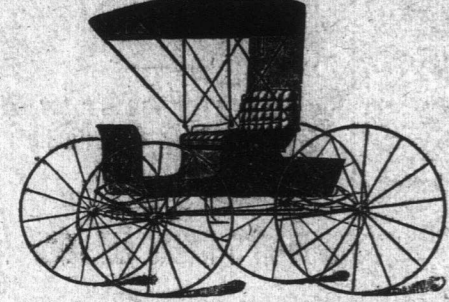


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SCHOOL BOARD FIRM ON CHINESE QUESTION

Recently Arrived Students Will Not Be Admitted to Classes

(From Thursday's Daily)

The action of the board of school trustees in refusing permits to a number of Chinese boys who are desirous of attending the public schools on the ground that they are unable to speak English and are not amenable to the school discipline and cannot take the usual school courses of study, will in all likelihood lead to court proceedings.

The Chinese applicants for permits do not, apparently, intend to submit to the ruling of the board without first exhausting every means to gain their desire. They have engaged counsel in the person of Hon. Fred. Peters, K. C., of the firm of Peters & Wilson, barristers-at-law, and at last night's meeting of the school board a letter from Mr. Peters setting forth the claims of his clients was read while Mr. Peters was present in person to press their request for admission. After hearing the arguments put forth by Mr. Peters on behalf of the Chinese it took but a brief discussion by the members of the board to arrive at the determination to stand by the recent action of the board until such time as it was shown that the board's stand was not justified.

Mr. Peters' letter in which he hints that unless his clients are given consideration by the board, the aid of the courts will be invoked, was as follows:

Dear Sir—I am instructed in the interest of several Chinese boys who have lately arrived in Victoria to write to you pressing for their admission in the public schools in Victoria.

As I understand the position of affairs is as follows: There are, I believe, about fifteen children lately arrived from China who have made application for permits to attend the primary schools. These permits have been refused, and an order of the board passed, I believe in Friday, to the effect that no child shall be permitted to attend the primary school who does not know enough English to be able to understand the proceedings in the school and be amenable to school discipline.

I understand from you personally that if these children choose to attend private schools, and thus acquire a knowledge of English, there will perhaps be no difficulty in their getting permits to attend the public schools—say, at the beginning of the next year. You will remember that on the 7th August last, I had an interview with you, at which it was arranged that before the board passed finally on the matter I should be allowed an opportunity of presenting the views of my clients to them. You will also remember that owing to the meeting at which the resolutions were passed being called hurriedly, was not afforded the opportunity promised.

I also understand from you that permits have been granted to all Chinese applicants who were in Victoria before the 1st of April last, and if this is correct, which I do not doubt, the question immediately at issue will be confined entirely to the children who have arrived here since the 1st April. The question raised is one of principle, and my clients now wish to present their case, with a view if necessary, of taking legal steps to enforce what they believe to be their rights.

I want to contend that under our school law, all children of school age, resident in British Columbia, have an absolute right to be educated at the public schools.

2. That this right is the same, whether the children are English, French, German, Chinese, or any other nationality.

3. That the fact that the Chinese children cannot speak English is no reason for their exclusion. Many such children have heretofore been admitted and experience has shown that in a very short time they become well able to follow the class work.

4. If there are too many children unable to speak English to be conveniently admitted to the general primary class, the school board is bound to supply such children with a separate room and teacher. This course has in the past been followed by the board.

5. The Chinese in Victoria pay a large amount of school tax and it is submitted on every principle of fair play they are entitled to receive the same benefits as other taxpayers.

6. If a similar number of French Canadian children unable to speak English, and there are many such in Canada, should apply for admission on the ground that they cannot speak English? We venture to say no such matter absolutely between the individual child and the government, to be decided when the application is made, if it ever should be made, and that right to be educated is precisely the same whether the student intends in the future to be a laborer or a professional man, or a merchant. The question simply is not within the jurisdiction of the school board.

I sincerely hope some solution of this question may be arrived at, but I am bound to inform you that my instructions are positive to take legal steps to enforce our clients' rights, and that quickly, as the term is slipping away quickly.

Our contention is that the board should at once appoint a teacher to teach the primary Chinese class, or failing that admit them to the general class.

In addressing the board on behalf of his clients, Mr. Peters said that the newspapers had spread abroad the idea that the Chinese boys had come here with the idea of attending school for a sufficient period to allow of their getting a rebate of the \$500 entry fee. He understood that only fifteen boys had made application for permits, and he knew that as to several of these he thought, the question of rebate does not enter into the matter, as they did not have to pay the fee, having come to Canada as sons of merchants. As to the balance he understood that they were all of a superior class. He knew that some years ago about forty Chinese boys came into the province and the majority of them did not attend school for a sufficient period to allow of their getting a rebate of the \$500 entry fee. In the present case he was instructed by his clients to state that this means of getting back the \$500 entry means was not entertained. That Dominion boys object in wishing to attend the schools was to become proficient in English studies.

But even such were the case, Mr. Peters contended, it was a matter concerning which the school trustees had no say, that phase of the question not entertained by the Dominion government, and to a limited extent the provincial government. The duty of the board was not to decide what was the proper construction, and the statutes, of the word "student," but to give instruction to all boys of school age who applied. He thought the Chinese of Victoria paid their fair share of school taxes and paid them regularly. The Chinese boys were absolutely entitled to be educated at the public expense. He had talked

the matter over with Superintendent Eaton, who had admitted that two or three Chinese students in one class, who were unable to speak English, would not make any difference in the conduct of the school work, but that fifteen would so handicap the teaching as to be a decided detriment to the other students.

But Mr. Peters insisted that on strictly legal grounds the Chinese boys have a right to be educated, and while it was no doubt true that the fact that they are unable to speak English was a drawback, yet they were very quick and would soon master sufficient English to allow of their following their studies. He submitted that the board should reconsider its resolution. His advice to his clients had been to keep away from litigation and to appeal to the board's spirit of fairness. Mr. Peters understood that a rule had been passed by the board that Chinese boys who were here prior to April were allowed to attend school, although some of them could not speak English. Chairman Jay concurred with Mr. Peters. Those boys had taken private instruction and obtained a sufficient knowledge of English to get on at school. That was what the latest applicants should do.

Mr. Peters suggested that by spreading the Chinese students among the various schools they would not interfere with the school work, or else the board could appoint a special teacher as had been done on a previous occasion. All the Chinese boys had either parents or relatives in the province. He thought that the resolution of the board barring out his clients had the effect of doing indirectly what the board did not have the power to do directly.

As to the question of the Chinese getting back the head tax after having attended school for a year, Mr. Jay admitted that it had no jurisdiction, but the board was interested in seeing that the uses of the schools were not abused just in order that the Chinese boys could get back the money. He would like an assurance from Mr. Peters that the Chinese boys would continue their studies.

"Why should you be given that assurance?" asked Mr. Peters, who claimed that his clients could go to school for as long or short a period as they desired. He declared that he did not come before the meeting with any idea of breaching proceedings in the courts and did not wish to see his clients put to that extremity, but he made it quite clear that if no satisfaction was forthcoming the matter would surely be carried to law.

After Mr. Peters had retired the board briefly discussed the matter. Trustee Lewis declared that the Chinese boys were coming in by increasing numbers and merely use the school as a means of getting back the head tax paid.

"This Oriental influx is daily growing more serious and must be dealt. We must keep them out!" He moved that the board maintain its stand.

Trustee Huggett asked who would bear the expense of instruction should the Chinese attend classes other than school classes until the end of the term as had been suggested they should. Would the cost of this instruction be paid by their parents or relatives, would the school board foot the bill? Had the board any right to assume that the Chinese would only attend school for a year in order to get back the head tax? He thought it might just be possible that the board had exceeded its powers. He moved that a class for Chinese boys be organized and a teacher engaged to take charge until the end of the term, when the boys would have sufficient knowledge of English to allow of their attending school after Christmas, and in the meantime that such steps be taken as would permit of the board arranging a solution of the whole question. He thought that perhaps his resolution would prove unpopular, but he did not care.

Trustee Lewis declared that the board should sit on its guns and if the matter was into the courts let the better. They would then know where they stood.

"If the Chinese have rights, let them go and get them. These boys are only the advance guard of a large number of Chinese who will come here and compete in the labor market. The board must stick together and if it does not, the agitation will ultimately get satisfaction."

Trustee Huggett advised caution. The vote on the motion of Trustee Lewis resulted in its being carried.

E. B. Faul, M. A., principal of the High school, had reported to Superintendent Eaton that more teachers were required at the High school and complained of the congested condition of some of the classes which had so increased in numbers that the condition of another class was imperative. The superintendent was authorized to advertise for two additional teachers.

The resignation of Miss Pope, teacher at the North Ward school, was received. Mr. Robson, late principal of the Vernon school, was engaged to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Miss Pope at a salary of \$840 a year. Mr. Perry's resignation will be considered at a meeting of the board to be held next week, when the tenders for the new Victoria West school will also be dealt with.

Superintendent Eaton suggested that one very important piece of work should be taken up by the board at an early date, and that of preparing a scale of salaries. The whole question of salaries would have to be gone into and it would take a considerable time and involve a large amount of labor, and he thought the board should get to work on it right away. Accounts to the amount of \$872.98 were passed, as was also a grant of \$50 to Ian St. Clair, physical instructor, for summer work done.

ST. CATHARINES POLICE.

Country Judge Declares That Force is Good for Nothing.

St. Catharines, Sept. 11.—The police commissioners yesterday discharged P. C. Loosmore for being intoxicated while on duty Sunday, and County Judge Carman took occasion to remark that "the whole police force is a disgrace to the city and should be reorganized."

The judge declared, "it is not the only one; the whole force is demoralized, and while once a month you may run into a constable in the business of the city, you will find him in the outskirts. The city pays enough salary to get good protection, but does not get it. I am sick of the whole thing and want the people to know what I think and feel. However, I will soon be done with the city, and I shall be glad of it."

Wm. Coff, formerly a motorman on the H. G. and B. railway, was appointed constable at the Dominion Hotel. Riddell and Police Magistrate Comfort, the judge opposing it, as he thought the commissioners should advertise.

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Our Fall Stock of Dress Goods is Now Quite Complete

WE ARE NOW READY with all that's new in Dress Goods for Fall, showing very attractive, handsome fabrics, just the materials you want for Nobby Suits and Separate Skirts, embracing all the most fashionable colorings, in new greys, blues, greens, etc., in various handsome combination effects.

- COLORED POPLIN, fine wool, very durable for tailored costumes, shirtwaist suits or separate skirts, 40 inches wide. Per yard\$0.60
- BLACK PANAMA, all wool, fine canvas weave, exceptionally fine quality, 54 inches wide. Per yard\$1.25
- PANAMA TWEEDS, fine weave, dark and medium colorings, in stripe and check effects, the latest for tailored costumes, coats, etc., 54 inches wide. Per yard\$1.00
- TWEED COATINGS, light and dark tweed effects in stripes, checks and fancy mixtures, 54 inches wide. Per yard\$1.75
- CREAM COATING-SERGE, English manufacture, fine weave, specially adapted for suits, coats, etc., 54 inches wide. Per yard\$1.25
- BLACK FRENCH VENTILAN PURE WOOL, an exceptionally fine quality, mirror finish, will make up handsome tailored suits, 52 inches wide. Per yard\$1.50
- BLACK CHIFFON BROADCLOTH, finest quality wool, smooth silky finish, ideal material for tailored suits, 54 inches wide. Per yard\$2.00
- BLACK POPLIN PURE WOOL, corded weave, dull silk finish, good wearing fabric, 44 inches wide. Per yard\$1.00

Superb Showing of Ladies' Fall Coats

ON the second floor will be found a superb collection of Ladies' Fall Coats fresh from the hands of designers of world wide reputation, styles embodying to the minutest detail the most recent ideas. Come now and choose from this early showing with every assurance of correctness.

- LADIES' DOUBLE-BREASTED COAT, dark striped tweed, 60 inches long, loose back with wide bias cut, stitched, self straps, patch pockets, collar and cuffs of contrasting shade of velvet, trimmed with plain cloth strappings to match, yoke and sleeves mercerized lined. Price\$20.00
- LADIES' SEVEN-EIGHTH LENGTH BOX BACK COAT, single-breasted, fastened with braid and fancy buttons, wide self collar and cuffs, stitched and finished with fancy braid and velvet buttons, pointed shoulder cape giving the new "wide effect," colors: fawn, brown, blue and green. Price\$25.00

Attractive Styles in Misses' Fall Coats

- MISSSES' DOUBLE-BREASTED LOOSE FITTING BROWN TWEED COAT, wide, self traps, buckle trimmed, forming "Gibson" shoulder. Sleeves and collar trimmed with straps and buttons, and inlaid with velvet, yoke mercerized lined. Price\$15.00
- MISSSES' DOUBLE-BREASTED DARK STRIPED TWEED COAT, loose back, self straps, button trimmed, two deep side vents, velvet collar, self cuffs and patch pockets, yoke mercerized lined. Price\$12.50

Free Lessons in Art Needlework

IN THE FANCY WORK DEPARTMENT on the days mentioned below we are giving free lessons in ART NEEDLEWORK, teaching all the beautiful stitches in all the newest embroidery styles and cordially invite you to take advantage of this offer:

LADIES' CLASSES—TUESDAY AFTERNOON.
CHILDREN'S CLASSES—SATURDAY MORNING.

EXQUISITE STYLES IN FALL MILLINERY

This Week a Gala Occasion in the Millinery Department

THERE'S so much to be said regarding this superb showing of Fall Millinery that we hardly know where to begin, as there's such a wealth of style as to seem almost limitless in variety—styles that have fashion's highest endorsement—millinery that will appeal irresistibly to all.

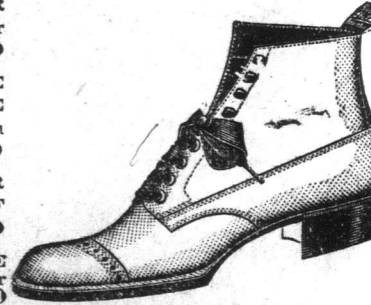
The world famous French artists and the scarcely less renowned New York designers are represented in this grand collection by the most fetching and stunning creations.

Despite the rain yesterday, a large number of ladies took advantage of the second day opening and it is needless to say that many complimentary remarks were passed at the loveliness of the display which is to be seen in this department. It is well worth your while of making a special trip down town and pay us a visit. We will only be too delighted to show you the many popular styles for the season.



Interesting Price List of Men and Women's Nobby Fall Footwear

- WOMEN'S BOX CALF LACE BOOT, heavy sole, military heel. Per pair\$2.50
- WOMEN'S BOX CALF LACE BOOT, welt sole, calfskin lined, military heel, splendid winter Boot. Per pair\$4.25
- WOMEN'S VELOUR CALF LACE BOOT, welt sole, military heel. Per pair\$3.00
- WOMEN'S (Edwin C. Burt, makers, New York) CORDOVAN BLUCHER LACE BOOT, welt sole, medium sole. Per pair\$6.00
- WOMEN'S OIL PEBBLE LACE BOOTS, standard screw bottoms. Per pair\$1.75
- WOMEN'S (Burt maker) RUSSIA CALF BLUCHER LACE BOOT, welt sole. Per pair\$6.00
- WOMEN'S CALF LACE BOOT, medium sole, low heel. Per pair\$2.50
- MEN'S TAN ENGLISH CHROME WATERPROOF CALF, double soles from toe to heel. Per pair\$7
- MEN'S OIL GRAIN LOGGER BOOT, ten inch leg. Per pair\$4.00
- MEN'S ENGLISH MADE WORKING MAN'S LACE BOOT, steel nails in sole, iron plate on heel. Per pair \$3.00
- MEN'S ENGLISH WATERPROOF CHROMO CALF LACE BOOT. Per pair \$6.50
- MEN'S STANDARD MADE LACE BOOT, heavy sole. Per pair\$2.50
- MEN'S BOX CALF LACE BOOTS, welt sole. Per pair\$4.00
- MEN'S CHROME CALF LACE BOOT, 10 inch leg. Per pair\$4.50
- MEN'S FIGSKIN LEGGINGS. Per pair\$3.50



DAVID SPENCER, LTD.

DIRT IN ONTARIO CANNERIES.

Toronto, Sept. 11.—Condemnation of existing conditions in Ontario canning factories forms an important feature of the report of Dr. C. A. Hogg, of the provincial board of health. At some of the canneries the employees are housed on the premises, and it is against these housing arrangements that the attacks are mainly directed. It is claimed that the bedding was far from clean, and in fact many stables were in a more cleanly condition. The accommodation, says Dr. Hogg, was not up to that of the cheap lodging houses. It was said by some employers that the employees were housed better than in their own homes, but this Dr. Hogg declares is no excuse for the conditions as found. It was particularly noticeable that the class of employees increased in ratio to the improved conditions of environment. The factory in which the best class of accommodation was found had by far the better and cleaner lot of employees.

PEACE CONFERENCE

Preparing for Plenary Sitting—Italy and Argentine Arbitrate

The Hague, Sept. 11.—It is not probable that anything important will transpire at the peace conference until next week. This is indicated by the departure for a few days of the Hague of M. Bourgeois and Baron Marschall von Bieberstein, two of the most important figures at the conference. In the meantime the examining committees will continue the work of preparing the projects to be submitted at the plenary sittings.

The Italian and Argentine delegations here have been empowered by their respective governments to conclude an arbitration treaty, which will be signed with great solemnity in the Hall of Knights. The two countries selected Queen Wilhelmina as their arbitrator on the interpretation of the wording of the treaty, in case of a divergence of opinion, and her majesty willingly accepted the task.

Killed by Explosion

Vancouver, B. C., Sept. 11.—Geo. T. Taylor, a logger, who had been in the employ of the Vancouver Timber & Trading company near Lake Buntzen, on the North Arm of the Inlet, is dead as the result of the explosion of a cartridge which he was examining. His right hand was completely blown off. He was also injured internally. He died in St. Paul's hospital Monday.

No Trouble in Royal City

New Westminster, Sept. 11.—No trouble has been experienced in this city in regard to the anti-Asiatic agitation, and everything is quiet, with no signs of outbreaks anywhere.

Chief of Police McIntosh searched many Chinamen last night, but found no firearms on them, so it is believed that they are keeping them in their houses until they may be attacked.

Fell From Pile-driver

Nicola, Sept. 11.—An employee on the C. F. R. pile-driver near Merritt near Geo. Ad's, fell from the machine a distance of about thirty feet, on Friday. The work train came to Nicola at once for Dr. Tutthill, who attended the injured man. It was found that his left arm was broken, his shoulder dislocated, and that he had a few body bruises. He was brought to Nicola yesterday morning, and is under the care of the doctor at the residence.

Indian Chief Dead

Vernon, Sept. 11.—Edward Chinook, chief of the Okanagan Indians, died at the Head of the Lake reserve on Friday. The aged Indian, who was eighty years old, had been chief for five years, having succeeded Chief Louis. He was of the Indians' old school, so to speak, and he had a long line of chiefs. He had fine-looking, thoughtful old eyes, with long white locks. He had much to the Indian ways of thought, but treated his tribe and his people honorably and well.

The school of experience has taken up the on its good