

Chinese in The Schools

Trades and Labor Deputation Ask For Separate Rooms For Orientals.

Free Books and Other Important Topics Discussed By the Board.

The board of Public School Trustees met last night, the following being present: Messrs. Drury, Beaumont Boggs, Huggett, Jay, Matson and Mrs. Jenkins, with Chairman Dr. Lewis Hall presiding. Superintendent Eaton read the minutes of the previous meeting, which were adopted.

A deputation from the Trades and Labor council was then received. This consisted of Messrs. D. L. Kelly, president of the council; G. R. Greenwood, T. H. Twigg, O. L. Charlton, B. McEachern and A. Deans.

Mr. Kelly represented that the object of their coming was to protest against the presence of Chinese children in the public schools. Separate buildings and play grounds should be provided for these children, the unsanitary and other conditions of whose homes were such as to afford quite sufficient reason to lead to their being kept to themselves. The point was one which had been well discussed throughout the city, and a considerable portion of the public opinion was against the continuing of this cause of complaint. The Trades and Labor council at present represented some 25 labor unions, and it was no small matter when so large a body as this interfered in such a question, and their wishes were certainly worthy of consideration. This was all the more the case when it was remembered that many of them were through their children immediately interested in the schools and all things pertaining to them.

Several other members of the deputation also addressed the board, calling

thought they would prove very useful. In England of late, the movement had taken so great root that 40 schools had competed, and some 2,500 boys had written essays on naval matters.

Mr. Fraser pointed out how much this might do in the way of stimulating patriotism and love of the land, and the flag. The navy was the first line of the country's defence, and a strong navy was the chief guarantee that the nation had of peace, and so the children might do well to learn this the greatest usefulness of the nation's prowess.

Trustee Matson recognized in a short speech the kindness of the league in their proposal to give the prizes, and also the wisdom underlying such a net. He very gladly moved that they receive the thanks of the board, and that their request be gratefully granted.

Mrs. Jenkins, in seconding the motion, stated how much the matter commended itself to all the board, and pointed out the good work at present being done in the city schools in this very direction.

The motion was then carried, and the deputation retired, after Judge Martin had expressed its appreciation of the pleasant reception given it by the board.

Communications were then read as follows:

From E. G. Richards, requesting a portion of the insurance of the High school. Referred to the committee.

From Mr. Simpson, requesting that his resignation be allowed to take effect on the 10th March. Superintendent Eaton intimated that this had been permitted, and that Mr. Garfield A. King had been installed in his position subject to the approval of the board. The resignation was accepted, and the appointment confirmed.

From Miss Sylvester, resigning her position on the staff of the same, to take effect on 31st March.

Mrs. Jenkins, in regretting the resignation, spoke at some length of the good services of Miss Sylvester, who she was sure had the best wishes of all the board.

Trustee Boggs—Is she going to get married?

Mrs. Jenkins—Yes.

Chorus—We all wish her all happiness.

From Mrs. McNaughton, regarding a building on the school reserve which has been used by the contractors.

It appeared that this matter had been up last year, and had been left in the hands of the Building and Ground committee, to whom it was re-referred.

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"Chinese in the Schools: Trades and Labor Deputation Ask For Separate Rooms for Orientals." *Victoria Daily Colonist*, March 13, 1902

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