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Former Trustee A. Spence Suggests Board Of Education For Town

The Walter Scott Home and School Association held its annual fathers' night, Thursday, February 19th. Husbands of the executive, Mr. E. Castle, Mr. E. Dobbs, Mr. V. Evans, and Mr. J. Ley, conducted the meeting, and guest speaker for the evening was Mr. Arthur Spence. In his introductory remarks Mr. E. Castle told the parents something of Mr. Spence's varied background which includes a B.A. from the University of Kalamazoo, Michigan, and an M.A. from Western University in London, Ont., where he majored in philosophy and journalism, and received a Gold Key for his work on the college paper there. In addition, he was a reporter for a Toronto daily for over five years, and served two years on the local public school board in Richmond Hill.

Mr. Spence, presently teaching at the Bathurst Senior School in Toronto, in his topic, "One School Board or Two?" explained why he thought there should be a board of education in Richmond Hill replacing the present system of a public school board, with an elected group of trustees, and a high school board, with appointed trustees. Mr. Spence agreed that the present system works fine when there isn't sufficient population to support a high school with its special equipment, but when there is a large growth in an area and there are sufficient potential high school students, then the system of education should fit the pattern of growth.

Up until Grade 9 there is no gap regardless of ability and interests, but when students go from public school to high school and there is a lack of coordination, then it means wasted time for the teacher and the student. The students may become restless and bored because of possible repetition of subject matter; this in turn leads to problems of discipline which also waste precious time and a great deal of the public school training is wasted. Even with a single board there is cleavage, stated Mr. Spence. The public school teacher educates the whole child while the high school teacher is interested mainly in subject-matter teaching. Mr. Spence felt this is understandable when you consider the vast greater number of students with which he comes in contact only

Woman, Child In Two Car Accident

One of a series of accidents caused by icy roads over the week-end, a collision on Bathurst St., near Carrville Road, sent Mrs. Margaret Woodward of Regent St., Downsview, to hospital with concussion and a possible fractured jaw. A three year old boy, John Bell, of 10 Felix Road, in another car suffered shock. Frank Woodward was driving his car north on Bathurst St., when he slid on an icy section of the road and skidded across into the path of a south bound car driven by Mr. J. M. Sarvas of Felix Road.

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Retarded Children

Improvement Noted One Level To Another

At the January meeting of the Thornhill and District Association for Retarded Children, Miss Dolly Ketola, principal of Thornhaven School, led an informal discussion of an investigation by Dr. Samuel Kirk of Chicago into the effects of training on groups of retarded children. Dr. Kirk's findings will soon be published in book form. He has concluded that "while the severely retarded child cannot actually be changed through education or environment he can improve from one level of functioning to another under favorable conditions."

Over a period of eight years Dr. Kirk followed 81 children, aged three to six years with I.Q.'s between 40 and 80. Of these, 28 were placed in a nursery school where they were trained for two years with a ration of five pupils to a teacher. Four of seven organically retarded (e.g. Mongoloid) children were raised in I.Q. level while three remained stagnant. Of the non-organic (e.g. brain-injury) cases I.Q. levels rose in almost all.

Of 15 children trained in an organized school within an institution, 50 per cent of the organically retarded rose in level, and 80 per cent of the non-organic cases accelerated their development, while 12 children left in the wards of an institution either remained at the same level or dropped.

Twelve children from poor home environments lived at home but attended pre-school classes. Eight rose in level and one dropped. Of 14 others from the same families who stayed at home without schooling, two rose and five dropped in level.

Miss Ketola commented on these findings. Though she was not sure the child's I.Q. actually changed she felt more accurate measuring of the I.Q. could be possible with training and development of the child's capacities. Parents of the children at Thornhaven participated in a discussion of the effects of institutionalization of a retarded child on the normal children in the family. Dr. Kirk's research in this area showed that retarded boys were much more disruptive to the family than were retarded girls, and the retarded boy over ten was more disruptive than his counterpart under ten. Miss Ketola agreed with this on the whole particularly in the case of non-organic boys. In general, Dr. Kirk said institutionalizing a retarded boy would help a normal sister make a better adjustment, freeing the sister from care of her brother and leaving her time for her own pursuits. But in the case of a normal brother, the mother might tend to transfer her attention to the son left at home, limiting him more than when the retarded son was at home to claim her protection. Miss Ketola felt the situation varied from family to family, and depended to a considerable degree on the relative ages of the children. She did not feel it was always preferable to let the weaker child suffer in order that the stronger might not suffer at all.

The father of a child who had been institutionalized for a time said tension at home was reduced after the child went away. But the mother felt the child herself was much happier to be at home and attending Thornhaven, and was developing better than while at the institution. The parents agreed the children seemed less tense when with their schoolmates than when with normal children, but felt it was good for them to get used to mixing with other children, and it was good for normal children to get to know retarded children. The public needs a more direct acquaintance with such children to promote acceptance and understanding.

Miss Ketola made a few remarks that inadvertently pointed out the inadequacy of the present one-room-plus-basement school now Thornhaven. She said word habits started at home. For instance it was not possible for the staff of two full-time and one part-time teachers to train each of 29 or 30 children to hang up his coat. Besides there was no room for that many hooks at the school. Also with five-year-olds (acting at the level of two or two and a half years) in the same classroom with older children trying to learn to write, for example, it was not possible to give enough individual attention to teaching. Nevertheless, being in a school with an atmosphere of organized learning made the children want to learn. Miss Ketola asked for parents to volunteer help with swimming classes which have been instituted for the children this year at the North York Therapeutic Pool.

The new Education Committee will comprise Mr. R. Fisher, Thornhill; Miss P. Campbell, Toronto; Mr. J. S. Calvert, Highland Park; Mrs. J. K. Sully, Richmond Hill; and Mr. R. H. McLeod, Public School Inspector for Richmond Hill, Markham, and Stouffville. Other committee chairmen are as follows: Bulletin Editor: Mrs. G. Hodgson, Aurora; Finance: Mrs. G. A. Gamble, Unionville; Transportation: Mr. R. Locke, Willowdale; Property: Mr. E. Jennings, Richmond Hill; Building: Mr. W. Stewart, Agincourt; Membership: Mrs. R. Locke, Willowdale; Welfare: Mrs. G. H. Osborne, Willowdale; Social: Mrs. G. Goulet, Mrs. E. Jennings; Program: Mrs. W. Bloss, Thornhill; Nominating: Mrs. W. Swindle, Thornhill; Bazaar: Mrs. L. Redman, Concord.

He asked that further donations of work or materials for the new school should if possible be arranged for before the contract is let in April. In reply to a question he said he hoped people would send in their pledges in connection with the recent drive for funds without further notification to Box 333, Richmond Hill.

It was announced that the directors had approved a budget expenditure of \$21,435 for 1958, an increase over an expenditure of about \$19,000 in 1957, based on the expectation that the new school to be located in Richmond Hill would open next September.

Scout Training For Citizenship

(By D. F. Toogood, President of York Summit District Boy Scouts Association)

Since the turn of the century, society has become much concerned with the activities of youth, and this preoccupation has increased markedly since the last war. The reasons for this are too well known to require comment here. There are many youth organizations which are sponsored by churches, service clubs, schools, and community groups, but none have the distinctive programme made available by the Boy Scouts Association and its sister body, the Girl Guides Association.

The Boy Scout Movement seeks to prepare the youth of today to be tomorrow's citizens. What are the attributes of a worthwhile member of the community? To name a few they are: honesty, concern for others, loyalty, community consciousness, self-reliance and a real awareness of God. How many of us can truthfully say we have all these qualities? Too many are only too content to "leave it to George". Unfortunately, as yet there is not enough of "George" to go around.

Scouting is not, as many seem to suppose, something invented for parents to send junior to while they settle down for a quiet session with the radio or television set. It was going strong long before these were invented. It is not a club whose primary purpose is to occupy youthful energies in games and handicrafts. If this is what is desired, there are other worthwhile organizations to fill the need.

The scouting programme seeks to get boys out-of-doors to build healthy minds and bodies, and develop desirable qualities of character. Besides this, the promotion of public service and conservation of our natural resources is stressed. Hobbies and handicrafts have their place too, but this is secondary to the rest of the programme. For this reason, there are few Scout bands because the expense of a band is usually too heavy for a small volunteer unit to support, and all too often it becomes a band in scout uniform paying little heed to its original objective. (The fact that there is a hobby show for Scouts and Cubs this month in Richmond Hill does not refute this statement.)

The value of Scout training is constantly endorsed by churches of all denominations, most other organizations, and men of prominence in every field of endeavor. Scouts, both individually and in groups, have rendered countless services to their communities. Some of them have been of an outstanding nature; many were of an every-day occurrence which nevertheless are appreciated by those benefited. Two examples may be cited: in the recent mine disaster at Springhill, N.S., local Scouts took on many of the unforeseen jobs which cropped up during rescue operations, especially for those of relatives of trapped miners; sixteen Scouts and ten Guides helped Wallaceburg traffic authorities with an exhaustive two-hour survey to determine peak hours for traffic in connection with plans for future urban traffic needs.

From the foregoing it is apparent that the people of this country owe much in appreciation of the volunteer leaders who give up many hours of their time

Big Increase Cty. Population

The population of York County has increased from 69,640 in 1954 to 98,210 in the year 1958. This increase in growth is partially indicated by the revenue from the registry office. In 1955 the fees from the south and north York offices combined amounted to \$37,000. By the end of last year this amount had grown to \$53,000.

No School Grant Relief For Wards Children's Aid Soc.

There is no financial assistance for a municipality which may be burdened with numerous wards of the Children's Aid Society, according to Society Director Miss Betty Graham who spoke before York County Council last week.

This has been a pertinent question among municipalities. The society places a number of these children in the area, and though there is not a cent of additional tax money for these children who can create a school problem, even causing an additional room to be built or an additional teacher engaged.

It was originally estimated that the Children's Aid Society would be able to operate on the per day costs of 1957 which were \$2.11. However, the 1958 figures showed that these costs had increased to \$2.48. The deficit created will be absorbed in this year's budget. The final grant requested for the society's operation was \$79,970.

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to train our boys. It is regrettable that there are so few of them. And as if this were not enough, the majority of them are active in other organizations such as churches, service clubs and other community groups. True it is that all boys who start on the Scouting trail do not reach its end. This is caused by many factors, but the failure of the programme itself is the least of them. As more and more boys are given the opportunity to join this movement, in due course a larger proportion of our citizens will be worthwhile members of the community, and the burden of good works which now falls upon the few will be shared by the many.

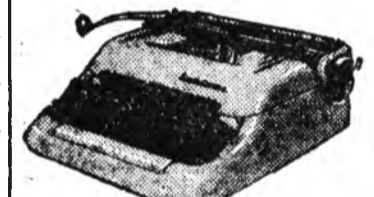
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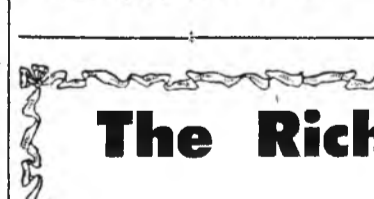
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