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Says Administration Is 'Top-Heavy'

TARANAKI D. NEWS.

24 SEP 1965

The administration of the union was becoming a little top-heavy, Mrs F. B. Keys, an executive member, told the annual conference of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union at New Plymouth yesterday.

She was speaking in favour of a remit from the Napier - Taradale association that the form of representation at conferences be changed.

The remit was defeated. At present 64 associations control 235 kindergartens, with 94 representatives at the annual conference. The proposal change would reduce the number of delegates associations could send to the conference.

A member of the executive, Mrs. E. Stevenson, said the proposed change in representation was not a revolutionary move. "It is not an amalgamation but an area grouping designed to control the size of the annual conference because of

the rapid growth of the kindergarten movement," she added.

Speaking against the remit and the amended report accompanying it, a Christchurch delegate, Mr. J. H. M. Dawson said Christchurch would be little affected by the change, but smaller associations would suffer considerably.

"Representatives attending the proposed area meeting would only have the status of observers," he said. "They would not be able to put forward the views of their particular associations. The change is a constitutional one and requires a little more than just common-sense before it is made.

"We should consider the

systems of other associations, such as the Australian association, before making a firm decision."

The president, Mrs. H. Downer, said the ultimate aim of the union was amalgamation of all pre-school training institutions and centres in New Zealand under a national executive.

COMMUNICATION

"One of the principal needs of the union is communication between associations," she said. "Area meetings at the teachers' colleges could be useful in this way. They would also cut conference costs considerably."

"In small areas, such as Kalkohe and Kaitaia, the personal touch would be lost if we were to lose the present representation to conference in favour of area meetings," the delegate from Kalkohe, Mrs. McLintock said.

"We would only have a delegate at the conference every three years. The idea of an area delegate reporting back to associations in the Northland area would be impractical. Associations in the area are isolated from one another, a situation which is not helped by the roading system."

NO SAVING

"If the new system were enforced, the number of observers permitted to attend would mean no money would be saved—we would have as many observers as we have delegates now," the Manawatu delegate, Mrs. G. M. Swainson, said.

The remit was carried over to the afternoon session where it was defeated after a heated debate.

Conference Ends

The annual conference of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union ended at New Plymouth last night.

The conference next year will be held at Westport.

Officers elected were: President, Mrs. H. Downer (Rotorua); vice-president, Miss L. M. C. Ingram (Motueka); ing associations, Mrs. B. J. representatives non-training F. B. Keys (Palmerston North). Mrs. D. T. Nicholson (Upper Hutt), Mrs. E. Stevenson (Hastings), training (members appointed), Mrs. R. M. Boyd (Dunedin), Mrs. G. S. Rea (Auckland), Mrs. D. Ryan (Wellington), Mrs. A. Steven (Christchurch); secretary-treasurer, Mrs. R. A. Elliott (Rotorua).

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Government Assistance

24 SEP 1965

TARANAKI D. NEWS.

Asked For

RECORDS
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"Government policy is creating a problem which we are asking the Education Department to help us overcome," Miss V. Hayward, the Dunedin delegate told the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union conference at New Plymouth yesterday.

She was speaking in support of a remit asking the department to authorise and initially finance the building of a kindergarten or kindergartens in rapidly developing housing areas with definite arrangements to be made for the repayment of one third of the total cost of the building over a limited number of years.

In a report from the Dunedin area Miss Hayward said in new housing areas there were great numbers of people herded together with no civic amenities, so engaged in their own pattern of living they hardly realised the community existed.

"At Porirua the average age of the community is 11 years," she said. "There are no places for groups of these children to meet. When they enter their teens they will present a great social problem. This is only one instance where the free kindergarten movement has failed.

"Even three years after a community begins, hundreds of children are denied kindergarten or pre-school education. The government has erected large State housing areas, but has failed to provide amenities such as kindergartens and halls

cost compared with that of the housing in the areas."

"Some years ago, one Dunedin area had 400 pre-school children, many aged four years. A delay of four years in providing the kindergarten meant when it was opened, we had difficulty in filling the roll. The community was outgrowing the need for one."

A similar problem had occurred at Auckland, an executive member, Mrs J. Rea said. Many islanders had lived in the city and their children had attended inner city kindergartens.

A large State housing area was opened and the families shifted into it. Consequently inner city kindergartens were empty and there were none in the new housing areas where they were needed most.

"Some years ago, the need for a kindergarten at Wigram arose, and the Air Department lent the money to the association to erect a kindergarten," said the Wigram delegate, Mrs A. Winkleman. "We are paying back the loan at the rate of £150 a year."

The remit was carried, and the incoming executive will act upon it.

TARANAKI HERALD

Importance of pre-school education

23 SEP 1965

RECORDS
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WHERE the need was greatest for pre-school education and where no special buildings had been erected, approved buildings should be opened and used as kindergarten centres, the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union's annual conference decided in New Plymouth yesterday. A recommendation to this effect is to be sent to the Department of Education.

The decision followed a remit from the Napier-Taradale Association.

A Napier-Taradale delegate, Mrs F. K. Malcolm, said that where halls or other buildings were available there would be no harm in using them as kindergarten centres. Parents would be content to see their children receiving pre-school education, even if it was being conducted in a hall.

The Lower Hutt delegate proposed an amendment—that there be a time limit on the period for which a hall may be used as a kindergarten, to ensure that a building of the required standard be erected as soon as possible.

The amendment was supported.

OTHER REMITS

Other remits carried were:

That the union approach the Department of Education to request revision of the subsidy on the cost of sealing access drives to kindergartens in order to increase the width qualifying for subsidy from four feet to 10 feet.

That the department be requested to allow staggered rolls to the extent of 10 per cent, solely to benefit country children who would not otherwise be able to attend.

That talks be arranged with the department and the Federation of Play Centre Associations to see what can be done to ensure that all children have the opportunity of receiving pre-school education.



No Immediate Answers To Some Problems

There were no immediate answers to some of the problems besetting pre-school institutions, the director of education, Mr. A. E. Campbell, said at the opening ceremony of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union conference at the war memorial hall, New Plymouth, last night.

Mr. Campbell said interest in pre-school education for Maori children was increasing.

"In 170 of the 243 kindergartens in New Zealand last year, there were 300

Maori children," he said. "But I think you will agree the situation is still far from satisfactory."

In the 40 years during which he had been associated with pre-school education, the movement had changed tremendously, he said. Ideas considered revolutionary some time ago were now everyday practice.

"During the war years, there were only a few hundred children attending pre-school institutions, but now there are more than 25,000 attending."

The mayor of New Plymouth, Mr. A. G. Honnor, opened the conference.

A buffet dinner attended by more than 130 delegates, observers and guests was held before the official opening ceremony. The conference will continue today and tomorrow.

Delegates to the annual conference of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union, being held at New Plymouth this week, chat informally after a buffet dinner at the opening of the conference last night.

ACTION
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KINDERGARTEN CONFERENCE

MUCH of the evidence suggested that for many Maori children, pre-school training helped them to get a full education, Mr A. E. Campbell, the Director of Education, said at the opening of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union's conference in New Plymouth last night.

This in turn would help training facilities, but suggested that the conference should try to find ways to solve it.

New Plymouth's Mayor, Mr A. G. Honnor, officially opened the conference and welcomed delegates. The conference will end on Thursday evening.

It was only through hard work on the part of the districts that the situation would continue to improve.

"All young children do not require pre-school training," said Mr Campbell. "It must be accepted that the locality which most needs a kindergarten cannot always get one, while some raise the money relatively easily."

Mr Campbell said he knew of no answer to the problem of providing for children in all those areas which required pre-school