

the school was opened 25 years ago he instituted his well-known system of self-government.

School Government

I sometimes think that the term self-government is a misnomer, as it suggests that pupils are thrown entirely on their own resources. That is not so; no one is asked to assume responsibility beyond his powers, but every pupil after his first three months at school is given through his elected committees real responsibility for the running of the simpler phases of the school day. The system deals with real situations; it is not a play-way to democracy. But Mr. Wild would tell you that democracy and self-discipline must be taught like every other subject, and acquired by daily practice like every other skill. But everyone knows that equipment is not enough. It is the relation of person to person that counts in education. The mere presence of Wild makes life seem more intense, living more of an adventure.

The Community Centre

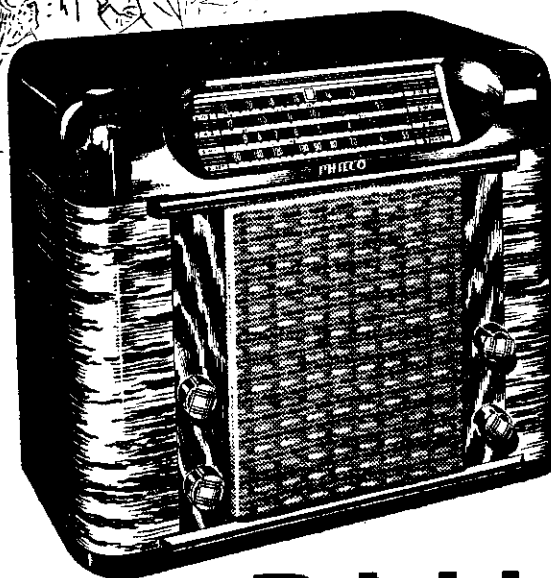
Another problem Mr. Wild set himself to solve was that of the school-leaving age. School life was all too short, and those who left had so much still to learn. Teachers were saying that education was properly something that went on throughout life. If so, why not provide for it? So nine years ago he opened in the middle of the business area of Feilding the Community Centre for Further Education where the needs of adults could be met at times when their leisure permitted them to attend.

With the opening of the Centre, Mr. Wild completed the organisation he considered necessary for the education of a community. It is now possible for a child of two years to go to the Play Centre to take its first steps into the world beyond the home, to continue through the primary school to the High School where he may take one of half-a-dozen courses, to go on again to the Community Centre to study art or drama or child psychology or world affairs and the like, to borrow books, to look at films or to participate in a dozen other pursuits. In Feilding the genius of Wild has so provided that living need not be held up for lack of opportunity for learning.

Wider Fields

I must not forget one other factor that I think has contributed to the vigour of the school, and that is Mr. Wild's service to the community not only in Feilding but to the country as a whole. With all his work he has found time to be concerned with the problems of higher education as Member of the Senate of the University. For many years he was President of the Royal Agricultural Society and is now its Vice-President and Treasurer. During the war he gave continuous service as a Member of the Primary Production Council; he is the National Patron of the Young Farmers' Clubs. Thus, and in many other ways, he brings to the school a first-hand knowledge of affairs.

Yesterday he said good-bye to the school with the good wishes of the present pupils, old pupils and residents of Feilding. He retires while still comparatively young in years, while still absolutely young in spirit and enthusiasm. My own hope, and that of his many friends and colleagues, is that he will find time now to write down the articles of his faith and the philosophy behind his conception of the Education of a Community, so that where he has led many will follow.



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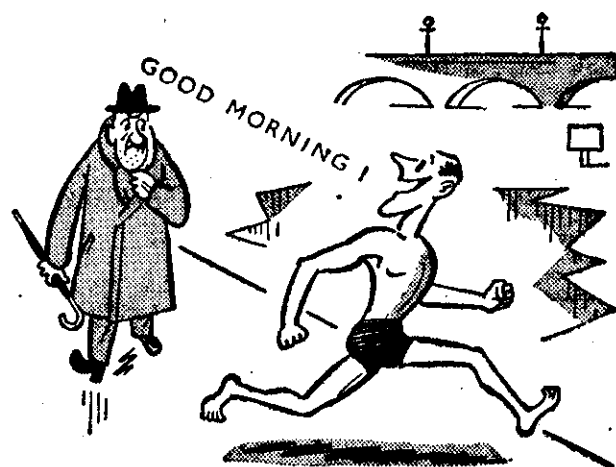
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