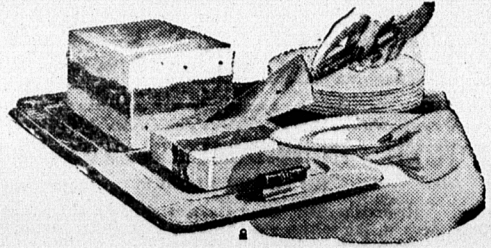


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P. E. I. Teachers Federation

The following report was read at Tuesday's session by the President Mr. Edison MacDonald:

During the past year many changes have taken place in our organization. We have taken several steps which we hope will benefit the teachers of P. E. I. In accordance with a resolution passed at our last annual convention and at the various local conventions we appointed a General Secretary. We also appointed a School Act Committee with a view to making various changes which we thought should be made in the School Act. We have also prepared a report which we are to submit to the various members of the Legislature urging that a sliding scale of wages should be adopted.

These are some of the more important steps which we have taken this year. Due to the war and other events certain changes had to be made in your executive. The President, Capt. Bell was called to the colors and it was necessary to elect him. I agreed to act till the end of his term as the Vice President. Mr. Alden Leard was not on the Island and was therefore unable to act as President. One of the first problems that confronted your Executive was the appointment of a General Secretary. We did not feel that we should take the initiative in this matter until we had got the opinion of the Teachers in the various Local Conventions. After the last convention had been held, and the idea almost unanimously approved.

Your executive appointed to that post Mr. J. Reginald MacDonald. I do not intend to dwell upon the merits of Mr. MacDonald for this task. I shall remind you, however, that he was your president of last year and that also he has been in close contact with the local executive and also with the executive of the C. C. F. I am sure that Mr. MacDonald has begun his work well. During the past year the C. T. F. has prepared several bulletins on the educational situation in Canada with special reference to Prince Edward Island. For various reasons the bulletins in P. E. I. were not true in every particular and Mr. MacDonald took upon himself the task of revising them and then sending them out to the teachers of P. E. I. As you will hear from Mr. MacDonald later in the evening, he will not spend any more time on his duties or achievements.

Proposed Change

Another matter of importance which was considered by your executive was the proposed change in the School Act. The committee consisting of Mr. Neary Sheffoon, Mr. D. J. MacArthur and Mr. Ernest Reid gave their matter their careful attention and suggested several changes. These changes, in general, dealt with the curricula of the schools, the insufficiency of enrolment or attendance and to the suggestion that the Teacher's Federation be used more in the advisory capacity than it has been. The substitution of closing exercises or concert instead of the Public Exam was also advocated. As this matter will be reported in detail by Mr. Sheffoon I shall not go into it further.

Education Week

Our Education Week Program was carried out in November under the capable direction of Mr. Hine, Mr. MacArthur and Mr. Norman MacDonald. I may say that the Education Week for 1940 is to be held from the 16th inclusive. As the time of the American Education Week coincides with ours, it was thought by the President that there should be closer co-operation and that there should be a closer relationship between their program and ours. With that purpose in mind the Secretary of the Canadian Teachers' Federation met with representatives of the American organizations to discuss the topic for the 1940 Education Week. The General Theme is to be "Education for the Common Man" with the sub-topics—Enriching Social Life, Strengthening Civic Loyalties, Financing Public Education, Developing Human Resources, Safeguarding Natural Resources, Pertaining Individual Liberties and Building Economic Security. The C. T. F.'s not bound to follow out this program and this convention has power to change its own theme and topics.

This brings me to the relations between the P. E. I. T. F. and the C. T. F. I may say that they have been at all times most cordial. Three representatives were sent from this province last year to the annual convention of the C. T. F. They were Mrs. Mabel Matheson, Mr. Reg. MacDonald and Mr. D. J. MacArthur. As a member of the Convention will be given by Mrs. Mabel Matheson into the details. Since the convention however the C. T. F. has put out several bulletins. Some of the bulletins were addressed to every teacher in Canada and a special bulletin to the teachers of Prince Edward Island. These bulletins have either been placed in your hands or will be placed there in the immediate future. I shall therefore, go over them in detail.

Teachers Salaries

There are some points however, which I should like to emphasize. On Page 2 of the second bulletin I pointed out the fact that the average salary of rural and village teachers on P. E. I. for the year 1938 was \$455, whereas in 1926 the average salary was \$300. That is, the salaries have gone down, on the average, \$53. That is a point which we should note and which should be used as an argument for salary increases. The first bulletin pointed out that during the last war the British military effort was undermined by a shortage of trained intelligence for physical security and by an excess of "C" players among the manhood reserves. Out of that war might come one important thing, a dignified and adequate scale of teachers' salaries, known as the Burnham Scale. Britain is not making the same mistake this time and despite the additional war expenditure, there is an increased vote for education.

Another point which has been emphasized, and which is of particular importance to P. E. I. teachers is the fact that they should be given to education. There should be some uniformity of salary throughout the Dominion. The tax-paying ability of the citizens of the Dominion is not so high as that of the province of Ontario. It could not be expected

Shall I Vote for KING OR MANION?

There is only one decision to be made by the Canadian people on March 26th. It is this:

Shall our country's war effort be handed over to unknown, unnamed politicians . . . to a makeshift cabinet with Dr. Manion as the self-appointed leader?

OR: Shall our country's war effort be continued vigorously and faithfully by the known and proven administration of Mackenzie King?

That is the question YOU must answer.

Up a Blind Alley?—or—Out in the Open!

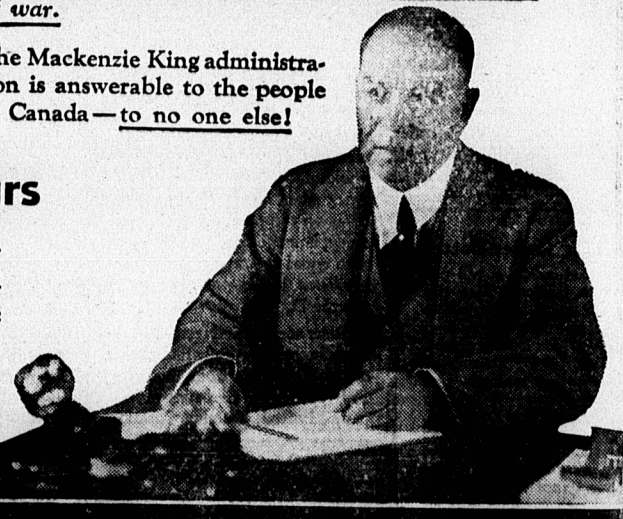
It is time for plain speaking. Dr. Manion's pretence of offering "national" government is sheer political deceit. Because: even if he were elected to office, Dr. Manion could not organize or lead a truly national government. The parliamentary group which might follow him would fail to represent all Canada. It would not represent the people of the national Liberal party. It would not represent the people of the historic Conservative party which Dr. Manion has now scuttled.

Do not be deceived! Dr. Manion cannot give you National Government. The best he might give you would be government by unknown followers. He invites you to follow him up a blind alley—to vote for a government of his own imagination—answerable to some undisclosed political group.

Mackenzie King offers you something entirely in the open . . . the most truly National government Canada has ever known. His parliamentary followers represent the people of every province in Canada—every section of our country—every economic, social and racial group. There is not an area of this country . . . without a proper representation in the Mackenzie King following.

Mackenzie King's cabinet ministers are well-known to you. They are broadly experienced men—eager and able to continue the sort of administration which brought progress to Canada in times of peace and national pride to Canadians since the outbreak of war.

The Mackenzie King administration is answerable to the people of Canada—to no one else!



The Responsibility is Now Yours

Canada is facing the greatest crisis in her history. It is YOUR responsibility to say how she is to deal with this crisis. Therefore: when you go to the polls on March 26th you should consider only what is best for Canada—what is best for the Empire and our allies—what is the sure, direct road to Victory and Peace.

FORWARD WITH MACKENZIE KING

The National Liberal Federation of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario

therefore, that the province of P. E. I. could pay salaries to its teachers that would be comparable with those of Ontario although it no doubt could pay wages somewhat higher than they are today. Moreover, as is emphasized in bulletin No. 6 it is much easier for the federal than for the provincial government to levy tax. What happens when a Provincial Treasurer goes gunning for more money to spend? Two more cents a gallon on gasoline, a little more to pay for the license plates, imposition of a driver's license and fee, etc. — all of them, in that we are aware of paying them, are nuisance taxes. They make news in the papers, and in some cases breed organized resentment expressing itself in delegations to the Govt.

Increase Suggested

The raising of an equivalent amount for the whole country by the Finance Minister of Canada would be a very different matter. Without laboring the point, we may say that the Dominion authority could increase sufficiently its custom and excise impositions without an audible whimper from the taxpayers—The Dominion authority, by reason of its remoteness and the inconspicuous working of its collecting machine is in the best possible position to impose adequate taxation for maintaining services, or imposing them fairly, and for imposing them without suffering political penalties for doing the right thing.

This same bulletin goes on to point out that there are three Steps in Federal Aid to Education. 1. The Dominion Government should recognize the principle of National concern for Education. 2. The Dominion Government should immediately apply the principle of National Concern for Education by voting a substantial sum, e. g., \$10,000,000. Out of that P. E. I. would get \$200,000 or enough to raise the average annual salary of all teachers from \$357-\$429. 3. The Dominion Government should make a clearance of the chaotic mess of opinion, prejudiced

and amateur misjudgment now surrounding the whole issue of teacher-salary schemes in Canada, and formulate a series of parallel schemes known as the National Scale and corresponding to the Burnham Scale in Great Britain. With these summaries and extracts I shall give you a further explanation of what the C. T. F. is going along that line to the bulletins themselves. Another matter relative to our connection with the C. T. F. is the number of delegates which should be sent to the convention from this Province. The secretary writes that if the Executive of the C. T. F. is to carry out the suggestions made at the convention re printing of reports, etc., then it will be necessary to budget more money for this item than has been voted in the past. A drive must either increase the fee or cut down the representation from 3 to 2. This matter should be given serious consideration by this convention.

Scale of Wages

To return to the efforts our Local Executive. We are endeavoring to gain recognition of the principle of a graduated scale of wages. Over a year ago the Dept. of Education granted a First Class License to Second Class Teachers who had taught twenty-five years or over. While conferring with the Minister of Education about speaking at this convention I suggested that similar recognition be given to First Class teachers. He seemed to think that the contention was just enough. It is our problem to get some definite action. As a means to achieve this end your executive largely through the efforts of your General Secretary has prepared a report which it intends to submit to every member of the Legislature when that body meets. In that report we have suggested that the sliding scale of wages recommended by the Royal Comm. of 1929 be adopted. In that report which I presume our General Secretary will discuss more fully we have set forth clearly three reasons why a sliding scale would be beneficial to the province as a whole and to our Educational system in particular. Another matter which must get some mention

In this report is about a Committee which was appointed by last year's convention and which was to study the Educational System on Prince Edward Island. The chairman of this committee was Dr. G. D. Steele. Due to reasons beyond the control of the committee it did not meet until the first day of March. Owing to the pressure of his work Dr. Steele did not wish to continue chairman of that committee. He was relieved of the chairmanship and the temporary chairman was appointed. At the initial meeting the Educational System in general was discussed. The committee adjourned until Monday, March 18. At this latter meeting, the Comm. began to study the reports sent out by the C. T. F. The object of this committee which I hope will be enlarged by this convention is to help to bring the public in general the actual condition of our Educational System. The government will be more inclined to listen to a body of such citizens than it would be to listen to a committee made up of teachers only

Change in Executive

Since our last convention your executive has received many shocks. The President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Recording Secretary for one reason or another have all been changed since last we met in convention. It is my duty now to mention another serious loss. For the past five years Mr. Fred Hine has conducted the Personal Service Dept. of the Teacher's Aid. Mr. Hine feels that due to his increased duties he will be unable to carry on as director of that department and accordingly has tendered his resignation. I feel and I am sure that you all feel that the Federation has suffered a loss that it will be hard to replace. I have now reached the end of this report. I have tried to outline as briefly as possible the work which your executive has attempted during the past year. As your retiring president I want to thank the executive for their cooperation during the time that I was in office; we always got along harmoniously and I believe that we have made progress. In conclusion I wish to welcome the teachers to this convention and that whatever success it may achieve

will be due largely to your effort collectively and individually. With words of welcome I pass on to another item of the program.

ARTIST DIES

LONDON, March 19—(CP)—Aubrey Lindsay Hammond, artist and stage designer who was a pioneer in the development of the modern technique of camouflage, died in hospital today at the age of 46.



An assassin from India, not immediately identified, (left) handcuffed to detective leaving Caxton Hall in London after firing volley of revolver shots at meeting of the East India Association, March 13th. Killing Sir Michael O'Dwyer, former Lieut. Governor of Punjab, Lord Zetland, Secretary of State for India; Sir Louis Dane, former Secretary of the Government of India and Lord Lambington, former Governor of Bombay, were wounded. O'Dwyer was Governor of Punjab when British troops fired into a crowd of demonstrators, in 1919, killing 400 Indians and wounding more than 1,000. (NEA Radiopict)

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