

Legislative Grants to Aid Education is New Plan

An Outline Of Their Application In Urban and Rural Centres

A new and simplified system of paying grants in aid of schools has recently been announced by the Department of Education in a recent circular sent to all boards of trustees. With the object of giving equality of educational opportunity to every boy and girl in Ontario and relieving the local taxpayer of some of the heavy burden of taxation on real estate, the Province of Ontario has assumed a greater share of the cost of education.

The new scheme of paying General Legislative Grants in aid of schools has some distinctive new features. Rural and Urban Public and Separate Schools, and Continuation High Schools and Collegiate Institutes all become eligible for greatly increased grants under this new plan.

In 1945 rural public school boards will receive a general legislative grant of an amount equal to fifty per cent of the school operation costs for the year 1944. If the assessment of the school section is low the school board will receive a much higher grant. Some rural school boards with low assessments will receive as much as ninety five per cent of the 1944 cost of operation as a grant. No school board will receive less than in 1944. In rural school sections the grant depends upon the assessment per classroom. The lower the assessment per classroom, the higher the grant. This gives the higher grants to those sections where the need is greatest.

Urban Public School Boards will receive grants of from thirty to sixty per cent of cost of operation depending upon the population of the urban centre. The smaller the population the higher the grant will be. Thus relatively few urban boards will receive less than a fifty per cent grant.

Thus over the whole of the Province of Ontario, the Ontario Government is assuming and will pay in school grants, an amount equal to fifty per cent of the cost of primary and secondary education.

An extra grant in addition to all of the above, will be paid to those rural sections which form part of township school areas.

This grant is equal to one fifth of the equalized assessment of the sections concerned with a minimum of \$150 per section and a maximum of \$300 per section. This means that sections in township school areas will receive substantially increased grants in addition to the greatly increased General Legislative Grants.

For Public and Separate Schools in no case are the grants to exceed 95% of the approved cost of operation. In no case shall the grant to a rural board exceed the difference between the approved cost and the amount of the township grant. In urban public schools the approved cost cannot exceed \$115 per pupil in average attendance.

The Grants for Collegiate Institutes, High Schools, and Grade A and B Continuation Schools are roughly as follows:

First, a grant of \$10 per pupil in average attendance for the preceding calendar year.

Secondly, an additional grant depending on the mill rate it takes to raise the money by taxation for the cost of operation. This grant varies from 5% of the approved cost where the mill rate is less than one mill to 75% where the mill rate is 21 mills or more.

Mill rate is defined as the mill rate required to raise the amount of the approved cost by taxation. In cities and separate towns it is based on the local municipal assessment. In high school districts the mill rate will be based on the equalized assessment of the portion of the high school district lying within the municipality. This will tend to raise the mill rate and increase the grant.

Grants for High and Continuation Schools are limited by the following:

1. In no case may the grant exceed 95% of the approved cost.

2. In no case shall the approved cost exceed \$300 per pupil in average attendance in high schools or \$150 per pupil in average attendance in continuation schools.

Vocational Technical Schools also receive grants based roughly as follows: First a grant on salaries ranging from 90% of the first \$20,000 paid in salaries to 60% of the fourth \$20,000 paid in salaries. Secondly a grant of 50% for expenditures from current revenue on the erection of building or the providing of equipment and furniture. These grants are also limited to 95% of the approved cost and the approved cost is limited to \$300 per pupil in average attendance.

The above may to the lay reader appear to be rather complicated. The average ratepayer will want to know what effect it will have on the schools of Ontario? In what way will my pocketbook and the schools of Halton County benefit from this new grant scheme?

These are some practical results. One important result of the Province assuming fifty per cent of the over all cost of education as compared with some twenty per cent in 1944, will be a marked reduction in local

school taxes; provided that boards of trustees keep expenditures within reasonable bounds and do not greatly exceed expenditures for 1944. If boards of trustees were to go on a spending spree simply because the Province will pay half the bill, then the whole primary object of this plan would be defeated. The first objective is to decrease the local taxes on real estate for education. This can and should be done by the co-operation of all concerned.

2. The increased grant will more nearly enable every community, even the poorest community financially, to provide every Ontario child as nearly an equal education opportunity as possible.

3. The increased grants will lower the cost of high school education for county pupils. This is because high school boards are required to deduct all legislative grants from their gross costs. In determining the net cost to be paid by county and township councils on behalf of county pupils attending high schools. This will lower the high school costs levied through county rates on farm properties and should enable more rural pupils to attend high schools for longer periods.

4. Since the Province will now pay fifty per cent of school costs, it will not be necessary to continue the special grants on equipment and accommodation payable by the Province and the County. This will mean a saving to the county. This may apply also to transportation costs and fifth class.

5. As the grants become operative, every school will be expected to provide a full program of studies of both obligatory and optional subjects together with an ample supply of books and equipment for teachers and pupils.

Soon it may be reasonable to expect every public school to be teaching music, manual training, home economics, agriculture, and the arts and crafts. Every school will be expected to provide an ample supply of books for use by pupils and teachers.

6. Since township school areas will now receive a substantially increased grant in addition to all other grants, a rapid extension of township school areas may be expected. Ratepayers in sections not in township school areas will be well advised to ascertain just how much greater the grants would be had their section been in a township school area.

7. Since all school expenditures are subject to approval before grants can be assured, there should be the closest understanding and co-operation between the school board and the inspector in each case. It is reasonable to assume that it will be the duty of the inspector to make certain that adequate educational facilities are being provided before recommending the payment of the grant. Boards are strongly urged to get in touch with the inspector before undertaking increased expenditures.

8. Any rapid increase of school expenditures in 1945 will defeat the main purpose of the grants and will give the Province difficulties in meeting grants on the 50% basis in future years. The first accomplishment in 1945 must be a major reduction in local school rates and then a very moderate use of the increased grants towards more and better equipment and improved school buildings and school grounds.

9. Local interest in education must not be allowed to decrease because the Province pays so great a share of school costs. The best guarantee of a world worthy of those who are paying for it with their lives, is the continued interest of the people of the locality in an efficient school system. Interest in local schools must be maintained. Without local interest in schools, progress of the highest type is impossible. Every ratepayer should study carefully the tables outlining the new grants. Every citizen worthy of the name will make a real effort to understand what this great step forward in school finances means to him and his locality.

Equality of educational opportunity for every boy and girl, and a fairer distribution of the burden of school taxation are much more nearly realized in this new, equitable and comparatively simple grant scheme, but this can only be realized by your continued interest.

PLAN CONFERENCE ON FAMILY LIFE

SASKATOON (CP) - Joseph Liebsch of Toronto, Secretary of the Health League of Canada and Saskatchewan health officials are promoting the first Canadian conference on marriage and the family to be held here probably next May.

More than 300 delegates may attend, including sociologists, welfare officials, social workers, and representatives of national organizations, churches, government, educational bodies, and the medical profession.

Mr. Liebsch said in a Saskatchewan address that family life education - education for marriage and family life or sex education in its largest sense - embraces instruction concerning the family relations of man and women and their children from the biological, mental and social standpoints.

There are now thousands of schools elementary and chiefly high schools in the United States, Britain and in European countries and in Canada, giving family-life education and the number is increasing, he said. The universities of British Columbia and Manitoba now are preparing courses on marriage and the family.

Activity in Northwest

Mining operations in the Northwest Territories last year were marked by important discoveries of gold-bearing ore in the Yellowknife district, continued activity at Eldorado and Great Bear Lake and marked increase in crude petroleum production in the Norman wells field.

Indicative of the interest shown in the vicinity of Yellowknife is the fact that more than 3,800 claims were staked and recorded during the year and that claims have been staked for 60 miles up the Yellowknife River. About 100 mining companies or syndicates owning mining claims in the district or have an interest in their development.

A revival of interest was shown in the Coppermine Mountains region and though actual mineral production was low because of the shortage of labor, an important future seems assured for this comparatively new field. Diamond Drills have been used extensively to outline new ore bodies.

MADE HONORARY PRESIDENT

TRURO, N. S. (CP) Dr. W. Saxby Blair, of Kentville, for many years secretary-treasurer of the Nova Scotia Farmers' Association, was elected to the new office of honorary president at the annual meeting.

GETS NOISY WELCOME

CHARLOTTETOWN (CP) - The city fire department gave a rousing welcome to Section Officer Louis Stewart, back from fire-fighting service in Britain. Sirens howled and the fire bell rang as he reached the city causing a rush of queries into fire and police headquarters.

The Week at OTTAWA

By EDGAR GREEN
Canadian Press Staff Writer

OTTAWA (CP) - Interest among political observers in the by-election in Grey North Feb. 5 was heightened last week by Prime Minister King's implication, in a message to the contingency's electors, that unless the defence Minister McNaughton was returned over his opponents, Mayor Gattfield Case, Progressive Conservative candidate, of Owen Sound, Ont., and Air Vice-Marshal A. E. Goffroy, there might be no further meeting of the present parliament.

There appears to be no doubt that the administration's manpower poll will form one of the principal issues of the campaign. Air Vice-Marshal Goffroy, a C. P. candidate, said at a political meeting that he did not believe either the Liberal or Progressive Conservative brand of description "good enough."

In his message to the electors, Mr. King said he will not seek an extension of parliament's five-year term should Gen. McNaughton be returned to the house the sitting would end sometime before April 17, when parliament is automatically dissolved. This would mean a general election, but not necessarily immediately.

Necessary war measures could be enacted, Mr. King said, in the period between Feb. 1 and April 17 available for a session if political parties co-operated. He added he considered it "essential" that the defence minister be in the House of Commons "at another session of the present parliament is to be held."

Post-War Objectives

The need to apply the same energy and efficiency to the challenge of peacetime production as has been applied during the war was stressed by de Gange Beaubien, president of the Engineering Institute of Canada, in an address to the Ottawa branch of the Institute.

He said it would be the duty of engineers to "prevent the slackening of efforts in the post-war period which might cost Canada her future," and added, "we have proven we can produce for destruction and prosper, surely we can produce for rebuilding."

Discussing post-war markets Mr. Beaubien said war had brought Canada great industrial development. The Dominion's geographical position, half way between Europe and the United States, left her situated to understand the mentality of both.

Russia cannot produce enough goods for her domestic needs and Britain has been under tremendous stress. Consequently the United States and Canada were best fitted to meet these requirements.

Disturbed labor conditions and slackened efforts alone could destroy Canada's future, and it behooved engineers to take more interest in public affairs and the welfare of labor. Canada will have a world market after the war for many mechanical commodities.

OIL BOOM

EDMONTON (CP) - Claims to more than 545,000 acres of Alberta oil lands were filed in the form of exploration reservations in a one-week period. The applications were filed for various regions of the province.

FIRST IN CANADA

WINNIPEG (CP) - The Ukrainian Greek Catholic church plans to build a cathedral costing an estimated \$150,000 in North Winnipeg. It will be the first Greek Catholic cathedral in Canada.

Twenty Years Ago

From the Page of The Free Press of Thursday, January 17th, 1925

Saw logs are coming in quite freely now to the saw mill here.

The young ladies of the Y. W. A. of Knox Church enjoyed a sleighing party on Tuesday evening. The hospitable home of Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Watkins was the objective and a delightful time was had during the evening.

Acton Horticultural Society has set the membership objective for the year 1925 at 250 members. Every home with flowers and the public places made attractive.

Acton is having lots of good fast hockey this winter. The town league is in full swing and an all home team defeated a team from Guelph on Wednesday evening. A. C. Clarke, leaders in the Toronto Industrial League are scheduled for Friday evening.

DEED

At her home on Main Street, Acton, on Thursday, January 15th, 1925, Maria Mullin, beloved wife of Adam Cook.

WIFE

At the residence of her son-in-law, Bradford, Ontario, on Wednesday, January 14th, 1925, Mary Elizabeth Fletcher, widow of the late Thomas J. Evans of Elmwood.

Rustlers Snatch Christmas Turkeys

Poultry Thieves Steal Hundreds of Gobblers for Britain's Breaks Records

LONDON (CP) - Turkey-rustling was the newest thing in England this Christmas.

Gangs of poultry thieves, racing by night through country lanes in trucks and cars, stole hundreds of turkeys and sold them to black market agents who kept them in cold storage and resold them at fabulous prices for Christmas dinners.

Police attempted to counter-act the situation by mounting special guards around turkey-raising farms but the birds continued to disappear. One farmer told newspapermen: "My own stock of turkeys has been stolen during the past week."

Indications of how serious and widespread was the "rustling" was the fact that the major legitimate markets had few, if any birds for sale, while in taverns around them turkeys were being sold at high prices.

SOME D-DAY SHIPS

Allied Landing Craft going into the Normandy beaches

MILITARY EVACUATE REBELLOUS NATIVES

PRITORIA, South Africa (CP) - An entire town of sharks and its 1,000 native inhabitants has been moved to military trucks under strong police escort from near Garmpton, Transvaal to a site 24 miles north of here. The compulsory evacuation followed refusal by the inhabitants to move out voluntarily or accept free railway passes to any other part of South Africa to work on farms.

Admiral-Sir John Cunningham, KCB., MVO.

Picture shows Admiral Cunningham at his desk

CHILDHOOD DAYS

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If Between the Ages of 18 and 60 READ THIS!

50,000 New BLOOD DONORS NEEDED Now

A SAILOR writes:
"Our ship was struck. I know not how. I was in the water for six hours when I was rescued and brought ashore. I felt I was going to die but was determined not to. Almost immediately I was given a Blood Transfusion... altogether I had ten. I owe my life today to Red Cross Blood."

A SOLDIER writes:
"Our Great fear is always 'Will there be enough blood?' It takes so much these days, and the biggest battles are yet to come. Some men must have five or six pints of your strength before they have a chance to recover. They die except for your blood. In your arteries is the power to give men a second chance to live."

An Airman writes:
"Just before leaving our last Station they had a big drive for Blood Donors, so yours truly volunteered. They only took a pint, which was a good thing, as that was all I had with me that day."

You'll be proud to wear this badge of service

BLOOD DONORS are NEEDED as never before!

CANADIAN + RED CROSS
NEXT CLINIC IN ACTON AT Y. M. C. A.
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6th

Picobac

THE PICK OF TOBACCO

It DOES taste good in a pipe