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## In the Letter Box

### PROPOSED NEW SCHOOL

To the Editor:—

The following is a copy of a letter which I have forwarded to Dr. Kergin, chairman of the school board:

Dear Sir,—As most unusual proceedings were taken by the majority of the trustees during your absence, I beg to place a few facts before you.

When I was invited to prepare drawings I was informed that the trustees had selected and invited three architects and I undertook to prepare the drawings on the following conditions:

(1.) That a day be specified for the lodging of all drawings at the same time.

(2.) That all drawings be hung at once, as usual in all competitions for public buildings, in some room where they could be examined by all interested citizens.

(3.) That I be given an opportunity to explain the drawings to the trustees before they came to a decision as they had not an expert engaged to report on the drawings.

Not one of these conditions were carried out by the trustees and if public rumor is true, the majority had agreed and decided whose plans they were to accept before the formal competition was entered upon.

### The Schemes.

No. 1 scheme was prepared by me in accordance with the verbal and written instructions and I was advised to see the King Edward school as a convenient plan of building. I inspected that building and saw that the floor space was too small and the rooms needlessly high, with very defective lighting.

No. 2 scheme was prepared in accordance with the particulars I obtained from the Education Department at Victoria and the class rooms are shown the proper size and otherwise shown in accordance with the written instructions.

Trustee Kirkpatrick informed me that rooms were required for doctor and nurse to attend to eyesight and rooms for the dentist and nurse to attend to the children's teeth, and those are shown in the basement of this scheme, a rather unsuitable place. The same trustee also discussed with me domestic science and instructed me to see the teacher, which I did and discovered that Mrs. Kirkpatrick's domestic science included laundry work, cooking, housekeeping, dressmaking, with very little domestic science as it is known in other places.

Of course provision should be made for such work on the upper floor and not in a basement, as the written and verbal instructions given to me described.

No. 3 scheme was prepared following a copy of the contour plan from the city engineer, showing the elevations of the high land on where I was informed the school may be built. I spent considerable time selecting a suitable site and decided on two places as most suitable for a school of this size, with play grounds, future additions, near the road and on an elevation to obtain a gravity water supply without the use of expensive pumping, and with suitable aspect for all the class rooms. On the plans of this scheme I also suggest a dwelling house for the caretaker and another for the fireman, as usual for buildings of this size.

Each of the three schemes has five different methods of construction described and five estimates of cost; that is 15 prices in all, which I believe did not receive any consideration from the majority of the trustees.

### Matter of Sight.

If the newspaper reports are correct, in my opinion, the site selected is very unsuitable, from every point of view, too high for a gravity service of water, for fire protection and the ordinary service of water, and the method of construction as described, is the most expensive and not suitable for this climate.

Is it too late for you to place the drawings that were lodged in competition on exhibition and obtain a report from an expert architect of skill and experience in school design and construction?

In a selected and limited competition of this kind architects are always paid a sufficient amount of money for the work done, and in this case the majority has valued my time at

about 15 cents per hour and sent me a cheque for \$50.00 for the 24 sheets of drawings and report. For the work I did I should receive at least \$450 and you give instructions for payment of \$400 immediately?

The drawings are in my office and open for your inspection at any time and I enclose a copy of my report.

Yours faithfully,  
(Signed) WILLIAM BRUCE.

## ONTARIO CROPS ARE DAMAGED BY HAIL

(Special via G. T. P. Telegrams.)

Ingersoll, Ont., July 7.—Terrible damage to standing crops and fruit trees was caused by a hail storm of two hours' duration, which suddenly broke over Durham township yesterday afternoon. The greater part of the damage was in the first concession where the storm, becoming much after the manner of a cyclone, beat the standing crops into the ground, causing in many cases what is believed to be complete destruction.

## AMERICANS BEAT THE CANADIAN BALL TEAM

(Special via G. T. P. Telegrams.)

Pershing Stadium, July 7.—The American baseball team defeated the Canadian team by a score of 1 to 0. Fuller, pitching for the



SEALED TENDERS addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed "Tender for Landing Float and Approach at Port Essington, B. C.," will be received at this office until 12 o'clock noon, Thursday, July 31, 1919, for the construction of a Landing Float and Approach at Port Essington, Skeena District, B. C. Plans and forms of contract can be seen and specification and forms of tender obtained at this Department, at the office of the District Engineer at Prince Rupert, B. C., and at the Post Office, Port Essington, B. C.

Tenders will not be considered unless made on printed forms supplied by the Department and in accordance with conditions contained therein.

Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted cheque on a chartered bank payable to the order of the Minister of Public Works, equal to 10 p.c. of the amount of the tender. War Loan Bonds of the Dominion will also be accepted as security, or war bonds and cheques if required to make up an odd amount.

NOTE.—Blue prints can be obtained at this Department by depositing an accepted bank cheque for the sum of \$10, payable to the order of the Minister of Public Works, which will be returned if the intending bidder submit a regular bid.

By order,  
R. C. DESROCHERS, Secretary.  
Department of Public Works,  
Ottawa, June 26, 1919.

# To Prospective Builders

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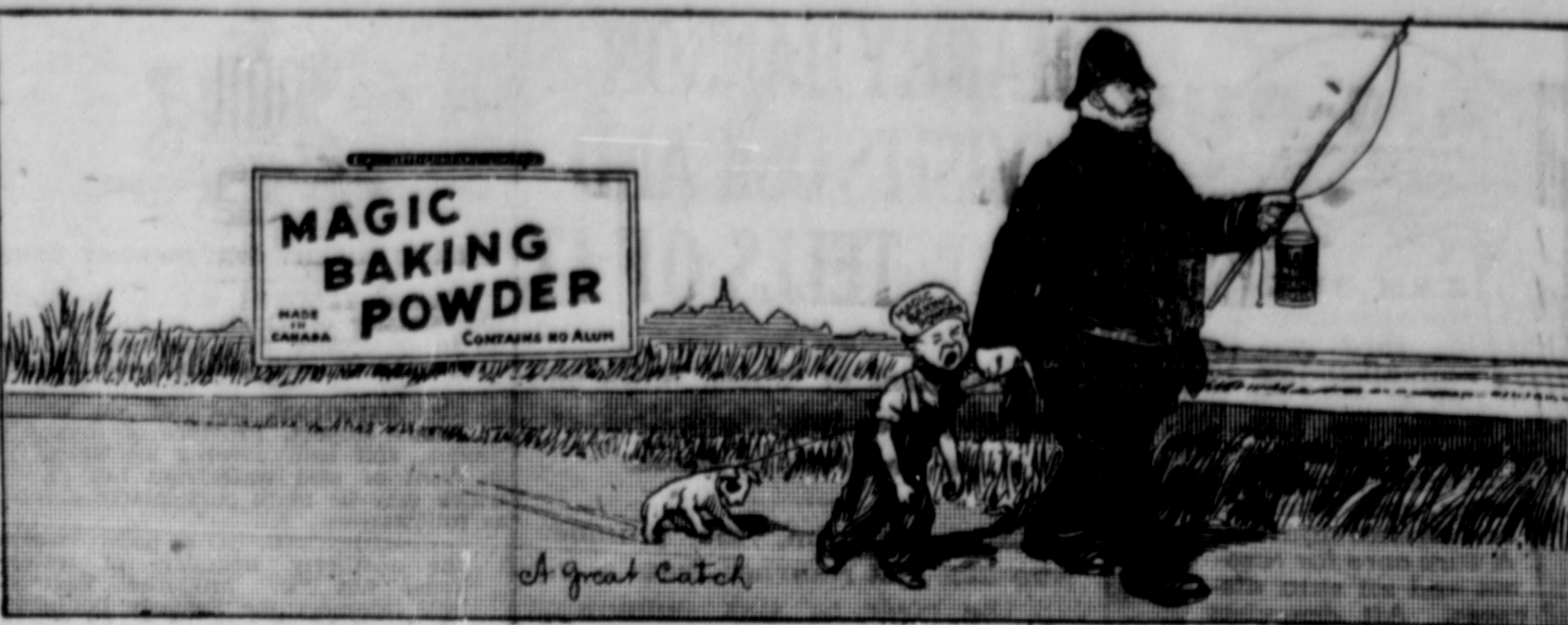
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Provincial Government Employment Bureau and Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment; temporary office 621 Second Avenue, Prince Rupert. Employers having vacancies for men and women in clerical, factory, domestic or other work should apply to above—Phone 553.

## TO SUBSCRIBERS

Subscribers to The News are asked to pay the delivery boys each month when they call, except where payment has been made for the year in advance. The boys when collecting carry official receipts which should always be preserved.

# Tell Your Troubles to the POLICE!

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