

Strtesses Important

Continued from page 3

study to qualify for a license. So we have conflict between those parents who are asking for more mature and better trained teachers for their children, and those who have children presently seeking to be teachers.

Intensive training and wide experience in both educational theory and administration. "In connection with the selection and training of teachers twenty recommendations were advanced. I shall quote just three of these: "That the minimum pre-service period of teacher education be two years beyond graduation from high school. "That the two-year course of professional training cover a total of approximately 60 weeks, that the hours of lectures or classroom instruction be no more than an average of 15 per week, that the time for observation and practice teaching be not less than eight weeks (200 hours) and that adequate unscheduled time be left for reading, informal discussion, and other activities of value in the education of the teacher."

More and Better Training

"These findings and recommendations together with my own experience as teacher in both rural and urban schools, as supervisor of schools, as one concerned with training teachers and as an administrator of schools, compel me to urge, and I would not be honest if I did not urge more and better teacher education both general and professional for Canadian youth. "But we must go further. So long as we continue to require our teachers to attempt ten grades of work (eight elementary grades and two high school grades) in our one teacher schools, we shall not improve to any appreciable degree the condition which now exists insofar as sound elementary education is concerned. Again I speak from experience when I say that only a very few of our most competent teachers can handle even reasonable well all ten grades in our schools. They did it in the past you say, again experience as well as records and reports open to all do not bear out that

statement. It must be borne in mind, too, that in past years numbers of the better teachers remain in the profession for longer periods of time. Today with so many enticing avenues luring them away, teachers are not going to spend long in a ten grade one room rural school. It is just as well for us to be realistic about that. "What is to be done about it? Here again we come back to the larger unit of administration. No small district such as we have at present can afford a high school nor could it provide sufficient pupils to warrant such a school. If, however, twelve or fifteen of these districts were organized into an administrative unit, then, a central high school could easily be maintained and could draw sufficient pupils from Grade 8 and upward to make possible a good school offering a variety of activities suitable to the needs of the pupils attending. "The one room schools in the districts making up the large unit, relieved as they would be of the pupils above Grade 7, could do very satisfactory elementary work, given well trained teachers. The larger administrative unit and the Regional Composite High School are trends in rural education to which we should give heed if we are going to improve rural education in this our rural Province.

1912 Report

"There is nothing new in this idea. Let me quote from the Annual Report of the Superintendent of Education, Mr. R. H. Campbell in 1912: "A careful study of the educational problem has convinced me that we need a re-organization of the whole system of rural school management to secure a more efficient and progressive school administration. Our system of school organization is what is called the district system, in which a small and irregular area known as the school district is the school unit. "In this little Province these districts number 479 and they are managed by an army of nearly two thousand school officials called trustees and secretaries, many of whom are but indifferently qualified for their important duties and some of whom do not feel any very strong interest in promoting the efficiency of the schools. "These school districts and this army of school officials are but loosely co-ordinated under Inspectors and Superintendent as parts of a provincial school system. The district system is fairly well adapted perhaps to primitive conditions, and has no doubt done very good service in its time; but it is unprogressive and is not suited to the needs of the present, much less to the demands of the future. As a unit of management the dis-

trict is too small to provide the kind of education which the time demands for farmers' children if they are to be adequately prepared for intelligent participation in rural life. "If the unit of school government could be enlarged and extended to include a group of ten or more schools and school districts, so that one Board of School Trustees could manage several schools instead of one, the result would be better trustees and more efficient schools; and, what is equally important, the way would be prepared for some much needed reforms which in present circumstances are very difficult of accomplishment."

Other Authorities Cited

"In 1923 Mr. R. H. Rogers, Superintendent of Education offered this suggestion: "Merge the districts in groups comprising ten or twelve of the present districts; in the present districts thus constituted, establish a Board of Trustees who would be charged with providing school privileges for every child in the section. "In 1937-38, Dr. H. R. Shaw, my immediate predecessor, comments as follows on the larger unit and on teacher education: "The one-room school in this Province apparently must be continued so long as transportation difficulties for small children remain as they are — but the older pupils particularly from the crowded schools might attend a central graded school with much advantage, even if some effort is required to reach them, and a larger unit of administration should greatly facilitate such an arrangement. In graded schools the work of the High School grades is carried out more efficiently while in the one-roomed schools with only primary grades much better service would be given."

"In the absence of such an arrangement the only hope for better service is through the employment of more capable teachers. It is unreasonable to expect that teachers who are only one grade in advance of their best pupils can cope with the difficulties that arise in instruction or discipline, and no teacher should be licensed who has not had at least two years study in advance of the classes he must teach. This is a minimum requirement in the other Canadian provinces and permanent licenses in several are only granted after a year or more of successful teaching."

"Ladies and gentlemen, trend in rural education in this Province in recent years have included the improvement of school buildings and equipment, including sanitary facilities; additional teacher education and the provision of vocational education. If we are to overcome some of the weaknesses still apparent in our programme and if we are to extend and enlarge this program to the end that all our pupils both elementary and secondary may have education suited to their needs, we should give immediate attention to the establishing of larger units of administration, and Composite High Schools in these larger units, and we should continue to improve the educational qualifications of our teachers both academically and professionally for it is upon the efficient, devoted, mature teacher that the whole educational structure must rest."

Provincial Girl

(Continued from Page 1) town April 24th to 26th. Great interest is being taken in this Conference, and already large numbers from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia have signified their intentions of attending it. Miss Carrie Holman spoke of the work being accomplished with the Lone Guides, of which there are fifty. She paid tribute to Station CJRW who has contributed free time so that Lone Guide meetings may be held over the air.

In speaking for the international side of Guiding, Miss Gladys Hart stated there is keen interest in this phase of the program which is so vital to Girl Guides particularly in war-torn countries. Mrs. J. H. Cery pointed out the necessity of all districts doing their share to promote Rains Day so that sufficient funds would be forthcoming if the Guide program was to be extended. There is a great need for a voluntary training program such as the Girl Guide Organization has to offer, but there are also necessary expenditures in promoting and expanding same. Rains Day is to be held on June 7th, and a present were urged to do their utmost to make it the most successful one yet held.

With regard to the training of Guiders, Mrs. J. G. Hartlen stated a most successful Guiders' Training Course had been conducted in Charlottetown under the leadership of Mrs. Harry Cudmore and Miss Phyllis Cutcliffe. Also, a Book Fair was on display which contained many valuable books of assistance for Guiders, Guiders, Commissioners, and those interested in Guiding generally. Miss Suzanne MacKinnon announced that twelve Girl Guides and two Guiders have been accepted for attendance at the National Camp Ottawa, next July. Miss Betty King has had the honor of having her application accepted as being Councillor at one of the Girl Scout Camps in the United States for a period of six weeks next summer.

Provincial Commissioner, Mrs. Hutchison, then gave her report, which will be published later. At the conclusion of the reports, Mrs. J. A. MacMillan congratulated most highly those who had worked so hard during the year and said the Guide movement had reaped splendid benefits as a result of their unselfish and concentrated efforts. Mrs. Gordon then submitted a slate of officers, executive members, council members, and commissioners for the coming year, as follows:— Honorary President, Mrs. T. W. L. Prowse; Honorary Vice President, Mrs. John Reay; Provincial Commissioner, Mrs. F. G. Hutchison; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. D. M. McGuire; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Morton Dew; Executive Committee: Mrs. Wilfred Perry, Summerside; Mrs.

Elmer Offer, Summerside; Mrs. Thane Campbell, Summerside; Mrs. Alex Horne, Summerside; Mrs. Jack Watson, Summerside; Mrs. Carrol Delaney, Summerside; Mrs. Charles Linkletter, Summerside; Mrs. G. B. Whiteside, Mrs. Gordon MacDonald, Mrs. Gordon Foster, Mrs. Walter Hyndman, Mrs. Harry Cudmore, Mrs. Ivan Horne, Mrs. Christine Pickard, Mrs. Neil Matheson, Miss Mona Wilson, Mrs. A. G. MacMillan, Mrs. John F. Connolly, Mrs. Arthur Wellner, Mrs. Leonard MacDonald, Mrs. J. D. MacGuigan, Mrs. G. M. Avar, Mrs. A. H. Duvar, Mrs. L. E. Prowse, Mrs. G. E. Hartlen, Mrs. James Cery, Mrs. (Dr.) J. A. MacMillan, Mrs. Emile Gauthier, Rustic President Guiders' Club; Mrs. Wendell MacDonald, Mrs. Lemuel MacDougall, All Commissioners.

Council Members: Mrs. Maurice Mill, Summerside; Mrs. J. A. Arsenault, Summerside; Mrs. Henry Wedge, Summerside; Mrs. D. T. MacNeill, Summerside; Mrs. C. Gavin Duffy, Mrs. L. W. Goodwin, Mrs. W. D. Gillis, Mrs. Walter Jones, Mrs. E. M. Malone, Mrs. Ewen MacDougall, Mrs. J. A. Lawson, Mrs. A. E. Arsenault, Mrs. B. Earle MacDonald, Mrs. G. D. DeBlois, Mrs. George Tweedy, Mrs. H. C. Bohaker, Mrs. W. E. Hyndman, Mrs. Harold Shaw, Mrs. T. H. B. Somers, Mrs. A. B. Cutcliffe, Mrs. W. J. P. MacMillan, Mrs. Frank Burke, Mrs. H. L. Palmer, Mrs. Robert Large, Mrs. Fred MacMillan, Mrs. J. D. Davison, Mrs. J. T. Irwin, Mrs. H. E. D. Ashford, Mrs. Les Tithom, Mrs. James Blake, Mrs. H. M. Simpson, Mrs. J. A. MacMillan, Mrs. Louis Sadler, Mrs. J. P. Lantz, Miss Jessie Fullerton, Mrs. Alex Matheson, Mrs. N. H. DeBlois, Mrs. W. A. Reddin, Mrs. Ralph Dumont, Mrs. J. E. Burnett.

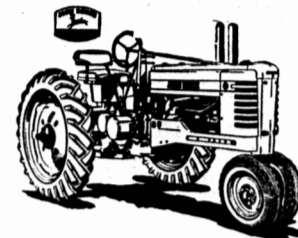
Provincial Camp Commissioner, Miss Gladys Hart; International Commissioner, Miss Gladys Hart; Provincial Lone Commissioner, Miss Carrie Holman; Public Relations Commissioner, Miss Lillian Duchemin; Head of Training, Mrs. G. E. Hartlen; Finance, Mrs. James Cery; Awards, Miss Mona Wilson.

Division & District Commissioners Division of Queen's, Miss I. Arsenault; District, South, Charlottetown, Miss Suzanne MacKinnon; Division of King's, Mrs. L. H. Poole; District, East King's, Mrs. Peter Sinclair; Division of Prince, Mrs. J. R. Holman; District, West Prince, Mrs. J. J. McNally; District East Prince, Mrs. Blair Elderkin (acting); Field Secretary, Miss Phyllis Cutcliffe; Auditor, Mrs. E. M. Malone. The Honorary President, Mrs. T. W. L. Prowse, then graciously presented Medals of Merit for exceptionally good service to the Girl Guide movement to Mrs. Fred Pickard and Mrs. Fred Je C. G. Duffy and Mrs. Frank Murray as a token of appreciation of work done for Guiding. A number of Guiders who had qualified for Warrants then had same presented to them by Mrs.

Prowse, as follows:— Captain's Warrants: Miss Elaine MacDonald, Mrs. J. O. MacLean, Mrs. Gordon Potten, Miss Marian Langille, all from Charlottetown. Lieutenant's Warrants: Miss Beryl Beagan, Charlottetown; Mrs. W. Perry, Summerside; Mrs. C. Delaney, Summerside; Mrs. Cyrus Pickard, Parkdale; Mrs. Lorne Arsenault, Parkdale; Miss Margaret Wheatley, Charlottetown. Brown Owl Warrants: Mrs. Leo A. Dowling, Charlottetown; Mrs. W. A. Chandler, Parkdale. Tawny Owl Warrants: Mrs. James Burke, Parkdale; Miss Velma Munn, Charlottetown. At the conclusion of the meeting a motion of adjournment was given by Mrs. Thane A. Campbell, Summerside.

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