

# OSTRICH IN THE SAND

by John R. Bellamy

Reprinted from the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Publication, 'The Bulletin.'

Mr. John R. Bellamy, the author of this controversial article, has been hired by the Georgetown and District High School Board and will join the staff in September, as head of the Maths department. He is presently heading the department at Smith Falls Collegiate, and is a Department of Education appointee to the Special Math Committee considering the revision of the high school mathematics course.

A professional organization has four main tasks, to defend and advance the material interests of its members; to set standards for admission to and expulsion from the profession; to raise the level of service available to the public; and to formulate other policies for the development of the profession. Our own Federation has done an excellent job on the first 'trade union' task and the emphasis is now shifting to the others. Opposition to the battle came from the individual School Boards across the province — opposition to the remaining tasks will not be so clear cut, and quite possibly the most obstinate resistance may be from our own members and from the Dept. of Education.

## Shortage of High Standards

Real standards for admission to and expulsion from the profession will not exist until there is a reasonably good supply of teachers, and this certainly does not look to be imminent. The fact that only fifty-five teachers have been reported to the Board of Regents as incompetent reflects the shortage rather than the high standards of Ontario teaching. Over the years of shortage considerable numbers of sub-standard teachers must have been, and must still be, tolerated by principals, Boards and inspectors alike. High standards should be given to identifying these weaker members of the profession, and persuading them to take remedial action, or to get out. If we claim professional status, we must exercise and accept professional discipline. It is far more important to the professional and the public to upgrade the performance of these teachers than to upgrade individual qualifications for salary purposes. Seminars and Refresher Courses for the experienced and capable are desirable, but a crash programme for the least competent is urgent.

## Professional Obligations

We have heard a good deal about our professional obligations; various writers in The Bulletin have exhorted us to exhaustion on this topic, but for most members professional zeal is uncomforthable and unbecoming. Teachers in general are reticent in discussing the propriety of the November 11th holiday; they hate to think that Annual District Meetings might reasonably be held on a Saturday instead of a school work-day; though many deplore the time taken from the classroom for sports, Cadets and other extra-curricular activities. Two extra working days in the school year would surely improve the service we offer, and would be a fine Public Relations gesture too, but the idea commands no enthusiasm. Another example of professional zeal is afforded by a course offered by McMaster last summer for maths, physics and chemistry teachers. The course was to last a week, had no credits for salary purposes, no direct application to the classroom, and gave every sign of calling for intellectual effort instead of pedagogical reminiscence. Twenty-five teachers registered — a minimum of ninety was required — and the course was cancelled.

## Welcoming Development

The appointment of the Ontario Mathematics Commission, stemming from the initiative of the O.S.T.F. and O.T.F., is indeed a welcome development, particularly as Commissioners are envisaged for other subjects. The Mathematics Commission is engaged in revising courses of study, and has already prepared an experimental Grade Nine text, now in use at selected schools. One might deduce that an experimental Grade Ten text will be the next step, and so on progressively until all grades have been dealt with. No doubt teachers' comments on the text will receive consideration and there will be various amendments, until in five or ten years a completely new set of texts will be ready for general adoption. The revision of the course of study in Mathematics is indeed long overdue, but if the Commission's plan of attack is as outlined, and there is good reason for supposing so, then it betrays a basic weakness in our approach to education.

## Always Out of Date

That weakness is the idea that there is a uniquely right solution to any educational problem, and if we search long enough with a big enough committee we shall find it. The solution may well be packaged in different sizes, with different wrappers and prices, but the basic content will be the same. Once found it receives the blessing of Department approval, after a suitably decorous interval, and the teaching of that particular subject is fixed for another generation. This guarantees that Ontario education is always out of date. So much effort is expended in finding the 'right' solution, that once 'found', blessed by the Department and formally promulgated everybody connected with the subject is too exhausted to consider further change in their

## Academic Life

Instead of a continuous process of experiment, innovation and adjustment, we are stuck in the same old rut, meeting the occasional bump of a new textbook which has broken through the fence of Departmental approval; every generation or so we come to the confusion of a crossroads, more bumps, severe discomfort for a time adjusting to a new rut going in the same direction as the old one. Within a few years the new rut is comfortably deep, and we proceed with the outsourcing thought that there will be no more crossroads to negotiate in our time.

## Phen. Buck Upwards

The idea that there is a unique answer to every question is strongly reinforced by the authoritarian administration of the Department, with its detailed prescription of courses of study, and by the monolithic character of the training given secondary teachers by our single institution, the U.C.E. The idea may be acceptable in many countries, but not in a society based, as ours is, on the traditions of freedom of thought and speech. If we are to encourage initiative in our pupils we must surely have scope for exercising it ourselves. Freedom to experiment is vitally necessary, not only for the development of better courses, or for the direct benefit of the pupils, but to keep the teachers mentally and intellectually alive. Firm central direction was indeed essential in the early stages of Ontario education, but now the system has grown up, central control only inhibits further development. The more size of the bureaucratic machine restricts change to a minimum, reduces 'approved' experiment and provides ample opportunity for Principals' Boards and inspectors to pass the buck upwards, knowing full well that it will never be returned. Real progress calls for much greater decentralization of responsibilities, for the progressive abdication by the Department of many of its present duties, and for professional teachers to respond adequately to the challenge of new responsibilities.

## Watered Down Course

If the new Commissions were to aim at the 'liberation' of our courses as suggested above, they would face a still greater problem, applying equally to all subjects — the very structure of the Ontario secondary system. For the present basis of our secondary education is an academic course of study, watered down from its original standards so that given good teaching and motivation perhaps half the population can cover it, or its Technical and Commercial offshoots, to the Grade XII level. This curriculum was workable so long as the pupils belonged to the half that could handle it successfully, but this situation no longer obtains. Everybody now believes in the 'value' of education, and they send their children to get it, so we have all the children attending school but the school catering to only half of them. Many parents have the pathetic belief that putting in more time at school will automatically make their children better qualified in a labour market that gets tougher every year.

## Won't Write

The Federation cannot by itself propound policy, let alone impose it, but it can and should be encouraging debate and discussion on basic professional problems. The Bulletin seems an ideal place for ventilating ideas on these lines, though at the moment it has no carry-over from one issue to another.

— not even to the extent of a correspondence column. Perhaps this simply demonstrates that it is more difficult to start teachers writing than it is to stop them talking. In the slender hope of promoting some reaction, I would suggest that some members must have some ideas about:

1. Programmes for the sub-standard teacher.
2. Decentralized educational administrations.
3. Differentiated curricula, differentiated certification and differentiated teachers.

## An Umbrella

In these days, when anything calling for thought or study is dignified as research, there is a suspicion of scab labour attached to any ideas unsupported by at least one year's post-graduate study. This cringing of the knee before the current idol is disastrous. We do not need more post-graduate 'studies', but more post-graduate 'work' — by the ordinary classroom teacher, prepared and encouraged to experiment in the ordinary classroom. The Department's detailed courses of study at one time served a useful purpose, but today they provide every teacher with an umbrella to ward off doubts and the consequent necessity for thought; they provide the best possible excuse for carrying on as usual. The Ontario taxpayer will not get his money's worth in the schools until the umbrella is removed, or pierced in so many places that its protective function vanishes completely.

## CHURCHES

- BAPTIST**
- First Baptist Church  
Rev. R. L. Whan, B.A., B.D.  
Choir Director, Douglas Peck  
Organist — Mr. William Braam  
10:00 a.m.—Church School  
11:00 a.m.—Worship Service  
7:00 p.m.—Evening Worship  
8:00 p.m.—Wednesday Prayer Meeting  
Everyone Welcome
  - St. Paul's Baptist  
Mountain View Road South  
Rev. E. A. Pinkerton, Minister  
Sunday  
10:00 a.m.—Church School  
Minister's Bible Class  
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship  
Tuesday  
6:30 p.m.—Explorers for girls  
8:00 p.m.—Young People's Meeting  
Friday  
6:30 p.m.—Boys' Club  
8:00 p.m.—Bible Study and Prayer Meeting  
'Welcome to a Growing Church in a Growing Community'

## Maple Avenue Baptist Church

- 81 Maple Avenue East  
Rev. Bruce Woods  
B.A., M.Th.  
Temporary Meeting Place  
140 F. Hall, Wesleyan Street  
Services:  
9:45 a.m.—Sunday School  
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship  
7:00 p.m.—Evening Service  
6:30—Sunday Night Prayer Meeting  
Monday  
8:00 p.m.—Young People's  
Wednesday  
8:00 p.m.—Bible Study and Prayer Meeting  
Friday  
7:30 p.m.—Christian Service Brigade

## PRESBYTERIAN

- Knox, Georgetown  
Rev. William Weir, Brampton  
Interim Moderator  
Organist Mrs. Edgar Cowland  
Church School — 10 a.m.  
Public Worship — 11 a.m.  
Limehouse  
1:30 p.m.—Sunday School  
2:30 p.m.—Divine Worship
- Norval and Union  
Rev. B. A. Nevin, B.A.  
Interim Moderator  
Union  
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School  
11:00 a.m.—Divine Worship  
Norval  
1:30 p.m.—Sunday School  
2:30 p.m.—Divine Worship

## UNITED

- St. John's, Georgetown  
Rev. Ian M. Fleming  
Kenneth Harrison, ARCT, RMT  
Music Director  
'A Church with a warm heart'
- 9:45 a.m.—Sunday School  
11:00 a.m.—Junior Congregation  
11 a.m.—Morning Service  
7 p.m.—Evening Service  
'Come to worship, leave to serve.'

## St. Andrew's United

- Sinclair Avenue at Mountainview Road  
Rev. Ewart Madden  
9:45 a.m.—Sunday School  
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship  
and Beginners' Cn. School  
7:00 p.m.—Evening Holiness

## PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

- Zion Tabernacle  
85 Guelph St.  
Rev. E. A. Gagnon, Minister  
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School  
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship  
7:00 p.m.—Evangelistic Service

**Norval Pastoral Charge**  
Rev. Lloyd N. Freal, B.A., B.D.  
Glen Williams  
10 a.m.—Worship service  
11 a.m.—Sunday School

**Home**  
10 a.m.—Worship Service  
11 a.m.—Sunday School

**Norval**  
10:15 a.m.—Sunday School  
11:15 a.m.—Worship Service

## ANGLICAN

The Parish of Stewarttown and Hornby  
Rev. J. E. Maxwell, Rector  
St. John's Church, Stewarttown  
9:30 a.m.—Morning Prayer  
(2nd Sunday of the month)  
Holy Communion  
10:30 a.m.—Church School  
7:30 p.m.—Evening  
(1st Sunday of the month)

St. Stephen's Church, Hornby  
11:00 a.m.—Morning Prayer & Church School (2nd Sunday of the month) — Holy Com.

St. George's Church  
Rev. K. N. G. Richardson  
Sunday, April 23rd  
ST. GEORGE'S DAY — Patronal Festival  
8:00 a.m.—HOLY EUCHARIST  
9:30 a.m.—HOLY EUCHARIST (Family Service)  
9:30 a.m.—Church School (Grades: 4, 5, 6)  
11:00 a.m.—MATTINS (Service conducted by Brotherhood of Anglican Churchmen)  
SERMON: The Venerable W. B. Jennings, B.D.  
11:00 a.m.—Church School (Grades: 1, 2, 3)  
Pre-School and Kindergarten Nursery Care  
6:30 p.m.—EVENSONG

## THURSDAYS

10:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist (Intercession Tw. sick)  
**CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**  
Minister: Rev. D. C. Los  
55 Main St. North  
9:30 a.m.—English Service  
3:00 p.m.—Dutch Service

## 24 HOUR TV SERVICE

Every Day of the Week  
TR. 7-9541

## GIS TV

After Hours  
TR. 7-9477 or TR. 7-3222

## CONCRETE GRAVEL, BUILDING SAND, ROAD GRAVEL, FILL and TOP SOIL, STONE WORK

**TOM HAINES**  
Glen Williams — TR. 7-3302

## WHAT COUNCIL DID

### Fear Tax Loss After County Judge Verdict

Georgetown could lose \$1,000 in yearly business taxes, unless a decision by County Judge Robinson is reversed in a tax appeal. Explaining the matter to council Monday, Assessment Commissioner Joseph Gibbons said that the Loblaw firm had disputed paying business assessment for the land around its building in Delrex Market Centre which is used as a parking area. The county court of revision had dismissed the appeal, but an appeal to the county judge by the firm had been successful. Judge Robinson based his decision on a similar 1959 case by another firm in a shopping plaza in Hamilton. Mr. Gibbons stressed that the Delrex firm which owns the market centre has not questioned the assessment nor have other plaza merchants. Business assessment on the 8 acres is split between the several stores in the market centre. "Almost every business in town could appeal if this decision stands," said Mayor Hyde, as he suggested council should appeal to the Ontario Supreme Court.

Quered by a councillor, Mr. Gibbons said tax loss could amount to \$1000 if the principle of not levying business assessment on land used for parking is adopted. Cr. Bob Burke wondered if it is fair to tax parking land in a shopping plaza when businesses which front on thoroughfares or public parking areas do not pay such a tax. The assessment commissioner replied that parking is an integral part of a firm doing business in a plaza and therefore is considered taxable. The Assessment Act, however does not clearly define this point and council, at Mr. Gibbons' suggestion, passed a motion asking the provincial government to include a specific clause in the Act which would remove any doubt. Possibility of appealing to the Supreme Court was left for further consideration by council.

THE GEORGETOWN NEWS  
Thursday, April 20th, 1961  
PAGE 11

**W-A-T-E-R**  
Soft, Grad  
and Glor  
And savings too  
can be yours  
with a  
**Duro**  
WATER  
SOFTENER  
NOW 313 NEW L.

**G.R. Muckart & Co.**  
Plumbing, Heating and  
Electrical Contractors  
Ph. TR. 7-3592 - 15 MILL  
EST. SINCE 1926

## SHOWBOAT '61

GEORGETOWN'S TOP ENTERTAINMENT  
DOCKS AGAIN AT  
Georgetown High School Auditorium

Friday, April 28th  
Saturday, April 29th  
Friday, May 5th  
Saturday, May 6th

**8:15 p.m.**

ADULTS: \$1.00 CHILDREN: 50¢

If You Do Not Have Your Tickets:  
CALL R. URSEL, TR. 7-4078  
or J. INGLIS, TR. 6-6784  
**GEORGETOWN ROTARY CLUB**

All the proceeds from Show Boat '61 again go to support the many public services of Rotary Club of town — Mentally Retarded Children; Georgetown District Memorial Hospital; Girl Guides; etc.

**General Electric**  
AUTOMATIC  
**WASHER**  
Originally \$379.95  
NOW **\$269.95**  
WITH YOUR TRADE  
Model W 750

**LEWYT**  
**VACUUM CLEANERS**  
JUST **\$69.95**

**G.E.**  
**Floor Polishers**  
Originally \$49.95  
ONLY **\$38.95**

**G.E.**  
**STEAM IRONS**  
**\$14.95**

**SUNBEAM**  
**MIXERS**  
COMPLETE WITH BOWL  
**\$21.95**

**GENERAL ELECTRIC**  
**WRINGER WASHER**  
Model E.P. 110  
Not exactly as illustrated  
**\$92.50** with your trade

**GREAT SAVINGS**  
ON  
**NORD-MENDE**  
IMPORTED RADIOS

**FLEETWOOD**  
**TAPE RECORDERS**  
**\$97.50**

**ELECTROHOME**  
**STEREO UNITS**  
ON-SALE  
**G.E.**  
**VACUUM CLEANERS**  
Model VCS **\$64.95**

IN OUR RECORD BAR  
**2000 L.P.'s**  
TO CHOOSE FROM  
ALL RECORDS OVER \$2.98  
**\$1.00 OFF**  
SEE...  
OUR TREMENDOUS SELECTION

**McCLARY - EASY**  
Auto Washers  
**\$269.95** With Trade

**CROSEY MOFFAT**  
30" RANGE  
**\$184.95** With Trade

**G.E.**  
**DRYERS**  
ONLY **\$149.95**

**McCLARY - EASY**  
Spiralator Washers  
**\$137.95** With Trade

**20 REFRIGERATORS**  
TO CHOOSE FROM

**HALTON COUNTY'S**  
**LARGEST TV & APPLIANCE STORE**

# WIGO

TV & APPLIANCES  
32 Main St. N. TR. 7-3376

## MERRY MENAGERIE



"You have to be tall and slim to wear clothes."