

NEW SCHOOL RECOMMENDED

Trustees Are Considering Erection Of Building Near Newman Street—Fire Escapes Reported In Good Order.

At the regular meeting of the School Board last evening, a sub-committee recommended consideration of the erection of a new school building in the vicinity of the Newman street school to relieve the congestion at Alexandra school. The report was adopted. Mr. R. S. Dever presided at the meeting and Trustees Bullock, Nase, Smith, Day, Coll and Mrs. Dever were present with Dr. H. S. Bridges and Mr. A. Gordon, secretary.

The resignation of Miss Isabel Estabrooks as teacher in Centennial school was read. The motion of Mr. Day, seconded by Mr. Smith it was decided to accept the resignation. Miss Elliott's resignation as reserve teacher in Dufferin school was accepted. The application of Wm. Colerin for a position as janitor was referred to the building committee.

The annual statement of the schools at Brookville and Coldbrook was read. The average attendance was 63.12, including 31.2 from the city. The cost of the education of the city children was ordered paid.

County Children at City Schools. There was some discussion over the matter of children resident in the county being billed for attendance at the city schools.

Dr. Bridges said there were very few in attendance whose parents were not ratepayers in the city.

Mr. Day submitted the report of the sub-committee appointed to consider increases to teacher salaries. The report was referred to the teachers' committee.

A report on the over-crowding of Alexandra school was submitted by a sub-committee consisting of Dr. Bridges and Trustees Coll and Nase. They reported four rooms as being much over-crowded and suggested that a portion of the assembly hall be cut off to make an additional room. Such a move, however, would only temporarily relieve the congestion and the committee recommended that consideration should be given to the erection of a new school building in the vicinity of Newman street school.

Mr. Bullock moved that all boilers in future be insured for \$500. This was carried.

Mr. Bullock also moved for authority to call for tenders for renewing insurance on all school buildings.

Mr. Day reported that it had been necessary to order some repairs made to the concrete foundation at Douglas Avenue school.

Miss Helen Lockhart and Miss Maisie Emery were added to the reserve staff.

The meeting of the teachers' committee was fixed for Monday evening next. Mr. Day asked for a report on the work done in the office.

The chairman asked for a further grant to place signs in the windows. On motion of Mr. Nase, the committee was given unlimited power to make improvements.

The chairman was empowered to appoint a committee to represent the board before the legislature at Fredericton when the matter of an increased assessment was taken up.

The secretary's report gave the total enrollment as 7,165, and average attendance 63.42. Two cases of diphtheria and four of scarlet fever during the month were reported.

Mr. J. B. McManis, truant inspector, reported 67 irregulars and nine truants.

The meeting then adjourned.

HERBERT READ HEARD FROM

Now that he had once been heard from letters will be expected every day. The most general theory now is that he for some reason, possibly because of his discouragement for not having made a gain on his sale of potatoes at Montreal, took ship as help for some lumber sent direct from Montreal to Buenos Ayres. He had not enough money to pay his passage and expenses and there is no line of direct boats from South America to Montreal although there is one from Halifax.

A token of the townspeople's love of his family and the popularity of Herbert Read himself is the fact that congratulating friends passed in and out of the Read residence all the afternoon.

Father Learns of News. Montreal, Que., March 14.—Mr. Herbert W. Read the son of Mr. H. C. Read of Sackville, N. B., who disappeared from this city on the third of last November, had been heard from in Buenos Ayres, South America.

While at the Queen Hotel this evening, having just arrived from Ottawa, Mr. Read, Sr., was delighted to receive a wire from another son, residing at Sackville, saying that he had just received a letter from the missing brother, and that he was well. Further the son did not say, but the father's delight can be easily imagined and he will leave for home tomorrow with a lighter heart than at any time since the boy disappeared.

Herbert W. Read called at the office of Harry Bates, November 3rd, in this city, who was a friend of young Read, saying that he was going to take the I. C. R. for Bathurst and from that moment no word was ever heard. The father has been coming to Montreal from time to time hoping against hope that a clue might turn up but all in vain. In fact Mr. Read told your correspondent a few weeks ago that he never expected to see his son alive and that he had certainly met with foul play.

Coming!



No, gentle reader, they are not gazing at Halley's comet, neither are they gaping at an airship! The first robin of the season is sitting up in that tree.

TEACHERS' PENSION BILL BROUGHT DOWN IN HOUSE

Continued from page 1.

The bill was of a tentative nature, and the province would have an opportunity of seeing how it worked out after which they might make what amendments were deemed advisable. Mr. Bryne favored a uniform pension and felt that the country school teachers who had a very difficult and hard position should receive the same treatment as those who were in cities and had an easier time. Hon. Mr. Maxwell said that the House and Government must be just. Making a uniform pension would not act as an incentive for teachers to secure and take a higher class license which should be considered in every bill which had to do with the teaching profession.

Objections Cited. He had received objections to giving pensions to teachers and it was urged that the bill was not the only profession who should be given pensions. It was stated that they only worked five hours a day, that stenographers, the farmers and others get a pension if teachers were favored. He recognized, however, that teachers were more or less public servants, that they worked well and that the results of their labors had to do with elevating of public ideas. They deserve something to stimulate their work. He did not think that 35 years time that provided in the bill, was too long service for teachers before they became eligible for pensions.

Mr. Hagen said that most male teachers had completed three or four years of service before they were more than sixty years of age. He knew of one man who had been a teacher for forty years and who was able to continue in the profession and was so fond of his work he would not retire even if he had a pension until absolutely forced to. He thought that the view of the member for Gloucester that teachers after they had served their required length of time and continued in the profession should receive a pension as well as their salary. There were members on the supreme court bench at the present time who were sufficiently young to retire on a pension if they so desired, but who were well qualified to continue and did so.

Mr. Hagen said that his honorable friend from St. John would say that it was a difficult thing to lay down a rule prescribing the time at which men should retire. The prime minister of Canada was now nearly seventy years of age, but was still actively identified with public life, and the members were more useful and worked harder than the younger ones. It would be impossible to name details for an act which would not have a few instances such as that mentioned by the member for Queens, but these could be dealt with by the board of education and exceptions made when circumstances warranted. The object of the bill was not to provide a living for teachers who became old in service, but to give them some assistance in their latter days. The board of education reported showed that in the past year the average salary of the superior class teachers had been \$688, which would make the average pensions for that class of teachers \$344 and on the same basis pensions for first class teachers would be \$172; female \$157. Second class, male \$171, female \$144.

In entering upon this scheme the House must be both prudent and careful. The Difference. In answer to what the hon. member for Gloucester had said he would say that the Government was not fulfilling any pre-election promise. The teachers' association had placed that matter before the late administration and they had been promised consideration. When this Government came into power the matter was placed before them and this bill was the result. It was credible that both sides of the House were showing no opposition to the bill. The only communication that he had received in opposition to the bill was from one farmer in Westmorland, who thought that the teachers ought to be as well able as the farmers to provide for themselves in their old age.

with the limited finances of the province was all that teachers could expect, and that they would be well cared for under the bill. Bill as amended was agreed to. Hon. Mr. Hagen regarding the bill to amend the Registry Act said that it was for the purpose of regulating the salaries of registrars and other persons connected with the fine possibilities offered to young men of success if only they would put their shoulders to the wheel in earnest. He urged support of any Government of movement that would conserve New Brunswick's resources and make them of the greatest benefit to the province for the longest time possible. His remarks had long been recognized and we were now entering upon a development of its mineral resources.

Enjoyable Function Held Under Auspices of Men's Union of St. Andrews Church—Making Food From Sawdust.

Chatham, Mar. 14.—The second annual banquet of the Men's Union of St. Andrews church, was held in the church hall, Thursday evening, March 10, and was attended by about one hundred and fifty members and guests. A very appetizing and beautiful supper was served by the ladies of the church at the conclusion of which the chairman, D. P. McLachlan, M. P., made a few appropriate opening remarks, dwelling upon the purpose of the union excepted to its motto, United For Worship, Fellowship and Service. He made a strong plea for better citizenship and then called upon those present to honor the toast to The King, which was responded to with the National Anthem.

A vocal solo was given by Mr. P. C. Johnson, M. P. The Rev. Loggie proposed Our Country and Its Resources and called upon Mr. W. B. Snowball to respond. Mr. Snowball delivered a most eloquent and optimistic speech which brought forth enthusiastic outbursts of applause. He spoke of Canada's climatic heritage, its vast resources now in process of development and urged a strong policy of education and assimilation of all the people that were flocking to its borders. Speaking of this province Mr. Snowball reiterated his unbounded confidence in its future and called attention to the fine possibilities offered to young men of success if only they would put their shoulders to the wheel in earnest. He urged support of any Government of movement that would conserve New Brunswick's resources and make them of the greatest benefit to the province for the longest time possible. His remarks had long been recognized and we were now entering upon a development of its mineral resources.

Saving in Waste. Speaking of the present saving in waste over old methods in lumbering he stated that he had now received documentary proof of his statement that sawdust could be used to make food for horses. By the process lately discovered they could get from one ton of dry sawdust 63 gallons of alcohol a quantity of acetic acid and use the remainder in making brickettes which formed a palatable food for animals.

A vocal solo was given by Mr. W. Chubb McLean and Rev. David Lang, St. John, and Rev. G. F. Dawson gave interesting addresses in response to the toast to the King. Kindred societies brought replies from Rev. J. M. MacLean, St. John's Men's Union; Guy Tait of St. Luke's Men's Union; George E. Fisher and F. O. Richards of the Y. M. C. A. The press was responded to by representatives, Rev. Edwin Smith of the Y. M. C. A., and Mr. Simpson, who with great enjoyment brought the enjoyable evening to a close.

of the work required. The bill was agreed to as also a bill relating to Baribouche Boom Co., with certain amendments and an amended title.

The speaker having resumed the chair, Mr. Tweeddale presented the petition of the municipality of Victoria in favor of a bill to legalize the valuation of that county.

The house again went into committee of the whole. Mr. Sornay in the chair agreed to the following bills: A bill to incorporate Sterling Realty, Ltd., after a section had been added requiring that the consent of the city council of St. John county be obtained before exercising any of their franchises within these districts respectively.

Other Bills. The bill relating to the Fredericton street paving. That relating to levying and assessing rates and taxes in the city of St. John, after an amendment had been added requiring that the sum of \$4,000 should be paid annually to Rockwood Park and \$250 to Riverview Park. Mr. Lowell objected to the latter on the ground that it was a bad precedent to establish. The Pension Land and Realty Co., Ltd., after an amendment had been made requiring the consent of the city council before the company could commence operations in the city of St. John, and a bill relating to civic elections in St. John, making time for the payment of rates in order to qualify to vote at such elections twenty one days instead of fourteen, after an amendment to fix the 20th of March as the last day for such payment had been deferred. The act not to come in force until 1911.

Hon. Mr. Morrissey said in further answer to Mr. Bentley's inquiry as to what districts were exempt from the highway board, he found he was referring to section 84 of the 1908 act which had reference to sparsely settled districts. In answering the department, referred to that not in the amended act, which has to do with bridges, and wharves, therefore he was exempt that the following roads were exempt from control of boards as per order in council passed 6th July, 1909. Highway from Tyne-mouth Creek to Fildeside the Parish of St. Martins, the Handrin road from St. Martins to County line in said parish of St. Martins, the main road from Spruce Lake to Musquash, Parish of Lancaster, and main road from Musquash to Point Lepreau in the parish of Musquash.

In pursuance of that order in council \$135.71 was laid out on those roads by the department, but it was paid through William Stynes, secretary treasurer of the Lancaster Highway Board.

Hon. Mr. Flemming introduced a bill to make further provision for permanent bridges and works of a permanent character.

The House adjourned at 11.20 p. m.

Chicago, Ill., Mar. 14.—At midnight tonight W. S. Carter, president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen announced that a strike of 25,000 firemen on practically all the western railroads had been called.

'Proving' Mr. Lumsden's Charges Groundless

How the Complex Machinery of the Liberal Party Is Being Strained to Its Utmost To Cloud the Startling Evidences of Graft On the Grand Trunk Pacific.

Special to The Standard. Ottawa, March 14.—The inquiry respecting the causes which led to the resignation of Mr. Hugh D. Lumsden, C. E., as the government's chief engineer of the Transcontinental Railway, has now occupied some time in the sessions held by the Liberal majority of the parliamentary committee of enquiry.

It will be recalled that Mr. Lumsden was appointed by the government, over the whole work from Winnipeg to Moncton, whereas the appointment of the district and subordinate engineers in charge of the work on the ground, were made by the Transcontinental Railway commissioners. It would seem also that he had no power to dismiss the engineers appointed by the commissioners. Under these circumstances Mr. Lumsden issued instructions to the local engineers to classify all material excavated by the several contractors or used in embankments, in strict accordance with the general contract specifications, including actual measurement of all rock or loose rock in boulders. The enormous importance of proper classification, over the 850 miles embraced in sections B and F, is obvious, when it is understood that the estimates of the contractors are paid on itemized contracts, and not in a bulk sum at so much per mile. Consequently on contracts on which about \$1.70 is the price per cubic yard for solid rock, 65c for loose rock, and 30 cents for earth or common excavation, a proper and honest classification is essential. For instance, if earth or clay, which should be classified as common excavation at 30 cents a yard is returned as solid rock at \$1.70 a yard or as loose rock at 65 cents a yard, the difference to the country, if this practice became general, would amount to millions, upon the 850 miles in these two sections alone.

Agreed To Leave. It will be remembered that the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company have agreed to lease this government built mileage hereafter, at a rental of 3 per cent. on its cost. A series of complaints were made, some time ago by the G. T. P., that the engineers of the commission were over-classifying, and this led to the visit to the work last May of the statutory arbitrators, Mr. B. B. Kellier, chief engineer of the G. T. P., and Mr. Lumsden, with Mr. Collingwood Schreiber as umpire, who interrogated some half dozen of the district and local engineers on the ground. The arbitrators seem also to have examined many of the cuttings en route with a view of ascertaining the position of matters in connection with the railway company's complaints.

On his return to Ottawa in June last, Mr. Lumsden resigned his position as government chief engineer and was succeeded by Mr. Collingwood Schreiber, who has since been re-appointed to continue to certify to estimates which were not in his opinion correct or justified. In his letter forwarded to the minister he stated that neither the general specifications nor his instructions regarding classification had been adhered to. On the contrary, large amounts of material had been returned as solid rock, but which should have been classified as loose rock or common excavations; and that in some cases the engineers on the work had not measured the rock returned, but had simply guessed at the amount by percentages and, resulting in a very much larger amount of solid rock being returned than actually existed. Years of professional experience, he was unable to agree with the classifications in very many places, basing his opinion upon the sworn statements of the engineers when interrogated and upon his personal examination on the ground.

Improper and Illegal. Before the arbitrators had an opportunity to report, the commissioners—far from supporting Messrs. Lumsden, Collingwood, Schreiber and Kellier—protested in June last against the proceedings of these arbitrators, claiming that they were improper and illegal. Mr. Lumsden at that time resigned his position of statutory arbitrator also, with the result that the board of arbitrators ceased to exist.

Mr. Lumsden's loss of confidence in those of the engineering staff of the commission who were responsible for improper classification. For instance division engineer Bourgeois, District B, was interrogated by Mr. Collingwood Schreiber, thus:—Q.—Do you or your staff, in any one case under your instructions, classify solid rock by percentage? A.—Well, every cut is classified by percentage, that is where there is solid, loose rock or common excavation.

Q.—Do you consider that is measuring rock, according to the specifications? A.—Yes.

Q.—Have you ever given any instructions to classify by percentage? A.—Certainly, I have given those instructions.

Q.—Do you consider that measuring? A.—Yes, that is measuring.

Q.—In looking at a cut, could you say, well there is twenty per cent. of common excavation, 60 per cent. of loose rock, and 30 per cent. of solid rock. Is that measuring? A.—Yes. Is that the way you did it? A.—We have done so in a few places.

Q.—Have you done so in many cases? A.—Yes, in a great many cases.

Subsequently in answer to Mr. Kellier, the witness stated that he was classifying work on his division and that the estimates were being paid on that classification.

Engineer McHugh, section F, was questioned by Mr. Schreiber also, thus:—

Q.—What kind of material do you adopt in classifying loose rock? A.—I class as loose rock all pure clay or cemented gravel and percentage of softer material when frozen.

Q.—Have you all your notes of measurements of boulders? A.—Very few.

Resident Engineer Phillips, section F, examined by Mr. Schreiber, swore that he arrived at the quantities of solid rock and boulders by percentage. When asked why he indicated an assembled rock on his loose sections he answered: "I put the line there, because I understand we had to show all classifications; that we had to show it on cross sections to balance our percentage."

Q.—As I understand you this assembled rock was merely a percentage you believed to be in the cut? A.—That is correct.

Interrogated by Mr. Kellier, as to his method of locating the boulders or assembled rock, the witness replied, "We had to put in a percentage, the same way in that."

Q.—You had to keep within his (the witness's) instructions? A.—He would not accept percentage; you had to show exact areas of the rock? A.—We had to show them in our cross-section sheets.

Q.—How did you locate the exact position of assembled rock, which you had previously turned in as boulders scattered over the whole country? A.—We could not locate sections.

Q.—The locations shown on cross-sections are imaginary? A.—Yes Sir, for assembled rock.

Q.—Did you or did you not measure each boulder for the solid rock and boulders? A.—No, Sir.

Q.—Did you measure each boulder for the loose rock returned? A.—No, Sir.

Resident Engineer Millar, Section F, admitted also that he had classified assembled rock, but on percentage basis, and stated that his divisional engineer Macintosh approved of classification. Asked by Mr. Schreiber what was the nature of the classification, Engineer Millar said: "The turning in of clay as percentage of loose rock, and also returning frozen material as loose rock—the instructed method was to return, to turn in a large percentage of rock occurring in boulders."

Q.—Then he was aware I presume, of the fact that you were classifying in that way, and that you were not measuring, just estimating? A.—Yes, Sir.

Q.—Did I understand you correctly to say that he got you to raise the classification in several of these cuts along your residency? A.—Yes, that is right.

Q.—Is it a fact that you did change the classification? A.—Yes.

Q.—And you made it a more general classification? A.—Yes.

Division Engineer Bell admitted on oath that where boulders were very numerous he classified at so much per cent. for loose rock, and that there was no ledge rock; that, in some cases, they have returned ledge rock where none was to be seen.

Q.—Are you aware of cross-sections showing ledge rock where no ledge rock existed? A.—I am aware that in some cases ledge rock is shown on cross-sections where ledge rock did not exist.

Replying to another question by Mr. Schreiber, witness said: "In my instructions to engineers, I told them in every case they were there as arbitrators, and if in any doubt in every case to give the contractor the benefit of the doubt. If the work was returned and the cut had to be opened in the winter, and the material was frozen, to return it as loose rock."

Q.—You gave those instructions? A.—Yes.

The witness added later, "I will take full responsibility for telling my engineers to return frozen material as loose rock."

In addition to the foregoing and similar evidence, Mr. Lumsden filed with the committee a number of illustrative statements, indicating points on the work where his inspection justified his statements, establishing in fact a strong prima facie case.

The Conservative minority of the committee of inquiry, at this juncture again claimed the right to name counsel to press the matter on behalf of the country at large inasmuch as the Transcontinental Commission and the contractors were already represented by counsel. This right, as the public is aware, was denied by the Liberal majority of the committee, who ultimately appointed Mr. F. H. Chrysler as counsel for the committee, the three Conservative members of the committee, Messrs. Barker, Haughton Lennox and Crothers declining to act further on the committee and withdrawing. Mr. Chrysler's examination, may be added, occupied only one day.

Ottawa, March 14.—Mr. Gerald White, asked for a statement on the proposed visit of Sir John French to Canada and the reported visit to Putawa.

Sir Frederick Borden replied he was not aware of any letter holding any special assent, though he had been shown some reports.

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