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Paul Bloom, aged seventy-four, gets a prison term for bigamy at Ottawa.

## SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION

### Inspector Stuart Recommends a New School in Rideau Ward.

At the meeting of the Board of Education on Wednesday night Inspector Stuart in compliance with a resolution passed by the board at its November meeting, submitted a report with respect to accommodation in the public schools, and the prospective requirements arising from the Adolescent Attendance Act. The report was a very lengthy one. The following are extracts from the report:

"Exclusive of basement rooms, there are sixty class-rooms in the public schools. One of these is required for the Model School, which is now placed in Sydenham school, as there is the least pressure for school accommodation in that locality. This leaves 59 class-rooms now all occupied by public school classes. The average daily attendance for November was 2,514, or an average attendance of 42 per room. There were thirty-three rooms with an average attendance exceeding forty, and fifteen with over forty-five. If, therefore, it were possible to distribute the pupils equally among all the class-rooms the attendance would be in excess of what is legally permissible. An equal distribution is aimed at, and there is an approximate equality, but the requirements of a graded system and other uncontrollable conditions make perfect equality in the size of classes impossible. We have, therefore, a number of classes exceeding forty-five in average attendance and these conditions have existed for several years. To prevent misconception I explained that the statements of attendance given above refer to average daily attendance, not to the number of pupils enrolled. The enrollment is, of course, greater than the average and amounted to over forty-six per teacher, while in ten classes the enrollment exceeded fifty.

#### Added Three Rooms.

"In view of the addition of the Robert Meek School in September last, the fact that the attendance per teacher is still excessive calls for explanation. It must be remembered that this school made a net addition of only three rooms. This reduced the average daily attendance per teacher from forty-four to forty-two. The chief gain from the new school lay in the abandonment of the very inferior accommodation of the old Cataract school, and two basement rooms in Central school, which are not suitable for permanent use on sanitary grounds.

"The addition of recent years have considerably improved the average quality of the schools, but in Rideau and Louise schools, and probably in Sydenham also, we have obsolete buildings of a type inferior to anything to be found elsewhere in the cities of Ontario. Much better buildings have been removed or abandoned in other cities and we cannot regard conditions here with satisfaction as long as the limits of accommodation force the use of these buildings, constructed in times of smaller resources, a more restricted outlook, and before the ventilation and lighting of schools had been scientifically investigated, and, in a measure, standardized.

"The character of the school building reacts on the children attending it. The influence of the Robert Meek school as the successor to the old Cataract school on the personal appearance and demeanour of the pupils furnishes an object lesson as to the moral and social value of a good building.

"The quarters appropriated to manual training and household science have been pronounced unfit for their purpose by the departmental inspector. These premises were accepted with the expectation that their use would be only temporary and that these departments would be more adequately provided for when new construction was undertaken. The household science department should be placed at some convenient school centre.

#### More Class Rooms Needed.

"Almost all the enquiries made, as well as public discussions of the

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question of additional school accommodation, have apparently assumed that no new building can be justified unless it can be shown that population, and consequently school enrollment, have greatly increased. The public school enrollment has, as a matter of fact, increased considerably in recent years; but the fact should be grasped that Kingston still has a considerable arrearage before its public school accommodation, either with respect to quantity or quality, is equal to the minimum standard prescribed by law. In almost all the cities of Ontario this standard has been complied with and in most of them it has been considerably exceeded. It would be necessary to provide about six additional class-rooms and teachers to permit classes no larger than those found elsewhere.

"In addition to a sufficient number of class-rooms for ordinary classes, accommodation should be provided for auxiliary classes under the Auxiliary Classes Act, and also for the increased attendance resulting from the Adolescent Attendance Act, which, since September, 1921, has made the attendance of pupils over fourteen compulsory up to sixteen years of age; and, after September, 1922, will require those who, under any of the exemptions permitted by the Act, have not made a full attendance up to sixteen, to compensate for the deficiency by a part-time attendance up to eighteen years of age. "It is difficult to estimate closely what additional accommodation will be necessary to make full provision for adolescent attendance; and, since it is the policy of the minister to bring the Act into force gradually we cannot be certain, until the final step is taken, of all that will be required.

#### An Industrial School.

"As has been intimated, an industrial school is designed to give vocational or pre-vocational training to boys and girls who have qualified for admission to the Collegiate Institute. Only a small number of others could be accepted as practically qualified to undertake its courses. The institution and management of an industrial school will be under the control of the Industrial Advisory Committee. It is, therefore, a secondary school matter and I have no wish to discuss the subject except as it is related to the public schools. Such a school will admit only a small number of adolescents below Entrance standing and it will not, therefore, to any considerable extent, provide for the increased attendance which will result from the enforcement of the Adolescent Attendance Act. Mr. Sillier will doubtless show its importance in a neglected field of secondary education.

"The additions to school accommodation called for to supply existing deficiencies or to meet new conditions resulting from the enforcement of the Adolescent School Attendance Act may be estimated as follows:

"A sufficient number of additional class-rooms to bring the average attendance per teacher within the requirements of the law. This would call for at least six class-rooms. To reduce the attendance per teacher to the average of the twenty-two cities of Ontario would require ten new class-rooms.

"The replacement of such schools as Louise and Rideau with modern buildings creditable to the city.

"Adequate accommodation for manual training and household science classes. Two centres for each would find full employment now. With the enforcement of the Adolescent Attendance Act this number will ultimately be found insufficient. It should be noted that this estimate has reference to public school requirements only. Peterborough, Brantford, Windsor, Stratford and other cities have already engaged additional manual training and household science teachers for their public schools. Windsor has three of each, Ottawa, with less than three times the public school enrollment as compared with Kingston, has seven of each.

"Additional accommodation for auxiliary classes necessary to provide for (a) subnormal pupils, (b) part time pupils under the Adolescent Attendance Act.

"There is not sufficient data ascertainable to permit a close calculation of what this last requirement will amount to but after reviewing the facts available, I see no reason to alter the estimate made in my report of October, 1920, that it will call for the equivalent of an eight-roomed school.

#### New School Needed.

"The programme outlined will seem large to those who have not investigated the subject of school accommodation. Compared, however, with the standards maintained in other cities, and in view of the requirements of the law, it is not extravagant. The first step should be a new school in Rideau-ward, large enough to replace Rideau and Louise schools, and supply some additional accommodation. This school should not be located too far west to serve these purposes. An ideal location would be the west end of Victoria park, on Albert street.

"Louise school could then be fitted up to serve as one manual training and household science centre, while the new school would probably relieve Macdonald school sufficiently to permit of two rooms being used for a second centre for these subjects. The addition of this school will, of course, only partly meet the demands outlined above, but it would mark progress in the right direction.

A thirty-foot channel from Lake Erie to the sea is recommended by the International Joint Commission. The Ontario legislature opens on February 14th.

PROBS:—Friday, mostly fair and cold.

# FRIDAY BARGAINS!

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