

The Western School Journal

(AUTHORIZED BY POSTMASTER GENERAL, OTTAWA, AS SECOND CLASS MAIL)

VOL. XIV

WINNIPEG, NOVEMBER, 1919

No. 11

Editorial

ECHOES OF THE CONFERENCE

The National Conference on Character Education was from every point of view a notable gathering. It was notable because of the attendance, the character of the addresses and discussions, the spirit of earnestness and friendship, the decisions that were arrived at, and the organization which was finally effected. It was not a teachers' conference—it was more than that, it was an Educational Conference, at which were represented all who were concerned with training for good citizenship—men and women of every class, rank and occupation, from every province and district of the Dominion. It was a great convention in another way—great because of those who delivered addresses. It would be difficult to prepare a programme that represented more talent. An effort was made to select men of outstanding ability and experience, and there was not one disappointment.

There were in all probability many who came with doubts and misgivings. Some even who said that this was a weird, fantastical conception, born of self-interest and nourished by ignorance and vanity. At the conclusion of the meeting there was but one opinion, and that was expressed in the tribute paid to Mr. Bulman, the originator of the idea.

The four outstanding benefits of the meeting seem to be these:

1st, All provinces of Canada met together to view education from a national rather than a provincial viewpoint. The one conclusion seemed to

be reached that if the provinces have a duty in Education, the whole Dominion likewise has a duty. Indeed, some of the most difficult problems that the provinces now have to solve were imposed upon them by the Federal authorities, and sooner or later the provinces must be relieved of the burdens which fall so heavily upon them.

2nd, All classes and ranks of people met together. It was a fine thing to see business men, clergymen, teachers, representatives of the great national clubs and societies jointly considering the problems in which they are all concerned—the education of boys and girls into noble manhood and true womanhood. This was the outstanding feature of the conference. If in every community this principle of co-operation can be enforced, we need have no doubts as to the future of education in Canada.

3rd, Great messages were delivered by men of international repute, and all these messages had to do with the one thought of "nation building." It is a great thing for education when people realize that moral character is supreme.

4th, An organization was formed for research and inspiration. This organization is not a teachers' bureau, but is representative of all the people. It will aid the school, the home and the church, and all who are directly or indirectly concerned with the education of the young.

There was wonderful unanimity as to the particular needs of Canada at the present time. Indeed, these will be the