

Text Of

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upon which to base future action. Prof. J. C. Matthews, an Islander—a P. W. C. graduate—former teacher Allison—Ph. D. graduate of Mt. Allison—Ph. D. from Teachers College of Columbia University and now on the staff of Fenn Teachers College, Cleveland was engaged to carry out a survey of the four city schools. This report has been

used freely in our appraisal of our present situation. "Our problems are all created by deficiencies in three major areas: "(1) The present school buildings are grossly overcrowded. "(2) The present school buildings are structurally inadequate for a modern school program, and the equipment is in large part inadequate and outworn. "(3) The present curriculum is too narrow and restricted to serve the needs of the school population, or the community as a whole.

Accommodation

"(1) The Matthews report estimates the reasonable capacity of the four city schools to total 1665. The maximum emergency capacity tolerable for only a short period of time is estimated to be 2300. The present enrollment is 2415. What this means is that this year we are unable to accept all the children seeking an education. There is one entire class at Prince Street that cannot be housed and to date we have been unable to secure accommodation for them anywhere else. At the moment, the teacher of this class is giving instruction to small groups of them in her own home. "According to statistics this situation is going to be much worse next year, and each succeeding year until about 1958 when the school population will level out to about 2800. This is due to the post-war rise in the birth rate, the first group of which is just now beginning to reach school age. Next year we estimate that accommodation for four classes will have to be found outside school property. This estimate does not take into account an additional group, who now drop out without completing public school education, and whom we hope we may be able to retain by

means of offering a broader curriculum. "2. The four city schools were rated in the survey report according to a formula in use for such purposes wherein a hypothetical perfect school receives a rating of 1000 points, grading down to 400 points for one classified poor. The four city schools rated 371-334-314 and 302. "This low rating was due to the combination of many factors. Classroom equipment, notably desks and blackboards and maps were noted to be in such a condition that extensive replacements were recommended as an urgent necessity. The utilization of every inch of space from basement to top floor for classroom purposes has meant there is no provision for such essential services as a library-reading room, audio visual aid room, science laboratory, room for music instruction, room for physical training etc. Office space for principals and especially teachers' rooms were found to be so inadequate as to be almost non-existent. "3. One of the most significant findings of the survey report was that dealing with the abnormally high incidence of Charlottetown children who leave school without even completing public school education. The records show that during the past twenty years more than three-quarters of our Charlottetown boys and girls did not complete Junior Matriculation, and more than two-thirds did not even finish Grade X. With greater facilities for a broadened curriculum to include some basic training in industrial arts, commerce and home making, a far greater number of students would remain longer in school, and will leave better prepared not only to make a living, but in knowing how to live. "This is an obligation to Charlottetown youth which must be met. The survey report considers a major factor in this premature leaving to be the narrowness of the curriculum which is primarily designed to meet the demands of those planning to pursue the academic course leading on to P. W. C. making no provision for those who, for whatever reason, cannot do so.

"Having seen what the present situation is, the questions must be asked: Is the situation as good as Charlottetown can afford? Are we getting all we can afford to pay for? Is the situation the inevitable result of financial impecuniness of the citizens of Charlottetown? The Board of School Trustees is of the opinion that the answer is No. Charlottetown can afford much better. The answer is that insufficient monies have been asked for and granted, to prevent this situation reaching the point it has today—the point where it must be considered calamitous. "In 1947 Charlottetown ranked first in average income among the 10 Maritime communities included among the 52 Canadian communities that were highest in per capita income. Charlottetown ranked 9th in the nation. "The cost to the City of Charlottetown to provide each pupil with an education in 1950-51 was \$57.37. Comparisons with other Maritime cities and towns place Charlottetown 6th in this respect. Moncton spent \$112.15 to rank highest. For the year 1950-51 the average per capita levy for all purposes including education, in Charlottetown was \$24.39 ranking Charlottetown 11th of 11 cities in the Maritimes studied. Campbellton ranked first with \$70.53. Fredericton had \$58.91, Sydney had \$50.52, Summerside \$33.89. "The average per capita levy for school purposes only in Charlottetown in 1950-51 was \$7.98—ranking Charlottetown 10th of the 11 studied. Campbellton ranked highest with \$20.63. "The percentage that the school levy is of the total municipal levy in Charlottetown was 33.1% ranking Charlottetown 5th of the 11 studied. The obvious inference is that while the percentage of municipal levy that the schools got is in keeping with that in other comparable communities, the total municipal levy is, or has been, too low. "The Board of School Trustees is of the considered opinion that Charlottetown can afford the type of school facilities that are required to insure the future welfare of its children. "The Board of School Trustees are further of the opinion that financing a school program should be shared by all classes of the community who have reached voting age and should not be the responsibility solely of property owners. The Board suggests that this matter be explored by Council. "The Board of School Trustees further considers that no improvement in our present plant, or curriculum is possible within the budget limit as established by statute and request Council to re-examine this in the light of present day needs.

Resolutions "Having considered these matters at a series of meetings of the Board held for that purpose—this delegation was appointed to present the following resolutions to Council: "1. Whereas this Board having reviewed the situation now existing, arising out of the present overcrowding in all four city schools, and the evidence as shown in the Matthews' report, of an increasing school population carrying through the next decade and a half at least, and whereas in the opinion of the survey report that the present school curriculum appears to be of a nature too narrow and restricted in order to meet the requirements of the great majority of the students of the city schools; therefore be it resolved that this Board recommend that additional school plant facilities be provided to relieve the present overcrowding, with provision for a broader curriculum. "2. As a temporary measure for the next academic year and recognizing that it must be a palliative measure only, this Board recommends that temporary classroom space be sought outside school property, to meet the anticipated

increase in next year's enrollment. "3. It is the opinion of this Board that permanent relief for the present situation can best be met by the withdrawal of grades 7, 8, 9, 10 from their present buildings, allowing the remaining six grades to expand into the space thus made available. The Board further recommends that a program of renovation and modernization be instituted in the present schools. "4. It is the opinion of this Board that there is an urgent need for parallel courses in industrial arts, home economics and commerce in addition to the academic course, and that facilities for the provision of such instruction up to the end of the eleventh grade be provided.

High School Requirements

"5. After evaluation of all information relevant to the matter under review, including the findings and recommendations of the survey report, this Board recommends that a comprehensive high school be erected. "6. Therefore be it resolved that a delegation from this Board wait upon the Mayor and City Council to acquaint them with the recommendations of this Board and to ask their consideration and action.

"Whereas there has been in operation in Charlottetown for a very long period of time a school plan or system whereby two of our schools, attended principally by Protestant children, have been staffed with Protestant teachers, and two of our schools, attended principally by Catholic children, have been staffed with Catholic teachers.

"And whereas this system has always worked smoothly, satisfactorily and efficiently, and without any discord, and it is highly desirable that it be continued and observed in the planning of any additional school accommodation. "Therefore be it resolved that, if a decision is made to provide a comprehensive high school accommodation for senior grades, including grades to be transferred from the existing schools, (or to provide any alternative additional accommodation) two such schools be provided, without duplication of technical or vocational equipment, one for the pupils from Prince Street and West Kent Schools and one for the pupils from Rochford Square and Queen Square Schools."

Not Time To Start Worrying About U. N.

OTTAWA, Nov. 4 (CP)—External Affairs Minister Pearson says the time to start worrying about the United Nations is not now, and when the violence of its debates softens to "meaningless courtesies."

"We should not be too distressed because its meetings are often acrimonious and contentious. At times the very violence of the disputes is evidence of the fact member states are deeply concerned about the effect produced by their arguments. "There would be more cause

to worry about the U. N. if the debates ever degenerated into an elaborate exchange of meaningless courtesies which avoided any realistic reference to outstanding issues and disputes. Then, indeed, futility would have been reached."

After seven years, says Mr. Pearson, the U. N. "is still a young organization, still largely an experiment."

"But one thing has become increasingly evident... there is no doubt that the spirit of interdependence in the world is growing."

With the exception of the Communist bloc, the different races were steadily reducing mutual barriers of ignorance and suspicion which had so often led to war.

The hope for the future of the U. N. "has a deeper and more solid foundation" than headlines about violent East-West disputes would indicate.

"...because the U. N. is a mirror of the world, we should not say it has failed because it reflects an unhappy world."

Book-A-Year British Novelist Dies

HOVE ENGLAND, Nov. 4 (AP)—Gilbert Frankau, 68, British writer who had averaged a novel a year for the last 40 years, died today. Frankau, who started out as a cigaret salesman and became a best-selling novelist, published his first book "One Of Us" in 1912 when he was 28.

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