Widening Educational Horizons

A FOREWORD

By Wm. A. MacPhee, Supervisor of Teacher Training, Prince of Wales College

Behold all things become new! schools, methods, curricula even our Educational Horizon has taken on a new look and has been renewed in name and spirit. The "Widening Educational Horizons" is going to be a continued aid to the teachers-in-service in the Province and we in the teacher-training department of Prince of Wales College will be glad to help.

Education is at the crossroads we are told. Which road are we going to follow, the old or the new? Some people believe that all a teacher needs to be successful is a thorough knowledge of the subject matter to be taught. They would contend that far too much time is spent on methodology and on getting pupils adjusted socially, not nearly enough time on the three R's, and necessary fundamentals. In our own Province, where many of the teachers are young and inexperienced, certainly some provision must be made to train teachers to conduct classes properly and to teach different types of lessons. The best methods of educating efficiently should be made available to every teacher in the Province, to the old as well as to the young. The older members of the profession very often need to review and remodel their methods to keep pace with the ever changing world in which we live.

The success of our education depends on the calibre of our teachers. A good teacher knows her subject matter, drills faithfully on the fundamentals, maintains an orderly classroom, and above all endeavours to have her pupils think clearly. She cannot make difficult things easy but she can motivate dull things and make them interesting. A wise and experienced teacher will try the different methods to see which will work, using neither the old entirely nor yet the new but she judicially selects and utilizes the best from each.

A project such as "Widening Educational Horizons" which is endeavouring to further the cause of education on Prince Edward Island should be widely read by, and receive the hearty support of all our citizens.

PRIMARY

Natural Science

Last week we talked of the leaves and how they got ready for winter. You will notice that they are nearly all off the trees now.

There is something else we are missing from the out of doors these days, it is the birds; there aren't so many around the trees now.

Where do they go in Autumn? Well the birds are flying away and when they fly away we say they migrate. Wild ducks and geese are migrating now and so are robins and blackbirds. They fly a long, long way to their winter homes. Most of them fly at night. Sometimes you can hear geese honking at night, they are migrating.

Most birds come together in flocks before they migrate. They travel together on their long trip south. Some day you may see the bushes in your yard full of birds, these have lived north of us during the summer, they are migrating now and have stopped in your yard to eat. If your yard is a good feeding place they may stay a few days.

Some birds do not go away in the Autumn, they stay with us all winter. Food is not always plentiful for them in winter especially if there is much snow. It would be a very kind act if school children put out food for these little creatures.

Busy Work For The Beginners

Perhaps by now your beginning children have learned to recognize the three primary colors and the words red, yellow and blue, — if so, give each child a large piece of paper—wrapping paper will do —make three columns and on the top print the words thus:

RED	YELLOW	BLUE

Give the children old magazines and blunt point scissors, have them cut out red pictures, yellow pictures, and blue pictures and paste them under the correct word.

This activity will keep them busy as well as show that they know the words and colors.

INTERMEDIATE

Knowing a Good Paragraph

Read this paragraph written by a Grade V pupil:

The appearance of dainty Miss Crocus is a sign that spring has come. She surprises us just as the snow disappears. Through a crack in the earth a tiny, green shoot peeps into the new world. Soon three or four slender leaves and a yellow or purple flower show themselves. The Crocus is a beautiful lady in a silken gown, welcoming spring.

Is this a good paragraph?

You have learned that a paragraph is a group of four or five good sentences. How many sentences are there in this paragraph? Look at each one and see if it is complete. Are there too many AND, and AND SO, sentences? Are the periods and capitals placed in their proper positions?

The story should be about one thing only. What is this story about? Does each story keep to the point?

There should be a good beginning sentence. It should tell what the story is about. It should, also, make us want to hear the rest of the story. Do you think it does these things?

The story must have a good ending sentence. This sentence must make you feel that the story is really complete and it must do this in an interesting way. Does the sentence, "The crocus is a beautiful lady in a silken gown welcoming spring"—satisfy you?

Finally a good story does more than just tell what has been done, what has been seen, or what has happened. It also tells what the author feels or thinks about these things. Find a word in the second sentence that shows that the writer of this story is telling what she feels or thinks.

Synonyms

Words that have almost the same meaning are called synonyms. It is most important that pupils know a number of synonyms so that they can vary their speaking and writing and thus make it more interesting without changing the meaning.

Examine the following paragraph and have the children tell what is the matter with it.

"The elephant is a big animal which roams the big jungles of Africa. It is armed with big tusks. When frightened, it trumpets a big call."

After the class has discussed its weakness, re-write it using synonyms for the word "big."

"The elephant is a gigantic animal which roams the vast jungles of Africa. It is armed with huge tusks. When frightened it trumpets a tremendous call."

This second paragraph shows how important it is for you to know a number of words which have almost the same meaning.

The following words are pairs of synonyms arranged in no particular order. Re-arrange them in pairs so that each pair will be synonyms.

fright	book	want	hamper
fast	hinder	loving	rapid
affectionate	weary	tired	
volume	fight	need	battle
fear			

SENIOR

Ambassadors

Canada has named Edmond Turcotte as its first ambassador to Colombia.

H. Hume Wong, Canada's Ambassador to the United States is returning to Ottawa to become undersecretary of state for external affairs. He is succeeded in Washington by Mr. Arnold D. P. Heeney. Mr. Heeney has been Canada's permanent representative to the North Atlantic Council and representative as the Officer of European Economic Co-operation. Taking over Mr. Heeney's former duties is Mr. L. Dana Wilgress. Mr. Wilgress has been Undersecretary of State since 1952.

Senate Appointments

Prime Minister St. Laurent announced the appointment of four new senators on May 19 and seven more on June 12.

Those named in May were:

Mme. Marianne B. Jodoin, Montreal.

Mrs. Muriel M. Fergusson, Fredericton, N.B.

J. Walter Jones, Charlottetown P.E.I.

Allan L. Woodrow, Toronto.

Those named on June 12 were:

Hon. W. Ross MacDonald, Speaker and M.P. for Brantford, Ont.

Joseph A. Bradette, M.P. for Cochrane.

Leonard D. S. Tremblay, M.P. for Dorchester.

Sarto Fournier, M.P. for Maisonneuve, Rosemount.

Aurel D. L. Leger, M.P. for Kent, N.B.

John J. Connolly, Ottawa.

Frederic Gordon Bradley, Secretary of State.

The appointments reduce to 12 the number of vacancies in the 102-seat Senate. There are now four women in the Upper House.

The provinces are represented in the Senate as follows:

Newfoundland	6
P. E. I.	4
N. S.	10
N. B.	10
Quebec	24
Manitoba	6
Sask.	6
Alberta	6
B. C.	6
Ontario	24
Total	102

Privy Council

Mr. George Drew is the first opposition leader ever to be appointed to the Privy Council in Canada. Prime Minister St. Laurent made the appointment in order to give Mr. Drew and three other Privy Councillors appointed along with him, a larger status at the Coronation.

No one is named to the Privy Council without a record of long and honorable service in public life.

New Appointments

John S. McDiarmid, a former member of Manitoba's Liberal-Progressive government was appointed Lieut.-Gov. of Manitoba effective Aug. 1. He succeeds Hon. R. F. MacWilliams, retired.

Sydney D. Pierce, Canadian Minister to Washington was appointed Ambassador to Brazil, effective August 1.

J. W. Pickersgill was elected to a seat in the House in Bonavista-Twillingate, Newfoundland. Mr. Pickersgill was at one time, private secretary to the late Hon. W. L. M. King.

Canada In World Trade

Canada was the world's third largest trading country in 1952. Total trade amounted to $581 per head of population, a figure exceeded only by New Zealand.

As well, Canada ranked first as a supplier of goods to the United Kingdom and to the United States, accounting for 9.2 per cent of the U. K.'s imports and 22 per cent of the trade of the United States.

Canada was also the leading foreign purchaser of the United States goods, and was fourth as a market for the goods of the United Kingdom.

Mrs. Pandit

At the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1946 Mr. Vijaya Lakshimi Pandit was the first woman to head a delegation to the United Nations. She led the Indian delegation during that session and now in 1953 she is the President of the General Assembly. In the years between she has served as ambassador to the U. S.S.R. and the United States.

Mrs. Pandit is the sister of Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India. She has three daughters and four grandchildren. Her husband, the late Ranjit Pandit, was a barrister-in-law.

Drama

Those of you who are interested in the production and growth of Drama in our Island Province can not be other than interested in the report of the Drama Festival held in Stratford, Ont., this last July.

"What has been described as the most exciting night in the history of the Canadian theatre took place in Stratford, Ont., with the opening production of Richard III in the Stratford Shakespeare festival on July 13.

"The festival was extended for one week beyond its original five week plans due to the great interest in the production. Drama critics have been enthused over Tyrone Guthrie's production of Richard III and All's Well That Ends Well—over the vision of Tom Patterson and the other people of Stratford who have made this adventure in expert theatre."

While we may never hope to reach this height of attainment nevertheless it does show what can be done in the face of difficulties and sometimes public criticism.

Dr. Laycock

On Nov. 18 Dr. S. R. Laycock will be in Charlottetown. He will speak in Prince of Wales College at two o'clock in the afternoon and again in the evening at eight o'clock. His afternoon address will be "How to Make Home and School More Effective", and in the evening he will speak on "Education, a Joint Responsibility for Home, School, and Community."

Dr. Laycock, who is Past President of the Canadian Home and School, is one of Canada's outstanding child psychologists, an author and educator. In June he retired as Dean of Education from the University of Saskatchewan. He has just returned from a tour of England and the Scandinavian countries where he studied home and school problems. Every teacher should embrace the opportunity to hear this gifted speaker. He will have a message for you as well as the members of the Home and School Association.

Education

If people started worrying about education there is no telling what might happen. They might even decide that the educating of the young people is really an important job, perhaps the most important there is, and that the young people should be taught to think for themselves as well as to memorize things and use their hands, after a fashion — all of which would be revolutionary and would upset our pleasant way of life no end.

(From Saturday Night)

The following are excerpts from an address by Dr. R. C. Wallace, former principal of Queen's University, to the Women Teachers' Association of Ontario.

THE PROFESSION

The most important thing about the teaching profession is the qualities that make a good teacher. Probably the best way to get some appreciation of what these qualities are is to think about those who were our best teachers and consider why they were so good. What were the qualities that counted in these teachers? Above all, I think understanding and sympathy. Then knowledge wide and accurate. An unfailing sense of humor, enthusiasm, and, in the women, charm. There were doubtless other things, but these remain in my memory as significant. They made these teachers great.

So much for qualities. What about the status of the profession? Here we labor under two disabilities. The first is that the work of the teacher is with young people who do not yet count in the larger affairs, and that in itself restricts the interests of the teacher. He or she is not likely to take part in these movements of local or of world significance as is, for example, the lawyer whose daily work has to do with such problems. It is a fact that the teacher is less effective in matters outside his profession than are many in other professions or in business. And he talks shop too much and associates with those who can talk the same kind of shop. That is not the way to count in the community.

The other disability is that a large proportion in the teaching profession have a low level of qualifications. It is frankly not good enough to dignify with the name of a profession an occupation which can be entered with only one year of training after high school. No other profession, for men or for women, has this low standard of professional qualifications. Until a much higher level of training is demanded and obtained, the status of the profession will remain, and remain deservedly, low. I am fully aware of the present exigency with reference to the supply of teachers and sympathize with the steps that have to be taken as a temporary measure. But only temporarily. The training of the minor—one of the most difficult and important arts—needs able, well disciplined minds to guide and direct. It is necessary that the public appreciate this fact, and plan accordingly.

What has been said is not to imply that no teachers take part in community activities which have no direct relationship to professional duties. Many do, and their numbers increase. It is significant that the leaders of two political parties in the House of Commons were teachers, as were several prominent members. What has been said is rather to point the way to greater public service, and thereby to enhance status. There is so much to be done for the community and for the wider claims of humanity. There are so few people who are willing to give their time to do it.

What of the rewards that this profession offers? And first, what of the financial rewards? They are low as compared with the professions of law and medicine; high as compared with that of the Christian ministry. Teachers have done much through their own organizations to impress on the public mind and on school trustees the need for a better financial status, and much has been achieved. In some directions more has got to be done. It is the case that a young teacher with the bare minimum of training is, as a rule, earning all that she is worth as an initial salary, and more than she could hve earned in any other field with similar training. It is not the case, however, that well trained teachers earn as much as they should, and progressive school boards are more and more inclined to put weight on ability and superior training in establishing the higher grades of salary level. Even under the best conditions this is not a lucrative undertaking, and no one who enters the ranks of the teachers is under any delusion in the matter.

But there are compensations. The great thrill that comes to a teacher, and that more than counterbalances many hours of tiredness and despondency, is when a former pupil comes to tell him that what he, the teacher, said and was had meant much to him, his pupil. There is no greater satisfaction than an unbidden tribute from some one who years ago had been a small boy or girl in his classroom. Life becomes worth while. One knows that for the one who is impelled to speak there are many who are too shy to express gratitude. The teacher's job is to mould the minds and the hearts at a time when such moulding is possible. What is accomplished can never fully be known. Even under the most adverse conditions some seed is planted.

You remember Arthur Clanghis' lines:

"For while the tired waves vainly breaking
Seem here no painful inch to gain
Far back through creeks and inlets making
Comes silent, flooding in the main."

That is the kind of faith that we need in our profession. There are many times when it would seem that no painful inch is gained. But one cannot be fully aware of the momentum that may be gathering force out of sight and beyond our ken. Nature's processes are slow, very slow. It is the slow, steady, unspectacular force that counts. So it is with all of us, for we are part of nature. There is an ebb and flow in human progress, but over the long ages the movement is upward.

So it will continue to be if we continue in our tasks with courage and hope. We can all achieve so much if we give our abilities full play. To us has been entrusted the charge of helping young people to use their abilities to the utmost. May I, as one who is older and moving towards the end of the journey, give you this single word of encouragement. I could have chosen no other way of life that would have given more worthwhile reward.

POET-LAWYER

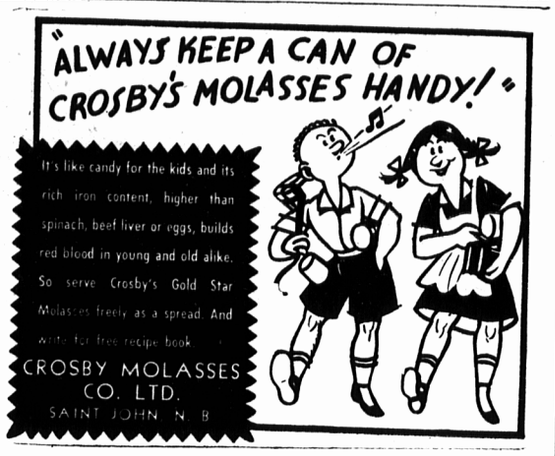
Louis Honore Frechette, French-Canadian poet who died in 1908, was also a lawyer and member of Parliament.

CATCH MANY SHARKS

LOOE, England (CP)—The Shark Angling Club of Great Britain, formed at this Cornwall port a year ago, now reports its 48 members have landed 285 sharks to date. The biggest, landed recently off Dorset, weighed 236 pounds.

FINE ENGINE

VANCOUVER — (CP) — Ships arriving here included the first commercial vessel equipped with a new turbo-charge diesel engine, the 10,000-ton Danish freighter Songkla. She covered the San Francisco-Vancouver run in record time of 52 hours. The engine uses exhaust gas to drive blowers which keep cylinders clean with forced aid.



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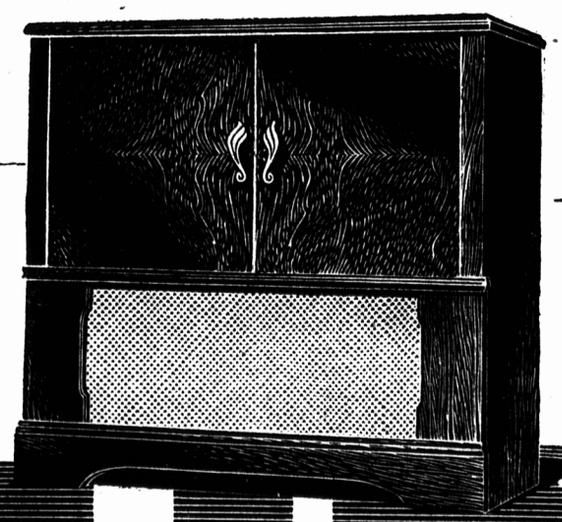

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