

SCHOOL TENSION

Reprimand and Impaired Health Of Polson Teachers Aired at Probe

Public reprimands of teachers, tension at the school and impaired health of members of the staff featured the evidence given by East Kildonan witnesses before the board of reference in the juvenile court building, Monday.

Three more teachers appearing before the board inquiring into the reasons for the transfer of Miss Ida M. Cook from Polson to Salisbury school in March, brought the lengthy hearings a few steps nearer completion. Day sessions appeared as a probability in order to try and finish the inquiry before May. So far 105 exhibits have been filed and a seemingly equal number of pieces of knitting completed by spectators.

Resuming her evidence, Miss Jessie Leus, under examination by C. W. Brock, counsel for the East Kildonan school board, declared she had never come late to school. Miss Cook has mentioned her, she said, as being one of the staff "who always came late" at a meeting before the school board on March 3.

Checks Statement

The next day she went to check on this statement with the time sheets they signed every morning on arrival. Miss Leus stated she could only find one sheet, that in use for the week.

"You could not find the others?"

"No."

"Do you know who took them out?"

"No."

She told of hearing another teacher reprimanded by Miss Cook in front of the pupils and agreed

with Mr. Brock when he asked if she considered she was working under "a tension of fear" at Polson.

Cross-examined by C. L. Drewry, counsel for Miss Cook, at the evening session, Miss Leus said she carried out her instructions to the best of her ability.

Replying to C. K. Guild, K.C., she stated that only twice had Miss Cook entered her room and that she had only received one personal memo she objected to.

"You ask the board to believe you went about in fear and trembling such as to effect your teaching?"

"Yes."

Next on the stand, Miss Anne Kamrath, another teacher, told of being reprimanded by the former principal in front of her pupils over a reliability test. She had been "very much humiliated." She declared she had signed the letters of April 27, 1936, from the staff to the school board because she considered it her duty to "stand with them," because the atmosphere of the school was not what it should have been, and because the health of some teachers had been impaired.

Miss Cook did not encourage the staff to make suggestions at meetings, she told the board. Discipline also had been different under Miss Cook compared with the two previous principals.