

QUEBEC AND SCHOOL

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**Your
Federation
Conference
Issue**

— PUBLISHED BY —

THE QUEBEC FEDERATION OF
HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS

VOL. VI, No. 7

MONTREAL, QUEBEC

APRIL, 1954



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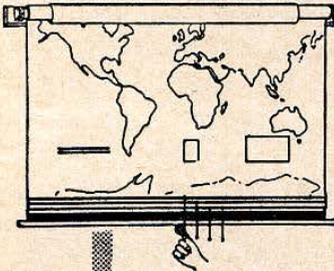
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QUEBEC HOME AND SCHOOL

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THE CLOCK FROWNS



REUBEN RESIN

The greatest problem at our conference is lack of time. Too often we cannot give sufficient attention to many of the issues which come before us for decision. I can understand the feeling of frustration, and even resentment, of those who attend a meeting and find discussion curtailed and decisions taken without having had the chance to contribute to, or participate in, the making of those decisions. It is frustrating, too, for a presiding officer with any sense of responsibility and fair dealing, who not only welcomes but is eager for intelligent suggestions and constructive criticism, to have to cut short debate perhaps at its point of greatest interest because the clock frowns. Full and complete discussion is not only desirable, but essential, so that we may benefit from the knowledge and experience of as many of our members as is possible.

Our convention lasts a day and a half. I believe no other Provincial Federation attempts to compress its work into so little time. It may be that we have reached the stage in our growth when we must consider extending our conference. In the meantime we should try to make the best of such time as is allotted to us.

With this in mind, the suggestions made in the past, and those outlined to you in the correspondence addressed to you by our secretary, are worth repeating.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find the reports of our committees. They are printed in the magazine to avoid the necessity of having them read at the conference. All who plan to attend, and especially accredited representatives, are urged to read them and come prepared to discuss the reports themselves, as well as the recommendations to be put forward by the committee chairmen based on the information contained in them.

Familiarize yourselves with the resolutions to be presented for consideration. Sponsors should be prepared to support, and, if necessary, clarify their resolutions. It is well to remember in our deliberations that the decisions arrived at with respect to the matters which come before us, whether

(continued on page 4)

**These Federation
Committees can help you
in planning your
Association activities.**

Ask them!

Art Classes: Mrs. G. Lerner, 582
Cote St. Antoine Road, West-
mount.

Children's Leisure Reading:
Miss Rita Sheppard, Verdun
High School, Argyle Avenue,
Verdun.

Constitution: Dr. Edward C.
Powell, 340 - 44th Avenue, La-
chine.

Parent Education: Mrs. G. B.
Clarke, 182 Desaulniers Blvd.,
St. Lambert.

Mental Health: Mrs. O. Doob,
4645 Sherbrooke W., West-
mount.

Program Planning: Mrs. J. A.
Bilton, Beloeil Station. Mrs. P. J.
Dow, 4594 Melrose Avenue,
Montreal.

Publications: Mrs. H. E. Wright,
4836 Madison Avenue, Mont-
real.

Recreational Activities: Mrs.
H. R. Scott, 3560 University St.,
Montreal.

School Education: Dr. Harold E.
Grant, 4266 Hampton Avenue,
Montreal.

Teacher Shortage: Edwin G.
Drake, 1200 Crevier St., Saint-
Laurent.

carried or lost, are intended to be the collective, considered opinion of our body, and as such give expression to our policies and direction to our efforts. Moreover, because of the publicity attending our convention, the worth of our work will be judged by the kind of thinking that emanates from it.

Finally, those associations which have been invited to report during the "Association Highlights" period should confine themselves to the one project or program which they consider to be their outstanding achievement of the year.

See you at the conference!

Remember...

FEDERATION

CONFERENCE

April 30 - May 1

PLAN

NOW

TO

ATTEND

IMPORTANT

Your Federation Reports

The following committee reports show some of the work carried on by Federation since last conference. They will be presented for your consideration at this year's conference. Please familiarize yourself with them.

PARENT EDUCATION

MRS. G. B. CLARKE

The terms of reference of the Parent Education Committee from the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations are stated as follows: "To develop in people who have the care of children, an understanding of the normal growth and development of children, and to give assistance in meeting the needs that arise. To develop attitudes among parents which will result in sound and satisfying relationships between parent and child. Recognizing the importance of trained leadership in this work, the committee will facilitate the training of such leaders—in co-operation with other organizations if necessary."

In essence this means to help parents understand their children and their needs for growth, so that each may enjoy the other and have fun together.

This was the objective of our 35 leaders during the year and it is their hope that they have been successful in helping towards happy family life.

Your Committee again functioned through various sub-committees, who reported back from time to time. This report is an accounting of their work.

ORGANIZATION AND PROMOTION

(Mrs. T. B. Hughes)

During the season 36 groups were organized and provided with leaders who had taken the two year course for Leadership at the Mental Hygiene Institute. A few groups had to be refused because a suitable leader for their age group was not available or the group had been poorly organized and would not have functioned successfully.

Mrs. Hughes regrets that there were no requests for leaders from some districts which had had groups in former years. All parents need to get together to learn and help each other no matter what locality they live in, or what their background is.

In addition to giving leadership to groups our leaders have directed discussion after the presentation of the plays on 15 evenings and given talks followed by discussion at 14 other Home and School meetings.

Out-of-Town Assignments

This year your committee has been able to give more help to Home and School Associations off the Island of Montreal. This has been made possible through the co-operation of Dr. Baruch Silverman and the Mental Hygiene Institute, who have made available the services of Mrs. Mary Avison. Joining the Institute staff last October on a part-time basis, Mrs. Avison led a child study group for the Bedford Association in the fall and has led discussion following the presentation of the plays and the showing of films at Bedford, Hudson and Magog. In addition the committee has responded to requests for service from the following associations; Asbestos, Chambly, Longueuil, St. Eustache and St. Lambert.

KINDERGARTEN AND NURSERY SCHOOLS

(Mrs. R. O. Calder)

Five of the child study groups were organized especially for parents of these pre-school children and discussion leaders went out on several occasions to their meetings. The committee hopes to see this department grow considerably in the future.

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FEDERATION, *cont'd*

Training of Leaders

Your committee wishes to place on record its sincere appreciation of the co-operation of the M.H.I. in its work. The Institute gives a two-year training course under the direction of Mrs. E. W. Crowe to individuals who will be our future leaders. In addition to Mrs. Avison's other services, she is conducting a study group at the Institute this winter, which is being used as an observation group for leaders in training.

These services of the Institute have placed Quebec in the forefront of those Home and School Associations giving group study opportunities to parents and have made possible the effective functioning of your committee.

MENTAL HEALTH FILMS

(Mrs. E. L. Margetts)

Mrs. Margetts reports that 33 films have been shown with our discussion leaders. Twenty-one were shown at Home and School meetings, seven were used by leaders for their own study groups, two were shown at Workshop meetings, and three by special request of the Mental Hygiene Institute. Mrs. Margetts has been ready to give associations advice on the best film available for their particular need and she would like to stress that to be worth while there should always be discussion following the showing.

LEADERS' WORKSHOP

(Mrs. R. D. H. Heard)

All leaders who have completed the two-year course with the M.H.I. are eligible for membership in the Workshop. It meets several times during the season to discuss with speakers, topics of interest to Parent Education leaders, or to preview films they may be asked to lead discussion on. The first meeting of the season was under the chairmanship of Mrs. J. L. Retallack, to whom all reports made by all leaders and members of groups go at the end of the season. Mrs. Retallack gave an analysis of last year's reports to the Workshop and the leaders were able to discuss their worth with the other leaders.

In November Mr. A. W. Kembell, Executive Secretary of the Notre Dame de Grace, Y.M.C.A. discussed and acted out with us "Role Playing". This is a new technique being used at meetings to secure audience participation. We were fortunate to have Mr. Kembell as he had attended Bethel Summer School where Role Playing was first worked out. In December the leaders met to read and discuss two new plays dealing with adolescence, which may be used for Home

and School audiences. At our January meeting the film "Age of Turmoil" was shown, followed by discussion on adolescent problems led by Mrs. Ewen Irvine who is a Professor of Psychology at Sir George Williams College and lecturer at M.H.I. Mrs. R. E. G. Davis of Ottawa, Consultant in Group Therapy and Psychiatric Social Work to the M.H.I., came to the Workshop in February to discuss with the leaders the problems of group work.

The last meeting of the year will be a social get-together when leaders who have just finished their training will be welcomed and the season's work reviewed.

PUBLICATIONS

(Mrs. T. H. Hoskin)

At the Conference last year Mrs. Hoskin reported that a number of the pamphlets on display were lost, people looked at them and took them away in spite of the notice "Not to Be Taken Away". It was interesting that the missing ones were mostly those relating to adolescence or sex education. Mrs. Hoskin is reviewing the pamphlets listing them according to the subject matter and would be very willing to advise members as to the pamphlets which would fill their need, how much they cost and where they may be ordered from.

LEADERS' BOOKSHELF

(Mrs. A. A. Gardner)

This is an important section of the committee's work. Leaders are encouraged to keep up to date with the latest thinking in child guidance by making use of this growing reference library, now numbering over 40 books, beside magazines. In addition leaders also have access to the Norah Bailey Library at the Mental Hygiene Institute.

Fees

Those who have been members of study groups know that the committee asks them to pay a small fee of 50 cents for the course. This fee is used to pay postage, out-of-town phone calls, to buy new books and pamphlets, for mimeographing when the Federation office is too over-burdened with work to do it for us and for travelling expenses where a school is a long way from a leader's home and the association is unable to pay in whole or in part. Our work grows and our expenses continue to mount and we would not like to have a group not function as was the case of one this year, because they could not manage to pay the fee charged for the use of the school and the leader's taxi fare. A committee is at work now looking into the

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FEDERATION, cont'd

question of raising the fee and will be ready with a report in time for the next season.

Letters to Presidents

Every year at this time a letter goes out from this committee to Presidents of associations and their Child Study Convenors, asking them to be sure to appoint a Convenor of Parent Education before the Executive separates for the summer. In this way the new convenor can get help from the retiring convenor and have plans ready to get underway early in September, so that groups can get started in good time to allow for 8 to 10 meetings before Christmas. We urge presidents to give this matter prior consideration.

Special Broadcasts

A letter also went out early in January asking presidents to bring to the attention of their membership the CBC Broadcasts, "The Way of a Parent" on Sundays over CBM at 6.15 p.m. This series will continue until April 11th. We would like to congratulate the CBC and the Canadian Home and School and Parent-Teacher Federation under whose joint auspices the broadcasts were made.

Parents' Magazine

Our treasurer, Mrs. P. Kerrigan, reports that many parents are taking advantage of the group subscription for this magazine. To take advantage of this reduced rate (\$1.50)—at least 10 members have to subscribe. In small groups where it would be difficult to obtain this number Mrs. Kerrigan will order for them along with those from similar groups. It is a good magazine with something of help and interest to parents of every age group.

Evaluation Project

In co-operation with the Mental Hygiene Institute a project is under way to evaluate the worth of our study groups. We hope to discover if they are meeting the needs of parents and if there are other ways or different ways we can help them.

Congress on Mental Health

The 5th International congress on mental health is meeting in Toronto from August 14-21. Your committee hopes to be represented by several of its leaders. A two-hour session every afternoon will be devoted to Parent Education.

Registrations

The committee records with regret the resignations of Mrs. T. B. Hughes and Mrs. E. L. Margetts, Mrs. Hughes, won the Buzzell award last year for outstanding service

to Home and School. She has worked untiringly for Parent Education ever since the committee came into being in 1944. We shall miss her, but we know she will always be ready to help when she is called upon. She has surely earned a rest from her arduous work. Mrs. Margetts has been a tower of strength looking after film requests for the last two years and serving on the Workshop Committee. She is unable to give the necessary time because of family reasons. We are very sorry to lose her.

As chairman of this committee I know our leaders have worked hard and covered a tremendous amount of territory. Not only have they undertaken to set aside one night a week; time for preparation for 8 to 10 weeks of group leadership, but they have been on call to take assignments for what we call "one night stands", sometimes on very short notices. The Home and School associations would I know express appreciation of the willing, expert service which these leaders render for *Better Parent and Happier Homes*. Last but not least our thanks go to our able Secretary, Mrs. A. C. Sheppard, who keeps our records and looks after us all.

MENTAL HEALTH

MRS. C. MARCHANT
MISS AUDREY CLARKE

The Mental Health Committee was set up in September 1952 to clarify and make more specific the following resolution—"that the Quebec Federation strongly urge the school authorities to establish mental health services for all children."

During the first year of activity, the group made an intensive study of the facilities available in the local area for diagnosing and treating personality and behaviour problems of children.

In April of 1953, 151 mental health questionnaires were sent across Canada to Superintendents, Inspectors and Supervisors, Normal School Instructors, Principals, Guidance Personnel and Classroom Teachers. 46 replies were received. The questions concerned mental health in teacher training; specialists available to cope with mental health problems; inclusion of mental health concepts and practices in the curriculum; the attitudes of administration and school boards toward mental health; and parent education. No detailed report can be given here but we can give a broad outline of present conditions.

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FEDERATION, cont'd

Training Inadequate

The need for mental health training in our Normal Schools and Colleges of Education was universally expressed. In no case was it felt that present training was adequate, although beginnings have been made in some areas.

In some of the large urban areas, mental health teams, consisting of a psychologist, psychiatrist, psychiatric social worker and counsellor, work with teachers and parents to provide preventive treatment in mental health. This, unfortunately, is the exception, not the rule. Generally such teams are available for referral of cases of extreme maladjustment—and then only near large centres. Rural areas, by and large, are dependent on the school nurse and welfare agencies, where and if available, for mental health diagnosis and treatment.

Awareness Shown

One province has actual courses in mental health included in the curriculum, another has definitely emphasis on human relations in parts of the curriculum, while others include it only incidentally. This, however, indicates that there is an awareness of the need for increased knowledge of good mental health practices on the part of those who plan our curricula.

It was generally agreed that the Home and School and Parent-Teacher Associations are the main channel through which parents have learned the importance of good mental health and are kept up-to-date on current advances in this field.

The committee is not prepared to present to this Conference definite recommendations regarding the setting up of mental health services in our schools. The preparation of such recommendations will be the main item on its agenda for the coming year.

We wish to express our sincere thanks to all who assisted us by answering the questionnaire.

CHILDREN'S READING

MISS RITA SHEPPARD

In an effort to promote children's leisure-time reading directly and through the Home and School Associations, the committee emphasized Young Canada's Book Week by encouraging each association to devote its November meeting to the subject of books and reading. An outline of the aims and purposes of Book Week was published in the Home and School magazine. Each association was provided with the Home and

School Booklist. Many of the books on the list were displayed in some of the large departmental stores in Montreal. Speakers were provided for those associations which needed them. A radio program, "Do Our Students Read and Appreciate Good Literature", was presented by the Verdun High School Students of Grade 12, over station CFCF on the Home and School Program.

Individual associations have been helped to arouse interest in Children's libraries, and to investigate the best method of setting up a library. This help took the form of advice on the best books to buy and those which should be purchased first. The committee is indebted to Miss Frances Dumaresq, School Librarian, with the Protestant Central School Board of Greater Montreal, for a copy of the catalogue of books in the library at Fairmount School.

Book Lists Prepared

The next phase of our program—the preparation of graded book lists for the use of associations planning to set up or augment libraries, and for the use of parents—has been carried out through the medium of the Home and School Magazine. "These are the Books" is a column which gives reviews of the current best books for children. In addition, a list of the Caldecott and Nursery Award books has been included in the magazine articles.

Individual help has been given to those parents who have problems with their children's reading. In this respect, plans are being made to undertake a program of how to make books available and how to encourage children to read them.

We are very happy to welcome Miss June Wilson as a new member of the committee. Miss Wilson is the Librarian of the N.D.G. Children's Library and will bring the benefit of her wide experience to our work. It is hoped that some of the parents interested in children's reading will join our ranks this coming year.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

MRS. H. R. SCOTT

A search for a millinery teacher, the formation of a square dancing group, and drama teachers looking for a drama—these were among the subjects presented to the Recreational Activities Committee this year for consultation. In each case, an answer was found and sent on from the thin sheaf of material at our disposal. Our information was furnished by Home and School Associa-

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FEDERATION, cont'd

tions who returned the questionnaires sent out by the committee last year. In more than one case, an original report was voluntarily followed by an account of the success of the project

Thus the Recreational Activities Committee has served a useful role in Home and School work this year. An attempt to canvass all organizations was not too successful in point of number but the information received was sufficient to supply some help for all requests.

From the experience of the past year, it is evident that the committee could fill a more valuable place if its file of information could be extended. To implement this, an additional questionnaire was sent out in March to all associations. It is hoped that this will have a more complete return.

With an adequate file of material, the Recreational Activities Committee hopes to be able to extend its services and to be more useful in the next year. An exhibit at the Annual Conference will help to bring the work of the committee to the attention of all associations and will give a chance for various groups to meet and exchange ideas directly.

PROGRAM PLANNING

MRS. J. A. BILTON

MRS. P. J. DOW

The last report made by this committee was submitted to Federation in May 1953, at the annual Quebec conference. In that report, we announced our plans for work in 1953-1954. These included;

- A. Revision of the program planning manual with respect to index, introduction, and speaker's lists.
- B. Planning of two conferences, one to be part of the annual Federation program; the other for presidents and program

chairmen, to take place in early September.

Revision of Manual

During the summer of 1953, work went ahead on revision of the manual. This entailed sending numerous letters to speakers previously listed, checking and revising subjects and names. Most of those listed graciously allowed their names to be used again; in most cases their response was prompt and courteous. New names and subjects were also added.

The original introduction was condensed and some other features requested by associations were added. It was decided that these revisions in the form of a supplement to be attached to the manual should be sent to each association, and with the expert offices of Mr. F. Price, this was done in time for the September conference.

At this point it should be noted that further revision of the manual becomes necessary, particularly in the film section. Since much of this important program material is obsolete in its present form, the committee recommends an entirely new supplement in consultation with the National Film Board, the Parent Education Committee and any other interested agency. Co-operation of any committee whose work is represented in the manual is invited.

Conferences

Buzz sessions were the order of the day at conferences in both May and September. It was felt that this method would ensure full participation of all members. The meeting at the annual conference was well-attended and many interesting conclusions already printed, were arrived at. The meeting of presidents and program chairmen in September on the other hand was poorly attended. For those present, the buzz session brought forth much helpful material. As a province-wide conference its value was de-

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*A Short History of the Home & School Movement
in the Province of Quebec*

by ALEX. R. HASLEY

Based on research by Mrs. F. E. Brydon

III. Early Maturity - The Crowded Years, 1950-53

Speaking to the Council of Representatives in December, 1949, Dr. E. C. Powell, the President, pointed out the growth of the Federation and explained how the various officers had been assigned specific duties in order that the work of the organization might be handled with the greatest possible efficiency. With the dawn of 1950 Federation was girded for advances in all its many activities.

Federation recommended to the Protestant Committee on Education the inclusion of a well-integrated program of sex education, under specially trained persons, in the curriculum of Quebec schools at appropriate age levels. It also urged the trial of a supplementary examination centre at Sherbrooke. At this time Dr. Powell stressed the fact that there was a need for Federation to have representation on the Protestant Committee.

Thirteen Committees

Ten standing committees and three special committees were actively at work in 1950 and the membership was soon to receive some outstandingly brilliant reports.

Among the activities stressed by the president was the formation of Regional Councils and the communication of ideas to and from the National Federation through the provincial body, the Regional Councils and the local associations. Dr. Powell, himself, worked tirelessly to promote this exchange of thoughts.

Third Conference

The Third Provincial Conference, held at the end of April, dealt with some important resolutions, such as that urging the Canadian Federation to continue to press for federal assistance to finance education in the provinces, without infringing on provincial

autonomy in education; one promoting study groups of parents to learn more about education, curricula, etc.; another promoting the extension of the Elmer Safety Pen-nant Campaign; still another urging the study of the "brigadier system"; and others. All the committees presented reports and there were a number of interesting exhibits set up around the conference hall by some of the committees in support of their findings.

Dr. Powell was re-elected President with a strong slate of officers to carry on in the 1950-51 season.

A Conference of Presidents and Vice-Presidents was an innovation in the fall of 1950. Designed to give these leaders—and through them, their members—a better understanding of the functioning of the entire movement, the gathering also served as a clearing house where these officers exchanged experiences and, in many cases, discovered with relief that some of their problems which they had thought to be unique were shared by others.

In December, at the Council of Representatives, it was announced that the national body had added the older name, Parent-Teacher, to Home & School to become the Canadian Home & School and Parent-Teacher Federation.

Federation Work Extended

Three new standing committees were appointed and at work during this period. That on School Education was set up to assist local associations in the promotion of study groups on the subject. Traffic and safety were the charges of the second while the third was that on Children's Reading, dedi-

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BUILDING, cont'd

cated to the promotion of children's leisure time reading.

Consolidation not only of membership but also of services in the cause of furthering the growth and development of the movement continued to be stressed by Federation's officers in every phase of the work. Arising out of these efforts was recognition of the part Regional Councils could play and also of the fact that different programs are required for elementary school and high school associations. Conferences and studies were conducted on these two important items.

At the 4th Annual Conference it was reported that there were 105 active associations affiliated with Federation. Of these 51 were within the Montreal area and the balance throughout the Province. In all over 13,000 families were members. The Huntingdon Association, incidentally, had the honour of being the 100th association to become affiliated.

Liaison With Teachers

It was noted with satisfaction at this 4th Annual Conference that Federation in its promotion of the objectives and purposes of the movement maintains liaison and cooperation with the Provincial Association of Protestant Teachers, the Provincial Association of Protestant School Boards, the Protestant Committee of the Council of Education, and the Montreal Protestant Central School Board.

Dr. Powell, retiring as President after two terms of office, told the Conference, in part, "Our financial structure is now supporting a semi-permanent Federation office and a paid part-time secretary. It may . . . be truly said that the Federation has consolidated itself well . . . during these two years . . ."

L. Mowbray Clark was elected President for 1951-52.

In the Fall of 1951 Dr. W. P. Percival accepted the Honorary Presidency of Federation. Dr. Percival besides having been one of the founders of the movement in the province and Honorary President of the original Council in 1941, was President of the National body for three years. His interest in the movement was at all times a lively and personal one quite outside his professional interest as Director of Protestant Education for the Province.

One of the momentous decisions taken by the new Board of Directors was to place this magazine, QUEBEC HOME AND

(continued on page 12)



VACATION TIME

It's always wise to plan early, and you'll find that we can help with your problems. It may be a week-end trip, a cross-country tour or a steamship cruise. We'll be glad to offer suggestions, and we can save you time trouble and expense. Take advantage of our convenient West-end location.

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BUILDING, cont'd

SCHOOL, on a paid subscription basis with the copies (October through May) being mailed to subscribers. An energetic subscription campaign was undertaken by the Council of Representatives.

Highlights of Year

A few highlights of a most active Federation year in 1951-52 were: For the first time the number of local associations outside the Montreal area exceeded the number within; 116 Associations with a combined membership of 16,500 families were affiliates; the Department of Education in an unprecedented move asked Federation to ascertain its members' views regarding the setting of the Easter holidays; adoption of the philosophy of co-education in high schools that "boys and girls destined to work and live together as adults need training in education toward that end"; establishment of a Committee on Discriminatory Practices and of one on School Lighting; promotion of traffic safety activities leading to the City of Montreal assigning 65 police cadets to duty as school crossings; active leadership in acquainting the public with the issues at stake in the Montreal teachers' salary dispute; and many others.

Fifth Conference

The 5th Annual Conference was held May 9th and 10th, 1952, and included several innovations. It was generally agreed that greater interest is being shown in the Annual Conference and that more ideas and material are available for representatives to take back to their associations.

Backed by an experienced slate of officers, L. Mowbray Clark was elected to the Presidency for a second term.

The first meeting of the Council of Representatives in the Fall of 1952 was held in Granby—the first time it had met outside of Montreal—a tribute to the growth of interest and support of Federation by local associations outside the Montreal area.

Resolutions passed at the Annual Conference—more numerous than at any previous Conference — became directives for existing committees and those yet to be formed (such as the Art Committee to study school art systems, etc.). They also provided ample direction for the new Board of Directors on several subjects such as teachers' salaries in the province as a whole, the question of teacher shortage, representation on the Protestant Committee of Education, and the differing interests of urban and suburban

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FEDERATION, cont'd

batable. Further consideration for the date of this second program planning get-together will be made with the help of interested associations in future.

In both conferences, the work was considerably lightened for the co-chairmen by the fine co-operation of the following people whose advice and help were invaluable.

Mr. John Perrie, Mrs. Margaret Wheeler, Mrs. E. Gilbert, Mr. G. P. Hawke, Mr. S. Dale, Miss Ruth Low.

Both chairmen have enjoyed letters and telephone conversations with program planners from many associations. Many ideas were exchanged and mutually helpful information received. Folders and monthly letters used in different parts of the province were also noted; these along with, we trust, many others will be on display at the annual conference and program chairmen have been invited to send them along to the program planning committee.

TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

MILK FOR HEALTH

all drink milk

B-AUDET

BUILDING, cont'd

local Associations. All these matters engaged the attention of officers and directors, committee chairmen and members throughout the year.

Report on Teachers' Salaries

Federation's report on the Montreal teacher's salary dispute was considered by the Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal and appreciation of it expressed by that Board. The Protestant Committee requested the Traffic Safety Committee to make recommendations. Other educational bodies also sought the aid of Federation with problems of interest. In short, greater recognition of Federation's place in educational matters was forthcoming from different quarters in most heartening fashion.

Greater efforts were made to provide leadership training at both the local association and Regional Council levels with evidence being at hand that such efforts should be extended and the service expanded.

The Canadian Home and School and Parent-Teacher Federation accepted an invitation to hold its annual, week-long conference in Montreal in June, 1953, and Federation immediately set up a Hospitality Committee which was responsible for all physical arrangements for the Conference and the entertainment of the delegates. After months of hard work and with the co-operation of McGill University, the City of Montreal, and the Provincial Government, this responsibility was discharged with great credit to all concerned. As it had when an infant organization in 1944, Federation on this second occasion of being host to the National body provided innovations which were much appreciated by the officers and delegates.

Sixth Conference

Federation's 6th Annual Conference was held May 1st and 2nd, 1953, in Montreal when approximately 260 representatives and 125 delegates—the largest gathering to date—represented 95 of the 123 local associations.

Reuben Resin was elected to the Presidency.

This brief history must end here but it would certainly be even more incomplete than it is were there no reference to the Buzzell Award and the President's Award. These two rewards for meritorious service to the Home and School Movement in the Province of Quebec are most highly prized. The list of recipients since inauguration follows:

(continued on page 14)

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THE CURRICULUM

by DR. J. G. KIRKPATRICK

We have heard a great deal about Fads and Frills in education in recent years, for there seems to be a rebellion in progress against at least some aspects of what is commonly called "progressive education". Some English professors tell us that high school graduates can neither spell, nor write, while mathematics professors criticize their inability to multiply and divide.

After any period of change such as education has undergone in the past three decades, there is the inevitable period of re-evaluation and settling, in which we rediscover some of the values of the old philosophy, and retain those values of the new which have proven themselves. We are now, I think, in such a period. One heartening feature about the present evaluation of education is the number of people that are actively participating in it—not just teachers, but pupils, and taxpayers, and parents, both individually and in groups, such as the one we have here today.

In our consideration of the topic—Fads and Frills in Education, I propose that we concern ourselves only with Content and not with Method. Not that method is unimportant, but when time is limited, the topic must be limited. Accordingly, we will however, think of the total content of the child's school experience—including the so-called "extra-Curricula" activities as well as academic subject matter and scheduled activity periods. And, since the idea of rigid curriculum, to be given to every child in every school is not, I take it, a part of your philosophy any more than it is a part of mine, let us agree to speak of kinds of experience rather than specific experience. Let us agree also not to argue about who should do the selection, but to proceed on

the assumption that we, as parents, should have some say in the content of the school program. Negatively stated our problem is this—how shall we identify and keep out of the program of our schools that body of experiences which may rightly be labelled fads and frills?

One phase—criterion for your consideration—that the school not attempt to provide any body of experiences or services which are now, or could be effectively handled by other agencies in the community.

There is a danger, I think, that the school may assume too many responsibilities. The functions of the school seem to have multiplied almost by geometric progressions in the past few decades. To the three "R" of the elementary school and to the "classical courses" of secondary schools have been added to name just a few studies and services—dental care and other health services, intramural and inter-school sports home economics, driver education, first aid, safety education, all kinds of shop work, art, dramatics, sex education, hot school lunches, milk for under nourished children, etc. IF the school tries to do all things for all children, can it do any one thing well for any child? This is a vital question, for education never should adopt the assembly line techniques of industry, in which the uniformity in the product is the desired end—the individual is lost.

Let me follow up just one point of the school program mentioned above—the provision of milk for under-nourished children. If this is thought to be one function of the school, what then will be done for the undernourished children AFTER they leave school, or during their even more important PRE-school years. How do you determine which children need milk, how would you meet problems of financing the program, and the problems of absentecism. It is obvious, that the school could not be the only agency to provide such a service. It is questionable if the school should concern itself with the actual provision of milk, particularly since the department of National Health and Welfare now bolsters the finances of many families through the children's allowances and Social Welfare agencies have developed to the point where they may be expected to care for really needy families. No one would deny the desirability of pro-

(continued on page 15)

BUILDING, cont'd

Buzzell Award—1950—Ernest A. Jarand; 1951—David V. Jackson; 1952—Arthur R. Colman; 1953—Mrs. T. B. Hughes.

President's Award — 1950 — J. A. B. McLeish; 1952 — Dr. Edward C. Powell.

A. LESLIE PERRY

ARCHITECT

MONTREAL

THE CURRICULUM, cont'd

viding milk to meet the needs of every growing child, but it does not seem to me at least to be a job for the school.

How many other things which the school is now attempting to do may fall in the same category? Or, in most cases, does the school share a responsibility with one or more agencies? In such cases, the question, is one of determining HOW MUCH the school should try to do, and how much might be better left to the other agencies concerned, even though some effort may be required to stimulate these agencies to assume their responsibilities.

There is one other kind of "yardstick" by which we might try to assess the relative values of the many kinds of experience a school programme might provide. The question is this; To what extent does this particular subject or activity under consideration contribute to what we think of as the chief value of education? This is, of course, the hub of the problem. Anything we buy, including education, is assessed in terms of our particular set of values. It is important, therefore, that our set of values be a good set of values—not artificial nor academic in the sense that they are removed from the interests of boys and girls that must be taught in this year of our Lord, 1953—which is vastly different from the year 1853 or even 1933.

Khalil Gibran, in his book "The Prophet", has one poem that is very pertinent to the question of curriculum content. It reads—

Greeting his pupils, the master asked:
What would you learn of me?

And the reply came;

How shall we care for our bodies?

How shall we rear our children,

How shall we work together?

How shall we live with our fellowmen?

How shall we play?

For what ends shall we live?

And the teacher pondered these words, and sorrow was in his heart, for his own learning touched not on these things.

It is important that both our learning and our teaching should touch upon the things which are of interest and of use to the people we teach.

I would like to suggest to you the set of values on which I would evaluate any school program;

(continued on page 16)



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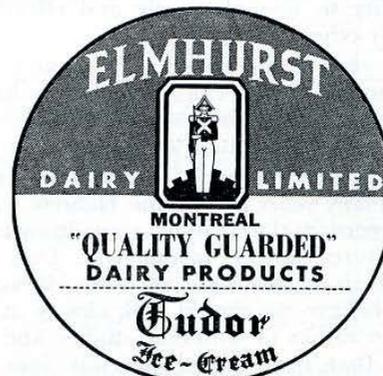
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Welcome . . .

A warm welcome is extended to the following newly-affiliated Home and School Associations. This brings our membership to 129 Associations throughout the province:

	<i>President</i>	<i>Organizer</i>
LEWIS KING (Terrebonne Heights)	R. E. Snow	T. R. Turner
ALGONQUIN (Mount Royal)	J. H. Childs	Mrs. G. C. Liersch
MERTON (Cote St. Luc)	Dr. A. A. Smith	Haskell Jay
SHAARE ZION (Montreal)	J. H. Berger	D. Walkington

We also welcome the *Western Quebec Regional Council of Home and School Associations* (Carson Cross, President). Its member associations include: Aylmer, Buckingham, Chelsea, Gatineau, Hull, Maniwaki, Poltimore, Quyon, Thurso and Wakefield.

THE CURRICULUM, *cont'd*

1. To what extent does it contribute to the physical development of the child—to his strength, endurance, co-ordination and mastery of games, skill, particularly those which he can apply in part to school life?
2. To what extent does it contribute to the child's knowledge, understanding of the world in which he lives, and to his ability to apply the knowledge?
3. To what extent does it contribute to the social development of the child, to his ability to live pleasantly and effectively with others?
4. To what extent does it contribute to the personal character development, to initiative, courage, honesty, reliability and moral and spiritual strength?

These are not new ideas. They were stated many years ago by the Hebrew writer who recorded that "Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and Man. It is in the light of these, however, that I believe we should look closely at the conglomeration of different studies and activities that have found the way into the school programme.

'Teen-Age Activity

A commendable innovation by *Alice Street*, Truro, N.S., Association is the volunteering of junior high school girls to act as baby-sitters for any parents who wish to attend Home and School. They feel they owe some service to an organization that works for them. Their well balanced Executive consists of 3 women and 5 men.

Lower Sackville Association, Halifax County, also has voluntary baby-sitters. Among the many praiseworthy activities of that Association, probably the one of greatest long range value is the *Teen-agers' Club*. It is open to all young people between the ages of 13 and 19 inclusive. Spark-plugged by a young man, he is supported by an able committee of men and women. Programs will consist of work and fun. Already plans are made for three years ahead.

F. David Mathias ARCHITECT

1375 GREENE AVE. WI. 5684
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INSTRUCTIVE PROGRAM READY FOR CONFERENCE

Professor John Hughes, Chairman of the Department of Education at McGill University will be the guest speaker at the annual Federation conference dinner at the Windsor Hotel on May 1. The conference will mark the tenth anniversary of Quebec Federation and a record turnout of delegates is expected.

The conference will open at 1 p.m. Friday April 30 when president Reuben Resin will present his report. Reports will also be received from Standing Committees at this time. Friday evening will be devoted, as in the past, to a reception by the president. A feature of the reception will be the presentation of a panel discussion "French Without Tears" in which the teaching of French will be discussed.

On Saturday morning sectional meetings will be held on: Direction of an Association and Conduct of Meetings, Program Planning, Problems of Smaller Communities, Children's Leisure Reading, and School Finance.

Professor Hughes, the conference dinner

CONFERENCE SPEAKER



PROF. JOHN HUGHES

Chairman of the Department of Education at McGill University Prof. Hughes will address the annual conference dinner on May 1. The dinner will mark the tenth anniversary of Federation and a number of former presidents will be guests at the dinner.

speaker, is a native of Wales. Prior to coming to McGill in 1935 he occupied the Chair of Education at the University of South Africa. He has travelled and lectured widely in Europe, Africa and the United States.

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ARVIDA ENJOYS SUCCESSFUL YEAR

The aim of this year's Executive Committee has been to concentrate on making the programs as interesting as possible to both parents and teachers, in order to increase interest in the organization and thus help make it a valuable and integral part of the educational system. To this end, as much of the business as is "legally" possible is being attended to at executive meetings. This enables us to limit the time devoted to business matters at the general meetings to less than half an hour; and that business is conducted in such a way as to prevent lengthy argument.

The following are résumés of the three monthly programs we have presented to date:

1. "We discover Child Art." Mrs. Margaret Eason outlined how it was possible to follow a child's emotional and mental development through observation of the evolution of his art, and pointed out that art includes all forms of creative activity. She gave a résumé of the most recent work that is being done in this field.

2. "Shyness" (in children). A National Film Board film "Shyness" was shown. This film, which had won a Canadian film award, showed the background of three typically shy children, the causes of their shyness and the steps that were taken to remedy it.

3. A panel of eight (including teachers and parents) reviewed, synopsised and commented on that indictment of Canadian Education, the book "So Little For the Mind", by Dr. Hilda Neatby.

Sufficient time is allowed for reasonably full discussion of the program presented.

Good Attendance

We feel that the meetings have been successful and have been well attended. Our average attendance has been about 75 out of a possible 110.

As in former years, the local Association has sponsored a "Skate Exchange", to enable parents to fit growing feet with proper skates at minimum expense, and a Hallowe'en party at the school to keep the children entertained and out of trouble. This year for the first time we awarded prizes for the best costumes.

WHAT EMPLOYERS WANT

The employer is not favourably impressed by the young man whose chief concern seems to be the degree of "social security" which the firm offers.

The employer is not favourably impressed by the graduate who seems to think that a university degree is an "open sesame" to a top managerial post.

The employer likes a young man who stands on his own feet and shows confidence in his own ability to find a place for himself and gain advancement.

The employer likes a young man who understands the importance of human relations, of getting along with others in his work.

The employer likes a young man who shows signs of reliability, who can be trusted to get things done, whose academic standing might not be high, but who is prepared, cheerfully, to work, even nights, until a specific task has been finished on schedule. He is the man who will get the nod for advancement every time.

The question of who shall rise to the top is not one which can be decided by the employer. It is decided by the man himself in the degree of usefulness he develops for his firm.

—SCHOOL PROGRESS.

The teachers have given splendid voluntary assistance at these affairs.

In-so-far as possible, we have endeavoured to follow the aims and advice given in the brochure "Canadian Federation of Home and School: Home and School Creed, A Parent's Code of Ethics, and Aims of the Home and School", which, incidentally, we read to the general meetings from time to time.

—BRUCE WAHL.



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