

THE TOUGH OLD BOARD

More Talk on Teachers' Certificates.

CHINESE IN THE SCHOOLS.

How Director Melcher Would Give Peace of Mind to the Department.

Dr. Eaton was the only member of the Board of Education who was not present at the regular meeting of that body last night. But Head Carpenter Ranbo was in attendance and directed the proceedings, both in the lobby and inside the hall.

CHINESE PUPILS.

A communication was received from Colonel Bee, his Imperial Chinese Majesty's Consul, asking for the admission of the daughter of Joseph Tape, a Chinese, into the public schools, and for the admission of all Chinese children into the public schools.

Superintendent Moulder read a letter which he had sent to State Superintendent Welcker asking his opinion as to the admission of the daughter of Joseph Tape to the schools. He also read a reply from State Superintendent Welcker, in which that gentleman expressed the opinion that Chinese children are not admissible to the schools under the law. Mr. Moulder then read a letter which he had proposed to send to Consul Bee, his Imperial Chinese Majesty's Consul, in which he declined to admit Chinese children resident here to the schools. Mr. Moulder submitted the correspondence to the board.

Candidate Platt moved that the action of the Superintendent be ratified. He expressed the opinion that the laws of the state were intended to exclude Chinese from the schools. He also thought that the opinion of the community was opposed to the admission of Chinese children to the schools.

Director Danielwitz understood that his Imperial Chinese Majesty's Consul will mandamus this board to admit this little Chinese girl. He said he would go to jail rather than vote for such admission. He introduced the following resolutions:

"Resolved, That each and every Principal of each and every public school throughout this city and county, under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education, be and he or she is hereby absolutely prohibited from admitting any Mongolian (Chinese) child of schoolable age or otherwise, either male or female, into such school or class."

"Resolved, That a violation of the foregoing resolution will subject such principal or teacher to immediate dismissal from the department."

The resolutions were adopted by the following vote:

Ayes—Brand, Cahalin, Conklin, Danielwitz, Melcher, Travers, Platt and Hastings—5.

Noes—Bowie, Cleveland and Foard—3.

Director Foard stated that he misunderstood the question which he was voting upon. He said that he was opposed to the entrance of Chinese children into the schools.

The vote on Danielwitz's resolution was reconsidered and Director Foard got right on the record. He voted as follows: "Aye and Dr. O'Donnell for Corcoran."

Professor H. Grau and H. Burgess were nominated for the vacancy created by the resignation of Professor Schoop as drawing teacher in the night school. Professor H. Grau was elected to fill the vacancy.

Director Brand said that Professor Grau did not have a certificate.

"The board cannot elect a teacher who has not a certificate," said President Hastings.

The board reconsidered the election of Professor Grau. It then voted him a certificate and re-elected him as professor of drawing.

RAISED CERTIFICATES.

The special committee appointed to investigate the legality of the raised certificates reported and asked that the committee be discharged, expressing the opinion that the certificates were legal.

Director Melcher said he was not prepared to vote in favor of the report. He was willing to vote for the discharge of the committee, but he did not indorse the other part of the report.

Director Conklin said that he did not think the committee had done its duty. He understood that the committee had been appointed to go to Sacramento to champion the cause of the teachers.

Director Melcher said: "I don't think that the report disposes of the question. The expression of our opinion that the certificates are legal does not make them so. I therefore submit a minority report." The good man then read a long essay on the subject of raised certificates. He claimed that the Board of Examiners, and not the Board of Education, had the right to issue certificates. He thought that the Board of Education might be bold enough to ask the Board of Examiners to issue certificates. He ended up his wordy report by recommending that the Board of Education ask the Board of Examiners to issue certificates, after careful inquiry, to the 200 teachers who now hold raised certificates. The clause "after careful inquiry" throws the whole subject open and makes the granting of the new certificates rest entirely upon the choice of the Board of Examiners.

Director Foard moved that the minority report be adopted.

Candidate Platt threw a little light upon the obscurity of the minority report. He said that if the Board of Education had a right to order the Board of Examiners to issue new certificates the Board of Education had the right to issue the certificates themselves.

"AFTER CAREFUL INQUIRY."

Director Melcher said that he wanted to give peace of mind to the department, and he thought by ordering the Board of Examiners, "after careful inquiry," to issue new certificates was the way to accomplish this. He did not say what would happen if the Board of Examiners decided not to issue certificates to some of the holders of the raised certificates "after careful inquiry."

Director Conklin said that it was nonsensical for the special committee to make such a report, or any report at all, and raise such a disturbance. He said that the committee was appointed to go to Sacramento and defend the teachers before the State Board. He moved that the whole subject be indefinitely postponed. By a vote the motion was carried, Director Melcher voting against it.

Superintendent Moulder stated that he had placed the credits on the raised certificates which were on the certificates originally held. Superintendent Moulder added that he had received an invitation from the officers of the New Orleans World's Fair to make a display of the school facilities of this city at that exposition.

It was suggested that a photograph of the "tough old board" be sent to New Orleans. A number of the Directors smiled and agreed to this, but it was finally decided to be modest for once and to make no display of the department at the World's Fair.

A resolution was passed requiring the Board of Examiners to issue second-grade certificates to Mrs. Hogan and Mrs. Murphy.

On motion of Candidate Platt a month's salary was ordered to be paid to Mrs. McDonald, a lady who has taught in the Mission night school.

Director Danielwitz offered a resolution, doing away with the December examinations. The resolution was referred to the Committee on Classification.

Mrs. B. J. Semlar and Miss Ella McCarthy were elected teachers in the department.

The resignation of G. Schoop as teacher of drawing in the Lincoln Evening School was read and accepted.

The following applications were received and referred to the Committee on Classification: Lizzie M. Graham, for a State diploma; Helen M. Hitchcock, for a State diploma; M. T. Walsh, for a life diploma; and Dora W. Fiederwinn, for a State diploma.

Mrs. Whigham was granted leave of absence for six months. A leave of absence till December 1st was granted to Mrs. S. J. Fryer.