

# NELSON'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME

## NURSERY AND CAMP SCHOOLS TO BE BUILT

### NEW TECHNICAL SCHOOL WANTED

### EDUCATION RATE NOT TO BE INCREASED

An outline of Nelson's programme of educational development for the future was given by Alderman A. Smith, the Chairman of the Education Committee, at the monthly meeting of the Council on Tuesday.

In the first instance, when they adopted the scheme of re-organisation for their Elementary Schools some years ago, they would remember it was a scheme practically entirely for junior and senior schools, and nothing was done in regard to infant education, said Alderman Smith. The result was that their infant schools at the present time were as they were when they were built. But modern systems of education demanded a great deal more than was anticipated when these schools were built, and it was with that object in view—the re-organisation of the infant education mainly—that their programme had been got out.

It must be remembered first of all that the Council many years ago asked the Board of Education for permission to build a nursery school, and they were turned down. On three or four occasions during the last seven or eight years they had either formally or informally asked the same question of the Board of Education, but up to the present they had never been able to get permission to go on with the work. Now, however, a circular has been issued by the Board of Education dealing with the matter and giving some promise that in regard to nursery schools they were prepared to consider any case that might be put up by any authority. In view of this circular, therefore, they intended to approach the Board of Education for the permission required to build such a school.

It was no use asking him where the site would be or what they would do, because they had not gone into the matter yet, but briefly the idea was a premise or going before the present system of the open-air school, dealing with children that were, perhaps, sub-normal before they went to the open-air school.

#### PROGRAMME FOR INFANT SCHOOLS.

Continuing, Alderman Smith said they had also a skeleton programme in regard to all the infant schools in the borough. When these schools were built the idea was to have all the children in a sort of gallery, sitting on forms, and kept there all morning and afternoon, but modern infant education demanded that there should be space for the children to move about and more freedom than they had had in the past. At the moment they had these galleries in about fifteen of their schools, and it was intended to remove them and re-furnish the whole of the schools. He was not sure that the Board of Education would agree to their proposals, but if they did it was the Committee's idea to do away with the combined desks and seats and substitute tables and chairs so as to make a more pleasant atmosphere and give the children more freedom of movement.

In the smaller children's rooms, also, it was intended to provide opportunity for rest. All Medical Officers of Health were of the opinion that there should be a rest period during the morning and one during the afternoon, and proper provision should be made for it. The idea of the open-air schools had been so widely adopted now that although they could

was to try and devise a scheme for a camp school. In such a school ordinary teaching would be carried on, and provision would be made for that. This idea was being considered, and he hoped it would come to fruition, for it would be an excellent thing.

There were also a few other things in regard to their Elementary Schools; for instance, the question of gymnasiums. They had an excellent one at Edge End, although it was not very well equipped owing to the Board of Education economising, but they had none at Bradley, Walverden, and Whitefield Schools. He did not know whether they would be got, they were rather expensive, but the suggestion was part of their scheme.

"I think what I have said will show that this is a programme that cannot be carried out in a few months, it will take a few years, but we are putting it to the Board of Education, and I think they will accept it," added Alderman Smith. "Something now might be said about the cost," he went on "I am not prepared to commit myself, or the Committee, on this question, but I would like to say this, so far as I can anticipate it ought not to increase the education rate. A very large amount of our loan money is now on the point of being repaid, and this will largely take the place of it. I imagine we shall be able to carry out most of this programme without putting up the education rate at all."

#### HIGHER EDUCATION.

Alderman Smith went on to speak about a programme that was being considered in regard to higher education. For some time, he said, they had been considering the question of their Technical School. The present school was built forty-one years ago, and was one of the pioneers of technical schools in the county, perhaps in the country, and to-day it was very largely as it was then. The furniture, also, was very much as it was when it was built, and it had done remarkably well—some of it ought to have gone long ago. He thought it was true to say that the Technical School had never been a school at all, it had been a collection of classes, and never had that entity as a school. That was because it was unfitted for its task, there was no hall in the building to get the scholars together in, and no question of playing-ground or gymnasium—nothing, in fact, in regard to the social aspect, which was thought to be of immense value to a school under present-day ideas of what a school should be.

This was not a matter within their province so far as any alterations or re-building was concerned, however, but was a matter for the County Council. He thought, however, it was a matter for the local Committee to make representations to the County Council about and tell them what they thought they ought to do. The question of technical schools was being considered by the County at the present time, he knew and he also could say as a member of the County Education Committee that in this connection Nelson was also mentioned, but whether it would be possible for them to get anything substantial done he did not know. Personally, he thought they needed a new Technical School, but if they could not get a new building they ought to have very

CHILI

# Chums

By ERN SH.



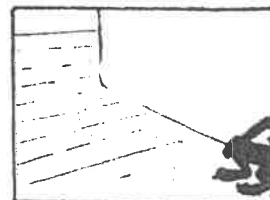
No. 6.

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Dear Boys and Girls,

I have received a note Meanwell, 6 Field Top, Fenc, that he and his sister Barbara made members of the "Corn pleasure in registering their own writes, "I like reading Chums." And I am sure children do. In fact, some of y have told me how they enjoy tures of the Chums, and when I look every week to see what

**CIRCULAR RHEUMATISM**

... I have been suffering from this for some time and could not sleep. My hands were stiff and I could not go down stairs. I started to go to bed and I found I could not get into my bed. I started to go to bed and I found I could not get into my bed. I started to go to bed and I found I could not get into my bed.

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promise that in regard to any case they were prepared to consider any case that might be put up by any authority. In view of this circular, therefore, they intended to approach the Board of Education for the permission required to build such a school.

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In the smaller children's rooms, also, it was intended to provide opportunity for rest. All Medical Officers of Health were of the opinion that there should be a rest period during the morning and one during the afternoon, and proper provision should be made for it. The idea of the open-air schools had been so widely adopted now that although they could not say they were going to make the infant schools into entirely open-air schools, certainly they intended to make provision for more light and air and better ventilation, and more sunshine. They also wanted better lavatory accommodation, by that he meant better provision for the children to wash, hot water, and apparatus for drying wet clothes.

**BEST IN THE COUNTRY.**

They also intended to brighten the schools by a supply of pictures and things like that, and also arrange individual cupboards for the children, while there were also a few other things, not very costly, in the programme to be considered.

"When this scheme is adopted, and I think our interview with the Board of Education showed us that most of the things we propose will be acceptable to them, our infant schools, like our senior schools, will be amongst the best in the country," declared Alderman Smith.

Speaking of the junior schools in the town, the Alderman said there were quite a number of the galleries he had mentioned in one school, Bradshaw Street, and they intended to remove them, and they also wanted to put in apparatus for drying wet clothes and a hot water supply. They were out to educate the child to keep itself clean at all times, but whether that was an ideal or not he did not know.

They had nothing very much in the programme in regard to the senior schools. They proposed to remove the galleries there were in some of them, and also provide better accommodation for the drying of wet clothes.

**GYMNASIUMS FOR SCHOOLS.**

One of the most important things—at any rate, one of the most costly things—in connection with their programme was the idea of what was known as a camp school. In many towns the scholastic system in one way or another linked up with a camp, it was so in Burnley, for instance, but these were simply holiday camps, and the intention of the Nelson Committee

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Concluding, Alderman Smith said none of the items he had mentioned had been adopted, but he imagined from the feelings of the Committee, and the support of the Council as well, that most of the programme, at any rate, would be adopted, and if it was not actually carried out it would not be their fault, but the fault of the Board of Education. Their interview with the Board, however, led them to think that the programme would be carried out.

**NON-PROVIDED SCHOOLS ALSO.**

Councillor J. Stephenson asked if, in regard to re-furnishing of the schools under the programme, it was intended that the non-provided schools, as well as the provided, should benefit.

Alderman Smith stated that it was their intention that the children in the non-provided schools should have as good facilities as the others, and they would be fit up as well. Of course, they could not do anything, as he would be aware, in regard to the structural alterations of the non-provided schools.

Councillor King wanted more details of the camp schools. Was it the intention of the Education Committee to set up such a school at the seaside or locally, say over at Black Moss, or Roughlee, or Thursden Valley.

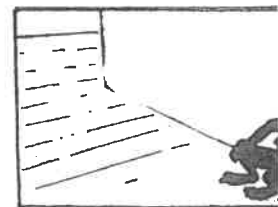
Replying, Alderman Smith said he could not give any definite information as to where the school would be, but the idea they were considering at the moment was certainly not to take their children miles away, but provide a camp school near their own town. They considered that the moorland air on the hills near Nelson was quite as beneficial as any at the seaside, apart from the greater expense of taking the children to the seaside. It was no use asking him where it would be, however. They had several sites under consideration, but he was not prepared to say anything at the moment, because he did not want to be told three months hence that he gave wrong information.

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As I was going along Manc the other day, I saw a boy and playing in the main road, as trying to dodge all the mot came along. I am sure if th seen by their fathers and m would have got into trouble w home. As it was, they got looks from motorists, for I m were really in a dangerous po

I know that your teacher often tell you about the dan road, for there are numero nowadays. Far too many peop killed or injured, and we in th not want to add to the num making this column this wee "Safety First" column, for a saw in Nelson I could readi accidents of a serious char happen.

I am told that in some scho Song is sung. I have had the to me. They are as follows:—

**SAFETY FIRST!**

By Joan and Rodney Ba  
 Through the noisy thronging Up the busy Streets and down. Cars go driving, driving here a In the country village, too. By they hurry, speeding throu Town or country, danger ev'ry If you need to cross the road On your way to school, Keep your wits about you, Don't forget the rule:—  
 Refrain.

Look left! Look right!  
 Is there any traffic near?  
 Look left! Look right!  
 Is the roadway really clear?  
 Never trust to luck at all.  
 Far better trust your sight,  
 And just remember:  
 Safety first! Look left! Look ri  
 There are other people, too,  
 People less grown-up than you,  
 On the kerb you'll often see the  
 Little children at a loss,  
 Wondering how to get across;  
 There's a chance for you to lend  
 If there is a crossing place  
 You know what to do:  
 Take them there and let them

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(CONTRIBUTED.)

As will be seen from the advertisements elsewhere in this issue, Nelson is to be favoured by a lecturo, tour from Dr.

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