

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN

THE IMPROVEMENT LEAGUE VERSUS SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

South End Delegation Asked School Board for Use of Assembly Room for Meetings—Delegation of Teachers Give Reasons Why Application Should Not be Granted—Janitors Want More Pay—Other Business Transacted

Shall the school buildings be used as social centres? This was the question which was discussed and re-considered at two delegations appeared before the Board of School Trustees at their regular meeting held last evening. There were present the following members of the Board: R. W. Emerson, Chairman; M. Coll, George E. Day, Thomas Nagle, E. H. Ingraham, H. Coby Smith, G. Horner Green and Dr. Bridges, Superintendent of City Schools.

Representing the South End Improvement League, a delegation composed of the following members: A. M. Belding, Commissioner; Fisher, C. M. Lingley, John M. Westmore, Albert Ellis, Thomas King, H. A. Cady, Rev. J. A. McKeown, Rev. George Scott, Rev. George Morris, Alex. Wilson. There were also present a delegation of the Principals of the city schools, headed by W. J. S. Myles, with the following members, Principals Brown, Harrington, Owens, Stives, Shea, McDiarmid, Ricker, Cormier and Nelson.

A. M. Belding said it seemed to be a case where the School Board were asked to act as judge and jury between the superintendent and teachers on the one hand and the people of St. John. He would rather feel all the teachers were in harmony with the welfare work carried on and was sure it was only a matter of time before the South End Improvement League had last year been granted the use of the Assembly Hall in the King Edward School. They had established a playground and this winter a rink, where from 100 to 200 people skated. They planned to enlarge the playground this summer, hoping to have a swimming pool and gradually to do other community welfare work. There was an available hall, and though church halls would be granted to them they were not so satisfactory to work in. Mr. Belding said he understood that the Assembly Hall was used only once in the last six months, and only twice last year. He felt that a campaign had been undertaken by some against this movement as the Trades and Labor Council had received an anonymous letter asking them to take action against the plans. No notice was taken by the Council as one plank of their platform was the use of municipal buildings by the public.

Objected to the use of the Assembly Hall was the use of the lavatories and the danger of the spread of disease, but all that would be necessary to do would be to lock up the lavatories and classrooms. If necessary the League would pay two policemen to stand and see that all had a safe conduct to the hall upstairs. The janitor is paid \$2 each night. The speaker stated that most of those present had boys of their own and would not expose them to danger. He was sure that if the boys from the school who used the building and he thought that it was better to improve such boys at once.

In regard to vaccination Mr. Belding asked if every pupil in the night school was vaccinated, and on being told by Mr. Cormier that such was the case, asked if it was possible to present him to show vaccination certificates. He showed a book giving lists of places in the United States where the Community Centres had been successful and spoke of every school in Montreal and Halifax being used for public meetings.

Mr. Belding spoke of John Bradshaw now of Montreal, and his work in Amherst. He asked the Board to meet on Wednesday night with the League and Dr. Roberts, Dr. Melvin of the

RECIPE TO CLEAR A PIMPLY SKIN

Pimples are Impurities Seeking an Outlet Through Skin Pores.

Pimples, sores and boils usually result from toxins, poisons and impurities which are generated in the bowels and then absorbed into the blood through the very ducts which should absorb only nourishment to sustain the body. It is the function of the kidneys to filter impurities from the blood and cast them out in the form of urine, but in many instances the bowels create more toxins and impurities than the kidneys can eliminate, then the blood uses the skin pores as the next best means of getting rid of these impurities which often break out all over the skin in the form of pimples.

The surest way to clear the skin of these eruptions, says a noted authority, is to get from any pharmacy about four ounces of Jad Salts and take a tablespoonful in a glass of hot water each morning before breakfast for one week. This will prevent the formation of toxins in the bowels. It also stimulates the kidneys to normal activity, thus coaxing them to filter the blood of impurities and cleaning the skin of pimples. Jad Salts is inexpensive, harmless and is made from the acid of grapes and lemon juice, combined with lithia. Here you have a pleasant, effervescent drink which usually makes pimples disappear; cleanses the blood and is excellent for the kidneys.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE MEETING AT STONE CHURCH YESTERDAY

Senate Turns Down the Resolutions for Resubmission of the Amendment.

Washington, Feb. 10.—Woman suffrage, by federal constitutional amendments, was beaten again today in the Senate.

The House resolution for submission of the amendment failed of adoption, with fifty-five votes in favor of it and twenty-nine against, one less than the necessary two-thirds. This ended what leading suffrage champions had said in advance would be the final test of this session of Congress. The suffrage advocates went into the test knowing that they lacked one vote, but hoping to the last that it would be won over.

Mr. Belding said that he had studied the matter carefully and felt that if the School Board opened the buildings they would be making a serious mistake. He was strongly in favor of helping the fallen brother, but was opposed to using the school building as a social centre. He thought the work could be carried on in some church hall or a building erected for the purpose. As superintendent of the King Edward School since 1912 he and the ten teachers in charge had tried to keep the building as it should be kept, and he was speaking for the staff when he put up a strong objection to this use. Mr. Cormier then read a letter signed by all the teachers at the King Edward School, stating that they were not in favor of the use of the schools as a social centre.

Mr. Cormier told of boy smoking and throwing matches about after one meeting two handfuls of half-burnt matches had been collected from all over the building from the assembly hall to the basement. Chairs had been left against the radiators and the danger of fire was pointed out. At a large meeting two weeks ago the noise had been something frightful, and while he was engaged in teaching, the night school he heard a constant passing up and down both stairways to the basement. He knew there would be damage to the school furnishings. At a time when the General Public Hospital was closed to visitors strangers should not be taken to school buildings. Mr. Cormier replied that the care exercised by the teachers with the aid of the medical inspector and the nurse.

Asked by a member of the Board if the meetings interfered with the Night School, Mr. Cormier answered that it would practically mean the closing of the school buildings to the scholars did not attend the movies and if on their return to school they were examining contagious diseases. Mr. Cormier replied that the pupils were looked over carefully two or three times a day. W. J. S. Myles related the experience of the High School teachers when four years ago the use of the Assembly Hall was granted to welfare work among girls. Words which were not of the most decorous nature had been written on the blackboard. Books were defaced and the teachers' belongings pilfered. A clock was stolen, and the janitor complained of noise. A great many public meetings had been held in the Assembly Hall with no cause for complaint, but the teachers were opposed as a unit to such community work.

Principal Nelson, of the United States School, had had no experience with social centres in that school, but could readily see what would happen. For teachers of Albert School were opposed. A. M. Belding here made objection to the expression "Our school, my building," as used by several of the teachers. The schools belonged to the city, he said. He stated that Dr. Carter, superintendent of education, was an advocate of schools for community work.

Dr. Bridges said that he was strongly interested in raising the standard in the city but he was not in favor of the use of school buildings in this way. The whole city was full of influenza, there were cases of smallpox, and the assembly halls should be closed. He had been told that the night school at Amherst had never been closed since the United States and his firm conviction that it was not in the best interests of the schools to thus open the buildings. Dr. Pearson of Philadelphia had advised him strongly against it. Dr. Bridges said that he had been teaching for nearly fifty years and he felt his opinion should stand against Dr. Carter's. He was in favor of night schools and vacation schools, but he urged the board not to authorize the use of the schools for community work as yet.

Principal Nelson, of Winter Street School told of his experience with

the matter of a supervisor and report later. Mr. Day spoke of the Albert School and this was referred to the building committee, with power to act. Capt. Gale was granted leave of absence and half pay till the end of June.

Mrs. Welsh, a caretaker for twenty years, was given salary for three months. The matter of the janitors' salaries was left till the next meeting. Commissioner Fisher, who was present, spoke a few words, and on motion it was decided to adjourn till next Monday.

BRINGING UP FATHER.



HOW BELGIANS SUFFERED AT THE HANDS OF GERMANS

P. A. N. Verbeke, Brussels' Business Man, Tells of Conditions in His Country During the War—Huns Were Cruel and Seized Food Sent by American Relief Committee—Huns Turn Machine Gun on Tram Car.

An interesting visitor arrived in the city yesterday on the train, in the person of P. A. N. Verbeke, a business man of Brussels, Belgium, who was in that city at the time of the German occupation and is able to tell of first hand something of the hardships suffered by the inhabitants inflicted on them in the name of German "hunger."

All that has been told about German cruelty is true, in fact the whole truth has never been told," said Mr. Verbeke, "and although I have never seen any cases of child mutilation, I know it has been practiced by the Hun. While none of my immediate relatives were mistreated by the invaders, my brother-in-law, who was accused of spying sent two years and three months in prison. I was on the black list and my home was visited at frequent intervals and searched by Germans in an effort to find treasonable correspondence.

He said the Germans seized everything in the way of foodstuffs they could lay their hands on and not only that but took at least half of the food sent over by the American relief committee, which they had pledged themselves not to touch, this once more showing how they regarded any promise made, when it suited their convenience to break it. During the war butter sold in Brussels at 36 shillings a pound; potatoes 2 shillings a pound; bread 12 shillings a pound and beans 7 shillings a pound. Last December eggs sold at half a crown each and clothing and other necessities were priced in proportion.

During the occupation the Huns had a playful habit of calling on business men and demanding money. If the proprietor of the establishment visited

ed did not at once comply with the demands, or if the total sum on hand was not sufficient to satisfy the greed of the visitors in many cases the man was shot dead or if not killed was given good cause to remember his callers.

Mr. Verbeke told of one incident which happened since the armistice. He was in a tram car, going to his place of business, and on arrival at the north station a machine gun was turned on the tram by some German soldiers. The passengers all lay down on the floor of the car and escaped injury with the exception of one who incautiously raised his head and was killed. This was done out of mere devilishness and to terrorize the people.

He leaves tonight for Boston and will later visit other American cities to interest the manufacturers of printing machinery and supplies in export business with Belgium. Before the war practically all his business was done in Germany, but now the Belgians wanted to do business with the Allied nations, and it was his mission to interest manufacturers on this side of the water in shipping goods to them. Machinery of all kinds was badly needed as the Germans had stripped the country bare and there was a promising field for those manufacturers who cared to cater to the trade.

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On Tuesday, February 11th, a reopening service will be held in the old Riverbank church at 7:45 p. m. Some of the ministers expected are the Rev. Mr. VanWart and Rev. Mr. Cameron; of Norton; Rev. Mr. Shanklin, of Belleisle; Rev. Mr. Shewan, of St. Alex, and Rev. Mr. Young, of Millstream.

The repairing of this old church is of great credit to all those taking part in it, but no more than their duty, as in years gone by it was one of the greatest churches of its day. Therefore we all feel it our duty to help as much as we possibly can.

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