

THE DAILY MAIL

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FREDERICTON, THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1936

Senator Wark's Joke

Senator David Wark of this city was over one hundred years old when he attended the session of the Senate at Ottawa. He always took an active interest in the affairs of that body and was as active as a man in his forties.

In connection with the forced retirement of Senator Pat Burns of Calgary the following amusing incident in which Senator Wark played a part is recalled by a writer in the Ottawa Journal. This took place more than thirty years ago when Senator Wark was nearing the century mark. There was a very keen debate in the Senate and each side was working tooth and nail to muster its forces. The situation then was very similar to the present one; i. e., while the Liberal government (Laurier) was in power, the Conservatives had a large majority in the Senate.

"A certain good Tory senator from Nova Scotia—Alexander Macfarlane of Cumberland—had been absent for one whole session and nearly all of the next. The Liberals were counting on a gain which the Tories deplored.

"The unexpected happened. The door of the chamber opened—with the Senate in session—and in walked two husky stretcher bearers, carrying Senator Macfarlane. They walked up and deposited him on the floor in his accustomed place. Tremendous cheering came from the Cons. The Libs. very morose. Then an old Liberal senator—David Wark of New Brunswick—who had been appointed at Confederation, remarked, fiercely: 'Why, that old fool should be thinking of another world.'

"The truth was that Macfarlane was 77, while Wark was 97—a score of years older! Wark hung on until he was 103 years old."

In Praise of Grammar

When the president of the University of Chicago uses the word "degenerate" to describe current methods of teaching English grammar the old-timers among us sit up and take notice. These bland young professors who tell the old-timer he doesn't know what he is talking about when he says there is no longer any such thing as instruction in grammar will find him vastly heartened by the support of Dr. Hutchins. To be sure, the doctor doesn't say precisely that, but "degenerate" gets close enough to the main idea. His are words an old-timer may joyously roll over the tongue:

One must know how to read books. The degeneracy of instruction in English grammar should not blind us to the fact that only through grammatical study can books be understood. Grammar disciplines the mind and develops the logical faculty. It is good in itself and as an aid to reading the classics. For those who are going to learn from books learning the art of reading would seem to be indispensable.

The utterance of a Tory, of course. But Dr. Hutchins is even more Toryish than that. He dares to sneer at "what is called self-expression." Self-expression as here understood is, he says, "the exact reverse of the discipline which rhetoric in all ages up to the present was used to give." Fancy anybody nowadays talking as if discipline and logic and hard-headed instruction in grammar and rhetoric were more useful in school than encouraging self-expression among persons who haven't much self to express and not much expression with which to express it anyway! It is enough to make the whole college of pedagogues tremble with rage!

If the college throws Dr. Hutchins out, however, the guild of educated old fossils will be glad to take him in. Those who know how to parse, how to identify an idiom when they meet it in the road, who walk in comfort with the subjunctive mood, who tread with sure feet the pathway which winds through the sequence of tenses, who know what ought to agree with what in gender, person and number, who can shoot gerundives on the wing and drag the furtive genitive from its lair, will gladly hail him as a man and brother. Then, too, these are times when all good grammatical Tories should stand together. If they can get formal grammar back into the curriculum, they may even succeed in bringing logic home from its place of exile!

Received Higher Degrees

The Special Convocation exercises at U.N.B. this afternoon will be somewhat unique due to the fact that it is seldom that honorary degrees are conferred apart from the ordinary encaenia exercises at the close of the college year.

In honoring the two distinguished Canadians Sir Edward Beatty and Leonard H. Newman, the old University on the Hill recognizes two gentlemen who have done much to advance Canadian interests along different lines. Sir Edward Beatty has distinguished himself not only as president of a great railway but in other lines as well. Mr. Newman, Dominion Cerealists, has done much for the cause of science.

The University should be jealous about passing out her higher degrees. In the case of these two gentlemen, however, the degrees are well merited. Many distinguished men throughout the Empire and beyond have received higher degrees from the University of New Brunswick. In honoring these two men the old University honored herself. In some other cases—possibly comparatively few—one wondered why the degrees had been granted. In the case of those receiving the doctor's degrees today these were conferred "for merit."

SNAPSHOTS

"Observer" says that there are young men in uniform who have never smelled powder. Does he include face powder?

At last the scientists have the Canadian historians backed off the map when they refer to the inhabitants who lived on St. Lawrence before the days of the Pharaohs 5,000 or 6,000 years ago.

The pilgrims will visit Ypres or as some of our local boys call it "Wipers."

We have not heard anything recently regarding the new bridge. Are they waiting for the Garson's to finish their work?

A summer resort is the place where you sleep under three blankets and wish you were sleeping on your own nice soft mattress.

But if you like to do like the Joneses, you will have to take a cottage at the lake or by the seashore.

There is a woman here who thinks a short wave station is a beauty parlour. Another who said that she did not take any interest in the League of Nations since Larry McLean left the League.

It would be a great pity if the Hindenburg was really spying on its flight over Canada and was able to see all our fortifications and elaborate defenses.

Designers of men's clothing, meeting in Toronto this week, favor cool light suits. So do most men at this time of year, but it is such a bother making the change.

Four-ounce hailstones are reported to have fallen at Raymore, Sask. But are they sure it wasn't a refrigerator firm advertising its ice cubes?

F. B. Smith

(Continued from Page One)
once more by means of wires and to renew acquaintance with those they knew so well even though they were thousands of miles apart.

There will be considerable limbering up of index fingers when the old-timers gather and prepare to tick off their messages of greetings and to recall the days of the past with others scattered across the continent.

Many these old boys of the wire have many pleasant recollections of the years that are gone as they "gather together" from coast to coast on Tuesday next.

C. N. Telegraphs

(Continued from Page One)
Galloway, "and our arrangements are such that this special Transcontinental hook up, which will be open at eight o'clock Eastern Daylight Time, will afford each and every one an opportunity to speak to former fellow operators, whom they possibly have not seen in years. Many of the veterans have requested that we try and locate their old-time key friends and we are making every effort to have these requests." The dean of all "oldtimers" will be Dr. J. W. Browning, of Exeter, Ont. More than 93 years of age, Dr. Browning was an operator at Markham, Ont., on the old Whitby and Georgian Bay line and as such transcribed dispatches of the closing year of the Crimean War. He will be at the Exeter office for the Anniversary ceremonial, from the year 1856 onward there will be ex-telegraphers who have received news stories dealing with the outstanding major events and discoveries of modern history, Edison's inventions with electricity, the Franco-Prussian war, Pasteur and his anti-septic discoveries, Bell and the opening of the telephone line, the operation of the first electric street railway, at Windsor, Currie and radium, and all events which were once new but which have now become history.

National Control

(Continued from Page One)
miles are to be put under national control at once.

Strategic Routes Involved

But this is a big step forward and the routes chosen for immediate attention include all the really strategic lines of communication, for instance, London-Edinburgh, London-Holyhead, London-Bristol; London-Portsmouth and London-Dover.

A bill will be laid before Parliament in September for making the necessary administrative and financial arrangements. The cost of the new control, estimated as an annual charge of the exchequer, is at least £5,000,000, or \$25,000,000. This may mean employment for about 2,000 new workmen and will undoubtedly bring business stimulus to towns where the roads are widened and improved.

ROMANCE OF THE GIPSIES

These strange people, believed to number about 700,000 souls over the whole of Europe, are distinguished by different names in different countries. In Great Britain they are called Gipsies from the idea of their Egyptian origin; for the same reason the Spaniards call them "Gitanos;" in France they were long termed "Bohemians" because the first European country in which they appeared was Bohemia; in Russia they are styled Zigan; in Turkey, Zingari, and in Germany, Zigeuner—words conceived to be derived from the term Zincali, by which the Gipsies sometimes designate themselves, and which is understood to signify "the black men of Zend or Ind." The characteristic name, however, applied by the Gipsies to their own race and language is said by Mr. Borrow to be the Romany, a word of Sanscrit origin. Although in all countries, native outcasts and criminals have adopted the habit and the occupations of Gipsies, and have even been known to associate with them, it is established beyond a doubt that the real Gipsies constitute a single race distinct from any other in Europe and use a language peculiar to themselves. Thus far all are agreed, but when we come to inquire what the stock is from which the Gipsies have sprung, we find different opinions entertained by different authorities. Some Spanish writers have asserted them to be the relics of the Moors who once inhabited Spain; others have believed them to be of Tartar origin; others, again, have endeavored to prove them to be Persians, while there have not been wanting persons to maintain that they arose in some eastern part of Europe and thence branched off into the western nations.

Of these opinions, that which has gained the widest credence, attributes the origin of the Gipsies to Egypt. But this idea, which was propagated, and firmly believed, on the first appearance of the Gipsies in Europe, and which is still held by Gipsies of the present day, is proved to be quite untenable. Not only is the Gipsy language different from the Coptic, and the Gipsy manners different from those of the natives of Egypt, but, what is more decisive, Gipsies are found wandering through Egypt as through other countries, and are there treated as foreigners just as they are in other lands where they have settled or made their habitation. On the whole, the supposition which is supported by the greatest amount of evidence, and which indeed has displaced all others, is that which assigns an Indian or Hindu origin to the Gipsies. Of the many proofs adduced in favor of this view, the most convincing is that derived from the wonderful similarity between the Gipsy language and the dialects of Northern India, such as Hindustani. For a long time it was believed that the Gipsy language was a mere jargon or slang resembling the cant language of thieves and invented for similar purposes. This is a mistake, as can be very conclusively shown. By the industry of various inquiries, a vocabulary has been drawn up of several hundreds of Gipsy words, and the number of these which have been found to be pure Hindustani is perfectly decisive as to the Indian origin of the Gipsies. And this evidence is still further confirmed by the prevalence amongst the genuine Romany Gipsies of habits corresponding with those of the low caste Hindu. Mr. Frank Cuttriss, who is one of the persons who has succeeded in making friends with the Gipsies, says: "Personally, I have found them, as companions, scrupulously honest." With regard, however, to farmers and land owners who are known to dislike the Gipsies, this opinion might need some modification. But here again one should endeavor to see things from the Gipsies' point of view. They do not look upon poaching as wrong, contending that they are themselves ill-treated by man-made laws, that rabbits were provided for man's sustenance, and that it is not more sinful for a Gipsy to catch a rabbit in order to ward off starvation from his own family than it is for another man to run over it with a motor car; and, adds this author, in fairness to the Gipsies it must be said that they probably poach less than the average village laborer.

Such are some of the characteristics of these Romany folk, who are a people who have scarcely changed their habits since they left India some ages ago and have become accounted vagabonds wherever they have wandered. Although a very strange people of whom it has been justly said that they never forget an injury, nor a kindness, and that, as regards their fidelity to the marital relation, their conduct is absolutely perfect and beyond reproach.—The Montreal Gazette.

Danzig is Calm

(Continued from Page One)

ly indicate that Berlin is dangerously "Danzig conscious." Danzigers find it difficult to believe that the situation will go much further. That is, of course, unless the German Government throws caution completely to the winds and dallies the Danzig Nazis to stage a putsch.

The open enmity between Mr. Lester and the Nazi government in Danzig makes it apparent that the two cannot continue to work in harmony, and it is possible that Mr. Lester may be replaced by another league commissioner. It has even been hinted that the new commissioner may be an Englishman and that an English commissioner would require more consideration from the German government and its underlings in Danzig than Mr. Lester, who is an Irishman.

There seems to be no question, however, of actually removing the League of Nations control from Danzig and nobody here except Nazi hithers want this.

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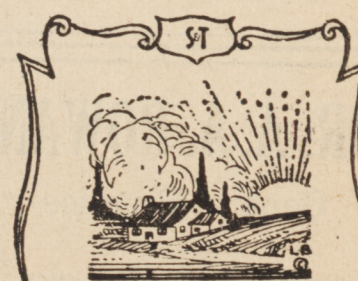
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