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A TWELVE-HOUR WORKING DAY FOR SCHOOL BUILDINGS

300 Days in the Year

STORY No. 3

The Home and School Movement

The School is simply an Extension of the Home.

HISTORY AND EXTENT OF THE HOME AND SCHOOL MOVEMENT IN TORONTO

The first definite step in the Home and School Movement in Toronto was the foundation, in 1896, of the Rosedale Art League in connection with the Rosedale School. This was followed by the formation of the Rose Avenue School League in 1898, and later by similar organizations in seven other schools.

The Home and School Movement, as a city-wide institution, was organized five years ago by members of the Educational Committee of the Local Council of Women, at a public meeting held at the University Schools, February 10th, 1916. The result of this meeting was the formation of

THE TORONTO HOME AND SCHOOL COUNCIL.

This Council takes up the larger questions of education and matters affecting the home and citizens generally—Child study, home and school gardens, technical education, thrift, physically disabled children, increased scope for the teaching of housewifery, and manual training, etc. It also seeks to interest other clubs in these and other movements from time to time.

The Council encourages and helps in the formation of Home and School Clubs in connection with the schools of Toronto, and serves as a federation of the various home and school activities for those who wish to affiliate. It studies educational issues and seeks to strengthen public interest in the development of the boy and girl as individuals and as future Canadian citizens.

At this time—April, 1921—there are 23 Home and School Clubs in Toronto, together with the Hebrew Ladies' Maternity Aid and Child Welfare Society, and the Toronto Women Teachers' Association, affiliated with the Council.

The Council itself is affiliated with the Central Ratepayers' Association, the Local Council of Women, the Neighborhood Workers' Association, and the Ontario Educational Association.

Public meetings of the Council are held in the Administration Building of the Board of Education on the first Tuesday evening of each month. Addresses are delivered by men and women of prom-

inence in their respective professions. The following is a list of topics dealt with during the past season:

Entrance Examinations,
Junior High Schools,
The Humanizing of the School System,
The Fisher Bill,
The Public School Curriculum,
Work of the Mothers' and Parent Teachers' Associations in
the United States,
Education and Industry,
The Wider Use of the School Plant,
The Kindergarten,
Malnutrition,
The Physical Education of the Boys and Girls,
The Adolescent School Attendance Act.

SOME OF THE WORK AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE TORONTO HOME AND SCHOOL COUNCIL.

The following brief resumé will give some idea of the activities of the Council:

Lists of books suitable for children of school age have been compiled and distributed to all the schools in Toronto;

A list of 53 speakers, each an authority on his or her subject, is provided in printed form for the use of the affiliated clubs;

A pamphlet on The Kindergarten, showing the important place that this branch of Ontario's educational system should occupy, has been published and distributed throughout Ontario;

As a result of the development of public opinion created by the Council and other citizen organizations, the Truancy Act was replaced by the School Attendance Act and School Attendance Officers appointed;

The discussion of the pros and cons of written examinations supported the present system of granting entrance to High Schools on recommendation by principals.

Through the efforts of the Council, a class for the teaching of English to foreigners was started in Ryerson School;

The Housing Committee of the Council has co-operated with the local authorities and submitted plans for ideal inexpensive houses;

The problem of household help was studied and the findings of a special committee were sent to Ottawa.

AIMS OF HOME AND SCHOOL CLUBS AND
SIMILAR ASSOCIATIONS.

These may be summarized as follows:

- To develop co-operative effort between parents in the home and teachers in the school;
- To develop the social spirit in the neighborhood;
- To create and foster sentiment in favor of education for parents as well as for children;
- To beautify and improve school rooms and surroundings;
- To encourage the use of the hands in all ages of childhood;
- To foster and encourage educational experiments.

There are 33 schools in Toronto where Home and School Clubs or similar organizations have been organized; of this number, 23 are affiliated with the Home and School Council, as follows:

Annette Street	Earls court	Rose Avenue
Balmy Beach	John Ross Robertson	Ryerson
Brown	Kitchener	St. Clair
Carlton	Kew Beach	Western Avenue
Coleman Avenue	Niagara Street	Williamson Road
Deer Park	Palmerston Avenue	Winchester Street
Dewson Street	Park	Withrow Avenue
Earl Grey	Queen Alexandra	

The other 10 Home and School organizations are in connection with the following schools:

Bedford Park (Auxiliary)	Jarvis St. Collegiate	Runnymede
Davisville	North Toronto High School	St. Patrick's
Keele Street	Rosedale (Art League)	University Schools
King Edward		

“Each Home and School Club is an independent organization carrying on its own activities in its own way, but has the privilege of making reports of work done to the Central Council, or hearing reports of the other clubs, and of taking part in any of the Council's proceedings.

“Besides the usual officers, the Home and School Council consists of two or more representatives from each Home and School Club affiliated, and an advisory committee of men and women who represent various educational interests.”

THE WORK OF THE HOME AND SCHOOL CLUBS.

The work of each Home and School Club is, of course, designed to meet the needs of the particular school with which it is connected. With the space available, it is quite impossible to give an adequate idea of the extent and variety of the work done by the various clubs, but the following list of activities carried on by one or more clubs in each case will serve to illustrate the nature and variety of the work:

Organizing and financing of gymnasium classes for children and adults; night classes in raffia work, modelling and other hand work; physical culture and folk dancing classes; and classes in dramatic art and voice culture.

Children encouraged, by prize-giving and in other ways, to protect property, trees, shrubs and gardens, and to conduct themselves properly on the streets.

Special equipment provided: pianos, grafonolas, picture machines, gramophone records, flower boxes, flags, volley balls, footballs, special music books, pictures, etc.

Prizes and scholarships given for oratorical contests, compositions, singing, instrumental music, reading, etc.

School sports promoted and encouraged. In some cases, playground supervisors provided and financed. In other cases, skating and hockey rinks provided.

School gardens and home gardens encouraged.

School libraries provided.

Teachers' rest rooms improved and replenished.

Memorial tablets for war heroes provided and financed.

Eye glasses provided for needy children.

Saturday afternoon story hour for Hebrew children.

Building up of community co-operation by holding of evening meetings, "at homes," receptions, dances and other entertainments for parents and teachers, banquets for hockey and football teams, etc.

During the war much Red Cross and relief work was done, and relief work is still carried on by various clubs.

HOW THE COUNCIL IS FINANCED.

Each affiliated club pays to the Council a membership fee of one dollar. Each individual member pays the same fee.

The Council this year was financed mainly through these membership fees, donations and the proceeds of a Children's Matinee given at the Central Technical School.

It is unfortunate that the Council has to depend upon such insecure and casual revenues. If the affiliations were extended so as to secure the co-operation of such organizations as the Board of Trade, Trades and Labor Council, Rotary Club and Kiwanis Club, the individual memberships, as well as delegate memberships, might be considerably increased, to the great strengthening of the Council financially, and the extension of its influence. The Council might then become, in effect, a Citizens' Educational Association.

Each Home and School Club arranges its own financing and membership fees.

THE ONTARIO FEDERATION OF HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS.

One of the results of the work of the Toronto Home and School Council has been the formation of the Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations. This organization, which has just held its Second Annual Convention, has enrolled more than 150 clubs, and hopes, in the near future, to develop a National Home and School Federation.

A city of 500,000 people, 100,000 homes, and 80,000 children in school, needs a powerful Citizens' Educational Association to secure the fullest results of co-operation between the Home and School and the fullest educational returns from expenditures on Education.