

time the child completes grade six he had learned the basic skills of reading and writing, and should be conditioned in the learning process.

There are educators who feel that schools should not be strictly academic. For example many Canadian and American colleges witness the fact that the ability of some students on the Football Field for instance is more important than their achievements in their academic classes. Therefore these athletes are literally handed their degrees at the end of a four year Football career. The coaches and professors are forced to do this because the educational system demands academic achievement before the recognition of various other functions.

The same principle should apply in the primary and junior high school level where the students are forced to take approximately nine years of academic courses in order to enter the program or trade of their desire. Many teachers have to push students from one grade to the next until they are old enough to quit school.

Many children attend school simply to retain family allowance cheques for their parents. Truancy is stopped in many instances by threatening to stop these cheques.

It is submitted that a major revision of the basic concepts of our educational system needs to be undertaken.

Professional educators are too apt to say "let us control education" by which they mean both the method (technique) and the content. The content is the business of the state to ensure each citizen receives a useful and meaningful programme.

It is necessary for the state to interfere and give strong direction before the present unsatisfactory system will be changed in such a manner as to alleviate the "poverty class". It is submitted that the policy of our educational system must be changed to a policy of preparing each person to play a useful role in our society and be self sufficient to the greatest degree possible.

#### Employers Failure to Assist

A major factor which contributes to the growing number of poverty class persons is the failure by the employer to accept persons for employment who are not over qualified. Employers use the schools as screening grounds to lower the cost of running their own training program for their employees.

Employers are also looking for a standard to judge people by. Unfortunately, the only one they employ is the academic standard of diplomas and degrees in courses and grades completed. Employers feel that if a person has a high school certificate or a degree then he has the ability to learn quickly what he will teach this person. It would be more practical to train the person in the school in the type of work that he will be employed to do. What would be more useful to a person employed to drive a truck—a three year academic high school course or three years at motor mechanics?

Before the eighteenth century vocational education took place through apprenticeship to the master handicraft workmen under Guild supervision. Modern industrial education has grown out of the need created by the industrial revolution of the late eighteenth century which introduced the factory system.

The instance of employers on over qualification (i.e. High School Graduation) has resulted in a lowering of standards to insure persons will be graduates.—This is a feeble attempt to resolve the problem and is not beneficial to either the academic student of the overall system. A lowering of standards is not required rather a change in standards.

Careful examination will show that many of those in the poverty class can perform the necessary work when trained in the practical aspects of the work.

Employers and the education system fail to appreciate that every employee is not going to become the General Manager and does not need to graduate for that purpose. It is submitted that a re-appraisal of our educational system must be given so that the educational system becomes the means for the individual to play a useful roll in the country.

It is submitted under our system of enterprise employers have a duty to accept for employment—persons who are capable of performing the work to be done. They should be discouraged from insisting upon over qualification for all employees.

In order to relieve the continued development of the poverty class, employers must be made to revise their approach to the employment of persons with lower academic qualifications but who are otherwise able to perform the work required.

By over qualification we mean the person has academic training beyond that which is practically required in order to perform the