

RG 30.3/25/1014

Apr 30 1939
Ext. Dept.
Activities



ACTIVITIES OF THE EXTENSION DEPARTMENT OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER UNIVERSITY
For the Year Ending April 30, 1939

The Extension Department of St. Francis Xavier University pursued much the same policy in carrying on its program of adult education as described in previous reports to the Carnegie Corporation, but it has shown more progress during the past year than in any previous year since its inception. The techniques followed in promoting the work have been improved, the scope of its activities has been broadened, the staff has been enlarged, and the territory embraced by the program greatly expanded.

This development is due in part to the fact that the Federal Department of Fisheries, aware that any worth while program of rehabilitation in the depressed fishing industry must rest on a widespread diffusion of enlightenment among the fishermen, requested the university to carry its educational work into the fishing communities of the Maritime Provinces and the Magdalen Islands. This work was begun in November and carried on simultaneously with the regular activities of the Extension Department.

THE STAFF The regular staff of the Department is now composed of 11 full time and seven part time workers. Last year thirty additional workers were stationed in fishing communities in the areas specified by the Department of Fisheries, and carried on their work under the direction of the St. Francis Xavier Extension officials. Wherever possible, the men chosen for field work among the fishermen were those who had already shown an interest in and an aptitude for the work of adult education. They followed the same technique and used literature similar to that used by Extension workers already in the field. As in former years, their work was supplemented by voluntary assistance from clergymen of all denominations, members of government agencies, teachers, and other community leaders.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES Meetings and Conferences. Hundreds of public meetings and educational rallies were held throughout eastern Canada to enlist the people in a program of education and self-help activities. In the industrial sections a weekly labor forum was conducted successfully during the past winter. The community leaders in the various regions were called together from time to time for consultation and direction on their work. The annual three day Rural and Industrial Conference was held in August and was attended by over a thousand persons. It was followed by a Co-operative Institute and Tour for a group of 200 educationists, clergymen,

social workers and others, from thirty states of the Union and every province of Canada, who came to attend the Conference.

Study Clubs. A new method of organizing and reorganizing study clubs was attempted in Nova Scotia. General meetings were held of all officers of co-operative organizations within certain defined areas and the responsibility of promoting study club work was passed on to them. Following is a statement of the approximate number of study clubs in the Maritime Provinces and the Magdalens with their membership.

| | <u>No. of Clubs</u> | <u>Membership</u> |
|---------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| NOVA SCOTIA | 1300 | 10,400 |
| NEW BRUNSWICK | 650 | 5,200 |
| P.E. ISLAND | 325 | 4,000 |
| MAGDALENS | 125 | 1,000 |
| | <u>2390</u> | <u>20,600</u> |



Extension School. The annual one-month Extension Short Course was held in February this year. It was attended by 136 young men and women from Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, and the Magdalen Islands. Many of these students were given scholarships to attend this Course by The Federal Department of Fisheries, The Prince Edward Youth Training Plan, The Government of Newfoundland. Others were financed by local community organizations, and some paid their own expenses.

EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL . Pamphlets . The Extension Department supplied many thousands of booklets and mimeographed lessons to workers and study club leaders in eastern Canada.

The Extension Bulletin. The Bulletin, a bi-weekly publication designed by the Department to stimulate interest in and provide material for the Study Clubs, was published this year for the fifth and last year. As a result of a meeting of leaders in the movement in the Maritimes it was decided to establish a paper, to supersede the Bulletin, which would be produced in an enlarged form, have a larger subscription rate, and cover a wider field of activity.

Libraries. A grant from the Carnegie Corporation has enabled the Department to establish a library in the office of the Glace Bay Branch of the Extension Department. Ten regional libraries in nearby towns have been established in conjunction with the central library at Glace Bay. Part of the cost of these is supported by the people themselves. As a direct result of the library development the Provincial Government has enacted Nova Scotia's first piece of library legislation. Towns and municipalities are now permitted to levy a tax for the promotion of library developments. The Extension Office

at Antigonish has over 1500 books in its Open Shelf Library in almost constant circulation among the study club members. Over seven hundred of these were added during the past year and were paid for through the Carnegie Library Grant.

ECONOMIC
ACTIVITIES

The number of community organizations grew steadily during the past year and developed as the educational work of the Department progressed. The following table will give a picture of the number of such organizations now in operation.

| | Credit Unions | Stores | Lobster Factories | Fish Plants | Buying Clubs | Community Industries | Smelt Marketing Organizations | Others |
|---------------|------------------|-----------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Nova Scotia | 161 | 43 | 17 | 7 | - | 8 | | 10 |
| New Brunswick | 79 | 1 | 12 | 6 | 12 | - | 12 | |
| P. E. Island | 37 | 3 | 7 | | 20 | - | -- | -- |
| | <u>277</u> | <u>47</u> | <u>26</u> | <u>10</u> | <u>32</u> | <u>8</u> | <u>12</u> | <u>10</u> |

The total number of co-operative organizations listed above is 422. The volume of business done by them may be counted already in millions of dollars. Under Others is included a co-operative wholesale at Sydney, a milk pasteurization plant at Sydney, a co-operative housing organization at Reserve Mines, several group hospitalization schemes, and other types of organizations, owned and operated by the people themselves, that do not come under any of the particular headings.

WOMEN'S
ACTIVITIES

The women's study clubs, of which there are approximately 350, have been concerned mainly with handicrafts, and a subsistence program of gardening and canning with a view to securing better nutrition. Several short courses were held in farming and fishing communities in which these subjects were stressed particularly. A number of communities held handicraft exhibitions, and a joint exhibition, displaying work done throughout the whole territory, is a regular part of the annual Rural and Industrial Conference. The Department owns three looms which are loaned to groups requesting them.

CULTURAL

Hand in hand with the development of educational and economic activities in the Maritimes there is evident a growing interest on the part of the people for things cultural. With the establishment of libraries, handicraft guilds, recreational and dramatic activities, parent-teacher associations, etc., they are greatly enriching the social aspect of life in the farming, fishing and industrial sections of this territory.

FINANCES

A statement of the expenditures of the Department in 1939 is appended hereto.



2630.3/25/1016