

Teacher Shortage Lowers Standards

by Ari Spayco
in the Toronto Telegram

There are children who will graduate in the next few years from Ontario public schools, who will never have had a qualified teacher. This grim fact, more than any mountain of figures, points up the real tragedy of the crisis this province is facing in education.

The minister of education has assured the public the teacher shortage has been met, though he admitted "some" letters of permission had to be issued this year despite graduation of 900 extra teachers by emergency summer training programs.

He has even conceded a shortage of secondary school teachers which has been partially relieved by granting letters of standing to suitably qualified teachers from outside Ontario.

The facts are not so reassuring. As of September of last year, the Department of Education blue book listed 832 public school teachers on letters of permit. These are teachers with no training or only partial training.

The issuing of "some" letters of permit for public schools has been admitted. But it will come as a distinct surprise to many to learn there are already 318 equally unqualified teachers in secondary schools.

Beyond that, there are some 800 secondary teachers who have qualifications only for public school teaching—who have never attended university.

Not only have these facts been glossed over or ignored, but the public has been assured that measures now being taken will in a short time satisfactorily meet the emergency.

Figures again tell a different story. Between now and 1965 we will need 10,000 additional secondary teachers. The Ontario College of Education graduates 400 each year. The new emergency summer training program is geared to turn out 200 more.

Simple arithmetic leaves us 4,000 teachers short by 1965. More to the point perhaps, is the fact that the shortage will fall heavily on science, mathematics, shopwork and other specialties, where permit teachers cannot possibly be used.

Those are the simple statistics they tell only a part of the story. Faced with short supply and heavy demand, the Department of Education has taken the only course it could find to keep the classrooms open. It has made it easier and cheaper to become a teacher.

For both public and secondary schools it has substituted summer courses for full years at Teachers' Training College and OCE. In the case of the public schools it has eliminated the grade 13 barrier by taking students directly from Grade 12, who take a two-year course.

These moves were necessary and so were recognized by the various teacher federations despite the impact on their zealously guarded standards. But the teachers, who know so well the damage a poorly trained teacher can do, wanted safeguards.

It's not enough simply to keep classrooms open. The federations, in

Legion Notes

L. M. C.

Last Thursday evening was the regular monthly meeting, with president Harvey Garvin in the chair, with secretary Bob Muir and treasurer Wallace Thompson in their respective places.

Various reports were given, including treasurer's report, sick report, entertainment, bingo and sports.

Under general business various affairs were discussed, delegates were picked for the approaching zone meeting and plans for the contemplated air conditioning were discussed. The projected forced sale of the Legion, as to the members was criticized. In one family alone, it was pointed out, four members will receive it, each paying the subscription price of \$1.00. It was left up to the discretion of the executive to decide what to do about air conditioning.

The president then called Leslie Clark forward, and presented him with his past president's jewel and pin. He then asked Comrade Clark to present the former treasurer, Bill Honey, with a life membership for his splendid work as treasurer down through the years. Both men replied suitably.

Meeting closed at 9:15 with singing the Queen.

ROUND THE ROOMS

The writer caught him from Rocky last Saturday, and he was quite right too. Some time ago in this column we said that Dutch McCartney and Gord Jamieson were looking after dart and crib in the branch. Had we been thinking, we'd have known that it was the industrial league, and that Rocky has been chief cook and bottle washer (as well as prime organizer) of the branch end of it.

The industrial crib and dart league had a real dinner in the auditorium on Saturday last. This was a very nice affair and the boys deserve credit for a good season. Trophies were presented to winners and runners-up.

The Legion now has another business man on the main staff among their ranks in the person of Maurice Manderson, who recently opened up a law practice over the Cotton store. If you look down the Main Street, there's quite an array of Legion members starting at one end you have Dr. C. V. Williams, Walter Biehn, Walker Cleave, Harold McClure, Maurice Manderson, Merv Cook, Joe McClintock, Fred Maveal, Ray Thompson, Stu Young, Lt. Col. John R. Barber, Jim Ritchie, Elmer Stief and the writer and Reg Broomhead Off Main St. but still down town, are Ken Nash and Charlie McDowell, and also in the plumbing business on Mill Street

their desire to keep educational standards up, have sought and are still seeking, some form of supervision over these student teachers.

But the teachers were not consulted period to the organization of emergency training programs and their subsequent requests for supervision have fallen on deaf ears.

Thus we have the picture of the toughest jobs in education—the ungraded rural schools and the small high school, where experienced colleagues are not available for guidance—being handed over to the teachers with a minimum of training and no experience.

The public school federations want a staff of top teachers assigned to rural areas, to move from school to school, helping to advise these teachers.

The secondary federation wants summer school graduates to be taken in by large boards where they can be supervised. Instead, under regulations covering this new course, graduates of summer school can take jobs only with boards which have tried and failed to get qualified staff.

Much damage has been done to public school education. In the secondary field the situation has already reached the point where one high school, South Mountain, near Iroquois, has six unqualified teachers in a staff of seven. The seventh, the principal, has not yet earned his Type A certificate.

Any program which produced teachers with tendencies to harm their pupils physically would never be tolerated. Yet a program, which cannot help but damage the educational future of thousands of children, is accepted.

No one has the magic answer to the next ten years in Ontario schools, but conversely, no one in the teaching profession is convinced much more could not be done.

One answer is obvious—more money. It is a puzzling fact that, despite the acknowledged need for government aid, the province is now allotting two per cent less of its budget to education than it did in 1947.

Increased grants could help rural areas to raise salaries to competitive levels, and would support a supervisory program for summer trainees.

Elimination of the \$238 for OCE fee and an increased program of bursaries and scholarships would also help attract more teachers.

Perhaps, more basically, there is need for public recognition of the danger and co-ordinating efforts of all groups concerned, business, industry, parents, teachers and government.

Stopping measures based on expedi-

PEEL MANOR HEAD RESIGNS MAY 1st

The resignation of Mrs. W. Yarranton, superintendent of Peel Manor, was accepted by Peel County Council during its March session. Mrs. Yarranton's resignation will take effect May 1st.

The resignation announcement was made in the Peel Manor report, submitted by Reeve W. C. Arch, Streetsville. In her letter of resignation Mrs. Yarranton stated: "Please convey my thanks to the county board and commissioners who have co-operated so splendidly."

The Peel Manor report recommended that the resignation be accepted and that thanks to be conveyed to Mrs. Yarranton for her 25 years' faithful service.

Council approved a bonus for Mrs. Yarranton of \$875 to be paid on retirement and a pension paid to her of \$50 monthly commencing August 1st. Immediate steps will be taken to fill the vacancy.

Jack Muckart. And we just remembered another one, John D. Kelly.

Renewed acquaintance some time ago with an active Legion member in Burlington, Bob Shannon. Bob is the reeve of Burlington, a post he has held for a number of years, and is the current warden of Halton County. All at the age of 33 years. The new warden hasn't been to any of our affairs yet, but we expect the executive will have him up to something in the future.

Air conditioning has developed into quite a problem. The original suggestion, window units has proved not practical, and prices are being received by the executive for a large air unit. We think that air conditioning is a good idea providing it can be worked out to give it to the downstairs as well as the auditorium.

We believe that the people that keep the place running (you can guess who we mean) are entitled to the same comforts as those who attend the bingo, dances, banquets, etc. and every effort should be made to incorporate this into plans. The cost will be high.

That goes without saying, and that's just another reason why the part of the building that supplies the major part of your revenue should be given the same consideration as the auditorium. From various plans we have heard in the past couple of years, we think a reasonable compromise can be worked out, where the one plant can be used for both places merely by diverting it when needed.

To explain, there is no reason why the cooling plant cannot be used in the beverage room during the day and the various nights when the auditorium is not in use. Then, say on bingo or dance nights, the plant could be diverted, by means of a damper to the auditorium. And we wager that with the stone wall we have in the walls of the downstairs (all 22 inches of them) the place will still be cool a good many hours after the air has been diverted upstairs.



—Ed. Dept. of Lands and Forests Photo
Forest fire turned this beautiful scene at Keweenaw Lake, in the White River district of Ontario, into ugly desolation last June. Be careful with fire in the woods this year, urges the Ont. Dept. of Lands and Forests.

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