

OFFICIAL PAGE OF THE PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND TEACHERS' UNION

DURING the Convention of Teachers held in Charlottetown, September 29th, of last year, the Teachers' Association and the Teachers' Union were amalgamated under the name, The Prince Edward Island Teachers' Union; the new organization to embody all the rights, privileges and obligations of both sides thus united. In the opinion of educators present this was a move in the right direction as it would bring the members into a more complete Union. No one at the present time doubts the efficiency of Union work. Every profession of any consequence in the world has its union and why should teachers not have theirs as their profession is acknowledged by all to be a very important one.

The crying need in Prince Edward Island, as in many of the other Provinces in recent years, has been and still is a living wage for our teachers. The salaries paid in Eastern Canada and especially those paid in this Province do not provide a living wage and the result is an exodus of our experienced teachers to Western Canada. While this continues we can not expect results. In any successful venture now-a-days, men and women of experience are sought and those are paid proportionally to their efficiency and time of service.

We were told at the Convention by Mr. E. Smith, Superintendent of School, Verdun, Quebec, of the determined stand taken in that Province to increase the Protestant teachers' salaries. A campaign of educational propaganda was carried out so successfully that many public organizations in Quebec became interested, took up the question and did not rest until the teachers received a proper salary. Many needed educational reforms were carried out at this time because of the aroused interest.

The salary question of our teachers was a very live issue in this Province last year. A change of Government had taken place and the Liberals were returned with a great majority. They promised before the elections increased salaries for the teachers.

A representative Conference of all the School Districts in Prince Edward Island was held in Charlottetown last March and a moderate salary scale was outlined for the different classes of teachers. A short time afterwards the Legislature met and when the teachers' salary question came up a small increase was voted equal to about fifty per cent of what was demanded at the Conference. The Union at this time

was not strong enough to stand out for the people's scale outlined in March and the result was we had to take the Government's offer.

Since that time we have more fully organized and we trust with the co-operation of all the teachers to end the salary question in a short time.

The President of the Union is Mr. Lloyd W. Shaw, Inspector of Schools, who has been engaged in teaching about 12 years and who fully realizes what the teacher's lot is. Mr. Shaw and the Executive are very enthusiastic on Union work. They are busy outlining plans of action which I have no doubt will reap success.

Officers of P. E. I. Teachers Union:

President, Inspector L. W. Shaw

Vice-Pres., Prince, Prin. H. M. Cain

Vice-Pres., Queens, Insp. H. Court

Vice-Pres., Kings, Prin. Harold Hynes

Executive:—Prin. J. D. Seaman, Prin. Bruce Beans, Prin. Annie Fraser, Miss L. J. Taylor, Mr. Millar McFadyen; Sec'y Treasurer, Miss Minnie Dunsford; Rec. Sec'y, Mr. E. J. Dunn.

UNION NOTES

The Executive of the P. E. I. Teacher's Union met in Charlottetown Feb. 5th inst. Inspector L. W. Shaw presided. It was planned to hold the annual Convention of the teachers on May 23rd and 24th next. The report of the program committee was read and adopted. The Pensions Committee's report was also tabled and adopted.

Mr. R. H. Rogers, M. A., Supt. of Education, addressed the Executive and helped in every way to arrange the work properly. We surely appreciate Mr. Roger's efforts in our behalf.

The Pension's Committee's report is as follows:—Acting on the vote of the Executive that we examine the Pension Laws of the other Provinces of Canada which we have done, we find that the scale of pensions in the Province of Ontario seem to be more equitable than the others. We hereby recommend for your consideration that every teacher, Inspector and officer of the Faculty of Education be paid a pension after not less than 15 years' service, such pension to be one-sixtieth of the average total salary for the last five years of service, for every year up to forty years service.

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