

EAST KILDONAN SCHOOL BOARD TALKS ECONOMY

Special Meeting Adheres To Plan To Cut Teachers' Salaries

Divided opinion on the question of the proposed reduction of teachers' salaries in East Kildonan was manifested by ratepayers of the municipality who attended the special meeting of the school board in the Lord Wolseley school last evening for consideration of the matter. The board, however, adhered to its decision to make a cut of 5 per cent. and to discontinue the yearly increases, and all the teachers in the district will be asked to sign their contracts agreeing to these conditions by June 10. Those who do not sign will be replaced.

Last night's meeting was held as a result of a letter from the teachers notifying the board that they considered the reduction out of proportion to conditions.

The note of economy was sounded by a number of the ratepayers, and one man even declared that unless retrenchment was practiced the community would be "headed for bankruptcy." The board's action was quite justifiable, according to many, and they could not see why the teachers should desire to keep at the peak while reductions were being made in all other lines of work. The situation was so serious in the municipality that economy was necessary, and all operating expenses should be pared down, according to one man. Reductions in the salaries of municipal employees were advocated.

The teachers have not been unreasonable, some of the ratepayers held, and one man described the proposed reduction as "monstrous." "We are more concerned in the education of our children than in the saving of a few dollars," was the declaration made, and some thought that the cut in salaries would cause a lack of interest in their work on the part of the teachers. Others asserted they had a better opinion of their teachers than that.

Councillor for Teachers.

According to figures given out by a ratepayer who had investigated the situation, East Kildonan's salary schedule is not as good as those of many other municipalities. Reductions would be unwise. He was a member of the council and would move, he said, that the councillors forego their indemnities rather than have the teachers' salaries reduced. It was stated, however, that this would not go very far in making up for the cut.

H. C. Whellams, chairman, declared that the board was only anxious to keep its present staff and wished to be fair to the teachers, but it was felt a reduction was necessary.

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