

MARCH 26 1937

MISS COOK CLAIMS POISON School Staff Indifferent To Her Work as Principal

Charges that teachers transferred pupils without her knowledge, allowed them to change their names without informing the principal, and showed a "silent indifference" to her efforts were made by Miss Ida Cook in evidence Wednesday evening before the board of reference inquiring into the causes that sent East Kildonan children at the Salisbury and Polson schools out on strike, March 9. Miss Cook, continuing her evidence from Tuesday, was still on the stand, under examination by her counsel, C. L. Drewry, when the board adjourned.

Pupils had been transferred from the school without her knowledge, claimed the principal. She stated that a teacher had supplied a child with a transfer from a school in another district without enclosing the necessary information.

Upon her request the transfer form had been returned for inclusion of a medical certificate and class report and she had then informed the teacher concerned that all future transfers were to be submitted to her. Later she had heard indirectly that the pupil did not know his grade five work which "cast an aspersion on Polson school I did not like."

Miss Cook recounted how pupils had asked the teachers to change their names on the school register. This they had done, she alleged, without informing her so that in some cases there were two names to one pupil in the school. She had learned from the department of education that pupils, once entered, must continue school under the same name but her request to the teachers not to do this had met with great opposition.

"Objections were sometimes voiced, sometimes silent indifference," she said.

She told the board of her efforts to bring the school and parents closer together and how at every chance she had invited parents to the school realizing that closer cooperation between the two was necessary.

Hidden Opposition

Miss Cook stated she first discovered the "hidden opposition" last spring but had realized it before from the attitude of two teachers she had known previous to her arrival as principal.

One teacher especially, she asserted, had been "absolutely insubordinate" from the minute she entered the school. That person had continually refused to obey instructions regarding supplying the principal with copies of her examination papers at the proper time and, one day after inviting Miss Cook to her room, had told her the teachers did not like being asked for copies, had never supplied them before and considered she had no right to ask that the reports all go out at the same time.

The principal described how the inspector had met the teachers without her knowledge when she was absent sick and had, as she learned later, asked them leading questions about her. She claimed he had ignored her as principal of the school and when at the end of his visit she had approached him, he had remarked: "the teachers do not like you."

Rarely raising her voice and without hesitation, the teacher told of her successful efforts to improve the standard of games at her school, telling with pride of the success of Polson in the suburban speed skating championships, and of its hockey teams, which had

never failed to turn up at games in the coldest of weather when other schools defaulted. Replying to questions, she suggested that "New Canadians" needed stricter discipline, but were responsive to it when they understood what was required. Polson, she informed the board, had 94 per cent. of New Canadians.

At the start of the session all East Kildonan school children were requested to leave by the chairman of the board, C. K. Guild, K.C. Only four children left the room, which was again packed with silent listeners.

Decision was made by the board to adjourn following Thursday night's meeting until Monday owing to Good Friday and the enforced absence of C. Brock, counsel for the East Kildonan school board.

Britain and Plan Force Italy From

Two Powers Join in Determining Neutrality Measure—Will if Necessary to Back

London, March 26. (AP and CP)—forceful action by France, Thursday, of Italian soldiers in Spain, agreeing to a blockade of the Iberian peninsula.

An accord by the two powers, Yvon Delbos, of France, and the British Sir George Russell Clerk, was disclosed.

They agreed on "all points" of a intervention completely effective and to prevent, even by force, any further.

The issue now lies with Premier Mussolini. From both Paris and London anxious eyes are turned towards Rome to see what Il Duce's next move will be in Spain.

Italy has refused to withdraw its "volunteers" already fighting with

Special League Session

Geneva, March 26. (CP)—An extraordinary session of the League of Nations assembly was convoked Thursday for May 26—with the possibility that the Spanish problems might be discussed.

General Francisco Franco. Will Mussolini endeavor to retrieve their