

LATIN IS NOT A DIFFICULT SUBJECT IF PROPERLY TAUGHT TO PUPILS

The Text Books and the Method of Teaching Chief Difficulty, Says "Observer"

I notice in the reports of the meetings of the Classical Association for the Maritime Provinces and Newfoundland, that several sensible resolutions have been passed. The study of Latin in our schools is something that every parent is concerned with who has a son or daughter attending the higher grades in school. For a long time now the study of Latin has been the object of much controversy. There are those who can see no use in the study at all, and think it should be dropped from the school course; and there are many who would retain it, but under different conditions.

One of the chief criticisms of the study of Latin has been that it is a dead language and of no possible use to anyone today. I do not think that this point of view is justified. A great deal more emphasis is now being advocated for the cultural subjects of study. Latin is undoubtedly such a study. It does not matter so much that Latin is no longer a spoken language; what does matter is that a knowledge of Latin is indispensable for entering certain of the professions. From the utilitarian point of view Latin has its uses. From the cultural side, a knowledge of Latin leads to a greater appreciation of the treasures of classical literature for those whose tastes run in that direction. It may be argued that everybody's tastes do not run in that direction, and that is granted. But provision is made for that by making the study of the subject optional in most communities.

Still the argument is put forth that even granting that a knowledge of Latin may be of use both from a utilitarian and cultural standpoint, it is yet such a difficult subject of study that it requires so much of the student's time as to cause neglect of the other studies. The time required to be put on Latin, it is said, often causes the pupil to fail to grade. It is quite true that this often happens. Why is this, then, and what is to be done?

I think from observation based on my own earlier studies, and from consideration of the method of teaching Latin that seems to be in vogue today, that the difficulty of the subject is due to two main causes. First, the ordinary Latin textbook is built up on an entirely wrong basis. When you learn a modern language you are given a vocabulary based on words of every day usage. You are introduced to words and constructions such as you would be required to know if you were conversing with a native of the country. This at the same time imparts a living interest in the language and the people who speak it. You may say that this is impossible in the case of Latin, as it is no longer a living language. True, but there is any reason why the vocabulary of a Latin grammar could not relate to the every day life of the Romans as it was lived when their language was spoken, rather than to military phraseology only? The ordinary Romans when they met each other in casual conversation did not make use of the stilted military terminology of Caesar, or the poetic language of Vergil. What school child is taught to know how the Romans carried on an ordinary conversation? How many of them know the words for objects in every day use? Very few.

My argument is, that even if the language is not actually a spoken tongue today, that a method of approach such as that mentioned above would at least stimulate interest, and make the ancient Romans seem not so ancient after all, and even akin to us in their every day life. It is not denied that a pupil can be led to a liking and understanding of the history of an ancient people, if that people is made to live for them in the

teacher's presentation of the subject. Why cannot the same thing be done in language then?

The other chief reason for the difficulty with the study of Latin grows out of the first, in my estimation. That is the method of teaching. The average teacher seems to be tied to the textbook, not only in Latin, but in nearly every other subject as well. From what I have been told the study of Latin in most schools is a wholly mechanical thing, a matter of memorizing uninteresting vocabularies and constructions. No attempt is made to work up any cultural interest in the study. For this the textbook is partly to blame, but it seems to me that the teacher could get hold of supplementary books which would aid him in enlarging the pupil's understanding and interest. There are such text books published. It is true that our Board of Education only allows the use of books on the school course which it authorizes, but there is nothing to hinder supplemental books being used, either for the benefit of teacher or pupil, so long as the authorized book is not discarded. In short it looks as though too many of our Latin teachers lack that indispensable quality, imagination. If the study of the subject were approached in the way outlined above. I think there would be perhaps fewer failures in Latin, and fewer failures in the other subjects because of Latin.

The Classical Association, then, are on the right track when they authorize a different type of textbook from that now in use, and also when they advocate the right of the teacher to choose his or her own books. This is a principle that might well be extended to the other subjects of the school course. It is a dictatorial principle to restrain a teacher to one book. It is true that, as I have said, the teacher may consult supplementary books, but very few of them seem to know that. Is it too much to expect that a teacher who is supposedly trained to teach a certain subject should not be able to select other good books on the subject? Nicholas Murray Butler, President of Columbia University, has said that, "if the government tells a university what to do even if it is only to endorse the multiplication table, it ceases to be a university." There is a great truth there, and the same thought might well be applied to the public schools. Our teachers seem to have developed an inferiority complex, from so many years of being told what to do. If those teachers giving their whole time to the teaching of specialized work are truly specialists, they should know what to do. We all know what has happened to institutions of learning in Fascist countries like Italy and Germany. The freedom and individuality of the teacher has been taken away, and every teacher must conform to pattern. We don't want that here.

OBSERVER.

A doctor wished to send a bottle of medicine to a patient, so he called a boy and asked him to deliver it, telling him to call next morning, when he would reward him. Next morning the boy called and the following conversation ensued:

Doctor—Did you leave the medicine?

Boy—Yes, sir. And he has taken it.

Doctor—How do you know he has taken it?

Boy—Well, sir, when I passed the house this morning all the blinds were down.

Teacher—Go down to my room for my strap.

Boy (after a few minutes)—Please sir, you weren't in.

SOCIAL HAPPENINGS

Miss Nellie Winters is entertaining this evening in honor of Miss Georgie Pringle, whose wedding has been arranged to take place on Friday, August 7th.

Miss Christine Bird of St. Leonard's, N.B. and John Prisman of Montreal, are guests of Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Bird, Devon.

Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Seely left yesterday on a short motor trip through the upper part of the province.

Miss Katherine Wetmore entertained last evening at two tables of bridge in honor of Mrs. Austin McPherson, of Canning, N.S. who is visiting her mother, Mrs. F. W. Porter.

Bill Vassie of Saint John, N.B. arrived in the city yesterday to spend a few weeks here.

Mrs. Moses Burpee and daughter Mary, with Miss Esther Hawes, motored here from Houlton one day last week to see T. C. Burpee at Mrs. Maud Barker's, 207 Smythe St.

Mr. and Mrs. Boyd L. Cook with their little daughter Betty Lee, of Brookline, Mass., arrived in the city yesterday and were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. John Colwell at their home on George Street. They will also visit relatives at Ripples, Sunbury County, where Mrs. Cook's father, Chas. Lungergan, Sr., as well as brothers and sisters reside.

Miss Martha Fleming entertained at a charming and novel shower on a recent afternoon at the summer home of her parents on Woodstock Road, in honor of Miss Georgie Pringle, a bride-elect of the near future.

The guests motored to the camp in the afternoon and after a delightful picnic supper they were invited to take a walk down to another camp. On the way they noticed the bushes here and there were fastened with bows of white ribbons which led to hidden gifts for the guest of honor, of crystal and flat silver. The reading of the accompanying verses and a social chat was enjoyed during the evening.

Well Known Woodstock Man Has Passed Away

Word was received here this morning of the sudden death at Woodstock of George King, well known Woodstock citizen, and brother of Mrs. D. J. Shea of this city. Mrs. Shea left this morning for Woodstock and Mr. Shea is leaving in the morning to be present at the funeral.

The late Mr. King was a son of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. King, who several years ago resided in this city, and later removed to Woodstock. Mr. King died suddenly. Some years ago he was injured in an accident at the power company's headquarters at Woodstock with which he was connected, but he has been in good health since that time and his sudden death yesterday comes both as a shock to his friends in this city and elsewhere. Mr. King is survived by his widow, and one adopted daughter residing at Woodstock. The funeral will take place at that town tomorrow.

Prosecutions For Violations of Fisheries Act

During the past week there were two prosecutions for violation of the Dominion fisheries regulations. N. W. Campbell, inspector of fisheries at Newcastle, had Perley Peterson, of Upper Blackville, prosecuted before George M. Barry, police magistrate for interfering with a guardian in the discharge of his duties on October last. Sentence was suspended but accused must pay costs. On July 20 Inspector Campbell of Newcastle accompanied by guardians VanHorne and Carr seized from Wilbur D. Hubbard, Cassilis, Northumberland county, eight grilse, of less than five pounds each, and three salmon. He was prosecuted on July 31 before Police Magistrate R. T. D. Aitken, of Newcastle, and paid a fine of five dollars, a similar amount being charged him for roasts. The seized fish were given to the Miramichi and Hotel Dieu Hospitals, and to the Alms House.

L. H. Parks, supervisor of fisheries here, said today that there were two other cases pending.

A GARDEN MEETING
A meeting of the Fredericton Horticultural Society was held last evening at the Experimental Station with only a fair sized attendance because of the inclement weather. Melvin Moore presided at the meeting, and those present inspected various flowers and plants.

Mrs. Arthur Anderson and Miss Jean Anderson are spending a few days at Chance Harbor, N. B.

Mrs. Luke Morrison entertained at luncheon today at D-Coy Inn. Covers were laid for ten and the tables were centered with sweetpeas. The guests of honor were out-of-town visitors.

Thomas Nichols, Hamilton, who was a recent guest of Mrs. H. F. McLeod, has returned home.

Professor J. Miles Gibson was in the city yesterday and returned to Burnt Church where his family are spending the summer.

Mr. and Mrs. Roland Blair and son, Roy, are spending a few days in Chatham, prior to moving to Fredericton where they will reside in the future.

Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Atkinson and two sons have returned to Edmundston, after a five weeks' holiday at Bay du Vin.

Mrs. J. D. MacKay and daughter Allie Lou returned from Bay du Vin after a month's holiday at the shore.

Mr. and Mrs. Burton Wathen have returned home after spending the past week at "The Beach" Chatham.

Miss Gertrude Davidson has returned from Chatham, where she was the guest of Mrs. A. V. Tracey-Gould at "Onoka Cottage" at the Beach.

Miss Isabel Ferguson was a recent guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Ferguson, at their summer home at Chatham.

William Gibson, is spending this week with his family at the Beach at Chatham.

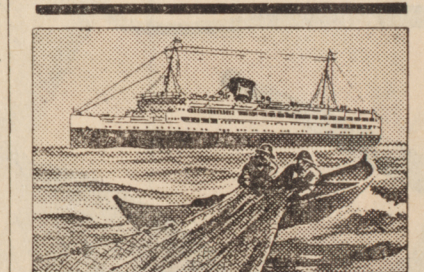
Miss Margaret Kennedy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Kennedy has returned from St. Stephen where she was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Budd.

Police Magistrate and Mrs. Walter Limerick left here today by automobile for Montreal from which place they will sail on a trip to England. They expect to tour the continent and will be absent a couple of years.

Choking of London By Gas in Air Raid is Foreseen

LONDON, August 4—Air raiders could choke London in three hours, according to Firemaster Peter Methven of Edinburgh, who said:

"With a certain gas, London's entire population could be choked to death in three hours. Pandemonium produced by air bombing requires a co-ordination of forces and economy of effort, which can only come from



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**EASTERN
STEAMSHIP LINES**

City Wishes

(Continued from Page Two)
might be done to secure government assistance, and Ald. Ross suggested that it was of more benefit to the government than it was to the city.

On motion by Ald. Hagerman seconded by Ald. Mundle a committee of two was appointed to interview the government at an early date with the object of securing assistance in the establishment of such a sanctuary. Ald. Ray T. Forbes and Ald. David McCaughey were named as the committee.

More Courtesy Needed
Ald. F. S. Mundle brought up the matter of the collection of taxes. He thought that more courtesy might be exhibited in the collection of taxes and that while taxes must be collected that proper courtesy should be used. Ald. Mundle referred to the service of tax bills and executions in his own plant and said that men whom he paid to work were interfered with in their work when they could have been approached in their own homes or after work.

It was felt by Ald. Ross and other aldermen present that while it was necessary to get in the taxes that all those who owed taxes should be treated alike and that when one man was singled out from a long list of overdue tax payers that there was room for kicking at the discrimination and employers of labour who were giving employment to many people during these hard times should not be the ones singled out to the exclusion of those who did not have so many obligations to face. The matter was stood over.

Ald. David McCaughey, chairman of the Roads and Streets committee, reported that progress was made on the roads and streets programme. A piece of the Trans-Canada highway had been put down. Before the year is out there will be considerable sidewalk and smaller work completed. He reported also that two nice bathing houses had been erected at the West End Bathing beach. These are now being used.

Should Place "Deadline"
Ald. Mundle advised the placing of a "deadline" on Queen street, between York and Carleton streets, so that automobiles could be prevented from running their cars up over the curb when parking them. He wanted this carried out quickly. It would make Queen street a pleasant safe street to drive on.

Ald. McCaughey promised that the continuation of the widening of Queen street would be started early this month. Also work is to be done on the curbing in front of the residence of Thomas Rainsford.

The mayor read a letter from A. W. Barbour, deputy minister of public works, which assured the government's assistance in the recent paving operations about Parliament Square.

Ald. F. S. Mundle, chairman of the Municipal Home committee reported on direct relief for the month of July. It was a "gratifying" report he said. Only thirteen families were now on relief, with eight others only at irregular periods. Total cost of relief for July had been \$323.68. Total cost in June was \$1,066.87.

Ald. Mundle explained that seven or eight people at the Municipal home were now on the Old Age Pensions scheme. It was a question whether some of these would not

centralization. This requires firmer steps by the government, with committees for fire, police, and medical work."

Authority

(Continued from Page Eight)
Dominion Livestock branch, at Ottawa; W. H. McEwen, manager of the Canadian Livestock Co-Operatives at Moncton, and J. A. Ford of Moncton.

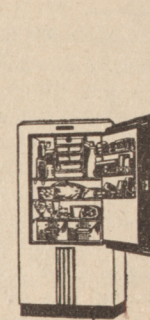
The annual meeting of the N. B. Seed Potato Growers will take place in the afternoon at the N. B. School of Agriculture building. The president, J. Walter Inch, of Mouth of Keswick will be one of the speakers. Others will be Hon. A. C. Taylor, minister of agriculture for the province; Leonard Griesback, assistant superintendent of the Experimental Station here; an address by Dr. G. S. Whitby, chief of the division of Chemistry of the National Research Council at Ottawa, who will speak on "International Uses of Potatoes," and discussion led by Alfred Page of Woodstock, and Gup Porter of Andover. At the noon hour a basket lunch will be served in the Residence dining room. The visitors will have an opportunity of inspecting the experimental station work during the lunch hour.

LONDON, Aug. 4—Hafle Selassie may have lost Ethiopia to the Italians but in his privacy he can always explore the extensive plateaus and suddenly rising hills of his former domain. For as a map collector and student of topography the Negus has few equals.

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