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BRINGING UP FATHER



STATEMENT BY McMORDIE ON SCHOOL CONTRACT AND HIS RELATION THERETO

(Continued from Page One.)

each showed a lamentable ignorance of life and brick construction. Mr. Jeffers, and Mr. Hugh Whittaker gave unbiased reports. The former is the leading advocate of tile construction in Western Canada, and with the improvements now made by him, Booth School is today a better building than if only I had original plans and specifications had been carried out.

Purchased by Tender

1. The material supplied wherever possible purchased by tender and in each case the lowest tenderer received the contract, and the best material obtainable was supplied. The rough lumber was supplied by LePine & Wright; the hardware by Howe & McNulty; the paints and oils by Silversides Bros.; the finishing lumber, cement and lime by Albert & McCaffery, and so on. The pressed brick and tile I purchased myself, as I received prices much lower than any tender. The sand was supplied by V. Basso-Bert, and all the material supplied was selected by the architect, and ordered on his instructions. Mr. Potter acknowledges this in his letter published in the Daily News on the 5th of June, 1922.

2. Regarding the workmanship on the school, I contend that the mechanics employed were as good as can be found in British Columbia, and with the exception of some of the brick-layers, were all local men. Most of the brick-layers employed by Mr. Jeffers, in repairing the wall, were the same men who built the walls originally.

Sub-Contractors

3. Construction. All the work of building the school was let to various sub-contractors, with the exception of the lower part of the brick and tile walls, which were built by myself on day's labor, with J. McGowan and E. Peyton acting as foremen. Steen & Longwill had a sub-contract for roofing, heating and plumbing; Pattinson & Ling for wiring; V. Basso-Bert for the masonry walls; William Watts for the carpenter work, and Fred Godwin for the remainder of the brick and tile work. Architect Jeffers said the roof was the best he had seen in ten years, and I think all credit for this good work should go to Steen & Longwill, my sub-contractors, who did the work. In the same way some parts of the upper brick and tile walls, built by another of my sub-contractors, Fred Godwin, were found to be faulty, but I think, whatever blame there is, should go to him, as the Architect gave his orders direct to the sub-contractors. The School Board should have had a Clerk of the works, on the job all the time and, if Mr. Potter was acting in that capacity, he should have been there to see that the work was done to his satisfaction.

Two Mistakes

In building the upper portions of the brick and tile walls in which defects appeared, two mistakes were made, and they were not made by me. The first mistake was made in using bricks that were wet, and the second was in laying brick in wet and freezing weather. When the brick first arrived on the job, I started to build a house over them to protect them from the weather, but I was stopped by Mr. Potter, and it was not for months, and after the bricks had been soaked by the rain, that he permitted me to put a cover over them. It was then too late.

Regarding the second mistake, any one who is conversant

with contracts will know that the contractor is altogether under the orders of the architect. If he says "Stop work," the contractor must stop. If he says "work," the contractor must work, for the architect or engineer, as the case may be, is the final judge on all matters pertaining to the contract. I protested to Mr. Potter against the work proceeding in unfavorable weather, but he said that was all right, and insisted that if he proceeded with, and I was obliged to do as I was ordered. As a matter of fact, on one occasion, I received a letter from Mr. Potter, notifying me that, if the work was not proceeded with immediately, he would obtain other men, and do the work. The part of the brick and tile wall, which I built by day labor has been found to be absolutely good and sound.

Brick Not Suitable

And here I wish to make one fact plain. The kind of wall construction specified for the school, is not suitable in this climate and will not keep out the wet. The Court House walls are of a similar but much heavier construction, and they failed to keep out the wet. The brick are so porous, and the rains are so heavy, that under such conditions the water passes through the bricks. The following is a copy of a letter referring to the school from Mr. McNeil, who built the Court House, and who has probably built more buildings of a construction similar to the school than any other man in Western Canada.

Essondale, B.C., Feb. 6, 1923.

S. P. McMordie, Esq., Contractor, Prince Rupert, B.C.

"Dear Sir:

"In reply to your letter of the 10th inst. I wish to state that from what I know of Prince Rupert weather conditions that the four inch brick and tile construction even built under most favorable circumstances will not keep out moisture unless a glazed or vitrified brick is used.

Yours very truly

Signed: J. H. McNeil,

Vice-Pres. McDougall & McNeil, Limited."

I may say here that the brick used in the school was not the one I had selected—which was a hard burned brick and one that would absorb very little moisture. I am satisfied that if the brick had been kept dry, and wall construction had been proceeded with in good weather, the walls would have been sound, but would have required water-proofing to keep out the wet.

Saved City \$5,000

May I refer again to my contract with the School Board. Under this contract I received from the Board \$197,092.88. The building was complete with the exception of the fire-escapes.

In the construction of the school, there were very few extras, but the extra work done would amount to at least \$5,000, so that I actually completed the school for the price given in the tender received, and saved the city the cost of the extra work.

Daily News Classified Ads.

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Mrs. J. Scheldin, Bethany, Ont., writes: "I have used Milburn's Laxa-Liver Pills for some time. I was troubled with a bad liver and headache, but since taking your pills I am perfectly well again."

Price 25c a vial at all dealers or mailed direct on receipt of price by The T. Milburn Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

Matter of Profits

Of the total sum of \$197,092.88 received by me from the Board, \$12,748.22 was my percentage on the work done. Out of this I paid my office clerk \$175 per month, paid also for the plant and sundry expenses—a total of nearly \$5,000. The balance was payment for my services for the eighteen months work which I put on the school, and I have paid the City of Prince Rupert, directly or through my agents, more than this amount in taxes since I returned from overseas.

I have been contracting for more than twenty years, and this is the first piece of my work which has been adversely criticized. Let me point out that there was no incentive for me to make a poor job of the school. There was every incentive to erect a building of which we could all be proud. If the work was poorly done, I was the loser in reputation as a builder.

It seems remarkable that defects in the school building, and cost of repairing, should be so severely criticized, when little criticism is made of the excessive cost of the street surfacing of Section 1. The school cost less than \$200,000 and the repairs are said to have cost about \$50,000, an increase of about 25 per cent. The street surfacing was to have cost \$70,000 and did cost \$155,000, an increase of over 120 per cent, and the work of surfacing the streets was no more creditable than the work on

WANTED

WANTED.—Man for greenhouse and market garden. One who will invest \$500.00 to put up more glass and work on half share. W. E. Funnell, Francois Lake P.O., B.C.

WANTED.—To purchase used Typewriter, Remington or Underwood, recent model, must be bargain. Apply N.Y. Daily News Office, or Phone 98.

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HALIBUT BOAT for sale, 25 x 9, good condition. 12-15 h.p. engine. Full set of gear. Make me an offer. A.O.F., P.O. Box 699.

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FOR RENT.—Steam-heated, furnished rooms, by day or week; with or without board. Home Cooking. Also house-keeping suite. Norfolk Rooms. Phone Black 329.

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TO RENT.—On March 4, Completely furnished modern house; six rooms and bathroom. \$35.00 per month. Apply David H. Hays & Co.

COMMERCIAL FLAT to Rent.—Wallace Block, Entrance Fulton Street. Present occupant, R. Moore. Apply Mr. Mines, Wallace's Store.

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FOR RENT.—Four roomed steam heated flat. Apply Smith and Mallet.

BOARD

BOARD.—Inlander, 830 Second Avenue. Phone 137.

the school. Why not have a little honest criticism of this road surfacing "mess?"

Engineering Joke

What about the engineering joke which is being perpetrated on Fourth and Fifth Avenues? I refer to the "ditch" which is being dug on these streets to serve the residents as a roadway. A new plank roadway there should not have cost more than \$9,000, and would have been good for at least ten years.

The roadway, which is being made now, when surfaced, will cost more than \$50,000. It would appear that the good of the city is not the only important motive actuating some of the critics of the school. In fact I believe that it is generally agreed that much of the criticism originated in the warped minds of petty politicians, who have used the school as an excuse to give vent to their political and personal spite.

W. A. McKenzie, conservative member for Similkameen, brought the matter of the Booth School to the attention of the Legislative Assembly at Victoria. He had in his possession a complete file covering the Booth School, signed by the late city engineer. The late city engineer says he sent nothing to Mr. McKenzie. Who was the local petty politician who did?

S. P. McMORDIE.

By George McManus

SCHEDULE FOR WHIST LEAGUE

February	
15—Elks vs. Valhalla.	
Knights of Columbus vs. Andrew's.	
G.W.V.A. vs. Sons of Canada.	
L.O.O.F. vs. Sons of England.	
Knights of Pythias vs. Moose.	
22—Elks vs. Knights of Pythias.	
G.W.V.A. vs. L.O.O.F.	
Valhalla vs. Sons of Canada.	
Moose vs. St. Andrew's.	
March	
1—Elks vs. L.O.O.F.	
Knights of Columbus vs. Moose.	
Moose vs. Sons of Canada.	
Sons of England vs. St. Andrew's.	
8—Elks vs. Knights of Pythias.	
L.O.O.F. vs. Knights of Pythias.	
Valhalla vs. Moose.	
Sons of England vs. Sons of Canada.	
15—Elks vs. G.W.V.A.	
Knights of Columbus vs. Knights of Pythias.	
Valhalla vs. Sons of England.	
St. Andrew's vs. Sons of England.	
22—G.W.V.A. vs. Knights of Pythias.	
Knights of Columbus vs. L.O.O.F.	
Valhalla vs. St. Andrew's.	
Moose vs. Sons of England.	

Standings to date

Ladies Section	
Pythian Sisters	9 1/2
Royal Purple	8 1/2
D. of E.	7 1/2
Valhalla	7 1/2
St. Andrew's	6 1/2
Rebekahs	5 1/2
L. O. R. A.	1 1/2
Men's Section	
St. Andrew's	9 1/2
Sons of Canada	8 1/2
Valhalla	8 1/2
Oddfellows	8 1/2
S. of E.	6 1/2
K. of C.	7 1/2
K. of P.	6 1/2
G.W.V.A.	5 1/2
Elks	4 1/2
Moose	3 1/2

SECOND HALF OF SCHEDULE

Basketball Time Table for remainder of Winter Season

February	
13—Adanaes vs. Kalens.	
Colts vs. Elks.	
Sons of Canada vs. Elks.	
Maple Leafs vs. Adanaes.	
Grotto vs. Colts.	
Colts vs. Sons of Canada.	
Kalens vs. Maple Leafs.	
Elks vs. Knights of Columbus.	
Elks vs. Colts.	
Senior League	
W. L. P's	6 1/2
Colts	6 1/2
Sons of Canada	6 1/2
Intermediate	
Colts	7 1/2
K. of C.	6 1/2
Grotto	6 1/2
Elks	5 1/2
Ladies' League	
Maple Leafs	11 1/2
Adanaes	10 1/2
Kalens	0 1/2
Junior League	
Tiny Tims	5 1/2
White Sox	5 1/2
Falcons	2 1/2
Colts	1 1/2

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