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THE ADOLESCENT ACT AND NEEDS OF KINGSTON

Ably Set Forth by Principal E. O. Sliter at Rotary Club Luncheon.

In a splendid address before the members of the Kingston Rotary Club, at its weekly luncheon on Friday, Principal E. O. Sliter, of the Collegiate Institute, explained the Adolescent Act, and pointed out the needs in Kingston to meet the requirements of the act.

Mr. Sliter set forth this most important matter in an able manner, and his address was listened to with a great deal of interest by all the members of the club. The president, Lemman A. Gullid, presided, and introduced the speaker, pointing out that the subject to be taken up by Mr. Sliter was a most interesting one to Kingstonians, in view of the fact that it was the intention of the Board of Education to provide additional school accommodation and equipment.

Mr. Sliter, in his opening remarks, referred to the Adolescent School Attendance Act. He said the situation is one that has to be faced at once, and that citizens must decide what they will do about it. And in order to discuss the matter, citizens must understand the situation.

Mr. Sliter dealt with the question of compulsory education, and the passing of the Adolescent Act by the Ontario legislature, in 1919. Under this act, after September of this year, all between the ages of fourteen and sixteen, will be called upon to go to school all the time, or go to school part of the time and work part of the time. The law says that every urban municipality of 5,000 or over, must provide part-time courses, and penalties are provided for employers and parents or guardians who violate the law. These special classes cannot be held at night, as the law will not allow it. Many people might wonder why the present schools, with their teaching staff and equipment could not be utilized.

Duty of the City.

The speaker emphasized the fact that it was the duty of the municipality to provide these part-time classes, and then went on to deal with the situation as it affected Kingston. Kingston had not as yet complied with the act, and additional accommodation is needed. The speaker here pointed out how it would never do to put pupils of sixteen years of age with pupils eleven and twelve years of age. Special classes must be provided for dull and subnormal pupils. There must also be provision made for pupils who do not attend the Collegiate Institute, but who go to work. These classes should not be technical, but of a pre-vocational character. The boys could be given manual training, and the girls domestic science. There were many boys who were dull with books, but very clever with their hands, and they should be given a chance.

Continuing, Mr. Sliter stated that those who were in close touch with the matter had found that the least accommodation to meet the situation in Kingston would consist of a ten-room school. More secondary school accommodation is needed, but not of the type of the collegiate. The need called for a school giving pre-vocational work, and to go still further. Besides the ordinary subjects there should be something of a technical or practical character. The government was ready to assist in the cost. The government would also provide the services of an expert to make a survey of Kingston to decide on the courses to be held.

Mr. Sliter said that the collegiate here was at present crowded, and that unless there was some relief, it would be overcrowded next year. The speaker said that he had suggested to the Board of Education that the commercial course in the collegiate be transferred to the new school to be built. This would relieve the Collegiate of three rooms, and 120 pupils, and give the Collegiate a chance to expand.

"And all this should be ready next fall," said Mr. Sliter, "but this of course, is an impossibility now. But by September, 1923, we must be prepared. We cannot make a pretence at meeting this act. And I do not see what we can do unless we do something along the lines I have outlined. And unless we do something along these lines, I do not think that we will have endeavored to do anything."

As to the number of pupils to be affected, Mr. Sliter said that he had asked Inspector Merchant who was in Kingston recently, and he had stated that the number would be 250, and this agreed with the estimate made by the speaker. And the law stated that these pupils must attend school.

The speaker stated that every year boys and girls were being sent out unprepared for life. The government, in putting through this legislation, had pointed out that it was being done for these reasons. To provide the training for citizenship, and for the training of the right use of the hours of leisure. There was the problem of what to do to help the young people. The speaker felt that this new system of education

would go a long way towards solving this problem.

Money Well Spent.

As to the financial condition of the city, to meet the expense of the new school, the speaker had no information to offer, but he would venture to say that if the people of Kingston felt the importance of the matter, and determined to carry out the law to meet the requirements, the money would be forthcoming. There would be cutting down of expenses on other things, no doubt, but not on this all-important matter. No person would deny the statement that money properly expended on education is the best investment any city could make. There was but the question of what would be proper to take up. If it was shown that these extra classes are absolutely necessary, the money would be forthcoming.

Mr. Sliter said that the schools of the city had served their purpose all right up to the present, but referred to the fact that a large proportion of pupils would be dropping out because they did not find what they wanted to take up.

The speaker took occasion to pay a warm tribute to Kingston Board of Education. "You have a board that you might be proud of," he added. "If the board on looking into this matter decides that this additional accommodation is needed, the citizens as a whole, should be of the same opinion, as the board of education is a most respectable body, composed of respectable citizens, who have as much at stake as the ordinary citizen."

Dr. H. E. Day moved a vote of thanks to the speaker for his splendid address. He said no person in Kingston understood the situation better than Mr. Sliter, as a result of his long experience in teaching here. He felt that the members of the Rotary club should consider it their duty to follow up this work, more especially on account of the fact that it had to do with boys' work. Dr. Day also told about the good work which is being carried on at the Kingston welfare station, in looking after the children underweight. He also referred to the nutrition clinics held. He asked that all take an interest in the work, and send "Kiddies" who needed attention to this welfare station.

L. T. Best seconded the vote of thanks to the speaker, stating that the members of the club had listened with great interest to the clear and concise address. The question taken up by the speaker had been before the Board of Education for some time, and the decision to seek additional accommodation had not been arrived at quickly. The matter had been given the most careful consideration.

President Guild, in tendering the vote of thanks to Mr. Sliter, stated that he agreed with Dr. Day, in his suggestion that the club take the matter up and give it loyal support. He also appealed to the members to assist in every possible way the work which is being carried on at the welfare station.

All Ready for Chautauqua.

All is in readiness for the great Chautauqua, to be held in Kingston under the auspices of the Rotary Club, July 1st to 7th, inclusive. Reports of the various committees were received, and it promises to go over big in Kingston. The sale of tickets will commence at once. Kingston and district has been well covered by the advertising committee, and all over the one topic of conversation is about the Chautauqua.

The club received a letter from the Sister Superior and Sisters of the St. Mary's-of-the-Lake Orphanage, thanking the club for the treat given the "Kiddies" in this institution a week ago, and extending best wishes for the success of the club.

Rotarian Taylor Dale very ably presided at the piano for the club's

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"sing-song," in the absence of Rotarian Harold Singleton.

Samuel Robinson, of the Robinson Stores, Ltd., was a guest at the luncheon.

AN AUTOMOBILE ACTION RESULTS IN DISMISSAL

Judge Madden Finds Plaintiff Guilty of Contributory Negligence.

The county court concluded its sessions on Friday afternoon with the hearing of the case of David Smith, plaintiff, and Donald Wilson, defendant. The plaintiff's claim was for \$500 damages for injuries received in a motor car collision. Judge Madden, after hearing the evidence, dismissed the case with costs finding no criminal negligence on the part of the defendant. He found the plaintiff was guilty of contributory negligence. T. J. Rigney, K.C., appeared for the defendant, and C. M. Smith for the plaintiff.

The evidence showed that the defendant's car had hit Mr. Smith's rig, with the result that Mrs. Smith received a bad cut which required medical attention and leaves a permanent scar. The defendant claimed that he was travelling at a slow rate of speed and without admission of guilt had paid part of the plaintiff's bill, some thirty-five dollars. The hearing of the case took about two hours.

The business of the court of general sessions was greatly expedited by Judge Madden who allowed no time to be wasted. The criminal cases were put through in two days, the court sessions proper being conducted in a day and one half. The civil cases, two in number, were concluded on Friday, the judge being on the bench from 10 o'clock in the morning until four o'clock, but twenty minutes adjournment being given for lunch.

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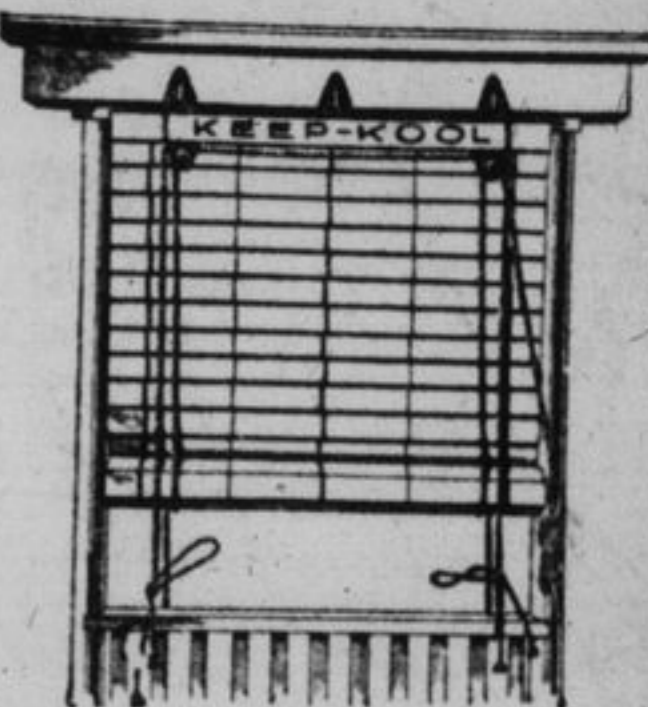
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