

# Educationists Talk Things Over

THE idea of talking things over in education is by no means new. At staff meetings, refresher courses, conferences and other gatherings, teachers come together to discuss their work. Some classroom work even takes the form of a group discussion in which the pupils have the larger share. Small groups of teachers and inspectors have threshed out the basis for revised primary-school syllabuses in English, in arithmetic, in nature-study and so on. Other groups throughout the country have discussed these proposed revisions and what is finally issued as an official syllabus is the product of what is in effect a Dominion-wide discussion.

This principle of consultation through talking things over in preference to official strictures *per se* is proving its value in clarifying in the minds of teachers and inspectors the broader issues of education — the framework



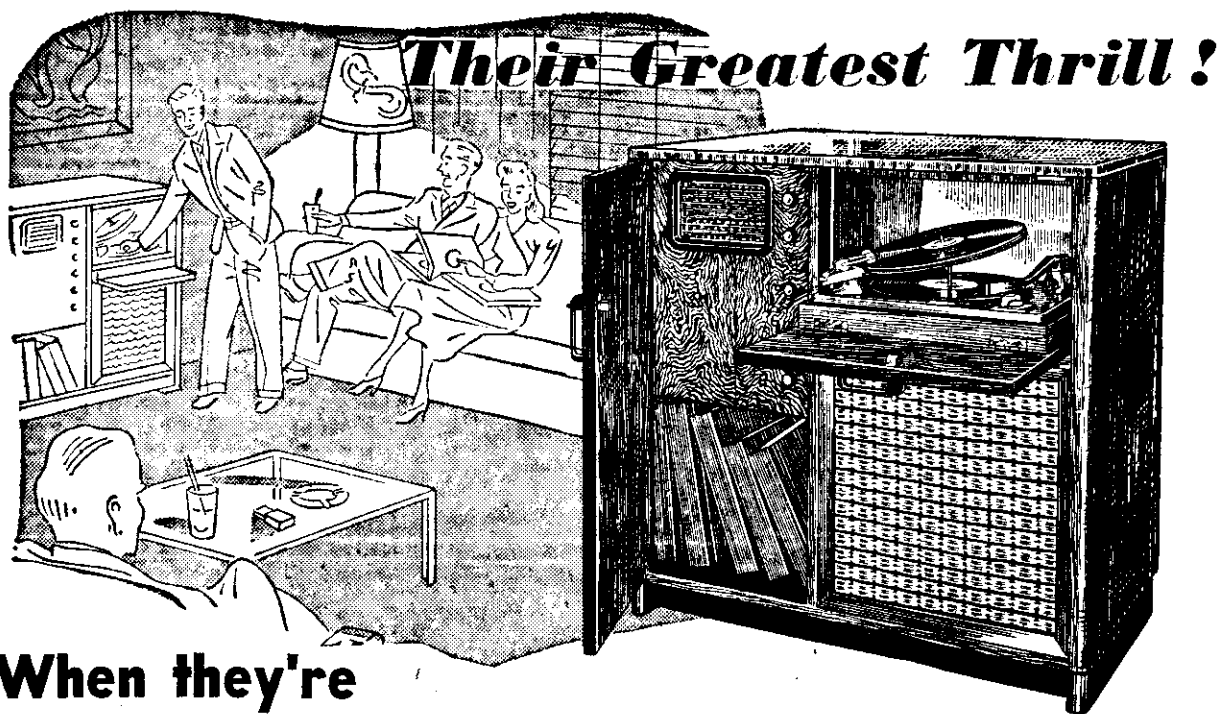
This photograph, taken in the grounds of Wallis House, shows members of a recent Staff School for primary inspectors and other educationists. Seated in the centre of the front row is H. C. D. Somerset, founder of the Feilding Community Centre and now a lecturer in education at Victoria University College.

within which the day-to-day work of each school falls. Recently a further stage in the process of discussion was opened, one that may have important outcomes. Group discussions each of a week's duration were begun at Wallis House.

The Frederic Wallis House is in Lower Hutt, and stands within a short distance of the massive stone that commemorates the fight at Boulcott's Farm in 1846 between the British regulars and Rangihaeata's followers. For many years it has been a place of retreat for

laymen and clergy, but recently it was opened to educational groups of about 20 in number that wished to "live in" for a week or so for the purpose of discussion. The time was opportune, for with the war years behind us there was

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