

Why St. John Ought To Continue The Evening Vocational Classes

(Continued from page 1.)

AGE	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.	VIII.	IX.	X.	XI.	XII.	Total	P. C.
17	17	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	15%
18	481	537	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	833	10 1/2%
19	170	422	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	959	11 1/2%
20	55	215	385	239	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	973	10 1/2%
21	28	100	238	352	219	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	943	11 1/2%
22	14	40	109	257	328	107	6	6	6	6	6	6	821	11 1/2%
23	7	24	53	128	230	333	119	2	2	2	2	2	848	10 1/2%
24	3	3	29	61	152	230	222	97	7	7	7	7	804	9 1/2%
25	1	1	4	27	33	123	171	144	89	8	8	8	614	7 1/2%
26	2	2	1	11	39	84	107	112	48	6	6	6	413	5%
27	1	1	1	8	14	36	95	61	40	1	1	1	246	2%
28	1	1	1	1	1	1	8	20	13	48	6	6	93	1 1/2%
29	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8	10	16	2	2	36	1/2%
30 or over	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1%
Total	1084	1184	1127	1114	1026	831	618	389	825	130	109	11	8228	100
Percentage	13%	14%	13 1/2%	13 1/2%	12 1/2%	10 1/2%	7 1/2%	4 1/2%	10 1/2%	1 1/2%	1 1/2%	1/2%	100	

NOTE—High School students from Fairville and other points throughout the county attend St. John High. The above table therefore shows a larger high school enrollment than the St. John grades really produce. The average enrollment in grades I. to VII. is 1,068. The average enrollment in grades VIII. to XI. is 238. The average loss in each of the upper grades is 800.

Allowing 50% of the loss to death and other uncontrollable causes, you still have 1,600 adolescents out of school in St. John with less than a grade VII. education and no vocational training.

Vocational Education.

(a) As to money value, data collected by the Washington Government shows that a boy who attends school from 14 to 18, taking courses suited to his ability and aims, has, at 18, an advantage of \$600 in yearly income as compared with the boy who left school and went to work at 14. The high school certificate, he it classical or vocational is equivalent to a \$16,000 Victory bond.

The I. C. S. recently took a census of 2,000 of their graduates. This revealed that the average income of these 2,000 men had been advanced from less than \$60 per month to more than \$180, as a direct result from the courses they had taken.

In the soldiers retraining work, men have been taught new jobs and in eight months enabled to earn on an average 50 per cent. more than they could at their former occupations. Instances might be multiplied.

(b) Perhaps the greatest value of vocational education is its citizenship training which cannot be measured in dollars and cents. How much is it worth to the State and to the man if he possesses a sufficient knowledge of English, public speaking, history, economics, etc., to take a leading position as a citizen or a democrat? Day vocational courses provide this.

(c) The cost of vocational education will be about double that of our classical high school courses because of the equipment, etc., required for the practical work. As government grants cover half the cost, however, the price of this training will not be greater than the community is accustomed to pay per pupil.

The above refers to day classes. The per pupil cost of evening classes is very small, being confined practically to the salaries of teachers. The building and equipment provided for day classes can be utilized for evening work, thus effecting an economy.

But whatever be the money cost it is so small compared with the values produced that no state or community can afford to deny vocational training opportunities to its citizens.

(d) The war has given vocational education a great impetus. It demonstrated the need for greater efficiency in the rank and file of our citizenship. England planned and passed the Fisher Education Bill while struggling with Germany. This compels all children to stay in school till 16 and part time till 18. It provides vocational training for those adapted to it. In introducing his bill Mr. Fisher pointed out that unless the rising generation were properly trained it would not be able to compete after the war.

In 1917 the United States passed a Federal Vocational Act, which has brought about the organization of vocational education service in every state in the Union.

In 1919 Canada passed the Technical Education Act giving aid to the Provinces in this branch of education avowedly as a reconstruction measure.

(e) From the standpoint of the state, vocational training is a necessity as a help in surviving the tremendously competitive era into which we are entering. The nation must have well trained citizens to make democracy safe, and efficient workers to develop our great natural resources. The present enormous wastage must be ended.

Under the New Brunswick act this vocational committee is composed of four members of the school board and three representative persons as above. The budget of this committee must be approved by the school board before a cent is spent. In this respect we are following the best of examples.

In the development of the work also we are following the same paths traversed by others. Everywhere the evening schools are proving a day for the latter. This is because the evening

As pointed out above, the national government and the provincial government have taken practical steps to aid vocational training. It will be very unfortunate if the municipalities in whose hands the administration of the service rest choose to thwart the movement and to that extent weaken the nation.

(f) Greater production is urgently needed today. This depends upon the individual output of each worker. How can one expect the citizen to be a more efficient economic unit if he is not enabled to acquire the skill and science necessary. Production, whether in agriculture or industry is brought about by applying the knowledge and methods which science and invention have accumulated, to the raw materials and natural resources of the country in such a way as to convert the latter into goods usable by man.

To make this body of science and a knowledge of modern methods the property of our citizen workers is one of the big problems involved in vocational training. This should be done in the interests of greater production and to help the workers.

It is said that labor costs must be reduced. This can only be done, without reducing wages, by increasing productive efficiency.

(g) Generally speaking vocational training should be a part of the whole system of education. The control should be unified and the whole plan of living and producing in the city.

Educational systems are always the result of evolution. Hitherto in New Brunswick we have endeavored to keep all in school till Grade VIII. In order to receive the elements of a general education. Then we have said to the boys: "Now the only thing we have to offer in the shape of high school training is a college preparatory course."

Today other provinces and states have gone another step and said that all must remain in school till seventeen or eighteen, and they have at the same time provided optional courses after the fourteenth year to suit the different types of students and to meet their varying economic needs.

New Brunswick is just now making the transition from the single track classical high school to a bigger and more democratic institution which shall add agricultural, industrial, commercial, home economics and other vocational courses to our present college preparatory bill of fare.

This is where vocational training enters the school system to make it more efficient and to meet a crying need.

(h) Vocational education is the one usually established under the control of the local school board. In order to secure the advice of those who represent the direct need for this service, however, Ontario, Nova Scotia, Massachusetts, Saskatchewan and other progressive communities have devised the scheme of having the school board appoint a vocational committee which shall be controlled by the board, but which shall include representation of labor, home-making and employers.

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GREAT BRITAIN IS LEADING WORLD

(Canadian Press Despatch)
Ottawa, Feb. 6.—Great Britain is now leading the United States, and consequently the world, in the construction of merchant marine tonnage, according to the weekly bulletin of the department of commerce. On Dec. 31, 1920, the merchant tonnage building in the United Kingdom aggregated 3,705,916 tons, as against 1,810,312 tons in the United States. The United States total represents a reduction of two-thirds for that country.

RESIN PROFITABLE

Vancouver, Feb. 7.—Resin harvesting in the forests of British Columbia will provide a large number of men with permanent employment, according to E. S. Oliver, a prominent research chemist. He believes that if plans for immediate development of the resin and turpentine industry are carried out they will not only help to meet temporary unemployment conditions, but will lay the foundation for a new industry which will rank with lumbering and mining.

Presenting two bars of resin weighing 145 pounds at the local laboratory here recently, a citizen, not knowing it was of marketable value, was surprised to receive \$745 for it. He said he obtained it from two sticks of a tree he had felled, and he at once hurried off to attend to the rest of the tree.

TO EXTERMINATE MOSQUITOES

Vancouver, Feb. 7.—The extermination of the mosquito pest indirectly through the use of an airplane is being planned by the provincial government. An aerial survey of the Fraser river delta as the first step in a scheme to curb the annual appearance of swarms of mosquitoes has been ordered.

HUDSON BAY FELLOWSHIP

Winnipeg, Feb. 7.—Miss Irene Mounce is announced as first appointee under the Hudson Bay Company Research Fellowship, which was established last spring on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the company.

The purpose of the fellowship is to engage research in some branch of pure or applied science.

Miss Mounce holds the degree of M. A. from the University of British Columbia and is at present studying at the University of Manitoba in the department of botany, as holder of the studentship under the Dominion Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

Miss Mounce purposes working out her new fellowship at the Manitoba University under the direction of Prof. Buller, where she will continue her research on the diseases of forest trees.

TO EXPLORE SPITZBERGEN

Oxford, Eng., Jan. 21.—(Associated Press by mail)—Oxford University is organizing an expedition to Spitzbergen to start early this year for the purpose of making geographical discoveries on several of the highest peaks which have not yet been climbed. The Evening Standard says the party will consist of six men who will make the journey inland from Wide Bay by means of sledges and ski.

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