

## Educational Problems of the City Discussed

Need of Collegiate and Public School Emphasized at Meeting Last Night—Views of Those Opposed to Plan—Resolution Adopted Favoring Board's Proposal.

To hear the educational problems of the city discussed, particularly with reference to the proposed Coleman ward school and collegiate and industrial school, a fairly large crowd assembled in the city hall last evening. Among the one hundred and fifty who were the following—the board of education, city council, chamber of commerce, teachers, ministers, and citizens in general.

**F. S. Deacon Emphasizes Need.**  
Mr. F. S. Deacon, ex-chairman of the Board of Education occupied the chair. He emphasized the need of a public school in Coleman ward and a collegiate and technical high school. The consensus of the best opinion in the city was desired on these needs. Mr. Deacon pointed out the extension of the school age from 14 to 16 years, this meaning the providing of extra accommodation. The high school enrollment is 328, with night classes the attendance at the night school enrollment is about 550. The neighboring towns have better schools than Belleville high school. Every inspector visiting the B.H.S. has inquired of the board what was being done regarding the building of a new school.

There would be a large grant from the Federal Government for the technical branch of the new institution. The department at Toronto will pay 50 per cent of the cost of the building and equipment for technical education, 75 per cent of the expenditures on salaries up to \$2,000; 66 2-3 per cent of salaries from \$2,000 to \$5,000 and 50 per cent up to \$10,000. Many misstatements had been made in letters appearing in the press. One statement was that more of the taxes was spent for education than for all other purposes. Mr. Deacon quoted figures to show what percentage of the total tax rate was for education—Year 1915, 22 per cent; 1916, 20 per cent; 1917, 21 per cent; 1918, 20 per cent; 1919, 23 per cent. The average cost of day school (high) pupils is about \$70. In Kitchener it is \$112 per pupil. We are running our high school too cheap.

The money for the new collegiate would not be required this year, as months of time would have to be taken up with adopting plans. Toronto's technical school has an enrollment of 10,000 since September and means much for the growth of that city.

**Present School Antiquated Says Principal.**

Principal P. C. MacLaurin of the Belleville High School dealt with the present high school building. The total registration of the high school (day) is 325 and (night) 283 or a total of 608. About 10 years ago the attendance was only about 200. The end is not yet. At least 400 will be added to the present 608 or a total of about 1000 in the next year or two. The present high school is obsolete. It is inadequate for industrial, technical, commercial, agricultural or collegiate work—defective in lighting, heating, ventilation and humidity. During December, January and February the temperature is a little above 40 degrees. Wind blows through the windows. The lighting is poor. It is lighted artificially at a heavy expense. The ventilation is absolutely nil. The building is cold and poorly ventilated. The present high school building is detrimental to the physical and mental development of the students. Students cannot become used to the antiquated high school after coming through excellent public schools. With the present building the city is losing \$1,100 in grants. The present grants will likely be lost \$1,357.88, a total of \$2,457.88. The department will grant between \$75,000 and \$100,000 towards the technical school. There is a patriotism of peace as well as of war.

The arguments against the new school are: (a) indifference; (b) expenditure; (c) taxation; (d) delay. France recognizes the value of the children to the state and the duty of the wealthy to support education. By delaying the building of the schools Belleville has lost \$100,000. Delay today means incalculable harm

to the children and heavier burdens on the future. There is no use of talk of a "bigger and better Belleville" if we do not try to keep the young people in the city. More important than the bay bridge, pavements or housing is the matter of the physical and mental welfare of the young and the keeping of them in the city where their heart is.

**Chairman McGie Urges Action.**

Chairman Arthur McGie of the Board of Education declared the public almost unanimously favored the Coleman ward public school. That is also the view of the Board of Education. As soon as the council gives consent if it sees fit, the board will at once take steps to build it.

There is much misunderstanding about the collegiate, some say there is no need of it, that Albert College will take care of the secondary students. Albert College has its own work to do. It will not take the place of the collegiate. The public has no control over Albert College. Others say things must be cheaper. The board had asked \$65,000 for three public schools. The council referred it to the people who turned it down. Two years later the board asked over \$100,000 for two schools and the council granted it. Later \$55,000 was voted by the council for Queen Mary School.

Belleville's high school is inadequate and obsolete.

The board will not be in a position to ask the council to issue debentures for the collegiate until 1921. The agricultural and technical branches are demanded by the department and it will take a long amount of work until the plans are ready.

The board has guaranteed to the department the building of the new collegiate two years after the war.

He hoped when the board made its request to the city council it would acquiesce in the resolution.

**Growth in Attendance.**

Mr. W. R. McCreary pointed out the growth in school attendance and the probable growth at Easter and September.

The seating capacity of the public schools is 1,465 and the January registration was 1,448. The number of pupils per teacher is 43. Practically every seat is occupied. Queen Victoria School is using the assembly room as a class room in contrast to the regulations. After Easter 1919 there were 105 children admitted for the first time and in September 157 or a total of 262. There are 100 eligible for entrance of whom 90 will likely pass. This leaves a net of 12 for which accommodation must be found this year as the Easter and September admissions for 1920 will likely equal those of 1919 because of industrial development.

Mr. F. S. Deacon said Belleville's debenture debt was \$1,062,967. The assessment is \$5,620,000, the expenditures are \$1,775,000, making a total of \$3,845,000. Our municipal assets total \$1,870,569. The city is valued at nearly its value would have assets worth \$13,000,000 to \$15,000,000. The school tax in Belleville is 11.2 mills, in Niagara Falls 10.2 mills; in Owen Sound 12.5 mills; in Brockville 21.2 mills; in Ottawa 12.7 mills; in Pembroke 10 mills.

Mr. D. V. Sinclair said the letters appearing against the schools were about the same as those used over 10 years ago. It was too bad that Mr. Flint was not in the city. Belleville owes it to its boys and girls to give them educational advantages. No one dare to rise up and challenge a statement made or a figure quoted at the meeting.

The new schools will equip the city for 50 years to come.

The city wished Albert College all success. The city also wanted to see a collegiate built for the advantage of every boy and girl in the city.

**Mr. Elliott's Views.**

Mr. John Elliott declared Belleville wanted to sound on its educational system. We are not worse off than other cities. Belleville is much more able to pay than it was six years ago. The influx of population

will help pay these taxes. It is not a good time to sell debentures. The board is not going to ask for any great amount this year.

"There is no thought of building a collegiate this year, perhaps not next year. Let us ask the council to build a new school in Coleman ward. We want to build up this city on the basis of stability."

This year he hoped to see a public school in Coleman ward and in due time a collegiate of the most up-to-date type.

**Secretary Fredericks Speaks.**

Mr. Ernest P. Fredericks, secretary-manager of the Belleville Chamber of Commerce said that the industrial growth of the city depended mainly on its schools. With proper schools, Belleville would always be a step ahead.

**Mayor Would Like Collegiate Postponed.**

Mayor Riggs declared that the board would hear from the council in the right direction. Personally he favored the scheme of the board. He would like to see the collegiate postponed a little longer on account of the high cost of materials, but that did not seem likely. He was not sure whether the matter of the collegiate should be dealt with this year by the council.

**Knockers' Views Rectified.**

Col. W. N. Ponton, K.C., said there must be no stampede. He had consulted every member of the city council and he did not believe that the city council would deal with the bylaws unless they went to the public. He felt the bylaws would be defeated. There was a danger of exaggerating and defying bricks and mortar. The older men had come through the old schools. Of course the high school had been criticized. If that same intensity and pride and energy and eloquence were put into houses, the school problem would be solved. He thought "we were jumping over the real essential."

**Toronto Goes Cautiously on Expenditure.**

Leading men in Toronto—Williams, Eaton—said that even housing could not go on in Toronto this year on account of the excessive demands of labor and cost of materials.

In Rhode Island, the great industrial centre, which he had just visited, men felt that a change would come. These men in Toronto who wish not to be stampeded say "we ought to await developments."

**Time the Essential Point.**

He did not believe a hundred votes would be cast against the Coleman ward bylaw. The present government is a public school government. It might be possible to utilize old Albert College as a technical school. This would be helping on Albert College. Give Albert its opportunity to complete itself and then the collegiate.

By building a school for the children of the Grand Trunk employees we secured the greatest industry Belleville has—the G.T.R.

"We must be sensible optimists. The only element about the collegiate is time. The public school and collegiate should not be united in the bylaw for then the public school proposal would be defeated."

**Asks Immediate Vote of People.**

The public should be asked to speak upon it not at New Year's but next month.

Principal MacLaurin urged the public not to listen to the above arguments and those in the press against the proposal.

"I'm going to fight for the Collegiate and stand up for the working man's school."

Why put the bylaws to the people? Let the council deal with it, and then deal with the council.

Col. Ponton declared he was in favor of the collegiate but he faced facts. He knew how the public felt regarding the collegiate.

"Mr. MacLaurin seems to be afraid of the people but I am not," said Col. Ponton.

Principal MacLaurin challenged this statement.

Mr. T. Blackburn did not believe in delay, because the grants should not be lost.

**Mr. Deacon Fears Defeat by People.**

"I believe if this was put to the people," said Mr. F. S. Deacon, "it would be turned down, just as turned down the sewer bylaw in West Belleville." There can be no reduction in prices for the next two and a half years. The mills of England are filled up with orders for several years. We are going to be a prosperous people in Canada for years.

"I think the papers should restrict articles and letters detrimental

to the city," said Mr. Deacon. Dr. Baker of Albert College said he had one ambition for Belleville—an Oxford or a Cambridge. Too much cannot be done for education. There is no conflict between Albert College and the collegiate.

**Meeting Favors Board's Proposals.**

Ex-Mayor H. F. Ketcheson said an expenditure of \$300,000 should not stand in the way of progress. Belleville was well situated as to its debenture debt, few cities having as low.

He moved that "in the opinion of this meeting we should in this year 1920 build a new school in Coleman ward and that we should start the building of a collegiate institute not later than 1921." Mr. Ackerman seconded the resolution.

**Albert College Plans.**

Mr. W. B. Deacon said Albert College expected to spend from \$600,000 to \$750,000 on buildings. The college and collegiate would not conflict. He thought the school board should be given authority to go ahead now.

The resolution was adopted.

**BOY SCOUTS' BAND BOOSTS BELLEVILLE**

Presentation of Two Drums to Organization—Address by Mr. W. C. Mikel.

Troop No. 1 of the Boy Scouts of Belleville held a lively meeting on Thursday night when two drums were presented to them for their Bugle Band which now consists of 12 bugles and 4 drums. W. C. Mikel, K.C. was called on to make the presentation and in doing so said to the boys that he hoped they would develop their musical talents to the highest degree. Bands have done a great deal to build up towns and to inspire great actions. This band will help the Boy Scouts and the Boy Scouts will help build up a bigger, better Belleville. Some of you boys, for the first time in your lives, took part in elections in the last municipal campaign. Make it your business to take an active part in every election campaign during the rest of your lives. Go into election work, not for what you can get out of it, but for what you can put into it. Service should be the motto; service to your city, your province, your country and humanity. Belleville is coming to the up-grade, the dawn of a brighter day. You boys have now at least some chance to get employment. For many years past as our boys and girls grew up they were compelled to turn their backs on their Old Home Town and go elsewhere for work. 30,000 of our best boys and girls have gone away to build up other places. Wages were low. Mr. Mikel said his first wages when he started out to work for strangers as a law student was \$1.25 per week. Labor is coming into its rights. Labor will have shorter hours and better pay. If you take a deeper interest in your city and can get every citizen to take a deeper interest in our city we can make it one of the biggest and best cities in Canada. Tell our citizens take a greater interest this cannot be done. At our last municipal elections only 1870 citizens took enough interest to come out and vote. There were over 2000 voters who did not take enough interest to vote. We should have a Voters' League composed of citizens pledged to go to the polls and vote at every election and endeavor to get others to do the same thing. Our Chamber of Commerce might create a Voters' League Committee. Get ready for the Old Boys' Reunion next July and make a big noise for Belleville. The boys all pledged themselves to do all in their power to boost Belleville.

**Belleville Veterans Want More Houses.**

The following resolution was unanimously adopted at the last regular meeting of the Belleville branch G.W.V.A. held March 10th, 1920: "Whereas the housing situation in Ontario and in Belleville in particular is very acute, that the Federal and Ontario Governments be requested to grant further funds for the work of the Provincial Housing Commission and that the resolution be forwarded to all branches of the G.W.V.A. in Ontario for endorsement. And further, all branches to send a copy of this resolution to their Provincial and Federal members immediately. Moved by Comrade H. W. Dillman, seconded by Comrade Chas. Thompson. C. F. Wallbridge, E. H. Liddle, President. Secretary.

Nearly every divorce results in two or more marriages.

## Opposes Construction of New Schools

Editor Ontario.

When I use the term "school board," I do not mean the entire board, but only about four or five men who are urging erection of Collegiate Institute, and a ward school. The other members who do not desire conflict with the men I refer to, seem apathetic and I believe are really opposed to the scheme. An examination of the amount demanded from the city for schools for ten years will show an alarming increase. In the annual amount demanded. So great, that now the annual grant is nearly equal to the entire amount required by the council to carry on the affairs of the city. Albert College is a financial feeder to the city, which granted a large sum in favor of the new college, which will be modern, teaching all educational subjects. The board last year stated that \$150,000 would be required for a Collegiate Institute. I said \$250,000 would be nearer the truth. This year the board asks \$350,000 and \$100,000 for Coleman ward school, making a total of about half a million. I expect such a college is not required. Albert will supply all educational demands. If the scheme is carried you plant a dagger in Albert's heart, because the Belleville College will take away the students whom Albert has a right to expect from the city. Suppose the scheme is carried; \$350,000 expended for which a mortgage must be put on all real estate in the city; the annual interest to be paid say at six per cent, makes a large sum. Add to this, thirty educated teachers, each at a salary of at least \$2000. Add to this, the annual cost of heating, light, care-takers of house and grounds, and you have an immense additional expenditure. The head of the college must receive \$5000. Instead of present salary of \$2500. Then it is said the old buildings, High School, etc., require expensive repairs which we may call \$50,000 or more. They do not sell the former schools, which are decaying rapidly. My opinion is that \$15,000 for Coleman ward school would be ample. I have seen here a number of ward schools. \$100,000 would, I believe, build ten such schools as are here. The Dominion taxes are now \$320 per head of the people of the Dominion as against about \$20 before the war. Income tax is heavy, and every article we wear is hard to purchase; have to pay war tax. The dollar now will buy only fifty cents worth of necessities. It has shrunk one half. Alderman Bone says the debenture debt will be doubled this year if the board and city's demands are carried out. How can the orphans, widows, laborers and others pay these taxes? Renters must add these taxes to their rents in order to pay them. The people cannot afford to pay increased rents and must leave the city and the houses must be vacant. Why burden these new industries with heavy taxes. Citizens of Belleville, consider these facts and others which will occur to you. Bring the force of public opinion at once to bear if you want to save your city from permanent ruin.

I may add the amount required for machines, books, etc., will be large. The moment a machine receives a patented improvement it must be thrown out and the new one obtained.

J. J. B. Flint.

**Bodies Were Sent to Wrong Parties**

A Strange Mix-up Reported Over Deaths at the Penitentiary

KINGSTON, March 13.—It is reported that by a serious mix-up at the Portsmouth Penitentiary the bodies of deceased prisoners that were ordered sent to their former homes for interment at the expense of their families were forwarded to the wrong parties. There was much surprise when a telegram was received from Collingwood informing them that the wrong body had been sent. But more unfortunate still was the fact that the right body could not be sent, as it had been disposed of for the purpose of anatomy study at the medical college, as required by the statute, when no relatives or friends claim the body of a deceased prisoner.

Life without love doesn't seem too awful bad; at any rate most old bachelors appear to be satisfied with their lot.

And the old men mixes in a set of her own.

Every man may have his price, but it differs greatly from what his neighbor thinks he is worth.

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## IVANHOE SCHOOL REPORT.

January and February.  
Form IV. Sr. — Edna Rollins 231 Gladys Rollins 223. Heeter Jones 175, Leroy Rollins 129.  
Form IV. Jr. — Myrtle Reid 191, Tillie Rollins 138.  
Form III. Sr. — Milton Reid 199, Jessie Duggan 175, Clifford Mitz 167, Earl Cooney 161, Jim Jeffrey 150, Gerald Reid, 148, Reginald Reid 105, Marion Jones 59.  
Form III. Jr. — Nora Benson 109, Annie McMillan 59.  
Form II. Sr. — Frank Reid 201, Edith Rowe 191, Ethel Reid 180, Bonter Rollins 176, Norman Ray 172.  
Form II. Jr. — Marie Benson 139, Esther McMillan 56.  
Form I. Sr. — Norma Rowe 196, Margaret Moore 177, Leta Clements 144, Erma McMillan 120, Sammie Ray 139, Donald Reid 73, Emma Jones 64.  
Form I. Jr. — Grace Duggan, Primer Sr. — Sidmer Reid, Edna Wilcox, Earl Benson, Harry Benson, Stewart Ray, James McMillan.  
Class A. — Cecil Wilcox, Clifford Reid, Elmer Rollins, Murray Reid.

Clinton Benson, Maggie Benson, Mary Clements, H. A. Rowe, (Teacher.)

After some people get a start in life they don't know when to stop.

The less a man knows about politics the more angry he gets in a political argument.

An "able financier" is a man who is able to separate the other fellow from his coin without the aid of a snubbag.

**DODD'S KIDNEY PILLS**  
ALL KIDNEY DISEASES  
BRIGHT'S DISEASE  
DIABETES BACKACHE  
23 THE PHARMACY