

"OBSERVER" FINDS TEACHERS OF THE PROVINCE IN TWO CLASSES

One Group Has No Ideas, Second Group Presents Constructive Criticism

With all that is now being written and spoken concerning our educational system, one thing has struck me as being rather peculiar. We have read and heard expressions of opinion from the parents, from the general public, from some of the educational authorities, and even from some of the students, but so far as I am aware there has never been any expression of opinion from the teachers. It seemed to me that of all who were in a position to know something about the question, and whose opinion should be based on accurate knowledge and be consequently worth hearing, the teachers should be that group. Especially did that seem to be the case since recently there have been queries as to whether the teachers were to blame for some of the unsatisfactory conditions that exist. So recently I have made it my business to make inquiries among certain representative teachers both locally and elsewhere in the province, and have arrived at what I believe to be a consensus of opinion. I did not disclose at the time my reasons for making inquiries; none of the opinions I give here were expressed to me with any idea that they were for publication, but for that very reason I think they may be considered to be all the more accurate. Naturally I shall mention no names, since I do not wish to involve any teacher in difficulties which might arise should their identity be known. These are some of the things I found out:

1. That the teachers of the province are roughly divided into two classes: those who are perfectly satisfied with things as they are, and have no suggestions as to improvement to make, and those who realize that the system needs overhauling, and can spot the defects. The first class is made up largely of lower grade teachers whose own educational standard is not high. This type of teacher is usually the product of a country school education followed by a year at Normal School. Some of this class have attended town high schools, but the result is the same in most cases. This kind of teacher has a very limited educational and cultural background, almost no curiosity, very little ambition, and practically no knowledge of or interest in what is going on in the world. They have no conception, either, of what other systems of education are in vogue elsewhere. Such a teacher would not more dream of questioning the present status of education than he or she would doubt or question the existence of God. It was obvious to me that no help was to be expected from that quarter, but the existence of such a class of teachers must stand as a strong indictment of our system of teacher training.

2. The second group I found to be more helpful. These teachers are mostly university graduates and engaged in teaching high school work. Their educational and cultural background is much superior to that of the first group; many of them are in the habit of taking educational courses at various summer schools, and they have an accurate knowledge of what is wrong, and what remedies might be employed. It must be said, however, that there is considerable overlapping of the two groups. Some earnest and hard-working teachers may be found in the former group, and quite a sprinkling of dumb-bells in the latter. It is evident that a university education will not make a dumb-bell anything else but a dumb-bell. The reason we get our two classifications is because those possessed of initiative and ambition are the ones who forge ahead and get into the latter group.

3. That those teachers with any criticism to offer agree that the curriculum is shamefully overcrowded from the first grade upward, and that in the high school grades it is too inflexible in addition. They claim that a high school pupil in the academic work should be allowed more options in the choice of subjects, and that special attention could then be given to develop the pupil along the

lines he has chosen. It is also pointed out, however, that this inflexibility prevails in our provincial university, and until that institution discards a few of its compulsory subjects it will be difficult to make a similar reform in the school course which leads up to it. All agree that the academic high school course as it is now constituted only benefits the prospective university student, and that it leads to a course, in our provincial university at least, which has many of the defects that the school course itself has. The obvious point of attack, they say, is the university. Change its hide-bound and stereotyped entrance requirements, and you can then train your prospective university student along more enlightened lines. By lessening the amount of required work in the schools, and making the course more elastic, more time could be given to the needs of the pupil who does not contemplate a university course.

4. That while some form of examination or test becomes necessary periodically, yet those in vogue at the present time could be greatly improved. Especially is this true with regard to the Matriculation Exams. It is totally unnecessary to have two sets of examinations so close together at the end of the high school course. There are several ways of overcoming this which have already been given publicity, so that there is no need to repeat them here. Also, there is much dissatisfaction with the present system of setting and marking these examinations. It is claimed that these papers, if they are to continue in force, should be set and marked by experts in the various subjects, chosen from high school teachers themselves who are engaged in teaching that particular subject throughout the year. An examination board is advocated, to meet at some central place and the personnel of this board could be changed from time to time. Such an examining board already functions in Nova Scotia and some other provinces. It is said that most of the present examiners are university professors, who have no conception of the course of training that the student has taken. Also, certain subjects are being marked by individuals whose own work bears no relation to the paper they set and mark. For example, I am informed that the matriculation paper in history is set by a mathematics instructor.

OBSERVER.

(To be Continued)

Marshall Still

(Continued from Page One) might permit the farmer to get in a second alfalfa growth or sow a late crop of millet, but they would need pretty liberal rain.

Farmers depending only on their grain harvest were up against a tougher proposition, the Minister said and were dependent on rain. Their yield "was bound to be light."

The Minister of Agriculture considers the small fruit growers hardest hit by the drought.

"They're just wiped out," he admitted.

Agricultural representatives, Mr. Marshall said, will be the first judges of drought remedies. The damage varied in different counties, he pointed out. The men on the ground will be in position to suggest what measures the farmers can take to offset a part of their losses.

South Manitoba

(Continued from Page One) Alberta suffers most from Edmonton south to the United States boundary, southern sections losing from 30 to 80 per cent. in value and central and north central portions from slight to 50 per cent. Immediate rain and lower temperatures are imperative to raise the average.

Wheat is virtually all in head, with stand and head varying according to moisture conditions. Late sown wheats are generally short.

Southern Manitoba has begun cutting barley and oats and some wheat may be ready to cut next week.

The Dominion rust research laboratory, consulted today, says slight rust infection has occurred in common wheat in Manitoba and northeastern Saskatchewan as far as Regina. Its development rests entirely on weather conditions.

British Columbia is favored with exceptional weather for crop growth, moderated warm with occasional showers and rains. Cherries and raspberries are moving in volume, apples and pears are sizing well as well as peaches and new potatoes, tomatoes and other vegetables are being shipped in car lots.

All British Columbia's grain crops are in excellent shape and cutting of fall wheat has begun at Armstrong.

SOCIAL HAPPENINGS

Hon. A. A. Dysart, premier of New Brunswick, was a passenger to Boston by last evening's train.

Mrs. Fannie Brown of Saint John, and Mrs. Sadie Wheelton, of Newburyport, Mass., are guests of their sister, Mrs. Edward McGinn and Mr. McGinn of this city.

Mrs. W. E. Seery of Bath, Carleton county, is visiting her niece, Mrs. David McCaughey and Alderman McCaughey.

Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Hanson are leaving this afternoon on a month's holiday trip to the Pacific Coast, which will include Vancouver and Seattle.

Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Dewar entertained last night at an informal dance at the Waverly Hotel. Those present were those members of the Canadian Technical Agriculture Society, and their wives who were guests at the hotel and several others. About forty were present and an enjoyable time spent by all.

Senator L. F. R. Langaller of Quincy, Mass., accompanied by Mrs. Langaller, Miss Muriel Langaller and Mrs. R. Eames arrived yesterday by car. They will spend some time in Fredericton and vicinity and will try their luck at the various fishing streams. Senator Langaller visits Fredericton from year to year and has many friends.

In Honor of Miss Pringle, Bride-elect The Misses Helen and Magdalene Scott were hostesses at a delightful shower bridge last evening at their home in honor of Miss Georgie Pringle a bride-elect. Guests played bridge at three tables, the prize winners being Miss Nellie Winters, Mrs. Kathleen Smith and Miss Lalia MacVey.

Following bridge and late supper, the guest of honor was presented with a cup and saucer shower artistically arranged in a huge replica of a cup and saucer, to which she replied in a fitting manner.

Anniversary Celebration Many friends among the clergy and the laity in York county have learned with interest of the recent celebration of the ordination to the holy priesthood of Rev. H. L. Coughlan, pastor of St. Anne's church at Kingsclear.

Father Coughlan was ordained in Saint John on the 29th of June twenty years ago by the late Bishop LeBlanc. Following his ordination he was stationed at St. Martins, with missions at Black River, Loch Lomond, Saddleback and Upham. He was transferred to Loch Lomond, where he built a church and a rectory. In 1926 Father Coughlan was named as pastor of St. Anne's church. He has at present missions at Hanwell, Cork, Newmarket, Allandale, Lake George and Nackawick.

The anniversary consisted of the Rosary and Benediction in the evening. Rev. Father Gillis of Devon presided at the organ and a sermon was preached by Msgr. F. L. Carney. Later in the evening a motion picture was put on in the parish hall following which a spiritual bouquet and purse were presented to Father Coughlan. The address was read by Audrey Goodine and the presentation was made by her brother, both children of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Goodine of Kingsclear.

A & B CLUB REGATTA & WATER SPORTS

— PROGRAMME —

Wednesday, July 22nd—Band Concert—Dance and Reception.

Thursday, July 23rd—Regatta and Water Sports.

Thursday Evening—Speed Boat Racing; Presentation of Cups; Dancing in the Clubhouse; Band Concert.

The Royal Kennebecasis Yacht Club and the St. John Power Boat Club will be guests of the A & B Club and will assist with the Regatta.

Beautiful Silver Trophy donated by Mr. Jarvis Purdy, Saint John, N. B., for the Queen of the Regatta.

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PHONE 313

NORTH DEVON

King Edward

(Continued from Page One)
Contained Four Cartridges

The revolver was produced in court by Detective Inspector John Sands. Four of its five chambers were loaded.

The apparent attempt on the King's life came just after the calvacade had passed under the Wellington Arch at the top of Constitution Hill. Nearby spectators heard a scuffle at the back of the crowd. Then a revolver, gleaming in the sunlight, flashed through the air and fell to the ground beneath the feet of the King's horse.

The horse, sensing that something was wrong, nervously kicked the weapon in its stride.

What actually happened in the few dramatic seconds preceding this was variously described by eye-witnesses. But many of them told how a little, unidentified woman dressed in grey, accompanied by a fair-haired girl, became the heroine of the situation.

The woman saw a club-footed, bald-headed man endeavor to make his way to the front of the crowd, at the same time pointing the revolver. She struck quickly at the man's arm. So strong was her blow that the weapon flew in a wide arc to the pavement.

Uttered a Warning Cry

Those who saw the weapon drawn raised cries which simultaneously drew the attention of the woman, her companion and policemen.

Most of the eye-witnesses agree that as the King drew abreast of the spot the man produced the revolver and began to point it over the heads of the crowd. Some said the woman and a policeman knocked it simultaneously out of the man's hand.

One spectator said a mounted policeman's horse seemed to obstruct the man's view. He hesitated, and then the revolver hurtled towards the King.

"The King's face seemed to me to be suddenly grave," this person said. He turned his head in the direction of the man and appeared to speak to Sir John Aird, his equerry, who was riding behind with Major-General B. N. Sergison-Brooke. Aird immediately turned his horse, rode back to the scene and spoke to a policeman.

A woman who was nearby said: "The man appeared to come from the fourth row behind us. He pushed his way to the edge of the footpath. I heard someone shout: 'Get him.' Immediately a woman followed him on." As he attempted to break the police cordon she and a policeman together knocked the revolver out of his hand. It went into the roadway.

According to another member of the crowd, as soon as the man produced the revolver, people shouted and screamed and surged towards him. This witness said a constable struck the man's arm upward almost before the weapon was levelled. Afterwards the man was attacked on all sides and flung to the ground. A mounted policeman leaped from his horse on top of the man. Other police rushed up and took him into custody. He was removed to the police station in Hyde Park.

During all this excitement, lasting a matter of seconds, the King was completely unruffled. He neither slowed down nor speeded up the pace of his mount, but continued on his way to Buckingham Palace.

There he saluted Queen Mary, who was standing on a balcony, and then vanished in the inner courtyard.

Prior to the attempted attack, the King, who has not yet been on the Throne for a full six months, had presented new colors in Hyde Park to the First and Third Battalions of the Coldstream Guards and the Second Battalion of the Scots Guards.

"Humanity cries out for peace and an assurance of peace," he told them.

After the eventful ride to Buckingham Palace, he motored to St. James' Palace, had luncheon, then drove to Coombe Hill Golf Club, where he played his usual vigorous game. This was in accordance with his original plans as he had no official visits scheduled for the afternoon. In the evening he returned to St. James' Palace to attend to state affairs.

Refers to Sir John Simon

Detective Inspector John Sands, giving formal evidence of the arrest, said the prisoner told him en route to the station: "It's all the fault of Sir John Simon (the home secretary). I wrote him last night and phoned him this morning."

"The King wasn't hurt in any way, was he?"

"I did not want to hurt him in any way."

"I only did it as a protest."

His remarks were not explained. A solicitor for the accused declared: "The prisoner wishes to say there was no attempt at assassination, nor was there any intention of assassination."

Sir John Simon, speaking later in the House of Commons, said: "The whole House will be profoundly thankful that the risk to which His Majesty was exposed was so promptly averted."

An official of Scotland Yard police headquarters said no special measures were taken for the King's protection during the parade, but that there were "the usual precautions with uniformed men lining the streets and plainclothesmen mingling with the crowd."

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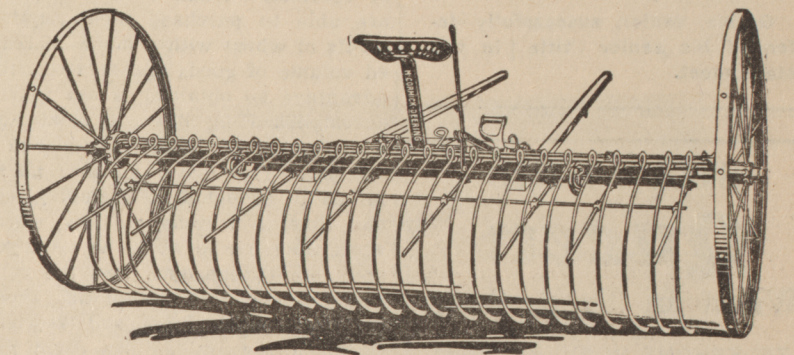
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