

# The Porcupine Advance

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## EDUCATION WEEK

Next week will be Education Week in Canada. The week is sponsored by the Canadian Teachers' Federation with the purpose of focusing the special attention of the people in general on the educational problems of the day. If the plan succeeds, if there is special interest shown in education, if the people become "education-conscious," to use a modern cant phrase that isn't particularly creditable to education, then a worthy purpose will have been achieved.

The Canadian Teachers' Federation suggests that the hope of Education Week is not to advance any special theories as to the proper solution of certain educational problems that may have arisen, but rather to induce general thought and study so that in the multitude of counsellors there may be safety, and that the reforms that may come may be supported by an intelligent public. In other words what is asked is study, consideration, discussion.

Many will feel that the solution of the problems as well as the facts of the case will be most likely to come from the teachers themselves. A perusal of some of the literature they have issued in regard to Education Week would appear to support such a view. They are in close touch with the questions involved, have given years of labour and study to the matter, and have personal and patriotic interest alike in the results that may be won from changes and improvements. But to say that the public would be pleased to follow the lead of the teachers in the matter, and to do no more about it, would be to defeat the very purpose of Education Week. There is every reason to believe that any solution decided upon by the teachers or the educational authorities alone will prove unsatisfactory, because it will miss the viewpoint of the public and the facts that may be known to the people alone. If the aim of Education Week is achieved in any full measure, and there is general study, discussion, argument, the chances for a right solution will be greatly enhanced.

Much of what is said by the Canadian Teachers' Federation appears to be beyond question, and with the due appreciation and support of the public, the plans indicated would no doubt prove as close to the ideal as it is possible to come in this imperfect world. The Advance, however, questions whether the tendency to emphasize the value of increased central authority and control is a desirable one. Indeed, it seems as if this is one thing that the public at the present time should oppose in earnest fashion. Never before in the history of Canada has there been so decided a trend to centralization of authority. It has reached a stage where thoughts of a Mussolini or a Hitler in the Dominion do not seem as impossible as they would have done a few years ago. It may be no more than a passing world phase, but it is here. Municipal councils seem to be encroaching on the rights of school boards. Certainly there have been striking examples lately of the provincial government deliberately stealing the rights of municipalities. Then the provincial governments at the moment are loud in their boasts that they will defend provincial rights against all attempted inroads by the Dominion authorities. In each case the justification of the theft of rights is along the line that the smaller government has been wasteful or incompetent. The Dominion government attempts to assume greater control of what has hitherto been considered strictly provincial affairs, because it is claimed that greater efficiency will be secured in this way. The provincial government abrogates the undoubted rights of municipalities and the little excuse offered is only to suggest that municipalities have not been showing perfect judgment. Towns and cities attempt control of school boards for similar alleged cause. The theories for centralization are all favourable. The facts are otherwise. School boards may have been wasteful and incompetent, but the towns and cities have left them in the shade in this particular. If towns and cities have been extravagant, they have been pikers in comparison to any or all of the provincial governments. Provincial governments in their turn are far outdistanced for apparent wastefulness or incompetence by Dominion governments. Education Week will prove one of the greatest boons in the history of Canada if it will rouse people to study the quiet encroachment on their individual liberty and the marked tendency, at least in Ontario, to build a Soviet form of administration, with power centred in the hands of a committee of ambitious czars.

There are changes and improvements necessary in the educational system of Ontario. These should be carefully weighed and studied during Education Week, and after. Education Week would also seem to be a specially appropriate time to recall that while there is "no royal road to learning," it is equally true that there are no short cuts to good government, either in education or in anything else. Under the present system the people can secure an approximation to the type of education they desire. Some sections no doubt

have better facilities than others. The general improvement of the backward sections in large measure must await the growth of public opinion. Central authority may help in various ways. Until it shows a greater desire for unselfish service than evidenced so far, it does not appear wise to extend its authority. The closing down of Monmouth Academy is one example of what a central authority may do in practice, as against the pleasing theories that may be advanced.

In sponsoring Education Week the Canadian Teachers' Federation seems to have kept in mind the proverb, "In the multitude of counsellors there is safety." During Education Week it would be well, indeed, if the people extended this thought to the matter of self-government in this day and generation.

## ARE YOU GULLIBLE?

A writer in a psychological journal has attempted to prove that most people are gullible. When the journal accepted his article, his case was partly proven. When readers perused it carefully, he was still further advanced in the proof of his contention. With the article discussed in editorials in newspapers throughout the country the case seems to be fully proven. Apparently, people are gullible. Probably it is a good thing for everybody that nearly everybody is gullible. If some people were not gullible, a whole lot of people would have to go to work—if there was anybody gullible enough to give them a chance to work.

Just how gullible people are may be exemplified when attempt is made to find out what "gullible" means. Most people are gullible enough to believe that a dictionary will give the meaning of a word. "Gullible" is defined as "easily gulled or imposed upon; credulous." Then "credulous" is defined as "gullible; easily imposed upon."

The writer of the article on gullibility seems to be himself among the gullible. He is gullible enough to imagine that he can gull the people with his gullibility tests. He has a list of test questions, for each of which he demands a direct yes or no. If he were not gullible he would know that few questions can be answered without some explanation or elucidation. It was a gullible lawyer who insisted on the witness answering yes or no to each question. The lawyer was gullible enough to offer to answer any question the witness might ask, using no more than yes or no. "Have you quit beating your wife yet?" was the test question of the witness.

The writer in the psychological journal is gullible enough to give points for each question asked; gullible enough to believe that people would trouble to answer them. Like most gullible people he was right to a considerable extent, for he received a great many answers. Some of the gullible questions are:—"Are you a practical person?" "Are you fearful of getting into an argument?" "Do you ever question the opinion of an authority?" (How could a married man answer that one yes or no, however gullible he might be?) "Are you fervently religious?" "Do you believe in the use of drugs?" "Do you ever visit fortune-tellers?" "Do you believe in nudism?" (With the temperature as it is that question might be answered to the satisfaction of the most gullible). "Do you believe in hypnotism?"

The gullible article proved to the gullible author that nearly everybody else is gullible. As the gullible old lady said to her gullible old friend:—"I'm afraid that there are only two good people in all the village—myself and the minister,—and I'm not too sure sometimes about the minister."

The gullible writer seems to be gulled with the idea that everybody is gullible, and that is too gullibly bad. But what a sad world it would be without the gullible! There would be no progress, no interest, no fun, no nothing but dry old ingulibility (if there is anybody gullible enough to believe there is such a word). The gullible Stephen dreamed in his credulous way of the steam engine. The gullible Pasteur set everybody killing germs. The gullible Edison, the gullible Alexander Graham Bell, and thousands of other gullibles gulled themselves and the gullible world into believing in gullible blessings and advances. Without gullibility there would be no Spanish prisoners, no gold bricks, no crooners, only a few newspapers, and a lot more apparently brutal murders. As it is in this gullible world, the gullible are the happiest. What is needed is more of the right sort of gullibility and less of the other sort.

## GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

Some Canadian newspapers have been finding fault with The London Daily Telegraph for publishing an article in which it is stated that in Canada people often find it necessary to equip their cats with snowshoes to enable the animals to move about in the deep snow. Misinformation of similar kind often appears in British papers. The North on more than one occasion has suffered from such misinformation. But the British papers are not altogether to blame. Some censure should also go to those Canadians whose perverted humor tempts them to pass on such alleged items of information. There are Canadian newspapers that publish animal and other stories that equal The London Telegraph's cat with snowshoes. Of course, at their home towns or cities the truth may be known, but even there readers find it difficult to separate the facts from the fancies, and the wise ones count all as humour and let it go at that. It is difficult to know how a London, England, newspaper could guard itself against some of the startling misinformation sometimes

## Sovereign has Many Little-Known Rights

Can Restrict Lord Chancellor's Holidays, Censor Plays in Royal Boroughs, Has No Need for Car Plates.

(By Arthur Nettleton)  
 Custom, necessity, prudence and several other causes have been responsible from time to time for strange rights attached to the lives of British Sovereigns. On his accession King Edward VIII automatically assumes many new and little-known rights and privileges. The King, for instance, has the authority to govern the holidays of one member of the Cabinet to a considerable extent. The Minister concerned is the Lord Chancellor and Keeper of the Great Seal. Upon no account must this Cabinet Minister go abroad—even on holiday—without first receiving the King's permission.

This particular right of His Majesty's is, of course, of fairly ancient origin. To-day it is hardly likely that the Lord Chancellor's wish to leave England temporarily on any occasion would be refused, unless it were likely to be detrimental to the State.

The rights associated with British Royalty in other similar directions are so numerous as to be almost bewildering. In places containing a Royal Palace, such as Windsor, the theatres come under Royal jurisdiction.

King Edward has the right to veto there any play that does not meet with his approval. Every play, and other productions presented at the theatres in those places, indeed, must have Royal sanction, a copy of the script being sent for approval in advance. The right is similar to that of the film censor and the watch committees of cities and towns, but in the case of places with a Royal Palace, the right to sanction or prevent the theatre shows really rests with the King. The task of reading such plays is naturally too big for the personal attention of His Majesty; neither is it undertaken by the Lord Chamberlain, upon whom the duty directly descends. There is a special official for the work, who is simply styled "The Royal Examiner of Plays."

Another Royal right, of very ancient origin, again relates to the palaces. In olden days, a strip of land 200 yards wide around the Royal residences, came within the King's jurisdiction. He had the final "say" in matters affecting this immediate neighbourhood of his palace. The result is that in one or two cases matters in the vicinity of the present-day Royal houses are beyond the authority of the local council.

An example is to be found in the heart of London itself. Whitehall Palace in the past had one of these 200-yard strips encircling it, and even to-day there are licensed houses in the neighbourhood of Whitehall that do not require permission from the London County Council to keep their doors open. Their licenses come from the King—or, more strictly, from the King's representative, in these matters, the Lord High Steward.

It is common knowledge that the King has the right to run a car on the roads of Great Britain without number plates—a right which no other person can successfully claim. Even as Prince of Wales, Edward VIII did not possess a similar right.

Less widely known is the fact that the King's car carries a purple light on the roof, in order that advantage may be taken of another right, the right of priority over other traffic. This Royal privilege, however, is usually confined to the occasions when the King is travelling to fulfill a public engagement and a timetable must be strictly adhered to.

Royal weddings in recent years have made well known some of the rights associated with Royal marriages. Among other privileges of the King in this direction is the right to sanction or deal otherwise with the list of bridesmaids. The bridal dress must be approved, too.

There is a similar privilege in connection with the debutantes presented at Court each year. The King issues instructions concerning the length of the dresses and so on.

Further rights are associated with Royal train journeys. The station mas-

ter at each station along the route must await the Royal train on the platform, and each bridge over the line must be guarded.

Special rights come into force when the King travels in Scotland, for on these occasions many British rights lapse, and Scottish ones take their place. His Majesty has his own Scottish Court officials, and he takes on privileges that do not exist when he is in England.

Indeed, the rights associated with British Royalty are so numerous that probably nobody knows them off-hand in their entirety.

## Out of Every Three One Dies Too Young

Two per Cent of Canada's Population on Sick List. Cost of Illness a Serious Matter.

One person out of every three dies ahead of his or her time of diseases which could be prevented. Sound authentic estimates show that from two to three per cent. of the population is continually on the sick list. Of these between 91 per cent. and 96 per cent. are ill enough to be disabled so that between 1.8 per cent. and 2.9 per cent. (let us estimate conservatively, 2 per cent.) of our population is always too sick to work. Two per cent. of Canada's population is 180,000 persons and that is an expensive and dangerous sick list.

Public Health officials agree that sickness costs the people of Canada over \$11,000,000 per year. Almost nine-tenths of this is a direct charge upon the individual. But the loss in man power is infinitely more staggering. Canada needs a larger population. Yet she is allowing so many Canadian lives to be taken by disease that an estimate places the loss in the future earnings of those sacrificed at over \$500,000,000 per year.

These statements are made by Dr. Gordon Bates, General Director of the Health League of Canada, in a recent article in the current number of the Canadian Public Health Journal advocating the necessity for nation-wide health education in Canada.

"The problems of sickness and health have more than a personal significance. They have a social significance and an economical one. The country with the highest sickness rate and the highest mortality rate is probably, at the most, a backward country," writes Dr. Bates.

"If we allow our babies to die for lack of clean milk or because our mothers do not feed them properly we retard, by our neglect, economic and social progress. Similarly, if instead of running into debt to build hospitals and asylums, because of an adequate community conscience we adequately support our health departments, train our physicians in preventive medicine and keep our citizens alive to the need of spending money as it should be spent to conserve health, by so doing we speed up economic and social progress."

Referring to the toll of deaths from preventable diseases, Dr. Bates cites the instance of diphtheria with up to 13,500 cases in a single comparatively recent year. These cases have resulted in as many as 1200 deaths, although in the year 1933 this was reduced to 200. Typhoid fever was responsible for over 1100 deaths in a single year recently. In the year 1933 there were only 280. Tuberculosis killed 7000 in a single year and the toll of cancer has increased to 10,000 in a single year. Heart disease has increased to 14,000 in a single year and from 1200 to 1300 mothers die in childbirth annually.

Referring to the efforts of the Federal Government and the Provincial Governments to inaugurate a greater campaign of health education, Dr. Bates wrote: "The conference of ministers in Ottawa last May was aptly styled a Cabinet of Health for Canada. In the meantime it seems to me that individuals and organizations interested must do everything possible to call to public attention the facts of health and the need for health education. Education as to personal health must be to a degree futile if we do not build up official machinery in the form of well staffed departments of health covering not only a portion of the Dominion, but the entire Dominion, not limited to a few of the wealthy municipalities but covering poorer municipalities and rural

thrust upon it. Canadian newspapers, on their side, often publish misinformation about the Old Country. At least there are occasional uprisings of British-born peoples here in Canada to say so. Perhaps, if there were not so many British-born here, a certain or uncertain Toronto newspaper would be forward with stories of London, England, cats having to wear blue goggles to be able to get around in some of the fogs. As a matter of fact some Canadian newspaper stories of London fogs are like the cat's snowshoes.

T. L. Church, M.P., has asked in the House of Commons what clemency, if any, is to be extended by His Majesty King Edward VIII, to inmates of Canadian penal institutions. For a great many years in a great many countries, it has been a custom to mark the accession of a new monarch by showing favour to men serving prison terms. It appears to be a particularly foolish form of celebration. It may appeal to some who allow themselves to be swayed by false sentimentality. Probably these people would be equally pleased at the release of all in mental hospitals—poor fellows! The release of a great many of the type of people serving sentences in penitentiaries can hardly be justified. Why not try something new this time? King Edward VIII, is a modern monarch, with original character. Why not do something for the best of his subjects, instead of the worst? Why

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## Have They Looked for This Cat in Sault Ste. Marie?

This one is going the rounds at present. Strange as it may seem, it doesn't come from Sault Ste. Marie where animals have all sorts of strange peculiarities. Anyway, here it is:—

Inspector E. G. McDonald of Hamilton, Ont., was the victim of burns and shock from a remarkable sequence of events—a cat, a gas chamber, and static electricity.

The inspector took a stray cat to the gas chamber at the city pound. The cat objected, squirming in a lively manner as McDonald thrust it into the gas. Friction in the fur created static electricity.

There was a bang. McDonald recovered consciousness—on his back, his clothing blown or burnt from his body. The chamber was knocked to pieces. The cat hasn't been seen since.

## Lad Killed by Train in Blizzard Saturday

Johnnie Cudmore Meets Death While on Way Home with Groceries. Trainmen Unaware of Tragedy.

The pitiful story of how an undernourished, poorly clad 14-year-old lad was killed on Saturday in the midst of a blizzard that was sweeping down from the North, drowning sights and sounds, has been completed.

Johnny Cudmore, who lived with his parents some miles from Porcupine Junction, set out with his dog and sleigh on Saturday to get groceries at the Junction. It was a stormy, cold day but the lad made the trip successfully. He was returning home in the evening, driving into the worst of the storm, when a T. & N. O. passenger train, bound for Cochrane from Porcupine Junction, struck him, and killed him instantly. The dog died too and the sled and groceries lay scattered along the right of way.

The engineer of the train never knew anything had been struck. It was not until some hours later that the accident was discovered.

The lad must have been near exhaustion when he died. He had journeyed many miles that day, breaking trails through the fresh blown snow. When found, many bones of the boy's body were broken, indicating that death must have been instantaneous. He wore few clothes, considering the coldness of the weather.

North Bay Nugget:—Cheer up. Six months from now you'll be kicking about the heat, it is to be hoped.

You can't be sure . . . . . unless you have them examined. Your eyes may be defective from birth and as you've never experienced better vision you don't realize how well normal eyes can see. There is one way to be sure you can see perfectly—have them examined by a competent optometrist.

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Mother Testifies  
 Mrs. J. Steele, Stanley House P.O., Muskoka, writes: "When our children took whooping cough, nothing did them any good until we tried Buckley's. Relief was almost immediate. The coughing spasms quickly disappeared. I'll never cease to be grateful to Buckley's."

## Meeting of the Timmins Building Company Monday

A meeting of those interested in the Timmins Building Company Limited will be held in the I.O.O.F. hall on Monday evening. All members of the company are expected to turn out, as this is the annual meeting.

## The Credit in This Case Should All Go to the Dogs

(Stratford Beacon-Herald)  
 Just to show "it could be done," Rebe Leblanc mushed from Montreal to Winnipeg, a distance of 1400 miles, in 30 days, with five dogs, not all trained huskies, there being only two of that breed, the others being a fox terrier, a collie and a Great Dane.

Mr. Leblanc has been receiving praise for the feat, and having done it we hope he will not attempt the journey back to show "it could be done." We do not see that he has added anything of value to human knowledge or accomplishment by his trip. No other human being is likely to travel between Montreal and Winnipeg that way.

But if any praise is due we think it should go to the dogs. They had to do all the hauling, and when one considers that they had to average nearly 50 miles a day it is obvious they were subjected to terrific strain, especially when one of them was a fox terrier which would not be able to do much pulling.

In an address at a banquet given by mining men in Montreal in honour of Hon. T. A. Crerar, Dominion Minister of Mines, J. M. Forbes, president of the Montreal branch of the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, paid well-deserved tribute to the late Noah A. Timmins. His reference to the late Mr. Timmins as "Canada's greatest prospector" was more appropriate than most people may imagine. The late Mr. Timmins was much more than a financial backer of mines. He had the pioneering, the prospecting spirit, and most of the properties in which he became interested passed under his own personal inspection. At the banquet given here on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the discovery of Porcupine mines, Mr. Timmins had many chats with old-time prospectors who had walked the trails with him. Johnny MacLeod on that occasion recounted with great satisfaction stories of times when he and Mr. Timmins had done actual prospecting together. There were other similar reminiscences. Noah A. Timmins has genuine claim to the title, "Canada's Greatest Prospector," because of the personal interest and effort he gave to the development of Canada's mineral resources.