

# RURAL EDUCATION AND LEISURE CONSIDERED BY TEACHERS; ADULT TRAINING IMPORTANT

## World Gathering of Prominent Educationalists Discuss Practical Educational Affairs

(By Phyllis M. Lovell)

OXFORD, England, August 19—Consideration of rural education, which made its first appearance during the early stages of the Conference of the World Federation of Education of Education Associations here, has been having repercussions in a number of groups not officially scheduled to discuss it.

This, of course, has been inevitable, because education has taken in these days a turn not only towards the comprehensive. While the tendency of modern times is definitely in the direction of educating for world citizenship, it is also the tendency to realize that no part of any country, however remote, may be executed from having its share in such education.

It has therefore been impossible—or the conference has found it impossible—not to include the rural aspect of education in most general discussions, while the detailed examination of such questions as the potential usefulness of the radio, the effect of the cinema, the uses of visual education, the impartation of that somewhat novel subject called "historical geography", and the preparation for leisure have all been impregnated with it—especially, perhaps that question of leisure.

Treating with this leisure problem in its possible effect upon the countryside, Mr. George Faulds, of the Educational Institute of Scotland, challenged the somewhat too prevalent notion that it is more necessary to know how to use free time when living in the town than in the country. Truly, employment is decreasing less in rural than in urban districts, he said but it is nevertheless decreasing quite definitely, and by reason of the fact that threshers, reapers, combines, tractors have replaced the man with the scythe which means that, even in the countryside, a re-orientation of educational aims and ideals must take place.

There was a time not long ago, said Mr. Faulds, when the work part of the average rural person's existence was so hard and so long that the brief periods of relaxation offered but artificial and illusory happiness, and in those days, the chief educational aim consisted in teaching the manual worker how to work—which seemed most necessary. But nowadays, with thousands of country people in possession of what appear to be never-ending spare time, the necessity is reversed. Today the problem to be solved—and next to that of international peace, Mr. Faulds said, it is the most important problem of this generation—is that of how to fit the country child for the new balance between occupation, and the lack of it which lies ahead; how to show him that the "body-keeping business" is really negligible in proportion to other business.

**QUESTION AND ANSWER**

The question that needs to be asked in regard to rural education, he said, is: Does the present educational system tend to fit the average person for the work of the average person?—was given by Dr. John Dugan, of the Princeton (N. J.) public schools, who told of the gradual disappearance of the one-room, one-teacher schools of America in favor of centralized schools which are served by autobus transport, run at state expense to collect those scattered over wide areas. This bringing together of children—and incidentally this bringing together too of their parents because the parents cannot resist the appeal much for a better understanding of American citizenship. Aided by radio, cinema and the press, it is molding the child on lines of modern living and preparing him in the wisest possible way for whatever he may be called on to do in future.

**FOR ADULTS**

During a session devoted to the consideration of adult education, Mr. James Dudley of Avoncroft's Residential College for Workers in Worcester-shire told of arrangements made for both town and country workers in such institutions.

Young English people, said Mr. Dudley—wage-earning people, that is, between the ages of 20 and 30—are often willing and ready to give up as much as a year at the very commencement of their working life—in the way that young Americans do who enter American Working People's Colleges, and young Danes do when they join themselves with their Folk High Schools—and they do it not only for academic reasons, not because they aspire to high scholastic honors which might merely end in taking them out of their natural sphere, and environment, but because, rural people as they often are the advantages to be derived from the fact of living together in a group larger than the ordinary family circle and composed of "keen-minded individuals with varied tastes and interests, and of varied dispositions" is obvious to them.

**A CAT HAS ONLY NINE LIVES**

COUNCIL BLUFFS, Iowa, August 19—Miss Sunny Hooath, Council Bluffs beauty parlor owner, is no "adventure girl," but she manages to find plenty of excitement.

To date her experiences include: Two airplane crackups. Three automobile accidents. One train wreck. One buggy accident. And the time last summer when she almost fell out of a 21-story window.

She has come through all these experiences without serious injury. A man caught her by the heels as she was falling from the 21-story window in Chicago and pulled her back.

Despite the perils she says: "Life's sure a lot of fun."

Education, said Sir Daniel, should lay a basis of general intelligence. Vocational instruction may come later, when the vocation has been chosen. There is time for that.

Answer to Mr. Faulds' question did not, however, end with Sir Daniel. Through the various sessions, which have followed his remarks, he has received various answers—intentional or unintentional.

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# RUSSIAN FACTORIES CAPITALISTIC IN EVERYTHING BUT NAME

STALINGRAD, U. S. S. R., August 16—In the United States they call it the "stretch system". In the Soviet Union they politely refer to it as "increasing the norm".

In the United States a company, which lays off a number of employees is said to "fire" them. In the case of a Soviet factory the same thing is described as "raising the productivity of labor" or "struggling for economical operation".

If, in the United States, all factory workers were required by moral pressure to spend one month's wages for something they could not afford and did not want plenty of people would be willing to say that they had been "docked" a month's pay. In the Soviet Union they "unanimously resolve to strengthen socialist economy by subscribing to a voluntary loan".

What, in the United States, would be sarcastically referred to as a "company union" becomes, in the Soviet Union, an ordinary professional union.

**SYSTEM ALMOST CAPITALISTIC**

The most extraordinary feature of the new Soviet system of factory management which has been perfected during the last four or five years is its amazing resemblance, despite difference in terminology, to the capitalist method of operation.

If the low pay of Soviet workers may be said to compensate for certain benefits they receive in the way of insurance, the principal difference seems to lie in the fact that the Soviet trade union organizations are definitely government organizations whose first allegiance is to the bolshevik cause and which therefore serve the interests of the employer—the government—before serving those of the workers they represent.

**FACTORY HAS REAL "BOSS"**

Here at the Stalingrad tractor factory, which is just completing five years of operation, one may see this new system in effect and witness its practical results, which have been as satisfactory as results under the old system were dismaying.

In the first place the director of the plant, Comrade Fokin, is as definitely "boss" as any factory director in the United States, though he is under the thumb of Moscow.

The "triangle system", which gave a share in the management to trade union and party representatives was abolished here four years ago. It is partly due to this fact that the annual production of tractors rose from 1,000 in 1930 to 18,400 in 1931, 28,772 in 1932, and to 40,000 in 1933. Since then production has remained constant.

In the second place, three-quarters of the workers in this plant are on the piece-work basis, once cursed by all good bolsheviks. A steady increase in productivity has been required of every worker, with the result that one workman's monthly production increased from 1,704 rubles in January to 1,900 rubles in March, without any corresponding increase in wages.

**WORK QUOTA STEPPED UP**

Now has come what American radicals would call the "stretch system" if they were referring to an American plant.

In order to make the Stalingrad plant increasingly efficient and profitable the piece-work "norm" was raised 10 per cent in May, which means that a workman must do one-tenth more work for every ruble he earns. The seven-hour day remains in effect; the workman who wishes to maintain his pay at the same level will simply have to work faster.

Increased efficiency has allowed the plant to "release" 1,000 workers since this and "firing" them being that other jobs may be obtained elsewhere.

The trade unions which might ordinarily be expected to demand an increase in wages corresponding to the higher norms for piecework, are busy with other matters.

They have been peddling bonds, lottery bonds.

Six weeks ago when a new national loan was announced they did their work so smartly that the average worker decided to subscribe 105 per cent of his monthly salary.

Some days later when the giant airplane Maxim Gorki crashed in Moscow, they organized a campaign which influenced the worker to subscribe

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The average worker here receives only 205 rubles a month, barely enough to cover bare necessities, and it takes a pretty good jolt to make him part with one-twelfth of it, plus six or seven more rubles to build an airplane.

## POLICY A FORCED ONE

The establishment of one-man control and the forcing of the pace were restored to in spite of basic ideological objections because they were absolutely necessary to the establishment of order and discipline and the maintenance of production on an economical scale.

Nobody who witnessed the confusion of industry during the first five-year plan and the inefficiency of Soviet labor during recent years could argue against the advisability of the measures taken.

Certain it is, however, that they have nothing directly to do with communism and it is difficult to believe at times that these "moves to the right" are even indirectly bringing Russia any nearer to the Marxian utopia. What the Russian leaders are thinking about, however, seems to be a workable system. With one they may still dream and talk of communism, but without one they could not even remain in power.

# QUINTS BORN IN AUSTRALIA LIVED

MONTREAL—Possibility that the Dionne quintuplets are not the first set of quintuplets ever to survive was expressed here, following discovery in a house on St. Famille street of an old scrap book kept by the late Alfred Hirst, traveller, soldier, policeman and collector of curiosities.

A clipping from the San Francisco Chronicle of nearly 60 years ago, contained in the scrap book, says quintuplets were born to the wife of a South Australian farmer named Jacob Schuler, a German settler who with many compatriots farmed a tract of land about 30 miles from the town of Kapunda, South Australia. The clipping adds: "All of them are alive and are said to be very healthy."

According to the clipping Mrs. Schuler was a huge woman, "standing six feet four inches in her stockings and turning the balance at 244 pounds seven ounces." She had already given birth to five children, including two pairs of twins—"a fact deemed of so little importance in her remarkable efforts to increase the population of her adopted country that no exact dates of the occurrences were made," the report continues.

"Her crowning effort, and one that would, had she lived in America, at once given her the title of the champion child-producer, took place in October, 1878, when she gave birth to three boys and two girls. Everyone appears to have been greatly astonished, for though Mrs. Schuler already had made a reputation in this line, so great an event was altogether unexpected.

"The father of the five is said to have sat down stupidly and mechanically gazing from one infant to the other simply said: 'Mein Gott, Mein Gott.' There were three boys and two girls but no facts as to their weight and appearances after birth are given. All of them are alive and said to be very healthy."

The report relates a six-penny subscription was opened in the district for the infants and it was suggested it would probably exceed \$10,000. A full account of the case was transmitted to the secretary for the colonies in London at the time. A footnote concludes: "Michael Hegarty, the Australian Barnum, is said to have offered Mr. Schuler \$250 a week and all expenses of himself, wife and five children to travel, but the offer was declined."

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