



VOICE GIVES OUT

Opera star Maria Meneghini leaves stage after singing first act in title role of Bellini's "Norma" at opera house in Rome, Italy. Moments later she broke down in her dressing room and final two acts of the opera, which opened the Rome season, were called off with the explanation that the diva had lost her voice.

EDUCATIONAL HORIZONS

The School And Its Public

Mr. K. A. Parker, Superintendent of Schools, Charlottetown.

National attention is being focussed these days on the forthcoming Canadian Conference on Education to be held at Ottawa, February 17th-20th, 1958. A sense of urgency has been added with the knowledge that Sputniks with a Russian educational label attached to them are now encircling our earth several times a day. Suddenly the man on the street in the Western Hemisphere finds himself asking the pointed question, "What is found in the Russian classroom that doesn't exist in ours?"

The answer is relatively simple and direct, and should do much to shock the questioner in our Christian democracies out of his passive and all too frequently indifferent attitude towards education. A short 40 years ago, the fledgling Communist Government recognized that the basic and primary resources of a nation in the making are its people. It further recognized that the development of these resources through a meticulously planned educational program must receive first consideration from the state. To guarantee the end results desired, teachers and instructors of both young and old are recognized for their worth to society, both socially and economically. Brilliant young men and women are happy to remain in a profession which has been granted the highest prestige in the society and which returns a remuneration commensurate with that standing and in full competition with other professional vocations.

RESULTS The concrete results of such a concept are in front of us to evaluate. As a matter of historical record it is pertinent to remember that the temporary strength of both the Kaiser's and Hitler's Germany, Mussolini's Italy and the military junta's Japan were all established by using control of their educational systems for their nefarious ends. This reference serves to illustrate how history is made in a relatively short time through an educational program which is directed for a planned result.

The fact of the matter is that our Western way of life is being challenged by the Soviet Union which spends 8 percent of its national income on education, while Canada spends only 2.7 per cent. In the U.S.S.R., 19 out of every 1000 persons attend higher technical schools or universities; in Canada only five out of every 1000 are so doing. What will be the nature of our Canadian response to the challenge.

As Professor Arnold Toynbee has shown in his "A Study of History," civilizations advance by challenge and response; if the response is inadequate they will fall; if it is right, they will rise to a higher level. Let no Canadian citizen underestimate the significance of the task confronting him. And the task is directly related to the kind of educational program and opportunities provided for its peoples of all ages.

PUBLIC DEMAND It must be further recognized that, unlike a totalitarian state where a benevolent dictator can change and superimpose an educational program at will, the wheels of the democratic process grind more slowly. Political governments of the day, whether provincial or national, remain in power only so long as they can command a majority of the legislative votes. Changes in policy on any and every level are inevitably evaluated by their political implications.

Political implications are determined from the evidence of public demand and clamor for same. The whole welfare program now universally demanded by all citizens, is accepted by parties of all political faiths, in one form or the other, simply because it would be political suicide to flout public opinion in such matters. Regardless of cost, the demand is for protection from the cradle to the grave. Similarly public opinion has forced governments of the day to enact legislation dealing with development and conservation of our Natural Resources.

fundamental, certainly requires teaching skills which can only be acquired by thorough and lengthy training.

DROP OUT

The need for immediate action is revealed by cold statistics. Out of 3054 pupils enrolled in Grade 1 in 1944, only 1778 were left in grade 8 in 1952 — a loss of 48 per cent; only 1147 were left in Grade 10 in 1954 — a loss of 62.4 per cent; only 439 enrolled in Grade 12 in 1956 — a loss of 85.6 per cent. And of the Grade 12 students, only 299 reached certificate standing on the final examinations.

The most serious implications for the welfare of our province are in the drop-outs on the Grade 8 level which show nearly one-half of our boys and girls leaving school with less than Grade 8 standing. Surely a precarious

KEY FACTOR

The core of our problem in this province, as in varying degrees in the other provinces, is the inadequate supply of properly qualified teachers. No other single factor determines to a greater degree the holding power of the public schools. Our whole future will be chartered by the way this problem is met. Ignore it and the natural resources which we have in such abundance will be relatively insignificant. Grapple with it realistically, with a concerted effort by both public and government, and we have the only insurance possible for the maintenance of the "good way of life" coveted by all.

RURAL AREAS

The writer has stated before and states again that the recruitment on which to build for the future.

involves not only adequate salaries, but adequate and acceptable working conditions. Unless both these aspects of employment are considered together, there can only be a steady worsening of our position. 70 per cent of the children of this province are in rural and village schools. Under existing conditions, few teachers of quality will seek positions in these areas. And it is in these rural sections where educational opportunities are of prime importance for the progressive development of the basic physical resources of our province which are of the soil and sea. Alas, very few children of urban centres leave the towns to find their vocations on the farm or in the fishing village. As in the past, the vast majority of the farmers and fishermen of the future are to come from the rural schools.

LARGER UNIT

To ensure equal educational opportunity for these children, two immediate steps can be taken with very little added cost to the taxpayer but providing the only foundation for improved services. First, the acceptance of the principle of the larger school administrative unit, a procedure urged and recommended in practically every brief presented to the Legislative Standing Committee on Education last spring. How foolish and stupid it would be for the primary producer to ignore the findings of science and research in the raising of his stock and the products of the soil! Yet we seem to be completely and deliberately ignoring the years of experience in other provinces and other lands relative to the administration of rural schools. As an

immediate result there would be improvement in the environment under which rural teachers must work. The time calls for a dropping of the false values inherent in our traditional rugged individualism and a working together for the common good.

The second step is equally imperative and directly related to the improvement of the financial status of the teacher in the local school district. This calls for a complete revision of our present assessment policy which places such heavy penalties on the landowners, overlooking that school taxes should be shared proportionately by the non-farmer, the professional people, civil servants of both Provincial and Federal Governments, merchants and other business men.

Governments of the day will act tomorrow if there is evidence of

American Cops Break Into TV. Programs In Great Britain

LONDON (AP) — A batch of American cops talking on a police radio network somewhere in the United States was blamed Monday night for jamming British TV reception these winter evenings.

In the middle of programs, the cops come barging in with some crisp orders for faraway patrol cars.

Where the voices are coming from nobody here knows.

BREAKS UP QUEEN

The interference has been going on for weeks but became particularly strong these last few days. On Christmas, right in the middle of Queen Elizabeth's holiday broadcast, some listeners caught the plaintive voice of a hungry American cop:

There's no time like snow-time to buy your new Plymouth



Read the money-saving reasons. See if it doesn't make plenty of sense to you, to start the new year the new Plymouth way!

There's no doubt that a brand-new car is better than an older one for this time of year, is there?

With a new motor, new brakes, tires, battery, heater, defrosters and electrical system, you and your family are far safer. Far less likely to have trouble. And you're more comfortable, too, in the snug interior of a new car. What's more, you get the pleasure of owning a brand-new model for the whole year; not just part of it!

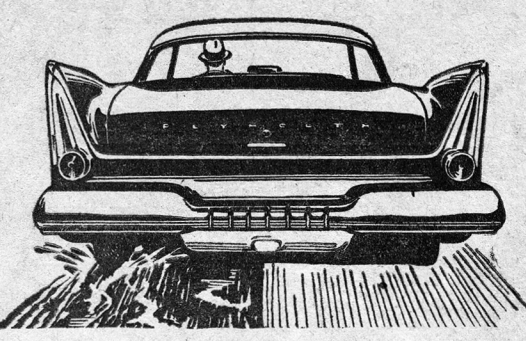
When you think of all these advantages, Plymouth stands out as an especially good winter-time buy.

You're cozy as a bug inside, thanks to Plymouth's quality-fitted body, its high-capacity Customaire heating-ventilating system. You get the biggest windshield and wipers of any low-priced car—with defrosting capacity to match, plus new dual headlamps for maximum safety-visibility. You get advanced Total-Contact brakes, safest-stopping system on any car. And for not a penny extra, you

get advanced Torsion-AIRE suspension, best system of all to cushion you over frozen rough spots... level you around curves... and let you stop without brake-dive.

What about power? It's yours to spare with Plymouth's Thrill-Power Six, or big, new 313-cubic-inch V-8. And nothing beats the ease and responsiveness of Plymouth's proved push-button automatic drive. It's safe. Mechanical. Isn't affected by electrical trouble.

If you'd like all the money-saving reasons why Plymouth's the buy, and why now's the time to get yours, just come see us. We'll show 'em to you—along with the kind of trade-in offer that'll open your eyes.



Brand-new snow-time driving aid! Plymouth's optional Sure-Grip differential gives you extra pull-out traction even when one wheel gets into deep snow, ice, sand or mud! You're always a step ahead in cars of the forward look

Chrysler Corporation of Canada, Limited

Fashion plate for '58 Plymouth New...and simply terrific!

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