

Principal Drove Staff to Tears, Inquiry Is Told

Weeping teachers, driven to tears by Miss Ida M. Cook and her methods, figured prominently before the board of reference investigating East Kildonan school troubles in the juvenile court building, Tuesday evening.

When the inquiry into the reasons for the transfer of Miss Cook from Polson to Salisbury school adjourned until four o'clock Wednesday afternoon, 70 hours of testimony had been heard. Two more teachers from the Polson staff were on the stand during the session.

Completing her evidence, Miss Mary Leus, a teacher at the school, corroborated testimony of previous witnesses regarding school board meetings. She declared that when she approached Miss Cook regarding a present for a member of the staff who was about to get married in June, 1935, the principal had said: "I would not give a nickel for her to buy a rope to hang herself."

She stated that she herself had been afraid of being transferred from the school because she had heard that Miss Cook did not like Ukrainian teachers.

The second witness on the stand, Tuesday evening, Miss M. Gelley, recounted incidents occurring between herself and Miss Cook. She had nothing but praise for the four previous principals she had worked under at Polson. Discipline had been good at the school under them but had, she thought, gone "down to a certain extent" during the period just previous to Miss Cook, when there had been no principal.

Dealing with an incident over grammar between the former principal and Miss Spiers, an exchange teacher from Scotland, Miss Gelley said the former had made "unlady-like remarks" and shouted. But she told the board, the "louder Miss Cook spoke, the quieter Miss Spiers got." A teacher had left the room crying after the scene, it was learned. "I wept, too," she said, "but I did not get up."

On one occasion in the teachers' room, the witness told the board, she had remarked to Miss Cook that ever since she had come to Polson "they had had Prince Edward for breakfast, dinner and supper." Replying to C. W. Brook, counsel for the school board, she stated that Miss Cook had been continually referring to her former school but had not done so after her remark.

it i
do
tog
O
las
anc
stre
mer
ind.
He
a si
tion
Mr.
M
fuse
Soc
issu
rap
N
acce
qua
enc
sug
ask
Lon

T
prof
with
the
mitt
whi
post