

Southport H. & S. Discuss The Teacher Shortage

The regular meeting of the Southport Home and School Association was held in Southport School Hall on Monday, March 11th at 8 o'clock. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Frank Gaudet. In the absence of the guest speaker Dr. Beck, an article on Teacher Shortage in Educational Horizons by Mr. K.A. Parker was read by the president. A lively discussion followed in which several parents and the teachers present expressed their views on this important matter. It was moved by Mrs. Charles Scranton and seconded by Mrs. R. S. MacDonald that the president and secretary draw up a brief of condensed ideas presented at this meeting in recognition of teachers wishing to take summer courses by increased allowances or grants, also that the Royal Commission on education be made up of an impartial committee from outside the province. The parents attendance banner was won by Mr. Noonan's class. Meeting closed with the Queen after which lunch was served by the committee in charge.

STEWARDESSES WANTED

Maritime Central Airways has openings at present for Registered Nurses from P.E.I. who wish to take up the career of Airline Stewardesses (International). Position offers high salary, complete medical coverage and group insurance. An informal photograph must accompany each application. Apply in writing giving complete details of your experience and qualifications to: Maritime Central Airways Personnel Manager Mont Joli, P.Q.



HANG WORK OF ISLAND ARTISTS

A new paintings from the current exhibition, the combined works of four women among Charlottetown's leading artists, are shown above. The display is in the Civic Centre, until April 12, open to the public, and will remain.

Agricultural Committee Reports To Legislature

The following report of the committee on agriculture was presented in the Legislature yesterday by the chairman, Mr. H.P. Smith: Your Committee views with alarm the apparent indifference of some farmers in the matter of cleaning up their premises and taking proper precautions against the spreading of potato diseases. The eradication of certain diseases can be completely controlled by thoroughly disinfecting all storages and implements used in the handling of potatoes and by carefully following the recommendations of the Plant Protection Division. We would urge that the Plant Disease Eradication Act be strictly enforced to ensure the control of disease. The inequality of tariff on potatoes was discussed, and your Committee commended the work that has already been accomplished to have this matter adjusted, and hoped that the negotiations now being carried out would result in the equalization of this tariff. A resolution will be brought before the House urging immediate action on this matter. The poultry industry was discussed, and your Committee felt

the new arrangement for the buying of eggs by the Prices Support Board would be beneficial to our farmers, and would make it possible for our dealers to assemble eggs and pay the producer a higher price than formerly. It was suggested that if storage space were available in Charlottetown it would further enhance the price to the producer. It was the opinion of the Committee that the large number of egg grading stations was a detriment to the industry, and fewer stations strategically placed would tend to improve the quality of the eggs. **EVISCERATED POULTRY** Owing to the increased demand for eviscerated poultry the Committee feels that immediate steps should be taken to establish at least one eviscerating plant in the province. Your Committee commends the Department of Agriculture for instituting a policy of assistance for students who wish to obtain a degree in Agriculture, Home Economics, and Veterinary Medicine. We fully realize that our finances will not permit excessive salaries, but we feel that in order to retain qualified personnel in the

Department of Agriculture salaries must be closely related to those paid in the adjoining provinces. We note with satisfaction that the 4-H Club Work is progressing in the province, and there is an increase in the number of clubs organized for the coming year. The success of the 4-H Clubs depends, to a great extent, on the unselfish efforts of the local leader who give of their time to assist in the training of our farm youth, and to these people we extend our appreciation. We would again urge that our farmers pay more attention to the quality of grain they sow each year. There are many power cleaners in the province, and we would urge all farmers to take advantage of this service as early in the spring as possible. By taking their grain to their seed cleaning plant early it gives the operator an opportunity to make the grain job of which he is capable. The Committee would urge all farmers to make a germination test on the grain they sow. **MEAT INSPECTION** The matter of meat inspection was discussed at some length, and while your Committee felt that such a service would be beneficial the physical aspects of carrying out such a service could not be recommended without a further study being made of details that would arise in a program of this kind. Your Committee notes with regret that the calfhood vaccination program is not progressing, and that very few cattle owners in the province have seen fit to have their calves vaccinated, and that Prince Edward Island has not kept pace with the other provinces of Canada in this work. Your Committee, therefore, recommends that the Department and Breed Associations give greater publicity to the program by advertising and by circularizing our farmers and cattle breeders as to the importance of vaccination. At least one-half of the cost of vaccination.

Education Brief

(Continued from page 1) recognized avenues of approach be barricaded with the bars of religious intolerance, to oppose the best efforts of teachers and educators in their search for a solution to our problems, and to deny the government of this Province and its Department of Education their rights and obligations in this important matter, for none but ulterior motives, seems far removed from what we would expect from people of good will, working towards the common good. We cannot, therefore, accept such a position as one of good faith or honesty of purpose.

ROLE OF ALUMNI This delegation, representing the Alumni Association of St. Dunstan's University, speaks today on behalf of all former students of St. Dunstan's. The role of alumni in the progress and the growth of any university is always held to be of more than considerable importance, and the role of alumni in the development of St. Dunstan's is no exception. We, who know St. Dunstan's first-hand, pride ourselves in the part we have played in making St. Dunstan's what it is, and we gladly accept at least a portion of the credit for the inauguration of the present Teacher Training Programs. We, who have been, and are in a position to appreciate the needs of our Province, have sometimes wondered whether St. Dunstan's should not have given precedence to Teacher Training over courses leading to degrees in Commerce and Engineering. We are and have been long convinced that St. Dunstan's had an obligation to us, to our children, and to our Province, to assist in the training of teachers so desperately needed. We did not hesitate to make our minds known on this matter to those in charge of our university. Consequently, we accept the credit and responsibility for the present situation to present our case on our own behalf as well as on behalf of all fair-minded native citizens of our beloved province.

Every school, college, or university has an obligation to many people, but none that can take priority over its first one: its obligation to its students. The very name university indicates universality in teaching and training. Why should any institution, entrusted by statute with the privileges of training candidates for the professions of medicine, law, dentistry, nursing, etc., who should it, we repeat, be denied the right to provide for its own students the training required for admission to the teaching profession? Students are free to attend the university or college of their choice, and schools and their trustees are free to hire the teachers of their choice. If the people of the province and university training in their teachers, the university is bound to measure up to this demand, and any state welcomes this improved status of its citizen teachers.

Secondly, we cannot fail to point out that any institution, founded, nourished and maintained by its friends, has the obligation to provide for the need of these same benefactors. No educational institution today can rely for its continued existence on the sole support of tuition and fees. As the Honorable Minister so aptly pointed out in St. Dunstan's is the result of great personal sacrifice. The people of Prince Edward Island have built and maintained St. Dunstan's University. We of the Alumni Association are happy at this point to pay public tribute to our non-Catholic friends who have always responded with generous and often times unselfish support to our appeals for funds.

TEACHER TRAINING When our people needed assistance in obtaining teachers they naturally demanded teachers of St. Dunstan's and they have every right to expect St. Dunstan's to produce them. We have insisted on this right, and we stand here not only in our own defence, but in defence of all people whose children cry out for intellectual nourishment and proper teaching. Whether the problem is one of supply or retention is of no great significance as far as the end result is concerned. The need existed for more teachers and for better qualified teachers. We feel that Teacher Training at St. Dunstan's will assist in remedying this teacher shortage and will assist also in raising professional standards. The need for teachers has been emphasized and re-emphasized. The present government through its Minister of Education has made a significant contribution towards the alleviation of that need. We approve the arrangements

made by the Department of Education and St. Dunstan's University. We are proud to know that in this cause, too, St. Dunstan's was willing and generous, even at considerable expense, to offer assistance. Nor is this, as has already been pointed out, unusual in University circles. Religious affiliation has never been a determining factor in deciding whether or not any University offers courses in education. The need in this field is universally admitted to the extent that people everywhere have been more than willing to support even through government assistance, the various schools set up for this purpose. Federal aid to education sets no sectarian lines in its grants to Universities. Economically, it is not perhaps advisable for private institutions to undertake such work. And yet it is necessary, Universities, regardless of financial resources, regardless of religious affiliation, have come to the rescue.

It must be obvious to you all by now that what we are saying here is not a mere slogan. It is a policy of education, fixed and determined by higher ecclesiastical authority. In fact, in so far as it relates to the matters before you, none exists. It will be apparent from what will follow, or indeed from simple observation, that what has evolved, and is loosely referred to by some as 'Church Policy,' has actually come about as a result of the need to fill a want in the local level, as seen by those in this or that district, in the manner most suitable to their particular circumstances.

PRIMARY DUTY It is our conviction that the primary duty and responsibility for the education of our children rests with the parents. Due to the complex nature of the community, it has become necessary from a practical point of view, that this responsibility be delegated to others especially trained and skilled to that end, those of the teaching profession. It is still incumbent upon us as parents, nevertheless, in fulfilling our responsibilities to our children, to see to it that those in whose trust and custody we place them, are the most highly qualified available to us, and that they are provided with the most efficient facilities within our means.

Out of this attitude, therefore and with the realization that local educational facilities were inadequate, there has come about in certain areas in the Province, over the years, through local initiative, construction of the various school units, providing improved facilities available to all, staffed in whole or in part by well qualified members of the religious teaching orders. These units function within the framework of the Public School and Education Acts and under the jurisdiction of the Department of Education.

In this way, there has been brought to those small, and sometimes very poor communities, reasonably satisfactory plants, and in some areas, excellent plants, staffed with teachers whose professional qualifications and experience were and are far above the level of which those areas could otherwise afford. In most cases, this was accomplished at great personal and financial sacrifice on the part of the benefactors of these communities. Examples of this development can be found in Tignish, Miscouche, North and South Rustico, Kinkora, Tracadie, Souris and elsewhere. In all instances and I think you should note this well—the initiative for such development came from the rate-payers in the local districts.

Who can measure the benefits that their efforts have brought to such areas as North Rustico, and the benefits yet to accrue to succeeding generations? Who can imagine that such a poor fishing village would now be enjoying the fine educational facilities which it now possesses, had the local people waited for leadership from without? Would there be otherwise now available to this community such well qualified teachers as are here enumerated—2 B.A.'s, 1 B. Ed., 5 with 1st Class licenses, 2 with Summer School courses in addition, and totalling 129 years teaching experience among 7 teachers, or an average of 18 years per teacher?

PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS Listen on CFCY To WALTER R. SHAW Progressive Conservative 7:15 P.M. Saturday, March 30th

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working for Arts Degrees. In addition have 1 A.S., a Summer School course, 10 held miscellaneous academic certificates, and 59 have as minimum training P. E.I. 1st Class certificate. For the information of the Committee, there is attached hereto as an appendix, a list of the principals of the various schools supervised by the Sisters, with particulars of their qualifications.

With such a record of long service in teaching, it will be readily apparent to all that the much discussed problem of teacher retention does not exist in these schools. In consequence, such continuity of service makes possible from grade to grade a complete assessment of the child, his individual problems, capabilities, and potential rate of development. Contrast this with the situation in those schools in which the teacher turnover is almost annual, and a strange case of a strange teacher each September so prevalent elsewhere, of a scarcity of fully trained teachers and adequate school accommodations.

Practical reason and sound common sense would make it evident that in your study of the educational problem, your Committee might examine thoroughly, if it has not already done so, these particular schools, and their effect and influence on their respective communities. It may well be that they can help point the way. It is recognized, of course, that it is only in certain areas in the Province that Sisters would be acceptable as teachers. Nor would it be desirable that the smaller portion of the rate-payers of any District should attempt to impose upon that community, contrary to the wishes of the majority, schools of a type that would not, or could not, function in complete harmony.

However, this same approach, modified to meet local tastes, but retaining wherever possible the same high standards of academic training and experience, is applicable to other areas. The details of implementation, the timing of the programme, the selection of the personnel, are matters to be left to the discretion of the local people in the District, who are those most concerned. This, in effect, is a practical application of the policy of the Department of Education, as enunciated by Dr. Shaw in his recent presentation to this Committee.

Gentlemen, it is therefore evident that we have long since been cognizant of this crisis in Education brought about by a shortage of well trained teachers. Not only have we been aware of this crisis, we have long since taken steps to offset it. We have actively encouraged our young people to enter the teaching profession and the results of these efforts have become apparent as shown by the number of those actively engaged in teaching as well as the proportionate number of those in training.

Our efforts have not been confined only to the professional level but have extended out to the small community. It has been shown how these communities through their local initiative have grappled with and solved their own problems and succeeded in bringing highly trained teachers in good schools to their children.

Our next and obvious contribution to the solution of our common problem, the provision of an additional source of teachers, was accomplished recently. This was carried out through the joint efforts of the Department of Edu-

cation working in conjunction with St. Dunstan's University both of whom recognized the necessity for such a positive step. The window of this step will be justified in the benefits which will accrue to the whole province.

With such a progressive attitude and positive approach, there has been made a major contribution to the alleviation of the educational problem among the people of this Island. Your committee will have nothing but contempt for those groups either anonymous or questionably representative whose approach is a negative one. Their sole contribution consists in attempting to destroy much of the achievement not only of the people of the province but also of the Department of Education itself.

Any brief presented to this committee which proposes the dismissal of 65 of our best trained teachers or which would deny to the Department of Education the opportunity to increase the number of teachers at a time such as this, on no ground other than religious prejudice, is born only of ignorance and bad faith. Those who now would so loudly decry the accomplishment of the Department of Education and of these people who helped themselves, were strangely silent when there was work to be done.

During the last few days, and more especially last evening, you have watched an astounding spectacle, a self-appointed group of lay and religious speakers attempting to tell the parents of this province that their children can not have teachers unless this particular group approve the sectarian university in which the teacher has been trained, or the clothing the teacher wears.

We feel confident that no government of our province would ever allow itself to be pressured into such a position that it could be so degraded. Any district for depriving that district of its ability to obtain properly qualified teachers. These people will not be satisfied by the excuse that a competent teacher was available but could not be engaged because the Ministerial Association did not approve of the sectarian university in which he was trained.

Gentlemen, yours is a position of enormous responsibility, a position that requires a broad outlook, calm deliberation untinged with emotionalism or prejudice. You must have an awareness of the existence of regional differences and philosophies. Your important deliberations call for an ultimate solution that will provide the best possible educational opportunities and facilities for all, in an atmosphere of harmony and tolerance, that tolerance which was spoken of by Her Majesty the Queen in her Christmas message, when she said: "I speak of a tolerance that is not indifference, but is rather a willingness to recognize the possibility of right in others."

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KELLY & MacINNIS Gt. George St. Charlottetown

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HOSIERY SPECIAL WILLOWDALE 60 GAUGE 15 DENIER SPRING SHADES SIZES 9-11 SEAMLESS HOSIERY \$1.39 THE FASHION SHOPPE

Prince of Wales College Chorus E. Lillian MacKenzie, Director Presents Gilbert and Sullivan's Delightful Musical Comedy Trial by Jury and Choruses College Auditorium, April 2, 3, 4 at 8.30 Adults \$1.00 — Students 50 cents Tickets at Miller Brothers

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MacKENZIE'S HOUSE OF FASHION 247 WATER ST. SUMMERSIDE

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AMONG THE FARMERS

Federation of Agriculture Newsletter

FEED CONTRACTS The practice of feed companies entering into contract with livestock producers to supply them with feed to be paid for with livestock or livestock products is one that is causing more than a little concern. The Annual Meeting of the Ontario Hog Marketing Board discussed this matter and the information of our readers we are reprinting an extract from a report of that meeting.

"The practice of producing hogs on contract with feed companies or other interests represents a danger to the entire hog industry and the Ontario hog producers marketing board would welcome a solution to the problem. Eldred Aikman, chairman of the board, told the annual meeting in Toronto last week.

"So far the board doesn't feel there is anything it can do about the practice. If it grows it may damage the industry because farmers producing hogs for someone else won't have much interest in maintaining good quality and securing top prices, he said.

"James Boyne, sales representative of the Ontario Hog Producers Co-operative in Montreal, said that three farmers in the Montreal area were collectively producing 20,000 hogs a year by giving them to other farmers to feed. One of the three is building a barn big enough to house 5,000 hogs at one time, he added.

"If the trend to mass production continues it could eventually result in some drastic changes in the industry, he said.

"Steps to control their production or they might find someone else controlling it, one delegate suggested."

with A.P.E.C. will be called in to assist in making a study. Not so many years ago eggs and poultry were a very important part of our economy, from 1915-1940 they were of particular significance in farm income but since the war we have gone into decline and there is good reason to fear that unless remedial action is soon taken that eggs and poultry will soon be of minor importance to the economy of this province.

In face of the need for more and more income to sustain the high cost of operating a farm, this province cannot afford to allow any branches of agriculture to wicket on the vine. There is need for leadership, need for promotion, and need for development in the poultry industry. This is a challenge, how will it be met?

GAS TAX The announcement contained in the budget speech that gas tax is to go up to 16 cents a gallon generally and up to 5 cents a gallon on farm gas will be received with mixed emotions. The application of a gasoline tax on motor vehicles appear to be an equitable method of raising revenue for road building and road repair but when applied to gas used on a farm for productive purposes it becomes quite a different matter — it is then a tax on production and a heavy tax.

We know many farmers who are using up to 2,000 gallons of gasoline per year for farm purposes, the tax on this will now be \$100. Most farmers who operate tractors will use in the vicinity of 800 gallons per year. The tax on this when added to that used in car or truck become a matter of considerable consequence.

Further as a practical example the farmer orders 200 gallons of gasoline, it is delivered and in making settlement he must pay the entire tax of \$32., and wait until the end of the season for a rebate of \$22. This sort of an arrangement results in a portion of the farmers working capital being tied up for the production season.

REVENUE Every day money becomes of more and more importance in operating a farm and any farmer, believe that it is almost impossible to make the income catch up with the expenditures. It is generally realized that on many of our farms that gross income is at far too low a level to offer any possibility of a reasonable standard of living and to maintain profits. The question then arises how much money should a farm gross to give a chance of paying its way. This question was discussed before the recent annual meeting of the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association and the statement made by a competent economist that in order to obtain a reasonable net income that total sales per farm worker should average from five to six thousand dollars a year and that any enterprise that is the main source of enterprise should bring in a mini-

mum of 6,000 dollars per year. One economist pointed out that earnings on the farm vary according to the efficiency or weakness of seven main factors — crop yields, feeding methods, output per man, output per dollar investment, size of business and choice of enterprise. This discussion was of course related to Ontario conditions but may be applied in a general way to this province and raises the interesting question: What gross income is necessary to make an island farm a satisfactory business venture?

EDUCATION Ever since its organization in 1940 the Federation of Agriculture has been interested in and concerned with education. In 1952 the brief presented to the members of the legislative council of the province arranged to have a fact finding investigation conducted and mentioned ten different matters worthy of a scrutiny.

These were: Teacher salary scale; Qualifications (other than merely educational for the teaching profession); Curriculum for students not planning to attend university; Larger units of school administration; Scholarships for Teachers and inferior schools then so for Teacher Training; Summer Schools; Night school classes in the country.

Following this request the Federation circulated to a group of representative citizens a questionnaire relating to education, the response to the questionnaire indicated a high level of interest in educational matters. The information contained in the replies has been incorporated in the brief presented to the Education Committee, Wednesday evening. Those who have studied the situation most carefully are inclined to believe the root of many of our agricultural and economic problems lies in the difficulty of providing our rural people with the type of education suit to their requirements. So long as we tolerate inferior teachers and inferior schools then so long will we be handicapped in developing a really efficient agriculture.

VALUABLE TRADE Pakistan's export of sporting goods in 1956 reached a record figure of nearly 2,000,000 rupees, up 53 per cent over 1955. We approve the arrangements

made by the Department of Education and St. Dunstan's University. We are proud to know that in this cause, too, St. Dunstan's was willing and generous, even at considerable expense, to offer assistance. Nor is this, as has already been pointed out, unusual in University circles. Religious affiliation has never been a determining factor in deciding whether or not any University offers courses in education. The need in this field is universally admitted to the extent that people everywhere have been more than willing to support even through government assistance, the various schools set up for this purpose. Federal aid to education sets no sectarian lines in its grants to Universities. Economically, it is not perhaps advisable for private institutions to undertake such work. And yet it is necessary, Universities, regardless of financial resources, regardless of religious affiliation, have come to the rescue.