

I have observed, with much interest, some recent public discussions of schools in the Maritime Provinces. The discussions seem to be conducted in the fresh air, and with a desire on the part of some, at least, to be frank and honest. We need public discussion, and we need, still more, private discussion, and cooperation between individuals, who are interested, and who have a knowledge of the question. Education is a social matter, and as wide as life itself. But it is also a technical matter, requiring the knowledge of experts, and freedom granted to experts. Perhaps we are all making the mistake of either defending a system, which we are afraid we do not know how to replace, or of gleefully potting at what seem to us the weak spots in a system. At best the result is catch-words, or the replacement of blessed catch-words by other blessed catch-words.

Reforms in schools, as in other things, have usually sprung from leadership, displayed in some one school, or some one locality. Butler at Shrewsbury, Arnold at Rugby, McCulloch at Pictou, "Tassie" at Galt, la Signorina Montessori at Rome, are examples. Each set going a ferment of ideas. But the ideas did not find general acceptance at once. Some of these individuals set to work at a time when no system existed. Others had to work in, and through a system, which their own ideas dissolved or fused in a new way. We are hag-ridden with systems in Canada today. And yet it is a fact that here and there a teacher, or an individual citizen, is demonstrating that there is still latitude and [✓]beathing-room for a vital idea in education. It is undeniable that skeletons and charnel bones- dead ideas in the shape of text books, curricula, etc.- litter our schools. But these, though they may impede, have really no force to bind the soul. The question is: who is alive among us? Who is remembering that it is valueless to put a subject in a curriculum if, by that, we mean that the subject never comes out of the curriculum? Who is remembering that children are individual animals; each with a free soul of his own, which will respond to anything that is alive in a teacher? Educational visitors to the Canadian scene, of whom there have been many in the last few years, are agreed

that, from end to end of Canada, hardly anyone seems to be concerned with the students who are super-average. This is pretty good testimony to palsy and sterility. I have just read, in a morning paper, a phrase used by a couple of experts, who have been investigating our museums, with a view to endowing them, if they can find anything worth endowing, and they allow themselves the phrase: "paralysis from Calgary to Halifax".

Such generalisations are easy, whether deserved or undeserved, and this one calls to mind the even wider generalisation of a French wit, to the effect that weakness is the one thing past cure. If so, we shall have to begin with strength, and we may be sure that strength will be found, not universally, but sporadically. It will be found, if found at all, as we said at the beginning, in some one place, and it will be utterly dissipated if it is spent on a system. Furthermore, the strength will have to be native. Systems cannot stand a sea voyage, nor a long journey. Not that an idea cannot be transplanted; we remember that the first larch trees in Scotland were seedlings from the Apennines. But the seminal idea must find a local sustenance.

Recently, in a Committee gathered from the Maritime Provinces and Newfoundland, there was a discussion of how and where in this district one might find or found an elementary school, which should have for its purpose the social need of its own community. A school, for example, in Prince Edward Island, for the children of farmers, which should remember that these children were the children of farmers, in Prince Edward Island, in the present years of grace,-children, some of them with high endowments, but endowments of a particular kind. Or, again, a school in a fishing village in Newfoundland, which should treat its own human material as individual and precious. The discussion began with an offer to send Canadian teachers, and Canadian students, to observe the Folk Schools in Denmark, which have been notoriously successful in applying such simple and common-sense rules to the life of Denmark. Strange

as it may seem, no one in the company gathered could think of teachers, or prospective teachers, in the Maritime Provinces or Newfoundland, who have shown signs of such an outlook, or who would be interested, even, in such a tour of observation. My readers will understand that it is not, at present, a handsome school building that is desiderated, nor a fine new curriculum, complete with administrators, inspectors, and educational boards. It is just a living idea that is wanted, - just evidence that somewhere school children are being treated as though they had lives of their own to lead. Those who remember the eloquent description of the lame schoolmaster in Philip Grove's Manitoban novel, will understand exactly what is in my mind as I write.

I relate this incident here, publicly, because I have a hope that someone, conscious in himself of a living endeavor in this direction, may tell us, and prove to us, that there is life in the Maritime Provinces and Newfoundland, of which the weighty Committee is not aware; that the Committee is ignorant, or wrong; indeed, that the Committee itself is dead or paralysed. At the moment, I feel that evidence of life in the gathering I have described is that it should even discuss such an idea.

"THEY COVER NOVA SCOTIA"

W. H. DENNIS, MANAGING DIRECTOR

A. W. ROBB, VICE PRESIDENT



THE HALIFAX HERALD THE HALIFAX MAIL

THE HALIFAX HERALD, LIMITED

HALIFAX, CANADA

November 30, 1932

Carleton Stanley, Esq.,
 President,
 Dalhousie University,
 Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Dear Mr. Stanley:-

Thank you very much for the article which you prepared for publication in our New Year Edition.

Your co-operation is deeply appreciated.

Yours very truly,

THE HALIFAX HERALD LIMITED

R. J. Rankin
 Managing Editor.

November 29, 1932.

R. J. Rankin, Esq.,
Managing Editor,
The Halifax Herald Limited,
H a l i f a x, N. S.

Dear Mr. Rankin:

Enclosed you will find the article you asked me for.
I hope I have not kept you waiting too long, and that you will find
it serviceable for your purpose.

Yours sincerely,

CS/LH.
Encl.

President.

"THEY COVER NOVA SCOTIA"

W. H. DENNIS, MANAGING DIRECTOR

A. W. ROBB, VICE PRESIDENT



THE HALIFAX HERALD THE HALIFAX MAIL

THE HALIFAX HERALD, LIMITED

HALIFAX, CANADA

November 22, 1932.

Mr. Carleton Stanley,
President,
Dalhousie University,
Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Dear Mr. Stanley:

We do not wish to inconvenience you in any way, but would like to remind you of the article for our New Year Edition.

The time is getting short and as our mechanical facilities are limited, there is always more or less congestion the last few weeks. In order to avoid this as much as possible and to insure that your article will receive the attention it deserves, we would like to receive it at the earliest possible date.

Yours very truly,

THE HALIFAX HERALD LIMITED,

W. H. Dennis
Managing Editor.

"THEY COVER NOVA SCOTIA"

W. H. DENNIS, MANAGING DIRECTOR

A. W. ROBB, VICE PRESIDENT

THE HALIFAX HERALD, LIMITED

HALIFAX, CANADA

October 8, 1932

THE HALIFAX HERALD THE HALIFAX MAIL

Dr. Carleton Stanley,
President,
Dalhousie University,
Halifax, Nova Scotia.

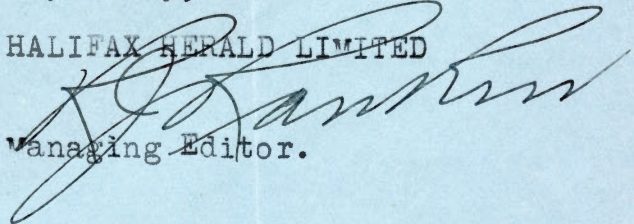
Dear Dr. Stanley:-

Thank you very much for your letter of October 1st, expressing your willingness to co-operate with us in making our 1933 New Year Edition a success.

As the preparation of the New Year Edition is a difficult one and the time is getting short, we would appreciate if you would let us have your article on or before November 10th.

Yours very truly,

THE HALIFAX HERALD LIMITED


Managing Editor.

October 1, 1932.

R. J. Rankin, Esq.,
Managing Editor,
The Halifax Herald, Limited,
Halifax, N. S.

Dear Mr. Rankin:

"Once bitten, twice shy" is a good rule.

As I wrote for your last New Year's Edition, I
thought you would not want to have me again.

However, as you stood me before, I shall willingly
contribute again.

Please jog me in good time as the date
approaches.

Yours faithfully,

CS/LH.

"THEY COVER NOVA SCOTIA"

W. H. DENNIS, MANAGING DIRECTOR

A. W. ROBB, VICE PRESIDENT



THE HALIFAX HERALD THE HALIFAX MAIL

THE HALIFAX HERALD, LIMITED

HALIFAX, CANADA

September 30, 1932

Dr. Carleton Stanley,
President,
Dalhousie University,
Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Dear Dr. Stanley:-

We are now making preparations for the publication of our 1933 New Year Edition. We are confident that these Editions have proved of definite value in the past in outlining Nova Scotia's position and prospects in practically all lines of industrial and commercial endeavor.

The future is the big factor in the present situation.

We are building for the future and look to the future to bring us that progress and prosperity we have been waiting for, for some years.

What are Nova Scotia's future prospects ?

This is the question which we believe our New Year Edition should answer. We believe it can be answered most optimistically. We invite your co-operation by being a contributor to this special number, preparing for us an article of from eight hundred to one thousand words, dealing with the prospects for educational advancement in this Province. We would also appreciate having a suitable illustration accompany the article, if possible.

Will you please let us hear from you at your earliest convenience?

Yours very truly,

THE HALIFAX HERALD LIMITED

W. H. Dennis
Managing Editor.