

### Crackdown in Schools

TEACHERS of British Columbia want more authority to discipline unsatisfactory and trouble-making students. They have made their position plain at the B.C. Teachers' Federation convention in Vancouver.

Too many indolent young people are warming seats in schools, they say, disturbing classes, lowering morale and challenging reasonable authority in and outside the educational system. The teachers believe the profession's hands should be strengthened to deal with them and expulsion made a more effective instrument to that end.

As reports have disclosed in this city and elsewhere, the teachers are justified in their position.

We agree wholeheartedly with the Victoria Times which states that it is not surprising that the federation should have announced this stand a day or so after an analogous statement from a university spokesman.

In Victoria, William J. Bartz, bursar at Idaho State University told the Western Association of College and University Business Officers that "serious overcrowding will develop over the next few years unless the entry of students is limited by their ability and aptitude. . . . The crucial issue is whether we should accept all students wanting university education, or admit only those of proven ability."

There is a parallel between the movement among elementary and secondary school teachers at the Vancouver convention and the opinion of the university spokesman here. Both deal with the results of what seemed to be an excellent principle: that every child should have as broad an opportunity as possible to go as high in education as he or she can. The principle is excellent, but it can be seriously injured if too many young people take the opportunity without showing a corresponding sense of responsibility.

There is, of course, says The Times, a difference in the two attitudes. The B.C. teachers are concerned primarily with discipline. The university interests are troubled by a problem of overcrowding. But both are faced by a common conclusion: In the schools and in the universities, too many young people are occupying space to which they have failed to prove their right.

It should be understood at the outset the Times says, that this criticism does not apply to the majority of students either in elementary schools or in higher classes. It does, most emphatically, apply to a minority that is increasing to a point dangerous to the whole educational system.

There are, of course, many arguments against a return to the old highly-selective practice of falling out less intellectual youngsters in the school system. To a degree they are being failed out now. Moreover, as far as British Columbia is concerned, students may only enter college or university if they pass the prescribed entrance courses. That means a substantial degree of selection in the calibre of young people who go on to higher education. But perhaps standards of selection should be higher.

At all events, teachers and university people have emphasized the point that neither want the drones or the hoodlums. If apparently satisfactory students develop into drones or hoodlums during their school lives, the teachers want and should have authority to deal with them.

Whether or not the general public is interested in the behaviour patterns displayed by some pupils, the public, as the tax-paying body, should have some concern for the costs education thrusts upon it. As long as discipline is flouted and laziness permitted in the class, a lot of that tax money is being wasted.

If only for the most material considerations, the public should support the teachers and university spokesmen.

### The Nerve Of 'Em!

If police chiefs have nightmares, they must imagine themselves in the position of Cornwall's police heads. Cash and cheques to the value of \$8,400 have disappeared from that city's police station. The police commission has found no evidence of police negligence in the loss. Yet it's still an embarrassment that won't easily be matched in police circles, inasmuch as the money had been left at police headquarters for safekeeping. It goes to show the nerve of some crooks, if that's any consolation. —Windsor Star.



## As I See It

by  
 Elmore Philpott

### Lets Make It Fun

THE most serious objection to recent elections in Canada is that they have been too humdrum and dull, and not enough fun.

The people have a right to have fun at election times, as indeed at most other times.

But election times should be specially happy occasions, because the free election is the core and centre of our democratic system.

I think that a good deal of the fun has gone out of recent elections because of the fading away of the good old-fashioned rip snorting joint meeting—or the "assemblee contradictoire" as the French Canadians call it.

Where public spirited bodies, such as Boards of Trade, Trade Unions, Service Clubs or PTAs sponsored public meetings where the people have a chance to see and hear all the candidates appear together there is never any "problem" about getting audiences.

Folks will flock to meetings where all the candidates are to get the chance to have their say in the presence of their rivals, and in the presence of all the people.

THERE are two ways of running such joint meetings. If the sponsoring organization is one of general interest, the candidates of the various parties may be invited to appear and to speak for a stipulated number of minutes on subjects of their own choosing.

But an alternative plan is for organizations, such as old age pension associations to invite the candidates to appear together to speak on the stipulated subject of particular interest to that organization.

FOR instance, Canadian Legion branches could invite all candidates in their particular constituency to appear on a certain night, and discuss veterans' pensions, allowances, hospitalization, and all other such matters of particular interest to veterans and their families.

THERE are no set rules for conducting such meetings. At some times, and places, the sponsoring organization calls upon the candidates to speak in reverse order from the party standing in that constituency in the previous election. That is the candidate of the party which polled the fewest votes would be called upon to speak first, and the candidate of the party which had won the election would be called upon last.

At other times the sponsoring organization calls on the candidates in the order in which their names appear on the ballot paper in that riding.

But at other times the candidates actually draw for their places at the beginning of the meeting—that is draw numbers from a hat, held by the chairman in plain view of all the assembled people.

THE joint meetings which I am discussing in this piece are not in quite the same category as debates which take place between two politicians; as a result of a direct challenge by one of them.

There have been numerous examples of famous and history-making debates in this category. The most notable of these, perhaps, was the series which actually helped to make Abe Lincoln president of the United States. That certainly must have been a battle of the giants, for Lincoln was up against Douglas, one of the most powerful speakers of a century where there were many giants in many countries—Disraeli and Gladstone in Britain; Macdonald and Laurier in Canada.

DEMOCRACY is a system in which the decisions are taken by the people, after full discussion and fair debate. The press, the radio, the TV, the pulpit, in the church, and every school-room in the land all play a part in this process of discussion.

What the people hear in public, or over the air, they of course discuss in their own family circles, where the opinions of a free people finally "jell" on any given subject.

But no more effective method has yet been discovered of facilitating truly free and useful discussion than in the joint public meeting.

The reason why the general public likes them is because there are not only two sides to almost every question—but sometimes half a dozen sides. The people have a right to know everything there is to know about every public question, and the joint meeting helps them to find out.

But regardless of the modesty of the arrangements and the stealing of much of their thunder by Cabinetor Hellyer, the PC's are well pleased with their Toronto show. Their satisfaction stems from the statement of support for the Federal cause made by Provincial Premier Leslie Frost. The Ottawa PC's believe that Mr. Frost's speech was the green light to the provincial PC machine to take the field behind the Diefenbaker candidates. They're estimating such support as worth anything up to a gain of 25 seats in the province.

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## TIME and PLACE . . .

By STAN ROUGH

### Mostly About The Expanding North

In April 1955 the Editor of the Kitimat Northern Sentinel asked me to write a weekly column. During the past two years twenty people have contributed one or more columns and it seemed to be a good idea to celebrate our second birthday by a reunion in print. Assignments were handed out and as a result 15 Time and Placers have again come through with articles we trust you will find of interest. Their anniversary columns will start tomorrow.

The first column appeared on April 21, 1955 and weekly thereafter. When the Kitimat Sentinel came out twice a week the column kept pace by securing volunteer guest columnists.

As of April 30, 1957, there have been 138 columns, 94 written by Stan Rough and 44 by other contributors.

Number of individual contributors including four high school students who contributed to the Student Day column—25.

Purpose of column is to arouse a greater interest in Kitimat and Northern B.C. past, present and future.

Title—Time and Place has decided upon and at no time has it seemed necessary to change it. Also it tends to keep the writer and contributors on the track.

SOME INTERESTING FACTS

- Time and Place is also published by the Prince Rupert Daily News and the Terrace Omineca Herald.
- No-one gets paid—it is purely a hobby.
- Contributors are contacted by phone, letter or personally and given a topic. The only editing done is to give the article a title and add sub-headings. Several of the contributors I have never seen but hope to some day; namely Frank Dockrill of Telkwa and Sperry Cline of Vancouver.
- This is probably the only column in Canada that so many people take such an active part in its publications. Contributors are very keen and co-operative. It was no difficulty at all producing the anniversary number, as a letter to contributors brought a prompt response. They all thought it was a good idea and were pleased to co-operate.

TIME AND PLACE CONTRIBUTORS

Gordon Robinson — Former Chief Councillor of Kitimat Village. Now works in Alcan's Recreation department. Author of Tales of Kitimat.

Mrs. Isabel Ripley — Kitimat housewife interested in WA of United Church.

Rev. W. H. T. Fulton — Chairman, Kitimat Ministerial Association.

Fred Ryan — Proprietor of Kitimat Photo Supply and co.

owner of several other businesses.

Evelyn Jackson—Assistant editor, Terrace Omineca Herald, and formerly an active member of the Terrace Teen Town.

Frank Dockrill — Owner of Bulkley Collieries Limited of Telkwa and a northern pioneer.

Mrs. Mary Madill — Kitimat housewife. Chairman of public library and a member of the school board.

E. T. Applewhite — MP for Skeena, Prince Rupert.

H. M. Block—Director of Recreation and Adult Education for the Municipality of Kitimat.

D. T. Yard—General secretary, Kitimat YMCA, and member of Kitimat Town Planning committee.

John Pousette—former editor of the Ingot and now with the Property Department, Aluminum Company of Canada, Limited.

Mrs. Kay Burlidge — Kitimat housewife interested in church work and Municipal affairs.

Allan DesChamps — Assistant Alcan recreation director and former principal of Youth Training school, University of British Columbia.

Sperry Cline — Former mail carrier, prospector, miner, Provincial Police officer, now living in Vancouver.

Wiggs O'Neil — Owner of the Smithers Garage and a pioneer of the Bulkley Valley.

Rose Peel—Kindergarten specialist.

## Victoria Report

by J. K. NESBITT

VICTORIA—Conservative and Social Credit platforms for the June 10 Federal election sound like one and the same.

Mr. Bennett says that if SC wins old-age pensions will go up, income taxes down.

Mr. Diefenbaker says that if the Conservatives win old-age pensions will go up, income taxes down.

Could there be anything, after all, to all this talk that SC's and Conservatives will coalesce, if, between them, they should happen to control a majority of the Commons seats?

It's beginning to look mighty suspicious, that perhaps there has been some kind of a back-room deal.

Mr. Bennett would dearly love to swallow up the Conservatives nationally, as he has pretty well swallowed them up provincially.

We poor electors! How our ears are ringing and our heads spinning as we try to make sense out of all the talk that is going on these days on the hustings.

Jean-Paul St. Laurent, son of the Prime Minister, says that his father, Providence willing, will lead the Liberals at least another five years.

A Toronto Conservative, Mr. Binks, says he has it on good authority—the good old political grapevine, apparently—that the Liberals will hold a convention in October to pick a successor to Mr. St. Laurent.

Mr. Binks is intimating that the Liberals are up to an old trick—that they are using Mr. St. Laurent in a desperate effort to win the election, and that as soon as it's over he will retire.

What confusions there are going to be, until the voters get into the polling booths and, in their own way, make order out of chaos—or perhaps cook up

exciting political mulligan, as B. C. voters did in 1952.

Mr. Austin Taylor of Vancouver says the Bennett government is ruining the mining industry because of high taxation.

"How far this fellow (Mr. Bennett) thinks he's a dictator I don't know," says an annoyed Mr. Taylor.

Mr. Bennett, of course, is not a dictator. Under our system we cannot have a dictator as head of the government.

Mr. Bennett is a dominating personality. He usually gets his way with his supporters. He sometimes rides rough-shod over them. But to say he's a dictator is foolish.

First of all, in cabinet, Mr. Bennett's colleagues could vote him down if they wanted to.

In the Legislature all his backbenchers could gang up on him and vote him out of office.

Under such conditions, we cannot have dictatorship, and that is something to be thankful for.

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