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School Problem Children

IN AN article titled "Misfits in Our Schools," Canadian Commentator magazine remarks that the unqualified and undisciplined pupils in secondary schools make their presence felt out of all proportion to their numbers, creating a situation that is highly detrimental to the proper teaching of the well-disposed and well-qualified.

"This is an exhibitionist and escapist technique that gratifies the gang spirit, and it is apparent that many girls and boys have been getting away with it for years in public school and intend to continue it at the secondary level," the article says.

The question arises, does the democratic right of our free education to the limit of ability extend to its continuance to an arbitrary age limit, without effort or a minimum of success, and with the result that the rights of others to learning are seriously jeopardized?

It is obviously good politics, under a system in which the half-wit's vote is as good as that of the intellectual genius, to suggest that we are all equal and have equal rights. But to extend the opportunity for education beyond the limitations of capacity and attitude, and in the face of active insubordination, is to make democracy look ridiculous.

The elementary school is the place where work habits and discipline should be developed if any success is to be achieved in secondary type of education. But when almost 100 per cent are pushed on from grade to grade and into secondary school there is no incentive to work, much less to achieve scholarship.

"What is needed is an investigation of the conditions by a judicial inquiry and the implementation of its results by careful steps which will, primarily, prevent our sinking further into the educational abyss in which the American system finds itself," the Canadian Commentator suggests.

These should include remedial steps to introduce apprenticeship opportunities to place the students with various grades of academic and technical abilities—or the lack of them—where they will obtain education best suited to their capacities, and finally to make the secondary or high school something more nearly in accord with its name and purpose."

Argument for Overproof

THE sage of the helicopter forced down in northern British Columbia—a harrowing story that appears to have a happy ending—has produced an unusual development.

Two crew members, says a Canadian Press item, kept camp fires going by pouring over-proof rum on them.

Thus is created an international angle to the incident. Overproof rum must have been imported since none of that strength is sold in British Columbia.

And when Mr. Cyril Shelford of Omineca next takes the floor in the Legislature to advocate a return to undiluted spirit trade, he will present what is probably a life-or-death argument for his case.

The warmth of a fire was a major survival factor in the cold northland. The addition of overproof rum was a survival factor for the fires. Had the B.C. merchandise been poured on the blaze, it—and hope—might have been extinguished.

Take it from there, Mr. Shelford.

—Victoria Times.



NORMAN DALEY SNIIDER, 18, (left) of Transcona, Man., recently named Canada's top teen-aged pilot, chats with a friend, Peter Kunko, who holds the W. F. Tudhope Memorial Trophy awarded to Norman in Ottawa by the Royal Canadian Flying Clubs Association. Norman is the eldest son of a Canadian National Railways engineer. His hobby is building model airplanes. (CP Photo)

As I See It

by

Elmore Philpott

Sunday News Test

THE Toronto Telegram has published its first Sunday edition, and the Ontario government has prosecuted it, for so doing.

But, on the insistence of the accused newspaper, the Ontario Attorney-General has also launched nominal prosecutions against the CBC, and against two other Toronto newspapers which have not, as yet, published papers delivered or sold on Sunday.

The whole country should welcome this court case. It should help to clear the air, and let everybody know where they stand under the existing Lord's Day Act.

But it would be rather naive to expect the court case to settle the larger issue, which is: whether newspapers and radio stations are breaking the letter of existing laws, but whether the existing laws conform with the public conscience and public interest and public need.

THE hub of the federal Lord's Day Act is as follows:

"It is not lawful for any person on the Lord's Day, except as provided herein, or in any Provincial Act or law now or hereafter in force, to sell or offer for sale or purchase any goods, chattels, or other personal property, or any real estate, or to carry on or transact any business of his ordinary calling, or in connection with such calling, or for gain to do, or to employ any other person to do, on that day, any work, business, or labor."

However in the "works of necessity and mercy" explicitly from the prohibitions and penalties provided by the Act, is the following:

"(p) any unavoidable work after six o'clock in the afternoon of the Lord's Day in the preparation of the regular Monday morning editions of a daily newspaper."

IN THE five years during which I worked as an editorial writer for the old Toronto Globe, then still fondly known as "the Scotsman's Bible" nobody ever objected to the fact that I had to break that law. Every third Sunday I had to report at two o'clock in the afternoon, to prepare any late editorials that might be necessary for Monday.

The regular printing and editorial staff did not come on duty till after six o'clock, and so were within the letter of the law.

But the whole news publication situation has been changed, day by day, and bit by bit, ever since the radio and then TV came into existence.

Up till now, nobody has chal-

Alcan Output Reported Up

MONTREAL—Aluminum Limited and consolidated subsidiaries reported net income of \$55,657,372 for 1956, compared with \$48,103,952 the previous year.

Net income per share, says the annual report, amounted to \$5.50 compared with \$4.83 in 1955.

Consolidated sales and operating expenses totalled \$163,000,000. They were \$112,000,000 in 1955.

Quebec smelters increased primary aluminum capacity by 31,500 tons and operations at Kitimat, B.C. were expanded to add 90,000 tons capacity. The latter operation "is beginning to contribute to the company's earnings," president Nathaniel V. Davis said. In the United Kingdom and United States late in 1956 and 1957 sales have been slightly below production. The resultant "relatively small" stock of salable metal is "basically a healthy and desirable development."

Expansion would proceed as scheduled at Kitimat, Quebec's Saguenay area and on aluminum and bauxite sources in the British West Indies and French West Africa. Expanding usage of the metal in transport, communications and industry apprised certain talk will consider.

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