

Timely Topics.

(By Tim. Wise.)

THE VANCOUVER HIGH SCHOOL ENQUIRY.

The political division on the Vancouver School Board is no secret, but when the matter of enquiring into the situation at the King Edward School came up a compromise was made in the appointment of Dr. Mackay and Principal Vance as investigators. Confronted by a very difficult task, the commissioners wisely decided to discard such material as had been furnished by the School Board and conducted the investigation independently. Their report and subsequent discussion of the conditions they found at the school in question show that they endeavored to deal fairly with all parties concerned, but after all the report seems to have had a confusing effect on the public. Evidently the investigators found a curious state of affairs not only at the High School, but in the whole system. While they found many things to condemn, it appears to have been a difficult task to apportion the blame. The Municipal Inspector shares most of the blame with the principal of the school. A lot of the trouble was evidently due to a lack of understanding as to the powers of the Inspector, and one gets the impression that the principal was handicapped by undue interference. It is interesting to note that the pupils have not let that part of the report which concerns them pass without protest. It seems strange that little has been heard from the Parent Teachers Association.

It would seem that the principal of the school has not had a fair chance, and it may certainly be said in all fairness, that the Inspector is burdened with work which might well be left to the care of others.

The public would like to have the matter cleared up and it seems possible to do so satisfactorily without finding a scapegoat, but simply by adjusting conditions and rightly apportioning authority.

There is one part of the report which cannot be overlooked. If it be the case, as alleged in the report, that trustees have turned their public positions to private advantage, such conduct would justify all that the Commissioners said about it. To overlook action of that kind would be to tolerate the degradation of public office. It is hard enough already to induce men of the right type to enter the field of civic, social or political service, and any conduct which lowers the dignity of public office and reflects on the integrity of servants of the community or State deserves the widest publicity which in itself is the severest form of condemnation.

While on the subject of schools it might be opportune to point out that the folly of splitting up Greater Vancouver into municipalities has multiplied school systems to the disadvantage of all concerned. Some time there will be an amalgamation of these sections and a reorganization of the school system in Vancouver and district. It ought to come quickly.

THE BOLSHEVIKI.

The visionaries who thought to match their wits against the armed strength of Germany have been completely disillusioned. At the same time it is difficult to understand why the press has wasted so much ink over the question of Bolsheviki motives. Surely it is possible to reject the theories of the Bolsheviki without coming to the conclusion that its leaders and rank and file are agents of Germany.