

Chairman of Board of Reference Inquiring Into East Kildonan Dispute, Says Verdict Will Be Reached Within Ten Days

Descriptions of Miss Ida M. Cook as an efficient principal, working in the best interests of her pupils, and as a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde personality, irresponsible and lacking in self-control, were made by counsel for the plaintiff and defence, respectively, when summing up of evidence was completed before the board of reference inquiring into the East Kildonan school dispute, Wednesday. The final session was held in the juvenile court building. C. K. Guild, K.C., chairman of the board, stated the verdict would be reached within ten days.

LOOKING BACKWARD (From the Free Press Files)

Sixty Years Ago—May 20, 1877

Mrs. Alexander Morris, of Government House, has ordered a handsome communion service from England as a gift to Christ church, Winnipeg.

Fifty-five Years Ago—May 20, 1882

The new Ronald steam fire engine arrived in Winnipeg and was much admired, not only by the "fire boys," but by the citizens at large. A bill to incorporate the East Brandon bridge company was given second reading in the Manitoba legislature.

Fifty Years Ago—May 20, 1887

It was learned that the Ontario government was taking immediate steps to investigate all the long-disputed claims to land in the Rat Portage (Kenora) district; the government interest in the country, which had made recent discovery of valuable mineral deposits, was regarded as auspicious.

Forty-five Years Ago—May 20, 1892

Among those present at the semi-annual meeting of the Winnipeg Teachers' institute were D. H. McCalm, in the chair, F. H. Schofield, D. McInlyre, J. W. Leitch, and School Principals Kerr, Goggin, Garratt and Wilson.

Forty Years Ago—May 20, 1897

General Fred Middleton, who had commanded the Northwest Field force during the armed protest of the Metis under Louis Riel in 1885, was now the keeper of the Crown jewels in the Tower of London where, in his "den" in St. Thomas Tower, the general was interviewed by the Free Press correspondent.

Thirty-five Years Ago—May 20, 1902

Nearly 30 miles of steel had been laid on the new extension west of Forrest; good gravel had been located for ballasting.—Two rapidly growing Manitoba towns were Bertney, where W. Higgins, S. Black, S. F. Long, T. J. Fry, W. H. Galbraith and W. Hicks, were erecting new residences, and Mariapolis, which had a steam laundry.

Thirty Years Ago—May 20, 1907

"The Unwritten Law," a drama based upon the shooting of Stansford White by Harry K. Thaw, was running at the Unique theatre. — George Primrose and his merry minstrels were drawing large audiences at the Waterloo.

Submitting that Miss Cook should be restored to the principalship of Polson school, C. L. Drewry, her counsel, stressed the former principal's long and good service as a teacher in East Kildonan. He contended the testimony of witnesses showed the condition of Polson school to have been bad particularly in regard to discipline. No help had, in his opinion, been given Miss Cook by the inspector, J. W. Gordon, while resolutions passed by the school board had solidified the teachers as a unit.

Mr. Drewry stated the very fact the school board had transferred Miss Cook as principal to another school and not as a teacher showed they had considered her qualified. No testimony had, the defence held, shown the former principal to be the originator of the pupils' strike in March, shortly after her transfer.

Asks Costs of Counsel

Dealing with the jurisdiction of the board of reference, Mr. Drewry stated it had power to make an award to be entered as a judgment and be enforced as such. Costs of board members should, he believed, be borne by the government, while counsel's fees should be awarded to both parties.

Summing up for the school board, C. W. Brock claimed that under the terms of the statute his clients were fully entitled to engage, transfer or discharge any teacher. He declared that Miss Cook's appointment as a principal in no way changed her status or contract as a teacher.

Far from being biased against her, Mr. Brock said the board had been, if anything, too considerate and had failed to realize her dual personality. "If ever fortitude, patience and unrelenting effort was spent to seek all the facts with open minds, I say this board has left a monument which will stand for time to come."

Counsel suggested that the former principal had been shown in evidence to be irresponsible and lacking in fact. He asserted she had an over developed idea of discipline.

Mr. Brock stated that the board had no power to make any award since no complaints were made that the board had not abided by its contract. No costs could be given by the board, he considered.

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