

Gross Act of Injustice Committed by the School Board

SENIOR TEACHERS OF L. C. I. ARE VICTIMS OF NEPOTISM

Principalship of the Institute Goes to a Young Member of Staff, Through Influence of His Cousin, Trustee MacRobert—General Indignation.

Those Whom the Clique Passed Over

R. A. LITTLE, appointed 1886, 21 years
WM. C. FERGUSON, appointed 1892, 15 years
WM. M. GOVENLOCK, appointed 1898, 9 years
FRANK P. RIDDELL, appointed 1898, 9 years

The action of the Board of Education yesterday in knifing the senior members of the Collegiate Institute staff, by passing over their claims to promotion in favor of a first cousin of one of the trustees, has aroused the deepest indignation among citizens of all classes, and all shades of politics.

It was known that Trustee E. J. MacRobert, as is his usual practice where his relatives are concerned, was working for Mr. McCutcheon, but no one thought he would find a sufficient number of fellow-trustees to inflict a rank injustice on several of the old and experienced teachers of the Collegiate Institute.

Conservatives feel that Mr. MacRobert has taken advantage of the party by using the machine for his personal ends. He has long been known as the boss of the board. What he said "went." He had a cousin appointed on the teaching staff of the public schools, and later Mr. MacRobert pulled wires and secured for him the position of public librarian of London. When the gentleman did not like the librarianship, Mr. MacRobert had him placed back on the teaching staff, in the position made vacant by the death of the late Principal Kirk.

The public did not take Mr. McCutcheon's candidature seriously and fully expected that the principalship would devolve by right of seniority upon Mr. W. C. Ferguson. Although the latter was an applicant for the principalship, he made it plain that he would be perfectly satisfied if Mr. Little were made principal and he (Mr. Ferguson) were given the promotion to which seniority entitled him.

Mr. Little has served on the Collegiate Institute staff for 21 years, and has had 22½ years' experience. His present salary is \$1,600.

Mr. Ferguson has been a member of the staff for 15 years, and has been teaching for 17½ years. His salary is \$1,500.

Next to Mr. Ferguson in seniority and salary stood Mr. W. M. Govenlock. He has had 14½ years' experience, 9½ years of which have been spent in the London Collegiate Institute. His salary is \$1,400.

Next to Mr. Govenlock was Mr. Frank P. Ridwell with 17 years' experience as teacher, and 9½ years' membership of the local staff.

All of the above-named gentlemen have headmasters' certificates and have priority over Mr. McCutcheon, who has had only 9½ years' experience as a teacher and has been in London for only 7 years. Until a year ago he was a junior teacher. His present salary is \$1,350, and he has not yet reached the maximum. Other members of the staff with headmasters' certificates who have a longer teaching record than Mr. McCutcheon are Mr. McVicar, 14 years' experience; Mr. Stuart, 12 years; and Mr. McLean, 15½ years.

Mr. McCutcheon has been put over the heads of all these gentlemen. Next to Mr. Little the teacher who has suffered the most injustice is Mr. W. C. Ferguson, admittedly one of the ablest teachers of modern languages in the Province. He has refused several offers of more lucrative positions elsewhere, and is now deprived of the vice-principalship to which he would have been entitled if Mr. Little had got his rights. Mr. Govenlock and Mr. Ridwell have been also dealt unfairly with, and the regular process of promotion, which the whole staff has the right to expect, broken up.

Trustee Strong is in the north in search of health, and was not able to be present at yesterday's meeting. Trustee Weekes explains that he was detained at his office for half an hour, and the appointment was made before he reached the city hall. He says the position should have gone to Mr. Little. If Messrs. Strong and Weekes had been present the vote would have been a tie, but the decision would have rested with Chairman Fitzgerald, one of the MacRobert faction.

TRUSTEES INTERVIEWED.

The members of the Board of Education who were responsible for the injustice were interviewed by The Advertiser man, and three of the five refused to give reasons for their vote. They absolutely refused to discuss the subject at all.

Trustee MacRobert when questioned said: "I will not talk about the matter at all. My vote is there and that is all there is to it. I think The Advertiser is impertinent to ask me my reasons. I never heard of such a thing."

"Mr. McCutcheon is a cousin of yours, I understand?" he was asked.

"Yes, he is a first cousin of mine. I don't deny that," he answered.

Chairman Fitzgerald, like Mr. MacRobert, made a show of indignation when the question was put to him as to the reasons of his choice.

"I have nothing for publication at all," The Advertiser has no right to ask such a question. The matter is settled, and that is all there is about it."

Trustee Granger, the newest acquisition to the Board of Education, was also non-committal.

"I have no explanations to make," he said. "I followed my own judgment. I prefer not to discuss the matter."

Trustees Graham and McCormick claimed that they voted for Mr. McCutcheon because they thought he was the best man.

Mr. Little is at present summering on the Magnetawan River. He came to the city when Principal Radcliffe resigned, and interviewed the members of the board. He is said to have received assurances which led him to believe that he would be the next principal without a doubt, and he returned to his summer home in an easy frame of mind.

BENNETT EMPLOYEE SERIOUSLY INJURED

Charles Godfrey Usher at Unique, Fell in the Basement.

Mr. Charles Godfrey Usher, one of the ushers employed at Bennett's Unique Theatre, met with a serious accident last night.

When he went to the dressing-room to don his uniform in the evening he did not notice that the door leading to the basement had been left open by someone, and he fell into the cellar.

When picked up he was in a semi-conscious condition, but later he recovered sufficiently to allow of his being sent home on a street car.

He was very badly bruised about the body, and it is feared his ribs are fractured.

He resides at the corner of Fall Mall and William street.



Mr. R. A. LITTLE, Vice-Principal, London Collegiate Institute.

Mr. R. A. Little, B. A., has been in the teaching profession for over 23 years. 21 years of which have been spent at the London Collegiate Institute.

Mr. Little is a specialist in classics, and his standing among teachers and educationists is of the highest.

In the authorship of Latin prose he has an established reputation throughout the Dominion. He was the joint author with John Henderson, M. A., head master of the St. Catharines Collegiate Institute, of the First Latin Book and New Latin Reader, which are recognized in every province of Canada as the standard works, and are favorites with teachers and students alike.

Mr. Little is a popular citizen, an efficient instructor, a good disciplinarian, and is popular with the staff and pupils of the Collegiate Institute. He has never been active in politics, and has never been a member of a faction or clique in school board affairs. He has attended strictly to his duties as a teacher.

The position of principal was Mr. Little's by right eight years ago, and he was deprived of it by partisanship on the board of education. He was subsequently made vice-principal, and has given a loyal support to the head of the institution, in spite of the wrong which he suffered. Now, for the second time, he has been deprived of his right by a flagrant act of injustice. No greater outrage was ever perpetrated by a public body than by the London School Board yesterday.

DEATH CALLS OLD CITIZEN

Mr. W. D. Buckle Well Known Londoner Passed Away This Morning.

London lost one of its most respected citizens and successful businessmen, this morning, when Mr. W. D. Buckle, the well-known Richmond street real estate broker, passed away at his late residence, 381 Dufferin avenue.

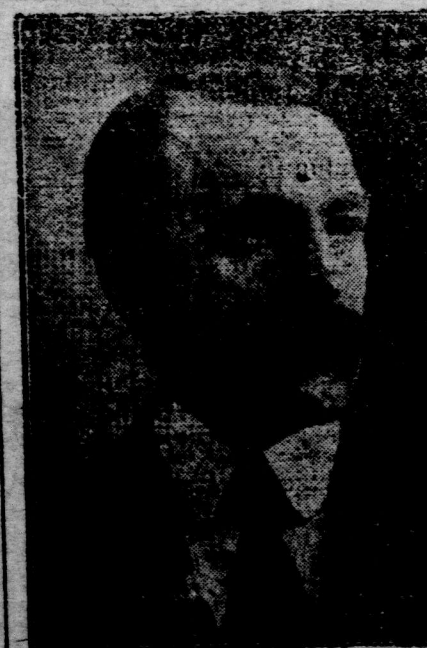
Mr. Buckle was born in Durham, England, in 1840, and came to this country with his parents when a small boy. He had been a resident of London since that time, and had watched it grow to its present proportions.

He represented the city as alderman for a number of years, and was in the council at the time the site of the present Victoria Park was obtained, of which move he was a hearty supporter.

In religion Mr. Buckle was a Methodist, taking a lively interest in church affairs, being a member of the trustees board of the Colborne Street Methodist Church, and had been its secretary-treasurer for many years. He was also the superintendent of the Sabbath school for a number of years.

Mr. Buckle was one of the first newspaper reporters of this city. He is survived by three sisters, and a nephew, Mr. W. B. Dimond, of Minneapolis, Minn.

The funeral will take place from his late residence, Tuesday next, at 3 o'clock.



TRUSTEE JAMES GRANGER.

BACK TO GRAND TRUNK

Montreal Thinks Mr. McGuigan May Once More Be There.

Montreal, Aug. 10.—It is the very general belief that Mr. McGuigan, who left Montreal with the sincere regret of his fellow railwaymen and particularly of the head of the system, C. M. Hays, will once more return to the G. T. R. He may, however, go to the Canadian Northern. It will be remembered that McGuigan's former chief, Hays, did the selfsame thing, that gentleman leaving the Grand Trunk for the Southern Pacific and then resigning to take up the position of first vice-president and general manager of the Grand Trunk and later on of president of the Grand Trunk Pacific.

MORE TROUBLE FOR E. H.

Los Angeles, Cal., Aug. 10.—Unless the demands of the striking boiler-makers on the Pacific division of the Southern Pacific Company are granted within 24 hours the organization of boiler-makers will call out all boiler-makers on the Harriman lines.



TERRIBLE DISASTER AT ESSEX, ONT.; EXPLOSION OF A DYNAMITE CAR; WRECKS STATION AND KILLS SEVEN

English Clergyman Says Canada Is Grand Country

Rev. Mr. Ceredig-Jones, of Bradford, England, Gives His Impressions of Dominion.

"I have traveled much, but I have seen nothing so beautiful as your fair Dominion. We in England consider we have many beautiful places, but I doubt if there is anything which can compare with the beauties of the Thousand Islands, or the magnificence of Niagara Falls. I'm Britisher enough to feel glad that you, as Canadians, have a larger portion of the Falls than your neighbors to the south."

In these words, the Rev. E. Ceredig-Jones, for 23 years Unitarian minister of Bradford, England, expressed to The Advertiser his pleasure with the things he has seen while visiting in Canada.

Mr. Jones has been traveling through the country for the past three weeks, leaving tonight for Detroit, from which place he will start a two months' trip through the United States.

"What impresses you most as an Englishman with this country?" Mr. Jones was asked.

The Farmers' Homes.

"That is a hard question," he responded. "I have been delighted with almost everything here. Of course England is simply one large garden."

SOUTHWESTERN BADLY CRIPPLED FIRE TAKES TRACTION BARN

Sheds in London South Completely Destroyed With Five Cars—Loss About \$75,000.

MOTORMAN'S GALLANT ATTEMPT TO SAVE CARS

The car barns belonging to the Southwestern Traction Company, situated on Chester street, on the extreme south of the city, were burned to the ground this morning.

At about 6:45 a.m., when Motorman Ben Jackson went to the sheds to get his car, which was due to leave the station on Horton street for St. Thomas at 7 o'clock, he noticed flames running along the inside of the roof. Aid was at once summoned, and then Johnson did his best to save as much as possible. He succeeded in getting two cars out safely, and went back into the now blazing building after a third. He tried to connect the poles in order to get the necessary power to run out the cars, but the heat was too intense and he was unable to reach the spot.

Hand Bucket Brigades.

By this time many people were at the scene, and did what they could with the pails available to control the flames. The South London fire wagon also went to the scene, but the nearest hydrant is too far distant to allow a stream of water to be used on the building. Had water been available in abundance, however, it would have been too late, for the sheds are simply a framework of wood, covered with galvanized iron, and burned like so much tinder.

It is conjectured that a live wire touching the tar-paper on the roof caused the conflagration. The flames quickly spread, and half an hour after the fire had first been seen the sheds and all within were a mass of ruins. The firemen devoted their attention to saving the surrounding building, keeping the winding room practically Continued on Page Eight.

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Engine Crews on C.P.R. Now Satisfied

It is understood that all differences between the C. P. R. and the engine drivers and firemen, in reference to taking out preferred engines, has been settled. Some time ago an order was issued compelling freight engineers to take out the first engine available, when called out for their run.

Naturally, the men who took good care of his engine was loth to use one not properly cared for, and hand his well-cared for machine over to another man.

For some time the matter has hung fire but it was said this morning by a local engineer of the C. P. R. that an agreement recently went into effect, whereby everything was satisfactorily adjusted. The meeting was held in Montreal and was attended by a representative from London, Toronto, Windsor and other points.

Traveling Engineer L. E. Roblin, of 709 Lorne avenue, represented the local engineers. The new schedule goes into effect Sept. 1.

Under its provisions, the men have their own locomotives, as formerly.

BIG THEFT OF GOLD.

Fairbanks, Alaska, Aug. 10.—Meager reports have been received of the thefts of 59 pounds of gold dust valued at \$12,000.

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Michigan Central Train Crew Reported Killed or Injured.

Depot Completely Demolished, and Seven Bodies Taken From Ruins.

St. Thomas, Ont., Aug. 10

—By the explosion of a car of dynamite in front of the Michigan Central depot at Essex, Ont., between 9 and 10 o'clock this morning, seven men were killed, five are seriously injured and the station completely demolished. One of the dead men is believed to be Conductor Berry who was in charge of the train. He was formerly of St. Thomas. Included amongst the injured are Station-Master Steiner and Operator Abbott. The train, which was a regular Michigan Central freight, was manned by a crew from Amherstburg, and it is reported that the fireman was badly injured. The explosion was a terrific one, wrecking everything in the immediate vicinity. Telegraph and telephone wires were destroyed, cutting off communication from outside points. Wrecking trains were rushed from St. Thomas and Amherstburg. The cause of the explosion has not yet been ascertained.

LATER.

Another dead body has been identified as that of Mr. Joseph McNeary, baggage-man, of St. Thomas.

[Special to the Advertiser.]

Essex, August 10.—A carload of dynamite was exploded at the Michigan Central station here this morning, bringing death to an unknown number of persons. So far seven bodies have been recovered. Many others are injured. The explosion did great damage to property. Every window in the business part of the town was broken, and much damage was done to buildings and stocks. Owing to the great excitement prevailing and the condition of panic it is impossible at present to give the names of the known dead or of the injured.

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