

# AN INTERESTING REPORT ON VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Committee Appointed by the Legislature to Make a Survey has Completed Its Work--Strong Recommendations Embodied in the Report--The Legislature Will be asked to take Action this Session

The provincial committee on vocational training, appointed last September, has completed its labor, and the result now goes to the legislature in the form of certain findings and recommendations with a bill based thereon which the committee hope will meet with a favorable reception. While Chairman Fred Magee and other members of the committee gave much thought and attention to the subject, the bulk of the actual work fell upon the secretary, Fletcher Peacock, who has devoted his time very largely to the task, and put findings of the committee and the results of his own labor in such shape as to simplify very greatly the work to be done. At every meeting he had a mass of well arranged information ready for the further deliberations of the committee; and upon him fell the task of getting the findings in shape for the final revision. He had the advantage of close consultation with Mr. Magee who is intensely interested in the subject. Mr. Magee in turn had the valuable assistance of Dr. J. Roy Campbell in framing the proposed

bill, which with Mr. Peacock's summary of the committee's findings was finally considered and revised by the whole committee this week.

There were meetings of the committee in St. John, Fredericton and Halifax, and some members also visited Massachusetts, while Mr. Peacock went as far as Pennsylvania to gain personal knowledge of systems of vocational training.

The summary of findings and the recommendations, with some of the general observations which will form a valuable portion of the full report when printed are as follows.

**Report on Vocational Education**  
To His Honor the Hon. Wm. Pugsley, K. C., D. C. L., P. C., Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of New Brunswick.

May it Please Your Honor,—In accordance with the instructions of order-in-council passed September 5, 1917, relative to an inquiry into the question of vocational education your committee herewith beg to submit the results of its study together with its recommendations.

Fred Magee—chairman.  
George H. King.  
J. Roy Campbell.  
Fred Tessier.  
A. M. Belding.  
J. T. Jennings.  
Fletcher Peacock—secretary.

## Summary of Findings

1. That the modern conception of the States obligation as far as education is concerned includes training all the boys and girls from 5 to 18 years of age.

2. That those who cannot or do not wish to go to college should be trained for efficiency as workers in the industry of the country.

3. That the training which best fits a child for efficiency as a producer in industry also tends to his own highest well being and value as a citizen.

4. That the New Brunswick school attendance falls off alarmingly after

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Grade VI. That there were only 2,097 students in the public high schools last year, and of these only 343 in Grade XI.

5. That there are 16,000 persons not in school between fourteen and eighteen years old in New Brunswick. That there are in the province 75,000 house keepers and 100,000 workers, many of whom would doubtless appreciate an opportunity for further training.

6. That New Brunswick does not offer courses in vocational training to its young people and the training given in the schools is largely planned on the assumption that all the students shall take university courses. A little money has been spent for manual training, household science and elementary agriculture, but these subjects are not vocational, that is, they do not fit for profitable employment.

7. That the nature of our courses and the methods by which they are

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carried out do not tend to attract our young people to the common vocations opened to New Brunswick citizens. Our schools do not sufficiently direct the attention of our young people to our great natural resources and point out how these may be developed.

8. Other provinces and States have developed efficient courses in vocational education New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island are the only provinces in Canada which have not taken this step. Vocational education has been a fixed policy in Europe for almost half a century, and within the last twenty years a large percentage of the States have adopted this line of educational effort. That Nova Scotia has spent very large sums on vocational and technical education.

9. That vocational education properly conducted will hold a very large proportion of the pupils in school until they are sixteen to eighteen years of age. See report on Newton schools App. O.

10. That vocational education pays both from the standpoint of the state and of the individual. See App. D.

11. That New Brunswick needs vocational education and compulsory attendance for the purpose of properly educating her youth and of developing her resources. That the New Brunswick compulsory attendance act is too largely a dead letter. That most European, and many of the States to the south require full time attendance at school until fourteen and part time attendance till pupils are sixteen and seventeen years of age.

12. That vocational education is most successful when it deals with the occupations of the locality in which the school is situated, and that the nature of the teaching should be vitalized by a close contact with industry. See App. B.

13. That vocational education is for the mass of workers and should be made accessible to all. The training should be furnished in proximity to the worker's home.

14. That vocational agricultural education is being carried to rural centres successfully in Europe and the United States, and that this is our greatest single need in New Brunswick in this connection.

15. That certain subjects such as home economics and motor mechanics are needed in all the centres of the province. That others such as training in the leather, fishing, lumber and other industries will be needed only in certain localities.

16. That the principle of federal grants for education has been fully established. Washington has year passed an act providing \$7,000,000 a year to be granted to those states of the union which have adopted vocational education, and to be used exclusively for that purpose.

17. That it is essential that teachers for industrial vocational classes should also be efficient journeymen from the trades to be taught.

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1,700 in Grade VIII and 350 in Grade XI. That there were 18,000 students in Grade I, 1,700 in Grade VIII, and only 250 in Grade XI shows a tremendous wastage in the process of education. These figures would be slightly more favorable if the attendance at private schools were included, but they show how our public system is holding the pupils.

3. Only eight per cent, even in cities and towns reach high school and less than two per cent, ever graduate. In the best schools of our cities and towns the wastage in the upper grades is alarming after Grade V. There is only six per cent, of the pupils in

(Continued on page 3)

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