



REPORT OF THE WORK OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER EXTENSION
DEPARTMENT For the Year Ending May, 1934.

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GENERAL ACTIVITIES

STUDY CLUBS

The number of study Clubs increased from 379 in 1933 to 952 in 1934. The greatest expansion of the Extension program took place in the mining communities of Reserve Mines, Glace Bay, New Waterford and Sydney Mines and New Glasgow. In these communities Study Clubs continue to multiply and the people are taking hold of co-operative activities in a very earnest way. Every three months the representatives from these industrial Study Clubs meet at a central location for the purpose of co-ordinating the work and laying plans for their future development. Appended to this report is a short account on the last joint meeting held at Glace Bay which was sent in by one of the Study Club leaders.

Last Fall, in response to an increased demand for organization work among the women, a women's division of the Extension Department was opened up. It is under the direction of Sister Marie Michael whose special training in Canadian Domestic Science schools has qualified her for this work. Under her guidance, three hundred groups of women took up the study of homemaking problems, handicrafts, health and rural recreation.

THE EXTENSION
BULLETIN

As the number of clubs grew the demand for literature increased accordingly. In fact, so numerous were the requests for literature that the Department found it necessary to abandon the old system of supplying the clubs with mimeographed articles. Instead it now publishes fortnightly "The Extension Bulletin" which is designed to furnish the groups with general material for discussion and study. This periodical carries a section for farmers, fishermen, industrial workers and a women's page, and has a circulation of 7,000 copies. It is edited by Mr. George Boyle of Havre Boucher and Rev. Dr. D. J. MacDonald of the University.

LIBRARY SERVICE

In addition to distributing the "Bulletin", twenty-five boxes of books were kept in circulation among the clubs. Over five hundred single books were mailed out to club members requesting them. Thousands of bulletins on various topics, and specially prepared debate material and package libraries on important subjects were also mailed out at the request of the study groups.

MEETINGS.

The officers of the Department addressed approximately five hundred meetings in the territory with a total attendance of about 25,000 persons. In addition to this, they were called upon to give special lectures at many points in the Maritime Provinces. Moreover, on the invitation of Church authorities and Educational Organisations, Dr. M. M. Coady lectured at Montreal, Toronto, Kingston, Clandonald, Calgary, Lethbridge and Blairmore in Western Canada. As a result of these meetings, many study groups all over Canada have been using the services of the Extension Department. In this connection, special reference must be made to the twenty-nine Study Clubs organised last year in the Clandonald Colony, N.S. These have been supplied with study material, books, etc., from the Extension office.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Encouraged by the success of the Inter-Club Debating Competition which was completed last year, the Department decided to conduct a Public Speaking Contest among the clubs this season. The idea met with ready response. Representatives from two hundred study Clubs entered the Contest and thirty-two of them are now competing in the semi-finals. The Department has been presented with a beautiful silver trophy by The Chronicle Publishing Company, Halifax, which will be awarded to the winning speaker in the final elimination scheduled to be held in July.

EXTENSION SCHOOL The second annual Extension Course for Leaders was held by the Extension Department from January 29th to February 24th. Forty-five students were in attendance, and the School was highly successful in every way. Courses were given in Business Arithmetic, Business English, Book-keeping, Elementary Economics, Community Programs, Debates and Public Speaking, History and Principles of Co-operation, and Co-operative Business Practices. The University was fortunate in getting as instructor for the last two courses Mr. George Keen, Secretary of the Co-operative Union of Canada, who is regarded here as one of the outstanding authorities in America on co-operative work.

ECONOMIC UNDERTAKINGS

CO-OPERATIVE BUYING Self-Help activities of a commercial nature continue to grow out of Study Club work. This year, as in the two years previous, the co-operative clubs have pooled orders for over 2,000 tons of fertiliser and have purchased this material through a Central Purchasing Committee, of which Professor A.B. MacDonald is Secretary. They also co-operated with the Canadian Livestock Co-operative (Maritimes) to bring down a ship load of flour and feed from Central Canada for distribution to the organized groups in eastern Nova Scotia. Moreover, through publicity and various forms of assistance, the Department enabled the clubs to buy co-operatively other supplies such as seeds, insecticides, etc. All these undertakings were extremely successful and saved the farmers large sums of money.

Many Study Clubs in the industrial sections of the constituency have set up Buying Circles through which they secured household supplies such as cured fish, canned goods, etc., from co-operative producer groups. The secretary of one of these Buying Clubs (Reserve Mines) gives the following account of typical transactions of his organization: "Today I ordered 250 barrels of flour from the Canadian Livestock Co-operative, and placed an order with Glencoe Mills (a rural Study Group) for woolen goods. Last week we handled one car of hay, 50 boxes of boneless cod and 16 cases of Larry's River blueberries." These contacts between the industrial and rural clubs are bound to have far-reaching effects.

CREDIT UNIONS A marked interest in the study and organization is being evinced by clubs in every section of eastern Nova Scotia. Since September, 1933, twelve of these societies have been started, bringing the total up to twenty-three. Many other communities are anxious to organize credit unions, but it is the policy of the Extension Department to apply for incorporation only when the people interested have made a thorough study of their function and management.

An idea of the progress that credit union work has made in Nova Scotia during the past year may be gained from the following report on a number of them for the period ending May, 1934. These have been in operation from 12 months to two weeks.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>NO. OF MEMBERS</u>	<u>TOTAL SAVINGS</u>	<u>OUTSTANDING LOANS</u>
RESERVE MINES	309	\$4875.46	\$3530.00
CALEDONIA	265	2670.25	1100.00
GLACE BAY	118	596.00	140.00
GLACE BAY FISHERMEN	51	254.00	202.50
COADY (NEW ABERDEEN)	287	3079.92	1550.00
MCINTYRE (PASSCHENDABLE)	176	2300.00	1500.00
NEW WATERFORD	220	1008.00	245.00
	<u>1425</u>	<u>\$15771.63</u>	<u>\$8270.50</u>

COOPERATIVE MARKETING Twelve co-operative lobster canneries serving fifty communities are now in successful operation in eastern Nova Scotia, three of which -- Cheticamp, Little Judique and Arisaig -- were organized this year. Reports from other fishing communities would indicate that several more canneries will be organized and start operations in May, 1935.



CO-OPERATIVE INDUSTRIES Reacting to the suggestion of the Extension Department for a more self-sustaining type of rural life, already the people of St. Andrews, Antigonish County, and South West Margaree, Inverness County, have set up co-operative sawmills. Five other communities are now running co-operative fish plants in which they process their catch.

Larry's River is a community on the South Shore of Nova Scotia where the people secure their livelihood mainly from fishing and the sale of blueberries and foxberries. The normal crop of berries is approximately 14,000 gallons of blueberries and 1200 barrels of foxberries. In the past these berries have been marketed in a very careless way. As a means of improving the marketing methods, some of the crop was canned last year. The quality of this canned product was such that the trade readily absorbed the total output and this year the canning of blueberries will be a major activity of the people of this community. Moreover, this co-operative group is investigating methods of preparing foxberry jelly, jams and preserves with a view to disposing of some of the crop in this form.

The women's Study Clubs are bringing about a great revival in rural handicrafts. Several groups are weaving homespuns and selling the goods to the Buying Circles in the industrial sections. Others are knitting socks, sweaters, tams, and are finding a ready market for them in towns and villages. The Study Clubs of Brook Village, Inverness County, have co-operated to put on an exhibition of home-made articles. Hundreds of people attended this Fair, and since all the exhibits were offered for sale, the women found it a splendid medium for the sale of their work.

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EXTENSION DEPARTMENT

The work of this Department is carried on by two full time professors, a Sister in charge of women's work, two part time professors and an office secretary. The Department has also an office in Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, with an Extension field man in charge who devotes his time to organization work in the industrial sections.

The Department promotes and organizes the following activities:

1. STUDY CLUBS. Six hundred and fifty clubs with an enrollment of six thousand members are now being supplied with mimeographed material, pamphlets and books from the Extension Office. An Open Shelf Library and a Package Library Service are also maintained.
2. CO-OPERATIVE ORGANIZATIONS. Twelve co-operative lobster factories serving fifty communities were established during the past three years. Twenty three credit unions were formed and a number of other co-operative undertakings received assistance from the Extension Department. The Extension professors work with various Departments and organizations in fostering co-operative effort in the Maritime Provinces.
3. LEADERSHIP TRAINING COURSES. A four weeks course for the development of rural leaders was held at the University during January and February. This course was attended by forty four students. Instruction was given in the following subjects: Business Arithmetic, Business English, Book-keeping, Civics, Elementary Economics, History and Principles of Co-operation, Co-operative Business Practices, Community Organizations and Programs, Public Speaking. Practice in debating, conducting meetings, club programs, etc. was also provided.
4. THE EXTENSION BULLETIN. The Department publishes a Bulletin twice a month during the scholastic year. This publication, which has a circulation of 8000, carries discussion material for the Study Clubs organized among the farmers, fishermen and industrial workers.
5. PUBLIC SPEAKING AND DEBATING CONTESTS. During the 1933-34 period seventy five Study Clubs participated in a Debating Contest, and two hundred groups in a Public Speaking Competition. These educational projects covered the seven eastern counties of Nova Scotia.
6. WOMEN'S CLUBS. Three hundred Study Clubs, with an enrollment of 1500, have been organized during the past year for women and these have been supplied regularly with material on handicrafts, home-making, dramatics, etc. As a result of their study, there is evident a revival of home industries in many communities.



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Extension Students--1934.

Wincent Dadeau, Tracadie; Joseph MacDonald; Brierly Brook; John A. Beaton, Glenora Falls; Patrick J. MacCarthy; Lower River Inhabitants; Angus D. Beaton, West Mabou Harbor; J. A. MacDonald, S. W. Mabou; D. A. MacDonald, Broad Cove Chapel; H. A. MacCormick, Grantville; Joe MacDougall, North Sydney; William Francis Gillis, Port Hood; Francis Delehanty, South West Mabou; Ronald MacGillivray, Maryvale; John Cameron, Heatherton; Alvin W. Hendsbee, Half Island Cove; Cunningham, A. E., New Waterford; William Coady, New Waterford; Alex MacKinnon, New Waterford; Stephen MacNeil, Antigonish; Dan MacGillivray, Antigonish; A. G. Buchanan, Baddeck; Allan MacPherson, Thorburn; Allan Marshall, R. R. 3, New Glasgow; James Meagher, Canso; Bryan Meagher, Canso; J. M. McDonald, New Glasgow; J. A. MacGillivray, New Glasgow; Leonard Thompson, Cloverville; William MacLean, Antigonish; Victor Bernasconi, Antigonish; Gus Bernasconi, Antigonish; Joseph O'Connor, Montreal; Jerome Anderson, East Havre Boucher; Alex MacInnis, New Glasgow; Donald Ross, Antigonish; Douglas Ross, Antigonish; Cyril MacIsaac, Antigonish; Cameron MacLean, Cloverville; William MacIsaac, Antigonish; Preston Smith, Clydesdale; Sylvester deWolfe, Merigomish; Lauchie MacEachern, Antigonish; John C. MacDougall, Sylvan Valley; Charles Pushie, Antigonish.

