

THE EDUCATIONAL HORIZON

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

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT OF P.E.I.F. FOR 1950-51

First, a word about our individual and collective responsibilities to our organization. Our Federation, let us not forget, will be only as strong and beneficial as we make it, and WE means each and every one of us—not the Board of Governors, not the executive, not any particular group of teachers but all of us—every one doing his or her utmost in driving the wheels that turn the educational conditions, moral, physical, and economic, that this day and generation can give. Why be satisfied with second best if by striving, everlastingly striving, we can secure something still better in education. This is one field of life's activities where we must never feel that we have reached that Utopia where, like the Lotus Eaters, we may rest upon our oars, for education is ever fluid, ever changing, ever challenging us to some new possibility.

Let us, therefore, as teachers, as leaders in our respective communities, accept the challenge, and with the utmost confidence in both our own abilities and those of our associates go forward together to improve our Island educational conditions, slowly, it may be, but do not forget in our impatience, that slow and steady wins the race to successful conclusions.

In the fall of 1949 at their annual meeting, the Board of Governors re-elected the same slate of officers for the ensuing year with the exception of Mr. Arnold Hierlihy, recording secretary, whose place was filled by Miss Mabel O'Brien. Mr. Hierlihy, we are sorry to report, has left the teaching profession to enter the commercial world.

For the first time since our Act of Incorporation, the presidents of the various local conventions attended in an advisory capacity, the annual meeting of the Board of Governors and the May meeting of the executive and Department of Education officials to plan for fall conventions. By so doing, the presidents will keep the executive and Board of Governors more fully informed of conditions in their respective districts, and as a result, they themselves will be more directly conversant with Federation activities.

Our Easter Convention, indicates that a change must take place in the method of our recording teacher attendance. A letter from the Department to the Federation calls our attention to the number of teachers, fairly substantial, who neither attended the convention nor taught school. In future, it would seem that there rests with the Department only one method of procedure, that of making deductions from teacher payments. The Federation, unnecessary as it is to state, can only trust that no such deductions will be necessary.

Despite the poor weather prevailing, we had over 500 teachers in attendance. The program, we are told from all quarters, was highly successful, and one from which all teachers, irrespective of grade taught, could have derived considerable help and inspiration. The convention committee are always desirous of receiving from these fall conventions the wishes of our teachers, relative to items desired on the program. We sincerely request that from your meeting today you will send these suggestions for Easter program along, as early planning is always desirable.

Your Pension Commissioners, Miss Mabel Matheson and Mr. Davis Lidstone, have made a capable presentation of your requests for improvement in our Act. Only a very slight change, however, was legislated last March, but our Minister of Education, is having the Attorney General make a very thorough checking of our Act this year, and investigation to determine whereby worthwhile improvements may be made, particularly in respect to the Government's making payment into the fund.

Our Sick Leave Report at our last fall convention indicated that we should not receive substitute pay. Since that time, however, our Department have seen fit to grant such benefits. For this progressive and satisfying gesture we are all, I am sure, deeply appreciative and grateful.

Our Federation has been represented at several national and regional conferences, reports of each having been given in the Federation newsletter and elsewhere.

Our President, Mr. J. R. Murphy, attended a meeting of the C.T.F. Directors in December. Previous to this, in September, he represented our Federation at the annual meeting of the Canadian Association (C.E.A.).

Mr. Elmer Pineau has ably represented us on the Maritime Common Examining Board. Mr. Pineau is also an executive member of the Board, as well as an official examiner.

Mr. Ralph MacLean, as will be more fully reported later on in this report, represented our organization at the Maritime School Broadcasts meeting in Moncton. Mr. J. A. S. Williams, General Secretary, attended a conference of Eastern Secretaries for a discussion of education problems.

Since several inquiries have been made regarding interprovincial exchange of teacher's pensions we feel it our duty at this meeting to make a short report of the present state of negotiations. At their meeting in Fredericton, N. B., on Sept. 15, the C. E. A. recommended:

"that a teacher with at least 10 years' service in one province and in good standing with respect to the provincial superannuation fund, who moves to another province and there completes the requirements for a pension, counting the years service in the original province, should receive from each province a pension proportionate to the number of years' service in each province."

This plan has certain complications, which as yet have not been worked out, should this suggestion be acceptable to all provinces.

At the request of a considerable number of teachers for a summer school in Charlottetown, the Federation took the necessary steps to try to secure such a school. In answer to a questionnaire sent out, upwards of 80 teachers indicated their willingness and desire to attend such a school. Some 30 or 40 stated that they would like to improve their class of licence from second to first. However, when the Dept. made known that such an improvement in class of licence could be made only by attending four summer schools, most of those so desiring before, declined the privilege. It is indeed, quite evident that work less than that given at four summer schools would not at all be sufficient to meet the necessary requirements. The teachers concerned, by their negative attitude, thus defeated their own apparent original wishes.

Dr. Shaw reported to me that there were some 18 teachers at summer school, who had already done some teaching and some of whom had been in summer school here last year. These received the ordinary course in Methods in order that they might be permitted to continue teaching at a somewhat higher status. In addition to this, some 10 took the elementary course.

School broadcasting has become an important part of the work in many classrooms. In this field, we have been ably represented in conference by Mr. Ralph MacLean of the Vocational School.

Since the Department assists financially, 50% of cost, I believe, we should like to see many more pupils taking advantage of the fine programs broadcast.

Our radio station, CFCY, deserves much praise and thanks for the time and money so generously devoted to our programs. Too often we take for granted what comes over the radio. To show, in some small way at least, that we appreciate the radio station services, we might very well pass resolutions of commendation to CFCY for the thousands of dollars of free time given for educational purposes. Likewise, if there is some particular type of program you would like to have given in these school programs over the air, indicate your wishes and send them along to the Federation office and we shall be glad to have them incorporated in our report to the School Broadcasts conference.

Because of the pending Dominion-Provincial conference, no salary delegation this past year waited on the Government, as it was felt that the effort would be futile. The Federation executive, however, met with the Minister of Education to discuss federal aid, pensions, and general educational conditions. It is hoped that results of the Dominion-Provincial conference will be such as to warrant at an early date our salary committee's meeting with the Government.

Supplements in general increased slightly, except in Charlottetown, where the School Board made a fairly substantial increase, taking into consideration years of service and credits towards a degree.

True, every one admits the justice of our claim for salary increases,

but we can only patiently anticipate an early improved adjustment in Dominion-Provincial financial relations. (As a point of interest, the average rural supplement as of Feb., 1950, was \$302.)

Now a word about Teacher Supply. The yearly report of our Chief Supervisor would seem to indicate that a much more attractive condition must exist before our Island requirements will become stable, and our tenure of service greatly improved. We shall not attempt repeating here Mr. MacKenzie's report, but we do urge all teachers to make a careful study of all departmental reports so as to be well informed, as all teachers should be, relative to our most immediate professional interests.

The teacher supply still continues to be a vexing question. The forecast for the year 1950-51 was that between 40 and 50 schools will find it impossible to secure qualified teachers. This year the Department are not granting any form of temporary license on one summer school unless the teacher has a high standing academically.

Public relations has become a most important matter in the minds of both teacher and nonteaching bodies. Ministers of Education and their departmental officers now look upon teachers' organizations as advisory bodies, and frequently seek their aid in determining and putting into effect changes in the educational system. What a far cry from what such relations were even a decade ago.

As later will be intimated, our Federation consisted with the Women's Institutes, and Farmers' Federations, and the Legion in planning for Education Week. Again, early in May, 1950, the same group met to discuss education generally. From these meetings we have learned that it is most advantageous to continue the same policy for the future, as by such an interchange of ideas can we fully understand and appreciate one another's problems.

At this time, it is opportune to commend to the March, 1951, broadcasts on education, sponsored by the Women's Institutes. As such broadcasts are very beneficial, we look forward to more similar ones in the near future.

Our professional act of incorporation is being revised by a committee, headed by Mr. John Connolly of Prince of Wales College, at the request of the Board of Governors. Each Act of Incorporation of the other provinces is being studied.

As later will be intimated, our group of teachers such as this in Charlottetown, will be glad to receive, do not hesitate to send in to Mr. Connolly, Charlottetown, any plans you may have for suggested improvements. Before any conclusions are reached, every teacher belonging to our Federation will have been sent a copy of such proposed changes, for his or her approval.

This fall our convention centres, Ugg, Tignish, Charlottetown Urban, and Prince of Wales College, elected their respective members to the Board of Governors for the years, 1950-53, in the proportion of 1 member for every twenty teachers present at the convention centre. We ask that those responsible for the choice of election, consider carefully the qualities and abilities of your contestant, so that there will be elected as your representatives only the best candidate.

Every teacher's organization throughout Canada submitted a brief to the Massey Commission on the Arts, Letters, and Sciences. The general idea suggested was that Federal Aid is now an absolute necessity in order to promote further to any appreciable extent the welfare of the Arts, Letters, and Sciences. Your Island Federation presented the view that a suitable background for the proper appreciation of the Arts and Sciences should be developed in the public schools. This appreciation, however, cannot be secured without our first attaining the proper standard of education, a standard which we cannot adequately achieve without Federal aid to education. Only by such aid will our Island pupils be given the same chance to secure that degree and quality of education which may enable them to take their place in the cultural life of their community.

Federal aid to education has been a live issue during the past year, much prominence having been given to it both provincially and nationally. In late spring we have with satisfaction that our provincial Government had placed financial needs for education as an item on the agenda for the Dominion-Provincial conference.

The Knight Resolution, calling for Federal Aid as a means of equalizing educational opportunity across this Dominion has again come up in the House of Commons, and there has received a great deal of support from all parties. In general, it is believed that there is little or no provincial opposition provided the constitutional rights of the provinces to control education can be sufficiently safeguarded.

Education Week will again be held in the spring of 1951. During our annual Easter convention in Prince of Wales College, from our Federation Instruction Group we learned that very little is being done in the various districts to advertise and make known our educational conditions, their weaknesses and strong points.

This year, our Island Federation plans to develop on a broader scale our Education Week plans with Farmers and Women's Institutes and the Legion. We only ask that every teacher here present take the initiative to do all he or she can to promote our educational interests. If we are to progress as we would and should, we must advertise our educational status. Let us remember that the important task of keeping the public acquainted with

the aims, ideals, and needs of our Island schools still continues.

Most of you had the privilege of hearing our National Secretary, Mr. George E. Croskery of Ottawa, give an account at our Easter convention of our C. T. F. what it is and what it should mean to us. Do not forget that every teacher here is a member of C. T. F. as well as of your own provincial organization. Mr. Croskery represents an organization of teachers which within some thirty years has grown from a few hundred to over 60,000. Indeed, of all teachers working within Canada, only two groups have not yet joined our ranks, those of Newfoundland and of French-speaking Catholics.

Our earnest hope is that in the near future, without exception, as teachers we shall speak as one unbroken voice from sea to sea. The Newfoundland Association of Teachers in July, 1949, held its first convention in several years. Our General Secretary, Mr. Croskery, was in attendance. During the meeting, the Association voted unanimously to affiliate with the C. T. F.

Public relations has become a most important matter in the minds of both teacher and administratively. Likewise, the French-speaking Roman Catholics have indicated that they like Newfoundland must put themselves on a firmer plane of administration before they feel justified in joining us as worthy members of our national organization.

The World Organization of the Teaching Profession (WOTPF) honoured Canada in July by holding its Delegates Assembly in Ottawa. This international organization is now composed of 23 national members, representing more than two million teachers. What an honour for you and me to be members of such an organization for international good will and understanding. Because of the expense involved, our Island Federation sent no representative. Our General Secretary Croskery is an executive member.

Teacher Exchange on an international level has been rather uncommensurate. In 1950, interprovincial exchange, however, is being continued on the same basis as 1949-50. Impedial Oil Ltd. has again renewed its grant of \$5000 for bursaries to encourage exchange as a method of promoting Canadian unity by acquainting teachers with educational practices and economic conditions in other parts of Canada. In 1949-50, 48 teachers each received a travel bursary of \$100.

Not only are we members of WOTPF but we also have our say in the Canadian educational scene through UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization). From May 22 to June 16, 1950, in Florence, Italy, the Fifth Session of the General Conference of Unesco was held, the Canadian Teacher's Federation being duly represented.

We should all have some concept of the educational program of Unesco: Its Educational Missions are a consultative bodies which bring their respective members to one another to accumulate experience of a number of others. Dr. A. C. Lewis, Dean of Ontario College of Education and a Past President of C.T.F., was on such a mission to the Philippines.

International Seminars or schools are effective methods of exchanging educational ideas. Such schools began in 1947 and have been conducted in France (1947); U.S.A., Czechoslovakia, and England (1948); Brazil and India (1949); and this present year in Belgium. One in Belgium was conducted on the Improvement and Revision of Text-books (especially history); another in Canada was conducted on the Teaching of Geography for International Understanding; and a third in Uruguay had as its subject, Primary Education in the Americas.

A Winnipeg teacher represented the C. T. F. at the Belgium school, and a Saint John teacher sat in at the Canadian Seminar.

Adult Education is a third phase of UNESCO activity, while a fourth is Education for International Understanding. Teaching aids to such understanding are now being prepared.

A fifth activity of Unesco is General Education which includes such questions as the study and action on the education problems of handicapped children, including those handicapped by reasons of war. Still another field of Unesco's activities is International Educational Training. This has to do with the development of the intelligence of the individual and not merely on his economic benefit. Unesco stands ready in this respect to assist lesser developed areas or countries with a high rate of illiteracy to improve their standards to fit their peculiar circumstances.

Besides the six general headings noted above, Unesco deals with many other fields in the Natural and Social Sciences, Cultural Activities, Exchange of Persons, and Mass Communication.

We have now made a general survey of some phases of educational activities, some our own, others beyond our scope of activity and yet within our interest. Often we as teachers are labelled as narrow-minded and bigoted in our viewpoints of education. As teachers we must realize that education knows no bounds; it is not only local or provincial, for only by international education shall there

An Historic Occasion



With traditional and moving ceremony the new Chamber of the House of Commons was opened at Westminster on October 26th, in the presence of visitors from overseas Legislatures and other distinguished guests. After the ceremony the Lords and Commons went to Westminster Hall, where His Majesty the King replied to the Addresses of both Houses. His Majesty's speech was relayed by loud-speaker to the crowds outside. In his speech His Majesty said that the new Chamber would stand "as a sign to the world of our faith in freedom, of our confidence in the permanence

of our common ideals, and of the ties that unite the people of the Commonwealth." This picture shows the scene in Westminster Hall as His Majesty the King replies to the Addresses of both Houses of Parliament. Her Majesty the Queen is seated beside the King. Other members of the Royal Family are seen on the left, and behind them are the Commonwealth Speakers and Presiding Officers. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Jowitt, and the Speaker, Colonel Clifton Brown, face each other at the foot of the steps. In the foreground are members of the House of Commons.

led in prayer. The Worship service closed by singing of hymn 252—"In Christ there is no East or West." The president took charge. Minutes of the previous meeting were read, and approved. Roll call, eleven members, four visitors present. Correspondence: President had letter from Miss Callbeck, saying she expected to be present, at North Wiltshire church, next Sunday night. Mrs. Wm. Clark had letter from Mrs. John Scott, Presbyterian Secretary of Christian Stewardship, which she read. President also read letter received from Miss Winnifred Thomas, Dominion Board Secretary Treasurer read receipt for \$54.00 sent to Presbyterian Treasurer. Supply Secretary reported sending two quilts, recently for Manitoba Relief.

Mrs. Wm. Clark read on Christian Stewardship. A poster on Temperance was pinned up, and Mrs. Earle McPhee read on that subject. Friendship Secretary took number of sick calls made: 8 home and one hospital, seven cards sent and one bouquet of flowers.

For the Study Period, Mrs. Wm. Clark and Mrs. Frank Mitchell, each wearing a badge, represented "The United Church of Canada" and "The United Church of Christ in Japan", as they read the interesting dialogue. Questions were asked and answered on Japanese proverbs. Collection taken, amt. \$1.60. Four members paid birthday money. More Thank Offering envelopes had been handed in since last meeting. Mrs. Bruce Noye invited the


members to her home for next meeting. The meeting closed by reading in unison, word of the theme hymn, "Holy Spirit Pray." A delicious luncheon was served by the hostesses, and a social time spent.

LANCASTER, England — (C.P.T.) — A customer at a bargain sale in a local shop couldn't get a bowler hat that fitted. So the sales clerk sold him one of her husband's hats and another satisfied customer was recorded.

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