

Widening Educational Horizons

THE CONVENTION

Our Prince Edward Island Teachers Federation has concluded a most successful three-day conference. Approximately 800 teachers were in attendance and they will return to their classrooms with a fresh outlook and renewed enthusiasm to carry on the work of instructing the young.

We must not forget the effort that is put into arranging a program for a convention of this sort. It must be a program that gives teachers from Grades 1 to XII some bit of interest, and this is no small task. Each year one is endeavoring to arrange a program that will give each teacher something that will make him feel that it was worthwhile.

Our speakers were of a particularly high order. Dr. Shaw has given us something inspirational to give. Mr. George Cross, secretary of the Canadian Teachers' Federation, of which we are an affiliate, was with us. To be reminded of the fact that we belong to a group of 70,000 teachers who are ready and willing to give us encouragement and help is inspiring. Dr. S. R. Laycock's address both in the plenary session and at the banquet were both instructive and entertaining.

Dr. Laycock, since his retirement from teaching, has allied himself with the Canadian Mental Health Association. He gave us an idea of the need for this type of work, especially the need that teachers should have a great understanding of all type of children. Since this is a comparatively new field that is being opened up—particularly in our own province—we are printing in this column some information that may give the reader an insight into what is being done in this work. These are excerpts from a pamphlet published by the Mental Health Division of the Department of Health and Welfare.

MENTAL HEALTH

There is one quality common to people who enjoy good mental health—emotional security.

Such persons are useful members of society, reasonably happy and well-adjusted, who get along with their families, friends, schoolmates and business associates. They have their share of the "blues," get into quarrels and once in a while lose their tempers, but they have learned to take the ups and downs, the troubles and annoyances of everyday living with a minimum of damage to themselves and others. As you'd expect, these people are able to meet life's serious crises successfully.

Overwork, not enough recreation, selfish living... these won't necessarily make us mentally ill but they can lower our mental health. Regular, adequate meals, eight hours sleep, fresh air and exercise is time-tried advice for general health. It applies to mental health, too! Family life, the church and social activities should play their important parts, each in reasonable proportion.

In this way we can keep emotional equilibrium respect for ourselves and others, self-control, tolerance of the other person's views, ability to give as well as to take, making decisions and accepting responsibility, facing up to problems and meeting success and failure with equally good grace.

Wise parents today realize more and more that children need a healthy emotional background just as much as good food and clothing and education. If you wish more detailed information on this, there are many helpful publications available free through your provincial health departments or local health units.

SOCIOMETRIC TESTING

What it is— A Sociometric Test consists of one or more questions about a group of people in the classroom group. In general it will tell you: (a) If there are any "isolates" (rejected children) in your class. (b) Who the "stars" (social leaders) are in the group. (c) What the natural groupings are in your class.

Reasons for— (a) From the mental health standpoint the "isolates" are the children in your room who need your help the most. Sometimes a teacher spots these children readily, but frequently the test reveals one or more children who because of their quietness and conformity, have not seemed to need special help. (b) Similarly, the "stars" or leaders are not always your "best pupils." These children have quite an influence in the class and it is helpful to take advantage of this in group activities and in the developing of a class esprit de corps.

(c) For projects, enterprises, committees and any sort of group activities it is more effective if the natural groupings of a class are used, rather than to group arbitrarily (e.g. by rows). Several studies have indicated that children work better in close association with pupils they like.

Method—

Avoid use of the work "test." Ask simple questions, e.g. "Write the name of the boy or girl with whom you'd like to work on a Junior Red Cross Committee next week." Tabulate the results. If your purpose is to detect isolates (i.e. those with zero choices), it is better to ask several questions. If your purpose is to form committees, one question (allowing three choices) is best. Also, for this latter purpose, a diagram (sociogram) is helpful. In any event, sociometric results should never be revealed to the pupils.

Social Relationships—

In any group, sociometric scores vary widely. Usually a few children obtain very high scores, a few very low, with the majority in between. No matter how high his score is, no child is liked by every other child; very few children are disliked by every other child; some are like the socially dominating ones and some like the weak, helpless types. In fact, all sorts of social patterns reveal themselves. It is difficult to say which is the most typical pattern or which the most desirable. Certainly our aim is not to increase popularity. The "ordinary" child seems to be the one who is liked by some, ignored by others, and disliked perhaps by a few. Not being a "star" he is freed from obligation continually to shine. Not being isolated, he does not endure the fears that come from loneliness.

Follow-up Procedures

(a) Have a special word for this type of child at least once each week.

day. Often he learns to relate to the teacher before he learns to get along with others. (b) Never overlook an opportunity to draw the isolate out of his shell—praise any bit of good work, assign him a small task, let him show a project or position to the class, base a lesson on his particular interest, and so on. (c) Try to involve him in some work with one other pupil—preferably one he has chosen on the test. Coaching or being coached in a weak subject is often an opportunity. (d) Do not push this type of child into group or social activities. To tell these children to "get out and be with the other kids" is not only futile but may be harmful. They are socially not ready. (e) Use enterprises and other forms of group teaching. These are invaluable in permitting a child to contribute at his own level and for winning social acceptance.

In conclusion, remember that sociometrics are designed to help you understand the social relationships that exist in your classroom. This will help you interpret individual and group behaviour and thus result in more effective teaching, in every sense of the term. For further information on the use of Sociometric Tests contact Mona J. Clay, Guidance Consultant, Mental Health Division, 100 Fitzroy Street.

This column is conducted by the Prince Edward Island Teachers Federation. Contributions are welcome and should be sent to Estelle Bowness, 98 Prince St., Charlottetown.

Eastern Guardian

REGULAR meeting of Ladies Auxiliary of Canadian Legion, Monday night, Legion Hall, Montague. MONTAGUE Home and School meeting tonight. New school, 8:15. IS CONVALESCING—Friends of Mr. Maynard Aitken, Lower Montague, are pleased to hear he is convalescing satisfactorily at the Prince Edward Island Hospital following his recent illness.

RETURN TO CARDIGAN—Mr. and Mrs. Bernie Cann and sons, Forrester and Thomas, returned to Cardigan after spending the winter months at Port Matilda, N.S. Mr. Cann is manager of the government fish hatchery at Cardigan.

2ND POLIO INOCULATIONS for Grade 1 Pupils only in Charlottetown Schools—Monday, April 18, at 9:00 a.m. at Prince Street School; 10:30 West Kent; 2:00 p.m. Queen Square. Tuesday, April 19th at 9:00 a.m. at Model School and Rochford Square; 10:30 Notre Dame. Children who missed the first dose may have it at these clinics.

LODGE MEETING—Frances Shaw, F.N.C., presided at the regular meeting of ACME Rebekah Lodge, Montague, Thursday evening. There was a very large attendance, including sixteen officers. Routine business included final arrangements for annual banquet. The committee in charge includes Lillian MacDonald, Florrie Beaton, Edith Macdonald and Florence Stewart. A warm welcome was extended to Kathleen Cann who recently returned to her home after spending the past four months at Port Matilda, N.S. D.D.P. Marjorie Johnston reported for the sick committee and Florrie Beaton reported for the play committee. Lodge closed in regular form.

W. M. S. MEETING—The regular monthly meeting of the Women's Missionary Society of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Montague, was held in the church vestry Tuesday evening with Mrs. Malcolm MacKenzie presiding. The call to worship, John 11: 25, 26 and Rev. 1: 17, 18 was read by Mrs. MacKenzie, and the hymn, "Jesus Keep Me Near The Cross" was sung. The theme of the Easter meeting was "Jesus Christ—Alive Forevermore" and a very interesting exposition of the theme was read by the leader. A session of prayer and the Lord's Prayer in union closed the devotional part of the meeting. Roll call was answered with a verse of scripture containing the word "Quiet." The minutes of the last meeting were read by Mrs. A. D. MacLure, and were approved as read. The financial report was read by the treasurer, Mrs. H. E. Nelson. The correspondence was read and included a letter of appreciation for a generous donation towards the fund for the new Presbyterian home for girls in Toronto. The study period was conducted by Mrs. MacLure who chose as her theme "The Road to Emmaus." The closing hymn was "Father of Love and God of Peace," followed by the Mizpah benediction in union.

PERSONALS—Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Patterson, and daughters Linda and Brenda, of Sussex, N.B., are spending some time at the home of Mrs. Patterson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. K. Clements, Montague. Mrs. Lloyd Melnis, Ottawa,

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Murray River

The Misses Joyce and Marlene Buell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Buell, Charlottetown, spent their Easter holidays in Murray River, guests of their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Simon Buell.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Tuttle and children, Lowell and Lawrence, have returned to their homes in Fairfax, Va. Mr. Tuttle arrived home on Good Friday, while Mrs. Tuttle and children have been at home for the past few weeks due to the illness of her mother, Mrs. William F. MacLeod. Her many friends are pleased to hear she is feeling much better.

Mr. Maynard MacDonald, Charlottetown, was a recent visitor to Murray River, guest of Mr. and Mrs. Fred MacLeod.

Mr. and Mrs. Reagh MacLeod, Broadbalm, spent the past week end in Murray River, at the home of Mr. MacLeod's mother, Mrs. M. M. MacLeod.

Miss Annabelle Bruce, Charlottetown, spent the Easter holidays at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John D. Bruce, High Bank.

Miss Isabell MacLeod, student at Dalhousie University, spent her Easter holidays at her home in Murray River.

Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Hume and children, Alden and Larry, Charlottetown, spent the Easter holidays in Murray River, guests of Mr. and Mrs. Crete Beck.

Miss Janet Stewart, Charlottetown, spent the Easter holidays at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Norman C. Stewart, High Bank.

Miss Lillian Glover, Halifax, N. S., spent the Easter holidays at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. David Glover, Murray River.

SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL

Report for March: Grade IX — 1. Ewen Sinclair; 2. Ellen Curley. Grade IX (a) — 1. Barbara Sinclair. Grade IX (b) — 1. Gerald Mayne; 2. Wayne Paynter; 3. Frank Haslam. Grade VIII — 1. Emmett Hagen. Grade VII — 1. Lena MacKay; 2. Carolyn Seaman; 3. Jean Hagen. Grade V — 1. Shirley Mayne; 2. Edith Sinclair; 3. Imelda Curley. Grade IV — 1. Beverley Haslam; 2. Billy Gillespie; 3. Arlene Mayne. Grade III (a) — 1. Mabel Proffitt; 2. Allan Sinclair. Grade III (b) — 1. Marjorie MacKay and Marlene Croken (equal); 2. Beryl Haslam; 3. Paul Hagen and Boyce Campbell (equal). Grade II — 1. Joanne Croken; 2. Willie Mayne and Nora Curley (equal); 3. Wyn Barrett. Grade I — 1. Betty Haslam; 2. Alden Proffitt and Blair Sinclair (equal). Highest average in the Senior grades, Lena MacKay. Highest average in the Junior grades, Mabel Proffitt. Perfect Attendance: Gerald Mayne, Edith Sinclair, Imelda Curley, Lindsay Seaman, Chester Paynter, Beverley Haslam, Arlene Mayne, Justin Curley, Beryl Haslam, Paul Hagen, Marlene Croken, Boyce Campbell, Nora Curley, Joanne Croken. Teacher: Allan MacKay.

GRAND VIEW SCHOOL (March Report) GRADE IX — 1. Kathleen Gillis; 2. Mary MacLean. GRADE VIII — 1. Joan Gillis; 2. Bobby Enman; 3. Wyn Behm. GRADE VII — 1. Ruth MacLean. GRADE VI — 1. Sheila Behm; 2. Effie MacBeth; 3. Tommy MacPherson. GRADE V — 1. Wayne MacPhee; 2. Ernest MacLeod; 3. Kay Enman. GRADE III (Sr.) — 1. Harry MacLean; 2. Neil MacBeth. GRADE III (Jr.) — 1. Mary MacLeod. GRADE II — 1. Blyce MacPherson. GRADE I — 1. John MacBeth. Teacher — Shirley Clow.

who is spending several months at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Martin, Caladonia, is also visiting her husband's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Colin McInnis, Glen William.

Mr. and Mrs. Emmerson K. Johnston and son, Gary, Murray River, left recently for New York, where they will spend a few days.

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Islander Greeted By Mayor

There is nothing too good for the Irish. Apparently it seemed that way last week at the Chateau Laurier Hotel in Ottawa following the annual banquet of the Irish Society in that city, when Her Worship, Mayor Dr. Charlotte Whitton, C.B.E., is seen presenting a pot of shamrocks to Mr. Gerald P. Murtagh, formerly from Charlottetown, P. E. Island. The Ottawa Mayor is chatting with the former Islander of her trip to the Island's Capital late next week. Mr. Murtagh is with the staff of the Health and Welfare Division, Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa. Photo by Van.

Moncton, N. B. She was accompanied home by her son, Melvyn and Mr. Kenneth MacQueen, who both remained here for the Easter holidays.

Miss Bertha MacLean, who is employed at the R. C. A. F. Station in Summerside, spent the Easter holidays at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John W. MacLean, High Bank.

A successful cake sale was held last Saturday evening by the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Free Church of Scotland.

Mr. Ralph Derby, fourth year student of P. W. C. spent Easter at the home of his mother, Mrs. Marjorie Derby, White Sands.

Mrs. Mac Porter, Charlottetown, was a recent visitor to Murray River, guest of Mr. and Mrs. Royal White and Mr. and Mrs. Crete Beck.

March report of New Dominion School: Grade IX—1. Colleen MacPhail. Grade VIII—1. Lester MacPhail. Grade VII — 1. Harvey Livingstone; 2. Ronald MacPhail; 3. Stanley MacPhail. Grade VI—1. Merrill MacPhail; 2. Ferne MacPhee. Grade III—1. Linda MacDonald. Highest average in the Senior grades: Harvey Livingstone. Highest average in the Junior

grades: Linda MacDonald. Perfect attendance: Harvey Livingstone, Lester MacPhail and Stanley MacPhail. Teacher: Pearl Nicholson.

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Teachers' Meeting Unit No. 1

At the regular monthly meeting of the Teachers' Association of School Unit No. 1, an expression of appreciation was voiced by the teaching staff to the present Board of School Trustees and to the Secretary Supervisor, Mr. Gordon Rice, who, for the past six years, have administered so fairly and competently the affairs of their respective schools.

The desire was expressed that the current teacher — trustee relations which have been evidenced in the past may prevail under future administration.

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