

PARTIE DOCUMENTAIRE

LES VOEUX DU CONGRÈS DE WINNIPEG

Voici, textuellement reproduits, avec leur préambule et les notes qui les accompagnent dans la brochure officielle, les vœux du congrès de Winnipeg. Ces vœux appellent des commentaires que fera prochainement l'un de nos collaborateurs.

Resolutions adopted by National Conference on Character Education in relation to Canadian Citizenship, October 20, 21, 22, 1919, Winnipeg.

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THE National Conference on Character Education in Relation to Canadian Citizenship was held in Winnipeg, October 20th, 21st and 22nd, 1919. This gathering was the culmination of a campaign inaugurated by a group of citizens of Winnipeg some two and a half years ago, and participated in by interested groups in all parts of Canada.

The extent of the interest aroused may be inferred from the fact that fifteen hundred and four accredited delegates attended the Conference and took part in the proceedings. The popular attendance at several of the sessions ran as high as five thousand and at no session were there fewer than two thousand persons present.

The formal programme included at least thirty speakers. Among these were : One from Great Britain, Mr. Peter Wright; four from the United States : President Suzzallo of Seattle, Dr. Soares of Chicago, Dr. Milton Fairchild of Washington, President Finley of Albany, New

York. The remainder of the thirty speakers were Canadians, eminent in their respective fields of scholarship or other activity. Six of the nine provinces of Canada were represented by the chief administrative officers of their Departments of Education. The presiding officers of the various sessions included the Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba, the Chief Justice of the Court of the King's Bench of Manitoba, the Primate of Canada and the Premier of Saskatchewan.

As an outcome of the Conference a Council of fifty members, to carry on the work done by the Conference, was appointed. Copies of the various resolutions passed are given herein. The proceedings of the Conference will be printed and made available for the use of the delegates. A limited number of copies will also be available for purchase by others than delegates who may be interested.

The funds for carrying on the campaign and holding the Conference were obtained by popular subscription mainly through the interest of the Rotary Clubs throughout the Dominion.

NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

RESOLUTIONS

EDUCATION PROGRESS

THAT the whole question of the best methods of carrying out the purposes of the Conference be referred to the National Council for their fullest considerations and such action as they deem wise to take. Said action to be reported upon to the next meeting of the Conference.

THAT for purposes of educational investigation and as a clearing house for educational data, a NATIONAL BUREAU be established under the direction of the National Council of the Conference, and that such Bureau be maintained by voluntary support and such financial assistance as may be given by Provincial and Dominion Governments without any restrictions as to policy.

CHARACTER EDUCATION

THAT this Conference puts itself on record as recognizing the necessity for the deepening and strengthening of the moral and spiritual factors in our National Education, alike in the School, the Church and the Home, and instructs the newly appointed National Council to make a consideration of the problem here involved a first charge upon its deliberations.

THAT this Conference recognizing that development of child morality is largely achieved through the objective side of his nature, expresses its hearty approval of all those auxiliary agencies, such as the Boys' Brigade, The Boy Scouts, the Cadet Corps, the Canadian Standard Efficiency Training, and the Canadian Girls in Training, the Girl Guides and the Little Mothers' League, which aid in developing among children of school age physical fitness and the spirit of service and citizenship in the community.

BELIEVING that the moral education of the youth of our country must depend on the development of sound physical bodies, the Conference desires to express its conviction that every possible means should be taken for safeguarding and promoting the health of the children in all parts of the country. To this end we believe that a complete system of medical and dental inspection under competent doctors and nurses should be organized in every Province for both rural and urban schools; also that provision should be made for the adequate and specific training of all teachers in the principles of hygiene, particularly applied to the conditions of school life.

THAT inasmuch as the prevailing emphasis on competitive methods in industry and commerce has tended to a weakening of the sense of solidarity among the citizens of Canada, and the perversion of motive resulting from undue regard to the rewards of work as compared with interest in the service rendered, this Conference recommends that all our schools promote by every reasonable means the spirit and practice of co-operative effort both in team-games and in class work.

THAT this Conference expresses its conviction that provision should be made for free and compulsory education up to the age of 16 years and part-time education for all the youth of Canada up to the age of eighteen.

WHEREAS on account of the waste of the recent war and the demands of the present task of reconstruction the conservation of the youth of our country is of such vital importance; Resolved that this National Conference on Character Education expresses its conviction that provision for state aid should be made for parents who would otherwise be forced through economic necessity to take their children away from school during the compulsory period :

AND further, in the opinion of this Conference, there should be Factory Acts or other legal enactments rigidly enforced in every Province prohibiting the employment of children under the age of compulsory school attendance.

THAT inasmuch as education cannot fulfil its proper function without the playgrounds and equipment suitable for the development of organized play, this Conference calls the attention of our Canadian School authorities to the fact that many of our school grounds are inadequate to this purpose.

THAT this Conference having regard to the fact that Canada is largely an agricultural country, expresses its conviction that it is in the best interests of the whole country that a high type of rural schools be developed; AND THAT as a means to this end continuation work in rural schools be encouraged and every inducement be offered to rural pupils to attend these schools until such time as attendance to the age of 16 years be made compulsory.

WHEREAS the effect of the Moving Picture on school children is incalculably powerful for good or evil, and whereas much of what is now offered as entertainment is based upon suggestions that tend to familiarize the minds of children with situations that are sensational and frequently immoral and vulgar;

THEREFORE be it resolved that this Conference direct attention to the vital necessity of developing an active public opinion, demonstrated by attendance at theatres, for the support of good pictures — which can only be hoped for when it becomes good business to exhibit such pictures, and also for the strengthening of the hands of the various boards of censorship in their efforts to raise the standard of the Moving Picture industry; and that every effort be made to secure films depicting Canadian and British life and sentiment.

WHEREAS it has been conclusively shown that posters and advertisements of a suggestive and immoral nature are used to attract attendance to performances and moving pictures otherwise comparatively harmless; be it resolved that this Conference urge a strict censorship of posters and advertisements.

THE TEACHING PROFESSION

THIS Conference records its opinion that to obtain the highest educational results for our people the community must provide enlarged opportunity for the education and training of teachers, raise the standard of education for admission to the teaching profession, taking measures at the same time to attract men and women of special gifts for this high service by raising the social status of the teachers and providing a scale of remuneration so liberal as to free them from economic anxiety.

THAT having regard to the principle of fair and open discussion as a fundamental principle of democracy, the Conference urges upon

all bodies in whom is vested the control of educational affairs the necessity of dealing in a frank and public manner with cases involving the reduction in rank or dismissal of teachers or instructors under their control.

CANADIANIZATION

THAT this Conference recommends to the Federal Government the adoption of a distinctive Canadian flag.

THAT with a view to establishing a more general appreciation of the dignity and responsibilities of Canadian Citizenship the Conference recommends that under the auspices of the National Government an appropriate function be held in each community preferably on Dominion Day in each year for the Public reception into citizenship of those who have met all the conditions of naturalization.

WHEREAS under the Canadian constitution the administration of Public education is assigned to the Provinces;

AND WHEREAS in pursuance of policies approved by the Parliament of this Dominion and carried into effect by Federal Governments, great bodies of immigrants unfamiliar with Canadian and British institutions and ideals have been settled in various parts of Canada;

AND WHEREAS the initiation of these new Canadians into efficient Canadian citizenship is a National problem of vital concern to all Canada;

AND WHEREAS the solution of the problem through the maintenance of the propaganda essential to the adequate support of this great National enterprise, through the provision of such special equipment as the work demands and through supplying teachers who are expert settlement workers willing to make their home in these immigrant settlements for prolonged periods calls for a financial support difficult if not impossible for Provincial revenues, unaided, adequately to support;

THEREFORE be it resolved that it is the duty of the Federal Government to assume without avoidable delay its fair share in the financial burden incidental to the Canadianizing of an immigrant population by providing suitable special Dominion grants to be expended and administered by the Provincial Government concerned.

The National Council will meet at Ottawa early in February, 1920.

The Honorary Secretary will be glad to receive any suggestions that will aid the National Conference in its work.

Office: 511 Electric Railway Chambers, Winnipeg.