

Rural Education Problems Discussed At N. Glasgow

The Young Farmer's Hall of New Glasgow was the venue of a meeting called to discuss the problems of rural education on Monday, June 15th. It was very largely attended by representatives from 20 school areas, and over 100 people took part in the discussion that followed.

The chairman was the Rev. Foster Hall of Hunter River, who along with the Rev. Bryer Jones of New Glasgow was responsible for calling the meeting. Before the guest of the evening was called upon to speak, Mr. Hall spoke of the problem of centering the responsibility of educational reform.

Left entirely to the initiative of government, he said, it could too often become a political battlefield instead of a problem that demanded a non party attitude; sponsored by church authorities alone, it was always a possible source of religious conflict; and the present system of local control, however adequate it might have been in earlier days, was not able either to initiate or plan such improvements as were now essential.

The true incentive said Mr. Hall, could only come from an informed public opinion, especially that of the parents themselves, born out of dissatisfaction with the present set up, and made known to the responsible authorities in a unity of spirit and concern that could not be denied on any grounds whatsoever.

RURAL AREAS

The purpose of meeting was to try to make an assessment of the present situation and attempt, by intelligent discussion to reach out to some method of improvement that could meet the needs of the children of the rural areas.

Mr. Hall then introduced the Deputy Minister and Director of Education for the Island, Mr. Malcolm Mackenzie.

The speaker began by pointing out some of the anomalies of the situation, and the problems to which they gave rise. The number of School Districts in the Island was 474, and the units of administration totalled 468. Of these schools, only 37 were of three or more classrooms, for for the remainder, the general pattern was still that of pioneer days, with 354 with one class and 62 having two classes.

While it is true, said Mr. Mackenzie, that rural school administration was very well suited to the horse and buggy era, the present trends to a more technical education, and the greater demands made upon young people in a technological age cannot be denied. But this education is not being made available to the rural child in the same measure as that enjoyed by town and city children.

This is not applicable only to children in this Island, it has been characteristic of the educational system throughout Canada. The main difference is that other Provinces have taken steps to remedy the situation, while we in the Island have only just begun to grasp the implications of it.

DROP OUT

Turning to the statistics of enrolment per grade Mr. Mackenzie pointed out one serious result of our adherence to the system now in operation. In the area of school districts that found their centre in Hunter River, less than half the pupils went through to Grade 10, and only a fraction went through to higher grades available at the presently established high schools. This meant a tremendous waste of potential, and could not fail to have an effect upon the whole educational standard of the Island.

Nor was the problem relative to pupils only. Much of the frustration felt by teachers with a consequent annual wastage of 20 per cent, could be traced directly to the impossible task with which they are facing in having to handle so many grades in one classroom with educational demands that go far beyond the simple three Rs. that characterized the village schools for a former era. The system of school management was also reviewed. Approximately 2050 appointed representatives, many of them holding office with extreme reluctance, were in charge of the rural schools, doing a difficult job for which they were in receipt of very little appreciation. This did not make for efficiency, with all the goodwill possible.

The speaker then asked the question, "In what way could the system be improved, and a fair share of modern educational advantages be secured for rural children?"

LARGER UNITS

At this point Mr. Mackenzie turned to the way in which other parts of Canada had solved the

problem. The establishment of larger school units, by combining under a single local authority a number of small school districts three or four miles square, to provide more adequate financing and educational facilities, with more professional leadership. Across Canada, some 780 larger unit boards are now replacing 16,000 smaller boards that previously existed.

In ten provinces this now applies, and this because of public demand rather than any sweeping initial legislation by the authorities. The advantages of this change are already apparent, and they were listed briefly by the speaker. Educationally, rural children are offered broader and more effective opportunities for advancement, as a far more comprehensive program, with special facilities in terms of libraries, audio visual aids and vocational training can be made available.

For the teacher there is greater economic security, less isolation, and greater scope for his special interest and abilities. The larger unit would also place teachers with greater regard for their talents and particular needs of the school and district. Still another advantage would be the opportunities available in the field of adult education and community relations. In many areas these schools are serving as vital community centres.

FAIRER TAXES

Turning to finance, Mr. Mackenzie pointed out how such a system could provide for a fairer taxation over a given area, and serve to remove some of the inequalities of the present system. This would apply to both operating costs and capital expenditure, while financial relationships between school board and province would also be simplified. There was however, an optimum size for such a unit; at least 300 pupils for a minimum enrolment, sufficient taxable resources to finance a minimum program, by a uniform rate on assessment over the whole unit.

Public relations would still be a factor in the success of such a scheme, and the close personal involvement of rural people in their one room school would still be retained with high school interest in the education of their children.

Basically, the pressing need was the removal from the present schools of all grades from 6 to 10, leaving the one room schools free for more detailed and personal tuition of the lower grades.

RESOLUTIONS

The discussion concluded, the chairman placed two resolutions before the meeting in order to test the strength of the feeling

beginning of the child's education, as in other countries.

NEW CONDITIONS

Summing up, the speaker emphasized that the larger school unit was not just organization for organization's work, but the outgrowth of two root factors; advances in communication which have made neighborhoods out of scattered communities; and a popular demand for a better and fairer education for our rural children. Much of what he had left unsaid would no doubt come out during the period of discussion, and the meeting was thrown open in order that the questions might be asked.

During the period of questioning, queries were raised in respect of many points in the speaker's address. The problem of finance was very much to the fore, and Mr. Mackenzie gave what information was available about Provincial intentions to further any serious desire for a project of this kind. The possibility of the abolition of local boards was raised, but these fears were shown as unnecessary in view of the representative form that a United administrative board would take.

FRUSTRATION

The meeting was much moved by the testimony of a lady teacher present, who spoke with much feeling of the sense of frustration felt by teachers in rural schools under the present system, and especially the tragedy so often witnessed of capable children being disheartened and losing all interest in their education because of the limited time the teacher was able to give them. The meeting then broke up into groups to discuss, at the suggestion of Mr. Mackenzie this question, "If you were not concerned with the problem of finance, what sort of educational facilities would you like for your children?"

A vote of thanks was given to Mr. Mackenzie for his leadership and the presentation of the facts concerning the Regional High School plan, and to the Young Farmers Club of New Glasgow who sponsored the meeting. The following School districts were represented at the meeting: S. Granville, Hampshire, Wheatley Springvale, Hunter River, New Glasgow, Rennie's Road, Cavendish, Mayfield, Hazelgrove, Frederickton, Wheatley River, Ebenezer, Milton, North Wiltshire, North Rustic, Breadalbane, Stanley Bridge, South Rustic, Millvale. Other schools in the area which are to be visited are Stanchel, Springton, North Granville, South Milton, Pleasant Valley, Greenvale, Hartsville, Darlington, Brookfield. Any members of these committees who wish for information were asked to contact the Rev. Hall, Hunter River or the Rev. B. Jones, New Glasgow.

300 Years Of Family Service To Be Severed By Retirement

MONTREAL—(Special A prominent legal authority is retiring from the position of general solicitor of Canadian National Railways after 23 years of law work for the company.

With his retirement, Alfred Beatty Rosevear, Q.C., also brings to an end an association of the Rosevear family with the CNR that accumulated nearly 300 years service.

Matthew Rosevear, came from County Cornwall, England, and joined the Grand Trunk Railway Company in 1854, serving as a locomotive foreman. W. W. Rosevear, the grandfather, was general CNR accountant, and the father, A. E. Rosevear, general freight agent. An uncle, J. M. Rosevear, was general comptroller of the system and retired in 1930.

Born in Detroit, Mich., Mr. Rosevear was educated in Montreal. After receiving a B.A. degree from McGill University, he entered law school at the University of Manitoba and graduated cum laude in 1920.

He was called to the bar of Manitoba in the same year and for over 15 years practiced law in Winnipeg as a member of the firm of Rosevear, Rutherford and McIntosh. In 1936 Mr. Rosevear joined the law department of the railway in Winnipeg as solicitor, and within seven years had been appointed senior solicitor of the western region.

He became assistant general solicitor in 1945 and in 1956 was appointed general solicitor. He has also been closely associated with the law work of Trans-Canada Air lines since its inception. He was appointed general

attorney of TCA in 1949 and is retiring as well from that position.

During the First World War, as a fighter pilot with the Royal Flying Corps, he served in France from 1917 to 1919. In the Second World War, he was commanding officer of the University of Manitoba Air Squadron, R.C.A.F.

Mr. Rosevear is well known in international law circles. He is president of the Canadian branch of the International Law Association and vice-chairman of the Montreal branch of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs.

DIVIDED BERLIN

Motorcar licence plates are of two styles in Berlin—one for the East Berlin Communist zone and one for West Berlin.

The men were travelling to the English port of Falmouth, aboard the 5,800-ton Germany ship Flavia. The Flavia rescued them from the blazing Ocean Layer and later put seven seamen aboard the cable vessel pending the arrival of a tug on the scene in the mid-Atlantic.

The Dutch tug, the Loire, arrived first Wednesday.

But the Flavia's captain had orders to wait for the Hamburg tug Wotan, now towing the Ocean Layer.

A spokesman for the Flavia's owners said it would be for a court to decide what prize money was involved. Since seven seamen boarded the Ocean Layer, the ship was not a derelict, the spokesman added.

The Ocean Layer was laying telephone cable between Newfoundland and France when she broke out. It was abandoned five days ago.

In London, the Canadian-born wife of the Ocean Layer's captain said she first heard that her husband's ship was ablaze on a radio news report.

Mrs. Mary Ross, a native of Lewisville, N.B., said that four hours later she received a telegram from the company saying he was safe.

Crew Of Ship Return Home

BREMEN, Germany (Reuters) Ninety-eight men from the fire-charred British cable ship Ocean Layer headed for England Wednesday after their abandoned ship was taken in tow by a German tug.

The men were travelling to the English port of Falmouth, aboard the 5,800-ton Germany ship Flavia. The Flavia rescued them from the blazing Ocean Layer and later put seven seamen aboard the cable vessel pending the arrival of a tug on the scene in the mid-Atlantic.

The Dutch tug, the Loire, arrived first Wednesday.

But the Flavia's captain had orders to wait for the Hamburg tug Wotan, now towing the Ocean Layer.

A spokesman for the Flavia's owners said it would be for a court to decide what prize money was involved. Since seven seamen boarded the Ocean Layer, the ship was not a derelict, the spokesman added.

The Ocean Layer was laying telephone cable between Newfoundland and France when she broke out. It was abandoned five days ago.

In London, the Canadian-born wife of the Ocean Layer's captain said she first heard that her husband's ship was ablaze on a radio news report.

Mrs. Mary Ross, a native of Lewisville, N.B., said that four hours later she received a telegram from the company saying he was safe.

Have You A Question About P.E.I.'s Hospital Services Plan?

If so, simply contact your nearest Commissioner or write or telephone Garth C. Crockett, Public Health Educator, Box 4500, Charlottetown, telephone 9535.

Commissioners Address Telephone
 Dr. Lemuel Prowse, Box 4500, Charlottetown 5524-25
 Mr. T. Earle Hickey, Bk of Commerce Bldg, S'side 2235
 Mr. Robert MacLeod, Dominion Building, Ch'town 4126
 Mr. George Ferguson, Murray River 27
 Col. L. F. MacDonald, Charlottetown 6083

Talks to organized groups may also be arranged through the above.

MOORE & McLEOD LTD. FEATURE "TOOKE" SPORT & DRESS SHIRTS

TOOKE SPORT SHIRTS

- Drip Dry ● No Iron
- Fully washable
- Cabala Stripes
- Panamora Cottons
- Checks ● Ivy Stripes

TOOKE DRESS SHIRTS

- Short Point Mountbatten Collars
- Available in White
- White with White Fancy Stripe
- Clubman—3.95
- Flight 4.95 ● Life 5.95

DON'T BE "TOOK"—BUY "TOOKE"

on the Island it's
MOORE & McLEOD LTD.
 Your Favorite Shopping Centre

YOUR SUREST WAY of pleasing Father ON HIS BIG DAY

Suits by SHIFFER-HILLMAN and SAVILLE ROW

49.⁵⁰ TO 85.⁰⁰

SLACKS by Shiffer-Hillman and Chas. McIntosh of England None Better At **27.50** Others from \$9.95 to \$19.95

FATHER-FAVORED Sport Coats 22.⁵⁰ TO 49.⁵⁰

OTHER FATHER'S DAY SUGGESTIONS SWEATERS, SPORT SHIRTS, TEE-SHIRTS, TIES, SOCKS, ETC.

For the Best Selection in Practical Clothing Gifts call at:

Hooley's Men's Wear

Charlottetown and Montague

ENTER THE "RHYME YOUR DEALER" CONTEST

WIN A FREE TRIP FOR TWO TO CANADIAN NATIONAL EXHIBITION

SEE THE GRANDSTAND SHOW
MEET Lonesome GEORGE GOBEL — THE CISCO KID
• VISIT NIAGARA FALLS •

Here's all you do: Pick up an entry blank from your dealer full instructions are on it, and try your hand at "Rhyming" something with your dealer's name. Your Rhyme does not need to be long—in fact, the shorter the better. Here is an example: "Brown sells the best ice cream in town"—or "Walker is a talker" "Smith is a good man to deal with."

Entries will be judged on originality and neatness. Enclose a Penguin from a Perfection ice cream carton or the Perfection oval from the label on Perfection Evaporated milk, or a reasonable facsimile of one of these, in the special entry blank that folds up to form an envelope.

Each week the person submitting the best rhyme will receive \$25.00. The Dealer concerned receives \$10.00. Weekly contests close midnight Saturday. Winners will be announced on CFCY-TV. Judging will be done by radio Station CFCY and the decisions of the judges will be final. Last weekly contest closes by midnight Aug. 22. Anyone may enter—as often as you like.

WELL DRILLING

If you are considering drilling a new well contact R. T. Morrison Co., Summerside. We are equipped to drill wells any diameter, any depth with reliable and experienced drillers.

R. T. Morrison Co. Summerside Dial 2624

Boys and Girls — ENTER THE POPSICLE COLOURING CONTEST

A bicycle or a wrist watch to some lucky winner each week. Pick up your entry blank where you buy your popsicle.

CENTRAL CREAMERIES LIMITED

Summerside Charlottetown Souris