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**Councillors are Described by School Trustees as Dictators and Despots, also Fourflushers**

After a general discussion in the course of which the attitude taken by the city council on the question was roundly condemned by Trustees Casey and Montgomery, the school board last night passed a resolution to proceed with the work of making repairs to the Borden Street School by day labor under the supervision of George Scott. Trustees Parker and McLennan voted against the resolution which was carried on the casting vote of the chairman, Dr. W. T. Kergin.

The meeting last night was called for the especial purpose of dealing with the Borden Street school situation as it now stands. A letter from the city council setting forth its stand against the city engineer undertaking the drawing up of plans and specifications in city time but permitting him to do the work in his own time was read. Dr. Kergin intimated that the city engineer had signified his willingness to do the work if no one else was available.

"The tone of the letter does not meet with the aspirations of the school board," declared Trustee Casey. "The board went to the council in a friendly way with a view to obtaining co-operation. It was practically through the suggestion of the council that Mr. Pearson was invited to take on the work. We tried to meet the council but the tone of their letter makes it seem that they are meeting us only with ridicule. I do not like the way in which they are trying to treat us like kids. There is too much of the dominating nature on the part of this council. They are inclined to act like dictators or despots imbued with divine rights. As far as I am concerned I am through with the city council and I will vote that we proceed with the work without any suggestion or assistance from them. The only thing it seems they want to do is to humiliate and belittle us. I am not prepared to go to them a second time."

**Try to Get Along**

Trustee Parker said that he felt more or less in sympathy with the attitude of Trustee Casey but he did not believe in going ahead regardless of the city council's wishes. After all the council had to provide the money and the board ought to try to get along with them. He did not feel like interviewing them any more, however.

Trustee Montgomery felt that the school board had brought the present situation on itself and had no kick coming. The board was an elected body and should have acted before instead of "laying down." Instead the trustees had begged and prayed before a body of men who were not superior to them when they

to make good some of its high handed work."

The discussion then resolved itself into the question of how the work on the school should be done.

Mr. Scott, who was present, felt that the entire job was one that did not lend itself to contract unless it was on a percentage basis.

Trustee Montgomery was of the opinion that bids could probably be obtained but on account of the nature of the work, they would of necessity be high since the bidders would have to protect themselves. There were but two courses open—that the school board should do the work itself under the supervision of a capable foreman or else adopt the cost plus basis.

**Capable Supervisor**

Trustee Casey felt that the school board had in Mr. Scott a supervisor whose work stood second to none in Prince Rupert. His experience and reputation as a builder should be sufficient guarantee. He was willing to entrust him with the reconstruction of the school. Such it seemed would be the most economical plan.

Trustee Parker had every confidence in Mr. Scott but he was not prepared to say that the best plan would be to have the work done as suggested. There had been differences of opinion in the three reports which the board had received. Some had indicated that there might be a more economical method than Mr. Scott's. He felt that the concrete work might be done by day labor and contract be let for the timber work.

Trustee Montgomery suggested that cedar posts might do just as well and be more cheap than replacing the concrete piers at some points.

**Contract Not Suitable**

Dr. Kergin agreed with the opinion that the concrete work would not lend itself to contract. The work of repairing or replacing the buttresses might be started under Mr. Scott with the city engineer, as building inspector, giving constant supervision and suggesting where economies might be effected.

Trustee McLennan felt that the concrete and timber work was interlocking and one could not be very effectively done by day labor with a contract let for the other. Mr. Scott agreed with this view.

Trustee Parker still maintained the opinion that the concrete work could be done by day labor and the timber work by contract. Dr. Kergin felt it would be better to do the whole job by day labor.

**Motion Submitted**

At this point Trustee Casey submitted his motion that the work be done by day labor under the supervision of Mr. Scott. This was seconded by Trustee Montgomery.

Tony Christian, who was present on the invitation of Trustee McLennan, addressed the meeting. He said there were two alternative plans for repairing the foundation—either make a solid concrete wall all around or repair the present piers. It was a difficult matter to ascertain which method would be cheaper. A statement made by Mr. Christian that it would not be necessary to go down to bed rock with the concrete was questioned by Trustee Montgomery. Mr. Christian pointed to other buildings in the city where such had not been done and where there was no trouble. Mr. Scott, on being questioned, felt that it would not be necessary to go to bed rock in this case provided the blue clay was free from moisture.

Answering a question by Trustee McLennan, Mr. Christian said he would be prepared to bid on the concrete work provided he knew exactly what was to be done.

**Should Decide Now**

Trustee Parker felt the board should decide whether it was going to put in a solid wall or repair the present piers before going any further.

Trustee Casey pointed out that the board had three reports and prospective plans. The whole matter rested on the school board. It would be his idea to take Mr. Scott's report and plan and, by comparing it with the other plans, make such revisions as seemed advisable and have him carry out the work accordingly. It would be necessary to have a closer examination of the schemes but in the meantime enough would have been decided upon to get the work started.

Trustee McLennan said that if Mr. Scott could do the work for \$3,000 he would be willing to go

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- TIMBER SALE X 5386.** Tenders will be received by the Chief Forester, at Victoria, not later than the 27th day of September, for the purchase of Licence X 5386, 970,000 feet of spruce, Hemlock, Balsam, on an area situated on the north shore of Francois Range 5, Coast District. (2) years will be allowed for re-forestation. For particulars of the Chief Forester, B.C., or District Forester, Rupert, B.C.
- TIMBER SALE X 5430.** Tenders will be received by the Chief Forester, at Victoria, not later than the 27th day of September, for the purchase of Licence X 5430, 1,200,000 feet of Spruce, Hemlock, Balsam, on an area situated on the north shore of Francois Range 5, Coast District. (2) years will be allowed for re-forestation. For particulars of the Chief Forester, B.C., or District Forester, Rupert, B.C.
- TIMBER SALE X 5511.** Tenders will be received by the Chief Forester, at Victoria, not later than the 10th day of October, 1923, for the purchase of Licence X 5511, near Shannon, B.C., by cut 165,000 feet of Cedar, Spruce, and Hemlock sawlogs. (2) years will be allowed for re-forestation. For particulars of the Chief Forester, B.C., or District Forester, Rupert, B.C.
- TIMBER SALE X 5515.** Tenders will be received by the Chief Forester, at Victoria, not later than the 10th day of October, for the purchase of Licence X 5515, 3,360,000 feet of Cedar, Spruce, Hemlock and Balsam on an area situated on the north shore of Francois Range 5, Coast District. (2) years will be allowed for re-forestation. For particulars of the Chief Forester, B.C., or District Forester, Rupert, B.C.
- TIMBER SALE X 5250.** Tenders will be received by the Chief Forester, at Victoria, not later than the 10th day of October, for the purchase of Licence X 5250, 3,360,000 feet of Cedar, Spruce, Hemlock and Balsam on an area situated on the north shore of Francois Range 5, Coast District. (2) years will be allowed for re-forestation. For particulars of the Chief Forester, B.C., or District Forester, Rupert, B.C.

ahead. Otherwise he would want to go into the financial aspect of the matter. The school board had already got into jackpots over just such matters as this and he for one did not want to get into another.

**Washed Hands of Matter**  
Trustee Montgomery pointed out that the council has washed its hands of the matter after having received an estimate of \$3,000.

Dr. Kergin felt that it might be decided to have Mr. Scott proceed with the work and settle the details as they arose.

Trustee Parker was inclined to think that Mr. Scott tended somewhat to extravagance and going the limit in making repairs. He had a lot of confidence in Mr. Christian as a concrete worker. He might do the work cheaper than Mr. Scott. Why not make Mr. Christian the working foreman.

Trustee McLennan felt that the passing of the motion would bring about conflict with the council. He would like to know right now what the cost was going to be.

Trustee Casey said it was the public he regarded, feared and respected—not the city council.

Dr. Kergin agreed that the council might now be left out of the matter.

**Needs no Experts**  
Mr. Scott objected to Mr. Christian being put in as an expert if he was to supervise the work. He did not need an expert and felt that he was quite capable himself.

Trustee McLennan said he did not feel like supporting the motion tonight. It would constitute a departure from what the people expected though it might be the best plan.

"This dilly-dallying gets my goat," said Trustee Montgomery. "Do you think this is the proper course?"

Trustee McLennan made no reply.

The motion was put, resulting in the split vote as recorded. Dr. Kergin voted in favor of the motion on the ground that by do-

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