

OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IS OBSOLETE AND NEEDS REFORM

There is Not a Resident of the Province Who Can Remain Indifferent on This Question—Our Academic Course is Due for Overhauling.

It may seem to those who have followed my articles from day to day that I have had quite a lot to say upon educational matters. It is true that I have, and that I intend to say a great deal more. The reason for that ought to be apparent. There is no topic that is any more vital to the citizens of New Brunswick at the present time than is the matter of education. We hear the subject discussed everywhere and we see it treated in the daily press until even the most uninterested person must be aware that this is a live subject. On the principle of striking while the iron is hot I am pleased to be able to make my small contribution to the general discussion from time to time.

In previous articles I took up the question of adult education, and it is evident that this matter is being seriously considered by the government at the present time. We now have a government in power which is vitally interested in education and has expressed itself as determined to improve upon present conditions. The recent conference among the educational authorities of the province gives evidence of this fact, for no previous government even got that far. While nothing definite was given out, still we are told that adult education was one of the major issues discussed at the conference.

Enough has been said and written already to make it clear to everyone that our system is obsolete and needs reform. There is not a resident of this province who can afford to remain indifferent on this question. Modern trends of thought recognize that education is the foundation upon which all the other activities of the state depend. How can we expect our citizens to appreciate and understand to the fullest extent the great problems that confront mankind today if a proper education in the fundamentals of good citizenship has been lacking? How can we expect the electorate to decide intelligently at the polls if competent instruction and enlightenment on public affairs has not been given? And to bring about this result, which hardly anyone will deny is worthwhile, we have got to tear down and build over again; and build better. It has already been proved in the neighboring province of Nova Scotia, that adult education can lift up the underprivileged and the ignorant, and by giving them an intelligent interest in life can raise them to the rank of worthy self-respecting citizens.

For our young people, those who are now in school or who have their school life still ahead of them we must provide better sustenance than has been available hitherto. We must provide in a practical way for the education of our boys and girls, so they may be able to go out in the world trained in the field for which they are best fitted to make an intelligent and useful contribution to society. Hitherto in our schools there has been no effort made to find out what a boy or girl is best fitted for. The student is allowed to drift along through the elementary and secondary schools, taking the work provided for all, no matter whether individual preference and ability is suited to

that kind of work or not. There should be for every student entering our high schools, an inquiry made as to that student's interests and preferences in the training they take. A committee of teachers could question the student and consult with the parents and thus arrive at an understanding of what that pupil is best fitted to do. If the student has a preference for what is now termed vocational or commercial work he should be placed in that department, and there should not be the idea spread abroad, which has been the case in this locality, that vocational work is for those who have not the ability to do the academic work. This has been a terrible mistake. Why shouldn't the vocational work have a right to receive just as alert and capable students as the academic?

Then our academic course as now constituted is due for a thorough overhauling. That the old so-called classical course is a good thing nobody will deny. But it is only a good thing for those who want to take it and have shown their preference and ability in that direction. If a student shows a partiality for mathematics and science and not for classics, let him specialize in mathematics and science and don't force him into classics. Or if he expresses a preference for the purely cultural subjects such as history, English literature or economics, give him a chance to follow up these things. Adjustments could always be made later on if some were found to be doing the thing for which they were not best suited. And our courses of instruction must be made elastic enough to provide these chances for pupils. I have heard it argued that alternative courses would involve the engaging of many extra teachers which the average community could not afford. Why? Teachers are already provided for the various subjects. This new plan only advocates the extension of the principle of options. Stop tying the pupil up to work for which he is not fitted, and find out for what he is fitted. And let us not forget that this principle will have to be carried into our universities too. It may be granted that most students will have found themselves in high school under such a system as is outlined above, but some may still be maladjusted when they reach the university, that is if they have taken a course leading there. Students should not be permitted to embark upon a university course if they have shown that they cannot do the work such a course would require. A more selective process is wanted there. And above all things we need more training in the social sciences in both secondary schools and some universities. Our own provincial university is very deficient in that regard. It places the emphasis on forestry and engineering and its arts course does not compare favorably with that of other universities.

The signs are favorable as never before for reforming this out-of-date educational system of ours. May we all put our shoulders to the wheel.

OBSERVER.

WARNING

Owing to possible danger of pollution due to lowness of water, the Board of Health strongly advises that bathing and swimming in the river BELOW THE SITE OF THE OLD RAILWAY BRIDGE BE DISCONTINUED.

E. M. FARRELL, Secretary
Fredericton Sub-District Board
Aug. 12, 1936
of Health

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SOCIAL HAPPENINGS

The annual garden party of the Gibson Memorial church held on the Parsonage lawn yesterday was a splendid success. Lovers of flowers were amply repaid by their visit, since not only did they enjoy the delicious vials prepared by the ladies of Gibson Memorial church, but each group of guests was given a bouquet of flowers by the pastor, Rev. Mr. Burge. The committee in charge included Mrs. A. D. Barnes, Mrs. Alex. Barnes, Mrs. W. W. Maxwell, Mrs. Harry Pickard, Mrs. Robt. Scott, Mrs. Guy Matthews, Mrs. J. Dickinson Mrs. Howard Shields. The gentlemen assisting included Robt. Harvey, Wm. Harvey, A. D. Barnes, Walter Law, W. W. Maxwell, and Rev. Mr. Burns of Gagetown.

Miss May Harrison, sister of Mr. Justice W. H. Harrison was a dinner hostess today at D-Coy Inn. Covers were laid for eight, the guests being mostly from Saint John.

Mrs. A. P. Crockett gave an enjoyable luncheon today at D-Coy Inn for Mrs. J. E. Hetherington and her daughter of Cody's. Covers were laid for fifteen, the room being bright with fragrant sweet-peas and pink snap-dragon. Following luncheon the guests played Bridge.

Miss Barbara Wetmore and Miss Katherine Wetmore are leaving on Monday for Grand Bay, where they will spend a few weeks.

Miss Annie Martin has left on a trip to New York, where she will be with relatives.

Paul Gorham is spending a fortnight at Gorham's Bluff.

The Sunday school pupils of Christ-church Anglican Parish church held an enjoyable picnic at the Hermitage yesterday afternoon. The grounds were placed at their disposal by the St. Dunstan's church congregation. A pleasant time was enjoyed by the children present.

Mrs. W. E. Seery, of Bath, Carleton county, who has been visiting her niece, Mrs. David McCaughey and Mr. McCaughey, has returned to her home.

Announcement

Mr. A. R. Myles, Moncton, wishes to announce the engagement of his sister, Hazel Kathleen, to Dr. Frederick Cyril Jennings, of Saint John, wedding to take place in September.

Lady Foster is leaving Ottawa next week for Nantillie, Pa., where she will visit Virginia Lady Thornton for about ten days.

His Honor the Lieut.-Governor of Quebec and Mrs. Patenaude entertained at tea at 'Spencerwood' on a recent afternoon for the students attending the French summer school for Ontario teachers at Sillery College.

Betty Lake Has Quiet Birthday

Little Betty Lake, sole survivor of the Pacific Junction tragedy, in which both her parents, Mr. and Mrs. P. Lake were murdered is one year old today. The child, unwitting of the terrible tragedy which robbed her of both her parents, will coo and gurgle over a beautiful birthday cake which her new "mama", Mrs. Edwin Cuthbertson, of Barker's Point has made for her. There is one big candle on the cake. But there will be no birthday party, for Mrs. Cuthbertson has still not recovered from the shock of her brothers' death. But Betty will celebrate her birthday all by herself, unconscious of the fate of her parents.

Thirteen Pass

(Continued from Page One)

Guy Welch, Bristol; Rayburn Robert Porter, Andover; Harry Eugene Marshall, St. Stephen, and Bruce L. Byno, Ripples, R. R. No. 3. The second Scalers' Examinations will be held at Campbellton on Wednesday, September 9th, beginning at 9 a.m. All applicants will be notified previous to the date of the Examination will be held. It is expected that at least as many applicants will be examined at Campbellton as were examined here in July. The Examining Board consists of the following:

R. A. McFadden, W. A. McCormack and G. L. Miller, chairman.

FORESTRY STATION INSPECTION
J. C. Veness, of this city, officer in charge of the Maritime district of the Dominion Forest Service, arrived home today from Campbellton, where he was on an inspection trip in company with D. R. Cameron, acting director of the Dominion Forest Service. Mr. Cameron is inspecting eastern experimental stations. This afternoon he left here by automobile for Nova Scotia where he will continue his inspection.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold True of Oromocto, who were recently married in Fredericton and are spending part of their honeymoon at Oak Bay, were dinner guests recently of Mrs. True's uncle, Peter Pringle and Mrs. Pringle, at St. Stephen. Mrs. True was before her marriage Miss Georgia Pringle and formerly taught at Old Ridge.—St. Croix Courier.

Miss Pauline McBeath of Campbellton is the guest of Mr. and Mrs. S. P. MacDougall.

Mrs. Sarah Wheelodon, who has been visiting her sister Mrs. Edward McGinn and Mr. McGinn, Queen St., has returned to her home in Newburyport, Mass.

Arthur Sewell, son of Mrs. J. E. Sewell of University avenue, left this morning for Nappan, N. S., where he will spend the next two weeks.

Miss Vesta Webster is visiting relatives in Boiestown.

Miss Shirley Doane, daughter of J. J. Hayes Doane, M.P.P. for Charlotte, and Mrs. Doane, of Black's Harbour, who has been a guest at the home of Mayor and Mrs. A. J. McEvoy at South Devon, is now visiting Mr. and Mrs. Byron Staples in the city.

Miss Mary R. Osborne, instructor of nurses at the Maine General Hospital Portland, Maine, has concluded her visit at her home in Milltown. Before resuming her duties, she will visit her brothers, Augustine R. Osborne, Worcester, Mass., and W. Francis Osborne, of Brockton, Mass. Miss Osborne will be accompanied by her sister Miss A. Veronica Osborne, who will spend her vacation in the States.

Major-General the Rt. Hon. Sir Frederick Sykes accompanied by Lady Sykes and their son Bonar, arrived in Saint John yesterday and were met by Miss Margaret MacLaren, who accompanied them to Government House. Lady Sykes is the daughter of the late Rt. Hon. Andrew Bonar Law, New Brunswick born prime minister of Great Britain. The distinguished visitors arrived in Canada on Monday in C.P.S. Montclair, and visited Moncton and Rexton en route to Saint John. They continued their journey last evening to St. Andrews and expect to visit Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto and Niagara Falls before sailing next month from New York on their return to England.—Saint John Telegraph.

The marriage of Miss Florenza Johnson, daughter of Edward Johnson of the Metropolitan Opera, and Colonel George A. Drew, the noted author-soldier, is to take place in September in Guelph, Ont., the former home of both the bride-elect and Colonel Drew. Miss Johnson recently arrived in New York with Miss Margaret Eaton after spending some time with Lady Eaton in England.

Saint John

(Continued from Page Eight)

that it did not detect the fact that Fredericton had taken advantage of the situation for its own benefit before this late date? While we spent money on the Sportsmen's Show in Boston to stir up tourists' enthusiasm toward New Brunswick, Fredericton has apparently stepped into the picture to see that they did not overlook the Capital. Competition is the life of trade. It is up to the Saint John Tourist Association to see that this city's interests are taken care of in the hustle for tourists, and with up-to-date and aggressive neighbors it will take more than a visit to Boston to promote the city's interests. We should also have representatives at the border working in the interest of Saint John.

ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY MEETS
The regular quarterly meeting of the Fredericton St. Andrew's Society was held last night with a good attendance of members. Regular routine business was carried out, with the president, D. J. McLeod, in the chair. There were reports of various committees, including reports from Ald. F. S. Mundie and K. C. Bishop on the picnic held at Cold Springs this summer. Mr. McLeod showed motion picture reels which he had taken of the picnic this summer, as well as pictures taken of the picnics over the past five years. Mr. McLeod presented the reels to the club for its permanent possession. During the evening a programme of singing was carried out. Three new members were accepted into the Society. They are R. B. Forbes, Ralph Henderson of this city and R. R. Stevenson of Devon.

EIGHTEEN PARTIES HERE
No less than eighteen tourist parties called at the Fredericton Tourist bureau in Wilmot Park this morning. The tourists were from Toronto, Montreal, Detroit and various other places in the United States and Canada. Many of them are bound for the Gaspé area.

40 Appointments

(Continued from Page One)
New Jobs Created

Legislation passed at the last session of Parliament constitutes the basis for the majority of appointments which the Government will make. The Canadian National Railways, Radio Corporation, the Bank of Canada, and harbors of the Dominion, not to mention Government departments and branches, furnished the field for legislative change. In the process many posts of varied nature were created. The Government is called upon to implement the legislation and fill the positions.

A board of nine Governors, a general manager and assistant general manager will be named for the Radio Corporation. The legislation which forms the basis for this reorganization of radio administration in Canada followed closely on recommendations of the Commons special committee which investigated the Radio Commission last season. The committee brought in a unanimous report declaring for management by a general manager rather than by a Commission of three as at present. It also advised creation of a governing board representative of the Dominion.

C. N. R. and Bank
If reorganization of the Canadian National Railways administration proceeds immediately, seven directors must be appointed, one of whom will be President and Chairman of the Board. Legislation affecting the Bank of Canada calls for appointment of six directors to that institution, changing it over from private ownership and control. The new system of central control for Canada's harbors will necessitate appointment of three members to the National Harbor Board, of which one will be name Chairman.

Turning to amalgamation of Government departments into the De-

TO A DOG IN A THUNDERSTORM

You sulk beneath the nearest chair
With terrified and stricken air
As though the final blast of doom
Were charging on this very room;
Your tail is limp, your body shakes
At every sound the thunder makes.
And in your eyes' despairing glance
The lightning flames of torture dance.
Your loneliness in this dread hour
You deem is not within my power
To comfort or assuage, for you
Have sensed that I am frightened too!
And linked by common bond of fear,
We breathe as equals, crouching here.

—CAROLYN SLOAT.

CABINET MINISTERS LEAVE

Hon. A. P. Paterson, minister of education returned to Saint John after the government meeting last night. Hon. Dr. W. F. Roberts minister of health and labour left the city this morning.

Public Notice

Beginning August 17 permits for pupils to enter school will be issued at the Office of the School Board, HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING, from 10 a.m. to 12 NOON and from 2 to 4 p.m. DAILY, (SATURDAY FROM 10 a.m. to 12 NOON).

Every applicant for admission must present Certificate of successful vaccination.

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partment of Mines and Resources over which Hon. T. A. Crerar presides, and that of Transport, headed by Hon. C. D. Howe, other appointments must be made. In each case a Deputy Minister will be named, while directors for branches must also be selected.

Half a dozen judiciary vacancies await filling. There is a vacancy in the post of Dominion Archivist. There is one in the Senate. Senate vacancies will probably not be dealt with until shortly before the next session of Parliament.

Dr. B. R. Ross
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