

FOUR OVER-40 CLASSES PROBED

BCTF General Secretary C. D. Ovans will make an investigation into four cases involving classes of 40 or more students to determine whether or not the federation's Commission on Intolerable Learning Conditions should be called in.

The Representative Assembly was informed at its meeting that reports of only seven classes in the province with 40 students or more had come into the federation office.

In two of the cases the situations had been rectified by the employment of an additional teacher. In the third the class size was reduced by sending grade seven students to an adjacent school.

Ovans says that the commission is still interested in hearing from any elementary or secondary teacher who considers that he has an intolerable teaching load even though his class may not be in excess of 39 students.



Raymond Laliberté addresses members of the Representative Assembly. In the foreground, left to right: Bob Buzza, BCTF president; Tom Hutchison, first vice-president, and Harley Robertson, past president.



Mrs. John Prior unveils a portrait of her late husband, L. John Prior, former BCTF president, during the dedication of the L. John Prior Auditorium. At right is BCTF president Bob Buzza. The auditorium was dedicated during the Representative Assembly meeting.

Trustees, teachers meet

East Kootenay experiment

Representatives of East Kootenay teachers and trustees held a day-long conference at the Cranbrook Hotel September 10 to pave the way for a series of liaison meetings that will discuss important educational issues directly affecting both groups.

It is hoped that teachers and trustees will be able to sit down, at future meetings, to discuss problems such as use of non-teaching personnel; education finance; in-service training; school planning and building; the federation's membership categorization plan; the class size campaign; the small secondary schools; recruitment and retention of staff; grievance procedures available to both teachers and trustees.

The September 10 meeting is the second time that the trustees and the teachers of the East Kootenays have come together to work co-operatively in furthering educational needs in the area.

Teachers and trustees sponsored a Language Arts Workshop at Cranbrook from August 28 to September 1.

Thirty Grade 4 teachers took part in the workshop which was subsidized by the teachers and trustees of the area. Adam Robertson, of Creston,

a member of the BCTF Executive, who has helped spark this move towards greater teacher-trustee co-operation in the East Kootenays, said he believes that teachers and trustees can get together not only to help organize such events as the in-service workshop, but to discuss mutual problems.

'We were very pleased at the success of the in-service workshop,' Mr. Robertson said. 'We were delighted too, that we didn't have to bring in any "big city" people to conduct the in-service training program. We found people right in our own area who could do it.'

The next liaison committee between the trustees and the teachers will be held in Cranbrook Sunday, November 26.

There will be three topics of discussion — education finance, the class size campaign, and staff utilization.

Table officers of the teachers' association and the trustees branch will get together ahead to come up with some mutually acceptable agenda.

It is also hoped that a resource person would be brought in to go into more detailed discussion on one of the topics.

Pension data coming soon

Individual pension estimates for teachers will soon be in the hands of teachers, B.C. Superannuation Commissioner W. H. Forrest has informed BCTF president Bob Buzza.

Forrest said service and contribution data for the year 1966 is currently being entered on punched cards. This information will then be transferred to two magnetic tape reels.

One will contain basic statistical records, including name, social insurance number, sex, date of birth, date of start of contributions, school district and school.

The other will contain financial data including service, salaries and contributions.

Added Mr. Forrest: 'It will not be possible to produce the statements before the end of October, but I can assure you that every effort will be made to ensure a minimum of delay.'

Tutor registry

Teachers who are interested in tutoring should register with Mrs. Bette White at the BCTF office.

The federation set up a tutor registry in January, 1966, following many enquiries from parents for advice on tutors.

Mrs. White is attempting to bring the list of tutors up-to-date and she would like to hear from anyone who would like to be included.

Letters should include classification and years of experience, subjects and/or grade levels, plus address and 'phone number.

FULL FREEDOM

Vancouver School Superintendent Dr. R. F. Sharp has stated that teachers in the Vancouver system will have full professional freedom to adjust their courses and teaching procedures in ways that will help make what takes place in the classroom of value to the students. Further attention is to be given this year to de-emphasizing testing, a move that was started last year with considerable success.

Says Laliberte

'CTF must recognize two nations'

English and French-Canadian teachers in Canada can never be united in one organization unless the Canadian Teachers' Federation recognizes the existence of two cultures and two nations in Canada, says the president of the Quebec Teachers' Corporation.

G. Raymond Laliberté said in Vancouver that the Canadian Teachers' Federation must also recognize the right of citizens of both nations to have their children taught in their mother tongue in every part of the country.

Laliberté made the comments in an address to the Representative Assembly of the B.C. Teachers' Federation.

Laliberté was invited to meet with the Representative Assembly and give the views of his 60,000-member organization on the subject of membership in the national organization.

Laliberté, in his address laid down a number of conditions of membership in the CTF.

He said the CTF 'should use a genuine working bilingualism. It must officially recognize the existence of two cultures and of two nations in Canada.'

'If, as we claim, there exists a cultural French-Canadian nation, competent to express itself at the

political level through its own organization . . . it seems to us that it is not only necessary, but also urgent for the Canadian teachers' organization to make these basic principles its own,' he said.

'In order to assure a concrete recognition of these principles and the good functioning of the Canadian organization, the Canadian Teachers' Federation will have to guarantee regular meetings of French-speaking teachers from all of Canada's provinces.'

Mr. Laliberté said that if the teachers in Quebec and the Canadian Teachers' Federation cannot reach agreement within the next year on uniting as one national organization 'we will never reach agreement.'

'We have been discussing the matter for the past five years without making any progress. If we cannot come to some conclusion soon we will simply have to accept the fact that each side has placed conditions on membership that neither can accept.'

No federal office

On the subject of a federal office of education, Laliberté said Quebec teachers were at a loss to understand why other provincial teachers' organizations wanted to see more federal participation in education when, under the British North America Act, the provinces were given full control of education.

'The fact that the federal government had gradually insinuated itself into this exclusively provincial domain by means of subsidies; by opening schools for the children of its military personnel in foreign countries; by taking charge of the Indians and Eskimos in Northern Canada, as well as by sending teachers to the developing countries, does not justify it any further now to set up a central organization, even to provide information, co-operation or to co-ordinate all its activities in this field,' Laliberté said.

'True enough, we have common objectives in education which apply to Canada as a whole. True enough, we need continual exchanges, but there is no necessity to create a federal organization.'

BCTF General Secretary Charlie Ovans said he believed that the whole issue boils down to three questions:

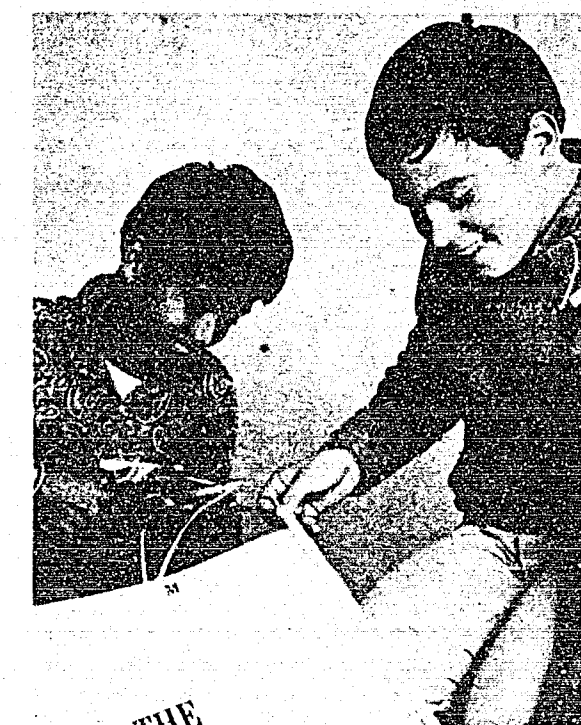
1. Who is a Canadian?
2. Is there a legitimate national interest in education and, if so, how can it be given expression?
3. Will the French-speaking teachers ever join their English-speaking colleagues and, if so, when?

'If we accept the French-Canadian teachers' proposal we will have imposed on us a way of thinking which we do not accept,' he said.

'On the basis of the present thinking, I just can't see us coming together at this time. But this does not mean that we cannot help one another, such as we did earlier this year when we provided financial support to French-Canadian teachers during their strike.'

'But we are being asked to accept the French fact in terms of certain demands and insistence on the part of the French-Canadian teachers.'

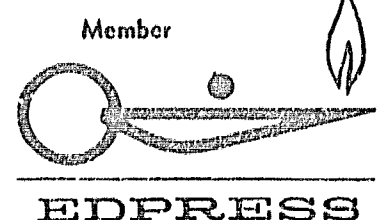
'I believe that the French fact must be given expression through accomplishment and achievement, not through demands. When that happens, I don't think that we shall have any difficulty whatsoever in coming together.'



President Bob Buzza enlisted the aid of students in preparing visual presentation for the school trustees' convention. These two youngsters, from Henry Hudson school, are helping assemble material. More pictures on page 2.

BRITISH COLUMBIA TEACHERS' FEDERATION NEWSLETTER

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VANCOUVER 9, B.C.



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Island reading council

Miss Ulah B. Jacobson has been elected president of the newly-formed Vancouver Island Council of the International Reading Association.

The council was formed at a meeting last May chaired by Dr. T. Westermarck of the University of Victoria.

The purposes of IRA Council are to work toward the improvement of reading programmes and teaching procedures, both developmental and remedial, and to provide guidance in all situations in which reading serves as a vital aid to learning.

In addition to Miss Jacobson as president, nine executive officers and nine directors have been named to direct the new Council's activities.

The executive invites any interested teachers, particularly those teaching on Vancouver Island, to become members of the Vancouver Island IRA Council. Membership fees from July 1, 1967 to July 1, 1968, have been set at two dollars. Further information or memberships may be obtained by writing to the Membership Chairman, Mrs. Doreen Radcliff, 1142 Leonard St., or to the Corresponding Secretary, Miss J. B. Fleming, 630 Beach Drive, Victoria, B.C.



Dr. Henry Van Engen, of the Research and Development Centre for Learning, University of Wisconsin, will be one of the featured speakers at the Sixth Northwest Mathematics Conference at Hotel Vancouver October 13 and 14.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Three of the BCTF committees need new members as replacements for teachers who have withdrawn. These are the Research, Constitution and By-Laws, and Provincial Specialist Association Committees. Nominations should be sent to the Professional Development Division of the BCTF.

Useful model

By J. S. CHURCH
Assistant Director, Professional Development

The Language Arts non-credit course held in Cranbrook from August 28 to September 1 provides a useful model for future regional non-credit workshops or short courses. From the moment of germination to the hour of completion, the workshop has exemplified the advantages of co-operation. It holds the promise to a brighter future. But let's get back to that moment of germination!

The meeting of the Language Arts Revision Committee with the corresponding members in March 1967 stressed the urgent need for a tremendous expansion of in-service education work in Language Arts. Adam Robertson, Creston, and Albert Johnson, Fernie, two of the corresponding members, approached the BCTF office with the definite recommendation that the East Kootenay was large enough, and sufficiently concerned, to host a regional non-credit Language Arts Workshop during the summer. The co-operation—financial and moral—of the East Kootenay Teachers' Association and the School Boards in the area was readily obtained. With this assistance and encouragement, and under the hard-working enthusiasm and guidance of Adam Robertson and Al Johnson, all the arrangements for the workshop were carefully and successfully planned, and then, most important, carried out.

This regional workshop was indeed a successful endeavor in co-operation—teachers, the boards and the Federation office—with the latter very much in the background. It proves that it is possible to move from provincial to regional non-credit short courses and workshops.

From the East Kootenay to where does the "ball now bounce"?

Teachers in remote areas can get travel assistance

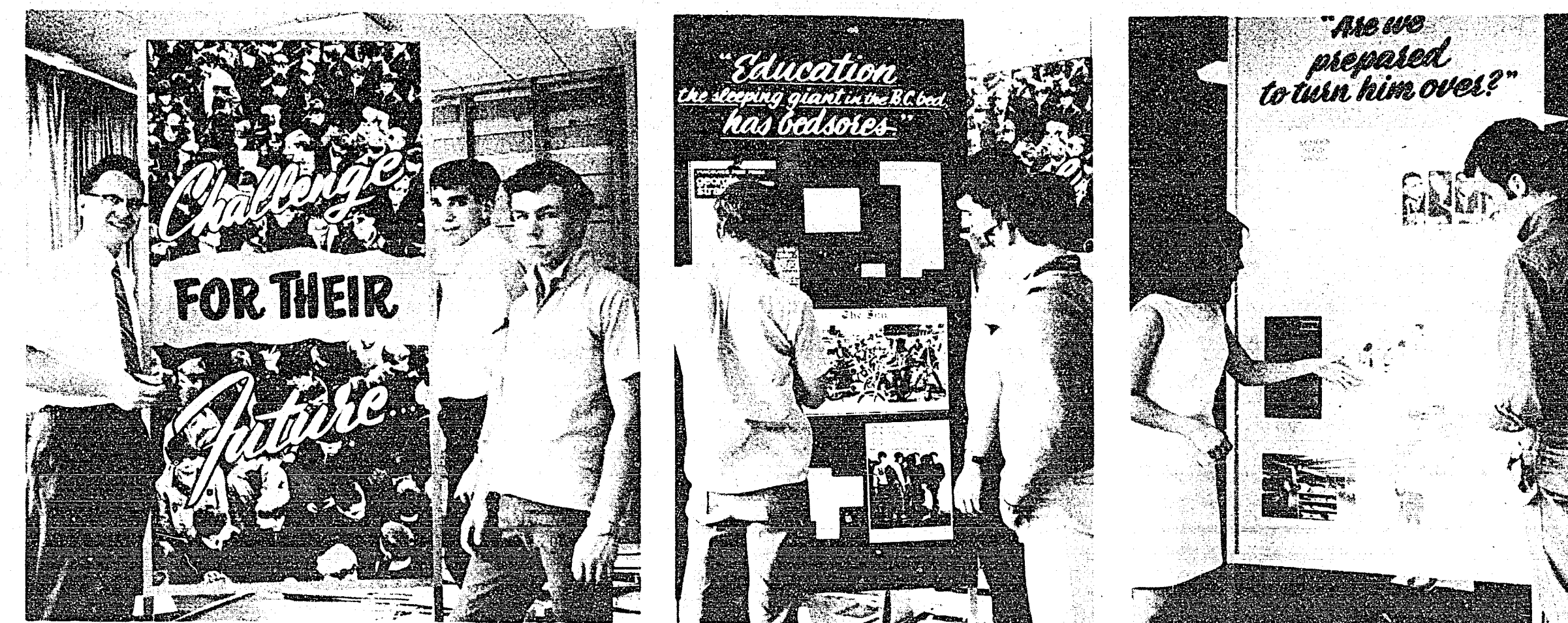
In response to a plea for the establishment of a "Special Local Travel Assistance" fund to assist teachers in isolated areas to attend Fall and Spring conferences or other educational meetings in neighboring districts, the Representative Assembly included in the 1967-68 budget a sum of \$12,000 for that purpose.

The In-Service Education Committee was charged with devising a suitable plan for disposition of the fund. The Committee wished to spend the money in such a way that the maximum benefit of in-service education could be brought to teachers in isolated areas. As specific cases were examined, it became evident that a

variety of procedures would need to be used, depending on local needs, circumstances and desires.

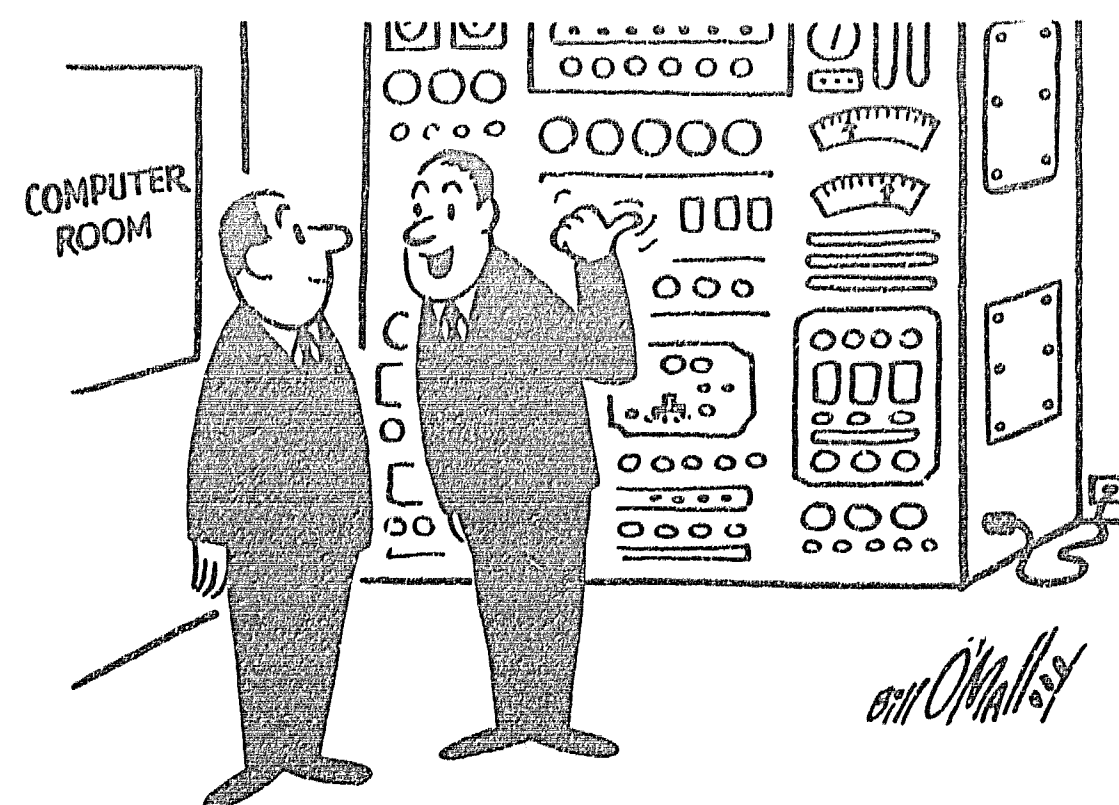
A program of investigation is being undertaken during September and October. As a part of this investigation, early in September Mrs. I. A. Cull visited the teachers of Smithers and Hazelton to discuss with them their needs and wishes with respect to in-service. Mr. W. V. Allester will be visiting the Arrow Lakes in October on a similar mission. Any other isolated local association who wishes to have a similar service, please get in touch with the BCTF, specifically, Mr. J. A. Spragge, Assistant Director of Professional Development.

Students help with president's presentation



One of the features of President Bob Buzzza's audio-visual presentation to the B.C. School Trustees' Association convention was a layout of panels with the theme, "Challenge for Their Future." Students from Gladstone and Henry Hudson schools who assisted Buzzza with the

preparation of the panels, were Joyce Quan, Tom Chadwick, Jim Cherewick, Mike Sjoquist (Gladstone) and Janis Kendall, Karin Rossmann, Alex Danilovic and Paul Dhillon. Pictures show Buzzza and some of the students working on the panels.



Research institute makes first grant

A Simon Fraser University professor is the recipient of the first grant to be awarded by the Educational Research Institute of B.C.

Dr. G. B. Rush, assistant professor sociology, has been given a \$300 grant to study the organization of adolescent society and the 'beliefs, attitudes, values, opinions, behavior and aspirations of its members.'

Frederick N. A. Rowell, acting secretary-treasurer of the Educational Research Institute, said that a number of other applications for grants are now being considered.

Topics of these applications include: Identification and training of educational administrators; school drop-outs; counselling, administration and school psychology; teachers' aides and their effects on pupil achievement; kindergarten in B.C.

The institute, which was incorporated as a society under the

Societies Act last May 24, has an initial financing of \$100,000 put up by school boards across the province.

The board of directors of the institute is made up of representatives of universities in the province; the B.C. School Trustees Association; the B.C. Teachers' Federation and the B.C. Parent-Teacher Federation.

The institute hopes to build up its finances through grants from business and industry in the province.

Bob Buzzza, BCTF president and vice-president of the institute, said the institute would like to hear from any persons who feel that they can qualify for a grant.

For further information concerning the grants write to Mr. Rowell at 510-475 Howe Street, Vancouver 1. Phone 681-6535.

To the editor

Dear Sir:

On the basis of a field study which I recently completed, there is evidence which indicates that many students, in the British Columbia public schools are not getting, out of Chemistry 11, what they should be getting. There is also evidence that the course is not being taught in the way in which it was intended. In other words, the students are being 'short-changed.'

There are a number of possible reasons for this regrettable situation. My findings showed that most of the laboratories in the province did not have sufficient

'workstations' and that many of them were not large enough.

Almost one-half of the teachers, in each of the last two years, did not have sufficient chemicals and equipment. Most of the teachers had problems in obtaining the prescribed films so that they could be shown at the appropriate times. This is needed if the students are to get the maximum educational benefit from the films.

My study showed that the great majority of Chemistry 11 teachers considered the 'workload' to be much greater in teaching the new chemistry course compared to that of the 'old' Chemistry 91.

This is due, in part, to the very large amount of time needed in getting equipment and materials ready for experiments and in checking laboratory 'writings.'

Many teachers could not devote enough attention to Chemistry 11 because they taught in too many different subject areas and/or taught too many different subjects. There were far too many over-sized Chemistry 11 classes with about two-thirds of them with twenty-five or more students. My study also showed that most of the teachers very rarely or never had the students perform their experiments individually.

Chemistry 11 is a good course. However, if improvements in the teaching of it are not forthcoming then the students' education will suffer. In my study I made numerous recommendations which, if implemented, would improve the teaching of Chemistry 11 both from the student's and the teacher's standpoint.

Immediate co-operation and action by the school authorities, the British Columbia Department of Education and the teachers is necessitated to overcome the above educational problems.

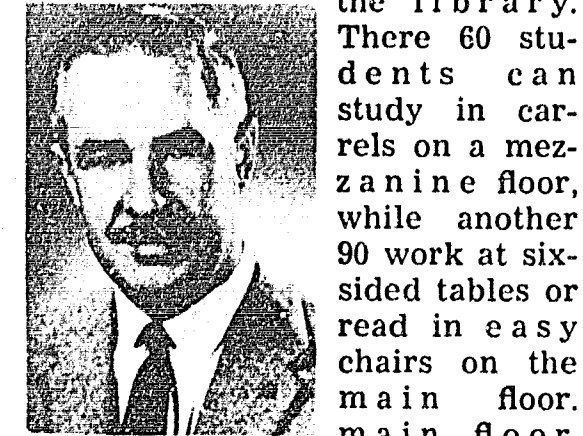
Yours very truly,
O. MOYSUIK,
Executive, B.C. Science
Teachers' Association

Exciting things going on in Kamloops district

By BILL ALLESTER
Director, Professional
Development

A TWO-DAY visit to fourteen Kamloops schools in early June impressed me with the efforts being made to provide a wide variety of learning materials for children. Library facilities have been expanded, new elementary science kits have been purchased, and educational television is used extensively. Some exciting things are going on.

Except for the gymnasium, the largest room in the John Peterson Junior Secondary School is the library.



There 60 students can study in carrels on a mezzanine floor, while another 90 work at six-sided tables or read in easy chairs on the main floor.

Two large double doors open onto a cement patio so that the learning area can be expanded even further on hot days.

The John Peterson librarian, Miss G. M. Perrin, says that the students show their appreciation of the new library facilities by taking good care of the furniture, carpet, and materials. They are rising to the challenge of the greater emphasis on individual responsibility for learning.

FOURTEEN full-time teacher librarians are employed in elementary schools of the Kamloops

District. A. Mercer, Director of Elementary Instruction, stated that care was taken in choosing teacher librarians to obtain competent and enthusiastic teachers who had some understanding of the needs of children from Grades 1 to 7. In addition, of course, the teacher librarians have had university training in librarianship.

One of the elementary librarians, Mrs. P. D. Ohs of Arthur Hatton School, described her work as a service to children and teachers. "There is an exploding need for learning materials," she said. The Arthur Hatton library has over 3,700 books for 500 students and more are being added.

THE WORK of the librarians in the schools is made more effective by central processing of new books in a district library in the basement of the Allan Matthews School (1912 vintage). Mrs. E. Guss, as district librarian, organized the central processing service and was justifiably proud of having handled over 16,000 books for elementary schools during the year.

Just before I arrived in Kamloops for this visit, the school board agreed to convert the district library into a resource center. This is now under the direction of R. B. Ronaghan, intermediate consultant.

In addition to books, pamphlets, and audio visual materials, the resource center will house \$10,000 worth of new elementary science materials.

THESE ARE largely kits recommended by members of the Elementary Science Revision Com-

mittee for trial use in schools in B.C. Many school districts in the province are using a few of these science kits but no other district has such an extensive collection as Kamloops.

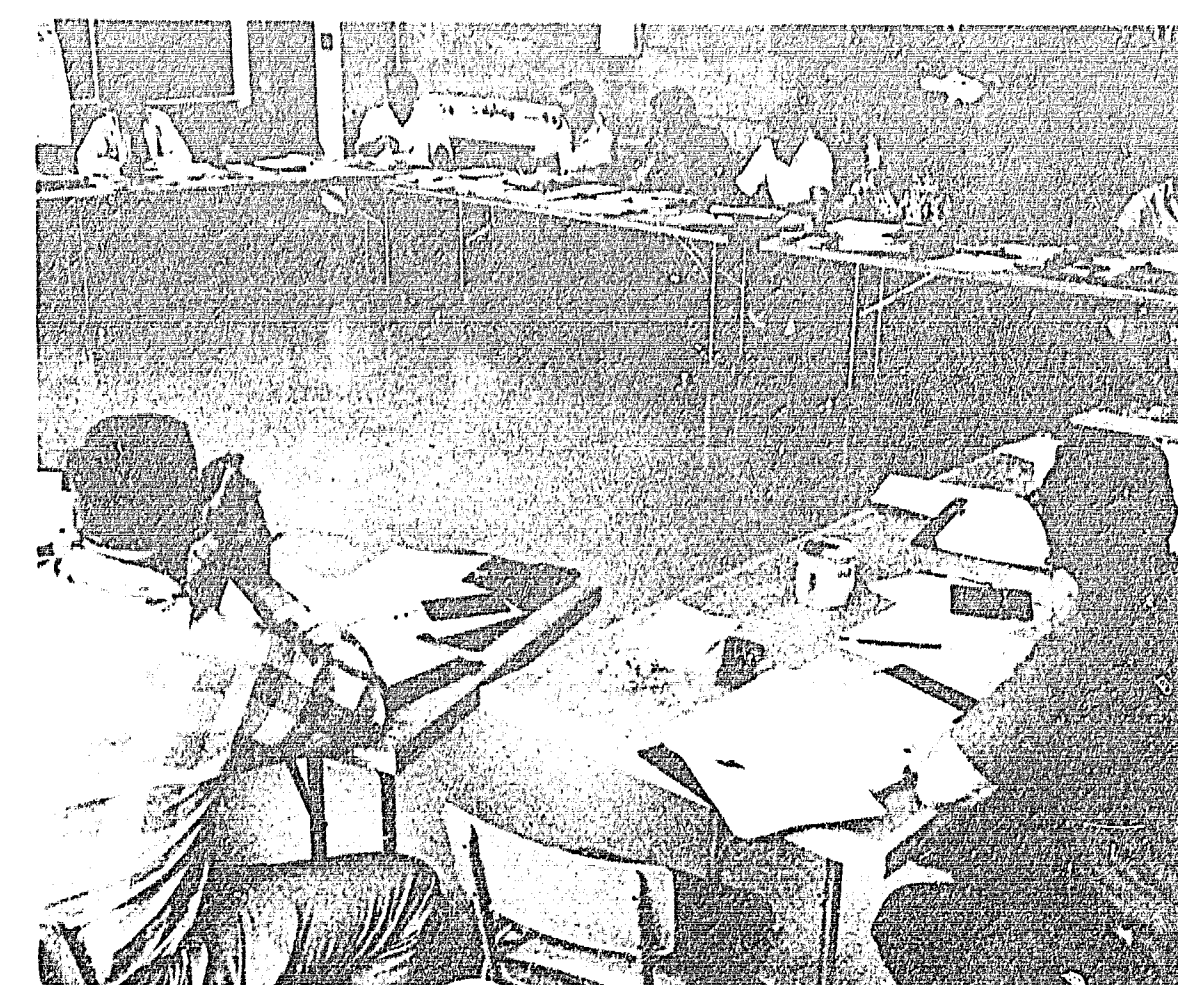
It is fascinating to watch elementary students in Kamloops schools discovering scientific principles through experimentation. I class in Beattie School where two particularly enjoyed a Grade 5 Grade 7 students, who had won a prize in a science fair for a unit on chromatography, involved 30 children in a series of activities related to their project.

At the Kamloops Senior Secondary School, I visited the Social Studies resource center where J. D. McWhannel and W. J. Lennox prepared materials for class use in social studies in the other secondary schools of the district in addition to their own school.

BOTH TAUGHT only half-time in 1966-67, having the rest of their time free for work in the resource center.

Charts, tapes, film strips and aerial photographs were in constant use. Moreover, the use of photocopying equipment and stencils made it possible for them to provide hundreds of copies of selected pages of Hansard or of the front page of a 1917 newspaper (telling of the fall of the Kerensky Government in Russia) on short notice.

The Kamloops innovation that has received the most publicity, television project. The ETV project in recent years, is the educational ject began under the direction of Larry Shorter in September 1964.



A modern arrangement. This type of furniture arrangement is maintained throughout the day for an intermediate class. There is no oriented 'front' to the room. Placement of the teacher's desk in the centre permits easy access to all groups. The size of group varies from a single pupil to 12 pupils. This physical arrangement also allows whole-class instruction.

THE MAIN television studio is in the North Kamloops Secondary School but cable connection to nearby schools, and the use of a mobile unit, makes it possible to take ETV to all parts of this school district. With five videotape recorders, it is possible to acquire a library of good television programs.

Thus most of the programs shown each week are videotaped replays of commercial telecasts and of CBC school programs. In addition, many of the programs that originate in the North Kamloops studio are taped for re-play.

Mr. Shorter left Kamloops at the end of June to take the position

of Director of Audio Visual Education for Alberta. His successor in Kamloops is John Farr, formerly of Powell River.

CORRECTION

The paragraph on pensions in the September Newsletter contained a typographical error in the reference to allowances presently being paid from the Teachers' Pension Fund.

The paragraph should have read 'At the present time 1450 allowances of gross average value of \$2500 per year are being paid from the Teachers' Pension Fund.' (The September Newsletter stated the figure as \$250).

Social studies, science

Provincial workshops planned

Two Provincial Workshops and one VESTA Workshop will be held in Vancouver during October and November.

A Provincial Social Studies Workshop will be held in the B.C. Teachers' Building on the afternoon of Friday, October 27 and the morning of Saturday, October 28.

Dr. Una Elliott, an associate in the local geography study of the Hamilton Bay Area, Ontario, and Dr. Patricia Hardy, an associate of the late Dr. Hilda Taber, in the Contra Costa County Project, of how young children learn to think, will jointly serve as resource leaders.

The workshop is being jointly sponsored by the BCTF In-Service Education Committee, the Primary, Intermediate and Social Studies Teachers' Associations as well as by the UBC Faculty of Education.

There will be ample opportunity for small group discussions as well as for panels and the two major addresses. No topic is of more concern to teachers today than to up-date Social Studies.

This workshop should contribute to this end and should provide many new ideas. The sponsors sincerely hope that district superintendents and school boards will assist many of their teachers to attend this most important workshop. J. S. Church, Assistant Director of Professional Development, commented.

Teachers who wish to attend or wish further information should write to the BCTF c/o J. S. Church.

TEACHERS' SCIENCE
The Elementary Science Revision Committee will be sponsoring a workshop for all teachers who have been involved in trial

use of various elementary science units recently developed in the United States.

This workshop will be held in the B.C. Teachers' Building on Thursday, November 16. The Committee hopes to gain valuable information from the teachers who have been involved in teaching the various units. In addition, Dr. C. J. Anastasiou, the University representative on the Committee, will present a major paper outlining the Committee's work.

Again it is hoped that District Superintendents and School Boards will assist their teachers to attend. Church noted. By scheduling this workshop immediately before the two-day — Friday and Saturday, November 17-18 — International Science Educa-

tors' Symposium at UBC, it should make it easier for teachers to attend both events.

The Vancouver Elementary School Teachers' Association is sponsoring a workshop on the theme of 'How New Curricula Are Changing the Role of the Teacher' on the afternoon and evening of Wednesday, November 29.

Guest speakers will be two former members of the Association, Dr. J. H. Wormsbecker, now Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Schools (Vancouver), and Mr. J. D. Wilson, Curriculum Consultant to the Department of Education during 1967-68.

Mr. Wilson is on loan to the Department from his position as Supervisor of Elementary Instruction in Terrace.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO ASSIST THE BCTF COMMISSION ON EDUCATION?

The BCTF Commission on Education is intended to "stimulate and provoke a study and debate within the teaching profession in British Columbia of major educational issues in the hope that out of such study and debate will emerge guidelines for the future design of education." These can be the basis for recommendations to the federation.

We hope that all teachers will consider these issues and help the commission to identify problems that should be attacked. If solutions to problems can be suggested the commission will be very pleased.

Each local association is urged to appoint a special committee to prepare recommendations for the association to consider for submission to the commission.

Join a BCTF Specialist Association . . . NOW

The 22 provincial specialist associations of the BCTF are integral parts of the curriculum and in-service work of the profession. In order to ensure that YOU are contributing to and learning about new developments in YOUR special interest field you are urged to join the appropriate PSA.

Membership application forms for PSAs were sent to all schools on September 15. The deadline for taking out or renewing membership is November 15.

PSA . . . The Key to Professional Development

North Vancouver enacts educational leave policy

North Vancouver School District is the first in the province to take advantage of an amendment to the Public Schools Act passed by the 1967 legislature, Section 129 (k).

This section now permits a school board to grant leave of absence for professional improvement, for maternity or for any other purpose acceptable to the Board, without pay for a stated period of time or with pay for a

stated period of time up to six months or, with prior approval of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, with pay for a stated period in excess of six months.

The BCTF has been assured that these provisions are not exclusive and may be made in combination.

The Educational Improvement Leave for North Vancouver teachers was achieved through the work of the District Superintendents' Consultative Committee, a group comprising the Superintendent and members of the North Vancouver Teachers' Association.

North Vancouver's policy states that 'Educational Improvement Leave is given to professional personnel to permit them to improve their ability to render educational service. The professional competence of the staff member and the general welfare of the school system are the prime consideration of the Board in granting such leaves.'

The regulations pertaining to this leave require:

- (a) a teacher to have been on staff for a minimum of five years in North Vancouver;

- (b) a teacher to return to North Vancouver for a minimum of two years.

- (c) the school board to credit the teacher while on leave with a year's teaching experience for salary purposes;

- (d) the school board to continue regular contributions for medical service and group life insurance.

The teacher on a school year's leave of absence will receive full salary for six consecutive months commencing on September 30 and no salary for the remaining four months unless the teacher is employed by the school board as a substitute or temporary teacher.

The school board also may grant leave for six months or less in which case the teacher would receive a minimum of 60% of his salary during the period of leave.

Japan topic of program

A special program on Teaching About Japan being held in conjunction with UBC homecoming, Saturday, October 28, 8:30 a.m. to noon, is of special interest to teachers.

The study of Asia, particularly Japan, appears several times in the present elementary curriculum and there are indications that secondary social studies at the grade 8 and 9 levels will allot significant amounts of time to Asia.

Dr. John Howes will discuss the recent social history of Japan; Dr. George Tomkins, a geography specialist, will comment on concepts and techniques appropriate for classroom use. Dean Neville Scarfe will introduce the morning program with a slide presentation of a recent trip to Japan and will offer an educator's views of the Japanese scene.

This morning seminar is expressly for teachers.

Fee for the morning symposium is \$3.

Further information is available from the UBC extension department, 228-2181.

Informational report out

Informational report No. 4 on the class size picture in B.C. secondary schools, plus a wealth of other statistical information on everything from who hires over entitlement to organizational patterns in the secondary school, is just off the press.

Full details on findings in the report will be published in the next issue of the Newsletter.

Kindergarten workshop

The Central Mainland District Council and the Kamloops District Teachers' Association will hold a workshop for kindergarten and first year primary teachers at Lloyd George School, Kamloops, on Saturday, November 4, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Dr. Ellis Borden, Assistant Professor, Faculty and College of Education, UBC, will conduct the workshop. The first session will discuss music and rhythms in the early primary years and the second session will be on readiness.

Teachers interested in attending should write Mrs. Beth Cook, Primary Supervisor, School District No. 24 (Kamloops), 1383-9th Avenue, Kamloops, B.C.

'Unteachables' taught at Vancouver elementary school

"The Unteachables" is a feature at Mount Pleasant Elementary in Vancouver.

In an experimental approach to the problem of individual youngsters who for one reason or another become unteachable in the regular classroom situation these children at various grade levels have been placed in a class together.

They are not a non-graded group since they do have individual grade levels. And this is not a class for slow learners.

The school calls it a multi-graded class or a class for individual placement and the approach is prescriptive teaching.

In this class each child receives assistance for his specific problems—usually there is more than a single problem involved—whereas in a regular classroom it would not be possible for a teacher to concentrate thus on his individual difficulties.

A girl in Grade 3 may have a reading problem which is so serious

that it is impairing practically all of her school work and she may have other problems. The school's regular remedial reading program may not be sufficient to solve her difficulties.

A new student at the school may have had none of the new mathematics program. In other respects he may be a fairly good student but obviously he cannot function properly in mathematics in the regular classroom.

Another pupil may have a less serious difficulty which with intensive help can be remedied in a matter of weeks if not days.

These are some of the types of children who go into the school's multi-graded class. Day-by-day and pupil-by-pupil the program is flexibly administered.

An emotional problem caused by an upsetting environmental situation may be the key factor behind the child's difficulty in school.

Already the multi-graded class has solved many of the school's

discipline problems although it is emphasized that this is not the primary purpose of this class.

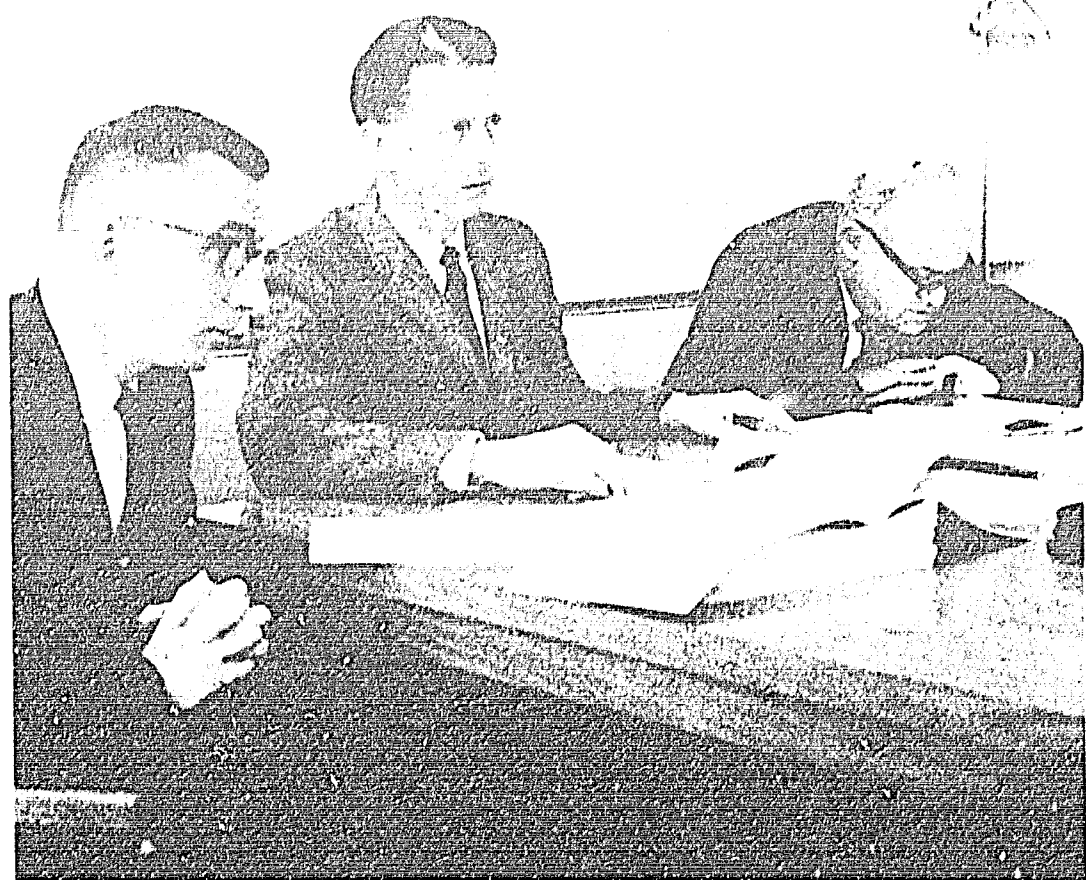
Changes in the attitude of pupils is one of the most rewarding aspects of the program. An illustration is the girl whose poor attitude improved in the multi-graded class to the point where she saved \$11 from baby-sitting money, bought herself a new dress, and sought the teacher's approval of it.

'We look at the whole child and see what we can do for him,' says Mount Pleasant principal R. V. Pool.

'If we had had fifty percent success with this class we would have been pleased—but we have had something like ninety percent success to date.'

When a youngster is ready to move back into the regular classroom he is transferred there. —

Reprinted from the Vancouver School Board publication "About Schools."



Education finance committee chairman, Norm Preston, Victoria Centre, listens intently as reporter asks a question during press conference to launch the education finance booklet. At right is committee member Dave Smith, Alberni, and at left Bruce Watson of the BCTF staff.

Education, finance

LOCAL AUTONOMY CRITICAL ISSUE

The Education Finance Committee of the BCTF, under the chairmanship of Mr. Norm Preston of Victoria, has completed the revision of a booklet detailing an education finance plan for B.C.

A similar booklet was written in 1960 and revised in 1961. This new endeavor, entitled 'The Cost of Education — Who should pay and why?' incorporates the present policy of the Federation in provincial and federal aspects of education finance.

The Federation believes that every child is entitled to an education and that every community wishing to offer an education program beyond that established by the provincial government as basic to all is entitled to do this and to raise the required money.

The critical issue here, then, is local autonomy. Local taxes need not be the only source for education monies; all that

is required is that a sufficient percentage of funds be raised by a local mill rate so that the taxpayer feels a financial burden of his demand for more services, and the financial relief of management efficiency.

Although the Federation accepts the principles of education finance presently followed in B.C., it does recommend certain changes in the application of these principles.

The present plan, recommended changes and the rationale behind these are contained in this new booklet, a copy of which has been forwarded to all local association presidents, elected school trustees, municipal councilors and other interested persons.

This booklet was written to inform teachers and laymen of the problems in education finance. Any person wishing further details on the booklet should contact the Federation office.

Authority on mental retardation coming

The Provincial Association of Teachers of Special Education and the Council for Exceptional Children have joined to bring Dr. Lloyd M. Dunn, Director of the Institute of Mental Retardation and Intellectual Development, George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville, Tennessee, to be the keynote speaker.

His Institute is a unit of the John F. Kennedy Center for Research on Education and Human Development. Dr. Dunn is the editor of and contributor to The Exceptional Children in the Schools and is the author of the well-known Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test.

His talk will deal with all aspects of retardation. Teachers will then break into discussion groups led by specialists and will return for a question period with Dr. Dunn after lunch. Besides being a very knowledgeable person, Dr. Dunn is an excellent speaker.

The conference will be held at Hamilton Junior Secondary School, 2132 Hamilton Avenue, North Vancouver. This school is the home of the Occupational Program for North Vancouver School District.

A recent \$400,000 addition has provided special facilities for training in such fields as mill work, automobile servicing, carpentry, welding, retailing, power sewing, waitress training, food service and hotel management.

Prince Charles School for trainable retarded children is on the same school site. Both these facilities will be open for inspection by any who wish to visit.

Registration: Time, 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Fee, \$2.00.

BRITISH COLUMBIA
TEACHERS' FEDERATION

NEWSLETTER

RETIRED TEACHERS

The Victoria chapter of the Retired Teachers' Association is looking for new members. F. J. Willway, 3151 Glen Lake Road, Victoria, membership chairman, is interested in hearing from any retired teacher who would like to join the association. The dues are \$1.00 a year.

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