

Address by Miss Caroline Robins, President, Canadian Teacher's Federation, to the Teacher Education Conference at the Canadian Education Association Convention, Winnipeg, Manitoba, September 28, 1956.

ROLE OF THE TEACHER

The role of the teaching profession in the teacher education program might be said to be three-fold:

- (1) Teacher training
- (2) In-service training
- (3) Public Relations program

Dealing with this topic, in the short time at our disposal, I do

not intend to relate the history of teacher organizations; neither do I intend to list the individual program of each provincial organization. On the other hand, there are trends in the field of teacher education that need impetus and zeal, and others that need stifling and nullifying before they become "littering" and destroy any vestige of a hope that teaching become a profession approximating other recognized professions.

Since their inception, which in some instances in Canada dates back prior to Confederation, teacher organizations have worked consistently and vigorously to raise

the status of the profession and to achieve standards which might bear some similarity to other recognized professions. Realizing that higher salaries are important if status is to be attained, much of the efforts of teacher organizations has been directed (during the early years of organization particularly) to teacher welfare. Adequate pensions are areas where great improvement has been made and areas where much remains to be done if we are, as I first stated, to attain professional status for those who teach.

Teacher organizations take their stand for improved conditions because they believe that teachers do mould the nation's future. Upon our shoulders rests much of the responsibility for the thinking and doing of her future citizens. Teaching, we believe, is the basic profession of all professions and unless our house is built on rock, it will perish. Our programs for the present and future include an adoption and enforcement of higher standards of selection, improved standards of certification, better means of preparation, invigorating programs for in-service growth, improvements in these conditions related to teacher welfare and the emphasis—that a university degree is a prerequisite to teaching. I am not presupposing that a holder of a degree is a prerequisite to teaching. I am not presupposing that a holder of a degree necessarily makes a teacher, but it does provide necessary tools and techniques, knowledge of the learning processes, to make a better teacher.

It is true there are many teachers with one or two years of training, more cash left over than years of experience and other preparation have demanded. It is impossible in a short term, even in one or two years, to acquire the accumulation of new learning, and improved teaching methods, and to have an inkling into the great strides that have been taken in understanding human growth and development.

We who are in the field of education need to do more to change the philosophy of many people—that anyone with the love of children can teach. True, a good teacher loves children and has their interests at heart but, because of this, also realizes that teaching is the most challenging of all professions and challenges can be met only with knowledge and understanding.

Much could be said of the role of the modern teacher. Suffice it to say that children come to school more sophisticated, better informed, from homes having access to every medium of communication but they also come with a sense of values based on material things; and society expects the teacher to do something about it. More and more, responsibilities once accepted by the home, by the church, by the community are being pressed into the classroom and the teacher is expected to accept these responsibilities.

Short cuts to solving the present crisis are merely palliatives offered to hoodwink the public into thinking they have their classrooms staffed with teachers when at best they have warm bodies that should never be labelled teachers.

EXPEDIENCY

Pressures of expediency are again getting heavy with increased enrolments, shortage of classrooms and shortage of teachers. Some seek the easy, quick answers. In some instances in North America the teaching profession has been forced to retreat and has lowered its standards. Indeed, to lower the requirements for teacher training is subscribed to by some provincial governments in an effort to staff classrooms but not with out a great deal of protest from teacher organizations. We who are in the classrooms know better than anyone else what happens to children when such standards are lowered. And the children of Canada have been entrusted to our care. The ultimate solution, as we see it, is to raise the standards to a professional level.

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IN-SERVICE TRAINING

In-service training programs have been inaugurated by every provincial organization. We believe that the professionally-minded teacher seeks opportunities for continuous growth. These programs include workshops, institutes, conferences and summer courses which are planned, devised, manned and financed by the teachers themselves. To take a few examples: New Brunswick's conferences on Basic Problems in Education involving teachers, trustees, county superintendents, etc., were given impetus by the New Brunswick Teachers' Association; the ambitious and comprehensive programs of the Okanagan Valley Teachers' Association; the Alberta Teachers' Association workshops on Ethics held at Banff; the summer courses sponsored by the Ontario Teachers' Federation on Education Philosophy, Psychology, and Educational Leadership. The First Canadian Conference on Reading attended by a thousand teachers, administrators, trustees and parents was sponsored by the Women Teachers' Association of Ontario. Six hundred attended the 1956 Conference on Social Studies. A delegate conference on Christian Curriculum Development was undertaken by the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association. For some years the course in School Administration for public school principals (or those aspiring) has been well received and recognized by school boards. This is sponsored by the Ontario and Saskatchewan in curriculum building. In Saskatchewan, the Federation cooperates with the Department and other interested organizations in this very important work. A class known as Education 510 on curriculum building is given at the University Summer School and, as part of this class, the Federation, with the Department, sponsors a three-day workshop to which are invited representatives from groups interested in curriculum development.

To encourage teachers to improve their qualifications, bursaries and scholarships are offered by teachers' organizations. More than \$62,000 is made available in one form or another, while additional funds are made available in the form of straight loans.

Education literature in the form of professional journals and newsletters is also a medium to further professional growth of the classroom teachers. During the past years more space has been devoted in our magazines to instructional help, to relationships to the organization and to criticism and interchange of ideas. Our magazine editors are sent at our expense to conferences of the Education Communications Service each year and our magazines are rated among the top education magazines in North America.

The field of research must not be forgotten—that done by provincial organizations and that by the Canadian Teachers' Federation, Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Manitoba and Saskatchewan are presently engaged in studying the retention of teachers. The Alberta Teachers' Association for many years has given substantial financial aid and leadership in the field of Educational Research. Merit Rating, Optimum Size of Schools, Examinations, Problems

In Health and Physical Education, Teacher Activity, Survey of Arithmetic Ability in N.S. schools, Living and Working Conditions of the Rural Teachers and Teachers and Teacher Shortage, are but some of the research endeavours completed by provincial organizations. Research Bulletins are issued periodically by our CTF Research Division established in 1953. It is provided now with a staff of three making C.T.F. one of few organizations equipped to do education research.

Teachers are aware of the challenge of Canada's future and are determined to see that education keeps pace. The next decade will see teaching become a true profession or an occupation as a means of livelihood. In the interests of Canada's youth, what is to be our answer?

This department is conducted by the Prince Edward Island Teachers' Association. Contributions are welcomed and should be sent to Estelle Bowness, General Secretary, 98 Prince St., Charlottetown.

TIMELY NOTES ON FUR TOPICS

October was a "rough" month for Chicago fur retailers with coat movements discouraged by temperatures which hovered in the sixties and seventies. Continuing warm weather also affected early November sales. Mink accounted for the major share of the months dollar business with small pelts, particularly stoies, pacing the market. Jackets did fairly well in some stores. Mutation mink outsold everything else in several stores and shared laurels with ranch mink in another salon. A high fashion fur store is promoting and selling—chinchilla, as well as Russian broadtail, although mink is the leader there as elsewhere.

has for years purchased its own low quality pelts and either destroyed them or donated them to trade schools for furrier training. Last year, it purchased its own inferior pelts up to \$4, yet it was confronted with a free importation of a quarter million mink pelts from Japan which sold for \$2 each. The American mink farmer should not be forced to compete with the Scandinavian mink producer whose labor costs are but a fraction of those of the American fur farmer.

"It would be unfair to allow an industry such as ours," he states, "to be destroyed by foreign competition whose labor costs are but a fraction of ours and whose industry is actually subsidized by his government in an effort to snare American dollars cheaply." For example, he notes, Denmark increased its mink shipments to America nearly 20 fold between 1946 and 1955. Finland's increase amounted to nearly 4,000 per cent. Sweden increased 3,700 per cent. Norway, which exported 52 pelts to the United States in 1946, sent 155,691 here in 1955, an increase of 3,300 per cent. The Scandinavian countries consumed practically none of their own mink but produced solely for export, he says, "almost the total production being dumped in this country."

"Differences in costs of production," Mr. MacArthur concludes, "would allow the Scandinavians to ride the market to its death as they did with fox." Pointing up the increasing influence of Scandinavia as compared to Canadian mink on the American scene, Mr. MacArthur notes that in 1946 Canadian mink comprised 40.71 per cent of mink imports as compared to 34.39 per cent in 1955, notwithstanding the fact that the number of Canadian pelts actually increased during that period. On the other hand, Scandinavian imports jumped from 4.15 per cent in 1946 to 40.72 per cent of total mink imports in 1955. Mr. MacArthur denies reports that American ranchers who sold breeders to Scandinavians promised their foreign customers America would be a market for their production.

Ed Gold writing in Women's Wear Daily states that every trade policy in which mink from every nation could compete on the open market is not only morally justified but practical as well, and according to Reuben Papert, the United States mink rancher will not suffer if the current import policy is continued. Mr. Papert has confidence of American absorptive potential and is equally certain that the domestic mink shipper is unnecessarily concerned about world mink over-production. He reasons as follows: "More and more it appears that the fashion importance of fur trimmings is returning. This year's increase in the use of fur trimmings on sweaters and dresses and suits and, of course, cloth coats would indicate we are on the threshold of this important fashion change."

TRIMMING BOOM

The record shows, Mr. Papert recalls, that during the late 1920s and early 1900s, "90 per cent or more of all women's fall and winter coats were fur trimmed." In recent years, he notes, about 10-15 per cent were fur trimmed. Convinced as he is that the trimming boom is of solid character, Mr. Papert then analyzes the potential in the coat and suit industry: Last year, he points out, the total production of women's and misses' cloth coats and suits was slightly over 40 million. Of this total, about 12 million, or 30 per cent, were fall and winter cloth coats and suits. "If only 50 per cent—not 80 per cent as in 1920-1930—of these fall and winter cloth coats and suits are fur trimmed," Mr. Papert contends, "it would be equivalent to 6 million coats and suits. And if, of this 60 per cent, only half were trimmed with mink, it would require a minimum of 3 million minks for the coat and suit industry alone."

Mr. Papert feels United States ranchers have been helped in mutation development by Scandinavian research. As one example, he states that the introduction of Finlandia topaz in 1954 was of assistance in advancing American breeding. Finally, Mr. Papert turns to the moral issue and to the question of what will benefit the entire fur industry. "A measure which artificially restricts the flow of trade, which curtails the quantity of the raw product and which raises, or tends to raise, prices generally weakens the over-all structure of an industry."

Vatican Radio Sharply Critical

VATICAN CITY (AP)—The Vatican Radio sharply criticized the West Friday, declaring that it had failed to halt bloodshed in Hungary.

"You can send an international police force to the Suez," said a radio commentator, "but you can't send one to Hungary because the Soviets oppose it."

"The Western world, lavish with protests, did not succeed in stopping the slaughter of men and freedom perpetrated by Soviet divisions."

The commentator said that everyone is convinced that the West's "extreme prudence and decency" in dealing with the "Soviet assassins" was the only means of preserving world peace.

He added: "I have a right to ask whether Hungary's slavery is too high a price and how long a crime can remain unpunished because it has been committed by a great power?"

OTHER SIDE

And here's the other side of the fur picture, according to Arthur MacArthur, president of Mutation Mink Breeders Association: Unlike the American mink farmer receives protection against the importation of foreign mink pelts, the entire fur industry will suffer irreparable damage. Scandinavian imports to the United States increased 3,800 per cent in the last nine years. "Once mink becomes common-place, it becomes a w a t e r," Mr. MacArthur claims. Once down, mink will be out for the duration of our business generation. Scandinavian ranchers cannot or will not concede that their present tactics will downgrade mink to the point of no return. We have no intention of allowing them to create a competition of the fox saga in mink. Even though fox is an intrinsically beautiful fur, present fur auctions in this commodity makes one "weep."

Mr. MacArthur states he believes free trade to be a wonderful idea. However, he points out that import duty has not hurt the causes of French perfumes, British woolsens, wrist watches or German cameras. Calling mutation mink a product of the North American rancher, Mr. MacArthur says that during a 10-year period EMBA has spent millions of dollars in prestige advertising, promotion and publicity. This year's EMBA crop will be pre-sold by spending \$500,000 for EMBA advertising. EMBA's orderly marketing, merchandising, grading and quality control have been instrumental in building a steadily expanding demand while supporting the integrity of the article, he feels. Scandinavian mink producers, he says, have obviously been unconcerned with the problems of merchandising, marketing and promotion of mink but have ridden precariously along on the American demand created by

Report Split In LPP In Canada

TORONTO (CP)—A serious split in the Labor-Progressive Communist party here over Russian anti-Semitism and Russia's method of crushing the Hungarian revolt has resulted in the resignations of two high-ranking members of the party's national executive, it was reported here Wednesday.

A party source was reported as saying Harry Binder and Norman Penner have resigned from the executive.

Last month seven Quebec Communists resigned from the national executive and the party. Quebec Communist leader Gué Caron, writing in the Canadian Tribune, weekly organ of the party, said he and six other Communists resigned because they were sceptical of the Soviet Union's "new look" and because the party continues to be ruled from Moscow.

He said that the LPP has a strong resistance to breaking ties with the Communist party of the Soviet Union and in the past had demonstrated "hundreds of subversion" to Moscow.

The next day, Joseph Salberg, former Labor-Progressive party member of the Ontario legislature for Toronto Spadina, at a meeting in Toronto, challenged the domination of the Canadian party by the Russian party line.

He accused the Soviet Union of suppressing criticism and showing racial and religious prejudices.

GIVE \$\$\$ TO FUND

MONTGOMERY (CP)—George Schurman, manager of the Montreal Hawks in the Southern New Brunswick Hockey League, announced Thursday that the Springfield Disaster Relief Fund will receive \$500 from a Wednesday night exhibition tilt with Essex Legionaires.

EMBA, UMPA AND GIMA STABILITY

Mr. MacArthur points out that the three major marketing associations are attempting to maintain soundness and stability in the fur market. In order to protect the prestige of mink pelts EMBA

development of children and in the whole realm of education. It is also interesting to note that in the year 1953-54, 35,000 teachers or 34 per cent of the teaching force do not have senior matriculation plus one year of teacher training or its equivalent. We cannot lose sight of the fact that from 1941 to 1951 there was a considerable increase in the proportion of the population 15-19 years attending school and a large proportion attending university. At the same time there were only small increases in the proportion of teachers with degrees and teachers with first class and higher certificates. In other words, standards of education of teachers have not kept pace with the increasing standards of education of the population (from which we draw our teachers.)

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TO	10% Down		Monthly Payments	
	\$	Cts	\$	Cts
Amsterdam	113.00	11.30	11.30	97.45
Copenhagen	103.00	10.30	10.30	7.58
Dublin	98.00	9.80	9.80	7.58
Geneva	120.00	12.00	12.00	6.51
Glasgow	120.00	12.00	12.00	6.51
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You make 25 deposits one every second week	At the end of 50 weeks you get a cheque for
\$1	\$25
\$2	\$50
\$5	\$125
\$10	\$250
\$20	\$500

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