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Education more than everybody's business

WITH the start yesterday of Education Week attention is once again focused on education, the schools, the teachers and the students. Open Houses, planned by most city schools in the next five days will give parents the opportunity of re-entering the educational institutions into which their children disappear five days a week.

Never before has the motto "Education is Everybody's Business" been stressed so much as it has during the past year. It will be emphasized even more this year when the Royal Commission on Education holds its hearings in Prince Rupert.

More and more it is being brought home to parents and children alike that there can be no half-way attitude towards learning today. There has to be concentrated effort on the part of both if children are to go through school with favorable marks and maintain a high average. Large classes, making it impossible for teachers to give individual attention to pupils, have brought about a situation where it is essential for the parents to keep close track of their children's progress and to be ready to help their children at all times. Therefore a ready knowledge of what their children are studying and the method by which it is taught is necessary for parents today. Education Week gives parents another chance to refresh their memories of what went before, to ask questions and find out where they can help.

With an ever-growing school population District 52 school board, the teaching staff of our schools, the parents of some 2,500 students and the pupils themselves face the biggest challenge of their lives. Education Week should be dedicated to a joint effort by all four groups to gain understanding and the maximum in accomplishment, in other words a high standard of education. Onece an increased tempo is attained it should not be allowed to slacken.

The printed word

Despite of the advances through radio and television, the daily newspaper remains the mainstay of communications in the world. There is no other single medium which day by day reaches a wider audience with more ability to convey the fluid news of the times. Government would be hamstrung without the operation of the presses and this dissemination of its laws. The entertainment world would find gap overnight. Business, if it wished to leave a surviving record of its intentions, would be reduced to handbills. Industry and commerce in widening fields would be submerged in the welter of rumor, misinformation and misunderstanding which often fill the gap when presses stop rolling.

For its modest price, the daily newspaper gives a return that stands in a class by itself. The world, the nation, the community, the groups of individuals, every essential fact which goes into the continuing round of human society find their way into the columns of a daily newspaper. And this is so wherever a free press is in operation. The ability to give spot news on microphone or screen, important and useful in its own sphere, is not likely ever to supplant the written record. That can be laid aside, and picked up again hours, days, and years later in precisely the same form. Not all "news" has a message to convey; but it is surprising what a percentage of it does, and to the widest audience.

What can be said of the daily press applies also to the progressive weeklies published in almost every settlement of 2,000 people or more. The weekly paper is scanned by its community on publication, put by to be read at leisure, and fills many a continuing roll for which there is no substitute. Much closer to all individuals than any other medium, a free press remains the guarantee of a free people. Canada, happily, enjoys both. —The Victoria Colonist

Trained memory

Ordinary mortals, who carry unmailed letters in their pockets for days and forget birthdays, will get no little satisfaction from the plight of a "memory expert" in the United States.

It seems that one of his talks on his system of memory training had to be cancelled because the date clashed with his wedding anniversary—which he had forgotten when he made the date.

Of course, he did remember the wedding anniversary in time, by some means or other, which is more than some people can do.

But the whole thing seems to prove that the only fool-proof memory system is to tie a string on your finger. After that, the trick is to try to remember what in the world the string is supposed to remind you of.

—The Winnipeg Tribune.

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

Soviet position on Berlin not so one-sided

By GEORGE KITCHEN
Canadian Press Staff Writer

The half-way point now has been reached in Nikita Khrushchev's fateful six-month deadline on the future of West Berlin. It finds East and West more deeply deadlocked than ever.

On Nov. 27 Khrushchev proposed that the former partners—Britain, France, the United States and the U.S.S.R.—end their occupation of the old German capital and turn it into a free demilitarized city, with only United Nations observers to keep watch on the city after the troops were pulled out.

Khrushchev put his proposition on a take-it-or-leave-it basis. He set a deadline of May 27 for negotiations and said that, regardless of what the Western Allies did, he intended to pull his troops out on that date and turn Russia's rights and responsibilities over to his East German regime, which the West does not recognize.

Since then, Khrushchev has not budged an inch from the West. If anything, his attitude has stiffened. And, again, so has the Western attitude. Khrushchev says he will regard as an act of aggression any Western attempt to force entry into Berlin after his deadline. The West maintains it has a right and duty to supply its garrisons and the 2,200,000 West Berliners living there.

It will not, it says, shoot first, but there is a strong implication that the West will follow suit if the Russians resort to firepower.

Some Western observers believe Khrushchev hopes to cut, carry the crisis to the brink in hopes of wringing concessions from the West. Some think he will agree, at the last moment before the deadline, to some sort of acceptable meeting with the West to negotiate on Berlin and Germany.

That may have been what President Eisenhower had in mind when he recalled to his press conference in Washington this week that Moscow, after years of stalling, agreed to an Austrian peace treaty.

There is speculation that the Russians now are so confident that they are prepared to push their luck to the limit; that unless the West gives in on the Berlin issue, at least to the point of dealing with East Germany, there will be no Soviet concession even on a conference.

But there are some Western diplomats who feel that the worry over the Berlin situation is not one-sided. There must, they suggest, be growing concern in the Kremlin as the deadline approaches.

They believe that Khrushchev, despite his bombast, must be becoming increasingly worried over the possibility of full-scale warfare developing over Berlin. The Soviet position in East Germany is far from secure, as evidenced by the numbers of East Germans who flee daily to the West, and it could become untenable if Russia became involved in full-scale fighting.

Also, uprisings might easily develop in Hungary and the other satellites if another war developed.

Even if no shooting developed, Moscow might find it too damaging from a propaganda standpoint, to stand accused before the world of starving out the more than 2,000,000 West Berliners who depend on allied supply trains for food and other essentials.

Act or forget it

The time has come for a definite decision on civil defence to be made at the top level—the Ottawa level. Bluntly put, the decision must be: are we going to have civil defence or not? If public interest in civil defence is nil, or the next thing to it; if the government feels such interest cannot be aroused, or that we either do not need civil defence or that to organize it would be prohibitively expensive, then the pretense that we now have it should be abandoned.

On the other hand, if civil defence is a vital necessity to this nation, then clear directives are necessary from the Federal Government, backed by necessary appropriations from the treasury, to organize civil defence clearly and effectively for its task.

—The Fredericton Gleaner.

Canada Winter Work Campaign
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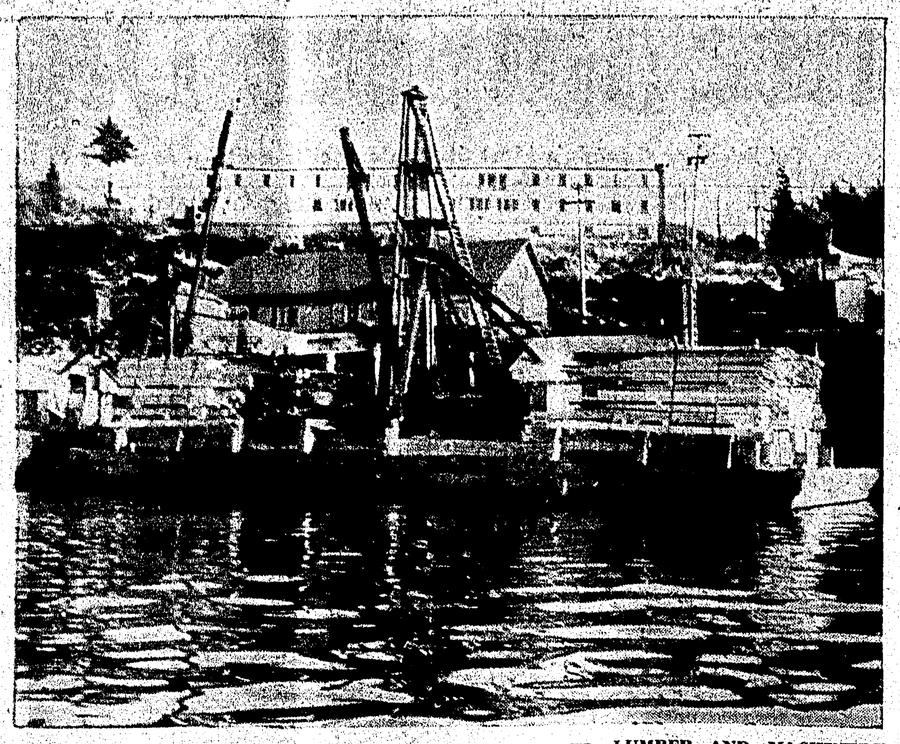

LUMBER AND MACHINERY for Prince Rupert's new $350,000 sawmill to be constructed on the old drydock and shipyard site, is shown above before it was unloaded from Armour Salvage Limited scow. Lumber is being stockpiled on site of new mill construction of which began last week. When completed mill will employ about 25 men on day shift and is expected to produce 100,000 board feet per eight hour shift.
—Photo by Gladys Baldwin.

Victoria Report

. . . by J. K. NESBITT

VICTORIA—Your MLA's are now engaged in voting millions and million of dollars for your public service, and, as they do this, they argue with each other, and they make political speeches, for already their eyes are on the next election,—next year, though the Premier vaguely hints it may not come until 1961.

However, Mr. Bennett's too shrewd a politician to wait until 1961—five years after the last election. He knows full well that most governments in our history, if they run their full five years of office, are toppled at the polls, and while he's a born political gambler, he won't gamble on this one.

The Premier, this session, seizes every opportunity to make political speeches, priming himself for the election that inevitably must come. He's going to campaign on a debt free province. While Ontario and other provinces go deeper and deeper into debt, says the Premier, waving his arms about, and very persuasive and all, British Columbia, under Social Credit is becoming debt free—and isn't it wonderful, Mr. Speaker—isn't it wonderful for British Columbia to have the wonderful policies and theories of Social Credit. That's the way the Premier talks these days and he believes every word he says, and, if he has any doubts you'd never know it, listening to him in the House, for he's a great showman.

CCF'ers are electioneering, too—fighting every inch of the way for development of our hydro electric power by the public, not by private interests, and CCF'ers are more vehement than ever about their desire to have the government take over the B.C. Electric. That's going to the the chief plank in the CCF election platform, and there's no doubt it's a popular cry, for more and more British Columbians are coming to believe they're paying outrageous rates for more power.

So, as long as this session lasts we'll hear the Premier talking about his debt reduction, waxing politically delirious about it, and the CCF saying how public power is the only thing for the good of British Columbia.

✦ ✦ ✦

CCF Mr. Nimsick of Cranbrook can never understand the Premier's explanations. Mr. Nimsick's always wanting to know this and that, and the Premier explains, but Mr. Nimsick can seldom make head or tail of what the Premier says—or so he pretends.

Typical example: Nimsick—"You're not answering my questions, Mr. Premier."

Bennett—"Nobody can answer your questions, my friend."

✦ ✦ ✦

This column has said several times legislative speeches this session are longer-winded than usual. But we never expected to hear a cabinet minister tell two private MLA's they had been long-winded. Yet that's what Hon. Mr. Martin, of Health and Welfare called the speeches of CCF Mr. Eddie of New Westminster and SC Mr. Price of Vancouver-Burrard -- long-winded if you please.

✦ ✦ ✦

Hon. Mr. Gaglardi of Highways hates legislative sessions. He thinks too much time is wasted, as indeed it is. He squirms in his seat, is so restless it makes you restless to look at him squirming with impatience, when he wants to be out, flying around, testing curves and seeing the highways building.

✦ ✦ ✦

S.C. Mr. Murray of Prince Rupert appears the best yet, at the moment, to become the new Minister of Commercial Transport, or at least to be taken into the cabinet. He's a bright young man, has much hidden talent—and besides, if the Premier adds to his cabinet at this time he'd like the western north represented. And Prince Rupert rates a cabinet minister, now that it's our city nearest to the new State of Alaska.

All Aboard

By G.E. Mortimer

Small boys are obviously bent on suicide. They jump off woodsheds, swing from high branches, dive into rocky waters. They throw stones and shoot BB guns at each other in pitched battles.

They build rockets. They play with ammunition and dynamite caps.

But a surprising number of them survive, and grow up to marvel at the foolhardy things they did.

Sometimes, however, these adventures end in death.

Boys are creatures who like to explore and take chances. They need a little danger to harden them to the degree of strength and wisdom that they must have in this world.

However, a way should be found to keep them from destroying themselves. The youngsters didn't invent such things as guns and dynamite. Grown-ups did. Grown-ups should inform the younger generation clearly what the dangers are.

A group of men in Victoria has hatched a plan to show thousands of youngsters all over Canada—and perhaps all over the world—what a risk they run when they play with fire and firearms.

The South Vancouver Island Rangers persuaded the B.C. government to donate the services of government photographers in making a safety film.

But some money is still needed to meet the expenses of making the film. The Victoria club of Optimist International, a service group devoted to helping young people, has taken a hand.

The Optimists are trying to drum up $5,000 from their 55-odd clubs in B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan, Washington, Oregon and Idaho. They aren't seeking contributions from the public. However, if any contributions are offered they won't be turned down.

The movie to be shown in schools and public meetings, will alert boys and girls (and adults as well) to the dangers of such lethal devices as slingshots, bows and arrows, air guns, rifles, blasting caps (they are so sensitive that the warmth of the fingers will set them off) war souvenir weapons, home-made rockets, firecrackers and gasoline motors.

The aim is to discourage people from gambling with life, or at least teach them how to lengthen the odds.

Elementary

From the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix

Too many assume it should be possible for Ottawa to grant new concessions even as it reduces taxes, because they forgot all about the unchallengable logic of elementary arithmetic.

LETTERBOX

DEPLORES INTERFERENCE

The Editor,
The Daily News,

I have just received my gun from Vancouver where I sent it to have a little gunsmith work done on it. The gun came CNR express and had been opened since leaving Vancouver.

My opinion is that the party or parties that opened it can leave their red Russian noses out of my guns. Any gun that I own is just as lawful in this country as my shotgun that the Canadian Customs, the RCMP and the CNR tried to take away from me in February, 1953.

The CNR seems to forget that they played football with my match rifle from Woodstock, Ont., to Prince Rupert. When it arrived here it was broken open and the bolt was lost out of it. Mr. W. D. McAra, who was the express agent here at that time focated the bolt for me in the CNR office at Edmonton.

I believe that if a few more of them got called to Vancouver and put on the mat, they might realize some day that this country is Canada and not Russia.

If the person who picked up my rifle, looking for the serial number the night of the turkey shoot in December, 1958, had been half smart he would have put the gun back where he picked it up. The only person he has been fooling around the Civic Centre rifle range for two seasons is himself. Target shooting is a sport and not a job.

John Jenkins,
Civic Centre Rifle Club
Prince Rupert

Discipline

From the Kitchener-Waterloo Record

The battle goes on between those who think juvenile delinquents need tough treatment and those who favor a softer line.

Britain, plagued with delinquents known as teddy boys, lately has been placing criminal repeaters in camps for periods up to three months, under hard discipline.

Basically these are work camps with a difficult daily grind. The standard prison atmosphere is missing, the stress is on outdoor effort in considerable measure. The boys are stripped of their absurd badges of identity—odd getups and haircuts.

The big thing seems to be that for most of them this is the first real discipline they've ever known.

Political drifters

From the Ottawa Journal

One of the penalties of parliamentary government, it seems, is the infinite capacity of certain types of politicians to cut themselves adrift from reality.

What price pride?

From the Courtenay Argus

What will be injured by the suspension of the CPR ferry service to Victoria, Victoria's trade or Victoria's pride? Sorting out the facts from the sound and the fury, it would appear that the only serious casualty will be Victoria's pride, and this newspaper is opposed to any government subsidy for any city's pride.

If the whole of the Island were being cut off from the mainland, it would be an entirely different matter. But as it is, the few people who are using the service can travel to Nanaimo by car or bus and take the ferry there. This would cost very little, if any, mre and would take little, if any longer in actual hours of travelling time than the present Victoria-Vancouver service takes.

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