

THE DAILY MAIL

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Hon. P. J. Veniot

When Hon. P. J. Veniot, former Premier of New Brunswick and also former Postmaster General of Canada, died at Bathurst last night, New Brunswick lost an outstanding citizen and the Dominion a public man who was known from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Starting life as a comparatively poor boy, Dr. Veniot worked his way up the ladder until he occupied some of the highest offices in the gift of his native province and of Canada. He accomplished all this by honesty and hard work.

It is over forty years since Dr. Veniot first came to the Legislature from Gloucester County. He was then a comparatively young man, but at his first session in the House it was generally recognized that he possessed ability along political lines. After some years in the Customs Service at his home town of Bathurst. He again entered the Legislature in 1917. This time he became Minister of Public Works in the Foster Administration. In 1923 he succeeded Hon. Walter Foster as premier and continued to hold that position until his government was defeated in the general elections of 1925. He won a personal victory in Gloucester County and led the Opposition in the Legislature at the following session. The following year he contested Gloucester for the seat in the House of Commons and on the return of the Liberal party to power at Ottawa was called to the Cabinet as Postmaster General by Premier Mackenzie King. When his party at Ottawa was defeated he was returned from Gloucester and remained in the Commons as one of Rt. Hon. Mackenzie King's right hand men in the Opposition.

Last fall when the Liberals again took office, Dr. Veniot's failing health prevented his being taken into the Cabinet. He was, however, able to remain at Ottawa until the Easter recess of Parliament when increased failing health compelled him to return to his home at Bathurst. Here he remained until the end came.

Many friends all over New Brunswick and elsewhere will learn with sincere regret of the death of Peter Veniot. His personal friends were numbered by the hundreds and they were not confined to his own political party alone. Although a hard fighter politically, Dr. Veniot had the happy faculty of making friends on all sides.

He was a valuable citizen of Bathurst, the town which he loved. He gave of his best to the service of this province and to the Dominion. He was the first Minister of Public Works to introduce an improved system of highways in this province. He was in those days often referred to as "Good Roads Veniot." He took a pardonable pride in this work. When he became Postmaster General of Canada he brought to that office the same energy and ability which had characterized his work in the provincial sphere. He was strictly honest in all his dealings both of a public and private nature. The fact that after all his years and opportunities in the positions which he held, that he died a comparatively poor man shows the character of the man that he was. The writer is in a position to know that on one occasion Hon. Mr. Veniot was offered a very large sum of money to put a certain deal through. This money would have made him independent for the remainder of his life, but he spurned the offer and ordered those who approached him to leave his office immediately.

To Madame Veniot and the surviving sons of the late Dr. Veniot The Daily Mail extends sincere sympathy.

Hazards of Summer

This is the season for swimming. It is also the season for sunburn and drownings. All physicians say that the sun-tanning process should be gradual if the sun's rays are to have a healthful effect. Anyone who has suffered a severe sunburn will not require a great deal of oratorical persuasion to heed that warning. Yet beaches are invariably crowded in the early season with white bodies rapidly turning pink and purple under the blazing rays of the sun. Even babies are sometimes seen exposed to the blistering rays.

As for drownings, some come from daring and inexperience. Doubtless there will be such as long as there are youths and deep waters, but many might be avoided by the exercise of common sense. A large number of drownings attributed to "cramps" more likely may be the result of exhaustion or heart failure brought on by over-exertion. Especially at the beginning of the season it is wise to avoid taking endurance swims. In strange waters, of course, everyone should be alert for deep spots or submerged boulders and other obstructions.

For amateur swimmers, the sport is essentially non-competitive. One does not have to be a speed swimmer or an expert diver to derive delights from the pastime. Persons who know only the rudiments of swimming are exhilarated to find themselves able to propel their bodies through the water. And there is always the delight in striving to improve one's skill. Perhaps, the fact that the sport is non-competitive is one of its principal recommendations. Competitive sports have a tendency to develop a few experts and a great many mere onlookers. Too many Canadians have been taking their exercise sitting down.

Compulsory Culture

A New Jersey boy of 15, denied advancement from the seventh grade, attempted suicide in the classroom after the teacher had finished reading the list of promotions.

According to authorities, the boy had been a truant. From this single case it would be unwise to draw a conclusion. But there are many such instances throughout the country. Some are even more tragic.

Many educators and social experts insist that children should be kept at school until they are at least 16 and preferably until they are 18 or 21. They hoot at the suggestion that some children would be better off leaving school at 12. When a newspaper even alludes to such a possibility, the cry goes up that the newspaper wants to get the boys on the streets to sell newspapers.

Consider the boy of this story. He was 15 and incapable of promotion from the seventh grade. Educators may assert that the only fault was that he was not taking the right sort of course. That would be assumption. It could as well be assumed that the boy was congenitally incapable of routine educational discipline. If a job could be found for him he might develop into something worth while.

Educators' interest in keeping children in school is not entirely altruistic. The longer children are kept at school, the more jobs for school teachers, the more chance for educational experimentation—such as the so-called junior high school system.

SNAPSHOTS

A lady who has just returned from a trip to Boston says that she did not purchase anything. She says that our Home Owned stores carry just as good articles at reasonable prices, and just as good styles.

And yet there are people who will patronize the mail order and chain stores.

There is considerable criticism amongst citizens about the large proportion of failures in the examinations both at the High school and at the city schools, also at the Devon school. Are the pupils all dumbbells or is the course at fault? Most people blame the course of instruction.

When only five pupils out of a class of thirty-seven grade, there is a nigger in the woodpile somewhere.

Some Albert County people are kicking because we referred to the appalling social conditions in Albert county. Albert county was only one county mentioned. These conditions exist, as we stated, in Westmorland and other counties, including York county. Now we will add—and in Fredericton. Perhaps this will make our friends from the Holy County feel better. The county that is without sin, let it "fire the first rock."

We like to refer to the gay nineties. Remember back in the gay nineties—or was it the queer eighties?—when greens were something you ate, not something you played on?

Puffing contentedly on his pipe, Premier Stanley Baldwin tells the world that he will retire when he sees fit. And isn't this a typically English attitude?

In these disturbed times there is something comforting in the news that a supply of flies suitable for his pet toad, has been sent from Texas to the Mayor of Ottawa.

REPORT ON CONVENTION

J. A. Reid gave an interesting account of the International Rotary convention held at Atlantic City at today's meeting of the local Rotary Club. Frank L. Cooper occupied the chair.

DIED

FULTON—At Newton, Mass., July 6, Margaret J. Fulton, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Doherty, of Saint John.

The funeral will take place on Thursday at Newton, Mass., with interment at that place.

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DO YOU WANT A BABY?

Saint John, N. B.
July 6, 1936.

Editor Daily Mail,
Fredericton, N. B.
Dear Sir:

Press and pulpit and radio will make certain universal attention in this Province to Adopt-A-Baby Week, from July 11 to July 13. There are several hundreds of inmates of the New Brunswick Protestant Orphanage, the Roman Catholic Orphanages and the Children's Aid Societies who ought to be placed in homes of adoption where their future would be assured.

It has been pointed out that parents who have one or even two children of their own have adopted another as a companion for them, but it is from the childless home the response to the appeal is expected to be most general and generous.

There are bright boys and girls from infancy up to choose from. It is to be noted that the home finding committee of the Knights of Columbus, acting for Roman Catholic children in orphanages, joins with the New Brunswick Protestant Orphanage in this appeal.

Both the orphanages and the Children's Aid Societies will welcome visitors and enquiries and promptly reply to the latter. Already enquiries are coming in. A more successful campaign than that of last year is hoped for. The week is that of July 11 to July 13 for the great appeal.

H. USHER MILLER,
L. URBEN PIERCE,
A. M. BELDING.
Committee.

SAINT JOHN

The Editor Daily Mail,
City.
Here are some facts about Saint John:

Saint John is a city of 47,000 people (1931 census) located in the Bay of Fundy on a rocky peninsula almost completely surrounded by water and completely submerged in fog. It was settled by Loyalists who backed the wrong horse in the American Revolution and followed it up with another error in judgment.

It has two harbors—an eastern harbor and a western one. Four of the first or two of the second would make a fairly decent harbor. The eastern harbor is overlooked by the poor house and the western one is overlooked by a large and flourishing lunatic asylum. Both harbors are overlooked by the rest of Canada. These harbors are used by the shipping interest of Upper Canada when the St. Lawrence is blocked with ice and the American ports are blocked with traffic.

The Saint John River still flows past the city, in spite of the Dominion Government and selfish interests of Ontario. Saint John is the home of Maritime rights and continues agitation for something or anything the city has not got. The inhabitants can be recognized by a peculiar stooping posture caused by climbing hills or else by a chip on the shoulder.

King Square is located on the top of a hill near the centre of the city. It contains a fine cross of Ontario granite erected to the memory of the Loyalists, a statue of Sir Leonard Tilley, which no one can explain, and an expensive War Memorial which bears a family likeness to War Memorials in general. On the side of the square, there is a fine modern hotel erected and run at the expense of the shareholders for the benefit of American tourists.

The architecture of the city is mainly Victorian but the later public buildings are in an entirely individual style of architecture sometimes known as the Late Mott. There is an excellent dump at the south end of the city.

Saint John is chiefly noted for the number of former inhabitants who live somewhere else. It has populated Western Canada and Massachusetts with a splendid type of citizen. The local inhabitants as soon as they can afford it, move to Rothesay or Westfield, while the more fortunate ones move as far as Hampton. There is an excellent Vocational School where first class mechanics are developed for the Detroit automobile industry and the Pittsburgh steel manufactory.

The best thing about Saint John is its excellent transportation facilities. One can leave the city by C. P. R. train for Montreal or Fredericton, or by C. N. R. for Moncton or Halifax. If one can wait until morning, there is a C. P. R. boat leaving every morning except Sunday for Digby. On Sunday, failing all other means one can use the excellent paved roads (that did not win an election) and escape towards the border or to the north and east. One can hear in mind that there is a speed limit.

F. S. M.

Jones—You seem to be rather unlucky.

Smith—Unlucky? Why, if I was perishing with hunger in a sandy desert, and it started to rain soup, I'd have only a fork to eat it with.

PLANT BREEDERS MEET

The dominion conference of plant breeders, first in a series of three agricultural meetings, began here today. The chairman of the three sections of the plant breeders' committee are L. H. Newman, L. E. Kirk, forage crop section, and M. B. Davis, horticultural crops section. W. T. G. Weiner, secretary of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association who is here today, said that these three committees are meeting today and tomorrow, preparatory to the annual meetings of the C.S.G.A. and the Canadian Society of Technical Agriculturists which meet this week and next in this city. Among those here for the Plant Breeders' meeting besides the above are R. Summerly, of McDonald College, Quebec, president of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association; F. W. Townley Smith of Laskburn, Sask.; F. N. L. Butler, of Ottawa.

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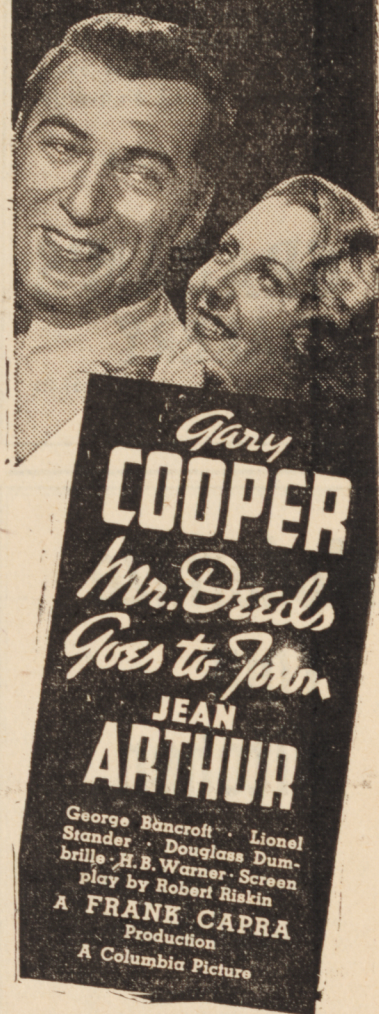
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