

ADULT EDUCATION IS MUCH TO THE FORE AT PRESENT TIME

"Observer" Shows That New Brunswick Has Highest Percentage of Illiteracy of Any Province in Canada—Remedy Needed

Just at present the matter of adult education is very much to the fore. The pronouncement by the provincial government that the matter of extension of educational facilities is a pressing one, has brought the matter before the public as never before. Also, the oft-repeated statement that New Brunswick has the highest percentage of illiteracy of any province of Canada makes it imperative that something be done to remedy this condition.

Obviously we can take measures to see that the present generation has adequate instruction, but that does not solve the problem of what to do for the older generation who were denied, or did not take advantage of educational facilities in their youth. There is also, besides this latter class a large group who have had a general education but now wish to improve upon that and to embark upon some new course of learning.

The great incentive toward the adult movement has been the depression. So many people have been thrown out of employment, and consequently find themselves with a great amount of leisure time on their hands, that the idea of improving their educational standard has become very popular. To this there is the added incentive that by taking courses of study in other lines of work the student may thus fit himself for employment in some other field from that to which he has been accustomed. So there has grown up a great demand for opportunities for adults to go back to school.

So far there has been very little done in this regard in Canada. There has been, with one or two exceptions little organized effort upon the part of the authorities to provide facilities of instruction. One outstanding exception I shall refer to later. But in the United States, there has been great activity along this line. Education has been 'sold' to the business man and to the housewife. As has been said it is not so much a desire for knowledge for its own sake that inspires them, but the fact that improved standards are constantly becoming necessary to gain employment, and to hold the job one already has. Scattered throughout the country are educational centres, some held in the local, country schoolhouse and others arranged as extension courses of the universities. All varieties of courses are being offered; in the recognized arts and science subjects as well as the technical courses. In the larger centres the resources of the public libraries are at the disposal of all and reading courses are outlined. All this work is arranged and administered by the American Association for Adult Education, which is now ten years old. There are 32 information bureaux to advise prospective students as to what courses to take.

Another important feature of this work is that all studies of a classical or highly technical nature are arranged to be given in a simplified fashion, and to make use of a vocabulary easy enough, so that the student who has never reached high school may have no difficulty in following the work. Moreover, most of these courses are free.

To bring this discussion a little nearer home, let us consider one of the exceptions mentioned above which applies to Canada. On the Nova Scotia coast is the little village of Dover. It only has a population of about 300, who are wholly dependent upon their fishing catch. Ten years ago this village was poverty-stricken. Today, this village has a good road, a two-department school, a fish-curing plant, and the people are prosperous. This change has been brought about by nothing else than adult education. This experiment began with informal discussions conducted by the village priest in the general store; then a night class was organized under St. Francis Xavier University. Some learned to read and write, while others studied new methods in the fishing industry. Next year still other things are hoped for.

The case of Dover is illustrative of many other communities which have been benefited by the work carried on by the St. F. X. University. If this work can be carried on so successfully in Nova Scotia, why not in New Brunswick? We now have four recognized universities in this province, any one of which is capable of organizing this work. Since the New Brunswick government has already shown its interest in this type of work, and presumably is prepared to finance it, it would seem logical that the work should be carried out by the University of New Brunswick. However that might be, there should be no restriction placed upon other educational bodies doing what they wish in the matter. Until there is some central body organized to have jurisdiction over the whole Dominion, it seems up to our province to get busy. A central organization could have no accurate knowledge of the needs of N. B., such as a provincial body could have, and at best would be only a formal administration body.

There can be no greater need at the present time for a large body of our people than something such as I have outlined above. There may be, and undoubtedly are, other methods of carrying it out. One of those I plan to say something about in another article. (Note: Those who would like more information on the Dover experiment should consult the New York Times Magazine for May 17, 1936.)

—OBSERVER.
(To Be Continued)

PALESTINE—A British private succumbed to wounds today as Arabs, after a brief respite, resumed a campaign on sniping and firing on convoys from the hills. The private, attached to the Seaford Highlanders, was the sixth British soldier to die in the current disorders.

SOCIAL HAPPENINGS

Mrs. James Robinson of Millerton, N. B., is at the Queen Hotel today.

Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Gunter of Parrsboro, N. S., are spending a few days in the city.

Miss Beatrice DeVeber of Waltham, Mass., is visiting her sister, Mrs. Herbert Lee.

Jas. E. Rodgers, manager of the Staples Ltd. firm, left Friday for Ottawa to attend the Hewitt-Staples wedding, and will also visit his brother, Earle J. Rodgers, manager of the St. Catherine St. branch of the Bank of Nova Scotia at Montreal.

Jas. E. Rodgers, manager of W. Allen Staples Ltd., left Friday for Ottawa where he will attend the wedding of Miss Jean Staples to Fred H. Hewitt which takes place this week in the Canadian capital. Others present at the wedding will be the bride-elect's mother, Mrs. Allen Staples, and the aunt of the bridegroom, Mrs. Thos. Jones of this city.

Miss Ellen Gregg of the High School staff of St. Stephen and her guest, Mrs. Muir of Montreal, are leaving tomorrow on a trip to Prince Edward Island. They will be accompanied as far as Borden by Miss Gregg's brother, George Gregg of Montreal, and her sister, Miss Nan Gregg.

Earl Redmond of Boston, Mass., was a week-end visitor in the city, enroute to Newcastle. This is Mr. Redmond's first visit to New Brunswick and he was much impressed with the scenery along the way, and especially the beauties of Fredericton and vicinity. While in the city, Mr. Redmond was a guest of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Wilkins, Queen Street.

Many friends in the Capital will be pleased to hear that Captain Theodore G. Roberts has recovered from a recent illness at his home in Toronto.

Miss Madge King of the staff of the Queen Hotel, is spending her vacation with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William King at Woodstock.

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Dunham and children have returned home, after spending their vacation in Campbellton with Mr. Dunham's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Dunham.

Mr. and Mrs. Alden R. Clark and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Miller, of Saint John, motored to Kane's River for the weekend.

Miss Clara Doherty is a guest of Ven. Archdeacon and Mrs. A. F. Bate at their summer residence at Crook's Point on the St. John river.

Her Excellency the Lady Tweedsmuir attended by members of the Governor General's staff, visited the Hotel Dieu Hospital in Quebec, yesterday morning.

Miss Margaret Hall has returned from an extended trip to the Pacific Coast.

Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Simms are visiting Mrs. Simms' mother, Mrs. A. R. Foster and Sheriff Foster at Woodstock.

Lady Foster, of London, England, widow of the late Right Hon. Sir George Foster, is expected in Ottawa about July 25, and will be the guest of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Stevenson.

Seed Growers

(Continued from Page One) extended a welcome on behalf of the government and urged farmers to grow more roots and grains for livestock feeds. F. H. Hatheway, secretary of the Bear River Agricultural Society, brought greeting from that society.

C. C. F. ACTIVITIES IN N. B. FREDERICTON, JCT., July 13.—A large audience heard E. J. Garland, ex-M.P., for Bow River, Alberta, Dominion organizer for the Canadian Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, speak on National Problems in the Agricultural Hall here on the 10th instant. The chair was occupied by Clarence G. Smith of the Gadsden Branch of the N. B. section of the C. C. F., organized here last fall, and H. H. Stuart of the same branch acted as secretary. Alan Paterson of Montreal accompanied Mr. Garland, being in charge of the literature department.

Mr. Garland recently spoke with the branches in St. John, Moncton and Targetville (Bass River, Kent Co.) and at Richibucto, and organized new branches at Elgin (Albert County) and Havelock. On the 11th he spoke in Fredericton, effecting organization there, and left yesterday for a short trip to P. E. Island.

CARNIVAL TONIGHT

Jackson's Shows will open their carnival this evening on the riverfront at the west end of the city. A good time is assured at this carnival.

Lt. Col. and Mrs. B. W. Browne and Lt. Col. and Mrs. F. R. Phelan, of Montreal, are amongst the guests at the Queen Hotel.

Frank Bonnell of this city was a guest at the Dow-Holder wedding, which took place on Saturday in Saint John.

Hon. F. G. Bridges of Campbellton, was a week-end visitor in the city.

H. H. Stuart of Fredericton Junction spent the week-end in the city, the guest of his brother, J. R. Stuart, 272 Victoria Street.

Mrs. Hedley Bridges accompanied by her son, Hon. Francis Bridges of Campbellton left yesterday for Jacques River where she will spend several weeks at Bay View Inn.

Hugh O'Neill Sr. and his daughter Miss Martha O'Neill have gone to Grand Lake where they have taken up residence for the month of August.

Miss Alta Mae Adams, formerly of Fredericton, now of Boston, who was called to the city on account of the recent illness and subsequent death of her brother, the late H. R. Adams, is now the guest of Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Gabel at Woodstock.

Mrs. A. B. Kitchen, her granddaughter Miss Frances Kitchen, and Miss Marjorie Dickson left yesterday for Youghall Beach, Bathurst, where they will spend the week.

C. M. Pitts of Ottawa, who has been a visitor in the city for the past few days is leaving this afternoon for his home. Yesterday Mr. Pitts spent the day with his aunt, Mrs. J. Robertson McIntosh of Ottawa at her summer home at Westfield Beach.

At the Tea-Hour

Mrs. King, wife of J. K. King, deputy minister of agriculture, is to be hostess this afternoon at a charmingly arranged tea in honor of the wives of the delegates and visiting ladies at the convention of the Canadian Society of Technical Agriculturists. The guests will be received by the hostess Mrs. C. F. Bailey and Miss Alma Weldon. Ushering will be Mrs. E. M. Taylor and Mrs. Young. The tea and coffee cups will be presided over by Mrs. Leslie Wood and Mrs. D. J. McLeod. Others assisting will be Miss Margaret McMullen replenishing and Mrs. Stanley Wood, Miss Clara LeBlanc and Mrs. Robt. Smith serving. The house is bright with a profusion of garden flowers, on the tea table being roses and green tapers.

Mrs. F. E. Bayle, of Brookline, Mass., was a visitor in the city over the weekend, a guest of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Wilkins. Mrs. Bayle was enroute to Newcastle, to see her mother, Mrs. Mary Sullivan, who is ill at her home there due to an accident which occurred last week, when a team of horses attached to a wagon in which she was a passenger, ran away, upsetting the wagon and throwing her to the ground, causing painful injuries.

Picnic

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Technical Agriculturists

(Continued from Page One) made tremendous contributions to the public welfare in advancing policies calculated to promote the best interests of agriculture in this province.

The only feature of regret as the agriculturists commence their sessions at the Capital is the absence of Dean A. M. Shaw, the president who has been detained in the West, and who will not be able to be present at the week's deliberations. Dean Shaw was to have delivered his president's address this afternoon.

During the week, there will be numerous group sessions on Phytopathology, animal production, horticulture and soils. Tomorrow afternoon there will be an open session in charge of the Canadian Society of Agricultural Economics, and tomorrow evening an address in the Memorial hall of the U.N.B.

On Wednesday afternoon commencing at 4:30 o'clock there will be a garden party at the Dominion Experimental Station. On Friday the delegates will leave for Saint John in the morning and be luncheon guests of the Saint John Board of Trade at one o'clock, following which they will tour the city of Saint John.

Accommodation for the delegates is being provided in the Lady Beaverbrook residence and the residence at the Dominion Experimental Station. The president-elect for 1936-37 is Dean W. H. Brittain of McGill University.

The feature of the week will be the convocation at the University of New Brunswick on Thursday afternoon, at which time Leonard H. Newman, Dominion cerealist, will receive an honorary degree of doctor of science. At the same time Sir Edward Beatty, president of the C.P.R., will be one of the speakers on that occasion, and will receive an honorary degree of LL.D. from the university.

New Educational

(Continued from Page One) relation to grants for education," said Miss J. Norris, President of the Canadian Teachers' Federation. She urged a National Council of Education for research and more intensive training of teachers.

Mrs. E. E. Reece, President of the Ontario Federation, expressed the theme of the convention, which, she said, was a study of the new trends in education.

"We want to emphasize the spiritual side of life and the building of character in following new trends," she said.

At the afternoon session, Dr. George W. Kerby, in his Presidential address, made a comprehensive survey of the new trend in education, placing much emphasis upon the fact that "education is a continuous process which begins with birth and ends only with life itself." Adult education, education for parenthood and education which directs a community to solve its own problems were indicated as future developments in education.

"For the first time in educational history a curriculum is being built," said Dr. Kerby, "to meet the needs of all people, old and young. The old one," he continued, "was handed down to us; it was static; the new one continues to grow. The old one was a mastery of facts; the new one calls for a mastery of life."

Emphasizing the modern need for parent education, the speaker showed that every child had the right to be well born. He spoke of the race between education and civilization and pointed out the fact that "there are now more inmates in our institutions for the mentally unfit than there are students in our universities."

It was announced by the Treasurer in her report that the total receipts for the year were \$1,052, made up from fees, Founder's Day gifts, and sale of handbooks. The sale of the handbooks has been gratifying, and the committee recommended the printing of a second edition.

Among the resolutions passed was one emphasizing the fact that the organization is non-secretarian, non-partisan, and non-commercial.

Following the adjournment of the afternoon session, the delegates were the guests of the Toronto Board of Education, during a drive around the city. They were also guests of the Toronto Federation at tea at High Park Forest School, and later attended the Promenade Symphony Concert at Varsity Arena, with the Provincial Home and School Choir of Ontario participating.

The convention officers and delegates were the guests of the T. Eaton Company at luncheon.

This evening at the convention banquet, Mrs. E. E. Reece, will preside, and the guest speaker will be Mrs. Ralph Brodie, President of New York State Parent-Teachers' Association, and Director of Parents' Institutes.

DARDANELLES—Conflicting desires of Great Britain and Russia for warship passage in the Dardanelles still deadlock the Montreux conference. The Russian delegation, however, said it would not leave if Britain did not make considerable concessions, as had been threatened.

APPEAL FOR SUPPORT

At the Sunday morning service at St. Dunstan's church Rev. Dr. J. H. Milligan read a letter from Rt. Rev. Bishop Bray, the Bishop of the diocese, in which he made an appeal to the Roman Catholic congregation to support the "Adopt-a-Baby Week," which is being boosted this week in the province under the joint auspices of the N. B. Protestant Orphanage and the Knights of Columbus. He made a strong appeal for support.

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TENDERS

Tenders will be received at the Exhibition Office up to SATURDAY JULY 18th for the Dance Hall concession during Exhibition week.

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