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SOCIAL SECURITY

Once again unemployment appears to be rearing its ugly head above the sunny horizon of our delirious post-war prosperity. Pessimists and some economists predicted a slump and unemployment while optimists and other economists had cheerfully said it couldn't happen again. At present either could be right.

In spite of the sensational publicity it's been given unemployment lists are still quite normal for peacetime. Timmins lists some 475 unemployed, the city of Windsor 8,000, the Maritimes 30,000, Vancouver about 20,000. Total Canadians employed is close to the five million mark, and it is quite customary for two or three per cent to be classed as unemployed while they are changing from one job to another. It's a normal reaction for dissatisfied workers who have often been compared to square pegs in round holes. They just don't fit, and, being humans, they endeavor to find the type of job into which they will fit.

Having a job you like is half the battle. In spite of shorter hours a man's work is still the greatest part of his life. If he's not happy at his work he has little chance of being happy elsewhere.

Industrial relations personnel have been introduced in an effort to help adjust workers to their jobs, and steps have been taken to give the worker confidence by introducing social security measures. During the war two big steps towards social security were taken: unemployment insurance and family allowances. These, however, are but frail preventives when the scourge sweeps across the country freezing men's pocket-books and bank accounts and paralyzing industry and distribution. Both Dominion and provincial governments realized this and have made plans for further social security measures. Among the present plans on the agenda are old age pensions for everybody at 70 (without a means test); old age assistance for the needy at 65; unemployment assistance to supplement unemployment insurance when benefits run out; unemployment relief payments to unemployed employables; and state health insurance. In addition public works projects are planned for slack periods.

Whether these measures would suffice is questionable, but at least they would be a step in the right direction and would do much to offset the paralyzing psychological fear that stops people from buying when depression and unemployment clouds loom. And, once those steps are taken and the wrinkles ironed out it would give the governments something to work on for even more advanced social security legislation.

Unemployment has been one of the greatest curses of our modern civilized world. Our advances in science and learning have been remarkable, but in achieving a progressive and stable economic system we have been frightfully backward. And the waste caused by our backwardness is disheartening to even think about.

One economist estimated that the lost time through unemployment in the United States during the 30's was enough to build a \$6,000 home complete with every convenience for every family in the States. Canada lost in like proportion. The waste and loss is sickening to even think about.

Karl Marx, still the most quoted economist, and often called the father of Communism, spent practically his whole life studying economic systems in an endeavor to work out an ideal system where unemployment and depression would be unknown. Like most economists Marx had a premise or base from which he worked and formed most of his conclusions. His was what he called a dialectic system in which all economic progress resulted from the struggle of the various classes of society.

He pointed out the different phases of economic systems in the world and predicted future ones. And to a certain extent his predictions proved correct.

All phases, he said, could last only so long in a continually progressing world. Slavery was succeeded by feudalism, and feudalism by capitalism, which in turn would be succeeded by socialism.

The change from capitalism to socialism could be accomplished in two ways: either by revolution and bloodshed which would brook no opposition, or by evolution and gradual change.

Lenin, the father of Russian communism, assisted by his able lieutenants Stalin and Trotsky, seized on Marx's revolutionary theory to overthrow the monarchy and ruling capitalists of Russia while those parties were in the throes of a chaotic defeat in the first World War. The danger with this method is that it never dares to change and must maintain a one-party system that purges all opposition in its efforts to survive.

After the second World War, Britain, — in a position somewhat similar to Russia in the first war — her economy shattered, turned to what Marx called evolutionary socialism in an effort to recover and survive. A gradual and peaceful change from a powerful capitalistic state to a socialist one with state control of major enterprises and social security for the masses. Most of the European countries, their economies shattered, but still desiring personal freedom in spite of their poverty and seemingly hopeless plight, followed Britain's lead. The bloody purges of opposition and suppression of freedom marking the path of Russia's progress made them shy away from revolutionary socialism.

What has been often called the last stand of the capitalists — Canada and the United States — has been marked by efforts to ensure full employment, maintain a high national income and introduce satisfactory measures of social security without resorting to state control of larger industries and resources such as took place in Britain. So far their efforts have been good and would only be ruined by sudden depression and unemployment.

Thus Canada's ability to continue on her slow but steady road to social security depends largely on staying off a depression and widespread unemployment in the next few years. At present the biggest drawback is the petty bickering between the provinces and the dominion government on the split in revenue and what measures of social security each should be responsible for. If they can't settle their differences in time a sudden depression might end their chances for good. That would be unfortunate, for while we want social security, it is desirable to have it under our present set-up.

The happiness of a man in this life does not consist in the absence but in the mastery of his passions.

The cynic is one who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing.

WORDS

Words are undoubtedly the most useful thing man ever invented, and, without question, have been responsible for virtually all of our progress to date. However, in spite of our extensive vocabularies words still have different meanings when spoken, written or interpreted by different races. In fact, the different shades of meaning and interpretations have been mainly responsible for most of our wars.

In writing slightly different words are used to express slightly different shades of meaning, their effect depending mostly on the position of the words in the sentence. The meaning of the spoken word, on the other hand, depends more on the inflection of the voice, and, to a certain extent, by the understanding it has in different parts of the country or world. By inflection a speaker can make a word sarcastic, cutting, kind or complimentary. It's not what you say but the way you say it contains more truth than we realize.

Words are strange things if we stare at them long enough. Gradually they lose all sense of meaning and acquire the look of some strange meaningless Egyptian hieroglyphics and make us wonder if we were quite sane in believing they had some meaning in the first place. Then we begin to wonder why they ever acquired the meaning they have and why we should accept the definition the dictionary gives. If we go on we will find an interesting study in the history and derivation of words, and, at the same time, will acquire a greater understanding and tolerance of the various races which populate this whirling universe. It's a training and study our diplomats should have.

While it is possible (sometimes) to understand what our own speakers mean by the inflection they use on various words, and by their manner of writing, it is something else again to use the same method of interpreting what a speaker of another language means when he endeavors to speak our language in a broken tongue. In fact, it is even more difficult to understand what they mean when their speech is translated through an interpreter. The inflections which give the words much of their meaning is lacking. Actually that has been the cause of most of the great wars between nations, and, if we're not careful, may be the cause of an even greater catastrophe.

How this can be remedied is hard to say. It was always believed that as education became more profound and widespread much of the misunderstanding between people would disappear. Unfortunately, to date it has seemed to lead to more devastating wars than ever, simply because we never correctly interpreted what our future enemies were saying. Hitler gave the world plenty of warning of what he intended to do, but we had been too long used to hearing our own politicians slinging mud at each other to pay much attention to the rising German leader. Only a few who understood the German mentality realized the deep effects Hitler was making on the German race.

Today we have the same difficulty with Russia. Almost every writing.

every united nations conference that has been held resulted in a larger break between Russia and the English speaking nations than before. Even the agreements reached at the conferences broke up later when it turned out that neither side had correctly interpreted what the other meant. A case of words having different meanings by usage and inflections.

Perhaps the blame could be laid on the shoulders of the interpreters, though they are just paid to interpret the words of the speakers, not what the inflection or peculiar usage might cause those particular words to mean.

However, there is a possibility that if interpreters could be given a thorough grounding in the history and manner of speaking of the people whose speeches they are to interpret it might well prove to be far the cheapest way to an understanding between Russia and the English speaking countries than any other course. Certainly it wouldn't make things worse. And, it might conceivably save the world from another devastating world war.

A Y SECRETARY OR BUILDING?

There seems to be considerable discussion regarding the new recreational director and the Y secretary who would be forthcoming as a result of the YMCA-YWCA drive. Many wonder just what duties each would perform. And, also, why a Y secretary without a YMCA?

It was explained that the recreational director's work will be to look after the organizing of sports activities, the Y secretary to look after sports and academic activities peculiar to the Y.

At present it does seem as if the work of the director and the secretary would overlap, and, it appears as if it might be wise to amalgamate both for the time being until such time as the necessity for each is quite apparent. Add to the recreational director's salary of \$250 a month the salary and expenses of a Y secretary and the outlay would total from \$500 to \$600 a month. And there would still be nothing concrete to show for the additional expenditure!

Timmins does need a YMCA. No right thinking citizen would question that. In fact, they are probably reminded of the lack by every newcomer and visitor to town. And parents would be gratefully relieved if they knew their children were being supervised in physical, mental and spiritual progress within the portals of a YMCA.

The swimming season is short in this district, and swimming is one of the healthiest and best body building sports there is. From Y's pools have come some of the world's greatest swimmers and divers. And children would get a chance to learn to swim. That alone is enough to warrant the drive for a Y.

In addition there are showers and a gymnasium for young men and women, lounges and an auditorium for social evenings and study groups. The great need for a Y is apparent by its absence.

Four Phases In Child's Life Audience Informed

Mr. Albert Aube, president of the Adult Education Council presented Mr. K. L. Young who in turn introduced Dr. W. F. Blatz noted child psychologist to a capacity audience that gathered in the Auditorium of McIntyre Arena, Monday evening for the general meeting held.

In his opening remarks Dr. Blatz paid high tribute to the Parent-Child education group who willingly gave of their time for the furtherance of a most worthy cause. "They are building something worthwhile to add to future life, for there is no more trying job in the world than the upbringing of children," said the eminent speaker.

"It seems to me that we have made a mess of our lives and it is to be hoped the next generation will be a more clear thinking, far sighted, aggressive generation than we are. It seems that planned discipline is almost impossible under circumstances today, it seems too, that the old adage of 'spare the rod and spoil the child' is rather prevalent in this day and age, but then again a child too full of obedience is at the mercy of every dictator," he said.

Dr. Blatz also added that a child's life is composed of four different and difficult phases which he termed immediate, inevitable, invariable and graduated. The first he explained as standing, the next as must fall, the third as falling and the last, through distance he fell.

Outlining his remarks with clever illustrations his enlightening and highly interesting address pointed a clearer way to parents on the many problems that beset their lives while at the same time he cautioned against haphazardly catering to the child's wants. A vote of thanks was extended the speaker by Mrs. Wendell Brewer and following the meeting questions were asked by several interested mothers, which were promptly answered.



The bachelors straggled into their regular dinner meeting singly and in pairs and ordered at their leisure. Max was appointed Chief Helmsman for the evening, with Mert and Mac as guardsmen.

"This is the life," said bachelor Ken, "order what you please, when you please and have an attractive little waitress serve your dinner up with a pleasant smile and some friendly chatter thrown in for good measure."

"Yes," agreed bachelor Sam, "and they say a little chatter always helps your digestive system. I guess that's why us bachelors never have stomach ulcers like married men."

"Right," chimed in Phil. "And I just noticed where one of the papers had made a survey of Timmins and found that a good number of local housewives slept in mornings and let their husbands get their own breakfasts. Thank heavens we've none of that trouble."

"Our little waitresses are always on the job," said Nick, "and they don't try to hustle us off so we won't be late for work or so they can slip back to bed for a few winks."

"This is the life," the bachelors chimed in unison.

Chief Helmsman Max delved into the suggestion box, unravelled a crumpled piece of wrapping paper and said gravely, "Our discussion for to-night will be, quote 'Timmins winter tourist trade is practically non-existent, is women's overstockings the cause? And if so what can we do about it, signed, anonymous,' end of quote."

"This," continued Helmsman Max, "is a delicate subject, a subject on which the future of Timmins might depend, a subject which..."

"There's no ladies present," said Jerry, looking around carefully, "you fellows can air your views without fear."

"Discussion groups," continued Max, ignoring bachelor Jerry's remark, "should be kept on a high level, members should speak one at a time, lower their voices when ladies are at the next table, and we should always reach some conclusion. In this case we could send our findings to the local board of trade, or the town council."

Bachelor Phil took the floor. "I've just been reading where thousands of American ski tourists are flocking into Montreal, a place where overstockings are unheard of and nylons are flashing down every street."

"Point one for the nylons," said Helmsman Max, jotting it down on the table napkin.

"I disagree," said Mert. "Those tourists are skiers. I go down there myself on the way to the ski resort, and they don't wear nylons."

"How do you know whether they wear nylons or not?" asked Nick, grinning broadly.

The Helmsman wrapped on the table with a ketchup bottle.

"Gentlemen, we're getting away from the subject. Naturally the skiers don't wear nylons, but they might still flock into Montreal to watch the nylons go by."

"Exactly," said Phil, "precisely what I meant."

Nick bobbed up. "But I still want to know how Mert knows the skiers don't wear nylons, it's an interesting question and should be answered."

The Chief Helmsman looked stern. "The question is irrelevant and is stricken from the records. The problem is overstockings and nylons that are visible to the public eye."

"But in this cold weather the girl's limbs might freeze if they didn't wear overstockings," interjected the practical Ken.

"What's a frozen limb or two in the public interest," said Nick.

"Did you ever wear nylons in Timmins?" asked Ken pointedly. "And why do you say the public interest, we're only an isolated group."

"And a prejudiced group," said Phil, "especially where nylons are concerned."

"That settles it," said Helmsman Max. "If we're prejudiced we should not cast our views on an unsuspecting public. Our news releases must be free from bias or prejudice. We'll strike this discussion from our records and let the board of trade make a survey on the tourist business themselves."

Two girls wearing nylons came in and sat at the adjoining table and the meeting unanimously ended.

What They Laugh At

The problems these days is for nations to train their troops without making it look military. Perhaps the lads should practice in the woods, shooting bears by mistake for people.

"And now, my little man, what would you like for a birthday present this year?" asked the jovial uncle of his little nephew.

"A mouth-organ, said his nephew promptly, "same as last year."

The uncle was very pleased to hear this.

"I'm glad I chose the right thing," he said. "What made you like it so much?"

"Mum gave me a quarter a week not to play it," was the reply.

To Learn Child Needs Stimulation and Desire

"Only 20 per cent of the students are suitable to try for their senior matriculation," Dr. Blatz told the joint meeting of teachers and public health nurses at T.H. & V.S. on Tuesday.

"Age six is the proper time for a division or segregation of children for their various life work, the time to decide whether they will be laborers, tradesmen, business or professional men," the psychologist said. "If we wanted it this way which we don't." In the beginning the human infant is a living organism with few inherent or genital patterns of behavior passed down from his parents. Later certain patterns appear such as writing, walking, talking, etc. These are acquired habits or abilities which can be measured by means of a test.

The Doctor said that while learning is complex it could be broken down into three main factors, namely: motivation, or the desire to learn; capacity, or the mental ability to receive; and persistence, or continual practice and study. Ability depends on all three factors.

There are still no tests devised to measure motivation or persistence, and the test for capacity is still far from perfect.

The home is where the child first receives the stimulus or desire to learn, and naturally some homes and parents provide better backgrounds than others. Thus some children develop desires that give them a persistence towards learning that never dies, others falter and stop. Every child can, however, be stimulated to learn, but sometimes their capacity to receive limits the amount of stimulation. As it is many children — and adults — never develop to much more than a third of their capacity.

This is Really a Boy's World

(Thorold News)

If you have boys in your family, you'll enjoy this description of a boy forwarded to us: After a male baby has grown out of long clothes and triangles and has acquired pants, freckles and so much dirt that relatives don't care to kiss it between meals, it becomes a boy.

A boy is Nature's answer to the false belief that there is no such thing as perpetual motion. A boy can run like a deer, swim like a fish, climb like a squirrel, talk like a mule, bellow like a bull, eat like a pig, or act like a jackass, according to climatic conditions.

The world is so full of boys that it's impossible to touch off a firecracker, strike up a band, or pitch a ball without collecting a thousand of them. Boys are not ornamental; they're useful. If it were not for boys, the newspapers would go undelivered and unread and a hundred thousand picture shows would go bankrupt.

The boy is a natural spectator. He watches parades, fights, fires, football games, automobiles and planes with equal fervor. However, he will not watch a clock.

A boy is a piece of skin stretched over an appetite. He eats only when he's awake. Boys imitate their dads in spite of efforts to teach them good manners. Boys are not popular except with their parents, but they do have many fine qualities. You can absolutely rely on a boy if you know what to rely on.

Boys are very durable. A boy, if not washed too often, and if kept in a cool quiet place after each accident, will survive broken bones, hornets' nests, swimming holes, and five helpings of pie.

Boys love to trade things. They'll trade fish hooks marbles, broken knives and snakes for anything that is priceless or worthless.

When he grows up he'll trade puppy love, energy, warts, bashfulness and a cast iron stomach for a bay window, pride, ambition, pretense and a bald head and will immediately begin to say that boys aren't what they used to be — in the good old days.

Ministerial Assn. Would Like Co-Operative YMCA Secretary

"We hope that the Y secretary secured for the proposed Porcupine YMCA-YWCA will be the type of chap who will co-operate with the churches," Rev. J. A. Breckenridge said at the Ministerial Association meeting held to discuss the coming Y drive at the Trinity United Church Manse on Monday. Mr. Art Carveth, of the Y's Men's Club, of Timmins, was the guest speaker.

Present at the meeting were Rev. Canon R. S. Cushing, Schumacher Anglican Church; Rev. J. A. Breckenridge, Trinity United; Rev. A. C. Burmaster, Pentecostal; Rev. E. G. Smith, Mountjoy United; Rev. R. J. Scott, South Porcupine United; Rev. Jas. Morris, S. Porcupine St. Paul's Anglican; Rev. J. R. Hunter, S. Porcupine Pentecostal.

The ministers were unanimous in that a YMCA would be welcome in this district but wondered just how it would fit in with the other youth organizations. They believe the Y is a worthwhile organization and declared themselves quite favorable.

"Just how," Rev. Breckenridge asked, "would the duties of the Community Activities Committee recreational director differ from those of the proposed Y secretary?"

Mr. Carveth answered that the recreational director was intended to look after all sports activities, the Y secretary to be responsible for organizing academic, sports and other work peculiar to the Y.

Mr. Carveth assured the association that they would be consulted on future plans for the Y.

THE FUTURE OF GOLD

A distinguished mining man, who is incidentally a keen student of world affairs, addressed the convention of the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy at the annual dinner in Ottawa on a timely topic, "The Future of Gold". Mr. Arthur Notman, of New York, presented to his Canadian conferees a pungent and pithy analysis of the present uses of gold, and of some of the abuses that have accompanied the legitimate uses.

Many well-intentioned theorists have argued that the use of gold as a medium of exchange is no longer necessary, and that "managed currencies" and properly controlled trade can be made to serve the purposes for which gold was once so useful. The majority in this world seem to believe still, however, that the use of gold is still necessary. This is attested by the fact that, even under the conditions created by the war, there has been a "disappearance" into private hands of 1½ billion dollars in gold annually since 1942, which is considerably more than the world's annual output.

"Throughout history, when governments have over-spent and exhausted their credit, being denied the resort to legal bankruptcy, they have repudiated their debts in part or in whole by various methods. One of the 'divine rights' of kings was that of surreptitiously clipping the coins, and thus acquiring reserves of bullion as a basis for further borrowing. This somewhat crude artifice was replaced by resorting to 'kiting' their assets by writing of the value of their remaining gold interns of their paper currencies. When their gold was completely exhausted, if they could find something else to write up, as for example tulip bulbs, and by controlled propaganda convince their citizens of the intrinsic value of that commodity, they were off again to the races. Having exhausted the possibilities of 'commodity dollars' and still being unwilling to tighten their belts and economize as all of us have to do when we have been foolish or unfortunate, they have started the printing presses, usually with a flood of propaganda that all that was necessary to re-establish confidence and therefore trade, was to increase the supply of 'money'."

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