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ALBERTA HOME AND SCHOOL NEWS

Nov. 15, 1939 - April 30, 1945

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"The Alberta Home and School News" (42)

Mrs. A. M. Curtis, Editor, 20 Sills Apts., Calgary, November 15, 1939.

A Call to Associations for United Effort - Dear Fellow Members, Let us hear from all associations in the Province. We are anxious to hear what you are doing and desire to give every help we can. To make an effort is never before to keep your associations together. At the following quotation from the Nova Scotia News Letter says: "I make bold to say that if we now desert work which we have been doing in peace time, which still needs doing, and which we can usefully do, such action is equivalent to that of a soldier who deserts his post. The most important item of duty whether at peace or war is that of building the health of the people both mental and physical. What is this thing called morale, this thing so important in war that the enemy tries hard to destroy and we to preserve? Simply the retention of our usual sane attitude toward life and its problems, in other words - mental health. Physical health is always necessary for maximum effort. Let us then cling to our task with renewed effort and determination of striving for the highest possible degree of community health."

Comics versus Worth While Interests - The publication of comic strips in the newspapers has been thoroughly debated in the Calgary Council of Home and School. Dr. Percival, one of our national officers who recently visited us, has reported that this matter has been seriously considered in Quebec. As Nova Scotia says in the October News Letter - that as an antidote to the comic strip, more space might be given to Hobby Contests (drawing, writing, photography, handicrafts, etc.) which tickle the spirit and spur creative activities. They add: "Woe is me! That will become of us all when administration of the many departments of government passes into the hands of a nation with a comic strip mentality!" When discussion of the topic of Youth Training takes place, therefore, it is not out of place to ask ourselves if we, as teachers or parents, are providing, both in school and at home, worth while interest to grip the attention, time and restless energy of the boys and girls.

Biennial Convention of National Federation of Home and School - This convention will meet in Calgary in the summer of 1940. This is a unique event in our history as we can have the privilege but once in ten years, and it will be an outstanding feast for Home and School members fortunate enough to attend. Make plans now for a large attendance from your associations throughout the Province. Fortunately for rural members it will be held during the summer when road and crop conditions make attendance possible. It is an unexcelled opportunity for Home and School members to meet the leaders of the Home and School movement throughout Canada, from Coast to Coast, and to discuss with them the main purpose of our organization - the welfare of the child - the one aim and ideal which we all have in common. No other organization in our Dominion has such potentialities for building up, through the childhood of the nation, the highest type of Canadian citizenship.

New Associations - Progress in Organization - Home and School Association have been formed recently at Picture Butte and at South Ogden. An enthusiastic audience at Bowness decided unanimously to organize early in December, and requests for literature are constantly being received.

Evidence of the increased interest in the Home and School movement is being shown by the teachers of the Province and the Department of Education. As a result of an invitation to your organizer to speak at the convention of the Castor and Neutral Hills Teachers' Association at Coronation, requests for literature to aid in organization are being received.

At the invitation of the Department of Education your organizer is to meet in conference in Edmonton on Monday, November 13th, with the Department of Education, representatives of the Department of Extension, representatives of the Alberta Teachers' Association, and the Superintendent of the Edmonton Schools, in the interests of the extension of Home and School work in the northern part of the Province.

"The Alberta Home and School News"

Mrs. A. M. Curtis, Editor, 20 Sills Apts.,

Calgary, Alta., April 5th, 1940.

April Convention, Alberta Federation Home and School - This will be held in the Palliser Hotel, April 18th and 19th, President Mrs. S. A. Bartlett in the chair. Our Program Convenor, Mrs. C. S. McKay, and her committee have arranged a constructive program. We know our urban associations will show their appreciation by full representations of delegates and we hope to have rural delegates present in larger numbers than usual.

You will be glad you made the effort. In order to grow, your associations need the inspiration and information derived from fellowship with others, working, as you are, for a common ideal.

Make a special effort to attend this Convention. Resolutions for this and for our National Convention to be held in Calgary in August should be very important and should receive your serious consideration at this Provincial Convention.

We must be vigilant to see that what we have already built up in education must be retained and standards raised not lowered as might easily happen.

In every war period education suffers and, we, parents, as never before, must take an active part in safeguarding the progressive education we have already gained. Home and School Associations are the most effective means by which this can be done. Let us form them in every school possible, in the province, and strengthen those already in existence. Let us all contribute to the success of this Convention.

As Mr. DeWolfe, our National President, says: "A saner education should lead to cooperative effort and the study habit. Though we have worked for this type of education through the last quarter of a century, possibly present war efforts will actually jolt us out of the rut. May we, through the schools, declare war against ignorance of and indifference towards 'the abundant life'."

The Theme of the Convention is "Safeguarding Education". Resolutions and addresses will emphasize this theme.

Registration will take place on Thursday, April 18th at 9.00 a.m., in the Palliser Hotel. President's Address, Reports of Secretaries, Treasurer, Finance Convenor and Amendments to Constitution.

Afternoon Session, 2.00 p.m. Reports of Standing Committees and Council President. Resolutions.

Friday, 9.30 a.m. Unfinished Business and Reports. Rural Reports.

Afternoon Session, 2.00 p.m. Report of Nominations Committee. Question Box. Discussion re National Convention.

These reports, especially Treasurer's, Finance, Constitution and Resolutions are very important. This is your opportunity to fully discuss, e.g. the Treasurer's Report, the Calgary Council's Questionnaire, in which so many are interested and also to arrive at some provision for the extension of Home and School work throughout the Province.

An educational program is planned for Thursday evening with Dr. G. W. Kerby in the chair. A Forum on "Modern Psychology in Modern School Practices," with Dr. J. M. Hutchinson in charge, will be conducted by Dr. E. W. Coffin and Mrs. W. S. Webb representing teachers and Mr. A. Calhoun and Mrs. F. R. Harback representing parents.

For Friday evening April 19th, a banquet will be held in Hillhurst United Church at 6.30 p.m.

Affiliations - We are glad to welcome Weedon, Edson and Barnewell Home and School Associations into affiliation with our Provincial. Two or three others are planning to join before the Convention and we sincerely hope these and all other affiliated rurals will find it possible to send at least one delegate.

P.T.A. Convention - Another Alberta Teachers' Convention has gone into history. We extend the teachers our hearty congratulations on its great success. The outstanding addresses of Dr. E. T. McSwain and Dr. W. Carson Ryan of the Progressive Education Association of the United States will long be remembered by all who had the privilege of hearing them. Both speakers are Home and School (P.T.A.) enthusiasts. Dr. Ryan is Treasurer of the International Federation of Home and School. Dr. McSwain, in his addresses, urged the value of the association in education.

Two points were stressed by both speakers. One was a single salary for all teachers based on experience and qualification. "Each Child" said Dr. McSwain, "is entitled to a well equipped teacher, as well equipped for elementary as for secondary work."

Parents should be equally interested in this matter as all psychologists agree that the first three years of school life are of most importance to the child, and its elementary training quite as important as his secondary. This adjustment cannot be made while there is the present great differentiation in salaries.

Another point stressed was the necessity for Dominion responsibility for ed-

G. W. Kerby's Message.

To the Members and Friends of:

THE HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS throughout Alberta, we extend cordial greetings and good wishes.

We venture to believe you will greatly appreciate the Alberta Home and School News. It will help to keep you in touch with what is going on in the good work in many places. It will also, I am sure, give hints and offer suggestions that will be a stimulus to every individual association in the province.

George W. Kerby,  
National President.

Suggestion - We hope this monthly News Sheet will be of benefit to all organized Home and School Associations in the province. Please study it in your meetings, then have your Secretary file it for future reference.

Those who have not yet organized may find in it very useful information which will convince them of the need of such an organization in the community.

Include in your invitation to the first meeting some reasons why parents should attend Home and School meetings,

"The success of the association depends on your support and co-operation. Its aim is to work with the school staff for the welfare of your children.

If you come:

- You will be able to relax from your home cares.
- You will make new friends and meet old ones.
- You will meet the parents of your child's playmate.
- You will establish a direct and personal contact with the school.
- You will enjoy the program and address.
- You will not be asked for money or to make a speech.
- You will want to come again.

If you don't come:

You miss a profitable afternoon and we miss your support and co-operation.

Ontario Home and School "Review".

Programs - Test your programs, before undertaking, by the ten tests in our Handbook.

1. Is co-operation of home and school developed?
2. Are local needs discovered and plans made for meeting them?
3. Do members take part in the program?

These ten tests and other valuable information are found in our National Handbook.

Education Week - This week will be celebrated in Calgary, March 13-19, 1938.

Suggested topics are:

1. Education, A National Responsibility.
2. The Schools in Action. Each school will hold suitable exercises which will emphasize the New Curriculum in action by actual demonstrations in dramatics, choral work, physical training, public speaking and in the new enterprise activities. Public speakers, the churches, radio and press will all emphasize the new course of study and new ideas in educational methods of today. Give your school your fullest co-operation.

New Organizations - We heartily extend a cordial welcome to Lavoy and Brooks Home and School Associations, wish them every success in their work and will gladly give them every assistance.

Congratulations are extended to Raymond Home and School Association for the splendid work being accomplished in this rural district, and especially for their progressiveness in having organized seven study groups within their organization.

The sixth Biennial Meeting of the Canadian National Federation of Home and School will be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, the tentative dates being July 13-16, 1938. Nova Scotia as a province, is most alive to Home and School work as the growth of its organizations shows. The beauty of the Maritimes and the hospitality of their citizens promise delight to delegates apart from the convention proper. Miss. L. J. Payne, National Bulletin. Plan to include this in your Eastern trip this summer.

Visitors to Calgary who are interested in the Home and School movement are cordially invited to get in touch with us. We shall be very glad to meet you and discuss matters of common interest and mutual inspiration.

"THE ALBERTA HOME AND SCHOOL NEWS"

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2319 Morrison Street, Calgary.

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Subscription .25¢.

April 1941.

A. DeWolfe, Truro, N.S., President of Canadian National Federation Home and School will be the guest of the Provincial Federation on April 12th and 13th. Mr. DeWolfe will address a meeting in the Palliser on April 12th at 8.15 p.m. It is expected a large number will avail themselves of this opportunity of hearing the President.

**Convention Reminders** - Notices have been sent out announcing the annual convention and convention of the Provincial Federation for Thursday and Friday, April 24th and 25th, in the Palliser Hotel, Calgary, Alta. Programs, which speak for themselves are included with the News Sheet. Careful planning has been done and we are looking forward to a record attendance.

Associations are asked to choose their four voting delegates and other members to attend as many of the sessions as possible. The sessions are open to all interested persons, but the voting will be done by the officially appointed representatives. In voting, Calgary delegates must each one cast his or her vote in person, but in the case of other parts of Calgary Associations the four votes may be cast by one official delegate. No association shall have more than four votes. All delegates are reminded to bring note books and pencils.

Delegates are asked to be prompt in order that valuable time may not be wasted or others disturbed by late comers.

The banquet session on Friday evening has been arranged for your enjoyment and will be featured by a special educational number contributed by the Department of Education, if present plans materialize. At the rate you will want to secure your tickets at 60 cents each as early as possible in order that the committee may make adequate arrangements.

To those rurals who are unable to send delegates to the convention, we would ask that they submit a written report of their activities for the year; also give us an outline of any special war work, which they are doing, this information will be forwarded to the National Federation.

**Associations** - We offer our congratulations and good wishes to the following newly formed associations:

- Manchester Home and School Association, Calgary.
- Tuxedo Park Home and School Association, Calgary.
- North Mt. Pleasant Home and School Association, Calgary.
- Glenwood Home and School Association, Glenwood, Alta.

We trust that all of these new associations will find joy and inspiration in service to their new undertakings. Who was it that said, "a blessing is had until it is shared"? We are looking forward to meet the delegates from these new units, that we may share together the inspiration and enthusiasm of such worth-while endeavour as Home and School work offers.

J. M. Hutchinson, Principal of Crescent Heights, answered the following question submitted to him by the Home and School Association at their meeting. The answer concerns many parents and we thank Dr. Hutchinson for the use of this article.

"Is it necessary to join in the social functions (dances) to be an all round, successful student?"

"The way in which this question is answered depends on one's conception of what is meant by "an all round, successful student". Certainly my answer reflects my idea of the way in which any good high school should attempt to direct and influence the growth of its students and to prepare them for happy and satisfactory participation in life, both now as students, and in future as citizens of a free democracy. To be sure, the demands of the school and the home, boys and girls are under influences which make our work much more difficult.

"A successful student is one who shows appreciable growth along all lines. In the first place, by diligent study of his books and careful attention in class, he is acquiring a fund of worthwhile knowledge, he is enlarging his vocabulary and acquiring some facility in speaking and writing his own language. We would not consider a person