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THE CANADIAN POST Printing House, Lindsay, Ont.

Canadian LINDSAY, FRIDAY, APRIL. 3, 1896.

RESULT OF THE RECENT CON-FERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO AUGUST BODIES.

Read, Learn and Inwardly Di gest, Good People.

Meeting of the Two Finance Committees-The Council asks the Board to Reduce Expenses, but the Latter Eody Proves that the Request is not Warranted by the Facts. For several years past the opinion has

more or less prevailed among our citizens that the members of the school board were not as economical as they should be considering the town's financial position, and at each recurring municipal election the suspicion was made a direct charge by one or other of the candidates as accounting in a measure for the high rate of taxation levied and the starved condition of the Whenever the charge was made in the hearing of Messre, McNeille, Flav elle, Kennedy, Stewart, and other mem bers of the board of education, it was strenuously denied by them, and at the last public meeting in the town hall Reeve Kylle defended the board from the imputation of undue extravagance. The feeling was not banished from the minds of the people, however, as was evidenced by a resolution passed in council authorizing any way the board can cut down the exthe fluxuee committee to meet and confer with the flannes committee of the board and endeavor to bring about a reduction

The conference was held on Tuesday evening, March 17th, in the town clerk's office. The council representatives were Mayor Smyth, and Messrs. Jas. Graham, H. Sootheran, Ray, Touchburn, and Keith; Mr. J. R. McNeillie, chairman, and Messrs. J. D. Fiavelle, Dr. Lynch, R. J. McLaughlin, Thos. Stewart, John Kernedy, and D. R. Anderson appeared for

Our excuse for not publishing this interesting report earlier is that all our available space has been taken up by our very full accounts of the evidence given with reference to the Agnew murder at the various sessions of the coroner's inquest. The Council's Plea.

Coun. Jas. GRAHAM said no doubt all were aware of the object of the meeting, and that being the case it would not be necessary to go into details-the object of the conference was to see if it would not be possible to curtail the expenses of the board for the reason that the town finances were in a most wretched condition. Seven years ago the council of that time had funded the floa irg debt, and since that time the debt had increased by about \$2,000 yearly—at any rate, the debt was now about \$14,000. The finance committee of the council did not know how to go about the task of wiping cut this incubus -they didn't know how to make \$100 go further than \$100 should if carefully spent. The rate at present is 25 mills, and there was a general feeling that it would be hazardous to make it any higher; the as-sessment was up to the normal point and could not be raised, consequently the council could not increase their revenue. That being the case, and it being the fact that the town was running \$2,000 behind yearly, the council felt that the only course was to economize closely, and it was hoped that the school board would lend a helping hand and devise some means to reduce the amount demanded from the town. As it was possible that all did not know just what amounts the board demands from the town yearly, he would give the figures for general information: Public Schools.

From which deduct government grant,
Ops taxes, fees, etc., leaving ..... 9.642 Collegiate Institute.

Required for 1895.... \$ 9,426 Received from other sources. 6,018
Government and Co. Ccuncil grants, examination and other fees .... Leaving for board to raise ....

Mr. FLAVELLE-"Does not that include \$800 raised for the gymnasium, but spent

Coun. GRAHAM-"You're mistaken; I have given the correct amounts paid to the board, outside of the \$800 referred to." The two amounts together make \$13,000 given the board in 1895. The figures were The two amounts together make \$13,000 Mr. Flavelle—'Excuse me, Mr. Smyth, given the board in 1895. The figures were perhaps not absolutely correct—the committee were hardly prepared to say somittee were hardly prepared to say somittee were sufficient-but the amounts asked for were ly large to make it very difficult for the council to supply them, and no doubt his went home and tried to rob us of Mr. fellow councillors would outline their various ideas as to the possibility of the board limiting the expenditure in some respects; he himself knew of no way it could be done unless by reducing the sateries of the the Collegiate salaries and expenditure were excessive—he did not think they were. Now, as to the public school expenditure. Some time ago the heard in done unless by reducing the salaries of the were. Now, as to the public school expenditure. Some time ago the board in its wisdom had declared against engaging teachers for the public schools holding a certificate lower than second class—that meant that no teacher's salary would be less than \$300, and year by year it was increased to a maximum of \$350. Also there are at least two teachers on the public school staff who were receiving salaries of \$400 for preparing children for exams; two others receive salaries of \$700 for pre-

teachers. He is drawing a salary of \$1,000 were, his own views solely. He also isfied that the education imparted in the were, his own views solely. He also thought there was a time this year, and last year also, when Mr. Broderick might have been utilized and money saved by placing him in charge of the 8th form in the Collegiate.

Mr. STEWART-"Did the inspector tell Coun. GRAHAM -"No, I may say this is a matter the public mind is considering carefully; they feel that Mr. Broderick's services might well be given for the six menths he was not engaged teaching the

from all on the subject." the board it had occurred to him that they | not qualified to do so. might properly be informed of the views of Coun, Graham's colleagues before attempting to explain the board's position. Mayor SMYTH was then called upon, but he said he did not care to express his views so early in the discussion. Reeve RAY said it was wise to have a

friendly conference-all of them were simply acting as trustees for the general pub-lic. It was the duty of the council to provide the sinews of war for the board as well as for themselves. Coun. Graham had explained the town's position as clearly as possible in few words—they had a deficit of \$:4,000, and it was the council's desire to wipe this out gradually without increasing the bonded indebtedness.

Mr. FLAVELLE asked if he was right in saying that enough money had been raised last year by the council to pay the year's charges, and that the deficit was due to a sum of \$4,000 or so having to be set aside to pay off some debentures coming due. Reeve Ray explained that part of last year's deficit was created by the council having to raise two years' county rates. Of course the estimate of the floating debt included every amount past councils should have raised. This year's council had to provide by taxation a sum nearly approaching \$50,000; out of that sum, after providing for fixed charges, they would have the handling of about \$8,000. Last year the school board called for over \$13,-000, and there was a strong feeling abroad impressing the board as to the town's finan cial embarrassment, in the hope that the board might see its way clear to reducing its demands somewhat. It was a subject, he thought, on which there should be plain speaking. As for the lady teachers, he felt they were earning their salaries, but the board had two at \$400 each. Mr. McNellie explained that the teach-

ers referred to were in positions formerly held by male teachers at a higher salary. Mr. STEWART said the positions could not be filled for less; while the board saved money by the change it was still his opinion that it would be better to have male teachers in the two rooms referred to, and he thought Headmaster Broderick held the same view.

Reeve RAY, continuing, said that two male teachers receive \$700 each, and were no doubt good teachers and earning their money. He did not know that Mr. Stew art was correct in saying that the positions held by the lady teachers referred to could not be filled for less. (Mr. Stewart-"I think not)" Over all these teachers was another-Mr. Broderick-an experienced man and he had no cavil against him-who was receiving \$1,000. No doubt while he was teaching the model school the public schools were deprived of his services.
(Mr. McNeillie-"No.") I know he was offered \$1,200 to go elsewhere, but the fact remained that men were fulfilling similar duties for \$700 or \$800. Then as to the Collegiate—the board had a principal at \$1,400; three teachers at \$1,100; two at \$1,000; one at \$800; and one at \$675, or a total salary list of \$8,320. It was a fact that salaries had been raised while the cost of living had materially decreased, He would leave salaries alone, however, and refer to other matters. The taxpayers had an impression that when the board wanted a sum of money they simply made a demand upon the council for the sum required. For instance, he understood the board were considering the advisabil ity of putting in a gas machine to light the assembly hall and provide heat in the

laboratory. Mr. McNeillie explained that it was very expensive under the present system to provide heat in the laboratory, and on several occasions the assembly hall had been wanted but could not be used. Mr. STEWART-"We would save money by putting in a plant at an expense ci

Mr. Anderson-"The expenditure per pupil was nearly \$2 per pupil lower than any other high school in the province." Reeve RAY-"The question is, is there

penditure?" Mr. J. D. FLAVELLE pointed out that the present government grant depended upon in the board's expenditure for the current | the fulfilment of the inspector's recom-Reeve Ray said he understood that per-

feetly, but he wanted the members of the board to farcy themselves in the position of a man who wanted a \$6 pair of boots, but had only \$2 to spend. He wanted the board to save \$10 where they could, \$100 when possible, and if they could make it \$500 so much the better—let them use the pruning knife wherever feasible and thus satisfy the people that they were as willing as the council to economize in the matter of expenditure.

Mayor SMYTH said he was not prepared to say just where the re renchment sho . ld begin, but the pressing necessity for econcmy must be plain to all. The town was in a bad position and if things went on as at present it would only be a few years betsre the condition of affairs would be

Mr. STEWART-"How is the sinking fund for the debenture debt?" Coun. GRAHAM-"Very little more than the floating debt. IDr. Lynch enquired how the deficit had grown-was it by raising too little or by the council exceeding the estimates."
Mr. FLAVELLE—"The latter."

Mr. McLAUGHLIN-"Many of the members of past councils had worked along completely in the dark.' Mayor SMYTH said that in the last five years the assessment had not gone up and was now about the same as in 1890. Mr. FLAVELLE and Mr. ANDERSON-"The general impression is that it is quite a bit

Mayor SMITH claimed that much of the property in town was really valued too high, and the council would speedily reach the point where they could impose no higher taxes, and then what would the board do-the town could only do all in its power; the members were held responsible for the whole outlay by the people, and the board were not. There should be a strong effort made by both board and council to live within the means at their

Mr. FFAVELLE said that in glancing over the auditors' report he saw an item of nearly \$1,000 for interest-that was, no doubt incurred by the council allowing the taxes to fall into arrears. There was a larger leak there than they would find anywhere in the school board.

Reeve RAY pointed out that over \$400 of the amount was gain, being collected from the parties who did not pay their taxes inside the proper time. Mr. FLAVELLE, in reply to a question relative to the Peterboro Collegiate, said it was costing the board of that town

nearly \$3,000 more to teach 189 pupils than it was costing Lindsay to teach a much larger number. Mayor SMYTH-"With reference to the principal, it is a matter of dollars and cents. In Peterboro for years-Mr. FLAVELLE- Excuse me, Mr. Smyth,

paring pupils for the entrance. These ferent position from Lindsay—the town were high. But the board had another—a has more wealth. There is a feeling supervisor, a principal, or something—to abroad in Lindsay that the people are beoversee the work of these high-priced ing taxedito pay big salaries to teachers in
teachers. He is drawing a salary of \$1,000 order to give the children of a few people public schools was good enough.

Mr. FLAVELLE- 'Are the people satisfied with the public school expenditure ?"
Dep.-reeve Touchburn-"I think not." Coun. GRAHAM thought that some country teachers passed a larger number of pupils in proportion to the number writing

than Lindsay did. Mr. Anderson- That idea is wrong Mr. McNEILLIE said it should not forgotten that the country schools had a population of 24,000 to draw from, and the model school, and I would like to hear pupils only wrote when advised to do so Mr. McNeillie said that as chairman of venient and many pupils wrote who were elle was the arch sinner in the way of inby the teacher, but in town it was con-

HOT SHOT FROM THE BOARD. fence of he board. He was sure, he said, fully. Let them look at the broad questhat every member sympathized with the tion of policy—by the government report council's efforts to reduce the expenditure Linlsay pays the lowest salaries, yet at the same time endeavoring to keep up the efficiency of the Institute and public schools. He did not understand Coun. Graham to make any particular objection the province, while the salary of the principal is less than is paid to any man pre siding over even 180 pupils. The whole ick, he thought, might have filled the position for the time. He (Stewart) would years ago, and good teachers cannot be tinually refusing applications for increases pupils from that town were attending our of salary or requests that involved cutlay Collegiate because their own school was going outside and to Upper Canada \$1,700, with a promise of an increase to College for their education. The board \$2,000, and that school was now the most they had engaged Mr. Harstone at asalary of \$1 400, with the implied understanding that it would be raised, but they had never ly to increase the population and build up been able to keep their promise in that | the town. Turning to the public schools Owing to this unexpected increase it had and had even attempted to steal Mr. become necessary to engage additional Broderick.
teachers, yet he doubted if the average Reeve RAY—"That's a strong expresexpenditure had been \$3,000 for 6, 7 and | sion.

outside attendance adds to the cost the board should shut them out." Mr. FLAYELLE explained that the outside pupils had been practically shut out speaker then referred to Miss Ward and ber of county pupils had increased, and strong moral character and high attain adjacent to the county boundaries. Mr. Stewart—"The people expressed partial in his treatment of the teachers, their willingness to pay \$2,775 for the Coland he did not know a man in whose rethan anticipated we are asking very little more than that sum from them yearly."

Reeye Ray - "When you made that are all not know a man in whose reports he would place more confidence. In his opinion a man had no higher heritage than the power to be a limit to did not know a man in whose reports he would place more confidence. In his opinion a man had no higher heritage. them a certain standard of education, and the board had been first to get efficient the board is also under contract with the service, and then to pay a fair salary. Inas they should. True, the board had en- examination would disclose the fact that gaged an 8th teacher for half a year, but the board was one of the most economical they had an 8th teacher last year also in in Ontario. sary to the welfare of the firm or institucourse to pursue ? Mr. Harstone was in government report : that position with regard to the 8th teacher. Mr. Broderick was a busy man and for six months presided over the model school, thus bringing in a certain revenue to the board. The speaker then read the following table showing the cost etc., of other schools in the province; it had been

prepared, he said by Mr. Thos. Walters: Extract from the report of the Minister of Education for 1895. The statistics are those of 1894, as the returns for 1895 are never in in time for the minister's report, which is prepared at the beginning of | +06 | -1-1-0-1-0-1-5-1-1

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Mr. STEWART said the substance of the whole thing was that the Lindsay school makes a much better showing than the average in salaries paid according to the number of pupils in attendance, and is also away below the average in general cost. The council wished to know if the board could reduce the cost of the Institute. He said "No"-they might reduce the salaries, lower than the standard of education, and thereby reduce the government grant and the county grant-and the result would be an increased amount for the town to pay. Coun. GRAHAM said he agreed with Mr.

Stewart as to the Collegiate-he had nothing to say on that subject.
Mr. J. KENNEDY said he had not come there as an apologist for the board, but there was a point about the 8th teacher he wished to refer to. He had not been in favor of engaging an 8th teacher himself, but the fact was the engagement was only for the half-year, and the county council pays 36 per cent. of the salary, leaving only about \$256 as the board's share. Mr. STEWART, continuing, said that as

for lady teachers, the remuneration paid them was in accordance with an old rule laid down by the board. While a third class teacher might be able to teach children in the first book, the board took the tion if they took that means of saving stand that it was important to have the young children taught by the best teachers —by teachers who were ambitious and of high moral character. Such teachers teachers teachers the moral character. Such teachers teachers could not content themselves with a 3rd class certificate, and the board found after a time that they were paying \$300 to teachers who left after a few years train ing, or as soon as they qualified for a 2nd class certificate. By fixing the qualification at 2nd class and grading the salaries in a 2nd class and grading the 3nd class and grading the 3nd

Mr. STEWART replied that they got

Mr. McNEILLIE said Mayor Smyth's rashould be cleared away at once. It was a fact that the county pays dollar for dollar towards the support of the school that is

paid by the town. The statement was challenged, and Mr. McNeillie pointed out that the county paid 36 per cent., just the proportion of county pupils attending the Collegiate. Reeve Ray asked on what ground the board defended the forease in the salaries of Mr. Hardy and Mr. Stevens.

Mr. McNsillie said the gentlemen mentioned had been worth the salaries they received from the very first, and had merely been given a small increase, to which they were entitled after years of faithful service.

Mr. KENNEDY pointed out that there was an impression abroad that Mr. Flavcreasing salaries, etc., and he should be

heard from. Mr. FLAVELLE said that as to the Colle-Mr. STEWART then took the floor in de- glate Mr. Stewart had covered the ground -they all had been anxious to do so while | the cost to the parents sending children to to Institute expenditure, though Reeve tenor of the educationists of the present Rsy and Mayor Smyth had. Coun. Graday is to increase salaries instead of reducham had taken exception to the employ- ing them; it was a fact that in most Oa' ment of an 8th teacher when Mr. Broder- tario institutes the salaries are considerlike if those who charged the board with secured to-day for the salaries paid then. an excessive outlay could serve a few Mr. Flavelle next referred to the case of years on the board-why, they were con- the Peterboro Institute. Some years ago in some form or other. The town had had | no good. The Peterboro people were now a grammar school once that did not give | making strenuous efforts to build up their satisfaction-boys from the town were school, and were paying their principal of education later on turned out the whole costly in the province according to the staff of teachers, re-engaging some and number of pupils in attendance. Lindsay's dismissing others. It was at that time Institute was cheaply run, while at the regard. Mr. Harstone soon improved the Mr. Flavelle admitted that he was responefficiency of the school to a wonderful de sible for the graded system of salaries-he gree, and later on it was decided to raise said the teachers before were weeded out it to the Collegiate standing. The people as speedily as they became trained. Not had been told that they would be taxed withstanding Mr. Touchburn's objections, \$2,775 annually for a staff of five teachers; he felt that Lindsay had the best system it was estimated that 200 papils would in its public schools of any town in Canattend, but the number far exceeded that. ada. Peterboro had copied the system,

Mr. FLAVELLE-"Well, perhaps it is Dep.-reeve Touchburn-"Well, if the but it is only pitching into another town. Reeve Ray-"Did not Mr. Broderick apply for the position?" Mr. FLAVELLE-"He did not." The

-they were charged \$20, which was just | Miss Fanning, who receive salaries of \$400; twice what county pupils paid. The num- he maintained that a female teacher of the board could not shut them out. Even ment was superior to any male teacher, e 20 outside pupils came from homes while the latter would cost more. As for Mr. Broderick, he was thoroughly immate of \$2,775 you did not know that the tunity offered but once. Taking that view, county grant would be as much as it is. he believed it would be impossible for the Mr. STEWART-"Yes, but we could not board to reduce the expenditure at the tell precisely, of course," The fact is, we present time. His own firm paid a good had a high school which returned no rev- deal of taxes, and if they were able to do enue, and we now have a Collegiate which | so they had to work for it. Mr. Flavelle is yielding a revenue. We are practically then referred to the cases of Mr. Mounder contract with the pupils to give Dougall and Mr. Armour. The policy county, which is supporting the school stead of the board being an extravagant liberally—but not as liberally, he thought one, Mr. Flavelle claimed that a very brief

the person of Miss O'Loane. The necessity Mr. McNEILLIE said the every objection for the action had been thoroughly dis- had been fairly answered by Mr. Flavelle. cussed. Take the case of a busidess firm | There perhaps was a feeling that because or a bank-if they had a trusted employee the board managed their business more who recommended certain things neces- quietly than the council, that they tried to dominate the latter, but such was not the tion, and gave reasons which could not be case. The speaker then read the following combatted, what would be the proper stitestics of 13 schools, compiled from the

Average

Teacher, 20 Pupils to each Teacher. 13504 15000 5518 558 Teachers' Salaries.

1.00 Salary. AS | won was a bio a so to Local Assessment.

Average Salary.

It would be seen from the figures given that Lindsay's average was very low; the average salary paid in all the schools was \$1,001, but as Lindsay had an 8th teacher its average was somewhat lower; to be exact, the school is taught by 7 3-5 teachers.
The average salary paid principals was
\$1,569, while L'ndsay paid only \$1,400. He
might add a word as to Mr. Broderick that gentleman receives \$1,000 a year, and from the model school which he conducts for six months; the board derives fees of \$450, thus reducing the exact cost of Mr. Broderick's services as principal to \$550, as against the salary of \$1,200 paid in Peterboro. In conclusion it must be taken as a fact that the people of the the town when establishing the Institute, expressed a desire that a first-class school should be maintained in town, and in his (Mr. Mc-Neillie's) opinion the board should continue to maintain it in the highest state of efficiency; by degrading the standing of the school there would be a financial loss as well as a loss of educational facilities. Very nearly one-half of the 235 pupils on

the roll were from out of town. Mr. ANDERSON pointed out that the government report gave \$14 as the average cost per pupil in city, and \$9.32 in town high schools; on that bassi Lindsay was over \$1 per pupil lower than the average.
Mr. Broderick had informed the board that if all the children between the ages of 5 and 7 were sent home a teacher could be dispensed with-there were nearly 100 pupils between the ages mentioned. The board had the right to do so, but in his opinion there would be a howl of indigna-

mates likely to be larger or smaller than The question brought out a reference to last year ! the new gymnasium, and the council representatives were assured that if the lospector would consent the board would had been most satisfying. He might say that Mr. Anderson and himself had got their heads together and were trying to see where they could save a little here and there—perhaps \$50 in one spot, and \$25 in another—but as yet they could promise nothing.

Mr. Flavelle said he understood the principal objections were against the Institute.

Mr. Anderson said it would be just as reasonable to propose that the taxes should be collected by the town clerk and treasing the Collegiate for the 6 months' term.

Mayor Smyth remarked that it was too bad the board could not get more from the county.

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school representative, he was not respon-sible for the public school expenditure.

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He knew that the board refused many applications for increases, and there could be no doubt but that every servant of the board was earning his or her money. The speaker then referred to the case of Mr. Reeves, who was appointed caretaker of the central school; he resigned it after a few days because the work was too much for the salary paid; the position was then given to Mr. Frampton, and at the last mee ing of the board he had also applied for an increase of \$50 on the same ground. That should go to show that the board were economical in more ways than in the matter of salaries. He (Dr. Lynch) had voted for increasing some of the salaries, and he thought the recipients deserved the increases given. In his opinion the present conference would result in great good, and he hoped the reporter who had kindly attended would fully

Mr. McLaughlin said there was one thing the people should be proud of, and that was the eminent position the town occupied in educational matters, which had been attained at a less expense than in the case of any other school of its size in Oatario. As to the lady teachers, he felt they were not being paid too much, and it would be foolish to dispense with tried teachers in order to take on green ones at a lower cost for a time. In his opinion they were getting more value under the present system than under the old one. When we have the highest average attendance of pupils in Ontario at our public schools it is tantamount to saying that the parents are well satisfied. Dep.-reeve KEITH asked if it was not a fact that under the new law 3:d class teachers could only hold their certificates two years before going to the Normal? The answer was in the affirmative.

Coun. Scotheran said he would not speak owing to the lateness of the hour and the fact that he was a new member of the council. Dep. reeve Touchburn admitted that he

was thoroughly impressed with the justness of the board's course, and would so report to the council. The meeting then adjourned. The Latest in Calling Cards

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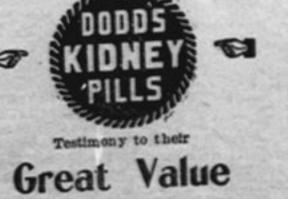
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