

PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD.

From THE DAILY COLONIST, November 15. Recommendations from the Teachers' Institute on Manual Training in Schools.

Trustee Marchant Counsels Moderation in Whipping—Promotion Examinations Discussed.

There was a full meeting of the school trustees last night, when some important questions came up. One was in connection with a proposition from the principals of the graded schools to change the method now in vogue of having all pupils take the examinations. The other was a letter and resolutions from the Teachers' Institute recommending manual training in the schools. Both matters went over for future consideration.

Principal McNeill asked for a number of supplies for the North ward school and also that the school ground near the building be levelled as water stands off in the rainy weather. Referred to supply committee to act.

Trustee Glover stated that the contractors had not paid any attention to Mr. Day's notification to attend to the necessary alterations on the North Ward school boiler and pipes. He moved that the board engage a plumber to do the work and deduct the cost from the balance due the contractors. This was agreed to, provided the contractors did not take action within forty-eight hours.

Miss Cameron, principal of the South Park school, complained that the roof leaked in her room. Referred to supply committee to act.

The Secretary of the Teachers' Institute wrote that four teachers were absent from the last meeting of the institute. It was decided to ask the absentees to send in their explanations in writing.

Wm. Huxtable, janitor of the Central school, asked that the \$20 extra formerly allowed him during the winter months be continued. Granted.

The principals of the graded schools asked for promotion examinations that be left to the initiative of the principal of each school to decide the number of children who should try for the promotion examinations.

Trustee Marchant thought that it would be advisable to allow the teachers to decide what children were eligible to write at the examinations.

Mr. McNeill, principal of the North Ward school, stated that all might be allowed to write at midsummer, but not at the half-yearly examinations unless the parents decidedly wished it. In his own school there were a large number of pupils who had only been there a short time, and consequently were, as yet, unable to write. He thought it would be too great a strain on them to force them all to compete. His objection to the present system was that it was harmful to young children to compete and that they were not allowed to do so.

The Chairman said the present system was adopted last year, because some parents complained formerly of favoritism when their children were not allowed to compete. The present system had been brought in to remedy that situation, and it should not be changed hastily.

Trustee Lovell bore out the chairman's remarks and advised the board to go slowly in making a change.

Trustee Marchant said there would be no hardship on the pupils if each one who wished might be allowed to compete. On the other hand, a pupil who was forced to take the examination and felt unfit to try, would feel very much discouraged by failure to pass. The principals probably know what was best, and he moved that the principals' request be granted, with the proviso that every pupil who wished to compete should be allowed to do so.

Trustee Lovell seconded Trustee Marchant's motion.

Trustee Lewis thought all the children should take the examination.

The Chair suggested that the matter be over till next meeting, whereupon Mr. Marchant withdrew his motion and the letter was laid over till a meeting to be held not later than the last week in November.

Mr. Grant, on behalf of the Central School Supply Company, offered to sell the board maps made in regard to the contours of the countries and the heights of the mountains.

Trustee Marchant moved that the matter be referred over to next year's board. Carried.

The average school attendance for the month was 1870.71; daily average attendance, 1836.25; pupils actually attending, 2,123; average per teacher, 45.17.

The following letter was read from the Secretary of the Teachers' Institute:

VICTORIA, October 30, 1894. Mr. B. Williams, Secretary School Board, Victoria, B.C.:

Sir:—In obedience to the request of the board of school trustees, I send you an informal report of the meeting held for the purpose of obtaining the opinions of the teachers on manual training in the city schools.

A special meeting was held in the council chambers on November 2. The teachers were decidedly in favor of having manual training in the public schools, but they thought with the present limit on the number of subjects to be taught, we ought first to have yearly instead of semi-annual examinations.

It was the general opinion of the meeting that the hand and eye of the child should be trained at the earliest stage of school life, and that we should have kindergarten established as soon as possible. Trained teachers could easily be engaged in San Francisco and they could take in pupil teachers from the High school and train them for the work.

The teachers were of opinion that the question of expense to meet the carrying out of the scheme was not within their province, but the time that should be devoted to manual training was one they could deal with. Some thought it best to have night schools, and in addition to the work a course of lectures could be given on "Industrial Drawing," "Practical Chemistry" or "Applied Mechanics." Others were opposed to night schools, and thought the time should be taken either before or after the present school hours. The manual training should be carried on through the public and high schools, and we should have a Normal school where teachers could be trained in their own "technic" or trade.

It was the opinion of a great many of the teachers that there were altogether too many subjects on the High school course, and it would make room for more useful work if some of them were struck off.

Hoping you will excuse this disconnected report, as it has been made chiefly from memory, and that it will give you a better idea of our opinions on the matter than if

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CHINA HAS MANY LIVES.

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NATIVE TALENT.

At Lader's Landing, on Friday evening last, a colonial drama of today, written by a British Canadian, was presented. About 250 people witnessed the performance and gave the new play a magnificent reception. Nothing was lacking to make the play a success. The scenery was far better than the usual run, the company was thoroughly competent, the interpretation of the author's meaning, and the play was a bright, clever and natural piece of writing.

The stage scene is the store on a Cariboo mangle beach, and was excellently staged. Arthur Bryant, the actor, is bookkeeper for the store, and is engaged to Muriel, Briscoe's daughter. Briscoe sells a mine which he owns for \$2,000,000 and goes to England to live. The engagement between Arthur Bryant and Muriel is broken off through the machinations of Janet Ross, the female villain of the play. There are four characters in the piece that are distinct creations.

In the first act the character of Arthur Bryant is spoken by the author (Mr. Looker-Lucas), and he took it well, in one place Muriel is broken off through the machinations of Janet Ross,