

OUR HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY TAUGHT UNINTELLIGENTLY

"It's a Good Hodge-Podge With Wrong Methods of Approach" Says Observer Referring to Daily Mail Editorial.

A recent editorial in The Daily Mail stresses the importance of teaching our young people to know and appreciate the geography and history of their own country. That there is a crying need for this kind of instruction hardly anyone will deny. It may be worthwhile to try to discover some of the reasons why we as a people are so ignorant of our own country.

To get at the beginning of the matter we shall have to consider the system now in vogue of teaching geography and history in the lower grades of our schools. The ideal way to teach these two subjects would be to combine the two, starting with the local community, working up to the country, thence to the province, and finally to the Dominion as a whole. Throughout this process the geography and history of the area being studied should be taken up as one topic, and the fact should be stressed that geography and history are, or should be, inseparable when relating to the same area. In this way it could be demonstrated that the history of a country is mainly what its geography makes it. When the pupil is sufficiently familiar with the facts pertaining to his own country he could be introduced to a wider horizon, but the same method of instruction should be followed. How many text-books of English history pay any attention to the geography of England? And, of course, we know that the text-books of Canadian history are not based on Canada's geography.

Instead of following any logical method of instruction such as the above, our schools take up the study of geography in a completely haphazard way, and no attempt is made to relate the study to the history of the country. The result of this system is that the pupil at the end of his schooling has only a smattering of information on any country, and none of it is related or systematized in his mind. Naturally, his own country is going to suffer in this process, but not, I would point out, to a much greater extent than his accurate knowledge of other countries. It is true that the pupil has to study a greater amount of English history than Canadian, but it is for the most part taught so unintelligently, with the stress put on the wrong things, that the whole thing never becomes much more than a hodge-podge in his mind. With this training in the lower grades he comes to the study of other countries later on with a poor foundation, and a totally wrong method of approach.

Nor is this the only thing. Our text-books must bear their share of the blame. Having been always interested in the various phases of education, I have always taken the opportunity when it came my way to look over the different types of texts which have been in use in our schools. The English history texts which have been prescribed from time to time are without exception devoid of any merit either literary or historical. The most that can be said for them is that they provide a basic catalogue of facts upon which the well-informed teacher could build up

her history course. But few teachers are competent to do that. Hence all the fuss that we hear being made about text-books. A good text in any subject should, of course, be obtained, but if the teachers as a class had more background, a better fund of general information, and were better trained, so much importance would not attach to the text-book. The teacher would then be able to rise superior to the text.

Now when we come to the subject of provincial or Canadian history the outlook is, if possible, more discouraging than in the field of English history. At least it can be said that the English history texts are written by people with some pretensions to scholarship, but the Canadian texts are definitely the products of second-class minds. Real scholars have never yet devoted their energies to the subject of Canada's history. Consequently the authorities have to prescribe books written by some teacher, who after having taught for a few years, thinks that he or she can write a better book than the one in use. Rarely do they succeed. The point is that just anyone at all cannot write a book, no more than just anyone at all could write these articles of mine. To write a text that should besides imparting information, be a constant source of inspiration to pupil and teacher alike, that, my friends, is no mean task. And it has not yet been done in the field of Canadian history.

This is a sad commentary. There is a great field awaiting some of our scholars. A great and untrodden field, full of all the elements that should go to make up history. A great canvas upon which some master hand could depict all the romance, struggle, heroism and self-sacrifice that have gone to make Canada's story. One man has done this for older readers, and that man is Francis Parkman. Teachers of Canadian history can do no better than to read these immortal books and see if they do not find themselves possessed of fresh enthusiasm and a great, new knowledge when next they face their classes. In the meantime Canada is waiting for some Parkman who can do for juvenile readers what has already been done for the elder. Yes, New Brunswick could present material worthy of a Parkman, too. Let our teachers and those who have our education at heart first steep themselves in Canada's wonderful story, and let us see if the texts and the instruction will not be forthcoming.

—OBSERVER—

HOLSTEIN-FRIESIAN FIELD DAY A SUCCESS

For First Time Woman Wins Cattle Judging Contest — Mrs. Harry Dykeman, Maugerville, is Winner.

The afternoon session of the Holstein-Friesian Field Day at the Dominion Experimental Station was held in the Livestock arena in the basement of the old school building. C. F. Bailey, superintendent of the Station was in the chair and had charge of the programme. The judging demonstration was conducted by Lorne Logan, Sussex, secretary of the New Brunswick Branch of the Holstein-Friesian Association and Stanley Wood of the live stock department of the N. B. Department of Agriculture.

After the demonstration the judging competition took place. It was an open affair, and the entries were many. L. Griesbach, Assistant Superintendent and J. H. King of the Dominion Livestock Branch directed the contest. The prize winners were announced by C. F. Bailey, they were: 1st, (\$5.00) Mrs. Harry Dykeman, Maugerville; 2nd, (\$3.00) Vernon Harding, Welsford; 3rd, (\$2.00) Harold Freeze, Sussex; 4th, (\$1.00) Scott Ritchie, Florenceville, and 5th Durrell Phillips of Upper Woodstock. At 3.15 p.m., G. M. Clemens, secretary of the Holstein-Friesian Association of Canada addressed the meeting on the aims and purpose of the Association and the work that it is doing in the Dominion. Mr. Clemens has lately returned from attending field days in Nova Scotia. He also spoke on the history and development of Holstein breeding.

A meeting of the board of directors of the New Brunswick branch of the Association took place at the conclusion of the meeting. Routine matters were discussed.

SOCIAL HAPPENINGS

Attending Bar Association Convention Premier A. A. Dyrart is in Halifax attending the meetings of the Canadian Bar Association. He is accompanied by Mrs. Dyrart and their daughter Miss Mary.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald B. Winslow of Regina, are expected here this week and will be accompanied by Mr. Winslow's sister, Miss Grace Winslow, who is at present living in Woodstock. They will be the guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. F. Winslow, Waterloo Row. Mr. Winslow, who is a son of the late T. B. Winslow, former secretary of the Department of Public Works, has been residing in Regina for the past twenty-five years. He has many old friends here who will be glad to welcome both himself and his good wife back to this Celestial city.

Mr. and Mrs. George F. Armstrong were host and hostess at a very enjoyable dinner party last evening at D-Coy Inn. Covers were laid for nine. The table looked most delightful with sweet peas and bride's bouquet.

Miss Isabelle Biggar, nurse-in-training at the Victoria Public Hospital, returned after spending her vacation with her mother, Mrs. William Barnette, at Biggar Bridge.

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Wetmore and two children are leaving tomorrow to spend a few weeks at their summer home at Clifton, King's county.

Miss Helen Ritchie is the guest of Rev. and Mrs. A. E. Coleman at Dalhousie, N. B.

Miss Betty Ritchie and Wendell Ritchie are guests of their grandmother, Mrs. W. P. Jones, at Woodstock.

Mrs. J. E. Kirkpatrick entertained at two charmingly arranged bridges at her home on Broadway Thursday afternoon and evening. The drawing-room was attractive with quantities of sweet peas and the hostess was assisted in serving on both occasions by Mrs. C. G. McLauchlan. Little Miss Beatrice Hetherington opened the door. In the afternoon the prize-winner was Mrs. Grover C. Campbell. The guests were: Mrs. J. N. W. Winslow, Mrs. G. W. Upham, Mrs. M. McManus, Mrs. G. A. Howard, Mrs. Gerow, Brownville, Me.; Mrs. Arch Connell, Mrs. G. C. McLauchlan, Mrs. G. A. Dibblee, Mrs. Alfred Page, Mrs. G. C. Campbell, and Mrs. W. J. Dibblee. Mrs. C. J. Jones was a guest at the tea hour. In the evening the prize was won by Mrs. K. E. MacLauchlan. The following were present: Mrs. J. F. L. Brown, Mrs. R. W. Maxwell, Mrs. D. A. Lindsay, Mrs. J. S. Sargeant, Mrs. Percival Corbett, Mrs. Herbert W. Dick, Mrs. Harry Dunsan, Mrs. LeBaron Dibblee, Mrs. B. Nash Smith, Mrs. K. E. MacLauchlan, Mrs. C. E. Stewart and Miss Kathleen Bowlin.—Carleton Sentinel.

At the weekly tea held at the Golf Links yesterday afternoon the hostesses were: Mrs. A. T. McMurray, Mrs. W. J. West, Mrs. R. B. Hanson, Miss Hope Hanson, Mrs. C. W. Argue and Mrs. J. W. B. Sisam. Miss Helen Sterling and Miss Hope Hanson poured. The rooms were artistic with a profusion of lovely flowers.

Fredericton

(Continued from Page One)

An important feature connected with the building of the bridge as outlined in The Daily Mail some time ago rested on the decision of the Canadian Pacific Railway to join in with the Canadian National in regard to the use of the bridge. The Canadian National and the C.P.R. were joint users of the old bridge and the building of the present bridge depended upon whether or not these two railways could join hands. Your correspondent understands on best of authority that this agreement has practically been reached and that the bridge will be proceeded with as early as arrangements can be made in regard to the financing.

It is understood also that arrangements can be made to have the bridge built from an emergency fund or "force" fund used in cases where some equipment has to be replaced owing to unforeseen emergencies. The cost may be greater this way but it can be done.

A big feature of the proposition which does not seem to have yet been discussed is that of placing in shape the road bed from McGivney Junction to Devon. In order to make this road fit for heavy traffic which would go over the bridge in order to connect with the seaport at Saint John, it will be absolutely necessary to have the roadbed brought up to standard grade. It is understood that no action in this regard will be taken this summer. It will be considered in connection with the rebuilding of the new section between Marysville and North Devon.

Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Leger of Los Angeles, Calif., are at present visiting relatives in Winnipeg for a fortnight, en route to Toronto, Montreal, Moncton, N. B., their former home, Fredericton and New York. Mr. and Mrs. Leger, who are on a six months' tour, visited San Francisco, Portland, Seattle and Vancouver before coming east.—Montreal Star.

Mr. and Mrs. Leger are expected in the capital in the near future and will be guests of Mrs. Leger's sister, Mrs. J. L. Neville, and Mr. Neville. Mrs. Ludlow Hoyt of Lower Prince William was in the city today.

F. B. Smith has recently returned from Summerside, where he spent several days. Mrs. Smith will remain some time with her brother, Silas Hicks, who is in poor health.

Miss Grace Caughlin and Miss Isabel Mair of Woodstock are attending the conference on adult education at Antigonish, N. S.

The Moncton Times has the following sketch of the Evangeline girls from Louisiana, who recently visited the Maritimes:

Interviewed by a Times correspondent, Mr. Dudley LeBlanc, the main organizer, revealed a few facts of interest. He was most emphatic in stating that the 56 Evangelines in the Louisiana delegation were the pick of Louisiana. One hundred and twenty-one young women had, of necessity to be turned away during the selection proceedings last spring, so numerous were those anxious to visit the land of their ancestors had made sacred through their incessant toil, hardships and what not. But to enable each and every one of them to be eligible for the trip, one had to meet certain standards, having to do with education, birth, knowledge of French, etc. There are consequently 37 school teachers in the group, 16 of whom have first-class knowledge of the French language, 13 of them teaching in high schools of the State of Louisiana, seven mathematics. All belonging to the Catholic religion, two are to become nuns in the near future, while two others are studying law. Twenty-five have university degrees and 14 have graduated from the Louisiana State University, recognized as the outstanding university of the South. A couple have attended Sorbonne University, Paris, France. Therefore, it is safe to say, that the group of Evangelines represent the cream of Louisiana.

Continuing, Mr. LeBlanc stated that they had been accorded the most cordial of welcomes everywhere. President and Mrs. Roosevelt had received them in Washington. Their compatriots of Waltham, Mass., had overdone themselves in their reception and that is saying a lot. Yarmouth and Halifax had been so good to them. But, said Mr. LeBlanc, you can quote me as saying that I have often-times told my Evangelines that no receptions could surpass that of Moncton and the surroundings, unless they prove themselves to be still warmer and more sympathetic than they were six years ago during our first pilgrimage to this country. The immense crowd that awaited us upon our arrival this evening did not disappoint any member of the delegation from Louisiana.

Canada's

(Continued from Page One)

heavy interest payments in New York and elsewhere by reason of the four billion dollars of American capital invested in this country, as against one and a quarter billions of Canadian money invested in the United States.

For the twelve months ending June Canada had a favorable visible balance of trade with all countries of \$338,000,000, as compared with \$243,000,000 in the preceding 12 months. The favorable balance with the United Kingdom was \$237,000,000 as compared with \$174,000,000 the previous year.

Hoblitzel

(Continued from Page One)

ship flight, main event for men, at annual golf week at Banff Springs Hotel in the Canadian Rockies. Shooting a snappy brand of golf the Toronto spot-maker eliminated T. Logie of Calgary, 6 and 5.

Results had been decided in the fourth and fifth flights of the same trophy as follows: Fourth, E. Blight, Calgary, eliminated H. N. Lindsay, Calgary; J. S. Eggleston, Calgary, eliminated H. N. Lindsay, Calgary; P. Watkins, Turner Valley, eliminated L. Phillips, Calgary, and J. Nicol, Calgary, eliminated M. Gossip, Calgary. Fifth flight: E. J. Howard, Calgary, eliminated R. Deboeck, Calgary; Dr. A. C. Ahrens, Tabor, eliminated R. E. Patton, Calgary; R. Ainslie, Calgary, eliminated M. Hector, Turner Valley, and Roy McKenzie, Lethbridge, eliminated W. C. Blacks, Calgary.

Courage

(Continued from Page One) "case" around three points—advice to the profession—each point illustrated by drole Scottish humor.

Great Moral Courage "One thing that is certainly essential in our profession is courage—great moral courage—courage of your opinions, even at the risk of disagreeing violently with your colleague."

"Make sure your client understands (with limited intelligence) any contracts to which he is committed."

His third point was: "Don't assume you know everything."

The spontaneous wit of Leonard W. Brockington, K.C., of Winnipeg, who was called upon unexpectedly, by President George H. Montgomery, K.C., of Montreal, kept the visiting barristers in a merry mood.

Hinting at the large number of Nova Scotian legal men who "bossed" things in Western Canada he thought it a "good idea if all the rest of the office boys and clerks of the West would come here to see where their boss came from and see the source of your main export."

"You've treated the West as the English treated Australia," he exclaimed amidst laughter.

From France

Greetings from the French Republic were extended graciously by Maitre Andre Vienot. Hon. W. D. Mitchell, representative of the American Bar Association, spoke of the cordial relations extending between the two bar societies and of the cordial alliance between the two nations of the North American Continent.

Claiming he was "in the company of pillars of the legal temple," Premier Angus L. Macdonald spoke of the value of the principles of Magna Charta in this country, contracting it to countries where "the voice of liberty is stifled and the old freedom of speech, petition and the press is unknown and justice has been transplanted temporarily."

Mr. Justice Surveyor of the superior court of Quebec, first honorary secretary of the association, addressed the gathering briefly.

First

(Continued from Page One) found Marvin Steeves holding his sister in his arms. The girl had been apparently struck by two shots, one entering her arm and the other her throat. Medical aid was immediately summoned and later in the evening the girl was rushed to the City Hospital here. Early this morning her condition was considered serious, having lost considerable blood.

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