

THE DAILY MAIL

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OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

The Daily Mail has recently published Articles from leading Nova Scotia Educationalists dealing with educational conditions in that province. Such leaders as Dr. A. H. Moore of Kings and Dr. F. W. Patterson of Acadia University as well as Dr. Coady of Saint Francis Xavier were quoted in this connection.

Dr. Moore after referring to former and present conditions in Nova Scotia as regards children says:

Attention may be called to the way in which the revision of the curriculum in second schools affords an opportunity to profit by a truer psychology of childhood and adolescence. Comparison is often instituted between the product of the great English public schools and that of our old school system in English Canada. On the other side of the Atlantic long before specialists talked so learnedly about child psychology, the fact was appreciated that in the earlier forms the memory is a child's most active faculty. Appreciating the retentive character of the child's memory and realizing that what is stored therein in the earlier years is usually accurately retained through life, the major subjects taught, such as grammar, history and literature, were in the main memory exercises. As a result of this a sound foundation was laid for a classical course and a faculty and facility of expression in correct, clear, good English, fashioned after the model of what is best in style, was acquired. Such subjects as logic, mathematics and the sciences in general, were left until higher forms had been reached the reasoning faculty of the pupils had really awakened.

On this side of the water and especially here in Nova Scotia, there was almost a reversal of this order. Such foreign or dead languages as were taught were only attempted in the higher grades, while mathematics occupied a prominent place in the lower forms. I refer to this to welcome the change which the curriculum committee has made in Nova Scotia, whereby Latin is begun in an earlier grade than formerly. This is only a short step in what I consider to be the right direction which we should follow. Some words spoken by the Hon. Mr. Fisher at an Educational Conference held in London in 1921 might be applied still to our system. He said:

"Children are taught the subjects which require the most reasoning when their faculties are least fitted for it; and they labor on subjects which imply sensitiveness and imagination at the very hour when their judgment is in full expansion. The cart has been put before the horse."

When we go into the field of higher education and study it with a view to ascertaining its cultural rather than its utilitarian value, we find its progress hampered by the conditions in our second schools to which reference has already been made. In the earlier years of a student's course the casualties are most numerous in those subjects in which a system like that suggested by Mr. Fisher would make them proficient. The respective values of classical and technical subjects in education have not been determined, and to our great loss the latter rather than the former is receiving increasing attention. This is going on at the expense of what should be the very A.B.C. of our education course throughout, namely, the mastery of the principles of English composition and the acquiring of a clear and vigorous style of expression.

Two or three years ago a Commission was appointed by the provincial government to deal with educational matters in this province. They made a report which pointed out amongst other things that our Educational system had in different respects fallen behind many other Canadian provinces. They suggested changes. This report has not been acted upon. It is hoped that it will be taken out of the pigeon hole at the approaching session of the Legislature. Our Chief Superintendent of Education whom we

believe is willing to learn might get in touch with some of the Educational authorities in other provinces mentioned and receive some pointers which he could adopt in improving our system.

Thirty or more years ago our school system was looked upon as one of the best in Canada. In fact when teachers were wanted to inaugurate a system in South Africa, New Brunswick teachers including Dr. Eldon Mullen, the Misses Bridges and others were selected. This province pointed with pride to our record as the leading educational unit in the Empire. We rested on our laurels while other more modern and wide awake provinces advanced educationally. We are in this position today according to the commission report which very few people have seen but which one is entitled to see at the provincial education office. This report was to have been introduced last session. It will probably come up within a week or two. If it does not it is liable to get mouldy standing so long.

SNAPSHOTS

What do the Social Service workers think of the conditions at the jail?

What did the County Council do to remedy the conditions which were pointed out to them regarding the jail.

What becomes of the amounts voted to the Municipalities by the Liquor Control Board—an amount voted especially to feed prisoners convicted under The Intoxicating Liquor Act. An explanation is due the public.

Much of mediocrity is laziness or timidity.

All of Genesis is first-rate journalism.

Who remembers when you could tell if a college boy was home for the holidays by seeing his hat in the hall?

It is not true that music hath charms to soothe the savage breast, says a speaker at a Milwaukee convention, possibly an apartment denizen himself.

A Conservative is one who clings to ideas that got some radical in trouble thirty years ago.

In a big city there is some excitement in the adventures you have in getting to the scene of the entertainment which is usually three or four miles away.

If a line of big black cats interspersed with owls is painted on an orange-colored wall, a man feels he is having a wild time at an evening resort.

One thing is certain, meaning by that it is something which nobody can deny. A chap has to be pretty warm-blooded to have Spring fever in this climate.

Anyhow, I suppose those anti-Soviet Russians who are shot at sunrise are glad the ceremony occurs in mid-winter as they do not have to get up so early. There is nothing so disagreeable as having to get up at 4 o'clock in the morning for your execution.

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OUR MAIL BAG

THE BLACK BEAR

To the Editor of The Daily Mail,

Dear Sir:— Please allow me a small space in your valuable paper in regard to the game animals of this Province I want to emphasize strongly that I have no axe to grind. In the first place I was a registered guide and camp owner, and took a good many parties of American Sportsmen and some of the finest people that I ever met, I also have acted as game warden, and scaler for our Government, where my duties around has called me to put in the most of my time in the forests of this Province, and which I have made a study of our forests, and in this way that although I am no further in business of this kind, I am much interested in the protection of our game. I notice that the Guides Association, has strongly recommended placing a bounty on the black Bear which in my mind is the number one enemy of our Moose and Deer. In the first place when a Cow Moose is about to deliver her young, she takes to the south of our hardwood ridges, the reason for this is, the south side of the ridges get bare first, and is warmer, then the calf Moose who any one knows followed the habits of Moose, will agree with me that a Calf Moose, is the most stupid animal in the woods, and seemingly know no fear and will even make friends with man.

Deer have practically the same habits, as Moose the young of both when they are laid down by the mother are some what the same as our domestic cows, that go to the woods to have their young, you can step on them while in the hunt to bring them home, before they will move, while either the moose or deer, when the mother lays them down to go and feed are so near the color of the leaves, and twigs, and the way they lay with head back on the body and ears flat on the neck, they are hard to see. In one instance, I boiled my kettle, where I could have laid by hand on a calf Moose, ate my lunch, and when I threw the tea leaves from my kettle, I threw them on it before I had noticed what it was, and when once disturbed I could scarcely get away from it as it seemed to want to be friends and go with me. This goes to show how easy it is for the black bear and wild cat to destroy our young game animals, which I know to be a fact. Also that the black bear inhabits these places, leaving the watery swamps in search of beach nuts, or what ever can be found in the way of foods.

The bear is also a night animal, and is very destructive in every way. The bear is as we all know, in comin gout of his den where he has been without food for the winter months, is very hungry, and when the mother moose and deer are in a weakened condition, in many cases the mother is destroyed by the bear.

I will admit that it is sport to shoot a bear, but with my experience every bear, that was shot while I was guiding nine out of ten either had a Briggs, Parker, Duffy or New House trap on his foot when he fell.

The bear is cunning and mighty hard to see when traveling in the woods therefore I do not feel that he will become a real game animal, so why not protect what we have, the Moose and deer, by killing off the bear, and the way is by a good bounty, as the pelt is of no value.

It is not my intention to dictate to any of our Representatives but I am merely stating a few facts and think surely all will agree that a man that has been in the forests of this Province, an average of nine months of the year for forty years, should have a better knowledge of what takes place there, than those sitting in an office in a City.

The way to prove these statements are to legislate that a sum of money be paid out in bounty, and it will prove itself how many black bear we have.

There is no need of close season on Moose if the bear is killed off but if not taken care of we will have nothing but bear and wild cat.

I would also call your attention to the fact that the bear not only destroys our Moose and Deer, but I have watched the Bear taking Salmon off the bars in spawning time, and in different places I have saw the remains of the fish on the bank taken by Mr. Bruin.

Now Mr. Editor should this reach the press, it will no doubt be read by a number of educated people, and as I

do not pose as a writer, I beg to be excused, as you will see by reading that my vocabulary is very meagre.

Thanking you Mr. Editor I remain

Yours Truly,

ERNEST T. NORRAD.

Boiestown, N. B.,

Jan. 14, 1935.

POLITICS

The Editor:

Daily Mail, Fredericton, N. B.

Sir,—

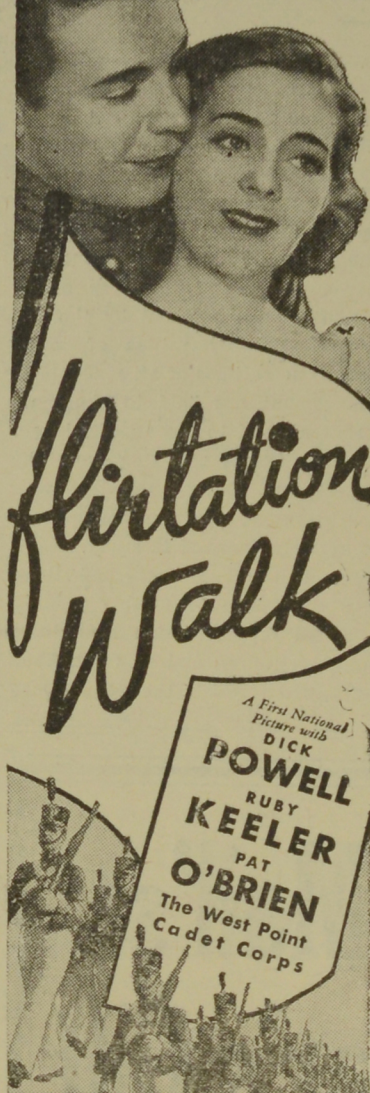
Being one of a great many who does not profess to be, what is termed Liberal or Conservative in politics, having tried always to support any man or party that was sincere in their beliefs; having the whole interests and welfare of the people of this country placed in the hands of a few men, requires that grave consideration must be given to the policy of any party hence it is that we have a silent party that has the power to put out or put in either party at will. This third party had no power, however, to improve matters, they can only show their disapproval or lose any interests they may have in that government and give more attention to their own private interests which is not good for any country.

During the last week we have listened to and read a complete review of our present governments work and actions which I need not try to amplify in anyway. Liberals to date, have nothing to say reserving their policy for future use. This is wrong, and as an individual I deny the right of the servant to say what he thinks at any time or at any place. Because, if any party, or party leaders are honest with the people that place them in seats of power, they would be willing to disclose any improvements they are willing and able to perform, as a result we can only refer to past performances—the only reliable guide to any progress that can be looked for or expected. After doing this I may be able to point out what I conceived to be the duty of every Canadian. Recently, two leaders, of the Dominion's parties, Conservative and Liberal left Canada. One went out and returned and entered Canada by the front door reported at Ottawa, his own constituency, and also entered the political field in Nova Scotia nothing but Canadian interests involved here. By contrast, the other left the front way, but re-entered by the back door. His first public statement was a slight modification of a former threat made against Empire Markets, we all know how we were to be driven into "reciprocity" with a country where the balance of trade against us is three and a half as to eighteen against us we know of the voluminous statements and speeches that mean nothing to the workers of Canada. We know of the special personal pleadings for "chivalry" to be conceded when his constituency's boundary's were being adjusted. We still remember Beauharnois and faithless dealings with traitors of public accounts, an Senate Fathers of their country under oath, at that, Fauch— I could elaborate all this the prohibition muddle, national insults, the British warnings. The recent I'm Alone case, is only a few of many. Certainly not Liberal if you want to, but be certain you still want to be a Canadian if you do so. Because millions of God's creatures would be glad to have that security—a country—that would claim them and their allegiance and give us less cause to doubt their loyalty to British institutions. You now enjoy that privilege. You have a leader—Mr. Bennett, who takes issue with capital which has become a commodity of our present system, the result is that even governments are not free, much less the common mass of people, and, as a result of these convictions he proposes to regulate much of the present abuses in our midst, and as a consequence he is pitted against world forces that control the world today; The world war, and our debts gave that power to a handful of men, who rule the policies of governments. The same traits of character is equally true of you and me if we had the power to do so, for example we buy a loaf of bread, the farmer, producing and exporting, the middleman manufacturing and delivering agencies all do so for five-cents—the man who only passes it over his shop counter demands ten cents, we all know of the sales, at half cost. Yes we need much regulating, it is a man's size job. Space, Mr. Editor, will not permit further comment re our disfranchment a very grave reflection upon the intelligent men and women of York County to which I might refer at a future date

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if such a subject is of any interest to your readers. There are times in ones life; witness France and Germany when a vote is considered valuable.

In anticipation of your courtesy in printing the above Mr. Editor, I thank you.

Yours Truly, JOHN HUNTER.

Albert St., Fredericton, N. B. 5th January, 1935.

KEEP WALKING

Editor, Daily Mail. Dear Sir:—Here is one question, which The Mail will please answer if it can. Is it all right for a college girl aged seventeen years old to go walking with a young college boy of eighteen years of age. The Mail knows everything. How would you answer this one?

Yours Truly, CO-ED.

(In reply to the above we would say that it is perfectly all right for the boy and girl to go walking together, provided that they keep walking. Ed. Daily Mail.)

A Gould heiress who eloped with an actor has received the parental blessing. This is luck, as the young people won't have to go off the Gould standard.

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