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Ext Dept

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REPORT OF THE ST. FRANCIS XAVIER - 32

EXTENSION DEPARTMENT - 2

June 1, 1940 - March 31, 1942 - 2

General Statement

St. Francis Xavier's Extension Department has made satisfactory progress in this period. The war has both helped and hindered the work. It is harder now to organize the people for formal study than it was in peace time. On the other hand, the economic co-operative activities have grown, due to general inflationary tendencies and to the economic prosperity of the times.

Staff

For the year 1940-41 the staff of the Department consisted of fifteen full time and twenty part time workers. For the present year, 1941-42, the staff numbers ten full time and nine part time workers. This reduction was made necessary by the seriously curtailed budget of the past year.

Offices

In addition to the central office on the campus of St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, the Department maintains a branch office at Sydney, the center of the Nova Scotia industrial area, and one at Shippegan, New Brunswick, which serves the Acadian French population of that province.

Changes in Method

Under war conditions it became impossible for students to come to the University for the annual four weeks' School for Leaders. ~~Consequently~~ One-week short courses out in the field were substituted for this school. In 1940-41, and in 1941-42, fourteen of eleven ~~of these courses were~~ these courses were held at various places in the Maritime Provinces. ~~Registration varies from thirty~~ Registration varies from thirty ~~to eighty~~ to eighty and in addition, evening mass meetings take in great numbers of the people from the surrounding areas.



Another effect of the war has been an increased enthusiasm for conferences. The number of these has increased since peace time. They are mainly of two classes--regional and vocational--and result in serious thought and action ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~field~~

Libraries and Study Material

The head office at Antigonish maintains an open-shelf library of some 3,000 volumes and serves three small branch libraries as well as a large number of individual borrowers throughout Nova Scotia. The Sydney office houses another 3,000 volumes and serves twelve branches. Up to the present these libraries have been supported by a <sup>an</sup> great grant from the Carnegie Corporation. This grant is now exhausted, and the expansion of its libraries presents a serious problem to the Extension Department.

Pamphlets and mimeographed study material are distributed from the Antigonish office and it is estimated that some 75,000 people now come within the influence of the educational movement.

A fortnightly periodical, The Maritime Co-operator, with a circulation of 7,000, is published under the guidance of the Dept.

People's Institutions

The Nova Scotia Co-operative Educational Council, a federation of all the co-operatives of the province, established in September, 1940, by the Extension Department has up to the present spent \$9,436.00 on a program of education.

The Nova Scotia Credit Union League, besides a direct contribution of \$1,000 to the Educational Council, ~~spent last~~ spent last year \$4,202.82 on education and expansion.

The Central Co-operative Wholesale at Moncton, with its branch at Sydney, contributes directly to the Educational Council and assists in various other ways.

The Future

The work of the Extension Department is proceeding according to the original blueprint. With the above-named institutions established and growing, more attention is being given ~~directed~~ to ~~the~~ service co-operatives and ~~directly~~ cultural undertakings. The number of housing clubs has grown to seven. Stress at present is being laid on health and hospitalization, arts and crafts, and recreation.

At the present time, all the varied activities of the Department are being co-ordinated with the aim of assisting the war effort, and preparing for the dubious aftermath.

