

Schools to Make Canadians

National Ethical Training is Subject of a Great Conference of Educationists at Winnipeg Next Week—
Opportunity for Much Good Work

The Rotary Clubs of Canada have done no more useful service for the nation than that of arranging the financing of the National Conference on Character Education which is to be held in Winnipeg on October 20, 21, 22, and it seems likely to enlist the participation of a very large and representative body of educationists, public men, and influential women of the Dominion.

The call for this Convention seems to make it fairly clear that it is not proposed to take, or to recommend, any steps which would interfere with the present system of Provincial responsibility in the matter of education. While that system has some drawbacks, as well as many important advantages, it is firmly embedded in the Constitution of Canada and none of those associated with the Convention have exhibited any desire to alter the Constitution in letter or in spirit. It is, however, a serious defect in the educational system of Canada that it possesses at present no organization for even so much as discussion and emulation between the educational authorities and workers of the different Provinces. To this fact may be due some, at least, of the indefiniteness of Canadian school-teaching in regard to national ideas, for a teaching profession which has no organization or relations beyond the limits of a Province is not likely to develop broad national ideas in the large majority of its practitioners.

The aims of the Conference can hardly be better stated than in the Circular issued by the Convening Committee, which reads as follows:

A DIVERSITY OF AIMS.

"In common with the rest of the civilized world, Canadian communities have been profoundly impressed, through the revelations of the great war, with the necessity of emphasizing in the strongest possible way the educational activities that make for the formation of character and that tend to promote a high standard of individual and national life. While it is recognized that the ethical aim has always been present in the schools, it is well known that the diverse racial and religious elements of which our people are composed have hitherto made any attempt at organized moral education difficult. Misunderstandings, mutual distrust, inability to agree on content or method have prevented the co-operation necessary to effective action. It is believed, however, that many prejudices that formerly obscured essentials have disappeared as a consequence of the war and that the time is opportune for emphasizing the importance of character training as a preparation for citizenship. At the outset of the great struggle from which we have just emerged, the world was confronted with a people of some sixty millions thinking and feeling as one man in a conspiracy to subject the world to the domination of the German race. This unity of thought and purpose was the outcome of carefully planned and energetically conducted educational propaganda beginning in the elementary schools and carried on by university, church and press. If the energy of an entire people could be enlisted and directed by means of its educational agencies towards an evil purpose, it is believed that the same factors would be even more effective if set in motion for a righteous end. In this belief a number of gentlemen, active in the professional, business and educational life in Winnipeg, resolved to come together to discuss the matter, and determine what action, if any, should be taken. On the invitation of His Honor Sir James Aitkins, a

meeting for this purpose was held at Government House and the progress of the discussion showed that all present were deeply interested, profoundly impressed with the need, and fully persuaded of the possibility of making a forward movement in education. It was recognized that any movement of the kind to be effective should be national in its scope and should command the interest and sympathy of all the people in every part of the Dominion without distinction of race or creed. To ascertain the extent to which such interest existed or could be aroused, a central committee was organized. Five gentlemen undertook to contribute one thousand dollars each for preliminary expenses and steps were then taken to present the matter to groups in the larger cities throughout Canada. Some forty cities and towns were covered, and local committees formed. Without going into detail, it may be sufficient to say that great interest was manifested at every point and that the various discussions led to the determination to call a national conference to discuss the question of moral education and training for citizenship. The purpose of the conference is to stimulate public interest so as to accentuate character training in the schools and other institutions. It is further hoped that one of the outcomes may be the establishment of a foundation for the study of the whole problem, the result of this study to be made available for educational workers everywhere."

The Finance Committee consists of Reverend E. Leslie Pidgeon, Past International President of the Rotary Club; Sir James Aitkins, W. J. Bulman, President Canadian Manufacturers' Association; H. W. Wood, Calgary President Canadian Council of Agriculture; and N. P. Lambert, Secretary of the same organization. The Chairman of the Programme Committee is Chief Justice Mathers, Sir James Aitkins, Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba, is Chairman of the Convening Committee at Winnipeg, and His Excellency the Duke of Devonshire, the Governor General of

Canada, has graciously accorded his patronage to the conference and has consented to be present.

MANY IMPORTANT SPEAKERS.

The following items form part of the programme:

Salutory Addresses—By His Excellency the Governor-General of Canada, Sir James Aitkins, Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba, and His Worship C. F. Gray, Winnipeg.

"The Lessons of the War for Canadian Education," Hon. Dr. Cody, Minister of Education, Ontario.

"The School and the Development of Moral Purpose," Dr. Theodore Soares, Professor of Religious Education, University of Chicago.

"The Development of National Character Through Education," Sir Robert Falconer, President University of Toronto.

"The Essential Factors of Education," Dr. Helen MacMurchy, Ontario Department of Education.

"The Boy Scout Movement as an Auxiliary to the School in Moral Training," Dr. James W. Robertson, Dominion Commissioner of the Boy Scouts.

"Methods and Ideals of the Canadian Standard Efficiency Training Groups," Taylor Statten, National Secretary Boys' Work Department of the Y. M. C. A.

"The Function of the Public School in Character Formation," Dr. J. F. White, Principal Ottawa Normal School.

"Education and Reconstruction," Peter Wright, British Seaman's Union.

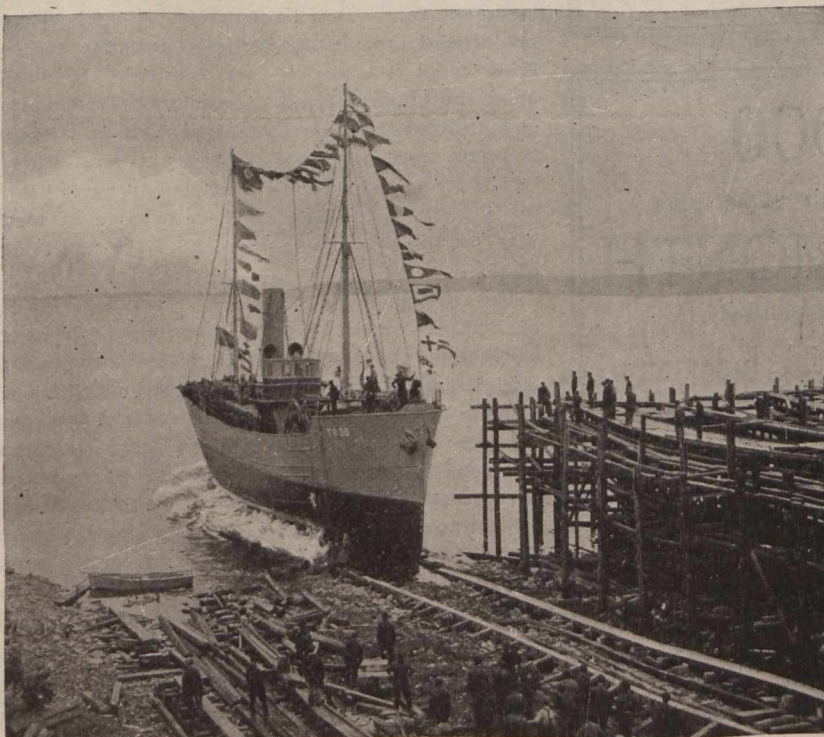
"The Basis of Moral Teaching," Michael O'Brien, Toronto, Ont.

"The School and Industrial Relationships," Dr. Suzzallo, President University of Washington.

"The School and Democracy," President John H. Finley, Commissioner of Education for the State of New York, Albany, N. Y.

The presiding officers of the various sessions will be: Sir James Aitkins, Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba; Hon. Dr. Thornton, Minister of Education, Manitoba; Premier Martin, Minister of Education, Saskatchewan; Prof. Carrie Derrick, Chairman Educational Committee, National Council of Women; Mrs. George H. Smith, Educational Secretary National Chapter I. O. D. E. W. J. Bulman, Past President Canadian Manufacturers' Association; Archbishop Matheson, Chancellor University of Manitoba, and Chairman Manitoba Advisory Board.

Davie Shipbuilding & Repairing Co., Ltd, Lauzon, Levis, P.Q.



TRAWLER
LAUNCHED
AT OUR
YARD