

# PROPOSED COLLEGIATE IN TECHNICAL PROTESTED BY EAST END MOTHERS' CLUBS

## Ratepayers Speak Plainly To Aldermen and Trustees and Demand That New High School Be Erected.

Bringing forward their most effective arguments and lining forces for a mighty battle, ratepayers of East London last night opened hostilities on the local Board of Education and declared in no uncertain terms any attempt to establish an East London Collegiate in the Technical School, Rectory Street Public School was the scene of the opening fusillade and attack on the school board's latest plan to solve the complicated secondary school problem was led by the United Mothers' Clubs of the city's East End district.

Incidentally it was by no means a one-sided affair, for by special invitation of the trustees, Trustee B. N. Campbell, chairman of the Board of Education, was in attendance and in addition to the hot shots fired by the ratepayers of the district Mr. Campbell was able to give a detailed explanation of the trustees' side of the controversy. The City Council was also represented by Ald. Frank McKay, who occupied the chair for a part of the meeting, and Ald. Bottrill and Warren. Dr. Gordon, president of the newly-formed East End Collegiate Parents' Association, was also a participant in the spirited discussion, while Mrs. Sinclair, president of the Rectory Street Mothers' Club, occupied the chair at the opening.

**TWO RESOLUTIONS.**  
After a great deal of discussion and the delivery of a series of interesting speeches the meeting adopted two resolutions. In the one to be submitted to the Board of Education the proposal to convert the Technical School into a vocational college to serve the East End was condemned as unsuitable, and the trustees were asked to give immediate consideration to the erection of a new and complete East End Collegiate. In the other, to be forwarded to Dr. Merchant, president of the Education at Toronto, a survey of the district was asked before any decision is made in connection with the proposed scheme.

In addition to the adoption of these resolutions the meeting also named the following delegates to wait on the advisory vocational committee at its meeting next Monday evening to protest against the vocational collegiate scheme: Dr. Gordon, president of the East End Parents' Association; Arthur Mould and Mesdames Sinclair, McNibben and Rider. Deputations from the parents' association and the mothers' clubs will be named later to meet the school board at its next regular meeting.

Mrs. Sinclair opened the evening's discussion after the gathering of ratepayers, which numbered about 50, had waited some time for a promised visit from the mayor and aldermen. She declared, in the course of a humorous history of the school situation in East London, that 11 years ago, when she first became a resident of the district, she had been asked as a ratepayer to sign a petition for a new school. She had no children attending school at that time. To-day she had kiddies attending the high school and she was still waiting for that school for which a petition had been circulated over a decade ago.

In the interim the school board had erected schools elsewhere in other parts of the city and had expended enormous sums, said the speaker. Now they were going to pass off the East End, one of the biggest sections of the entire city, with a make-shift scheme in which the Technical School would be used while they were at the same time planning the erection of a new Collegiate for South London. Last year the Technical School had been badly congested. To meet seriously overcrowded conditions it had been found necessary to erect several new rooms at a cost of \$80,000. These were now about complete and, according to all reports, were urgently needed. And in spite of this the board had now suddenly discovered that it could house the East End pupils in the Technical School without in any way causing any further congestion.

"Let Campbell or any other member of the Board of Education walk the distance that these kiddies will have to go, and I'll guarantee that they'll object, too," Mrs. Sinclair said, amid applause. A voice from the rear—"Sometimes we feel ashamed that we wasted those leathers to go out and put these trustees in office."

Another mother declared that the kiddies in some parts of the East End would have to use an Ottawa car. The service on the line was so poor that it would mean walking four days out of five, she said.

Another voice offered this: "Yes, and the Lord Himself said, 'I will be a Father to the fatherless and a Father to the orphan.' The Board of Education, will take care of them while they walk over those railway tracks."

"No man knows the anxiety of a mother when her child is late coming from school and she knows that he has to cross the railway tracks," Mrs. Sinclair declared.

Trustee Campbell then took the floor in an effort to outline the position of the school board. He said that he was present at the invitation of Mrs. Sinclair, and had it not been for her energy he would not have been on hand at all.

"Ye," interjected Mrs. Sinclair, "I left my telephone number at Mr. Campbell's office all day yesterday and he never answered it."

The school board chairman declared that he and his colleagues this year have a much greater problem to deal with than the aldermen or any other civic body. Last year the trustees had gone to the Council for funds to erect an East London high school. They had been refused, owing to the fact that a new public school was needed in West London. To-day no less than 2,000 secondary school pupils are clamoring for accommodation with classrooms for

inference that the whole scheme of relief had been thrashed out and settled without apparently consulting the aldermen. It looked to him as if the meeting had adopted a program and then called in the members of No. 1 committee at the last minute to see if the work could be carried out.

Secretary McCullough, of the Social Service Council, assured him that no such action had been taken, and that only the principle of co-ordinated relief had been adopted. In reply, Ald. Smith stated that he was unalterably opposed to a clearing house for relief, except in the city hall. He did not favor the Social Service Council as the centralization body.

Ald. Douglass expressed the view that the aldermen were only at the meeting on sufferance and would not be permitted to vote. To satisfy him, it was moved that the members of No. 1 committee be allowed to sit as co-ordinating members and be given the right of voting.

Subsequently approval was given to the zone system and to the principle of co-ordinated relief. On motion of Mayor Wenige it was agreed that distribution of city relief should be done on the recommendation of the chairman, captain or head of any of the zones, subject to the approval of the mayor and the chairman of No. 1 committee, and limited to the amount set aside for relief in the estimates. This decision being made, but it was suggested that another meeting be held before the City Council meets on Monday night to consider the whole question.

**DR. GORDON.**  
Dr. Gordon asked that the east be given equal facilities as compared to any other civic district. He thought that the City Council would grant the necessary funds for an east Collegiate if asked by the school board. After all, he said, the east would come out of taxes and everyone was equally responsible in this respect. The Technical School plan was only a makeshift at best.

Trustee Campbell replied that the board would not oppose a new Collegiate in both east and south if the money could be obtained.

"Why not send the South London pupils to the Technical School queried someone in the audience."

Arthur Mould declared that after all the board would have to spend a considerable amount of money on new rooms at the Technical School. Surely they could with very little more provide a new Collegiate for the east. The board would spend just as much in the next two or three years in any case. In any event the health of the kiddies was 10,000 times more important than a fraction of a mill on the tax rate.

One mother declared that it cost nearly \$10 per annum in street car fares to convey the kiddies downtown to school and in addition special lunches must be provided.

"You have had dollars and buildings pictures for you here to-night," declared one ratepayer in the rear of the hall. "The picture I have seen, however, is the poor little devil 16 years from now trading along to the Technical School for his high school education."

Ald. McKay, in answer to a question, stated that a new Collegiate would mean an additional three-quarters of a mill on the tax rate.

Mrs. Sinclair stated that Mayor Wenige had promised support providing the tax rate could be kept down.

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## ZONE SYSTEM FOR CITY RELIEF WORK

Approved At Meeting of Aldermen and Charitable Bodies

## CENTRALIZATION OPPOSED

No Decision As To Location of Clearing House

Centralization of civic relief under the Social Service Council met with sharp opposition from members of No. 1 committee of the City Council in conference with representatives of charitable organizations last night. Charges of "job-jacking" were freely hurled and the meeting ended without any settlement of the vexatious problem as to where the clearing house for city relief shall be located.

Progress was made, however, in some of the details of the work. Approval was given by the conference to the principle of the zone system whereby needy cases will be reported to some central bureau and an order made on city funds under the authorization of the mayor and the chairman of No. 1 committee. It was also agreed that a record of all deserving cases should be kept in order to eliminate overlapping or overlooking, and that (with a few exceptions) full particulars should be kept of every case to which benevolence was granted.

The main question as to whether the City Council shall retain control of all relief work or whether that power shall be delegated to some other body remains open. Ald. Douglass, chairman of No. 1 committee, refused to consider the delegation of city power to any other organization and he was supported in this view by Ald. Smith and Dr. Gordon.

## A DRIVING FORCE

Rev. John Garbutt criticized this attitude and pointed out that the Social Service Council was an organization which would give driving force to the zone system and he predicted that if the project were left in the city hall the whole scheme would be killed at the outset. Rev. D. C. MacGregor agreed with him and pointed out that the charitable organizations represented were giving much more relief in the city than were the City Council, who only made provision for some \$3,000 in the estimates, to be expended for relief work.

Speaking plainly on the question Chairman Nash asked Alderman Smith his proposal to keep the relief work under the City Council was merely an effort to provide some person with a job.

"I might ask you the same question," replied Mr. Smith. "Is it not a case of giving a job to the secretary of the Social Service Council? Isn't it a question of providing the Social Service Council and its secretary with a position?"

The suggestion that the work be centralized under the present relief officer, Mr. McCallum, brought forth much opposition. Mrs. Harrison, president of the W. C. T. U., while admitting the difficulty of the task that Mr. McCallum had before him, stated that relief was given so grudgingly by him that it was more or less a waste of time to appeal to him. Although looking after 110 families, she had only gone to the relief inspector on six occasions for assistance.

Ald. Smith interjected that Mr. McCallum had always treated him very courteously whenever he had occasion to ask aid for any case, and he pointed out that the inspector was of necessity obliged to be negligent because he was responsible to the City Council for keeping down the tax rate, and he was also bound by the regulations of that body.

## BLAMES COUNCIL

Ald. Douglass said that the fault lay not in the inspector, but in the City Council, and he did not evade any censure himself. It was right that Mr. McCallum had given relief grudgingly, but it was a case of overwork and of being hemmed in by restrictions and red tape.

The aldermen kept the meeting fairly lively at all times. Ald. Smith first demanded a roll call of the members to find out just what sort of a conference it was. He then took exception to the

## 19 INCHES OF SNOW FELL HERE DURING JANUARY

Official report issued by the local weather bureau last evening shows that 19 inches of snow fell in this city during the past month. London was covered with 4 1/2 inches of the flaky blanket during the same month of last year. The past month was more moist than that of the same month a year ago. In the past 31 days 1.94 inches of rain fell in this vicinity, in comparison with 28 inches of rain that fell during the month of January, 1923.

The temperature soared to 43 degrees above on the 11th of last month, while the highest mark it reached the year previous was 42 degrees above on the 18th. The mercury dropped to 9 below on the 21st of last month, in comparison to 1 below on the 7th of January, 1923.

Citizens of London experienced seven really cold days during the past month. During this period the mercury ranged from 3 degrees above to 9 degrees below.

**BISHOP DEWDNEY AT SEAFORTH**  
SEAFORTH, Jan. 31.—A large and appreciative audience assembled in St. Thomas Church on Tuesday evening to hear an interesting and inspiring illustrated lecture by Bishop Dewdney, of Keewatin, on his experiences in the Far North among the Indians and Eskimos. The bishop's discourse extended some 2,600 miles from Kenora to the Arctic Circle.

## A CLEARING HOUSE

Rev. Mr. Garbutt supported the idea of using the Social Service Council for a clearing house. The whole scheme needed some driving force, intelligent organization and co-ordination that would come only through having some person as its head. The project required wise manipulation, otherwise it would fall at its inception. This oversight and supervision, he pointed out, could be adequately given by the Social Service Council.

Ald. Douglass questioned the power of the City Council under the Municipal Act to delegate any authority of this nature to another organization. Mayor Wenige assured him it could be done under the act.

Capt. Garbutt spoke feelingly on the attitude of the aldermen, whom he compared to small boys who won't play unless allowed to play the way they want to. He pleaded for the subordination of petty jealousies and asked for co-operation in the scheme in order that it might succeed.

Rev. D. C. MacGregor was of the opinion that the City Council was not the big factor in the work in any event, as it gave the magnificent sum of \$3,000 to relief, whereas other organizations gave at least 10 times that amount. The meeting adjourned without any decision being made, but it was suggested that another meeting be held before the City Council meets on Monday night to consider the whole question.

## MOTHER GUESTS VACCINATED IN HURRY WHEN CASE OF SMALLPOX SUSPECTED

WINDSOR, Jan. 31.—Fifteen persons, most of them guests at the Grand Central Hotel, Sandwich street east, were vaccinated in a hurry to-night when it was discovered that Harry Green, proprietor of the hotel, was developing symptoms of smallpox. Green had been taken ill earlier in the day and to-night Dr. Fred Adams, medical officer of health, was called in and diagnosed the trouble as smallpox. It has not yet been decided whether or not to quarantine the hotel.

**ST. JOHN'S VESTRY, THAMESFORD.**  
THAMESFORD, Jan. 31.—The congregation of St. John's Anglican Church held its postponed vestry meeting on Monday evening in the parish hall. The rector, W. D. Davis, presided. The reports of the church finances as to building and mission funds were satisfactory. Wardens J. Boller and D. Morrison, who have held office during the past five years, resigned. W. Noble and W. J. Smith were elected in their places. J. O. Otterbirt was elected treasurer and vestry clerk.

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All-wool heavy blue serge makes, these — they are exceptionally practical Trousers for railroad men; five pockets, belt loops. Very special.

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Brown and gray herringbones, recognized for hard wear, firm tweeds — splendid Work Trousers of serviceable weights. Don't overlook these!

#### \$2 Stylish Wool Mufflers

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Stylish, Cozy Mufflers, of soft brushed wool, with smart contrasting borders, fringe ends. Fashionable heather mixtures and plain colors. All half price!

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100 per cent. Wool Heavy Rib and Scotch Knit Combinations; also light weight cream shade, fine fleecel Combinations. Our regular \$3.50 lines now ..... **\$2.15**

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