

As for the adults, wage-earners of both sexes, whose regular student days are past, the numbers in attendance at evening classes in Calgary and other places during the past three winters, the type of persons there gathered and the quality of work done by them bear abundant testimony to their desire to learn our language and to become real Canadians. In my opinion, it is time that the State furnished educational facilities for all the foreign-speaking workers who come to us. The State may be the provincial, the municipal or the local school authorities, but by some public body, classes in English and civics should be offered as the first means of preparing these people for intelligent citizenship. Why should this important work be left to Y.M.C.A. or church or philanthropic institutions? What these people want is not charity or philanthropy, but sympathy and a helping hand. It is our duty to give it to them in our individual capacity as well as through the community and the province at large. Money spent in this way will bring far larger returns to Canada than any similar amount spent in advertising or lecturing on immigration to secure new settlers. Evening classes for adult foreign-born might well form an integral part of the western city school system so long as the present immigration continues.

*My next suggestion has to do with a far more prosaic subject.*

Two years ago last December a new Course of Studies for the Public Schools was issued by the Department of Education for Alberta; the last paragraph in the introductory note read as follows:

"The course prescribed herein is a tentative one. During its probationary year any defects which it may possess will become manifest and a further revision of some of its details may be necessary. In the meantime, it will be subjected to the crucial test of schoolroom experience."

In view of the results of classroom experience, in view of the changing conditions and ideas and the demand for modified courses in the higher Public School grades, in view of the fact that education for occupations and work is receiving more and more attention, in view of the inevitable necessity for progress if we would live, my contention is that the course of study should be subject not only to revision but to continuous revision.

There should be a means and place for the expression from time to time of the ideas and suggestions of Normal School instructors, inspectors, superintendents and, above all, of thoughtful and earnest teachers vitally interested in boys and girls, and for the incorporation of these into the published program. There should be a continuous effort to improve the content of the course and to keep it ever subservient to the highest interests of the pupils who, through its instrumentality, are to be trained for citizenship in Alberta. Without going into details, let me say that the time seems opportune for the following steps: