

SECRET MEETINGS FOR SCHOOL TRUSTEES NOT IN CITY'S INTEREST

Public Should Be Trusted With Details of Work Done By Representatives—Street Railway Quoted As Example.

Star chamber sessions have become popular again with some of the committees of the Board of Education. Several of the trustees apparently are taking the stand that, while the election had confidence enough to place them in charge of the educational affairs, the public is not to be trusted with any of the details in connection with the expenditure of public money. The special salary committee held a closed meeting to discuss the wage question. The press was absolutely barred, and whatever was done is being kept religiously quiet. A report will be presented to the board at its next meeting, in all probability.

Trustee Rice, who is chairman of the salary committee, contends that the press should not be permitted to attend any committee meetings. No reports should be made until they are presented to the board, according to him. It is pointed out that, if this plan were followed, many of the trustees would never know what they are not members of committees of which they are not members.

PRESS REPRESENTS PUBLIC

In connection with the discussion of salaries the trustees assert there are many things said respecting the individual teachers that would injure the teachers if published. On these grounds they bar the representatives of the public, the press, from the deliberations. Ratepayers generally are not in accord with the board in its actions. Many have called attention to the danger of secret sessions in the past and it is the belief of the majority that the light of publicity is one of the ratepayers' strongest safeguards.

In this connection attention is called to the fact that the decision of the Council of a couple of years ago to authorize an increase in fares to the London-Street Railway Company was reached in private session. It is considered doubtful if the conclusion would have been the same if the meeting had been open to the public gaze through the columns of the press.

USE JUDGMENT

"It is readily recognized that there are certain deliberations which should not be given publicity until the proposed actions are completed," said a large ratepayer to-day. "This is particularly true where the purchase of property is concerned. But I have taken particular notice in the past and we have never noticed any announcement of a purchase until the property had been bonded at least. The trustees are only giving the electors a chance to throw stones when they refuse to open their meetings to the public. The more open their actions are the more will they retain the confidence of the public."

ATTENDING CONFERENCE.—Frank D. McLaughlin, secretary of the local branch of Automotive Dealers' Association of Ontario, is in Toronto attending a conference and annual meeting of all automotive dealers in Ontario in connection with the annual Motor Show which will be held at the armories next week.

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10TH ANNIVERSARY BLACK KNIGHTS

Inniskilling Preceptory Holds Past Preceptors' Night.

LARGE CLASS INITIATED

I. P. P. C. W. Cross Is Presented With Jewel.

Inniskilling Preceptory, Royal Black Knights of the British Commonwealth in Canada, celebrated the tenth anniversary of its organization in London at the Market Lane Orange Hall last night by holding its first annual past preceptors' night. Sir Knight John Grant is this year's presiding preceptor of the order.

A large class of novitiates were initiated at last night's session by the following past preceptors: Sir Knight H. P. Knight, presiding preceptor (1920); Sir Knight C. W. Cross, immediate past preceptor (1921); Sir Knight W. B. Walker, county preceptor; Sir Knight J. W. Whitby, chaplain (1916); Sir Knight W. C. Snydler, first lecturer (1919); Sir Knight H. B. Fox, second lecturer (1919); Sir Knight H. J. Bennett, first censor (1912-13-14); Sir Knight J. W. Carson, second censor (1917); Sir Knight D. J. Patterson, first standard bearer (1919); Sir Knight G. Loney, second standard bearer; Sir Knight G. A. Mitchell, pursuivant (1918).

The past preceptor's jewel was presented to I. P. P. C. W. Cross by County Preceptor W. B. Walker. The lecturers of the evening were V. W. Sir Knight U. Bullock, of Mono Mills, Ont., who is grand lecturer for the Province of Ontario, and presently declares that he is going home to his mother! The first lady of his kind I ever heard of in my life, and my cousin amazed at this, considering that this is an inalienable right of wives. So this Maple goes, but is packed back straight away by his maternal ancestor, who goes with him and oils the troubled waters. And now, I think, they are happier than they ever were.

Dispatches report that the Germans now have egg-nogg factories, these bottling eggs and liquors and selling them for fabulous sums. And the rest of the world sweating under its war debts, denied indemnities, and fearing revolution, do fatuously pat itself on the back, vowing that they won the "endurance test in the Low Countries."

A cadet to our Technical School is considered highly awkward by a cadet sergeant, I am told. And this third-year sergeant carries himself high at this first-year recruit, but withal striving to make him know that form four is not a problem in spherical geometry. And likewise to tell him the value of the sights on the gun, but no good whatever. Finally the sergeant asks him: "Do you know what a sight is?" "I do," replies the recruit. "And what is the best sight in the world?" Whereat the younger lad's face brightens as he says: "A boat sinking, and it full of sergeants!"

A small dinner at our Admiralty Club in honor of Doctor Trotter, who drops in on us from Peru, and the talk turns on resolutions. "It is an easy thing to make resolutions, but to keep them," says the doctor. "Like my small son, who comes to me at the New Year, saying: 'Father, I have resolved to fight no more this year.' 'Fine,' I tell him, 'and what is the reason?' 'I always get licked!'"

Word from Cleveland that they have established a bank there exclusively for women. The first national bank, however, will have few withdrawals.

The gentlemen who used to send letters to editors, signing themselves "Pro Bono Publico" are now writing "Pro Bonehead Publico."

And while our pupils are to learn the Ten Commandments most people will be satisfied if they remember the rule of gold.

A great pity that most of us are unable to vision things as we did in childhood. Our growing stature has a tendency to shrink things. What a wonderful thing it would be if we could give rein to our imagination again. Make that sand pile yonder a lofty range of mountains and that queer mass of rock a castle of giants or a castle of dreams. Yesterday I saw a little boy sitting on the steps of his house as the afternoon sun went towards the west. He was looking up the street (a very ordinary street to me), and I knew suddenly that this lad considered it a highway of adventure, down which, at any moment, might come a calvarcade of slanted knights. If we could just hold on to a few things that really matter as we grow older!

The news is that all children in the schools are to be taught first that "In the beginning God created heaven and earth." Your evolutionists, and we all believe in his doctrine somewhat, fight shy of this unless he is really bold. For that verse is the sum total of knowledge gained in three thousand years, despite our science and laboratories. These words should be contemplated for hours if the true significance of them is to be apprehended.

Hear how a boy asks his father for a definition of stocks, saying: "What, father, is common stock?" And the father replies: "He-brewed drinks, my son!" "And preferred stocks?" "That which rich men laid in their cellars betimes, my boy!"

Major Sennick highly disquieted at the news that the Princess Mary is to be married with all the women guests in morning dress. "The most ridiculous order that was ever given in the world," he exclaims. "Pancy a princess of the blood royal being married under such conditions, and the men of the empire should petition about it. Here, for instance, will sit the old Dowager Duchess of Wiltshire, with her coronet sitting mighty ridiculous on her gray hair, done up in curl papers; there the Marchioness of Lambeth will look the most frump person in a boudoir cap, and the more baroness of a disquiet everyone with their kimono and what not!"

SOMETHING NEW FOR EAST LONDON.
For the first time in the history of East London an opportunity is offered to see in comprehensive form the great work done by foreign missions in China, Japan and Korea. Motion pictures of the activities of missions, hospitals, colleges, etc., will be shown at King Street Presbyterian Church to-morrow evening. There will be no admission fee, but those wishing to do so may help defray expenses of the evening by a silver offering.

NO EMBARGO CONCEALED.
QUEBEC, Feb. 1.—Official denial was this morning given by Hon. Jacob Nicol, provincial treasurer, to the rumor that the Quebec Government was contemplating the export of raw asbestos to offset the effect of the Fordney tariff proposals in the United States.

BEAR, GROUND HOG OR SOME OTHER WILD ANIMAL WILL SAMPLE WEATHER TO-MORROW

"If Candlemas Day Is Fair and Clear, There'll Be Two Winters In the Year."—Will Have a Look For Dollar Day Bargains.

To-morrow, Candlemas Day, the bear or ground hog, or whatever mammal is used to illustrate the old saw that the weather on that day will indicate the length of the winter, comes forth from his burrow, gives the count, the O-O and gauges his conduct by the result of his observations. If the sun is shining so that he can see his shadow he returns to slumber convinced that his alarm clock has somehow slipped a cog and that it is not yet time to awaken. If, on the other hand, the day is dull and overcast, he continues on his hunt for eats as he feels that spring is just around the corner. An old Scotch rhyme perpetuates this legend in the words: "If Candlemas is fair and clear there'll be two winters in the year." In Scotland, the day has an importance as it is the first of the quarterly terms when interest, taxes, rent, etc., must be paid.

But the day has a deep religious significance. Candlemas is the feast of the purification of the Virgin Mary, celebrated by Roman Catholics. The festival gets its name from the fact that on that day is held a procession of candles, and these candles which will be required for divine service in the year are then consecrated. The Church of England and the Armenian Church also observe Candlemas.

Candlemas Day has been compared with the Roman festival held in honor of Februa, mother of Mars, when candles were burned. The old Roman observance was possibly utilized by the church and turned into a Christian ceremony.

On Friday to confer degrees on a waiting list of initiates there. Next week they go to Dorchester to confer several of the 11 degrees which is in their power to confer.

No Orangeman may belong to the Royal Black Knights without being a Royal Arch Degree member of six months' standing.

EUREKA LODGE.—A committee meeting of Eureka Lodge, No. 30, of the Oddfellows' organization, was held last night and the members decided to conduct a social evening on February 21, in the lodge rooms, over the Bank of Nova Scotia, on Richmond street. The evening will be taken up with eucher and a splendid musical program will also be arranged. Several prominent speakers have been secured for the occasion, among them being Percy T. Copeland, grand treasurer of the Grand Lodge of Ontario; Rev. O. C. Cummin, of Thorndale, the past grand chaplain; W. G. R. Bartram, grand warden, and others.

Inniskilling Preceptory goes to Sarnia

GREAT INTEREST IN PEONY SHOW

Record Number of Blooms For Exhibition.

TO BE HELD IN ARMORIES

Exhibitors From All Over Country Coming.

The annual peony exhibition which will be staged at the armories some time in June is already attracting interest throughout the country, and all who have heard about the show are very optimistic of the results both for the show and for the City of London itself.

It is understood from local officials interested in the exhibition that the show will be one of the largest of its kind ever staged in any city and, although the peony has for the last four years been the civic flower for London, parties interested in the movement have been unable to interest the American Peony Association sufficiently to get them to stage the annual show here in such a large way as it promises to be.

London will benefit greatly by the attraction because growers and flower fanciers generally from all parts of the world are already making arrangements to exhibit their flowers here and naturally the City of London itself will profit greatly by the free advertising which it will receive.

Specimens of the peony which are practically unknown to citizens of London, and which would not thrive in this country, will be displayed among the thousands of bloom to be brought here from Europe and the United States.

Prominent men in the city have interested themselves in the movement and city officials are doing all in their power to make the affair a huge success. It is interesting to know, in connection with the exhibition, that for the first time in the history of the annual exhibitions the American association have expressed their willingness to come to a city in Canada with less than 500,000 population.

Parties wishing to exhibit flowers or

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All other models at correspondingly low prices.

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In any way desirous of making the exhibition a success are invited to get in touch with S. F. Wills, the chairman of the committee, by phoning either 2866 or 2803.

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| 7:05 a.m. | 9:50 a.m. |
| 9:20 a.m. | 12:47 p.m. |
| 11:20 a.m. | 1:47 p.m. |
| 2:20 p.m. | 3:47 p.m. |
| 4:20 p.m. | 5:47 p.m. |
| 6:20 p.m. | 8:00 p.m. |
| 8:20 p.m. | 10:51 p.m. |

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Fine Standard A1 Silver - Plated Berry Spoons

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Six Standard A1 Silver - Plated Coffee Spoons in Lined Box

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Six Standard A1 Silver - Plated Teaspoons Large Size

1

Fine Standard A1 Quality Silver-Plated Cold Meat Forks

1

One-Quarter Off all Rings

1

One-Quarter Off all Watches

1

One-Half Off all Ivory

1

One only Rich Cut Glass Berry Bowl \$8.50 value

1

One Pair of Fine Book Ends Value \$4.50

1

Two Large Polychrome Candlesticks Value \$4.00 each

1

One only Eight - Day Mantel Clock Value \$14.50

1

One Quarter Off all Cut Glass

1

100 Solid 14k Gold-Pointed Self-Filling Fountain Pens \$1.69

1

50 Solid 14k Gold-Pointed Fountain Pens, 95c

1

50 Reliable Alarm Clocks

1

50 Fine Gold-Filled and Silver Brooches Values to \$5.00

1

50 Pairs Good Gold-Filled Cuff Links Values to \$4.00

1

25 Quill Pen Sets, all Colors Values to \$2.75

1

Any Box of Six Colored Candles

1

Fine Etched Glass Flower Vase Value \$4.50

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