

Georgetown Herald

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

A New Concept

Proposed introduction of French language high school education in Ontario received an editorial boost from the Globe & Mail this week.

The Globe writer reasoned that, because statistics in Kapuskasing show a much smaller proportion of French speaking pupils completing Grade 13, the problem would be righted by allowing these students to finish their secondary schooling in French.

Failure to do so, the editorial claims, "condemns thousands of individuals to a substandard life — and robs ourselves of talents that would have been productive."

One cannot argue that some of these young people would benefit by this new system to some degree. But the writer loses sight of the fact that, in a predominantly English speaking province, one who has not mastered the English language has a very limited field of operations.

Would it not be more correct to evaluate a primary school system in this light and take a second look at the wisdom of continuing to teach youngsters in a language which is not in tune with most of our province.

Supposing one finishes high school in French in Kapuskasing, where does he go from there. If to university, it must be to Quebec. If to the business world, certainly not to Toronto, London, Hamilton, Kitchener or any of our major Ontario cities. His

choice must be to stay in Kapuskasing, albeit with a better job, to another part of the province where there is a preponderance of French spoken, or to Quebec.

A boy or girl completely educated in French in this province is handicapped as a resident of Quebec City who persists in his native tongue.

Aside from any other arguments, it is pure common sense to acquire the language of the majority if one wants to get ahead.

Premier Robarts plan for Ontario can only succeed if it is the intention to create a completely bilingual province where every resident has mastered both languages. If this came about, there would be definite cultural and economic advantages. But can our already astronomical education budget stand this enormous expenditure?

Generations of European immigrants have proved that it is possible to take education in English in Ontario, while still retaining their mother tongue as a valuable asset. So have generations of Canadian French, particularly in the Windsor area. We attended school with many such people who spoke French at home, but had no thought that their education, primary or secondary, should be in anything but English.

Could it be that creation of French speaking elementary schools has created a problem which is working to the detriment of a number of our people?

And as one resident puts it, a lot of Georgetown high school teachers would have had their local careers caught short if students had been the judges.

If a popularity poll was the proper criterion, the system would work fine. Unfortunately, this is not the standard for judging a teacher's performance, and often works in inverse ratio.

Unless we chalk the Art College fiasco up to a temporary lapse, we expect Mr. Davis will immediately introduce a new course at OCE — 'How to be popular with students' while at the same time providing experienced teachers with an in-service training plan to bring them up-to-date with today's world.

arena and swimming pool. The town was happy to welcome them, as a neighborly gesture.

Rapid urbanization has changed this picture and the time is here when, because one's house happens to be in another municipality, one should expect Georgetown to foot the entire bill for such things.

The town must use common sense in its demands, and guard against any exorbitant fee just because we provide the service. The township must use discretion too, and realize that it derives a certain benefit from our library, arena and swimming pool and should be willing to devote a share of tax money to their upkeep.



WINTER CARNIVAL TIME IN OTTAWA

Indoor Farming is Brainchild Of Georgetown's Dennis Scallen

Dennis E. Scallen is a 45-year old Georgetown electronics enthusiast who believes that the great outdoors is probably the worst place to practice scientific farming. But proving his point is difficult.

He wants to develop an indoor, enclosed farm on a large commercial scale to produce high yields and annual profits; a combination super-greenhouse and vegetable packaging assembly line.

Proletype
And that takes money. About \$250,000, to be exact is needed before he can build a small prototype plant for growing celery.

Using his methods, in a commercial operation, he claims can increase celery output 112 times that of conventional growing methods to produce 16.8 tons daily on a 4.23 acre area.

With three of his food factories operating, he says he could match the total production of celery for the whole province of Ontario in 1965 that is, 425,585 crates.

Beginning with a plant growth chamber in his basement laboratory in 1964, he has consulted scientific journals, conferred with university botanists, duplicated previous experiments and added new touches of his own.

Competitive
"The result has been a design that is practical, economically feasible and commercially competitive. It will provide a method of growing certain vegetable crops that would reduce imports and earn export dollars for Canada as well," he said.

In his search for capital, Scallen has talked with the Department of Industry, Canada Enterprise and Development Corp., the Ontario Development Corp. and other interests.

"They've all expressed interest, but they seem to be waiting for someone else to make the first move," he said.

"The idea of an enclosed food factory is not new. It probably originated in the despair of a long-forgotten farmer who watched rain, hail, wind, drought, disease or insect pests periodically destroy his crops.

Indoor agriculture began to move from the realm of fantasy in 1880 with the birth in Germany of hydroponics, the science of growing plants in liquid mineral solutions.

Greenhouse botany, soilless plant growth, nutrient developments and artificial lighting and heating all added to the science. October, 1965, saw the first large scale use of artificial lighting for raising vegetables in four fibreglass greenhouses in Soldatna, Alaska.

But this method was economically feasible and competitive in this instance only because of the high price of importing fresh vegetables to Alaska — \$1.50 for a head of lettuce, 70 cents a pound for tomatoes.

Cost Factor
Dan Scallen now believes he has the cost factor licked.

The capital and six-month operating costs of a commercial celery operation with a tiered growth area of 4.23 acres is \$1,892,479. Annual net profit of the plant would be \$282,748 after taxes," he explained.

"The essentials of Scallen's system are conventional artificial

lighting, nutrient mix and a suitable rooting substance, in this case, peat.

Pollination is provided by a flash-on, flash-off lighting system, which produces a pattern of 5.5 seconds on to 4.5 seconds off to produce an increased rate of growth while reducing lighting costs.

Air Pressure
One innovation is an air distribution system, built by 90 per cent, using this tray beds, which pulsating lighting pattern combines the function of a conditioner, atmosphere enricher, insecticide sprayer and air pressure nozzle to maintain an optimum growth angle of the plant leaves.

By using air pressure to hold the leaf angle at 70 degrees from the bed horizontal, four celery stalks per square foot are possible, compared to one stalk to every two square feet outdoors.

Mr. Scallen also adds carbon dioxide to enrich the atmosphere which, he says, speeds up the vegetable's growth rate dramatically.

With a 50-day growth cycle, including layover time, just over seven crops can be grown in a year, he claims.

Cheap Lighting
Scallen's third innovation is concerned with reducing costs in the lighting system.

By experimenting with a that goal.

Fantastic
Scallen sums up his idea and his design as "fantastic in concept, but not in reality."

"It's basically an attempt to bring agriculture into the realities of the 20th century technology, a practical application of the principle of environmental controls to plant growth," he said.

Mr. Scallen has formed a company, Canadian Environmental Systems Ltd., and is now ready to proceed with his prototype installation.

It's just \$250,000 short of that goal.

1958
The first concert of the subscription series under the Canadian Concert Association of Georgetown was given by Leo Barkin, pianist and Kenneth Perkins, violinist, Saturday in Knox Hall. The program included music by Handel, Mozart, Chopin, Wieniawski, Brahms and Kreisler.

'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs' made a colourful theme for Saturday's ice carnival presented by Georgetown Figure Skating Club. Gale Livingstone starred as Snow White and Peter Gibbons as the prince. The show was directed by club pro Ross Smith.

Georgetown Lions Club ranks swelled to fifty Tuesday when four new members were introduced by president Dick Riddall. They are Jim Young, Henry Helfant, Dave Brubacher and Dick Vandenberg.

Barbara Kinrade, 14 Ostrander Boulevard, is one of 161 Girl Guides from Canada chosen to attend an International Camp this Summer in Belgium.

1948
Although the district has not suffered the extreme flood damage that has hit Brampton, the usual spring floods occurred last Saturday in Glen Williams and Norval but were more intense than normal. At the Glen the lower road to Beaumont's Mill was under water between the two bridges and forced the mill to be closed. St. Alban's Sunday church service was cancelled because of huge ice cakes which formed a road block. At Norval the feed mill suffered some damage when the dam overflowed and pumps were going in many cellars as they filled with water. Some of the roads here too were under water.

William Balusiak, 45 of Port Robinson, an employee of the Scott Jackson Construction Company which is installing the sewage system in Georgetown was instantly killed last Thursday afternoon in a cave-in near the intersection of King and Queen Streets. Balusiak was working in a trench ten feet deep.

SUGAR AND SPICE

by Bill Smiley

TO LOVE IS TO HATE

MENI DO YOU HATE YOUR WIFE? Does she talk all the time about Her Relatives? Does she Nag about Nothing? Is she a Miserly Spendthrift? Is she Too Hard on the Kids or Too Easy on the Kids? Is she always wanting to Talk Things Out? Does she ignore your Sterling Qualities and pick constantly on your eight or ten Little Weaknesses?

LADIES! DO YOU HATE YOUR HUSBAND? Does he talk all the time about Golf and curling? Does he Grumble about Trivialities? Is he a Miserly Spendthrift? Is he Too Easy on the Kids or Too Hard on Them? Does he always want to Avoid Talking Things Out? Does he ignore your Charm, Intelligence and Warmth and pick on ineffectualities like that watermelon that has replaced your little, flat tummy of former days?

Sorry, but this isn't an advertisement. If it were, there'd be a coupon to send in, and we'd get everybody squared around in no time. It's merely a questionnaire.

But if the answer to the first question, in each case, is, "Sometimes," and the answer to all the others is an unqualified, ringing, "Yes!" you're an honest man or woman, and a perfectly normal one, with a good, average marriage going for you.

If your answer is "No," there's no point in reading further, because you're a liar or you should be in heaven and not reading this tripe at all.

I know that I hate my wife sometimes, deeply and bitterly, and I know that she hates me sometimes with the same ardor. But c'est la guerre, and if you don't think marriage is a guerre, either you aren't married or you aren't bilingual.

On the other hand, there's a shoulder-to-shoulder solidarity in the average marriage that makes up for practically everything. A man and woman who fight constantly, verbally and even physically, will turn like a pair of cobras and hiss and spit at someone who criticizes either of them.

They will forgive each other for the most monstrous insults the most cutting and vicious

remarks, if it's the real thing. They will cherish each other in sickness as well as in health, in poverty as well as in wealth.

I don't know what brought all this on, except that it's snowing and the wind is howling about the house, and I know my Old Lady is lonely in the city and I'm lonely at home.

There's nobody there to tell her that there aren't any phoshs, that the kids will probably turn out, OK despite all evidence, and that she's a hell of a good-looking girl when she gets fixed up.

And there's nobody here to tell me that I'm clever despite my stupidity in some areas, that I'm a good husband and father, despite my lapses, and that my rolyata is reasonable, if I'd only leave out the vulgarities.

She's so lonely in the city that she can scarcely wait to get home on weekends so we can fight a normal life. And I'm so lonely at home that I can hardly wait to hear the cheerful babble that normally drives me up the curtains.

She misses my cool, my reasonability, my refusal to panic. And I miss her passion, her irrationality, her determination to panic.

She misses my casual attitude toward money and bills. And I miss her furious insistence that the budget should be kept in order.

And I guess that's what this column is all about. You chase who answers "Yes" to all the questions in the quiz that began it might take another look at old Myrtle and count your blessings, even if there are only a couple of them.

Try it without the Old Girl for four or five months. Tomorrow, for example, I have to shovel the front and back sidewalks, get breakfast and put out the garbage, before I can start the day's work. In the good old days, I'd leave all that to him.

And brother, am I getting sick of these frozen chicken pies!

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HARLEY TO HALTON



Weekly Observations by Dr. Harry Harley, M.P. for Halton

THE CRISIS on Parliament Hill surrounding the defeat of the Government on third reading of an Income Tax Bill has now passed. It became fairly obvious by the end of last week that the Government would survive and win a vote of confidence despite the apparently changing attitudes of some of the members of the Opposition Parties. The atmosphere in the House is such, however that I

feel that Parliament will soon recess and not meet again until after the Liberal Convention.

THE GOVERNMENT has moved onto legislation and will first be debating some changes in the Unemployment Insurance Act which I have already discussed in a previous column. It would appear that the next item of business of the House will be some small amendments to the National Housing Act which will increase the mortgage allowed on the first \$10,000 of the mortgage from 90% to 95% and this will have the effect of lowering the down-payment necessary to purchase a new home. I personally believe that in addition to this, the Government should remove the \$18,000 ceiling on NHA mortgages as this is a most impractical restriction. Neither of these two matters should take up a great deal of time in the House of Commons nor be controversial.

WITHIN A VERY short period of time the Government will have to ask the House of Commons for Interim Supply which is the granting of money to pay the bills of Government for the month of March and possibly the month of April as well. This is a wide-open debate with no time limit and it is expected that the Opposition will again mount a heavy attack on the

Government during this time. As there is no time limit on this debate, it is possible for the Opposition to defeat the Government merely by continuing to talk but in the present situation this seems unlikely.

WORD OF THE WEEK
ACCOUNTYER: To dress up, equip, outfit, as a soldier.
Next week's word: Accretion

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