

Before The School Board.

Details of the Business Transacted at Monday Evening's Meeting.

Attendances at the Different Schools and Sizes of the Classes.

Owing to the lack of space yesterday the report of Monday evening's meeting of the school board had to be curtailed. It is now given more in detail.

Mr. Pemberton, after asking on behalf of a class of twelve young women of the Y. W. C. A. studying physical culture, for the use of the Pemberton gymnasium. A similar communication, the chair explained, had been received but refused, exception to the request being taken at the time that the president would be a bad one to establish.

After a short discussion, Trustee Marchant moved that a letter be written by Victor Hugo to the family and founder of the gymnasium, the letter be received and the request granted, on condition that the lighting be paid for as suggested by Mrs. Pemberton's communication. The motion was carried.

G. T. Burrows wrote offering for sale a lot contiguous to the Spring Ridge school, which would afford an excellent playground for the children. The price the trustee asked was \$1,000, and the terms, it was stated, would be the easiest that could possibly be arranged. All that was to be asked was \$100 as a deposit, and the balance could run over for a period of three years, with interest at 6 per cent.

The offer was referred to the buildings and grounds committee.

On motion Miss Tingler's and Miss Anderson's application for positions on staff, which had been accepted, were placed on file.

Miss Arthur and Mrs. Taylor explained in a satisfactory manner their forced absence from duty on the opening of the schools.

A communication from the Hon. W. L. Lett Merritt was then read, in which that lady offered her services for lecturing on physical culture. The letter was received and placed on file on motion of Mrs. Gordon Grant.

A number of communications from the principals were read, each asking in addition to supplies permission to levy fees on school children to defray expenses of the teaching of music. Miss Williams wanted to levy a fee of 5 cents a month on each pupil for this purpose, while the principal of the North Ward asked for a flagrant fee of 10 cents a month, but voluntary.

Miss Cameron, principal of the South Park, had a little different way of raising the desired funds. Through a little misunderstanding a concert had been partially arranged, even so far as to have tickets sold.

After dealing with the regulations for supplies, another matter cropped up in a suggestion of Mr. Marchant to have a flag and for the South Park school, of which she is principal.

Chairman Marchant thought that it was a good thing to let the boys and girls know what a flag was. While agreeing with the chair, Trustee Marchant asked to have the question sent to the school management committee to report together with the matter of securing supplies. He commented severely on the matter of the flag, and said that he was not in favor of the school doing it, but that he was in favor of the school doing it.

His suggestion was adopted.

Accounts to the amount of \$268.20 for school supplies were passed.

Then the music committee was brought up. Trustee Marchant said he was not in favor of any levies being placed on school children for these sometimes worked hardly on poor families. He gave instances of this, and thought the levy might not be compulsory. It would cause the boy unable to do as his class mates, and this was a disadvantage. He was a believer in the good effect music had on a pupil, and was of the opinion that the major number of the children in the school at present teach the elementary part of music. He doubted the judiciousness of importing a special teacher for the purpose.

Trustee Hall agreed with Trustee Marchant. He was not opposed to the teaching of music, but to the system of levying, which the principals proposed. There were more subjects to the school curriculum now than there was time for, and he was in favor of eliminating rather than adding to the number.

Mrs. Williams' grant opposed the two previous speakers. Music, she thought, was more of a recreation than labor, and a benefit, besides, the nominal fees mentioned would impose no great burden on the parents.

Supt. Eades stated that in Eastern Canada and the United States wherever the system had been tried the teaching of music in schools by those other than special instructors had been found impracticable. The money for such instruction was paid by the board. He hoped that in this instance the board would see its way clear to vote \$100 for the purpose, and carry out the work in two schools from now until the end of the term. Mr. Barton would take up the work. The question was finally disposed of with a resolution opposing the levying of fees on the children, the superintendent's suggestion to the school management, as for Miss Cameron's concert, the matter on motion of Mrs. Gordon Grant was left in the hands of the chairman.

The secretary next read a detailed statement of the school attendance, which was as follows:

High school	1898	1899
Central and Spring	130	156
North Ward and Hillside	590	567
South Ward and Kingston	458	464
Victoria West	241	255
Total	2271	2424

Boys' school—Division 1, 34; 2, 46; 3, 44; 4, 45; 5, 48; 6, 42; 7, 50; 8, 54; total, 361.

Girls' school—Division 1, 30; 2, 49; 3, 52; 4, 55; 5, 56; 6, 50; 7, 58; 8, 56; total, 415.

Spring Ridge—Division 1, 47; 2, 57; 3, 44; 4, 55; total, 204.

Victoria West—Division 1, 41; 2, 44; 3, 45; 4, 57; 5, 42; 6, 40; total, 258.

Hillside—Division 1, 22; 2, 36; 3, 50; 4, 42; 5, 46; 6, 42; 7, 50; 8, 44; total, 332.

South Park—Division 1, 45; 2, 50; 3, 42; 4, 53; 5, 52; 6, 55; 7, 54; 8, 44; total, 386.

Kingston Street—Division 1, 36; 2, 42; total, 78.

Trustee Hall moved, seconded by Trustee Marchant, that a copy of the rules be sent to each teacher, with an intimation that the observance of these rules will be regarded as a condition of the contract between each teacher and the board, and that the finance committee be authorized to draw up a form of contract as the basis of an agreement with each employee of the board.

Trustee Hall also moved and the motion was carried, that the provisions of clause 2, section 1 of the rules, providing that no teacher's salary shall be increased except from the beginning of the calendar year shall not be considered as applicable in the case of a teacher trans-

ferred during the year from the primary to an intermediate or grammar class, or from an intermediate to a grammar class, and whose salary before transference was less than the minimum sum payable to teachers of the class to which he or she has been transferred.

THINK WELL OF THEMSELVES. Some Great Men Who Are Not Above Being Concocted.

From London Tit-Bits.

It is true that a "man's greatness may almost be measured by his modesty." It is at least equally true that there are more than sufficient exceptions to prove the rule; for there have been times when many of the greatest men the world has known have been betrayed into expressions of conceit which would have been discreditable in much smaller men.

That Balzac had an adequate estimate of his powers was proved by his saying on more than one occasion, "there are only two men in France—Victor Hugo, Theophile Gautier and myself."

This verdict, flattering as it was, in a sense, to Victor Hugo, was by no means infallible by him. When the author of Les Misérables heard of it, he is said to have remarked: "If you remove Gautier and Balzac, I have no doubt that I will be the greatest of the three."

When a lady of rank once said to Malesherbes, the famous French poet, whose morals were as faulty as his verses were perfect, "I want to show you some of the most exquisite verses ever written; they will be a revelation to you." Malesherbes answered: "Pardon me, madam, if, as you write, I have already seen them, for they must be my own."

Mirabeau, one of the most prominent figures in the French revolution, was distinguished by his vanity. He was dying, and his favorite attendant, "Drop up my head carefully, for it is the most remarkable head in all France," Mirabeau said to his attendant, "Drop up my head carefully, for it is the most remarkable head in all France."

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Working Mines Of This Island.

American Consul Draws Attention to Strides Made in Development.

Enormous Capacity of New Works at the Extension Colliery.

Washington, Aug. 29.—United States capital is credited with having pushed the development of the mineral resources of the island during the past year with more energy than heretofore.

This statement is made upon the authority of a report from Consul Abraham B. Smith, of Victoria.

The growth of the country has been so rapid that the provincial government is seriously considering the establishment of a telegraph line along the West Coast of Vancouver Island, from Alberni to Clayoquot and Udelut sounds, a distance of 300 miles.

Other interesting data from the report follows:

"An American company is also largely interested on Clayoquot Sound, where copper and iron have been developed; also small quantities of gold and silver. Other properties of the same company are the Helga and Good Hope. They are located on Trout river and Disappointment Inlet. The Helga is made up of 100 acres of low-lying land. This is not shipping ore, and will require a mill on the ground. A contract has been made for the construction of a tunnel 24 feet in diameter, and 2,000 feet long, to be driven through the mountain side, and will require a mill on the ground. A contract has been made for the construction of a tunnel 24 feet in diameter, and 2,000 feet long, to be driven through the mountain side, and will require a mill on the ground.

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last two years' revenue shows the following figures: In 1897, \$733,440; 1898, \$880,880; increase, \$147,440.

The Alaska trade had a very favorable effect on the shipbuilding industry of Victoria, for of the 22 steamers built in 1898 in the province of British Columbia, no fewer than 12, with a tonnage of 1,444 tons, were built in Victoria.

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