

### Reading Conference Draws 1200 Teachers

For five days last week, with mercury and humidity soaring, more than 1,200 teachers, principals, trustees, parents and other interested citizens from all parts of Canada attended the first Canadian conference on reading held at the University of Toronto.

Delegates to this important school-end conference, sponsored by the 15,500-member Federation of Women Teachers' Associations of Ontario, listened in all to some 60 speakers during the 38 general sessions and sectional meetings.

The Conference was officially opened on July 4th by Hon. W. J. Duff, minister of education for Ontario. Dr. Dunlop, in his remarks, commended the women teachers' federation for its initiative in sponsoring the conference and added that in today's curriculum no subject deserves or is receiving greater attention than reading.

**Conscious of Criticism**  
"Unfortunately, less attention than previously has been paid in the improvement of instruction in reading in the middle and upper grades," said Miss B. Routley, assistant superintendent of elementary education for Ontario. Mr. Routley feared that some middle and upper high school teachers believe that reading is the concern of the primary grade teacher. "We shall never develop adequate programs in reading until all teachers recognize their responsibility at every grade level and in every content field."

**Manitoba Inspector of Schools on Reading**

Dr. Eleanor Boyce, inspector of public schools, Manitoba, said: "We may realize that in the popular denunciation of the schools today irony has been mistaken for logic and the clever phrase has been accepted for intelligent comment." She continued "every teacher must be a teacher of reading for as long as she teaches."

Walter F. Koerber, Jarvis School for Boys, Toronto, said at one of the sessions, "Mentally retarded children can be taught to read if teachers wait for them to mature sufficiently," while at another session, Bernard Neary, managing director of Thomas Nelson and Sons, publishers, maintained that more money is spent on buying dog food in Canada than on textbooks. The cost of textbooks to the school, he added, is only one percent of their total expenses.

**Comics to Disappear, Librarian Forecasts**

Teachers and librarians recognize that children do not confuse comics with real books, and that comics will disappear like penny dreadfuls while good books will remain, Helen Armstrong, Toronto librarian, told the sweltering delegates.

Miss Armstrong said that librarians agree that "reading problems are largely solved by making good books available in abundance and directing children in their approach to them."

J. B. Wallace, Citizenship Advisor in the Community Programs Branch, Ontario Department of Education, urged teachers with immigrants to be patient about their progress in read-

### FARM NEWS

## Halton, Peel 4-Hers Annual Bus Tour

Four large busses were needed to accommodate 4-H Club members from the eighteen 4-H Clubs in Halton and Peel counties who participated in the annual 4-H bus tour. The group this year consisted of 180 4-H Club members; 10 4-H Club Leaders; Art Bennett, Assoc. Agric. Representative for

Halton and Peel Counties; and J. W. McCullough, agric. representative for Peel county.

Scattered from Bolton to Waterdown and representing almost every section of Halton and Peel counties, and indication of their promptness was the fact that all 4 busses arrived at the first stop, Hamilton's beautiful rock gardens, within a period of 10 minutes, and right on schedule.

Following a half hour stop at the Rock Gardens, which at the present time are featuring Petunias, the group journeyed to St. Williams' Forestry Station near Simcoe. An invigorating swim followed by picnic lunch in the park complete with 16 gallons of "freshie" followed by two warmly contested ball games rounded out the two hours allotted for leisure.

**Nursery Intriguing**  
An hour was spent touring the forestry station on foot, with two guides along to explain the details of growing the trees which are shipped each spring to thousands of Ontario residents for reforestation purposes. Situated on land which was nothing but blow sand when originally taken over, it was amazing to see the millions of small trees thriving on what still looks like blow sand, but soil which through manuring, plowing down rye, planting shelter hedges and windbreaks, and proper use of commercial fertilizer, a good rotation, and adequate irrigation — is very productive.

**Cash Crop Farm**  
En route home the farm of Mr. Weaslan of R. R. No. 3 Simcoe, was visited. Specializing in sweet corn and tobacco, the owner irrigates quite extensively. Harvesting of the 200 acres or over of sweet corn had already commenced and the group watched with interest a washing and cooling machine which was in operation. From this machine the uniformly packed cases of ears of corn were loaded onto refrigerated trucks and away to market.

Mr. Roy Richards, assistant agricultural representative for Norfolk county guided the group to this farm and explained how tobacco was grown right from the time it was seeded in the greenhouses, until it was harvested and cured. Everyone was impressed with the amount of hard labour required to handle the crop.

Some excellent wheat was threshed and combined the week of July 11th.

### BALLOON FINDERS WILL GET GIFTS

If you found a balloon in your backyard in the last day or two, it may have been one of twenty-five sent in to the air at the picnic of Orenda Engines Limited Recreation Club.

The balloons were released last Saturday, July 16th, at Malton Attached to them was a card which informed the finders that free gifts were available to those returning the balloons to the address shown on the cards.

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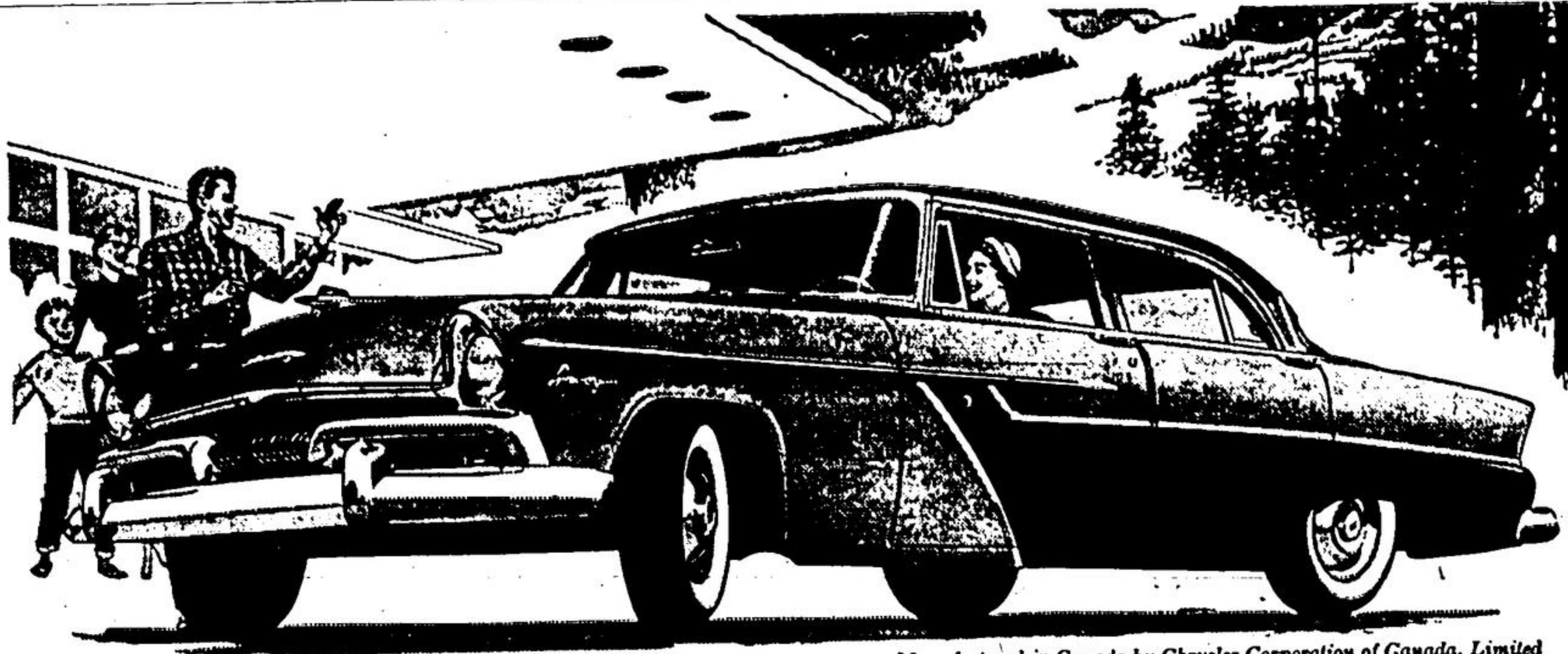
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ing English. Mr. Wallace said that he believed that immigrant will improve the population and culture of Canada, and that Canada is "already doing a better job on her immigrants than any other country in the world ever did before in similar circumstances."

### Toronto Board Chairman Addresses Conference

Mrs. Mary Temple, chairman, Toronto Board of Education, pointed out that "the trustee is interested in the preparation of teachers, in-service program for improvement of teachers, supply of materials, and overall in the end results of the reading program in terms of ability to read on the part of the pupils."

The closing day's main speaker, Dr. Paul Witt, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, a celebrated authority on reading instruction in the USA, pointed out that educators are awakening to the fact that gifted children in the schools have been too long neglected. "Educators must divest themselves of the belief that gifted students can get along by themselves, and that it is undemocratic to give them special education suited to their particular needs."

### POLICE MOVES FAST WHEN CHEQUES BOUNCE

A district man will appear in Georgetown police court today charged with obtaining goods by false pretences.

Quick work on the part of the Georgetown police force resulted in his arrest last Thursday afternoon three hours after a local merchant had reported a bad cheque given him in the amount of \$200 for merchandise purchased. Earlier he had given an \$800 cheque to a Georgetown car dealer for purchase of a car.