

Hygiene in City Schools

City Superintendent Suggests Improvements in Ventilation of the Buildings.

Not a Properly Lighted School Room in City—Crowded Classes.

A meeting of the School Board was held last night at the City Hall with Trustee Dr. Hall in the chair and Trustees Jay, Drury, Brown, Belyea, Hinget and Mrs. G. H. Hinget in attendance. The following interesting report on school hygiene was presented by Superintendent Eaton:

"Your request that a special enquiry be made into the matter of home lessons indicates a commendable interest in school hygiene of which this is but one phase, and I have taken the opportunity to extend my report beyond the limits assigned me in the hope that you will deal as fully as possible with other school conditions affecting the health of pupils."

"After making special enquiry as directed by the board, I have been assured you that if I have any considerable number of children is prejudicially affected by their attendance at school, the report of the board is the imposition of lessons that are too many, too hard, or too long. It is almost inevitable that here and there, a pupil may be so misplaced in the classification of the school, or may be otherwise so handicapped, that the work which the majority will do is too much for him to perform. In such a case the parent should interview the teacher, or perhaps get the advice of the family physician. Beyond that, the parents of over 700 senior grade pupils, as well as from my own intimate knowledge of the school, I believe that the school children generally are not in the least danger of suffering from what is sometimes called 'high pressure'."

"As already intimated I wish to supplement the foregoing statements with a brief reference to other hygienic matters which come directly within the scope of the board's administration:

"1.—Ventilation.—The only schools in which there is any means of ventilation other than doors and windows are the High school, the North Ward, the Boys' school and the South Park."

"The High school rooms are very inadequately ventilated by means of fresh air inlets through the walls several feet above the floor and vents at the ceiling into shafts leading to the roof. Perhaps some sort of aspirating mechanism such as has been decided on for the new High school would somewhat improve the ventilation."

"In the North Ward school there are inlets through the outer walls under the radiators so that the air is drawn before diffusion through the rooms. The foul air vents are in the inner walls at the floor, and are connected with central shafts leading directly to the roof. The up draft is valuable and not always sufficient; so that for complete ventilation the open windows have to be restored to. Perhaps the 'air pump' which Boyle 'air pump' would aid to the efficient of the system."

"In the Boys' school there are outlets at the ceiling through the outside walls; but there are no inlets. It is needless to say that this provision is wholly inadequate."

"In the South Park school the inlets are midway to the ceiling; and the outlets are at the floor into a shaft in which the draft is promoted by a fan. The current generated by small fans at its foot. Apparently the system needs a smaller shaft and intelligent management to make it perfectly satisfactory."

"The conditions of good ventilation are the supply of enough pure air without chilling drafts, and the complete removal of the impure air. It is not easy to meet the first of these because of the enormous quantity of fresh air required—thirty cubic feet per pupil per minute, according to all authorities from Huxley down. The second would be easily met if respired air were lighter than the air outside. As it is heavier, on the contrary it is heavier as every body ought to know, and consequently it falls very shortly after leaving the lungs. Hence the necessity of floor outlets, and the great difficulty of creating draft in the ventilating shaft sufficient to carry up the foul air against the force of gravity."

"2.—Lighting.—Imperfect lighting of classrooms is responsible for much of the defective work done in the schools. It is passed through the public schools, and yet you have not a properly lighted school room in the city."

"The conditions of good lighting are: All light from the pupils' feet, the area at least one-fifth of the floor area, and the distance of the walls opposite the windows not more than twice the extreme height of the windows from the floor. It is not easy to suggest a remedy for defects in these respects of existing buildings, but certainly the architects of all future buildings should be imperatively instructed in the requisites of efficient lighting."

"3.—Classroom Accommodation.—As you know the general condition of your schools in this respect is not conducive to good health or good work. There are 15 divisions of the graded schools each with from 55 to 65 pupils, while the average number of pupils per class room is 50. For hygienic as well as pedagogic reasons the maximum should not exceed 45 and for several of the class rooms, 35."

"The opening of the new High school will afford relief at the Central school, but steps should be taken, as soon as possible towards the provision of increased accommodation in the other parts of the city as well as in the Girls' school and two rooms of the Boys' school these have been replaced by graded classes. In the remaining rooms of the Boys' school, and in some of the rooms of the Victoria West and Spring Ridge schools this should be done as soon as possible. In the North Ward and South Park schools the desks are generally too small. Some exchange might be made with the Central school of the city; but a quantity of new furniture is necessary. Double desks should not heretofore be bought for pupils other than those of the North Ward, and a few of these in each room should be adaptable. The desk you have been using is too narrow, and the pattern should be selected in the future."

"4.—Medical Inspection.—The board should provide for regular and thorough medical inspection of all the schools. This could possibly be done by an extension of the duties of the City Medical Health officer. At present that officer's relations to the schools begin when cases of infectious diseases have been reported to him, no doubt in many instances after much mischief has been already done. In addition to systematic medical supervision teachers should be instructed as to the earliest and most conspicuous symptoms of ordinary infectious and contagious disease, so that children may not be permitted to remain in school a moment after sus-

picions indications appear. They should also be furnished with the means of testing pupils' eyes, and required to report to parents all cases of defective sight discovered, in order that by proper treatment at the hands of an oculist the defect shall not be aggravated by the usual too favorable conditions of school life.

LATE RULER OF AFGHANISTAN

A Life of Change and Excitement With Ups and Downs.

Abdurrahman, Ameer of Afghanistan, is dead, the news having been received a natural death. More surprising still, in that country, where succession to the native throne is worse than a lottery, and no one seems to have succeeded him. The Ameer's life has been a succession of ups and downs from the time he was put in prison by his father because he was drinking and drinking wine and smoking Indian hemp. He fought his way to half a dozen thrones, or governorships, and lost them, or had them torn from him. He counted his battles by the score, and he fought in every one with his soldiers until it was time to run away or to seek the fruits of victory. "There was no peace for Abdur and no one else. He knew little of security until he came under the sheltering wing of the British, and was solidly fixed in the Afghan throne, which his drunken father had lost years before."

"Such a life of change and excitement could hardly fail to be filled with interesting adventures and anecdotes, and many good stories of him have been brought back from the East. The most prolific source, however, is the Ameer's own diary, which he kept in a book, having been translated from the original by Sultan Mahomet Khan, secretary of state of Afghanistan. With a few exceptions, the Ameer wrote down the details of his life as well as his complete hopes and fears for himself and his country."

"He began a chapter on 'A Few Details of My Life' by saying that his life from childhood had been a contrast to the habits of living indulged in by nearly all the Asiatic monarchs and chiefs. 'Work, he said, was his watchword, and the harder he worked the more anxious he was to continue working. 'I do not require any private room or bedchamber, neither any room for secrecy or for grand receptions. There are plenty of such rooms in my palaces, but I have no time to spare even to move from one room to another. Of course I love to go to my harem and spend an evening with my family, and they are equally delighted when I may visit them, but my time is so full that there is none to spare except occasionally, when I make it.'"

"The attendance report showed that the attendance at the schools was better than for several years. Many of the classes had above the maximum number of pupils, which was placed at 55. The secretary stated that the divisions in the Central, North Ward, South Park, Hillside Avenue and Victoria West had from 55 to 66 pupils. The total attendance during the month was 2,728, and the average daily attendance was 2,403. The summary of attendance at the schools was as follows: High, 108; Boys, 429; Building and Grounds committee reported recommending that slate boards be placed on the walls of a number of rooms of the new High school; the architect was requested to lay two doors made in some of the rooms; arrange for some gas fittings in the laboratory in the new High school and spread gravel, which was suggested in the yard of the North Ward school."

"Trustee Belyea who presented the report said that next year it would be necessary to arrange for a thousand yards of gravel, for the school yards. The report was adopted with the exception of the appropriation of \$400, which was referred back for further report. The Finance committee reported recommending the appropriation of \$400-34 for payment of current accounts. Carried."

"Trustee Brown moved that an arrangement be entered into with Mr. Peterson for the supply of the balance of the 250 cords of wood for the schools at \$3.25. Trustee Jay spoke in favor of distributing the patronage."

FOR LABEL ON TROOPS. German Editor Sentenced to Three Weeks in Jail. Frankfurt, Nov. 13.—Max Quarek, editor of the Volksfreund, was sentenced today to three weeks imprisonment for libelling the German troops that were in China, by the publication by him of a letter headed, 'German Beasts.'"

BURNED TO DEATH. Three Inmates of a Farm House Meet Horrible Death. Carleton Place, Ont., Nov. 13.—A farm house at Ramsay was burned to the ground during the night. Miss McLean, Miss McLean's mother and Herbert McGregor were burned to death. The other members of the family escaped.

SAGASTA ILL. Madrid, Nov. 13.—The illness and extreme frailty of Premier Sagasta are causing uneasiness.

DROPPED DEAD. Westminster Musician Succumbs to Heart Disease. Vancouver, Nov. 13.—(Special)—Bandmaster Stearns of Westminster, dropped dead from heart disease last night. He had only recently gone to Westminster to take charge of the Royal City band, and had made many friends.

BELLA COOLA. Fine Specimens of Fruit From the New District. Vancouver, Nov. 13.—(Special)—Mr. Clifford, M.P.P., who arrived on the Danube this morning from the North, brought with him samples of apples grown at Bella Coola, which were all of the size and quality desired in size and flavor. He believed that Bella Coola would become a great fruit district. Cherries, pears and plums grown at Bella Coola were also said to be of very fine flavor. Mr. Clifford said that the settlers were much pleased at the government's assistance in granting them a subsidy for their roads, and he was glad to construct the road themselves from the bridge to deep water, thus bringing 80,000 acres of the most magnificent agricultural land in touch with the coast markets, and that anything would grow in with little attention. There were no early frosts of any kind, and the soil was of great richness. The settlers were all contented and looking forward hopefully to the time in the near future when they could market their magnificent crops.

DESERTER ARRESTED. Stoker from Warship Caught in Nanaimo—To Join the Professional Ranks. Nanaimo, Nov. 13.—A deserter from H. M. S. Varsity will be taken down to Esquimalt tomorrow by Constable Neen of the city force. He is a stoker, and was known to the constable as Jones. Mr. Jones goes to San Francisco, where his singing has attracted attention of a choir leader, who has induced him to accept of the professional ranks. He leaves tomorrow.

For assaulting Jules Pire at Extension, a week ago, Louis Tatin was fined \$24 and costs amounting to \$24. The trouble arose over the settlement of an account of about \$16.

Rails Coming.—The steamer Clatsop is expected from Seattle with the rails for the extension of the V. & S. railway from Hillside Avenue to the city market. The rails will be landed here, and not at Sidney as at first intended. The company is also preparing to send the survey work to the mainland.

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THE RAND RETURNS.

Delayed Sealing Schooner Reaches Port After Rough Trip.

The last schooner of the Behring Sea fleet to reach Victoria yesterday when the schooner C. D. Rand, Capt. Searle, was towed in by the Tye after a stormy trip. The Rand, which had a small crew, having but seven crew members, was a catch of 580 salmon in the Sea, and had a fair passage down to Kaituma, where she landed her Indians, several weeks ago. Heavy weather in the straits and delay was occasioned in waiting for favorable winds. When a start was made towards Victoria, the schooner encountered a heavy southwester off Cape Cook, which carried away her main rigging, and she put into Kragout, whence she sailed on afterwards, and Capt. John Irving took passage on her to Clayoquot, where she arrived on Saturday last. From thence to port she encountered fair weather. One of her crewmen left her on the Raco early yesterday morning, and when they reported the schooner beached out there, the Tye was sent out to her.

The schooner Umbria is on the ways at Turpe's yard being overhauled and other schooners of the fleet are being made ready to be hauled out. The schooner City of San Diego, which is now at the sealing company's wharf, will be the next vessel hauled out. The sealing schooner, Eschew, yesterday lost the cook who has been on her for some seasons, when King, a Wright concern.

Chinese, dropped dead in Chinatown. There are many stories told of the dead cook, but the incident which is most often narrated when the sailors gather on Wharf street to swap yarns is that which occurred at Clayoquot, when King was arrested by Constable Spain in mistake. A Siwash had laid information against the cook of a sealing schooner, which he described to the West coast policeman as Capt. Hector's schooner. There are two Capt. Hector's, on two schooners on which there were two Chinese cooks, and by arrest of the King, the policeman got the wrong one. In the meantime the schooner on which the right one was, had put to sea.

H. M. S. CHARYBIDS. Has Completed Her Season's Work on Newfoundland Coast.

Halifax, N.S., Nov. 13.—The British warship Charybdis, flagship of the Newfoundland fishery squadron, having completed her season's work on that coast, arrived here today. She leaves for Bermuda in 10 days.

WHITTAKER WRIGHT COMPANY. To Be Wound Up by Order of the Courts.

London, Nov. 13.—The courts have ordered the compulsory winding up of the Whittaker Wright Company, a firm of Halifax, N.S., which has been on the stocks for some seasons, when King, a Wright concern.

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