# Quebec HOME and SCHOOL

Published Monthly by

THE QUEBEC FEDERATION OF HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS



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Montreal, Quebec

June, 1949

# Your Child's Future:

A recent issue of The Royal Bank of Canada's Monthly Letter bears the title "When you are on your own". It is written for the young men and women of to-day who this year leave school to strike out on their own. Many a parent will derive inspiration and help from this "Letter". It will assist you in guiding your children to a full and useful life.

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# The President's Message

On assuming the duties with which you have honoured me, I recognize fully both the responsibilities involved in this office, and the tremendous opportunity that lies open to our Federation in the development of a

public opinion in our province which will favour reform and advance the education of our boys and girls. I realize too that our Federation must always be on the watch and ready to champion the cause of equal educational opportunities for our children and youth, a concept, you will agree, fundamental in our democratic thinking. I likewise am well aware that our Federation and its Regional Councils receive their strength from the prestige created by their affiliated member Home & School Associations.

My predecessors in office have been fully conscious of these facts with the result that our Federation has grown rapidly in strength since its inception in May 1944. To-day most of the Protestant schools in Montreal have Associations and the greater number of these have organized Regional Councils. More and more the Protestant schools in the provincial areas are forming Associations, but much work remains yet to be done. It is here that our Federation would achieve greater success if our active, healthy Associations in the provincial areas where there are common interests would organize Regional Councils. The Federation needs these Councils if Home & School is to obtain its full growth in the provincial areas of Quebec.

Our Second Provincial Conference is over and with it another year of tremendous effort by the Board of Directors and its Committees. It was very inspiring indeed to see delegates from the majority of our ninety Home & School Associations participating in the various activities of the Conference.

> No finer tribute could have been paid those who had worked so faithfully and well for the Federation than the enthusiasm with which the delegates accepted the reports of the Committee. Since it is in committee that the real work of the Federation is done, was it any wonder that at this time of the Conference everyone experienced the feeling of being drawn completely into harmony with the real spirit of Home and School? It permeated the whole atmosphere of the Conference Hall, filling everyone with

courage, strength and determination to do even more for Home and School during the coming year. Perhaps more of this Home and School spirit could have been released if a longer time for discussion of reports and giving of Association Highlights had been allowed and if the whole Conference had been held within the walls of one Hall. Perhaps too this Home and School spirit should have been made available to all members of Associations and not limited to members of the Council of Representatives. All, however, were unanimous in their comments that the Second Provincial Conference had achieved its purpose in being inspiring, profitable and enjoyable.

The Conference brought out vividly to all delegates the vast efforts expended by the Officers, Directors and Committee Mem-

bers of the Federation during the past year. All Home and School members, I am sure, appreciate the real sacrifice that these men and women have made. They deserve the satisfaction of a job exceedingly well done.

Our Federation to-day is a progressive, active, smooth functioning organization. I know that it is your wish that this state

of our Federation be continued. With the very able and experienced group of Officers and Direcors with whom you have surrounded me, you have assured yourselves that not only will there be a continuation of this growth out there will also be a consolidation of all gains made during the past five years.

Edward C. Powell, President.

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# Quebec HOME and SCHOOL

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# Problems in Human Relationship

By Dr. BARAUCH SILVERMAN,

Director of the Mental Hygiene Institute, and Associate Professor of Psychiatry, McGill University

Intelligent and scientific treatment of problems in human relationships must become a major concern of everyone of us in these post-war years. This matter assumes great importance when we realize that most of the delinquency and anti-social conduct in people, the serious mental diseases which afflict our present day society, the numerous neurotic illnessess which seriously handicap so many people at their work and in their daily life are largely a result of an inability on the part of many people to establish adequate relationships with other human beings. We now know that most of the problems in human relationships, problems between parents and children, husband and wife, teacher and pupil, employer and employee result primarily from a state of emotional insecurity in which many people find themselves. This produces a feeling of not being wanted or loved or thought well of by the group with whom the individual lives and results in feelings of inferiority and inadequacy. It is these feelings which are the cause of so much distress and suffering, unhappiness and inefficiency at one's work and the serious marked economic burden on the community.

These mental difficulties also result in a state of disillusionment which in young people, frequently leads to excesses in social experimentation, rebellion against the status quo and makes them literally long for some serious social upheaval.

It should be noted that it is not financial and economic insecurity, but rather emotional insecurity which produces these difficulties. For we know that many individuals who are financially secure are none the less unhappy, badly adjusted to their environment and not infrequently develop mental illness. Furthermore it is well known that there are a great many people who live at a relatively low economic level, but are happy, well adjusted and effective citizens in the community. It is obvious, therefore, that we must give serious consideration to these problems in human relationships in order that they may be dealt with adequately.

To the psychiatrist who is daily concerned with the treatment of worries, anxieties, depression, neurotic illness and mental disease in people, it is very evident that the only way in which we can prevent the occurrence of these states of mental distress is by the means of facilitating better individual human relationships. We must begin to give more serious consideration to the development of wholesome mental attitude particularly in children and young people, so that they may be as free as possible from prejudice, aggressive and hostile feelings and those emotional conflicts which result in anti-social conduct and neurotic behavior.

To those of us who have the opportunity to treat many individuals who are unhappy, worried, depressed and inefficient at their work, it is evident that these people are emotionally insecure, feel inferior and have a marked sense of frustration in their attempts to cope with the problems of life. They inevitably find themselves so overcome with the difficulties with which they are confronted that as a rule they solve their life problems by becoming over-aggressive and anti-social or they tend to avoid the problems of life by means of neurotic illness and mental disease.

The adolescent boy who is unable to cope with his academic work or is badly adjusted to his family feels inferior. If he is severely criticized at home, he begins to feel that he is not sufficiently important in the group with whom he lives and consequently he becomes the class clown, a disturbance in the school, over-aggressive and readily develops delinquent tendencies. Such boys frequently develop into emotionally unhappy adults who can only gain satisfaction by rebelling against authority, being ultra-radical in their attitude to life and making efforts to create disturbances in the industrial, political, religious and other spheres of our social life.

We must appreciate the fact that it is now possible to overcome the crippling results of neurotic illness and mental disease by means of the early recognition and treatment of mental illness through the use of modern psychotherapy, through shock treatment and

other methods which are now available for this purposes. As the general public becomes increasingly aware of what can be done for the treatment of early cases of mental illness there will be a greater readiness to bring such patients for help at an early stage of the development of the illness with much better results from treatment.

We must also realize that most of the serious disturbances in human behavior such as anti-social conduct and delinquency, family breakdown, neurotic illness and even the serious types of mental disease are for the most part preventible and that prevention can only be effected through maintaining and improving our psychiatric and mental hygiene clinic facilities particularly for the prevention and treatment of disturbances in the behavior of children.

An adequate mental health service in our public schools is urgently needed to prevent the development of behavior disorders in children, to overcome special learning difficulties which some children have, and to prevent the development of the numerous neurotic ills and mental disorders which cause so much distress and suffering and constitute such an economic burden on the community.

Mental hygiene is primarily concerned with the prevention of nervous and mental disease and the conservation of mental health. One of the cardinal principles in education is to facilitate the wholesome development of the child's personality so that he may become an efficient, well-adjusted member of society. It is, therefore, obvious that both mental hygiene and education have a common objective in this regard. When we realize that of every twenty-five in the school population, one will develop a serious mental disorder which will require treatment in a mental hospital and that another four children of this same group of twenty-five

(Continued on page 13)

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# WHAT ABOUT FEDERAL AID TO EDUCATION?

By D. V. JACKSON

Chairman Teacher Shortage Committee

Educationists, professional and business men all agree that education needs more assistance from provincial and federal funds to perform its logical function.

Education is not a cost, it is an investment, an investment in the future of civilization, in free men, in social welfare, higher living standards, better human relationships, democracy and peace.

Most parents of today, like those of past centuries, want the best for their children and are not only willing, but eager, to see a larger proportion of taxes go to education. Property taxes are obviously so inadequate that financing from general taxes is now an urgent necessity.

Every child, regardless of the financial position of its parents, has an inalienable right to the highest degree of education its mental capacity is capable of attaining. Can we Canadians afford to give our children the education so essential to good citizenship? The answer definitely is "Yes". This generation has become accustomed to thinking of money in terms of millions and even billions but we have neglected to think of the relatively small amount we spend to send our sons and daughters to universities. For example, in 1945 we spent, approximately, seven hundred million dollars on liquor and tobacco, one hundred and thirty-six million for recreation, one hundred and eighteen million on personal appearance. How much on higher education? Nineteen million dol-lars. Astounding, isn't it? Would the ma-jority of us not be willing to pay higher taxes on these valued comforts or to curtail our expenditures on them, if by doing so we could assure our children of a happier future? The answer, again, is a resounding "Yes".

The Teacher Shortage Committee of the Quebec Federation is now examining and tabulating results from nine thousand questionnaires sents to educationists, profes-

sional and businessmen and students on the important question of "Teacher Shortage". One of the questions asks if federal aid to education is necessary. The answer is in the affirmative on every questionnaire examined so far. This committee believes that the problem cannot be solved without federal aid. Canada has a shortage of about 10,000 teachers, according to recent surveys, which means that 125,000 candidates will have to be trained to be teachers within the next ten years to meet our needs. Only 26,500 of the 6,000 trained during the last ten years are still in service.

A brief on the subject was presented to the Federal Government in February, 1949, by the Canadian Teachers' Federation. The delegation was cordially received and encouraged by the interest displayed during their interview with the Prime Minister and five members of his cabinet, but this is not enough. The matter must be discussed by individuals with Members of the House to obtain their support for action now. There are over a hundred thousand Home and School Association members in Canada, about fifty-eight thousand teachers and untold numbers of others interested in education. Supposing these thousands who are interested in the welfare of our children and the future prosperity and security of our nation, impressed upon their representatives in the Government, the urgency for immediate action with respect to federal aid. Could the plea be ignored?

Provincial rights must be safeguarded in any plan to benefit the nation as a whole. The complete control of administration, supervision, teaching personnal, the curricula, methods and material of instruction, must remain with the provinces. The Federal Government could assist in financing education from general taxes but such expenditure of public funds should not confer upon any Minister or Official of the Dominion Government any right of supervision or control

over any educational institution with respect to which such funds are expended.

Probably a good plan for Federal Aid would be to survey the situation in each Province to determine the number of children between the ages of six and sixteen, create a factor based upon the relationship of the number of children to the wealth of the Province and make a per capita grant annually to each Province, earmarked for education.

The idea is not new. The Dominion Government has recognized its responsibility to education in many ways, such as: vocational schools, agriculture, technical and industrial education. youth training, health, family allowances, etc. Surely the intellectual wellbeing of our children is equally important.

Let us not make a political issue of the subject but try to obtain the support of all political parties. In this democratic country of ours, we are big enough to place the welfare of our children beyond politics and all work together for our common good and the mutual benefit of all provinces within our Dominion of Canada. Like the Canadian Teachers' Federation, let us tell the Members of the House we believe that a straight per pupil capita grant would bring the greatest benefits compatible with the safeguards which

certain provinces would require to guarantee that the Federal Government would not infringe upon their jurisdiction in the field of education, and we believe that any system of federal aid should be contingent upon the provinces maintaining or bettering their present level of payments toward education. Let us act now. The necessity for immediate action cannot be over-emphasized.

Excerpts from a Brief presented by the Canadian Teachers' Federation to the Federal Government.

"The Federal Government has a vast Stake in the education of our youth who are citizens not only of the provinces but also of Canada."

"We are faced with a national problem. To the degree that the education of Canadian boys and girls is deficient or insufficient, we reduce the prosperity of our nation and increase the vulnerability of our national security."

"Our purpose in making this presentation to-day is not to ask the government for one particular plan to the exclusion of all others, but rather to urge upon the government the need for action now."

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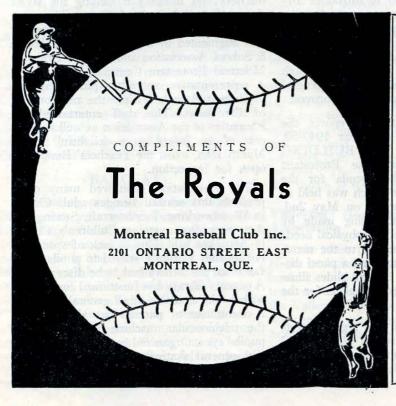
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# Association Highlights

#### Woodland Association

A protest was sent from the parents to Premier Duplessis, against the amendment to the Free Education Law, which was introduced in the Quebec Legislative Assembly. Woodland Association would like to see other associations protest this amendment.

The adult evening classes in handicrafts, sponsored by Woodland association, have been very popular and successful, as well as the child study group.

Refreshments have been served after every meeting, in an attempt to have the parents know each other, and enjoy a social hour together.

#### Sherbrooke Association

Prior to the first meeting last fall, a "Fellowship Committee" was formed. It's function was to see that parents and teachers met each other, and also to introduce any newcomers to the others present. On the suggestion of this committee, name card holders were purchased. These are handed out before each meeting as in the service clubs. Our Association felt that, through the efforts of this committee, the general tone of the meetings was much improved.

The presentation of annual reports, the election of officers for the year 1949-50, and panel discussions on "BUILDING NEEDS" of the Sherbrooke Protestant School System filled the agenda for the final meeting of the year which was held in the High School auditorium on May 2nd. A preview into attempts being made by the School Board to meet the physical needs of the schools was presented to the members of the Association through a panel discussion and showing of lantern slides illustrating suggested changes and plans for the future.

The secretary reported five regular meetings during the present school year. Special entertainment featured the first appearance in public of the newly-formed Boys' Choir under the direction of J. E. Shortt, the

General-Secretary. The twelve singers showed excellent talent and training.

Official delegates from our Association to the Spring Conference of the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations in Montreal on April 29 and 30 were enthusiastic in their reports of this gathering.

At the conclusion of the annual meeting a social hour with refreshments was spent in the Home Economics Department.

#### IONA ASSOCIATION

The Iona Home & School Association, which was eight years old in February, and which was the first to be organized in Greater Montreal, now has a membership of over 700 families. The season just completed has proved to be one of its most constructive and successful.

The main project for the past year was the refurnishing and re-decorating of the Teachers' Room in the School. To this end, a most successful Fashion Show was presented on October 27th and 28th, with teachers and mothers modelling the styles shown by various local firms. The considerable sum realized by this undertaking was augmented by a grant from the Home & School Association and another from the Montreal Protestant Central School Board. A representative committee purchased furnishings and looked after the redecorating of the room. The staff entertained the Executive of the Association as well as Officers of the Board, at a delightful tea on March 16th, when the Teachers' Room was open for inspection.

The Association sponsored many other projects this season. Besides adult Classes in Woodworking, Leathercraft, Sewing and Art, Saturday morning Children's Classes in Art were held. Due to lack of space, the hot lunches formerly served to pupils living far from the School had to be discontinued. A parents' library has functioned continually, with books available at all general meetings. A committee of parents has also operated the telebinocular machine for testing the pupils' eyes. Organized hockey games, fancy and general skating are supervised by the Association, also Scouts, Guides, Cubs and Brownies. This winter, hockey sweaters

were purchased for the school teams, and, as in other years at our Annual Meeting, permants will be presented to the winning teams.

Three new Committees have been formed, Telephone, Placement, and Publicity, whose usefulness has been well proved.

Our general meetings, all followed by a popular social hour, have brought to our membership a varied and constructive series of addresses. Our first guest speaker, Mr. L. T. Bird of the Canadian Marconi Co., spoke on "Radio and the Schools", and supplemented his talk with an interesting demonstration of the newest in radio facilities. On November 16th, our Annual Parents' Night was followed by a very enjoyable Barn Dance directed by Mr. J. G. Lang, Supervisor of Physical Education for the Montreal School Board. The children of the School presented their Christmas Concert on December 15th to a capacity audience. Our meeting on January 20th featured a Panel Discussion on "Education for Family Life", a subject we believe to be of vital interest to all members of the community. The Principal, Mr. D. J. Gulliver, chaired this meeting; and our speakers included Mrs. T. B. Hughes, Rabbi Dr. Solomon Frank, Dr. P. N. MacDermott, Rev. E. D. Errey, and Mrs. Hamilton Marshall.

As the season draws to its close, we feel that, although much has been accomplished, much still remains to be done. Our principal asset is the close cooperation and helpfulness we have enjoyed at all times with Mr. Gulliver and his staff, and our affiliation with the Quebec Federation and the West End Regional Council.

#### BARCLAY

Outstanding progress has been made at Barclay this year in membership, and the Membership Committee has done a wonderful job of contacting parents and interesting them in the association. A Saturday Morning Art Class has been started for the children and its membership was immediately over-subscribed. Visiting day was a joy to the grown-ups for whom it was a revelation and a pleasure to see the young ones' creative instincts coming out in such profusion of colour and line. Adult education classes have been carried on in French, Sewing and Public Speaking, with encou-

raging results. The Children's Entertainment Committee has conducted several good movie nights for pupils in various age groups. The Social Committee rather outdid itself in serving refreshments at meetings, and they held a Military Whist that far exceeded everybody's expectations both socially and financially. The proceeds are to be used for a fitting memorial to the Late Mr. R. P. Bissell, former Principal of Barclay School. The executive and members at large have shown considerable interest in community problems, such as traffic, juvenile delinquency, etc. They have followed the Federation's Weekly Broadcast, and expressed their reactions with commendable promptness, particularly on the question of the new Education Bill No. 62. We didn't like it. This first year with a woman president, (Mrs. W. W. Roberts), has stressed the personal contact side of Home and School work, and has led us away from formality, which seemed to be a good thing.

### St. Laurent Home and School Association

The danger of over-protecting children was stressed by Dr. Jacques Beaubien, registrar and assistant director of the Allen Memorial Institute, in a talk given at a meeting of the St. Laurent Home and School Association. He said that such over-protection may lead to a feeling of shyness and inferiority, which may have serious effects on the child's emotional life. To prevent inferiority complexes, a child should be encouraged to associate with other children and to solve for himself the difficulties and problems which arise from everyday activities. Dr. Beaubien based his talk on the film, "The Feeling of Rejection", which was shown at the meeting.

#### Valleyfield Home and School Association

In the latter part of April, the Valleyfield Home and School Association sponsored a banquet, to celebrate the completion of extensive renovations and improvements to the Valleyfield School, Gault Institute. This was held in the newly created Domestic Science Room of the school.

After the banquet, a meeting was held, at which Dr. W. P. Percival was the guest of honor. Dr. Percival said that we should

endeavour to teach our children the necessity of work, and the dignity of labour, since nothing worthwhile is gained without endeavour, thought and work. Dr. Percival's admonition to all students was: "Learn to be honest, learn a sense of duty and honour, and a sense of respect for the finer things of life". He said that Democracy is what you can give, not what you can take, and the fruits of the Spirit are what really count.

#### MOUNT-ROYAL

At the Annual Meeting of the Mount Royal Home and School Association last night the officers were elected for the coming year.

The retiring chairman, Mrs. A. Greenberg read the president's report on the Association's activities of the year.

A portable radio and books for the school library were presented to the school on behalf of the Home and School Association.

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# PROBLEMS IN HUMAN RELATIONSHIP

(Continued from page 6)

will become neurotic, asocial or anti-social unless preventive measures are employed in childhood, it is obvious that parents and teachers must help in the treatment of these children. If parents and teachers can become aware of the significance of such early signs of maladjustment as excessive timidity and shyness, crying spells, fears, marked temper outbursts and difficulties in making contacts with other children, they will realize that such behavior is a fore-runner of more serious mental disorder, in the same sense that a persistent cough, excessive fatigue and malnutrition are indicative of more serious physical conditions which require medical treatment.

We must integrate the principles of mental hygiene into the educational method, by appreciating the importance of emotional education. Our present educational system stresses intellectual training but pays little or no attention to emotional development. We graduate from our schools and colleges, many individuals who are intellectually mature but emotionally undeveloped and therefore lack objectivity, retain numerous prejudices, are excessively irritable, moody and cannot adapt themselves satisfactorily to their work and their families.

Wholesome personality characteristics in children and young people can best be developed by means of sympathy, kindness, affection and encouragement on the part of parents and teachers in their everyday family and school relationships.

Corporal punishment, harshness, severity and injudicious criticism seriously hinder the normal development of the personality and in many sensitive children result in the development of anti-social conduct and neurotic behavior.

The basic problem which every child and young person has to face in this regard is the manner in which he can satisfy his instincts and impulses without infringing upon the code of ethics, the ideals and traditions of the family group and the social setting in which he lives. This can best be achieved by developing in children an adequate conscience which will enable the individual to exercise sufficient self-control and at the same time allow him to gain some outlet for his biological needs and to do so in socially acceptable ways. Therefore the type of conscience which the individual develops is of paramount importance in stabilizing his personality and making him a mentally healthy and socially useful individual.

Conscience is derived from the ideals, customs and traditions as fostered by the parents, teachers and the group with whom the child lives and the best way to facilitate this process is by means of approbation, encouragement and affection.

Unfortunately many parents and teachers do not realize this basic principle of personality growth and development and their severe criticisms and punitive attitudes to children have a devastating effect particularly on many sensitive young people who become maladjusted, anti-social, neurotic and in some instances mentally ill.

We must establish in the child an adequate sense of belonging, a sense of security in his family and school setting through making him feel that we understand him and want to help him and through giving him an opportunity to talk about his interests, worries, ambitions and problems.

By adopting such methods, the home and school can develop in children and young people wholesome personality characteristics, adequate social relationships and a greater capacity for citizenship in a democratic state of society.

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The untimely death of Mr. Mack, well-loved and capable Headmaster through the war years, necessitated a change in administration. To meet the emergency a body of parents joined with the teachers to form an administrative Parents and Teachers Group. This group has the objective of maintaining the flexibility of small classes and of running the school on a non-profit basis. It considers itself fortunate that the

policies of past headmasters will be continued in the future under the capable guidance of the present headmaster, Mr. T. V. Bedford M. R. S. T. (Eng.) who for many years was associated with the late Mr. Mack. It is also felt that the close relationship now existing between parents and teachers is beneficial to the pupils and will prove more so as the years go by.

Anyone interested in obtaining further particulars may do so by applying to Mr. T. V. Bedford, 498 Argyle Avenue, Westmount, FI. 8185.

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