

# THE EDUCATIONAL HORIZON

## A SATURDAY FEATURE

### PRESENTING NEWS AND VIEWS OF INTEREST TO TEACHERS AND ALL OTHERS SEEKING IMPROVEMENT IN EDUCATION

#### PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS AT TEACHERS CONVENTION

Following is the address of the President, Mr. Edison Macdonald, given at the Teachers' Convention.

For the third successive year it is my privilege and duty to report to you the activities of your Federation executive. The year has seen several important changes in our educational system and in promoting these changes your executive has played no mean part.

At the first regular meeting of the new executive it was decided to bolster with all the means at our command the two chief weapons which we had created for influencing public opinion, viz. the Educational Horizon and the Education Committee. To this end we proposed to have published bi-weekly for the whole school year, a work for which a great deal of more work for Mr. Lawton, we raised his honorarium by fifty dollars. I trust this arrangement proved satisfactory to all our teachers. Our secretary forms us in the connection that the comment at the local convention with regard to the Educational Horizon, and several teachers have told me that they found a great help in their work. We express our sincere thanks for the fine work which he has done in this field. In considering the work which the Education Committee might do to promote interest in education in this Province we decided that they might be handicapped for lack of sufficient funds. We, therefore, determined to make \$100.00 of our funds available to them in order that if they had a project which they considered worth while, they need not be deterred by financial reasons. On my return to Charlottetown last September I immediately interviewed the Superintendent to find out from him if any permits were being issued. He informed me that several School Boards had hired teachers who had been out of the profession for some time. The Department of Education's action was to lower the license of the returned teacher one year. It was understood that they were later to be given an opportunity to regain their previous standing by writing an examination. The most interesting and enlightening fact, however, that I found out on that occasion was that the whole of the School Board could hire whomever they chose; i. e. they could hire the village blacksmith or carpenter and the department could do nothing about it except in regard to his or her certificate. This is a situation which I think should be carefully looked into by the teachers of the province.

One of the resolutions passed at the Canadian Teachers' Conference was that a provincial committee be set up in every province. In accordance with this resolution we called together a meeting of all Island delegates to be held in the Prince of Wales College on October 14th. There was a good attendance and various matters were discussed. Some of these were the Educational Horizon and how it could be used to foster an interest in education in this province. Mr. Lawton was asked to state in the Educational Horizon how much it would cost to obtain the Horizon for a year and teachers were to be urged to make their own contribution. Their professional organizations were also urged to contribute. The value of the Educational Horizon was discussed at length, and Mr. Lidstone as chairman of the Education Week Committee was asked to state in this particular branch of the work. The teachers to use their affiliation with different organizations to promote the cause of education was discussed. On the whole, I may say that, although this Committee is as yet only in its infancy, it offers great possibilities for progress in the educational field. Let us hope that it will continue to function with increasing vigor and success.

In 1941 Education Week was observed in this Province from November 10 to the 16th. The General Theme was "Education: The Key to Progress" with seven other sub-topics. The local Education Committee of which Mr. Lidstone was the chairman, decided to concentrate on one of these sub-topics, namely, "The Place of the School in a Democracy." Three speakers were asked to speak on this subject over C. F. C. Y. T. The speakers were Dr. Murphy, Rector of St. Dunstan's College, Mr. Sullivan, pastor of the United Church, Summerside, and myself. We all dealt with the subject in the same manner, and I trust had some influence on the public. Much praise is due to Mr. Lidstone for the interest and energy which he displayed on this occasion.

One of the matters which was discussed at the Canadian Teachers' Conference at Winnipeg was the Canadian Teachers' Federation Relief Fund. It was decided to continue our appeal for relief of suffering in the bombed areas of Great Britain, and it was further decided that all monies collected should be sent to the committee of the National Union of Teachers Education in Scotland, and the teachers of Northern Ireland. The certificate for registration under the War Charities Act, has been issued until December 31, 1942. The objective for this year is \$20,000, and I hope that the teachers of Prince Edward Island will do their part.

There was a resolution passed at the C. F. C. Y. T. Conference which might be of interest to teachers. The subject that was decided upon was written off by Departmental Examinations at the end of Grade VIII or IX. Your executive in co-operation with the Education Committee urged upon the Education office the necessity of making this change. But the change as usual was not without its weak points. The Department had added another English Examination to the Entrance. I immediately interviewed the Superintendent to find out if I could whether the extra examination would be held this year while all the other courses were still necessary for Grade X or would begin next year. His answer to this question was not very

definite, and I again pressed upon him for an answer last week. His opinion seemed to be then and, as I remember was the same last fall, that we would have one examination in English this year. A final decision was to be reached by him in conjunction with the inspectors this week. Another question which I wanted answered was on the marks should the Scholarships be based. These questions so perplexed the head of the Department that he decided to advocate a meeting of the Advisory Committee with the Board of Education.

Accordingly, early in October, the Advisory Committee consisting of the President of Prince of Wales College — represented at that meeting by Mr. Blanchard — the Rector of St. Dunstan's College, the President of the Women's Institutes — represented by Mrs. MacLaren, and myself as President of the Prince Edward Island Teachers' Federation, was called to meet with the Board. At that meeting it was decided that the scholarships should be based on the subject written off at the end of Grade IX, that is, exclusive of Geography, Hygiene, and Canadian History.

Another matter which was discussed by the Board at this particular meeting was the licensing of teachers under eighteen years of age. They came to the conclusion that for this year at least the age limit should be reduced to seventeen years. I see that this decision has been ratified by the legislature at their last meeting. There are some interesting sidelights on this question of licensing which we might look at for a moment. On my return to Charlottetown last September I immediately interviewed the Superintendent to find out from him if any permits were being issued. He informed me that several School Boards had hired teachers who had been out of the profession for some time. The Department of Education's action was to lower the license of the returned teacher one year. It was understood that they were later to be given an opportunity to regain their previous standing by writing an examination. The most interesting and enlightening fact, however, that I found out on that occasion was that the whole of the School Board could hire whomever they chose; i. e. they could hire the village blacksmith or carpenter and the department could do nothing about it except in regard to his or her certificate. This is a situation which I think should be carefully looked into by the teachers of the province.

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I have purposely left to the last any mention of the ever important question of salaries. As many of you know we have presented briefs to the government on each of the two years immediately preceding this one. In these previous briefs we had emphasized the need of raising the all-teachers salary and of adopting a graduated scale. The General Secretary and I waited upon the Minister of Education frequently to see if the government was looking more favourably on our case. The Salary Committee which consists of Miss Jacqueline Macdonald, Mr. Reginald Macdonald, Mr. Herbert Murphy, Mr. Davis, Mr. J. J. MacFadyen, and myself held a meeting last fall and decided that Mr. Macdonald and myself should wait upon the minister with a view of finding out when we could meet the government. On the advice of the minister, we decided that the best time to make representations to the government had not yet reached. In the meantime the situation of the Cost of Living Pons which had been raised at the Local Convention was discussed at the full convention. They came to the conclusion that it would be best to concentrate on an increase of salary using the bonus idea as an argument. I might mention that the government has been successful in getting across our guest speaker Dr. Robinson and we are using him to the full. Miss Donahoe kindly consented to give a demonstration of Primary Convention is an attempt to have a little more social life. Resolution of the last Annual Convention was that the Executive arrangements for suitable entertainment for the teachers in convention to the purpose that visiting teachers have an opportunity to become acquainted and so there-fore contribute to the Convention.

In order to do this and to satisfy a request made by the Acadian Teachers, we changed the Convention date to the three days following Easter. We also made arrangements with the Department to get Friday off. The entertainment is not of a boisterous nature, but it will be enjoyed by all. There is to be a luncheon at the Charlottetown and the program on a Wednesday evening is designed to entertain as well as to instruct. I wish at this time to extend my thanks to the executive particularly to our secretary and Gen. Sec'y for their untiring efforts in promoting our cause. In conclusion I would like to say that the year is marked by definite progress. For the first time in years the Advisory Committee of the Board of Education in which the Teachers' Federation has representation was called to meet with the Board, thus recognizing that the teachers may know something about the educational system and how it can be improved. Further, we have seen a recommendation of the Teachers' Federation adopted by the Department of Education when they are permitting pupils to complete their matriculation in some subjects at the end of Grade IX. The Government has recognized the principle of the graduated scale and teaching is on its way to becoming a profession on Prince Edward Island. Finally the Department has considered the Teachers' Convention important enough to give the teachers an extra day to get back to their schools. For this progress let us be thankful, and let us look to the future with confidence and optimism.

The government gave us the best hearing that we had had so far. We pointed out that the government had likely used the education situation as an argument for an increased grant from the Dominion. The Premier admitted that they had, and that \$72,000 was now available for increased salaries to teachers, old age pensions, and salaries to other public servants. He informed me that the government had their share with such additional supplement as the government was able to give. With this answer we left the government and awaited further developments. Two days after the House opened I had a call from the Minister of Education requesting me to go down to see him that afternoon. On my appearance he presented me with the proposed salary revision. I pointed out that there was quite a gap between the scale drawn up and the one that we had suggested. He informed me that the government had only a limited amount of money and that they were spending it as best they could on a graduated basis. I had to admit that the principle of the plan was slight but that it was not sufficient to entice many into the profession. Both the Minister of Education and the Premier have ad-

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been adequate. It will therefore be the duty of the new executive to continue to press upon the government the necessity for further increases.

Now what is the plan? There seems to be some difficulty for some of the teachers to understand it. Roughly, all previous salaries remain about the same for beginning teachers except that there was some increase in the salary of Third Class Teachers. All teachers who remain teaching are to receive bonuses \$40 if female \$50 if male at the beginning of the fourth, eighth, twelfth, and sixteenth years, providing that no bonus of more than \$100 will be paid in any one year. This latter clause may be a little confusing but can easily be explained. e. g. if a man has taught for 15 years he should get next year the maximum bonus which in his case would be \$200. If he has taught for one year and an additional \$100 the next year, I believe that most of the teachers who are not sufficient to make arrangements for suitable entertainment for the teachers in convention to the purpose that visiting teachers have an opportunity to become acquainted and so there-fore contribute to the Convention.

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#### EDITOR'S COMMENTS

We have published here Mr. Macdonald's address in the hope that it will be read by the people of this Province who are interested in education. In the report, Mr. Macdonald reveals the policies of the Federation, and which clearly what he and his executive accomplished in the past year. We feel that the work, as we see it, now deserves merit and praise, and that the people should appreciate and support the teachers in their efforts to bring about educational changes that will bring benefits to the coming citizenry of this Province. We hope that the new Executive will continue, in no small way, to carry out the long-range programme of the Teachers' Federation.

The Kinsmen Clubs of Canada accepted last August the responsibility of augmenting the available supply of milk in Britain especially in the bombed areas and the war nurseries. With continental supplies cut off through Nazi occupation, a serious shortage of milk developed in Britain which prompted the Ministry of Food to appeal to Canada for assistance. Through the British High Commissioner in Ottawa this appeal reached the Association of Kinsmen Clubs and was promised one and a half million quarts of milk by July, 1942. This amount has been exceeded. However, the need for more milk has become increasingly evident and the Kinsmen Club intend to carry on this work as long as it is necessary. During the present time the Charlottetown Kinsmen Club is making a direct appeal to the teaching profession for assistance. We feel sure that the teachers will assist in taking this campaign to the pupils and children of their province. We know that many schools have already pledged themselves to do all they can, and are realizing success. We feel that the Kinsmen do not expect enormous sums of money from any single district, but what they would like to see is a contribution, small or big, from each school district. Only in that way can they be sure of a substantial contribution towards making life worth living for thousands of children in beleaguered Britain. We commend this work to the pupils through the teachers.

We would remind all teachers and those who are interested in education that the columns of the Educational Horizon are open for the discussion of any question relevant and material to the good of the Province. The Teachers' Federation and to the advance of education in this province.

#### LANGUAGE

- Type Questions
- Give the noun and verb corresponding to each of the following: High; noble; beautiful; gully; terrible; wide; strong; long; equal; equal; dangerous; resolute; different; courageous; necessary; rough; safe; provident; regular; stealthy; apparent; wonderful; feisty; husky; excessive; grievance; peaceful; thoughtful; briefly; joy; just; rarely; little; deep; broad; able.
  - Give the Adverb and Abstract noun corresponding to: Obey; You; honest; true; tumble; high; tyrant.
  - Give the Adjective Corresponding to: mischief; origin; accident; violence; occasion; office; social; fraud; error; fiction; criticism; emperor; chaos; picture; ample; France; Malta; Portugal; Naples; Switzerland.
  - Give the noun corresponding to: Abhor; supreme; paralyze; sober; acquiesce; allude; deceive; mortify.
- V. Give a single word meaning—
- Highest point in the heavens;
  - Undersea boat;
  - Garage for airplanes;
  - Equally at home on land and water;
  - Common disease of the gums;
  - Female of dark complexion;
  - God of war;
  - Instrument to measure air pressure;
  - Instrument to measure temperature;
  - Esquimo hut;
  - Caterpillar's home;
  - Prarie dog;
  - Second year university student;
  - A word of similar meaning;
  - Valuable old inherited article.
- VI. Give a word formed by adding each of these to the front of some well-known word: Fore, forth, twi, mis, be, on, contra, post, trans, hemi.
- One formed by adding these to the end of a word—in, kin, ade, ling, ster, dom, hood, ship, wright, ern.

#### CURRENT AFFAIRS

Feb. 19th. Prime Minister Churchill reorganized the British War Cabinet bringing in Sir Stafford Cripps as Lord Privy Seal and leader of the House of Commons.

Feb. 20th. Japanese forces invaded the Portuguese portion of Timor.

Feb. 22nd. A United Nations communiqué announced the sinking and damaging of nineteen Japanese ships in a three-day engagement with the United States Navy off Java from Sumatra and Bali.

Feb. 27th. By bombing Port Blair capital of the strategic Andaman Islands Japan carried the war to India for the first time.

Feb. 28th. Japanese forces succeeded in landing on three beach heads in Java.

March 1st. It was announced that United Nations naval forces had sunk or damaged nine Japanese warships and seventeen transports in resisting the Japanese invasion of Java. Our losses were reported to be two cruisers and two destroyers sunk and one cruiser damaged.

March 2nd. General Wavell resumed his post as Commander-in-Chief of India. The military command of the south-west Pacific was taken over by Netherlands officers.

March 3rd. The U. S. destroyer Jacob Jones was sunk by torpedo off Cape May. The R. A. F. carried out a heavy raid against the industrial suburbs of Paris, where munitions for Germany are being manufactured.

March 6th. Batavia capital of the Dutch East Indies was abandoned to the Japanese.

March 8th. Japanese forces landed at two points in New Guinea. Their troops also cut the Rangoon-Mandalay railway near Pegu.

March 9th. It was reported that excepting for guerrilla operations the Japanese conquest of Java was completed with the surrender of 98,000 Dutch and 5,000 British and American troops. General Wavell announced the evacuation of Rangoon. The Australian government gave orders for a complete scorched earth policy in the event of a Japanese invasion.

March 11th. Sir Stafford Cripps, Lord Privy Seal, was despatched to India to offer plans for a settlement of the Government of India which it is hoped, will be acceptable to Hindu and Moslem alike.

March 13th. Japanese warship and transports were sighted off Buka in the Solomon Is. British and Chinese troops joined forces 80 miles above Rangoon.

March 14th. A United Nations communiqué announced that twelve Allied warships had been lost in the Battle of Java from Feb. 27th. to March 1. Eight Japanese warships were sunk or put out of action.

March 16th. The princes of India pledged their utmost aid to Britain.

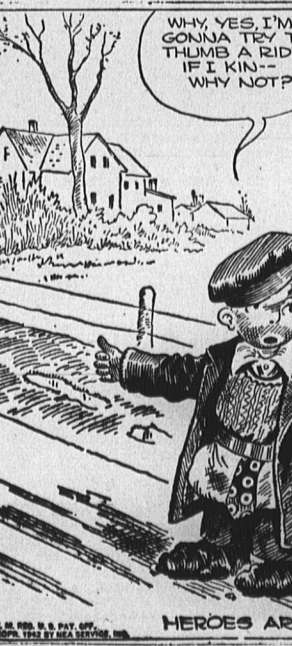
March 17th. General Douglas MacArthur became Supreme Commander of the United Nations forces in the south-western Pacific. All British living in French North Africa very interested by victory.

March 18th. The U. S. Navy announced the sinking or damaging of thirteen enemy warships off the northern coast of New Guinea.

#### QUESTIONS

(1) Discuss the obstacles to factors hinder unity? Look up the claims of the Congress Party and the Muslim League.

#### OUT OUR WAY



HEROES ARE MADE—NOT BORN.

#### OUR BOARDING HOUSE



LOW REPORTERS WASTE TIME.

#### TILLIE THE TOILER—GOOD AND BAD NEWS



(2) Locate on your map and discuss the importance of Calcutta, Andaman, Madagascar, Timor, Port, Moreby, Darwin, Lashio, Toungoo, Baren's Gen, Murmann Archangel, Sittang, Thurgay Island, Promé, Tromso, Narvik, Frondheim, Spitzbergen, Petszamt, Trincomalee.

Answers to appear in next issue.

(5) Locate on your map and discuss the importance of: Ambrosia, Port, Moreby, Darwin, Lashio, Toungoo, Baren's Gen, Murmann Archangel, Sittang, Thurgay Island, Promé, Tromso, Narvik, Frondheim, Spitzbergen, Petszamt, Trincomalee.

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This Department is conducted by the Prince Edward Island Teachers' Federation. Contributions are welcomed and should be addressed to H. Lawton, Charlottetown.

#### ARMY FIREFIGHTERS

To meet the threat of Axis flame-throats the Canadian Army trains crews of fire fighters who will play an important role when Canada's soldiers on a roaring rush fire.

#### Presentation

On Monday evening April 6th the "Island" Colony of Valleyfield Ave. gathered and gave Mr. Gillis a farewell address on the eve of his departure for Western Canada. Mr. Gillis is one of the "key" men of an important defense industry. He is prominent in the councils of the company, and goes to the West as a production supervisor on a plant which is about to be put in operation. He is virtually the pioneer of the "Island" colony in Valleyfield, where fifty or more of the boys from home are engaged in war work. It is worthy of note that the boys from "home" are all of the same age, and are doing their best to be faithful to the trust imposed in them by him.

The address and presentation were delivered at the home of Mr. Alfred Higgins 33 Narvise St. (formerly of Kensington P.E.I.), by Justin McLellan, Celestine McLellan, Philip Curley, Joseph McInnis, Albert Jodvin, William Judd, Borden Fraser, Gussie McLellan, James Bealro, Eric Sudbury, Peter, John and Gerard McLellan, Joseph and Hubert Gillis, Frank Shields, Albert Glover, Elmer McLellan, Neil Walter and Sanctimus Frangit. James Pendergast, Robt. Craig, Hugh Bridges, Jos. Gallant, Lester Fitzgerald and Bernard Gillis, Frank Trainor. K.

#### VOLETTES CONGRESSMAN

Alaska is represented in the U. S. Congress by a delegate, but he has no vote.