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Airing School Rumors

ALTHOUGH it is regrettable that the matter ever had to come up at all, everyone with an interest in conditions at Booth Memorial High School will be glad that certain unpleasant gossip concerning the school has at last been brought to a head. Better still, the rumors have been found untrue.

Talk of this sort was doing great harm. Parents who heard it were naturally disturbed, and it was inevitable that the stories should spread and become more alarming in the process.

But just as long as the talk remained in the form of behind-the-hand gossip, its effect was to add to the danger of whatever misbehavior was thought to exist. It was creating just the kind of atmosphere in which real mischief thrives.

Fortunately steps were taken to bring the whole subject into the open with the result, as principal R. H. Davidson announced Wednesday night, that the reports were found to be untrue. It was not a pleasant matter to discuss, whatever the investigation had proved, and Mr. Davidson is to be commended for his forthright presentation of the facts to the group most personally concerned, the school's parent-teacher association.

Disagreeable though it was, the issue had some value in pointing up the need to bring these incidents to a level where they can be frankly examined and discussed. The parent-teacher associations provide an excellent medium for this, while the school board also should be informed of any rumors that are causing serious concern.

Schools everywhere are fertile breeding-ground for stories of misconduct, sometimes with good reason. But the parents, teachers and school trustees who tackle the problem openly are the ones likely to have the least trouble, for the air of a conspiracy is then dissipated and there is no longer any fun in it for the trouble-makers. Moreover if there is some truth to the stories, an open approach is the quickest means of getting at it.

Rumors that are allowed to circulate unchecked can do a school more harm than any undisciplined student could ever dream of doing. It means that the delinquency has moved to a higher and more potent level—for ugly, unverified rumors are nothing less than that.

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THE Royal Canadian Mounted Police are a national force to help and protect the Canadian citizen.

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Their duties consist of washing floors and general cleaning of their office to tracking down a murder.

Their training is of approximately a one year period. During this time they learn to ride, swim, how to search criminals, shoot and all kinds of other things.

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—(From an essay written by a prospective recruit.)
—The RCMP Quarterly.

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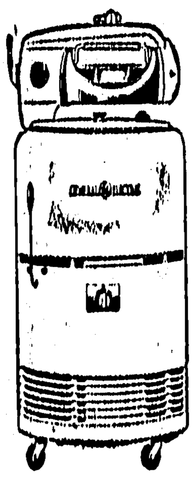

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As I See It

BY

Elmore Philpott

Who's Poujade?

SOMETIMES I have an uneasy feeling when I read the French newspapers, or the news reports from France. Too many of them look and sound like a duplication of those received 20, or even 30 years ago from Germany and Italy.

The reports from France describe young Pierre Poujade as some kind of a freak or screwball. That is precisely what they called Mussolini in the middle twenties, and what they called Hitler a decade later.

Poujade may be a freak and he may be a screwball, in the same sense as were the dictators of Germany and Italy. But his background clearly shows that he is the particular type of freak who may very well repeat in France what already happened in nearby European countries with tragic consequences.

PIERRE Poujade was born on December 1, 1920, at Saint Cere, France. His father was a fairly wealthy architect.

At the age of 15 Poujade made his first political speech for the extreme right wing French Fascist movement, headed by Jacques Doriot, who was eventually killed in Russia, fighting for Hitler. Apparently Poujade served in the French army from 1939 to 1941, but there is no record of him having been in any kind of action against the invading Germans.

However, when the government of Marshal Petain was formed, Poujade joined the uniformed youth movement. In 1942 and 1943 he was in Spain on some mysterious mission. Later he went to North Africa, where he joined the Royal Air Force in 1944, too late to take any part in the actual combat of the Second World War.

HIS civilian career bears some slight similarity to that of Hitler. Like Hitler, he seems to have been a misfit in ordinary society, never finding any niche into which he seemed to fit comfortably.

From 1935 to 1939 he worked as an apprentice printer, later as a vineyard worker. After 1945 he worked for a library then opened a small stationary store in his birthplace, Saint Cere.

He was elected a town councillor at a time when tax frauds were a red hot issue. Nobody in France likes to pay taxes, but small businessmen have an even more fervent dislike of doing so than the rest of the population.

The backbone of Poujade's new movement is the small merchant who violently oppose paying taxes—and he is also opposed to any real investigation by the government into alleged tax frauds. Poujade himself taxes these merchants a heavy annual fee, which has netted his party campaign fund a total of well over one million dollars.

POUJADE published a book in 1955 titled "I Have Chosen To Fight." It is much along the line of Hitler's Mein Kampf.

In the last general election the party headed by this relatively unknown young man won 11 per cent of the total vote of France and elected no less than 53 French MPs.

He talks now of a march by half a million Frenchmen on Paris and the resurrection of a body which he calls the States-General, which last met at the time of the French Revolution.

It seems clear that he is being backed by some of the Nazi refugee money which was carried to Spain in the last days of the Hitler regime.

OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

It is becoming increasingly apparent to top-flight Parliament Hill economists that the nation's foreign trade figures are becoming open to two opposite interpretations—one favorable and the other much less favorable.

The question for Parliament to debate and for the public to decide is which interpretation should be accepted. It's an issue that is going to mean a lot to individual Canadians in the months ahead in terms of economic comfort or otherwise.

The key figure in the controversy is the all-time high of some $466,000,000 monthly at which imports currently are running. Despite the tendency to regard imports less highly than exports as prosperity indicators, the record volume of current purchases can be represented quite plausibly as a reason for national self-congratulation. For one thing, it demonstrates the heights to which consumer purchasing power has soared in Canada; ability to pay for imports is prime facie evidence of a high and rising standard of living. In addition, since a substantial proportion of our imports consist of raw materials, an increase in their total obviously becomes a reflection of the increasing activity of Canadian industry itself.

But if the vast total of imports isn't necessarily disquieting in itself, there are other features of the trade figures which definitely are disturbing. One is the monthly deficit of more than $150,000,000 now being incurred in trade with the United States. If that trend continues, it adds up to a trade deficit with Washington of one and one-half billion dollars a year—a figure that this country obviously cannot afford.

Furthermore, while our purchases from the United States are rising steadily—up to $80,000,000 in the latest month—our sales to the United States are beginning to dip. In the latest month (March) they were down over $20,000,000 from a year ago. These figures suggest pretty clearly to some Federal economic observers that the trend of trade terms between this country and its closest neighbor calls for considerable and speedy correction.

A similar situation in reverse is recognized in the case of the of our wheat exports, Great Britain should be selling more to Canada so as to increase her supply of Canadian dollars. But while purchases from the United States in the latest month were up $80,000,000 they were up merely $1,400,000 from the United Kingdom. This imbalance between our trade with the United States and our trade with the United Kingdom is causing increasing concern amongst Parliament Hill's economists. They know it cannot continue indefinitely.

Remand Given In Shooting

VANCOUVER (CP)—Joseph Gingras, 30, was remanded until May 17 when he appeared in court charged with attempted murder and possession of an offensive weapon after a shooting incident involving his estranged wife.

A threatening charge laid earlier under an old warrant was dropped.

Police arrested Gingras Wednesday at the home of his father-in-law, Joseph Sawak, 30.

When they were called to the house, they were told a man had fired one shot at Mrs. Gingras that missed.

LANGLEY, B.C. (CP)—Convicted of driving too slow, Stanley Danilowitch was fined $5 and costs here. He was charged with going 25 miles an hour in a 50-mile zone, holding up a line of traffic.

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PART OF THE 25 Doukhobor women who were convicted at Nelson for attacking provincial government official Emmett Gulley are shown above when they were arrested by RCMP. Wednesday the women completed 10-day sentences and on their release vowed that they would run Mr. Gulley out of town. Members of the radical Sons of Freedom sect, the women still blame Mr. Gulley, secretary of the local co-ordinating committee on Doukhobor affairs, for taking their children to a school at New Denver. The Sons of Freedom claim that B.C. schools teach "militarism."

'Save Life Week' Methods Demonstrate Advances Made Since Biblical Times

Next week, May 14 to 19, St. John Ambulance in Prince Rupert is holding "Save a Life" Week. The idea is to train, during this period, as many people as possible in the use of artificial respiration in an effort to reduce the number of drownings that take some 1,000 lives each year in Canada.

It is interesting to note that artificial respiration is almost as old as recorded history. However, it is only in comparatively recent times that methods have been devised that are really effective.

Long before Biblical times, when someone had to be revived, he was placed on his back and hot pitch was thrown on his chest and abdomen. It was thought that this pitch would cause an involuntary gasp which would start the victim breathing again.

One method mentioned in the Bible was that used by Elijah who, when he found a boy who had stopped breathing, laid his weight on him and removed it, repeating this procedure until breathing was restored. Another early method consisted of placing the victim over a bent-over sapling and moving the sapling up and down in an effort to restore respiration.

In the 19th century the victim was lashed face downwards over the back of a horse and the horse was set off at a trot with the belief that the jogging would force air in and out of the lungs.

Mouth to mouth breathing, still used sometimes to start breathing in newborn infants, is described in the New Testament. The use of hand-operated bellows and the pulmotor replaced this method.

In the 18th century the French introduced the method of rolling a drowning person over a barrel to take water out of the lungs. However, it is now known that very little water gets into the lungs in drowning.

All of these crude methods—each of them enjoying some success— have been replaced by three surer types of artificial respiration, each of which is taught by St. John Ambulance and each of which is a proved life-saver. These are the Silvester Method, Schafer's and Holger-Nielson Method. Two hours training in one of these systems, which St. John is offering to anyone who wishes to take a class, is enough to learn the fundamentals of artificial respiration—enough, perhaps, to save a life during the swimming and boating season this summer.

DO-IT-YOURSELF—"Suspense" Drama—Maybe its the "Peter Pan" influence, but 12-year-old Joyce Puryear of Memphis, Tenn., doesn't seem to be happy at floor level anymore. Here, she demonstrates that "standing in the doorway" means just that, and reliable witnesses say the lithe young girl can stay up there indefinitely—that is until someone slams the door. Miss "Human Fly" can also suspend herself midway in the doorway with her hands, letting her feet dangle.

Twister Hits In Minnesota

RUCHMORE, Minn. (CP)—More than a score of homes, business places and farms were heavily damaged Thursday night when a small twister hit this southwestern Minnesota community.

Mayor John Van Maanen said the town of about 400 came through with no casualties. He could make no immediate estimate of damage.

The tornado levelled barns and outbuildings and Van Maanen said whole blocks of trees were uprooted, several of them falling onto parked cars and trucks.

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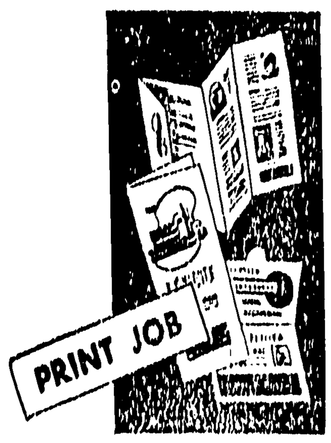

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