

Engineering Society Listens to Address by John Kyle and Votes For Night School Here

John Kyle, organizer of technical education for the province of British Columbia, is to take up with the Prince Rupert school board the matter of establishing a night school in the city for the purpose of extending the function of education in such subjects as English (for foreigners), practical mathematics, shop sketching, mechanical drawing, workshop arithmetic, mineralogy, blow-pipe analysis, commercial chemistry, electricity, gas engines, dress-making, millinery and other subjects. After an instructive and comprehensive address on the subject of night schools which Mr. Kyle delivered to the local branch of the Professional Engineers' Association of B. C. in the council chamber last night, that organization unanimously passed a resolution supporting the movement on the ground that a technical night school here was an absolute necessity. The question will be taken up this afternoon by the school board. The meeting last night was attended by nearly all the local members of the engineers' association, those present being H. Patterson, F. J. Whitaker, F. S. Clements, H. C. Black, A. M. Bremner, A. L. Carruthers, E. C. Duncan, Capt. C. B. Formby, H. Tucker and A. E. Wright. H. Patterson was in the chair. Following Mr. Kyle's address there was a general discussion and before the meeting adjourned a hearty vote of thanks was tendered to the speaker of the evening.

Voluntary System.
"The present system of night schools in the province of British Columbia is a purely voluntary one," said Mr. Kyle in opening his address. "And although the compulsory system will undoubtedly come in time it is still a thing of the future. In Great Britain, France, Germany, Switzerland, Holland and other European countries continuation training is compulsory for persons of the adolescent age. For instance, in Britain when a boy leaves school at the age of 14 he finds that he is compelled to come back to school for eight hours every week. The classes are held in the day time and take up two half-days a week, which the boy must stop work to attend. The law is being worked to the letter in these countries, which realize that such a system is necessary now that the day of apprenticeships is practically dead and gone."

Demand Efficiency.
"Here we have the voluntary system. It has been a comparative failure in every country in which it has been used, but we will have to make the best of it until it is decided to follow the example of Europe and the province of Ontario, where a compulsory law was passed only last year. All pupils who left school at the age of 14 in that province have been registered and in 1923 compulsory attendance is to be brought into effect. In the New England states the compulsory law is also in force. Compulsory continuation training is becoming more and more necessary because of the great efficiency that is demanded when young people go to work, an efficiency that was never before required in the industrial world. There are two points to be looked to in this continuation training by night schools: the training of one's daily bread and

the cultivation of hobbies. By means of the night schools a hobby may be turned into life work, where circumstances otherwise might make a man follow a calling for which he is not suited or is not particularly fond."

American Attitude.
"It is interesting to follow the American attitude towards night schools and continuation training. When that country entered the war it found itself confronted with a daily debt of \$1,500,000 for interest on its war loan. A committee of prominent financiers was appointed to investigate conditions to see how the debt could be best repaid. They found in the course of their investigation that for every 2000 pounds weight of exports the United States received \$100, while Great Britain received \$100 for every 1000 pounds and Germany for every 30 pounds. This showed that the country which gave the most technical training received the most for its exports. The committee decided that quantity export must be got rid of and quality gone in for. They advocated legislation for the training of the people of the United States. This was responsible in 1916 for the Smith-Hughes bill being passed, which was responsible for a great many million dollars being spent in technical education."

In Twenty-one Cities.
"In the province of British Columbia 21 cities, including Anyox, Powell River and Ocean Falls, have night schools and there are 3201 pupils in attendance at them. Prince Rupert does not appear in the list. To me it seems advisable that this city should consider giving her inhabitants the opportunity to take up studies to make them more proficient wage-earners and allow for the development of their hobbies in assisting them to get into the line of work which would suit them best."

Depends on Men.
Mr. Kyle also pointed out that the staff of a night school should be composed of the best practical instructors it was possible to obtain. Much depended on the men and women who were at the helm. General discussion of particular points in connection with night schools and technical training followed and Mr. Kyle answered a number of questions that were presented to him. Mr. Whitaker asked about wel-

tion last month was \$533, four-fifths of which is paid by the provincial government. In Prince Rupert, I understand, there is not even a public library, while there is a big one at Anyox. It would almost seem that the company town with all its alleged autocracy treats its people the best."

Be Self-supporting.
"Such a night school as there is at Anyox might easily be organized in Prince Rupert. It would be conducted by the school board with the assistance of advisory committees if they saw fit. A grant of three-fifths for salaries would be made by the provincial government and the remaining two-fifths could be met by fees. There is no doubt in my mind that a night school could be conducted here which would be self-supporting and which would not cost the ratepayers a cent. It would take a great deal of enthusiasm and a strong propaganda to bring it before the people. The education department has found that success only follows the night schools where they are instituted with a businesslike system of publicity. The provincial government, in addition to sharing in the salaries, would pay a grant of fifty per cent, for all equipment necessary in technical work."

Excellent Schools.
"The people of Prince Rupert are fortunate in having such an excellent school with manual training and domestic science departments of which it might well be proud. The foundation for the night school is there. The building can be lighted and heated at night so that it would be warm and comfortable. All that is needed is a start and it would be well for such an association as the Professional Engineers' Society to get behind the school board in the matter of establishing night schools and making them successful. Let there be 100 per cent efficiency out of the day schools. Five hours a day is not enough for a school like you have here to be occupied. It should be used ten hours. Let the people get together and put it over so that your men and women will be given the opportunity of being better fitted to meet the industrial competition of the future."

In concluding Mr. Kyle spoke of the technical schools in Vancouver and other southern cities. They were now giving pupils training there in engineering and mechanical subjects to better fit them for academic training in engineering courses at the colleges. Such training was of great benefit when boys went into the industrial world. The importance of technical subjects was being realized and not so much stress was being laid on purely classical subjects such as Latin and pure geometry. Such technical training might be later taken up in Prince Rupert.

General Discussion.
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With the tendering of the vote of thanks the meeting adjourned. Mr. Kyle stated that, with the whole-hearted support of the society, he would feel better prepared to go before the school board for the purpose of getting organization started.

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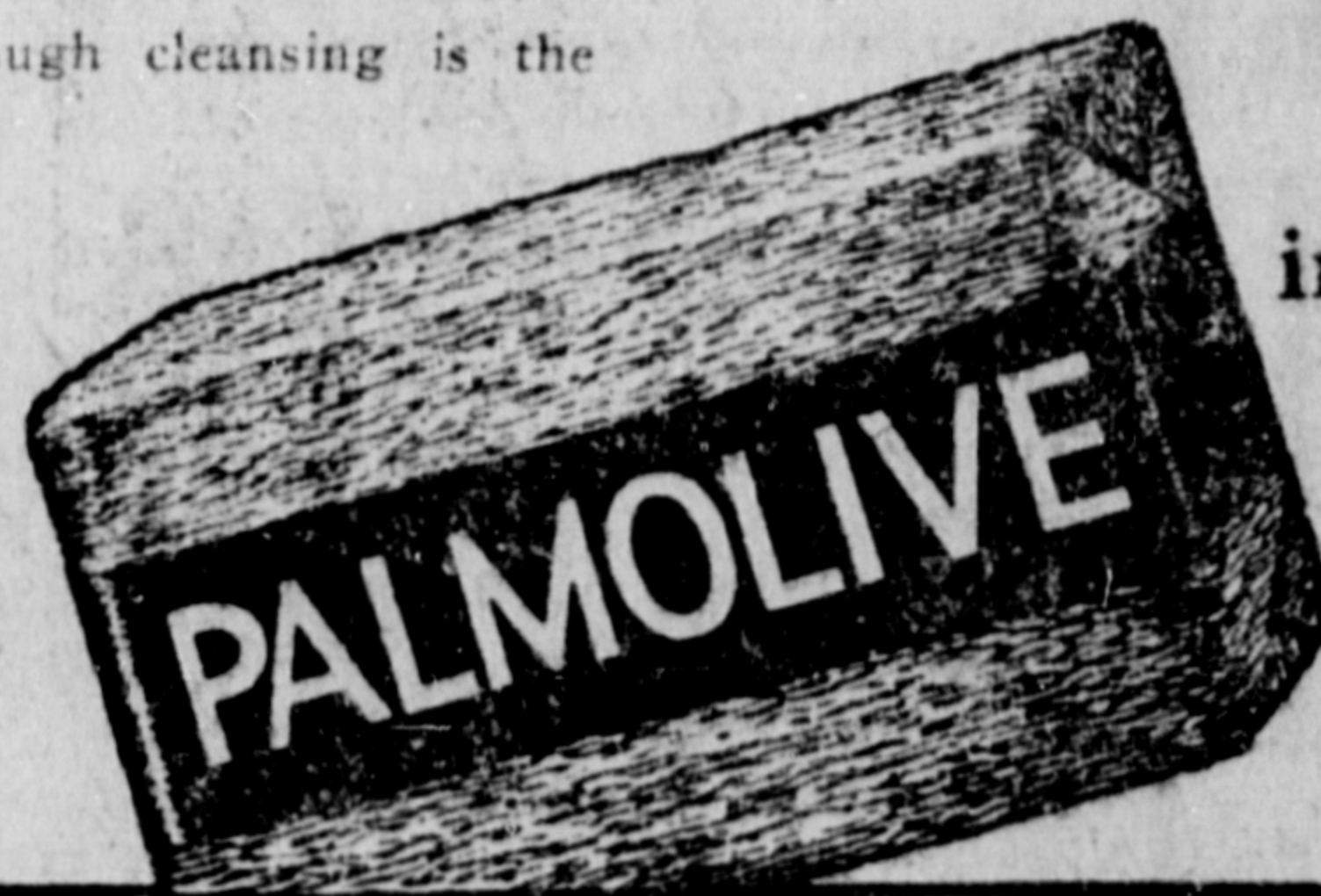
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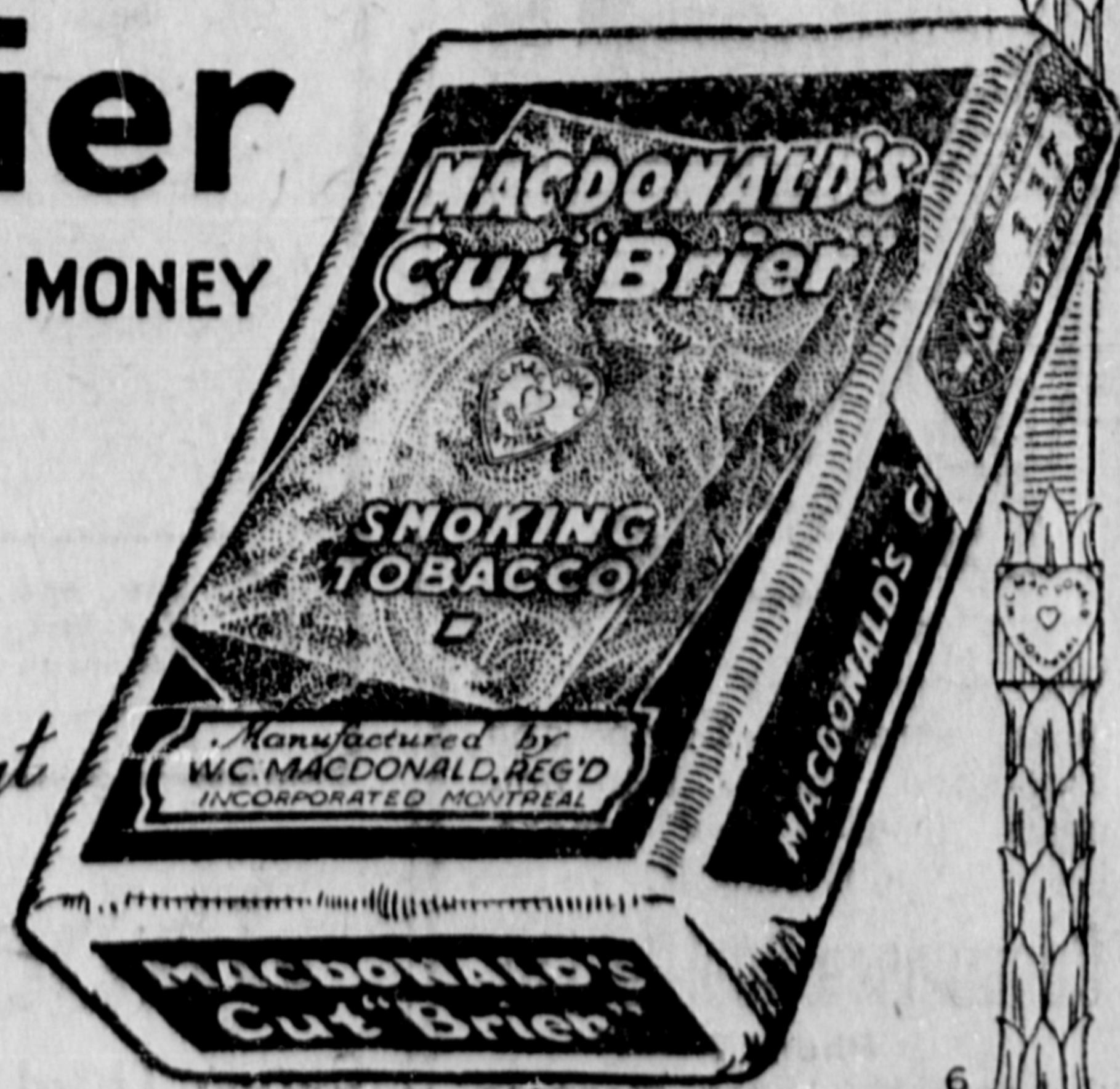
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