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Pressing Need For More Schools

School Board Gives Reasons for the Introduction of the By-law.

Present Victoria West School is Very Old and is Badly Located.

The Board of School Trustees has authorized the publication of the following statement in reference to the conditions which, in their judgment, justify an appeal to the ratepayers in behalf of new and increased school accommo-

an appeal to the ratepayers in behalf of new and increased school accommodation:

The Victoria West school building has only five classrooms; since 1897 a sixth has been provided by renting the Baptist mission house on Henry street; last year a seventh room was required and the St. Savior Sunday school was rented for the purpose. The exclusion from school this year of all children of the Esquimalt district rendered the St. Savior room unnecessary, but the mission house is still required.

The North Ward schoolhouse contains eight classrooms, but in order to accommodate the increasing number of pupils two classes have been installed in small rooms quite unfit for classroom use. At the Central school a room adjoining the manual training room has been temporarily fitted up for overflow classes. All classrooms in the other school buildings are fully occupied. Thus, with a total of 53 regular classrooms, three improvised, but entirely unsnitable, rooms and a rented room, the 57 classes of the public schools of the city are at present housed. This aggregate of accommodation not only gives no room of or expansion, but the Boys' Central school in particular is already seriously congested.

There has been for several years an

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There has been for several years an urgent demand from the residents of Victoria West for a new, commodious and modern schoolhouse, on the ground that the present building is old and out of repair, that it is badly located and has not classrooms enough for present, to say nothing of the future, needs of the school. In this connection the following extract from a report on the building by Architect Maxwell Muir to the board is pertinent: "This building is a source of continual expense to the board, and it is, in my opinion, not worth the money spent on it each year to keep it at all in a passable condition. It is a standing disgrace to a city like Victoria that such a structure should be among its school building has reached that state that in order to do any good with money spent each year in attempting to keep it in a condition fit for use, it would be better spent in tearing it down. In other words, the necessity for an absolutely new school building in Victoria West is such that mo protest is strong enough, no effort too great to obtain it, and no time too soon to have it. This should be impressed upon the public in the strongest manner possible."

It is the intention of the board, if the bylaw receives the assent of the ratepayers, to proceed at once with the purchase of a site, and the erection of an eight-roomed brick building in Victoria West. For the relief of the Central schools the board contemplates only a smaller building.

There are now five schools offering instruction for all grades of pupils below the High school; these are the Victoria West, Boys' Central, Girls' Central, North Ward and South Park. Besides there are four primary schools which serve as feeders to the larger schools; Rock Bay and Hillside to the north ward; Spring Ridge to the Centrales chools, and Kingston street to the South Park. Leaving out of consideration the Victoria West and South Park districts; additional accommodation for the rest of the city might be provided in on There has been for several years an

2. By establishing a three or four department primary school as another feeder to either the Central or North Ward school.

3. By establishing small, ungraded schools in the sections of the city which are most remote from existing schools.

4. By adding to the classroom accommodation at the Central school.

The board has decided to adopt the last of these four methods because the number of children living in any section of the city at inconvenient distances from one of the existing schools is as yet too small to justify even a one-groom school for their immediate neighborhood, and because by a readjustment of the limits of the various districts from which the pupils are drawn to the respective schools, the additional accommodation proposed at the Central schools, but for the South Park as well. In other words, it is the intention of the board, in the event of the blyaw passing, to erect a substantial building on the Central reserve in order to obtain the largest measure of relief to the schools at the least possible cost to the ratepayers.

CUBA ON VERGE

Rival Legislatures Organized And Open Conflict is Threatened.

Havana, April 5.—(Special)—The political situation in the island continues very serious as the result of a contest growing out of the last election. Not only is the House of Representatives unable to do business, but word comes from Pinar Del Rio province that there has been organized rival legislative councils there and an open conflict is threatened. It is expected that similar action will be taken by the contesting Radicals in at least two additional provinces.

action will be taken by the contesting Radicals in at least two additional provinces.

It was reported this afternoon that President Palma was discussing the advisability of declaring all the recent elections void and issuing a proclamation calling others. This action, however, can hardly be expected to improve the situation, as the frauds committed at the last elections are always possible under the present election laws. That the President has such power, it is claimed, he has been unofficially informed by the chief justice. The situation in Congress today showed no improvement over yesterday, and the House of Representatives has not organized. The efforts of the Conservatives to bring about a compromise with the Radical leaders, was an utter failure. The latter stated that if overtures had been made for Congressman Loynaz Castillo and been arrested by order of the government and the Radical newspaper, El Liberal suppressed, the offer might have been considered, but now it must be a fight to the finish. Because of the failure of the House to organize, there was no session of the Senate today.

Lady Fair Gwendolne is awful mad at her bean. Lady Clare Mercy! Whatever is the matter? Lady Fair—Why, she suggested that they give up kisses during Lent and he was idiot enough to say he thought it a good idea.—Pittsburg Despatch.

He—Her complexion is just like strawberries and cream, isn't it?

She—It is something like strawberries; it comes in a box.—Philadelphia Ledger.

OF A REVOLUTION

11-21-21