

Quebec

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June 10th, 1905.

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June 10th, 1905.

"Fruit-atives"
now I am entire
ly free of pain, no con-
stipation and my stom-
ach and bowels act natu-
rally. I cannot say enough in
praise of "Fruit-atives."
They are a grand med-
icine, mild as fruit in their
action and easy to take.
(Signed)
MARCHESSAULT,
High Constantine.

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DRAWING BOOK
INVESTIGATIONFIRST SESSION OF
ROYAL COMMISSION

D. M. Eberts, K. C., Outlines Case For
Department—D. Blair on the
Witness Stand.

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

The royal commission authorized by the government to conduct an investigation into the criticism of the drawing of pupils of South Park school, in connection with the entrance examinations, commenced proceedings this morning in the County court. Commissioner Lampan took his place on the bench shortly after 10 o'clock. There was a large attendance of prominent educationists, the council of public instruction, school board, and the teaching staffs of different local schools being represented.

F. B. Gregory first announced that he appeared on behalf of the board of school trustees.

R. E. Elliott, counsel for Miss Cameron, did not object to the trustees being represented by counsel. He contended, however, that it should be permissible for counsel to cross-examine members of the school board, who had signed their names to a report dealing with the drawing question, a portion of which he read.

Commissioner Lampan did not see in what way the school board was concerned. Excusing himself he left court and returned shortly with his commission.

Mr. Gregory quoted from the latter as published in the Victoria Times to show that the interest of the school board was so closely identified with the investigation as to warrant their protection by the presence of counsel. He said that in the month of June 1905, an examination was held for entrance to the High school. One of the subjects was drawing, of which there were three kinds, namely, free-hand, model and geometrical. As the name implied the former was not supposed to be done by means of rulers. He went on to explain that the instructions issued, specifically stated that such a thing was forbidden. In South Park school there were twenty-nine books of the free-hand system. These, together with drawings from other schools of the province, had been examined by ten competent educationists. One of these gentlemen, Mr. Blair, a noted artist, and a graduate of the South Kensington school, had noticed that the free-hand ruling had been done by means of rulers, in other words a direct contravention to the instructions. He consulted his fellow examiners and they decided to throw out the work, or to allow no marks. This he wished to distinctly understand did not affect the graduation of a pupil who was trying to get into the High school. That fact, he thought, showed conclusively that there had been no malice intended. Subsequently Examiner Blair had issued a report explaining the reasons for disallowing the marks on the free-hand drawing books. Miss Cameron had then written to the minister enclosing a letter from Miss Fraser, who had then teaching drawing in South Park school. The letter stated that she had followed punctiliously the instructions of the department, and that no rulers had been used in free-hand model drawing. She stated that she had written to Miss Cameron endorsing the action of the board of examiners. Later, the same teacher had had a conference with the minister of education and this stated that ruling could not have taken place because she had not been present during the work. Miss Cameron then demanded that the books be returned to her, and she asked what she termed satisfaction, asked for justice in an appeal to the board of school trustees. The latter had then taken up the matter and, after an examination of the books, had questioned, had endorsed the action of the board of examiners. In addition Miss Cameron had gone into the public press, and practically accused Mr. Blair and members of the board of public instruction of branding members of the South Park school entrance class as cheats. This was a pretty free charge, and it was before the public that the request for the appointment of a commission by the government had been granted.

Mr. Eberts then proceeded to submit his evidence. He first put in the twenty-nine drawing books in question. He submitted also numerous circulars and communications dealing with the question.

There was some discussion between Commissioner Lampan and Mr. Elliott regarding the filing of communications from the board of education to the school board. Mr. Elliott held that the latter body could not be represented by counsel. He contended, however, that the trustees were taken, concerning the matter was taken.

Commissioner Lampan—I suppose your counsel holds only a watching brief.

Mr. Elliott, however, wasn't satisfied with such an arrangement, and the evidence he demanded was finally put in with the rest.

Referring to the affidavits, Mr. Eberts stated that he had seen them, but understood they were in possession of his learned friend.

Mr. Elliott announced that he had them, and intended presenting them as part of his case. If it would assist his learned friend he would be perfectly willing to submit them immediately.

They were examined by Mr. Eberts, who took a list of the names. They were then read by Mr. Eberts, Frederick Clifford Douglas, Wm. Reginald McFarlane, I. Eleanor Scott Robinson, Maud M. Smith, Ida Bell McQueen, Morris V. Hanna, J. Mackay, Kate Macdonald, Isabel P. Ross, Ernest Geo. Corey, Harold B. Godfrey, Anton

Henderson, Mary C. Roberts, Georgina Beddington.

Mr. Elliott pointed out, in connection with the school board's demand for the affidavits and Miss Cameron's refusal, which had resulted in her dismissal, that the trustees had before then rendered their final verdict in regard to the matter. It would have been for the trustees, for Miss Cameron to surrender the only thing in her possession for the perpetration of the evidence in defence of her position, especially after the board had taken an absolute stand. "It would be like burning the ship and leaving us high and dry on shore," he concluded.

"I thought Miss Cameron's non-compliance with the trustees' request was prompted by the fact that she hadn't them in her possession," remarked Mr. Gregory—on the side.

Following this, the letter from the school board to Miss Cameron for the surrender of the affidavits and her reply thereto were submitted. Supplementing the affidavits already placed on, Mr. Elliott read similar declarations from Sidney L. Wilson and Margaret J. Clay.

Mr. Elliott thought for purposes of comparison the council of public instruction might furnish a set of drawing books the work of which had been accepted and for which marks had been awarded.

To this Mr. Eberts agreed.

The science and art master at the Normal school, was the first witness called. He was a graduate of the South Kensington College of Art and Science. He had done considerable work in the Encyclopaedia Britannica. It was in the year 1900 that he had become identified with the educational system of British Columbia. He had reported upon the drawings of pupils in the different examinations. He believed that he had issued five such statements. The designs in the book used by the school children had been copied by him. They were taught in the schools of British Columbia. Free hand drawing meant drawing without the aid of anything but hand and pencil and, of course, the eye. He had informally lectured to teachers of British Columbia on different occasions. Three years ago he had spoken at a convention of the Teachers' Institute in Victoria. Since then he had delivered a special address at Vancouver at which he distinctly remembered Miss Cameron being present. He didn't know whether Miss Fraser had dealt with geometrical work and free-hand drawing.

Handing witness a circular Mr. Eberts asked what portion of that document he had drafted. He replied, quoting his remarks with reference to free-hand drawing, and those commending the work accomplished by the pupils at the school. At that time model drawing had not been issued. That was introduced next year, and in the same circular he had given a number of suggestions to the teachers.

Mr. Eberts then asked what the subject of the circular was. He replied, "A ruling whatever shall be allowed in model drawing." Next year's report had commented upon the fact that the teachers were not to do so.

One paragraph stated specifically "no ruling whatever shall be allowed in model drawing." Next year's report had commented upon the fact that the teachers were not to do so.

At the time of the examination, representing the board of examiners and Miss Cameron gathered about witness to inspect the books under his direction. The latter pointed out to the present pages on which he was prepared to swear ruled lines had been used.

The commissioner, at times seemed to be puzzled to locate the lines which witness pointed out with confidence. At one time he left the bench and went to the window only to return after having made a vain search for the tracing.

Mr. Elliott expressed his incredulity very forcibly when he remarked that "anyone who would swear to that would swear to anything."

Mr. Eberts—"That's comment."

Mr. Elliott—"Yes, but it's fair comment."

Mr. Gregory—"At any rate it's rather out of place at the present time."

In each of the twenty-nine drawing books submitted witness claimed that there were one or more ruled lines. He went into most exhaustive detail specifying every point where he was prepared to swear that his instructions had not been followed. The books of those who had taken affidavits were all included among the numbers which witness held had infringed the rules.

The books were still under examination when the adjournment was taken until 2:15 o'clock in the afternoon.

(From Wednesday's Daily.)

Yesterday afternoon's session of the commission appointed to investigate the South Park school drawing trouble was taken up with the expert testimony of Examiner Blair. The latter went through the majority of the books, the work on which he questioned, and drew attention to lines in various exercises, each one of which, he contended, had been ruled in direct contravention of the regulations of the department.

Mr. Blair continued his evidence. This afternoon Mr. Blair is being cross-examined by Mr. Elliott, counsel for Miss Cameron.

The proceedings were resumed yesterday afternoon, 3. T. Elliott, representing Miss Cameron, asked leave to make a statement. He had always understood that an expert on any line of business should be allowed to speak, when he entered the witness box. Under the circumstances he had been requested to give a hint as to his line of defence. The witness sitting on the witness stand, he had gone over all the books most carefully and was placing his professional reputation upon the statement that all lines he had indicated by blue markings were ruled in direct contravention to the regulations.

In the course of examination Mr. Blair stated that some of the pupils were very intelligent, but that their capabilities, and no doubt, had they been allowed to copy the models the results would have been more satisfactory.

When the book of Clarence W. Mulhead was submitted his declaration was read by the commissioner. In this he declares that all the work had been done at home and that whatever was done in school had been done by careful instruction.

Some interesting repartee took place between counsel in this connection. Mr. Gregory—"The pupil states that the work was done out of school hours, and the certificate of Miss Cameron's signature implies the contrary."

Witness wanted to know whether it was permissible to ask what the initials of Miss Cameron on the Mul-

head book meant.

The commissioner, however, would not allow the query.

Continuing, the witness said that in spite of the pupil's statement he thought the work was comparatively free from ruling. Perhaps the discrepancy was accounted for by the fact that the boy was from America.

Commissioner Lampan—"Such statements cannot be permitted to be made by the present witness of the fact that such a thing might become necessary."

An adjournment was then taken for lunch.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

The completion of the cross-examination of David Blair, the Normal school drawing master, by R. T. Elliott, counsel for Miss Cameron, and the opening of the examination of H. D. Dunnell, superintendent of Manual Training schools in British Columbia, were features of the proceedings of yesterday afternoon's session of the commission inquiring into the South Park school drawing trouble. Only a small part of the latter's evidence was given before the adjournment, the establishment of a line of the drawing being necessary. Mr. Dunnell was on the stand again this morning giving expert testimony on the drawing of those of the bona fides of whose work was questioned.

Upon resuming yesterday afternoon Mr. Eberts asked permission to refer to some of Mr. Blair's qualifications as a drawing master. He intended doing so at the outset and would like to do so for the purpose of showing how well able he was to give expert testimony upon that subject.

Commissioner Lampan granted the required permission. He asked in what edition of the Britannica Encyclopaedia the work of Mr. Blair had appeared.

Replying, Mr. Blair said they were published in the ninth edition and dealt with horticulture.

Taking the stand again, witness submitted the budget of a variety of drawings in order to demonstrate that he was thoroughly familiar with all phases of the work.

Questioned by Mr. Eberts, witness referred to the statement that he was a graduate of the Kensington School of Art. He had passed in 1870 and had been the only successful student on the examination. The volume of the Britannica Encyclopaedia containing an illustrated article on horticulture, the drawings of which were executed by Mr. Blair, was submitted for the inspection of the commission.

Mr. Elliott asked witness to examine the circular issued by him in 1905. The first paragraph referred to those examinations. His attention was then called to the size of the drawings and his reference to this in the circulars issued. He was asked whether his instructions that the drawings be "fairly large" were complied with or not.

Mr. Gregory pointed out that the circular of Mr. Elliott was dealing with was a criticism of an examination held the year previous.

Replying, Mr. Elliott said the explanation only made his case the stronger. The booklets it was stated that the figures should be "fairly large," while in one of the circulars the exact size required was specified. Addressing the question, Mr. Elliott asked the court to be informed of the methods adopted in instructing drawing among the lower grades. In reply he explained that the junior pupils were allowed to draw the figures of the animals and plants. This was gradually eliminated as the student advanced.

Pointing out exercise 11 in book two, in which sectional lines had been used, Mr. Elliott asked whether the pupil might not have carried the idea through and used it in the advanced classes? "The pupils are not supposed to be instructed in the use of straight lines," but under no circumstances must measuring be resorted to. To illustrate this witness went to the blackboard and rapidly sketched an ordinary leaf.

He then left the blackboard and measured the leaf with a ruler, stating that the finished figure did not contain a straight line. The latter gave the necessary knowledge of direction.

Elliott asked whether there was anything in his instructions which prevented the pupil correcting the direction on straightness of a line. Witness replied that such rectification should be made more than once. Upon request witness explained that the maximum number of marks was 100, and the figures marked on the books were not to have been drawn out. The blue tracings by Examiner Blair, indicating the ruled lines, had been done before they had been inspected by the Minister of Education. Witness had made the first examination. No person had had an opportunity to take the books and form an individual opinion as to whether lines had or had not been ruled before the examiner had declared them done contra to the regulations. Counsel asked whether he considered the drawings fraudulent. Witness, however, objected to the use of that word. He did not wish to utilize such strong language. It was not his intention to style it fraudulent, in fact he was not an expert in "fraud."

"Do you remember the book put in by Miss Hanna?" witness was asked by Mr. Elliott. He replied in the negative, and on the drawings being produced he recognized them. He was then asked whether there would be any excuse for the superintendent of education stating that the drawings mentioned were not concerned upon inquiry being made at the education office.

Both Messrs. Eberts and Gregory objected strenuously to such a hypothesis. It was outside the scope of the point and had no bearing on the issue. Their objections were over-ruled by the commissioner.

On witness's cross-examination, Mr. Elliott asked regarding an interview between Miss Fraser and witness. The latter denied that he had told Miss Fraser that the ruling of the datum line was immaterial and that the fact that the work above that was ruled was only what he objected to. He had heard ruling in four schools of the province. The figures of the exercises had been small in many instances. Witness acknowledged that the marks

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