

**EDUCATIONAL HORIZON**

**The Ottawa Conference Gave Educational Facts**

By DR. FRANK MacKINNON, PRINCIPAL, P.W.C.

The Canadian Conference on Education was a typical example of the usual North American convention. Planning committees worked hard on the arrangements for many months; a city's hotel facilities were taken over; a program with something of interest for everybody was arranged; a name chairman was selected; a publicity campaign was turned on; delegates by the hundreds gathered and, wearing identification labels and carrying programs, rushed about for four days listening to speeches, shaking hands, and attending committees. Physically, the Conference was an exact replica of the Annual Convention of the Harvard Merchants of America.

The conference was not, however, a mere gathering of professional or occupational colleagues. It had a national significance, for it was called to deal with one of the most important questions of our time — whether or not our educational system can do the enormous job expected of it in this troubled era. As the chairman, Dr. Wilder Penfield, said at the opening: "Dissatisfaction with the support of education and the performances of educationists has led to this meeting."

**875 PEOPLE**  
It is difficult to generalize about the accomplishments of such a large conference. Its main achievements were to publicize the needs of education, and to bring together people of different backgrounds for an exchange of views. It was not possible for it to "do something"; there were too many people and they had no authority. Nor was it possible to make anything but very general recommendations because little but vague resolutions could be adopted in the small amount of time available for discussing resolutions, and because they had to be watered down so as to be acceptable to the differing interest groups. There has been strong criticism of the lack of some tangible achievement; the wonder is that anyone should have expected it from a group of 875 people.

The real value of the conference is apparent to those who studied the speeches and followed the excellent reports in some newspapers. Nothing new was said, but for the first time it was said frankly and openly for all to hear and to agree or disagree. School trustees were told the facts of life about school finance; officials listened to frank appraisal of educational policies and practices; and teachers heard some enlightening comments on their work. And all were warned of the probable consequences of an inefficient educational system in an age when, not only democracy, but survival itself is at stake.

**JOLT COMPLACENCY**  
Dr. Penfield related educational needs to the world situation and pointed out how little money is being spent on education in comparison with how much we expect from it and how much we spend on other things. Practically every speaker agreed. Undoubtedly the public is being singularly naive to expect underpaid teachers and badly equipped schools to do much for the nation's children. Dr. E. F. Sheffield of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics jolted the complacency of the "all's well" school of thought by pointing out that Canada needs 74,300 more teachers in the next two years. Under pres-

ent circumstances where are they coming from? The need for money was the subject of almost unanimous agreement and it figured largely in the resolutions. The need for quality was another factor emphasized. Several speakers pointed out that quantity had been stressed enough and that the danger now is that educational opportunities might be spread too thinly. Dr. A. W. Trueman pointed out that the teaching profession, large though it was, did not include enough of the kind of people who should be teaching. Dr. Eugene Forsey of the Canadian Labour Congress criticized "fog and smog" in educational circles and applied the terms "shabby and half baked" and "namby-pamby" to some textbooks and features of the curriculum. "Are we," he asked, "making our high schools adolescent playpens and our high school teachers glorified baby sitters?"

**SPOON FEEDING**  
Hugh Crombie, general manager of Dominion Engineering Company, also attacked the quality of educational facilities, pointing out that pupils were not being taught to think and that there was too much spoon feeding and not enough homework. Even the spokesman for the students, Walter Tarnopolsky, president of the Federation of Canadian University students, emphasized the "low level of concentration and labor we expect from our youth."

"At present," he said, "the effort required of a student in secondary schools is insufficient to provide a challenge." On this matter there is, of course, much disagreement, but there seemed to be wide agreement at the conference that the school curriculum needs a careful examination. There were other features of the conference, some of which made headlines. Tom Nye, a labour delegate, was quoted from coast to coast as saying that boys were too much under the influence of female teachers in school. A witty British educationist, Sir Ronald Gould, held the convention spellbound with his oratory, and provided an exceptionally good after-dinner speech for the main banquet. Unfortunately someone spelled "accommodation" wrong on a sign and a picture of the sign made front pages everywhere. The Ottawa Normal School went one better in a notice, prominently displayed, that "rehearsals" were being held up stairs so as to make room for a conference workshop! Probably the best-received address was that of Miss Josephine E. Leikin, president of the Carleton University Students' Council. The workshop she spoke to gave her an ovation and ordered her address printed and distributed immediately. One comment of hers is striking:

**PARTNERSHIP**  
"The secondary school student wants a teacher who can deal with ideas as well as things, who will give our ideas a fair hearing, and who are not out to cure our adolescent ills, but who can steer us toward making our own right choice. It's a partnership in high school and the good teacher is like a good wife who plans an idea, helps it germinate and lets the husband think it's his!"

When this idea of the type of teacher, the kind of teaching and the need of pupils is understood and applied the wishes of those who participated in the Conference would certainly come true.

With much wooded suburban area under its control, the metro force is "setting up a deal for the use of tracking dogs." A horse trailer, with room for two mounts, has been purchased to move mounted officers quickly to the scene of parades or labor unrest. The force has 25 mounted men and 28 horses. A mobile laboratory has been equipped to process evidence at the crime scene. **WAVE OF HOLDUPS** Toward the end of 1957, the holdup incidence increased sharply and Magistrate Bick set up a 10-man squad of specialists. The incidence is still climbing and the squad has been bolstered to 14. "Metropolitan enforcement isn't to blame for the increase, any more than any other single factor," the commissioner said. "I think this present condition is a sporadic outbreak that will pass. Maybe unemployment has something to do with it, but I don't think it is a major factor." It will be another year before comparative figures are available to show how the metropolitan system is working, even longer before the force reaches peak efficiency based on experience. "We do know that criticism that metro would leave the suburbs unprotected has not been borne out," the commissioner said. "We are setting up a force to compare with any in the world."

and used on headquarters and traffic work. "We have to compete with business for the services of good police material," the magistrate said. "The minimum age for a police officer is 21, but by that age, most boys have found jobs. We will hire 50 more cadets this year if the proper material is available."

SCOT TRADERS ACTIVITY LONDON (CP) — Sir Douglas Eccles, president of the United Kingdom board of trade, said the government department says that British exporters and manufacturers are "taking active steps" to increase their selling efforts in Canada.

**Canada's First Metropolitan Police Is That Of Toronto**

By BRUCE LEVETT Canadian Press Staff Writer

TORONTO (CP) — For the last year, criminals raiding into the dozen municipalities surrounding Toronto have found they're up against more than a village constable with an old-fashioned pistol.

They have run head-on into Canada's first metropolitan police force — 2,300 officers armed with modern communications, scientific detection methods and long experience. "We have had requests from all over the continent for information on how our system works," said police commissioner O. Bick, police commissioner. "It has worked out even better than I had hoped."

The force was created Jan. 1, 1957, four years after Toronto and her 12 suburbs were welded by provincial legislation into a metropolitan area of 1,400,000 population. **AMALGAMATED POLICE** In 1957, the force investigated 15 murders and eight attempted murders; hunted down most of 3,720 stolen cars and was called in on 3,711 burglaries. More than 5,650 persons were arrested, fingerprinted and photographed. There was political opposition to the amalgamation from the beginning, with only four of the 13 in favor of the change. "Many of these areas lost quite a bit of autonomy when the metropolitan set-up came in 1953," Magistrate Bick said. "Amalgamating the police forces was viewed by some as a further curtailing of their authority."

The 13 municipalities were united in six main police districts. Former headquarters at Long Branch, Mimico and Swansea were closed. But there was no reduction of manpower in the suburbs. **REORGANIZE RECORDS** "It would appear on the surface that there had been a great increase in crime in the last

year, but actually that is not so," Magistrate Bick said. "Until the metropolitan system came in, there were no accurate records kept in many places. We have set up new recording and reporting methods."

Top priority was tying in the 250 square miles with a communications system. Toronto's original radio network, covering the 33 square miles of the city area, was expanded at a cost of 500,000. Police costs increased. Total 1956 budget for the 13 partners was \$11,000,000. Last year it was \$12,300,000. "Much was initial investment. The difference is actually less than \$500,000 when you consider the expensive communications system pension contributions and normal police car costs."

Steps taken in the metro force's first year of operation included setting up a promotion procedure. Land is being sought for a school to train recruits and keep veterans up-to-date. **JUVENILE SQUAD** "We will set up a juvenile squad this year, because preventive work among juveniles is police work at its most effective and important level," the commission said. In 1957, a score of "police cadets" were hired—youths of 17 to 20 wearing regular uniforms

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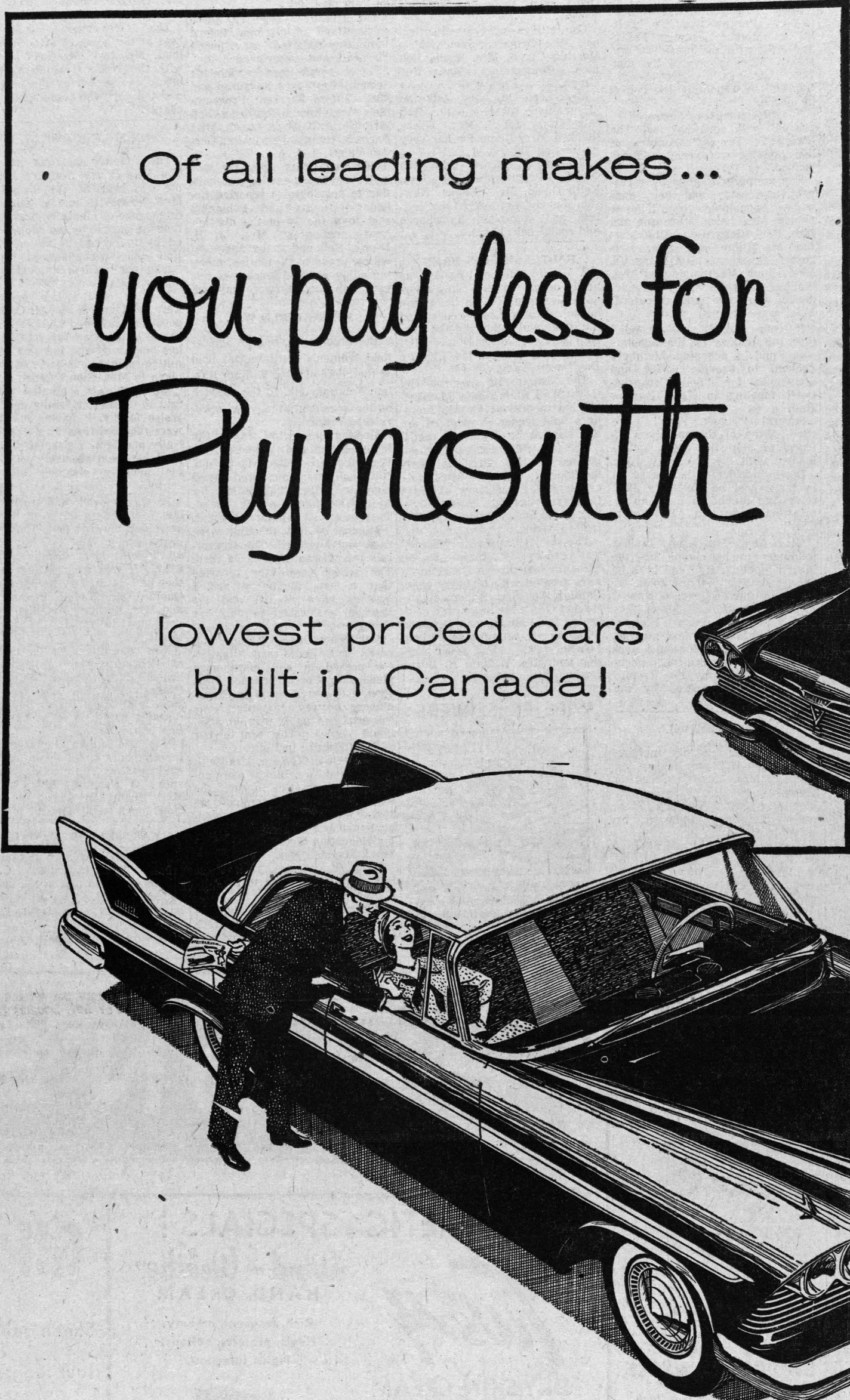
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