

# THE EDUCATIONAL REVIEW

DEVOTED TO ADVANCED METHODS OF EDUCATION AND GENERAL CULTURE

ESTABLISHED IN 1887 BY DR. G. U. HAY AND DR. A. H. MACKAY

**P**UBLIC Health Week will be observed in New Brunswick during the last week in April. Here is an opportunity for the school to take a stand for social betterment and actually help to arouse interest in the movement. While the larger towns and cities of the Province will have the privilege of listening to such illustrious speakers as Dr. Charles Hastings of Toronto and Dr. George E. Vincent, President of Rockefeller Foundation, New York; the smaller communities will be dependent upon local effort to arouse enthusiasm.

This will be an excellent opportunity to start a Height and Weight Record in the School. A Health Club may be started in each room with officers appointed by the pupils to inspect the health conditions in the school room and to determine each morning whether the pupils are keeping the health rules adopted by the club. Some of these may well be—Sleeping long hours with windows open; Brushing teeth at least once a day; Drinking at least four glasses of water each day; and the like. Health Posters may be made to illustrate the laws of health either by cutting pictures from magazines or by drawing of the pupils. The editor of the Review will be glad to loan pamphlets or give addresses where helps of this kind may be obtained.

**I**CAME, I saw and was conquered by the enthusiastic interest in Education shown by the three Nova Scotia cities, Amherst, Truro and Halifax, which I had the privilege of visiting during the past month.

Each of these cities deserves commendation for the fine school buildings and the enthusiastic and energetic corps of teachers who carry on the work of the schools. In Truro I visited one of the few Kindergartens, organized as a part of the Public School system, to be found in these Provinces. In Halifax I found rooms for backward children and a special class for children suffering from defective sight. In many rooms I visited I found teachers doing progressive work and in all cases the work being done was of such a high order that Nova Scotia does well to be proud of its school system.

I want to extend thanks for the kindnesses shown me by all whom I met and especially to the city Supervisors, Inspectors and Dr. MacKaye, who were most cordial in their efforts to assist me. I returned to the office with a truer appreciation of education in these Provinces and an enlarged vision of the future of the Educational Review. For if all the teachers in these Provinces will put their shoulders to the wheel we can make the Review the best teacher's magazine in Canada.

**T**HE Executives of the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick Teachers' Unions held meetings during the Easter vacation. It is interesting to note that although salary increases were an important item in the program of each gathering, we find both bodies actuated by a lively interest in improving conditions in education in their respective Provinces. The New Brunswick Association ask for revisions of the course of study and changes in the organization of educational control, so that all educational interests may be administered by one head. In Nova Scotia we find the executive deploring the large number of teachers holding low-grade or permissive licenses.

Since the executives of these two Provincial organizations show themselves concerned with the best interests of our schools, as well as the increase of salaries, it behoves every one of us to belong to the one of these two organizations to which we are eligible. The figures for New Brunswick are perhaps representative for this is the older of the two Unions. Of the 2000 teachers in New Brunswick 855 belong. Surely all the teachers have profited by the efforts of the Association. Where then are the remaining 1145?

**M**OST of the Provinces of Canada have some form of Compulsory Education Law. Of these the most progressive is the Adolescent School Act of Ontario. By the Truancy Act all children between the ages of 8 and 14 must attend school full time. By the Adolescent School Act every youth must attend school full time between the ages of 14 and 16 unless he is sick, has a home permit, an employment certificate or has passed the University matriculation examinations. If he hold a home permit or employment certificate he must attend part-time courses to the aggregate of 400 hours each year. Young persons between the ages of 16 and 18 must take part-time instruction to the minimum of 320 hours each year.

In the Maritime Provinces we are not so fortunate. Prince Edward Island in its School Act of 1920 requires attendance between the ages of 7 and 13 at least twenty weeks each year. New Brunswick has a permissive law requiring attendance of 120 days each year between the ages of 6 and 16, although it is possible to get an employment certificate as early as 13 years under certain conditions. Nova Scotia has a law requiring full time attendance between the ages of 6 and 16 in towns and cities, while a permissive law is provided for the rural communities between the ages of 7 and 14.

There are certain desirable requirements which a Compulsory Attendance Law should meet. The first is that it should be mandatory. A permissive law is only adopted by the most progressive communities.

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