

The Daily Mail

A Daily Paper For Every Home

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 1939

PENAL REFORM

A propos of the scheme for reformation in the administration of Canadian penal institutions, it is of considerable interest to note the importance that is being attached to the new Criminal Justice Bill which has very much the same object in view. There has been considerable controversy over this measure, but in the main it has been welcomed as a long over-due and eminently desirable in the interests of social reform.

Some critics of the Bill have interpreted the term "treating the prisoner" equivalent to "giving the prisoner a treat," but it has been well established that many criminals, both recidivists as well as young offenders, have never been given a real chance to reform. Professor D. K. Henderson, one of the ablest of British psychiatrists, argues that the value of any penal system is to be judged in terms of its effects on the incidence of crime. If crime diminishes in consequence of a change in the approach to the criminal, he says, then that change is successful, and ought to be applauded and be appreciated. Sentimental considerations must weigh little in comparison with the well-being of society as a whole.

Both he and other supporters of the measure emphasize the fact that the psychiatrist, far from holding a brief for the criminal, gives due value to the interests of society, and they think that this Bill constitutes a step towards establishing the solidarity of society and giving a more adequate chance to everyone of social betterment.

In particular do the supporters of the measure praise the plan to help the criminal whose mental state may be susceptible to treatment to adjust or readjust himself to society under the care of duly qualified medical practitioners. Under the bill, however, it is proposed to place a time-limit of twelve months upon such treatment. This many eminent physicians and psychiatrists consider inadvisable, holding that it is impossible to assign any arbitrary period of treatment to cases of that nature.

One thing is perfectly clear: the British Bill is a serious and carefully planned measure designed to bring about radical changes in the existing penal system, particularly in so far as the rehabilitation of those who have just begun a criminal career is concerned. The present Borstal system is not changed, but may be very materially extended in its application in future, it would appear.

A WELL TOLD TALE

Vancouver Province: Harassed and terrorized people in Europe might be pardoned for refusing to believe the tale if told them, that the general in command of the U. S. military forces that are to take part in the State of Washington's Golden Jubilee says: "No military observance in our State would be complete without the participation of the Canadian forces." The B. C. troops will parade, not on horseback, but as mechanized cavalry in armored cars. They will be guests of the U. S. Army, and will attend the dedication of the new Seattle Artillery Armory. And unquestionably they will be received with the same genuine and spontaneous greetings by the people of Seattle as was given the men of the U. S. forces who appeared as friendly neighbours in our own civic parade last year.

Engineering firms in Bristol report greater activity than a year ago. Several factories in the shoe trade are working full time. Nearly all industries, in fact, report a higher level of activity than at the same time last year. The leather trade, which is one of Bristol's staple industries, is active with firm prices Commercial Intelligence Journal

GERMAN-AMERICAN

The German-American League for Culture, of Northern New Jersey, last month petitioned President Roosevelt to withdraw United States diplomatic and consular representations from Germany, to seize all Nazi property in the country for the purpose of securing settlement of claims against Germany and further to put an embargo on all exports to Germany.

There are, evidently, many of German descent who do not approve of what the Hitler regime is doing; in fact the percentage who do so in North America probably is small, a bulky report recently released by the United States Justice Department without comment would indicate.

The lengthy report, which is entirely factual, with no suggestions or conclusions, and compiled by agents of the Federal Bureau of investigation, (the G-men) pictures the German-American bond movement as of small size and generally restricted to some of the larger cities in the north-eastern part of the United States, Middle West and Pacific coast. Although Fritz Kuhn, national Fuehrer, told one investigator he had 200,000 members, to another he put the membership at 8,299 scattered about in fifty locals, five of which were found afterwards to be non-existent. The best estimate would appear to be about 6,617 in forty-five locals.

Fritz Kuhn, the report says never earned more than 87½ cents an hour in private employment in the United States, which was as a chemist with the Ford Motor Company, and he was temporarily suspended on several occasions after being caught "practising speeches in a dark room."

The report deals with the part played by the "ordnung dienst," or uniformed section, and apropos perhaps is an article by Sir W. David Ross in the independent Journal of Columbia University. Writing of disturbances by British Nazis, he says the banning of uniforms has been particularly effective. To many people, he writes, a cause at once becomes much more attractive if it enables them to wear a picturesque uniform in public; and to many others a uniform associated with opinions they dislike acts as a red rag to a bull. The banning of uniforms has for these two reasons largely succeeded in relegating the English Fascist movement to obscurity.

"SAUVAGES"

The British North America Act, Section 91, puts control of "Indians" under Dominion jurisdiction, and after four years litigation the Supreme Court has decided that Eskimos are Indians. So Quebec wins and the Eskimos in the Ungava district of northern Quebec become a federal responsibility. This fails to settle a long disputed point among ethnologists, for the decision is essentially an interpretation of the statute. Contemporary references to "Esquimaux Indians" were cited. Even a yellowed manuscript of 1610 was evidence.

Sticking to the French version of the Act, Mr. Justice Cannon had less difficulty, for the word used in it was "sauvages." Presumably the Eskimos are, or at least were, "sauvages" although scientists have found relics among them of an ancient and high civilization.

But "sauvages" is an inclusive word and growing more inclusive, we fear. If the Dominion has the care of all "sauvages," the federal authorities should note that some of their words got very much out of hand in Albania and elsewhere.

The Welsh tinplate trade appears to be entering upon a new phase of its history, the Department of Trade and Commerce has been advised. It is considered likely that not only will the methods of manufacture be altered but grouping, especially of the smaller works, will become fairly general so that wasteful competition will be avoided. Although there will probably be fewer works in operation in the future, out put will more nearly approximate capacity production. Commercial Intelligence Journal.

FAITH UNSHAKEN

(New Glasgow News)

Fernando Del los Rios joins Edward Benes in exile, each to be a teacher. And so a little living spark of the ruins of both the Spanish and Czech republics glows on in the United States.

"Our cause is as eternal as is the value of the dignity of man, the essence of liberty," says Del los Rios, formerly ambassador from the Spanish republic.

"No authoritarian regime can be permanent—the nature of it is temporary. We shall not die. We will again, soon or late, and I believe it will be soon," says Benes, once president of Czechoslovakia.



Letters To The Editor

242 Regent St.,
Fredericton,
N. B.
April 18th, 1939

The Editor
Dear Sir:—

On several occasions I have had it called to my notice, to tourists and others, that our New Brunswick tourists traffic would benefit greatly if more stress were laid on our distinctively local customs and diet as well as our scenic attractions. The tourist would be extremely likely to recall this portion of his grand tour by some such mental landmarks as, "Let's all go visit New Brunswick again. Remember last year where we ate greens they told us were made from fern buds, and those delicious buckwheat pancakes with maple syrup that tasted better than any I ever had anywhere else. Mrs. Brown, where we had one of our dinners, had cake with frosting that was covered with strange nut-meats shaped like the palm of your hand. She called them 'butternuts' and they tasted better than the pecans, cashews and walnuts we get here. I think we really haven't seen that place enough. Let's go!"

I don't know whether you will agree with me if I should say that the meals make the milestones, but I know that tourists do associate their food with their enjoyment of the holiday trip. I have heard of one man who after a tour through our beautiful scenery remembered Fredericton as the place where they got that tough steak. I am sure he is not the only one of his kind and I propose to can a far larger quantity of fiddleheads than usual when they come on the market.

If others would do the same and serve fiddlehead greens with meals for tourists, it seems certain that the demand would be instantly made and sales found for the tins on the shelves. The tourist might take a quantity with them and a neat label on the can would serve as souvenir and as a lasting tourist advertisement. Those tourist would return accompanied by others, eager to see what a country and people looked like whence came such a table delicacy. This would not be unless fiddleheads were served with the tourist's meals and a supply of tinned fiddleheads were available for him to purchase to carry back home with him. Up to now any tourists who have been given the treat and asked where he could get more has had to be content with, "Come back next spring when they are on the market and have all you want." If I were Mr. Tourist, that would not be enough,—therefore why not can a supply and let it be known that they were for sale. The demand would soon come.

Thanking you for your space,
G. Alvah Good
"One Tree Orchard" Cabins,
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Just in Jest

How To Be a Detective
"It's easy to tell if it's a friend or a bill collector at the door."
How?
"Just wait a while—and if it's a bill collector he won't go away."

A FIERCE LOVER
Charlotte—Gee, what a fierce lover you are!
Charles—"Why, I haven't tried to kiss you once!"
Charlotte—"That's what makes you such a fierce lover."

Experienced
New Employer: "Are you familiar with mules?"
Negro Stableman: "No, sir; Ah knows 'em too well to get familiar."

Answer
"What is the best thing to make a cocktail party go?" No gin.

Steady Expense
Aunt: "What a beautiful complexion you have, my dear—it's a gift of Heaven."
Niece: "Don't you believe it, auntie—it's nothing but a steady expense!"

Just Slipped
Prison Chaplain: "So you were convicted of burglary twice, robbery with violence three times, and manslaughter once?"
Prisoner: "That's right, sir. After that I seemed to drift into a life of crime."

Life's Essential
We may live without poetry, music and art;
We may live without conscience and live without heart;
We may live without friends; we may live without books;
But civilized man can not live without cooks.
He may live without books—what is knowledge but grieving?
He may live without hope—what is hope but deceiving?
He may live without love—what is passion but pining?
But where is the man who can live without dining?
In other words we can't live without you.

"Ain't Seen Nothin'."
A traveller was boasting in a public bar of all the wonderful things he had seen all over the world. He said there was nothing he had not seen.

A quiet little man got up from a corner of the bar and said politely: "Excuse me, sir, but have you ever had the D.T.'s?"
"No, of course not," snapped the traveller.
"Then you've seen nothing," replied the little man, quietly.

P.S.—The plate Was Full
Once when Rowland Hill was making an appeal for charity a note was handed to him asking if it would be right for a bankrupt to subscribe. During his sermon Rowland Hill mentioned the fact and said that no person could in Christian honesty subscribe if he were a bankrupt; "but," he added, "I should advise you who are not insolvent not to pass the plate without giving, lest your neighbor should say: 'There goes the bankrupt!'"

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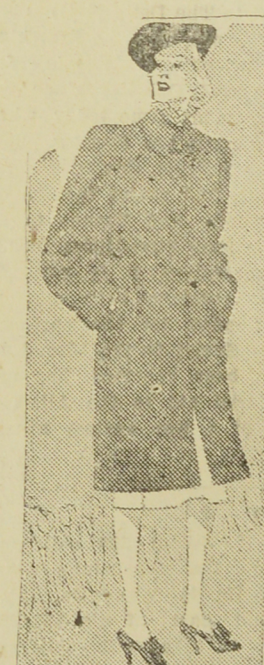
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