

PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD.

Business Transacted at the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Trustees.

South Ward School Sewer Delayed by Misunderstanding of Civic Officials.

The School Board held their regular monthly meeting last evening, there being present besides the Secretary, B. Williams, Trustees Yates, Bishop, Lovell and Hayward, the latter in the chair.

After the reading and adoption of the minutes of the last meeting, a number of applications by insurance agents for the insurance on the new school buildings were read and referred to Messrs. Lovell and Saunders, as a special committee, with instructions to divide the insurance fairly among the various companies.

A letter was read from Mr. Maadbagger offering to supply the children of the Central school with tea and coffee at 1s. a cup, and sandwiches at the same price, if a room was given him free.

The committee of the St. Andrew's and Caledonian Society making arrangements for the annual St. Andrew's day banquet have decided to hold it at the Strand restaurant, whose proprietor last year gave such unqualified satisfaction as the caterer.

Three Lieut. Nicholson, of H. M. S. Royal Arthur, will leave shortly in charge of nine or ten men and invalids for Halifax, where he will meet the troopship Tyne, coming with superannuated for the flagship Royal Arthur, and bring them to Equilmal, the others going to England in the troopship.

Mr. James Deane and the company of British Columbia Indians who have helped to make the World's Fair the greatest exposition in the history of civilization, arrived home from Chicago by the Premier last evening. They confirm the details already given to the sensational reports as to the torture done at the fair.

Considerable activity marks the operations at the new marine slip at Equilmal. A large two-story workshop is about completed at Jones' old landing in Constantine Cove, and the location of the ways proper has been marked out by the pile driver preparatory to the regular construction work.

News was received in Equilmal yesterday that Beale, the missing steward of the Champlain, was in Seattle, though no confirmation of the report could be obtained. There is no particular charge laid against him, as his ship having sailed, there is no one who can speak authoritatively of his reasons for deserting.

The steamer Maude arrived in last evening from Albermar, having had a rough passage outwards on Monday, but much smoother on Tuesday. She brings the news that a pack train of six boxes was started out this morning with supplies to commence work on the Golden Eagle. The certain chances of the work were going with the train. Things are looking first rate at Albermar.

The blue jacket who, in company with an unknown civilian attempted to "hold up" an officer, is serving his term of fourteen days' solitary confinement on board the Royal Arthur for refusing to divulge the name of his accomplice. It is understood that he was given the option of being let out or acknowledged that he only intended a practical joke, but kept his ground and so took his punishment.

Several applications for the position of teacher were received and laid on the table, as well as several from the janitors. The secretary reported that reports from the servers at the South ward school were opened at a special meeting on the 22nd inst., and the contract awarded to Mr. H. H. McDonald, the highest bidder. The action of the president in signing the contract was sustained.

A letter from Mr. Ridgway Wilson said that the City Engineer would not give permission to allow the contractor to open up Maclure street to lay the South ward sewer. The secretary read the resolution of the City Council giving permission.

Trustees Yates thought, perhaps, the resolution had not been shown the City Engineer, who might not yet be aware of its passage.

On motion of Trustee Yates, the chairman was requested to see Mr. Wilson and other officials to settle the misunderstanding that seemed to exist.

The secretary announced that a special meeting had been called to open the tenders invited for the work of filling in, levelling and building retaining walls and fences at the North Ward school. A quorum had been attended, and the tenders were having been opened, and the lowest one had been deferred until the present regular meeting. The highest offer received was for \$8,000, and the lowest in the neighborhood of \$5,000. The lowest tender suggested, however, several changes in the specifications, which would reduce the cost of the work to \$3,500.

Trustees Yates expressed surprise at the figures presented. He advised that the work be held in abeyance for a time at least, as no one had anticipated that the work would be anything like the expenditure suggested. Even the lowest amount mentioned was too much to pay out at present. He thought the work should not be undertaken until the completion of the school.

Trustees Yates advised the immediate presentation of the work. The tenders he considered quite in accord with the estimate of the committee, and he moved the reference of the matter back to the committee to make the alterations suggested if they thought desirable and saved the contract. Trustee Lovell did not think the depth of filling mentioned was absolutely required for the present at least.

After a little more discussion the matter was laid over until a full meeting could be called.

The following report of school attendance for the month was read: Average daily attendance, 1,963 5/4; average actual attendance, 1,849 1/4; pupils attending, 1,935; average per teacher, 48.

A number of bills were referred to the Finance committee by way of found correct. The explanation by Mr. Wilson, the contractor for iron beams at the South Ward school. He had, he said, made a mistake in his lighter weight than the specifications called for.

The chairman remarked that the architect considered that if the light ones were used they would not make any material difference in the strength of the building.

Upon this understanding it was decided to authorize the architect to accept the light beams, the contractor to allow to the Board the difference between the cost of the beams accepted and the heavier ones specified in the contract.

This concluded the business before the Board, which adjourned at 10 o'clock.

THE CITY.

The surveyors were again at work on the San Mateo yesterday. Nothing definite is yet known as to what repairs will be effected here.

There will be no further steps taken in connection with the recent Masters court martial, nothing having been elicited in the course of inquiry, held last Saturday, that would justify any proceedings being taken.

A very pretty sight was witnessed yesterday in the manning of all the ships' boats at Equilmal for practice, the boats appearing to be worked by machinery, so uniform, did the numerous craft obey the various signals.

Work will be commenced this morning upon the new school in connection with St. Saviour's church, Victoria West, the contractors, Sullivan & Ratten, being under agreement to lay the building finished and ready for use before Christmas.

No formal permission has been given to naval sailors to carry revolvers for personal protection while on shore at night time, so that any weapons they may carry are their own property, and are carried, as many civilians carry, weapons just now.

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NO PROVOCATION SHOWN.

The Evidence Adduced at the Coroner's Inquest in the We Don Case.

Verdict of the Jury—How the Tragedy is Described by Witnesses of It.

Dr. Hasell, coroner, yesterday conducted a formal inquest as to the cause of the death of We Don, the victim of Monday's tragedy at the Seward mill. The jury—composed of Messrs. James Muirhead (foreman), George Walker, E. J. Salmon, D. Lindsay, J. Merrifield and John Renouf—after hearing the evidence of the witnesses, returned the following verdict:

"That the deceased, We Don, came to his death from the effects of a blow on the head, inflicted by Arthur Carruthers, but that there is no evidence to show whether or not the blow was premeditated by the said Arthur Carruthers."

The interest of the general public in the case was shown by the crowded court room; a large number of spectators were present, and the proceedings were of course Chinese, among whom were to be seen red-shirted or blue-coated Salvationists expressing their sympathy by their attendance. Mr. George Powell watched the case on behalf of the relatives and friends of the deceased Chinaman, Mr. H. G. Hall taking copious notes as the inquest proceeded in the interest of the prisoner. The latter occupied a place at the end of the dock, and though calm and observant, appeared very much cast down. He listened attentively to a full detail of the evidence and frequently consulted his legal adviser in regard to it.

The evidence of Dr. O. M. Jones and E. B. C. Hamilton was entirely professional. The former made the post-mortem examination and minutely described the wound inflicted, giving as the immediate cause of death the formation of an enormous clot of blood on the brain, the main artery having been ruptured. The blow We Don had received, though not presenting to the non-professional eye any surface indications of its violence, must have been a terrific one, as it fractured the skull so as to almost divide it in two. The split extended from the top of the head, round the base of the skull to the opposite temple. The surgical men agreed that the blow might have been inflicted by a heavy iron pipe, or a piece of wood as that produced in evidence—a green strip about five feet long and three by two inches at the smaller end, heavy as iron. The witness distinguished the piece of wood used as that produced in evidence—a green strip about five feet long and three by two inches at the smaller end, heavy as iron. The witness distinguished the piece of wood used as that produced in evidence—a green strip about five feet long and three by two inches at the smaller end, heavy as iron.

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LUMBER FOR AUSTRALIA.

Mr. J. A. Curtis, timber merchant of Sydney, N.S.W., was a passenger by the Warrimoo. He came over to British Columbia for the purpose of making arrangements for the supply of his total supply of lumber, and as he is the chief importer of that article into N.S.W., the amount is a considerable one. To a Colonist representative he stated that there was no question but that the timber of this Province was the best on the Coast, but greater care must be exercised in the selection for shipment. Too much lumber containing knots was shipped to the Australian market. If a thoroughly good article was sent there was no reason why British Columbia should not secure the control of the Australian lumber trade, for the Australians preferred to deal here. Australia was a large importer of doors, taking 130,000 annually, and if British Columbia manufacturers would make a door to suit the trade in style and price, they could secure this branch of trade which was now monopolized by San Francisco. Mr. Curtis will investigate the sources of supply for his special business while in the Province, and hopes to make satisfactory arrangements.

As the criticism of prominent visitors is expected, it may interest Victorians to know that Mr. Curtis was amazed at the disreputable appearance of Victoria streets. He said that the most important town in his colony had better pay attention to its streets. He was delighted with the beautiful situation of Victoria and thought it might be made a most pleasant place of residence if sanitary matters received better attention.

The interest of the general public in the case was shown by the crowded court room; a large number of spectators were present, and the proceedings were of course Chinese, among whom were to be seen red-shirted or blue-coated Salvationists expressing their sympathy by their attendance. Mr. George Powell watched the case on behalf of the relatives and friends of the deceased Chinaman, Mr. H. G. Hall taking copious notes as the inquest proceeded in the interest of the prisoner. The latter occupied a place at the end of the dock, and though calm and observant, appeared very much cast down. He listened attentively to a full detail of the evidence and frequently consulted his legal adviser in regard to it.

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THE "WARRIMOO" PUNCTUAL.

Though She Was Delayed Searching for the Sister Ship in the South Pacific.

A Change in the Command—The Usual Large Freight—List of Passengers.

The Royal Mail steamship Warrimoo, on her third trip from Sydney, New South Wales, arrived in yesterday afternoon, tying up at the Outer wharf shortly after 2 o'clock. She was, in what, ahead of time, notwithstanding unusual delays experienced on the way. The Warrimoo came in in command of First Officer R. E. Arundell, for, though Lieut. J. C. Arthur, R. N. E., was on board, it was simply as a passenger, he having been removed on the arrival of his ship at Sydney, presumably on account of the trouble at Victoria on the last trip, over the freight for his port, which, in carrying out the agents' orders, he had to take up to Vancouver. It is supposed that the agents represented to the captain was to blame, and that Manager James Huddart accepted their statement rather than that of the council of the B. C. Board of Trade at Victoria, who sent him a message stating that Captain Arthur was altogether blameless. First Officer Perry, of the Albatross, being in authority in the company's service, will, it is expected, take the command of the Warrimoo. This was the understanding when the vessel left Sydney, and accordingly Mr. Perry has come on from Honolulu, where he was with the unfortunate steamer. No official instructions have come for him, however. Captain Arthur, besides being a capable officer, was exceedingly popular with all on board his vessel, which he has commanded since she left the builders' yard. He went on to Vancouver, where he had established Mrs. Arthur and the children, who came out from Scotland in time to join him on his last trip.

The Warrimoo had a small passenger list, which is as follows: Mrs. E. J. Ross, and family, Mrs. Knight, Miss Adams, Mrs. Scarth, Miss Scarth, Captain Arthur, Captain Perry, Dr. Murray, Messrs. MacLeod, Dietz, and Mrs. MacLeod, and family, Miss Shields, Mr. and Mrs. Pearce and family, Mrs. Latham, Messrs. Wineberg, Kroger, Wray, Blain, Commodore Little, Mr. and Mrs. Dunn, J. Dunn, Sussidan, Allan, Wyburn, Goodman, Dawson, Harvey, Fernandez, Lima, Lamba, Duncombe, Moorcroft, Griffin, Lyons, Surrey, McKinnon, Tynan, Wickham, Hooley, Chong.

The cargo was of the usual description, there being great quantities of bananas from Honolulu; and from Sydney a miscellaneous cargo of frozen mutton, preserved meats, sugar, wool, etc., the list being as follows: For Victoria—1,300 crates 400 bunches bananas, 15 crates pine, 11 cases honey, 24 cases fruit, 60 cases fruit, 2 cases meat and 27 bundles