
REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

CANCELLATION OF CERTIFICATE OF J. P. McLEOD.

Mr. Speaker :

Your Select Committee appointed to "enquire into the cancellation of the certificate of Mr. McLeod, and to enquire into all circumstances connected with the granting of temporary certificates from and inclusive of the month of July last to the present time," has the honour to report that it has taken the evidence of Mr. McLeod and also that of Dr. Pope, the Superintendent of Education, which it herewith submits to your Honourable House :—

By the evidence it appears that on June the 25th, 1891, Mr. McLeod visited Dr. Pope, at the office of the Superintendent of Education, and called his attention to the fact that in the report of the examination for promotion in the High School no marks had been allotted for the Latin papers in the Third Division, and that he concluded that the Superintendent of Education was the proper authority to whom he should make such a complaint. Dr. Pope received Mr. McLeod courteously, informed him that he was correct in concluding that he had applied to the proper authority, and assured him that his complaint should be attended to and that the omission of the entry of the marks for the Latin papers in question should be rectified.

It then appears from the "Victoria Times," June 29th, 1891, under the heading :—

"WHO IS TO BLAME?"

"SOME GRAVE CHARGES LAID BY PRINCIPAL McLEOD."

That at Mr. McLeod's request a special meeting of the Board of School Trustees had been called in order to hear charges which were made by that gentleman against the administration of school affairs by his superior officer, the Superintendent of Education.

By section 6, sub-section (7), of the "Public School Act, 1891," it is enacted that the powers of the Council of Public Instruction are, among other things :—

"To make and establish rules and regulations for the conduct of the Public Schools, to prescribe the duties of teachers and their classification."

By section 8, sub-section (5), the Superintendent of Public Instruction is empowered :—

"To have, subject to the Council of Public Instruction, the supervision and direction of the Inspectors and Schools."

But we find that Mr. McLeod first makes his complaint to the Superintendent of Education, thereby recognizing his authority, and that, although he was courteously received and assured that his complaint would be attended to, he, within two days, appeals to an irresponsible body, as far as school teaching is concerned, namely, the Board of School Trustees, and at a special meeting called by his own request lays very grave charges against his superior officer, the Superintendent of Education, which appear in the public press.

We find by the evidence that neither the Superintendent of Education nor the Council of Public Instruction acted hastily in cancelling Mr. McLeod's certificate, and that it was not until some months had elapsed, and until after his persistent determination to appeal to the

Board of School Trustees, in contempt of his superior officer and superior court of appeal, that final action was taken by cancelling his certificate, as evidenced by the following letter from Inspector D. Wilson:—

“VICTORIA, December 16th, 1891.

“S. D. Pope, Esq.,
“Superintendent of Education.

“DEAR SIR,—I beg to report that in compliance with your instructions I called this day at the Victoria High School and handed to the Principal, Mr. McLeod, the statements of results of the recent written examination of the Second and Third Divisions of the School, at the same time requesting him, in your name, to call at the Education Office for the purpose of arranging the promotions as usual. In reply to the request made, Mr. McLeod, in an angry and defiant manner, said:—‘I will not call at the Education Office. If the Superintendent wishes to see me, he will find me here. There is the post office if he wants anything to do with me.’

“Yours truly,
(Signed) “D. WILSON,
“Inspector of Schools.”

We are of opinion that Mr. McLeod's conduct was calculated to bring school discipline into discredit, and consequently it set a pernicious example to other teachers and also to the pupils under their charge, and therefore from that fact alone it fully justified the cancellation of his certificate.

We are of opinion that it would have been more in accordance with custom if the cause of Mr. McLeod's dismissal had been stated to him in the letter which informed him of the cancellation of his certificate.

We would suggest for the consideration of the Council of Public Instruction that it might be advisable that all answers to examination papers for promotion in the High School should be kept for twelve months before they are destroyed, in order that they may be at hand for reference in case of any dispute.

With regard to the granting of temporary certificates from and inclusive of the month of July last to the present time, we find that no irregularities have taken place, and that there is nothing to call for remark in the conduct of this branch of Education.

JAMES BAKER,
Chairman.
HENRY CROFT.
R. H. HALL.

VICTORIA, B. C.

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MINORITY REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

CANCELLATION OF CERTIFICATE OF J. P. McLEOD.

Mr. Speaker :

Your Select Committee appointed to enquire into all matters connected with the cancellation of the certificate to teach, formerly held by Mr. J. P. McLeod, and also into all circumstances connected with the granting of temporary certificates from and inclusive of the month of July last to the present time, has the honour to report that it has taken the evidence of Mr. J. P. McLeod, and also of Dr. Pope, which it herewith submits to your Honourable House.

By the evidence, it appears that on June 25th, 1891, Mr. McLeod visited Dr. Pope, at the office of the Superintendent of Education, and called his attention to the fact that, in the report of the examination for promotion in the Victoria High School, no marks had been allotted for the Latin papers in the 3rd Division. Dr. Pope had the omission rectified, and an amended report made out and forwarded without delay.

That Mr. McLeod was not satisfied with the marks given to certain pupils of the 3rd Division of the Victoria High School, and complained to the Board of School Trustees two days after complaining to Dr. Pope, and before allowing any reasonable time for the Superintendent to have the papers re-examined, and therein was guilty of unprofessional conduct.

That Mr. McLeod examined five of the Latin papers of the 3rd Division, two of those written by the more advanced pupils, and three written by the least advanced of the pupils, but that the examiner credits all five about equal.

That the report of the experts is as follows:—

VEN. ARCHDEACON SCRIVEN, M.A. :

“That the marks assigned, with two or three exceptions, meet with my approval. In each of the exceptions referred to, I considered that more marks had been allowed than the answers in my opinion merited.”

MR. JOHN ANDERSON, B.A. :

“I find that in two or three instances he has assigned higher values to answers than I should feel warranted in giving, but as the valuation of such papers is, to a great extent, a matter of judgment, there is no reason to doubt that the original examiner could justify his marking in the cases referred to.”

That all the Latin examination papers of the 3rd Division were referred to Ven. Archdeacon Scriven, M.A., and Mr. John Anderson, B.A.

That though the correctness of the marking of the Latin papers was in dispute, the papers had nevertheless been destroyed before your Committee called for them.

That Mr. McLeod refused to go to the office of the Superintendent of Education to arrange for promotions when requested to do so by Inspector Wilson, in Dr. Pope's name.

That further enquiry was stopped by the following resolution being carried in Committee:—

“That insomuch as Mr. McLeod went to his superior officer, Dr. Pope, and made a complaint to the effect that the papers at the High School examination had been improperly

marked, and that there were important omissions; and that insomuch as, according to Mr. McLeod's own showing, the Superintendent of Education at once consented to look into the matter and have it rectified; and that notwithstanding this, Mr. McLeod, before there was time for the Superintendent to look into the matter, laid complaints before the Board of School Trustees as to the conduct of the School Superintendent, and that these complaints were published in the Press, he committed such a gross breach of discipline as to fully warrant the Council of Public Instruction in cancelling his certificate."

That we do not endorse the above resolution, considering that temporary suspension of Mr. McLeod's certificate would have been sufficient punishment for the promotion of good discipline in the schools.

THOS. E. KITCHEN,
F. C. COTTON.

VICTORIA, B. C.:

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