



Bulletin

Vol. 23, No. 26

June 26, 1968

THE FUTURE AND INDIAN AND ESKIMO EDUCATION

The following passages are from a recent speech to the Canadian Association for Indian and Eskimo Education in Toronto by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Mr. Arthur Laing:

...The Indian and Eskimo people have learned the ways of the bush, of the North and of the wildlife upon which they depended - usually from within their family. Now that the modern world has broken into the ancient solitude, they require a different kind of training....

If they are to be given a reasonable choice of options, they must be so equipped that one of the choices they can make is to take advantage of the Canadian economy and make a living from it. By "taking advantage", I mean that they must be able to find employment at good wages, must be equipped with skills that industry requires, skills which will give them a reasonable assurance of earning a living....

I believe that our educational opportunities must also include a path by which young Indians and Eskimo people can take advantage of university education, but I am convinced that, for the overwhelming bulk of these young people, the principal need is to be equipped to make a living in the world of today....

In the North we face a situation which, while not unique in the world, has many factors not often encountered in a group. The problem of isolation and difficulty of transport..., the enormous gulf between the Eskimo culture and that of Canada as a whole, the failure of the ancient resources upon which the Eskimo settlements depended have combined to present to us a serious and difficult problem.

It is not surprising that the educational programme in the North reveals the tensions between

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the old ways and the new. A trouble-free synthesis is impossible. The basic consideration in setting out curriculum and teaching procedures in northern schools is "cultural inclusion" - a system still being evolved, which will offer the child a standard of education comparable to that in the South, while at the same time taking into account the northern heritage of the children....

The key to the teaching process is the teacher, and this is where the emphasis of northern education lies. The teacher has a special role, not only in having to make up for the gaps in the teaching material - which will be with us for some time to come - but in reaching out across the cultural gap to draw his pupils to him in the learning process.

TEACHER TRAINING

In the junior grades, the teaching-assistants have been of invaluable assistance to the teachers. They are the bridge between the two cultures. In order to enhance the utility of this bridge, we will be starting next autumn with a teacher-training programme at Fort Smith for Indian and Eskimo people....

This training will meet the standards of the Canadian school system as found in the South and will produce teachers equipped to deal in the native language of the children and with the historic, cultural and other differences which are very real and a part of northern life.

A similar training programme for teachers' aides in Indian schools is to be operated by both the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Manitoba.

HOSTELS FOR PUPILS

One of the features of northern and Indian education has been the school residence. Changes are coming here too. (I will speak later about Indian education and am confining myself for the moment to the situation in the northern territories.)

Of the 1,500 children who must go where the school is, rather than have the school come to them, 303 are under 13 years of age....

We must operate hostels and we shall have to do so for the foreseeable future at least for the higher grades of education. There can be no escaping the fact that it is not possible to provide high-school classes in the small, remote settlements of the North. It is a fact of education that the needs of today require extensive plant equipment and facilities which simply cannot be provided in settlements and small villages. Furthermore vocational training must provide a wide number of options, and this requires a pupil population sufficient to allow for grouping up of students for some subjects and dispersal for others in numbers large enough to justify the facilities required for each trade or branch of learning.

However, we are going to be out of the business of housing small children in large hostels. Wherever we can, we are building small residences in small communities so that the children do not have to travel great distances, and so there will be but a few pupils in each residence under the direction of house mothers. These small residences are working well. The children prefer them and the families prefer the children to be in them. By 1971, there will be sufficient small residence accommodation in the North to care for all the children under 13 years of age who must be away from their homes for one reason or another....

INDIAN EDUCATION

Much of the operation of northern schools will devolve eventually on the territorial government. As this change takes place and the education of Indian children is more and more provided by provincial schools, the Department will become a resource for expert assistance in cross-cultural education. It will be an agency to assist individual Indian and Eskimo young people in finding an effective role for themselves in the world of today. It will be able to devote the energy and attention required by the problems of training and re-training the older Indians or Eskimos, who often face problems and difficulties unlike those of most trainees.

It is the objective of the department to have 80 percent of Indian students in provincially-operated schools by 1973. When this goal is reached, equality of opportunity will be closer at hand and Indian people will be freer to make their own choices. There will be more bridges of understanding between the Indian people and the Canadian community.

Chief Dan George of the Burrard Indians has said that when the Indians of old wanted to fit two pieces of wood they rubbed one against the other until they got a perfect fit. Each piece of wood was worn down a little, but each retained its purpose, they

fitted together in a watertight joint and taken together they made a powerful whole. Chief George says it is the same with two cultures; they must rub against one another until a perfect fit has been achieved. This is the primary reason for bringing Indian children into the same schools as those their contemporaries attend. The two cultures can rub one against the other, neither having to give more than the other, but each adapting enough to fit comfortably and well.

The enrolment of Indian students in school has increased by 160 per cent since 1949. Since that time enrolment in federally-operated schools has risen by 30 per cent and enrolment of Indian students in non-federal schools has gone from 1,537 to 34,635; it is up many times over. There are now 64,986 Indians enrolled in schools - 53 per cent in community, unsegregated schools.

One of the problems of Indian children is that many lag behind other children in their age-groups. We are extending kindergarten programmes to offset this lag (said to be two-and-a-half years), for we believe it is largely based on factors which exist when the child enters school. By September 1971, we shall have sufficient kindergarten places to accommodate all the five year-olds in the Indian community.

The next step is to create places for the four year-olds. We believe that two years of kindergarten will reduce the age-grade gap, and this will help in keeping Indian students in school....

KEEPING PUPILS IN SCHOOL

So many Indian and Eskimo people see their youngsters with two or three times the number of years in school that they have had themselves that they believe this to be sufficient education. This attitude will change over the years but, in the meantime, young scholars will need help, they will need to have their will to stay with education reinforced both by the schools and the Indian community.

Changes will have to be made and they are in the process now. By September of this year, most of the residential schools will have the administration of the hostels and the administration of the teaching function separated, so that the educational part of the operation will be the full-time concern of an educator, while the care of the youngsters will be in the hands of those whose special field this is. This will overcome some of the objections to these institutions. By 1969, all residential schools will be operated this way.

The future of residential schools will be that of hostels for young people who attend community schools with their contemporaries. Some of the plant is beyond its useful life, and if still required will be replaced with living accommodation near good school facilities.

TRAINING FOR ADULTS

But not all the problems of education are those of the young. The special training and retraining requirements of Indian and Eskimo adults will require knowledge and experience which are not yet available. This is the most serious problem in the future of Indian and Eskimo education.

VETERANS NEW HOSPITAL

Construction of a new 680-bed chronic-care hospital and remodelling of the existing 290-bed mental infirmary at the Department of Veterans Affairs hospital in Ste. Anne-de-Bellevue, Quebec, will produce the largest and most modern institution of its kind in Canada, Mr. Roger Teillet, Veterans Affairs Minister announced at the ceremony formally starting construction on June 6.

The new Ste. Anne Hospital will form a complete chronic-care and psychiatric facility. It is expected that the 13-storey steel and concrete structure will be completed by the winter of 1971. It will consist of a large two-storey base surmounted by an 11-storey tower with four wings. The existing hospital buildings were built as temporary facilities during the First World War and from 1917 to the end of the war, it served as a military hospital for the Montreal district. All the present accommodation, with the exception of the Psychiatric Infirmary will be demolished when the new building has been completed and the area landscaped.

The base unit of the new hospital will contain all support services, while the first floor of the tower section will contain most of the administrative services and the remaining ten floors will contain two 16-bed wards and two 18-bed wards each, for a total of 680 beds. The building has been designed specifically for the care and treatment of chronic and long-term patients, and the architects have incorporated many new features related to the treatment of this type of patient.

The new air-conditioned building will be connected directly to the Mental Infirmary, which was built in 1945 as the need for added bed accommodation for Second World War casualties became apparent.

AIR MAIL GOLDEN JUBILEE

Two special Post Office cancellation dies (one in English and one in French) are being used to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the first air-mail flight in Canada.

On June 24, 1918, a *Curtis JN-4* biplane piloted by Captain Brian Peck of the Royal Flying Corps, took off from Montreal and, after two stops for refuelling, landed at Leaside, Ontario, six hours and 43 minutes later, carrying a bag of mail containing about 120 envelopes.

In 1958, to commemorate the historic flight, a plaque was unveiled on the lawn of a block of apartments on Eglinton Avenue East in Toronto, the site of the Leaside Aerodrome 40 years earlier.

The mail bag used on the first flight, and an envelope sent by Captain Peck, are on view at the National War Museum in Ottawa. It is not known how many of the envelopes that were carried on that first air-mail flight are still in existence; one was found recently that had lain in a safety deposit box since 1925. It is hoped that more will eventually be discovered.

N.W.T. ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES

Mr. Arthur Laing, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, has announced the implementation of the second phase of plans for the development of government in the Northwest Territories.

"By April 1, 1969," the Minister said, "we shall transfer to territorial administration responsibility for such major services as education, welfare, municipal services and the development of local government in the Mackenzie District. One year later, in April of 1970, the transfer of responsibility for such services in the Arctic District will be made." Mr. Laing noted that these services were now being performed by officials of the Northern Administration Branch of his Department.

Mr. Laing also announced approval of the organization and structure of an expanded territorial administration required to assume these responsibilities. A corresponding reduction will be made in the federal staff of the Northern Administration Branch.

The territorial field organization approved by the Minister provides for consolidation of three regions into two and the transfer to Fort Smith of the regional headquarters functions, which were formerly located at Yellowknife. This will reduce to marginal proportions the impact upon Fort Smith, which could have resulted from the choice of Yellowknife as a capital.

PRIZES AT ENGRAVING SHOW

Two Canadian artists won major prizes in the third American Biennial of Modern Engraving held in Santiago, Chile, this spring. Jerry Santbergen won the Braniff International Prize of \$500 for an untitled screen print on plastic, and Gordon Smith was awarded the Inchalam prize of \$200 for his screen print, *Blue Presence*.

The exhibition, which has been held every two years since 1964, displays the work of print-makers from all North and South American countries. Despite the title of the exhibition, entries are not limited to engravings but include all types of reproductive media from the more traditional etching and engraving techniques to recent photo-lithographic techniques, or embossed plastics.

This year's exhibition, which opened on April 16, has now closed. According to observers, there was more interest and attendance this year than on any of the previous occasions.

CHILDREN'S MOBILE THEATRE

Special projects for children loom large among the plans of the National Arts Centre. Jean-Marie Beaudet, the Centre's director of music, and Jean-Guy Sabourin, who will form and direct the resident French-language theatre troupe, have said that concerts and plays for children will play an important part in their programmes, and the committee that is planning the programmes and the opening of the

Centre next summer hopes to include something designed especially for youngsters.

Children living in the national capital region however, will, not have to wait until the Centre's resident companies have been created, nor until the finishing touches have been applied to the Centre. This summer, for about ten weeks starting in July, live theatre will be brought to them by a mobile theatre now under construction. It will be the most versatile theatre of its type ever built, according to David Haber, the Centre's theatre administrator, who describes it as follows:

TRUCK TRANSFORMATION

"While travelling, the theatre will look like any ordinary trailer-truck on the highway, but when it reaches its destination the sides of the van will lower to the ground, staircases will suddenly emerge from either end, and an upper stage will appear on top. We will have a full theatre in a matter of minutes - a theatre with a stage approximately the size of that in the Capitol Theatre, where most professional theatre has been presented in Ottawa for many years. (The depth of the stage (24 feet) is only slightly less than that of the Capitol's stage, and the 58-foot proscenium is actually wider than the Capitol's.) The theatre will be equipped with full theatrical sound and lighting systems, control room, dressing rooms, and storage areas for costumes, scenery and props - in short, everything a theatre should have."

Jacques Zouvi of Montreal will direct the production to be presented this summer - a musical "mime" involving both singers and dancers and demanding the active participation of the young spectators. It will be given in parks in both the Ontario and Quebec parts of the national capital region, in co-operation with the various parks boards involved.

SEED EXPERTS VISIT

A delegation of seed experts from India visited Canada recently to study the Canadian seed industry. The delegation included six members of the Indian Crop Improvement and Certified Seed Production Association, which represents the private seed industry: S.B. Pandya, president of the association; Colonel Lal Singh, first vice-president; Major Shamsher Singh, second vice-president; D.R. Misra, honorary secretary and treasurer; S.M. Palaniswamy, and S.M. Dudhediya, members of the executive committee. The Government of India was represented by Hit Prakash, deputy commissioner of the seeds development division, Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

Two days were spent in Ottawa making calls on the Canada Department of Agriculture and the Canadian Seed Growers Association. The delegation next flew to Windsor, and toured seed-growing areas visiting growers, seed-trade establishments and international

seed-trade companies as well as provincial and federal agencies in the Toronto area.

The task force recommended that selected personnel be brought to Canada to study the centralized certification programme used by the Canadian Seed Growers Association and the seed-control programme of the Canada Department of Agriculture. In conjunction with this programme, it suggested Canada assist with the training in India of competent seed-control officials.

Both India and Canada are now studying the task force report, and the visit of the Indian seed experts will provide an opportunity for further discussions.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

There were 33,503 births registered in April in Canadian provincial offices, somewhat higher than the 31,217 in April of 1967. The cumulative total, however, for the four-month period was 1.7 percent lower than that of the corresponding period last year, with decreases reported in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Manitoba.

Marriages recorded in April increased to 10,068 from 9,315 in April last year. This brought the total for the first four months to 36,889, 12.0 percent above the 32,929 in the same period of 1967. Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were the only provinces that reported decreases.

There were 13,061 deaths reported in April compared to 11,968 in April 1967. The four-month total was 55,170, 10.9 percent above the 49,769 reported during the 1967 period, with only Newfoundland and Nova Scotia reporting decreases.

THE FUTURE AND INDIAN AND ESKIMO EDUCATION

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At the same time that we are dropping the barriers which obstruct the young, we must learn new ways of dealing with the problems of the older people in the community. Bearing in mind that, even with special training and with all the facilities we can muster, many of these families will not find gainful employment within commuting distance of their present homes, we face a major problem, which is that of relocation....

Our job is to reinforce the young Indian and Eskimo as they strive to achieve. It is to reinforce the older Indian and Eskimo in their struggle. It is to reinforce these people so that they will have the satisfaction of achieving for themselves goals which they have set for themselves within the Canadian society of which they are an integral part.

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