

Reviews Year's Progress In Educational Affairs

The past year has been one of satisfactory development in the educational affairs of this Province," stated Hon. Keir Clark, Minister of Education, in the course of his remarks on the draft address in the Legislature on Tuesday.

"Educational progress, being of an intangible nature, does not readily lend itself to the spectacular, but rather does it require understanding and patience to fully appreciate such progress."

"We have witnessed during the past year the introduction of Grade XII as the standard of matriculation, applicable to the whole province, and its establishment in five of the rural senior high schools, with the almost certain prospect that it will be added in a number of other schools next year. The significance of this development cannot be overestimated because the advantage of a complete senior high school education is brought within the reach of many young people in rural areas who otherwise, for financial or other reasons, would be denied such opportunity."

"A year ago our Grade XI in the public schools, exclusive of Prince of Wales College, had an enrollment of 206. This year the enrollment in the public schools has increased to 259 in Grade XI and 112 in Grade XII, or a total of 371. This greatly increased number of students in Summerside and the rural schools has not affected the attendance at Prince of Wales, where the enrollment is well maintained. The increase of 165 students in the public senior high schools necessitated considerable expansion of classroom and laboratory facilities, not only to provide for the addition of the extra grade, but also to accommodate the increasing numbers seeking admission to these senior classes. There are also 230 students enrolled in these grades in four private schools in the Province including Saint Dunstons, 137 in Grade XI and 93 in Grade XII.

"A summary of the total provincial enrollment is as follows: Grades XI and XII — Public schools, 43% or 371 students; Prince of Wales College, 31% or 270 students; Private schools, 26% or 230 students.

"The introduction of Grade XII in most rural centers was made possible and the development of rural high schools accelerated, by our policy of financial assistance, inaugurated about a year ago. Many schools have taken advantage of the special construction grant of \$5,000 per classroom or laboratory in order to provide the necessary facilities, and have been able to engage highly competent teachers, with degree status, due to the new salary schedule. This has been accomplished without excessive cost to the local school district.

"The advantage to the province in granting such assistance is apparent, not only in the greatly increased number of rural students who are availing themselves of the opportunities provided, but it is particularly apparent from the standpoint of teacher supply. This is because a considerable number of these additional students may be expected to enter our teacher-training classes, and, after a year of normal training, will become fully qualified teachers, the need for which is so urgent in our schools today.

"At the present time about two thirds of our teachers-in-training come from either private or rural schools. It is true that the 43 students in the Normal School classes this year are insufficient to meet the needs of our schools.

"This number, however, is only three fewer than last year. One would expect this to be an increase, stated Hon. Keir Clark, Minister of Education, in the course of his remarks on the draft address in the Legislature on Tuesday.

"It is, I believe, a significant achievement that many rural students can now receive their full high school academic training in their home central schools; and I am hopeful that this may make it possible for us at an early date to consider the licensing of only teachers of the first class, that is, those who have completed their high school work. In 1953, ninety per cent of all teachers in Canada had this academic standing; and we in this province should not be satisfied with any lower standard.

"Therefore, with increasing numbers of students with full matriculation standing now in view, I am hopeful that this important step in improving standards may soon be possible of inauguration."

"I would like to mention at this time, too, that the Government at the close of the last school year, decided to extend its policy of student aid. As you know, we have co-operated with federal authorities for some years to provide needy students of university grade with loans out of a fund of \$11,000 jointly provided on a matching basis. This year it was decided to add an additional \$6,000, solely from provincial funds, as no further matching grants are available for the sole use of students attending the two university years at Prince of Wales College. However, for the current year the demand on the fund was not as great as we had been led to expect and only nine students applied for a total of \$1,200. No students were rejected. This is in sharp contrast to the demand on the original fund which is now limited to students taking university training at institutions other than Prince of Wales College. It is understandable, however, by the fact that students who have to leave home and pay

high tuition fees at most universities are under much greater expense, which can not always be provided by their own or family resources."

"The Minister made reference to the number of new schools that were erected in the Province during the year the first of which was the Queen Charlotte High School. He described it as a most valuable addition to the educational facilities of the Capital City and one of the finest of its type in Canada.

He referred also to the Stella Maris School at North Rustico which is modern in every respect and to the new Souris High School which is now in a position to handle grade XII students.

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Mr. Chester Birt, Mr. Alton Jay, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Jay, Mr. George Dover and Mr. Guy Jay.

Miss Isabel Birt, Charlottetown, spent the February 12 week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Birt.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Jay received word that their daughter, Shirley, left Moncton, Saturday for Montreal, for a two weeks course for a new position she has obtained with the T.C.A. Shirley has been employed as a teletype operator in Moncton for the past three years.

Mr. Owen Kelly was a visitor in Charlottetown, Monday, February 14.

Mr. Floyd Jay and Mr. Lawrence Hendricksen were business visitors in Montague, Monday, February 14.

His many friends in this vicinity will be sorry to learn that Mr. Earle MacDonald, Lorne Valley, has entered the Montague Memorial Hospital for an operation and hope for a speedy and complete recovery. —BA.

OTTAWA (CP) — R. J. (Bert) Hunter, 33, of North Burnaby, B.C., is the new Dominion president of the Tuberculous Veterans section of the Canadian Legion. He was elected Saturday to succeed P.O. F. H. Thomas of Ottawa who resigned on being posted to the RCAF base in Germany.

14TH IN LINE LONDON (Reuters)—The Countess of Hardwood, Austrian - born wife of the Earl of Harewood—a cousin of the Queen—gave birth to a third son at her London home early Monday. The boy is 14th in line of succession to the throne.

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Winter Water Sport In Charlottetown

Sport is where you find it—near zero weather notwithstanding. To the casual passer-by it appeared that these young lads were momentarily in danger of an untimely end as they leaped nimbly from ice cake to ice cake or vigorously poled their ice rafts about. However, closer observation revealed that the water was shallow enough for wading with knee boots. The scene of the activity is Kensington Beach, Charlottetown, in an area that opened up in last week's thaw.

Photo by Margaret Mallett.

Pisquid East

"Among those from this vicinity to attend the hockey game between the Moncton Hawks and the Charlottetown Islanders at the Charlottetown Forum, Friday, February 12, were Miss Gladys Birt,

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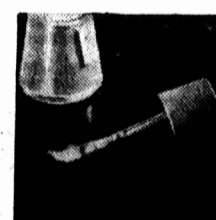
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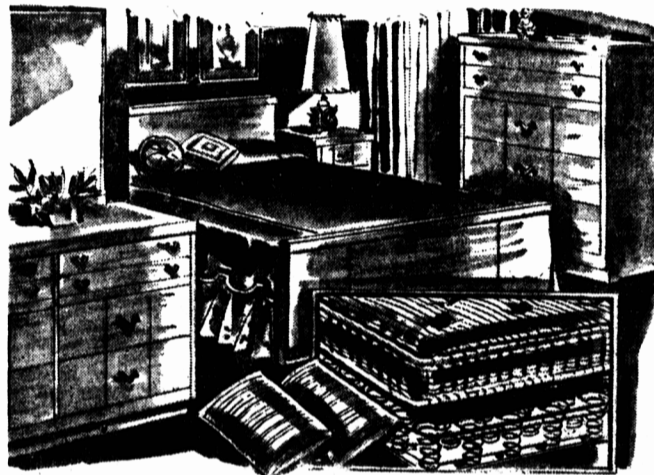
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