor Day.

It is a day that has been introduced as a holiday to honor the workingman.

Like many holidays we now mark there seems to be no effort to attach any particular significance to it. Undoubtedly its introduction in 1884 was hailed as an opportunity for parades and other displays of goodwill to workingmen.

Today the holiday seems to find its only area of significance in a long weekend and a chance for many to attend the Canadian National Exhibition where labor is honored.

Much the same situation exists with Civic Holiday, Dominion Day and the old Empire Day.

Actually labor has a history it should be anxious to recall. From the dark days of the Industrial Revolution in England to these enlightened times the workingman

has gained new status and benefits. A day of 16 hours was not uncommon as the industrial revolution gained momentum. It wasn't until 1833 that children under 13 were limited to an eight hour day. Legislation in the U.S. in 1938 recognized 40 hours as the maximum ordinary work week.

Today about 6 1/2 million people make up the nation's labor force. By some generalized mathematics that gives Halton a work force of about 34,000—the equivalent of the county's total population at the mid-way point of the decade.

Labor is entitled to the significance it receives from a special holiday but if holidays are to have any particular importance other than "the day before school starts," "the last holiday of the summer," and "the day we close up the cottage," those responsible will have to get their message across each year.

A Long Week-End

One person will be killed on Canadian highways every hour and a half this Labor Day weekend if last year's record is duplicated.

The last long weekend this year will be the most dangerous according to the records. These safety suggestions which are particularly valuable to those contemplating long trips over the holiday weekend.

1. Take long trips in easy stages; don't try to travel too far in any one day.
2. Avoid fatigue by stopping often for coffee or by changing drivers.
3. Avoid the main traffic arteries wherever possible.
4. If you are tired, but can't stop overnight, pull to the side of the road and cat-

nap until you are rested.

5. When travelling with children, take plenty of books and quiet games so they will not create noisy distractions for the driver.
6. Study in advance the different driving rules of strange cities where you may be driving.
7. If you have a blowout or other mechanical failure, continue slowly until you can pull completely off the highway.
8. Set out flares when making repairs on the highway at night; don't block other drivers' view of your car lights.
9. Keep your speed within safe limits, especially on wet highways.
10. When in doubt, yield the right of way to the other driver.

Harvest Time



Photo by Esther Taylor

Sugar and Spice ...

BY BILL SMILEY

I have just tried to wade through a novel, written by a woman, which contains 1,085 pages of fine print. And I use the word "wade" advisedly. It was like lurching through a swamp in a pair of leaking hip waders, with a 100 pound sack of wool fish on my back. The only thing the novel conveyed to me, after hours and hours of reading, was something of which I was already aware — that women talk too much.

Now, I'm not trying to be offensive when I say that. I am merely making a scientific observation. It's easy to utter that all women talk too much. No more than a woman means all men when she states flatly — and I've heard it a hundred times — "Men are selfish, utterly selfish!" She just means all the males she has ever known. And I just mean all the women I've ever known.

I've made something of a study of this, in moments of quiet desperation, and my conclusions are based on actual observations. My mother talked too much, my sisters talk too much, my wife talks too much, my mother-in-law talks too much and my small daughter is turning into quite a yacker.

I repeat, I'm not trying to be snide about this. It is merely an interesting phenomenon, which I think has had an overwhelming impact on world history. Who, for example, started chewing the fat with Eden? It wasn't Adam. And we all know where that bit of female blathering landed us.

Why do women talk so much? Is it because they're insecure? I doubt it. Is it because they're nervous? I doubt that, too. Poor or rich, skinny or fat, nervous or placid, secure or insecure, ugly or beautiful, they talk too much, and I honestly believe they can't help it.

Now, I'm not trying to suggest that men are strong, silent types who never open their mouths unless they are about to emit some morsel of wisdom. Some politicians and some preachers can talk more and less than a whole gaggle of women but they are the exceptions. Few men can talk endlessly, without apparent effort. Most women can. And do.

I am not suggesting that this is a bad thing, necessarily. The cheerful chirps of the ladies over the tea cups is a symbol that all's well with the world. The interminable telephone conversations about clothes and pickles and what Maisie said to Thelma are reassuring sounds in a far from reassuring society.

It is not the talk of women that sends nations reeling into annihilating wars. It is not the

cradle rules the roost, or something. Like the weather, death and taxes, we can look forward to the talking of women as a sure thing and while it may pinch at times, it will not likely do the world any permanent harm.

It's only useful as a weather-vane. Around our house, the only time the Old Girl stops talking is when she's mad. And when that happens, we all know enough to head for the storm cellars. For the last 20 years or so of his life, my Dad pretended he was so deaf he couldn't hear a word my mother said. And the longer I'm married, the more I respect his native cunning.

G.A.D. About

It Will be Different

Next week the children and the teachers will be back at school. The exhibition will be over for another year, and the prize lists will have been sent out for Acton's annual fall fair to be held as always in Acton park on September 15 and 16.

I have been down to the park and they are now building, at the rear of the arena a new addition for the ice making equipment. The excavations have been made in the arena. Of course the arena will not be usable for the fall fair purposes this year, but we had a fall fair in Acton some years before we had an arena.

When Acton first had a fair of its own there were fairs held in Oakville, Burlington, Nassagawaga and Rockwood as well as the present ones at Milton and Georgetown. The first four mentioned have all ceased to operate and have not held an event in many years.

Perhaps some of my readers will look back with me to the event of 1913 when George Hayll was President and George Hynds was Secretary-Treasurer. There

Premier Douglas Convention Guest For Halton N.D.P.

Although it was originally planned to take place in the County seat, the nomination night for the Halton New Democratic Party's federal candidate has been moved to the Blacklock High School auditorium in Oakville.

There is no place in Milton large enough for it," explained local organizer Marty Caputo. Upwards of 800 delegates are expected, and Milton N.D.P.'s are hoping to see 50 to 60 representatives from Milton alone.

Date of the big convention is September 14, Premier T. C. "Tommy" Douglas of Saskatchewan will be guest speaker and the only known Halton candidate so far is Carl Rouleau of Oakville, a teacher at Streetville high school. The convention is to be organized along the lines of the recent national convention at Ottawa, with folk singers and pipers rounding out the program.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Back in 1941

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, September 4, 1941.

Three cars were seriously damaged in a Labor Day accident east of Acton near the sixth line during a rearend collision.

Two buses, one eastbound and one westbound, stopped almost opposite each other on the highway to change drivers and two cars travelling behind the eastbound bus stopped while the drivers were being exchanged. A third car travelling east failed to stop and rammed into the parked vehicles badly damaging the middle car. Chief Harrop of Acton investigated the mishap and it is likely the case will be heard about further during court proceedings.

Three youths who escaped from Guelph Redemptory last week and were recaptured in Acton shortly afterwards were given an additional two years sentence in Kingston. When they were being heard it was pointed out by Magistrate Watt their record was a lengthy one and after reviewing their past the sentence was pronounced.

During the board of education meeting Tuesday night, W. H. Clayton took the oath of office and was sworn in as a new trustee and W. G. Middleton did likewise following his engagement as secretary. Trustee George Mason reported that Marie Clayton and Erwin McKeown had been chosen as pupils to attend the exhibition as guests of the Fall Fair Board. They will enjoy a tour of the Ex. and a luncheon with the directors during their visit.

Enrolment in both public and high schools is higher this year than last. At the public school 297 pupils have registered in the eight grades and at the high school 88 students have enrolled to date.

The fund to help the children in the Sick Children's Hospital in England was boosted again this week and this time by three young children who were determined to help the less fortunate. Bobby Rumley, Betty and Jean Wilds, set up a booth outside the Johnstone-Rumley store and sold cold lemonade, suckers and other articles. When sales had been completed they turned in \$3.26 at the Free Press for the fund.

Back in 1911

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, August 31, 1911.

James McCall, who arrived here from the Old Country, several weeks ago, and was being entertained by Frederick Parrett, barber, at his home on Main St., abused the hospitality extended by stealing \$20. some barber utensils and articles, and leaving town without saying goodbye. A warrant was issued for his arrest on Saturday. When last heard from, he was at Sturgeon Falls. Scamps of this class should be promptly deported.

For some time, it has been held by Beardmore and Co., the drainage from the Glove Leather tannery on Main St. has contaminated the waters of Fairy Lake and the use of the water has injured the tannage of leather at Beardmore's. Negotiations to have the glove leather tannery closed have been completed and everyone concerned regrets the closing of the industry.

Mr. J. Chapman, who has been manager of the tannery, has closed out the stock and the building will be closed shortly. W. H. Storey and Son Limited were the owners of the glove leather tannery and have made arrangements for their employees to be absorbed in other industry in town.

Mrs. Thomas Morris had the serious misfortune to have a fruit shell in her cellar break down under the weight of the season's fruit. Over 100 glass jars of fruit were destroyed. An unfortunate circumstance this time of year.

Mr. S. Gordiner has workmen engaged in transforming the old Arnold glove factory building at Mill and Wilbur Streets into a double brick tenement.

The road commissioners at Rockwood are grading the sidewalks at Rockwood this week and there is a great deal of comment throughout the village on the manner in which money is being spent this week.

Several corn thieves were detected in Mr. John Walker's corn field this week and the identity of the persons is known. If they do not care to make restitution for what they took, immediate action will be taken to prosecute. This action has been going on for some time and should not have to be tolerated by anyone.

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