

TRUSTEES' ECONOMIES.

A Demonstration Against Them at Which the Large Property Owners Were Scarified.

Legislature Petitioned by Resolution to Rescind Authority for the High School Fee.

Addresses by Teachers Who Have Decided Opinions About Some of the Trustees.

As a demonstration the public meeting in the city hall last evening was a decided success. Ladies and gentlemen interested in the affairs of the schools and the teachers attended in numbers sufficient to well fill the council chamber, and there appeared to be great unanimity of opinion. The meeting had been called for the specific purpose of discussing the fee of \$10 school pupils, but a resolution offered at the outset made it in order also to take up the reductions in the salaries of the teachers. A good deal of time was wasted by several speakers in incidentally dwelling upon the "single tax," and in making personal history, so that there was not opportunity for some of the school trustees, who no doubt would have liked to do so, to put the arguments on their side of the case before the meeting. Only two were heard from—the chairman, who spoke in justification of the action of the majority, and Mrs. Grant, who told why she could not agree with her fellow trustees in the action they had taken. This lady made the speech of the evening, setting a splendid example by strictly confining her remarks to the points at issue, avoiding personalities, and earning the most liberal applause from all parts of the hall by the sentiments so clearly expressed and the business-like way in which she handled the subjects under discussion. This was Mrs. Grant's first appearance before a great many of the constituents, and she certainly made friends amongst her new acquaintances.

The proceedings opened by Mr. C. E. Redfern moving that Mayor Beaven take the chair. Having come forward in response to a chorus of "ayes." His Worship made an address explaining why he had called the meeting, in response to a requisition asking for a public discussion of the imposition of a fee for high school education. He supposed the proper course would be to call upon the trustees, and such being the wish of the meeting he would do so.

Mr. D. Sprague here came forward with this resolution: Whereas in the history of our public schools this is the first meeting called specially to discuss school matters; and whereas it is impossible to discuss the High School question without touching on other departments, I beg to move that the discussion on all educational matters be in order. This was carried unanimously and the Mayor called on the chairman of the school board.

Mr. Charles Hayward coming forward in response, said he understood the meeting had been asked for by some persons who disagree with certain actions of the school trustees, and before he and those of his colleagues who were present addressed the meeting he thought it should be made apparent to the meeting who are these gentlemen who complain and what their complaints are about. (Applause.)

Mr. Munroe Miller, to give the trustees something to talk about, moved this resolution, seconded by Mr. Berridge: "Whereas the board of school trustees of the city of Victoria have, to the detriment of education, availed themselves of the authority contained in section 38 of the school act, which authorizes the trustees to impose a tuition fee on scholars attending high schools, and as the boards of school trustees of other cities do not avail themselves of the same section, the comparison shown is most disadvantageous to the city of Victoria: Therefore be it resolved, that the Minister of Education be by this meeting requested to eliminate said section 38 from the school act; and be it further resolved, that the representatives of this city in the legislature be informed of the wishes of this meeting and that they be urged to use their utmost endeavors in the house and with the government to secure the repeal of said section 38 of the school act."

In support of the resolution Mr. Miller entered into a mathematical calculation of what it costs the parents of this province to maintain their children, and made a pathetic appeal that the expense of high school tuition be not added in the manner proposed.

Mr. Berridge, the seconder, said he had always held that free education is the grandest democratic institution in Canada, and he considered that the imposition of a high school fee was a blow at this most glorious institution. If the intentions of the school trustees were good, it must be remembered where the way paved with good intentions leads to. He felt that there was behind this action a dark and evil power in the city which should be spoken against with the tongue of scorpions. He held that the high school fee and the reduction of the teachers' salaries were unwise, unjust and unnecessary. He denied that the people were liable to be over-educated—that education would unfit them for mechanical or any other occupations, and instanced his own case, for after receiving a good education he had learned the trade of a blacksmith. If the government only took the taxation from the right source there would be money enough to give the people a free education, but a better education than has hitherto been available. The black thing behind the trustees to which he had referred was the Municipal Reform Association whom he blamed also for having had the lands sale bill introduced in the house, and whose object he described in terms not complimentary to this "anti-reform" association as he described it. He next gave personal attention to Trustees Belyea and Hayward, and stated that the latter had let the cat out of the bag when he said the teachers had not

the same interest in the taxation as "the large ratepayers." Many of these he said are absent in London and elsewhere, and the rents that are sent out to them for the use of natural opportunities are so much robbery. He was speaking in eulogistic terms of Charles Bradlaugh, Henry George, Col. Ingersoll, Eugene Debs and other advocates of the principle of land taxation of which he approved, when several voices called him to order, saying that Mr. Berridge should stick to the point. He thereupon took his seat amidst a renewal of the warm applause which from time to time he had received from many sympathizers in the audience.

Mr. Alex. Wilson agreed with very little that Mr. Berridge had said, but he did come to the trustees for the Municipal Reform Association, against whom he did not say a word, because he intended to belong to them, unless he is blackballed. What were the trustees asked, which prompted the school trustees to come forward? He thought the trustees have done wrong; that they should first have examined into the condition of the high school. They would have found there pupils who have been two or three years in the higher divisions, waiting for positions as teachers, and it is these who have been created by the unnecessary expense. He would not think the reduction of the teachers' salaries should be discussed here, because he pointed out that people of all classes in this city and province have had their incomes cut down during the past three years—and very many taxpayers have not cheques for their services or for goods they have supplied, waiting for them at the end of every month as the teachers have. If they are getting fair living pay they should be satisfied. Taxpayers generally have been asking for reductions in the teachers' salaries, in the city hall staff and in the police force. He thought, however, there should be a cutting out—the better teacher the better pay; and that the school inspectors, the superintendent and the minister of education should also submit to a reduction.

The resolution was put and carried, only a few "no's" being heard.

PLEBISCITE ASKED FOR. Ald. Marchant then moved a resolution expressing regret that it is proposed to impose a fee for attendance at the high school, and asking that the plan be not put in operation until the matter had been submitted to a plebiscite of the ratepayers. The mover said that since the high school fee had not been mentioned during the recent elections the people ought to be allowed a chance to pronounce upon the matter. He warmly advocated absolutely free education in the high school as well as the public schools, for he pointed out that many of the children enter the high school at eleven or twelve years of age, at which it cannot be said that their education should cease. He calculated that the average working-man paid only about 87 cents last year for the support of the high school, and the workingman would grudge that; and the land owners paid only 50 cents for each thousand dollar lot they possessed. He claimed that cry for cheaper education does not come from residents. He read from the list of studies to show that the high school is not a high school at all, but only a higher form of the public schools, except in the case of a few subjects in the more advanced classes. To impose a high school fee, which will be a hardship to many poor families, will not materially affect the taxation of the workingmen here, but will simply reduce the taxation of absentee landholders. Their land is valued at \$2,000, upon which they have put the paltry improvements of \$128,000. He felt confident of the result if the matter were submitted to a plebiscite as proposed in the resolution.

Rev. E. H. McEwan seconded the resolution. He regarded the proposed high school fee as simply a fine upon the parents who have children in the high school, and a retrograde movement which he must oppose.

Mr. Hayward, chairman of the school board, then came forward. He mentioned the unlimited authority conferred upon the school boards in the matter of their demand upon the city councils for the purposes of education, and their duty to cautiously exercise the power conferred upon them. The annual cost of education to this province he calculated at \$350,000, and he thought it better to attempt to adjust the matter by the fair resources of the country rather than, for instance, to auction off lands to pay for it as proposed by the government. He thought the teachers have not been unfairly dealt with, though no doubt it will be hard to make them believe it. He thought it would not be disputed that \$85 a month is as good in this city to-day as \$100 was two or three years ago. He thought, however, the necessities of life and house rents also have been greatly reduced. A reduction was made in Vancouver a year ago, in the aggregate of 13.01 per cent.; the reduction in Victoria is 11.58 per cent. He noticed a calculation of the average monthly salary per teacher on the printed handbills distributed at the door this evening, and wished to say that they are not quite correct or fair, as in the case of Victoria several monitors at \$30 are included, while the lowest salary paid to a teacher is \$50 a month. He read from the school act to show that it is the duty of the trustees to make provision for the high school education of children whose parents cannot afford to pay for them, and such being the case it would not be the poor but the well-to-do who will have to pay the fee imposed. He read a list of the occupations of the parents of the children now attending the high school, showing that there are very few workmen among them, and that nearly all the parents are well-to-do. Principal Paul had told him that of the 146 children in the school, about nine would have to leave it if called upon for the fee. These nine it would be Mr. Hayward said, the duty of the trustees to look after. A recent report from the Liberal minister of education for the Province of Ontario throws light upon the matter of fees for high schools, and it will be seen is not a new idea. Hon. G. W. Ross shows in this report that from year to year the percentage of fees to the cost of education is being increased. If the system of charging a fee is growing in Ontario it cannot be so here. He was wrong in this city. In Toronto they have three collegiate institutes, and the annual fee is \$20 for residents and \$26 for non-residents. While the first object of putting on the fee in Vic-

toris is to relieve the public treasury to that extent, he believed it would benefit the schools by causing the parents to take a greater interest in seeing that their children are properly getting the education for which they are paying. He thought that if the trustees are left alone they will be able to regulate the matter so that those pupils who are allowed free attendance at the high schools will not appear in the position of paupers, a certain number of scholarships being placed at the disposal of the board to award as may seem desirable, while others will be offered as prizes for those who head their classes at the annual examinations.

Ald. Macmillan thought it would be a humiliating thing for a child who could not pay to be placed alongside a child who could and did, and would tend to make paupers of the children. He advocated that instead of putting on a fee the school board should follow the example of Ontario in supplying school books free.

Mr. Scaife expressed the opinion that the trustees acted improperly in cutting down the salaries of the teachers without reducing the cost of telephones and other expenses. He thought this was not the time to take a retrograde movement. His principle was, when you have got good things, hang on to it like grim death, and he sympathized with the teachers in hanging on to their salaries.

Trustee Mrs. Grant being called for went up to the front amidst great applause. She said that when the matter of cutting down the salaries of the teachers was brought before the school board she was opposed to it, because she felt that to have the salaries of the teachers cut down, when the prices have been reduced here, the highest salaries have not been in proportion to those paid in Eastern Canada. She had also opposed the high school fee. She thought, however, there should be a cutting out—the better teacher the better pay; and that the school inspectors, the superintendent and the minister of education should also submit to a reduction.

Then there could have been a question as to whether they were the voice of the people or whether those who advocated these changes were talking through their hats and bonnets. (Laughter and applause.) Mr. E. Wootton, a former pupil of the high school, spoke in favor of keeping that a free institution, for the benefit of those whose parents cannot afford to pay for them.

Mr. J. West spoke in favor of a free school system, made more efficient instead of being impaired as proposed. He had been instrumental in calling this meeting, and did so because he had heard that the trustees, he thought that this is only one of the aspects of the great economic question before the people. He was proceeding to discuss Mr. Forbes' report on the workingman's wages, when he was interrupted by a gentleman rising in the audience when Mr. West had taken his seat, and he said the list of studies to show that the high school is not a high school at all, but only a higher form of the public schools, except in the case of a few subjects in the more advanced classes. To impose a high school fee, which will be a hardship to many poor families, will not materially affect the taxation of the workingmen here, but will simply reduce the taxation of absentee landholders. Their land is valued at \$2,000, upon which they have put the paltry improvements of \$128,000. He felt confident of the result if the matter were submitted to a plebiscite as proposed in the resolution.

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in his place in the audience he simply moved a vote of thanks to the chairman of the hour being very late, 11:30 p.m.

Mr. C. E. Benouf took the platform and offered a resolution declaring that the recent action of the trustees in reducing the teachers' salaries is not conducive to the best interests of education, and that they be requested to reconsider the same. He spoke in support of this and also relative to the high school.

Mr. D. Sprague seconded the resolution, and was carried with a dissenting voice and the meeting adjourned at 11:40 p.m.

What an Experienced Mining Man Thinks of Its Future. John A. Finch of Spokane, who is at present in town, is largely interested in mines in the Rossland district. He is part owner of the famous War Eagle mine and the Jumbo, Iron Mask, Virginia and Tiger group as well. He has been many years in the mining business and has large interests in mills and mines in the Coeur d'Alene country. Speaking yesterday of Rossland Mr. Finch expressed great faith in the future of that wonderful region which in so short a space has produced such splendid mines as the Le Roi and War Eagle, besides the Homestake, Crown Point, Columbia and others which are rapidly being opened up in the district. He said that like that of Rossland and Trail Creek, impregnated with mineral, there are sure to be, he says, mines that will not doubt be equally as rich as those already developed. It is only a question of time and development.

The most development has so far been done in the North belt of Rossland, but the South belt would, he believed, with the same amount of work prove nearly if not equally as rich. Mr. Finch had seen the Nest Egg, which lies not far from the Homestake, and expressed his opinion that it makes a very favorable showing for the amount of work done on it. In regard to recent events in the district, he had no news that had not already been published, as it was three weeks since he had been at Rossland. The district is as yet not in a panic, he said, and he believed that the great mining countries of the world.

PYTHIANISM. The Thirty-second Birthday of the Order Celebrated Yesterday. Yesterday was the thirty-second anniversary of the institution of Pythianism and the day was celebrated by the order everywhere in London. At the Victoria Uniform Bank were installed by installing officer Sir Knight J. M. Hughes and inspected by Sir Knight Col. H. F. W. Behnen. The division is in a most satisfactory state both in regard to its membership and finances. The new officers are: Stroud L. Redgrave, captain; W. P. Smith, first lieutenant; C. Bloomquist, second lieutenant; M. Meiss, cordier; J. C. Byrn, treasurer; C. Bush, first sergeant; H. Benell, second sergeant; Geo. Moss, color sergeant. The Uniform Bank after the installation were entertained by Behnen Temple, Rathbone Sisters, who in honor of the day gave a most enjoyable social and dance in the Victoria hall. The members of the order and their friends. There was a very large attendance and the Rathbone Sisters proved themselves hospitable hostesses. Dancing was kept up to late hours of the evening. Refreshments were served during the evening.

Dandruff is an exudation from the pores of the skin that spreads and dries, forming scabs and causing the hair to fall out. Hall's Hair Renewer cures it.

Last evening was pleasantly spent at the M.C.A. rooms, where the young People's Society Endeavor of St. Andrew's Presbyterian church gave a reception to the association. Rev. W. L. Clay presided and the following programme was presented: Piano solo, Mrs. Roberts; song, Mr. White; reading, Mr. Allan; song, Miss Johnstone; song, Miss Spring; reading, Miss Newling. Refreshments were served during the evening.

There was a considerable difference of opinion expressed at Tuesday evening's special council meeting, according to one of the aldermen present at the session referred to, in regard to the wisdom of cutting the salaries of the municipal officers in the manner adopted. The reduction was not upon any general scale, nor were all the servants of the corporation reduced; each officer was dealt with separately and all in receipt of \$90 per month, except unattached, some of the higher salaries also standing. The alderman quoted, whose personal opinion was against the policy of wholesale reductions in the police department, sees in the framing of both school board and hospital bills, a new and more vigorous estimate indicating that reduction. He denied that there was any threat of a strike in the letter sent by the teachers to the board.

GRAHAM ISLAND GOLD.

A Conglomerate Deposit Containing the Precious Metal Discovered at Lawn Hill.

The Ground Being Thoroughly Tested—It Can Be Worked at Small Expense.

One of the passengers who came down by the Boscowitz yesterday was Capt. J. A. Woods. He is a well known mining man, who is interested in the Kootenay country and the object of his visit to the coast was to examine a new gold discovery in the Queen Charlotte islands in which he and some Vancouver people are associated.

This new find is on Graham Island, right at the entrance of Skidegate inlet. There is a small mountain there some 500 feet high known as Lawn Hill, familiar to mariners as a mark for the entrance to the channel. The hill is of diorite covered with a deposit of a soft lime conglomerate. This deposit covers some 500 acres. Capt. Woods made a number of tests by crushing and washing, the result being that he got returns of from \$5 to \$12 a ton in gold. The gold is free and should more thorough prospecting bear out the tests already made. The deposit can be very easily worked. There are small pieces of quartz through the conglomerate, but the deposit seems soft enough to crush with rollers without requiring stamps. Mr. Poudrier with a number of men is there at present having holes sunk to get some idea of the deposit.

Lawn Hill is close to the water and the working of the mine can be done very economically and cheaply by quarrying. This is a most promising outlook for a mine, and should present prospects hold out, the property will pay splendid returns with comparatively easy work. As more attention is being paid to the coast by prospectors, it is becoming more and more evident that the mineral wealth of British Columbia is not all confined to the interior.

NEWS OF THE DOMINION. (Special to the Colonist.) MONTREAL, Feb. 18.—(Special)—La Presse claims to be in a position to set all rumors at rest as to Mr. Laurier's attitude on the remedial bill. "Mr. Laurier," it says, "will vote and speak against the remedial bill as brought down by the government. He will allege that the bill does not offer the best means of settling the school question, and that the law does not provide for granting either money or lands in aid of separate schools. The leader of the opposition will pretend it does not do justice to the Catholic minority."

PETERBORO, Feb. 18.—Word has been received here of the death, at his son's residence in British Columbia, of Benjamin Green, for fifty-five years a resident of Peterboro. St. CATHERINES, Feb. 18.—Niek Frost, who was taken to hospital here about a month ago, died yesterday. In a pass-book found on him was \$2,200. He is unknown here and will be buried in Peter's field. CHESELEY, Feb. 18.—A boiler in Moore & Wallace's sash and door factory exploded, blowing the whole building into atoms. No one was injured. SUDBROOK, Feb. 18.—John Connors, of Quebec, a partner of Connolly Bros. contractors, has been arrested here charged with embezzling \$70,000 from the firm. TORONTO, Feb. 19.—The body of James Macdonald, postmaster of Criefft, Ont., who perished in a snow storm a week ago in a field west of his home, has been found under the snow. MONTREAL, Feb. 19.—Sir Wm. Van Horne has gone to Nassau, Bahamas, for a short trip. Having contracted a slight attack of bronchitis, he was advised to try a new and softer atmosphere for rest and recuperation.

Two Indian prisoners, Kiakamlak and Liklak, were brought down yesterday on the Boscowitz from Alert Bay by Constable Woolcott. They were committed for trial by Mr. R. H. Pidcock, government agent and J.P., for larceny. They will be taken to Nanaimo for trial. Alert Bay being in the Nanaimo district. A MEETING of the creditors of Perry & Turner was held yesterday afternoon when the assignee, Mr. R. Oddy, read a statement showing the assets to be \$22,899.50; liabilities, \$27,838.99; deficit, \$4,943.30. The meeting adjourned to February 26, a statement to be prepared in the meantime and forwarded to each creditor.

BIRTH. SPRING—In this city, on Sunday, Feb. 16, to the wife of Capt. Chas. Spring, a son. ROBERTSON—In this city, on the 14th inst., the wife of A. Stuart Robertson, of Claxton, Skeena River, of a daughter. MARRIED. HEAL-WILLIAMS—At Sidney, B.C., on the 10th inst., by the Rev. Christian, Harry W. Heal to Sarah A., second daughter of W. H. Williams, both of Saanich District. DIED. NEWBY—At the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Kermode, 87 Henry street, on the 13th inst., Elizabeth, widow of the late Thomas Newby, native of Liverpool, England, aged 74 years.

WORTH A GUINEA A BOX. Beecham's Pills are a marvellous Antidote for Weak Stomach, SICK HEADACHE, Impaired Digestion, Constipation, Biliousness, etc. Sold by FEMALE OFFICERS. Wholesale Agents, Evans & Sons, Ltd., Montreal, 1212.

EVERY FAMILY SHOULD KNOW THAT



Is a very remarkable remedy, both for INTERNAL and EXTERNAL use, and wonderful in its quick action to relieve distress. PAIN-KILLER is a sure cure for Headache, Toothache, Neuralgia, Rheumatism, Sprains, Burns, Scalds, Chills, Diarrhoea, Dysentery, Cramps, Cholera, and all kinds of Colic. PAIN-KILLER is THE BEST remedy for Rheumatism, Stiff Joints, Back or Side, Rheumatism and Neuralgia. PAIN-KILLER is UNUSUALLY EFFECTIVE in the treatment of the MALE. It brings speedily and permanently relief in all cases of Sprains, Cuts, Bruises, Burns, etc. PAIN-KILLER is the well tried and trusted friend of the Mechanic, Farmer, Householder, and all other classes wanting a medicine always at hand, and is the most reliable and effective of all remedies. Take note of the genuine "PERRY DAVIS" Sold everywhere; see his bottle.

VICTORIA Roller Flour Mill VICTORIA, B.C. BEST FAMILY FLOUR, XXX Brand. SUPERFINE FLOUR, WHOLE WHEAT MEAL, Recommended by the Medical Profession. GRAHAM FLOUR, SELF-RAISING FLOUR, Prepared on Scientific Chemical Principles, and no deleterious substances used in its manufacture. No Baking Powder, Yeast or Salt required. GROUND FEED, BRAN, SHORTS, ETC. RICE MEAL AND CHIT RICE. If your Grocer does not keep these in stock, write direct to the Mill. j25-d&w

Groceries and Provisions. CURED MEATS. Glasgow Beef Ham. Armour's 96c Ham. Armour's 85c Bacon. Armour's Sliced Bacon Band Bacon in Sealed Tins. FISH. Finnan Haddies. Smoked Salmon. If you want something nice or breakfast try QUAKER OATS. For sale by

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Behold The Star of the West whose health-giving rays, shining over an ever widening circle, give an assurance of well-made cakes to all who use

WHITE STAR BAKING POWDER HAS THE LARGEST DEMAND IN CANADA

That Raise Money Largest and most Complete CATALOGUE OF Good Seeds, Pretty Flowers, and Farm Requisites issued in Canada FREE WRITE US IT WILL PAY The Steele, Briggs Seed Co. MENTION THIS PAPER TORONTO, ONT.

RE THE troubles incl... distress after... shown in curing... K... LIVER PILLS... D... priceless to those... HE... Small Price... ing Tobacco... TT'S BANY... Mr. D. Sprague here came forward with this resolution: Whereas in the history of our public schools this is the first meeting called specially to discuss school matters; and whereas it is impossible to discuss the High School question without touching on other departments, I beg to move that the discussion on all educational matters be in order. This was carried unanimously and the Mayor called on the chairman of the school board. Mr. Charles Hayward coming forward in response, said he understood the meeting had been asked for by some persons who disagree with certain actions of the school trustees, and before he and those of his colleagues who were present addressed the meeting he thought it should be made apparent to the meeting who are these gentlemen who complain and what their complaints are about. (Applause.) Mr. Munroe Miller, to give the trustees something to talk about, moved this resolution, seconded by Mr. Berridge: "Whereas the board of school trustees of the city of Victoria have, to the detriment of education, availed themselves of the authority contained in section 38 of the school act, which authorizes the trustees to impose a tuition fee on scholars attending high schools, and as the boards of school trustees of other cities do not avail themselves of the same section, the comparison shown is most disadvantageous to the city of Victoria: Therefore be it resolved, that the Minister of Education be by this meeting requested to eliminate said section 38 from the school act; and be it further resolved, that the representatives of this city in the legislature be informed of the wishes of this meeting and that they be urged to use their utmost endeavors in the house and with the government to secure the repeal of said section 38 of the school act." In support of the resolution Mr. Miller entered into a mathematical calculation of what it costs the parents of this province to maintain their children, and made a pathetic appeal that the expense of high school tuition be not added in the manner proposed. Mr. Berridge, the seconder, said he had always held that free education is the grandest democratic institution in Canada, and he considered that the imposition of a high school fee was a blow at this most glorious institution. If the intentions of the school trustees were good, it must be remembered where the way paved with good intentions leads to. He felt that there was behind this action a dark and evil power in the city which should be spoken against with the tongue of scorpions. He held that the high school fee and the reduction of the teachers' salaries were unwise, unjust and unnecessary. He denied that the people were liable to be over-educated—that education would unfit them for mechanical or any other occupations, and instanced his own case, for after receiving a good education he had learned the trade of a blacksmith. If the government only took the taxation from the right source there would be money enough to give the people a free education, but a better education than has hitherto been available. The black thing behind the trustees to which he had referred was the Municipal Reform Association whom he blamed also for having had the lands sale bill introduced in the house, and whose object he described in terms not complimentary to this "anti-reform" association as he described it. He next gave personal attention to Trustees Belyea and Hayward, and stated that the latter had let the cat out of the bag when he said the teachers had not