

BENFIELDSIDE SCHOOL BOARD.

ATTENDANCE OFFICER'S REPORT.
The report of Mr. A. McKean, schoolwarden, shows that during the Christmas holidays, there were no monthly statistics of the attendance to be noted. He had summoned 42 parents to attend meetings, inasmuch as the absentee lists had to be revised.

FINANCIAL.
The monthly payroll, amounting to £35, was paid and to be settled.

SMITH "GAVES IN."

schoolwarden against Smith, contractor, Blackh
it was announced that the latter had forwarded

about 50 parents of accused children attended the trial, and some of them gave the members a voice of their mind," asserting point blank that they would not send their children regularly to school, and that their by-laws did not override the common Act.

Mr W. Robinson, paper merchant, Blackhill, also presented his son-in-law, who he explained, was away from home. The summons to attend that evening was only delivered at the house of a friend and Mrs. Robinson was threatened and could not attend. And a threat implied in the notice, that Robinson thought it best to come himself.

The CHAIRMAN informed Mr Robinson that the attempts ought to procure a medical certificate and thereby prevent any further proceedings, and also to get the matter straight.

Mr Robinson said it was not the duty of the members, but the duty of the Board to get a doctor's certificate.

The Clerk pointed out that Mr Robinson was pouring under an erroneous impression. A statement to that effect was published in last week's *Argosy*, but was utterly incorrect.

Mr CARDS said it was that ignorant fool Cruick-

... who knew as much about the Education Act as a donkey knew about his grandfather. Mr. Jolly, such a concerned ass, was more than willing to write more about the Act than the members of the school were to dictate what they ought to do. He was perfectly astonished that the proprietor of the garden allowed such an arrogant fool and a donkey to dictate to publish, week by week, in his columns, such a lot of arant nonsense and rubbish. He was equally prescribed in his duties to the school as the parent of a child to provide the certificate. Mr. Robinson promised that the certificate would be forthcoming, if he ascertained that it really was the wish of the parents to procure the requisite

[illegible]

The members agreed to pay Mr. A. McKean, schoolwarden, £3 3s for taking a census of all the children in the township of school age; but declined to reimburse him for £1, which he had to pay for cleaning the schools while engaged in taking the census.

THE NEW STORES: AN EXPLANATION.

The Clerk reported that the new stores for the girls' school had come to hand, but were not yet fixed.

Mr. CAREW, while imputing the sincerest of motives to a writer of a letter in a previous week's *Advertiser* for the welfare of the school, said that the *New Advertiser* did not possess the slightest knowledge of

The system of ventilation proposed to be adopted, there was adequate provision in the first place made for ventilation to satisfy the Government Inspector. Furthermore, the piping would be put in so far up the wall, and the open fire-places would be so constructed, that when the fire was burning, the hot air, instead of being drawn out, would be drawn in, and the damper could be closed, and the fire would burn, and the air would be drawn in, and would thereby leave the space at the bottom of the fire-place open. There were proper ventilating shafts in each school, connected with each tier, constructed especially for the purpose. The ventilation was not, therefore, left at haphazard, as some might suppose.

THE HEAD TEACHERS' SALARIES.

The application from Mr F. W. Brodie, assistant master, for an increase of his present salary of £55

annum was considered. The question has been left in abeyance for some months.

Mr CARSE moved that Mr Brodie be granted £80 a year. If it did not give him an advance, he would be leaving the schools.

Mr JENKINS said that Mr Brodie only asked for £70 per annum, and besides, he would not quit the schools till he had received his parchment. He accordingly moved that Mr Brodie's salary be increased to £70, to date from the last examination in October.

Mr RAW seconded.

As there was no second to Mr Carse's proposition, it collapsed, and Mr Jenkins's resolution was carried.

The long-deferred request of Mr Philip Teare, for an increase of salary or a

participation in the Government grants: earned beyond a certain fixed sum, was discussed at some length. The master stated that this was the first application of the kind he had ever submitted to the Board for the past ten years. He stated that the period of efficiency of the school had rapidly progressed, and that the attendance had increased considerably, the Government grants were much higher than formerly, and the rates had been materially reduced. His salary, compared to other masters, was small.

Mr CAREW observed that as Mr Teare had a salary of £160 a year, besides a free house, &c., he was tolerably well off.

Mr BRY said that Mr Teare had told him that he had never been a day absent from school for 29 years.

Mr CARSON stated that Mr Teare not only performed his own duties, but frequently did the work of some of the teachers. In fact he was brought far too hard.

The CHAIRMAN stated that some of the teachers were absent through illness.

Mr RAW averred that Mr Teare ought to report to the Board whenever any of the teachers were not present, and he suggested that they should not be paid while absent.

The CHAIRMAN considered this rule hardly just or practicable.

As the matter was of such vast importance, it was left in abeyance till there was a full attendance of members for consideration.

A MEMBER THREATENS A TEACHER.

MR CARSON v MR RAW.

During the course of discussion, Mr RAW made some observation derogatory to the assistant-master, and Mr CARNS said that Mr Brodie would probably be a little nervous if all pasted up on the wall like Mrs Raw. The party who was the ideal of all that was true, noble, and could not misconduct himself; but he (the speaker) was sorry to say that he had recently learnt something to the contrary. Mr CARNS, after a long scriptural quotation applicable to Mr RAW, went on to state that he had seen, ago, after gentlemanly manner, Mr Brodie on the street, and after having used language to the assistant-master, threatened to lay violent hands upon him, simply because he had, in the exercise of his duty, punished one of Mr RAW's sons for a breach of discipline in the

Mr RAW (excitedly) : This is not the business before the Board.

Mr CARES : I would like Mr Raw to understand that in the temporary absence of the head-master, Mr Brodie has sole charge of the school, and for him to threaten—

Mr RAW (interrupting) : Is this the business before the Board ?

The CHURMAN : No ; this is not our business.

Mr RAW : Then if it is not the business before the Board, I ask you, Mr Chairman, to request Mr CARES to retract all that he has said.

Mr CARES : I'm not going to retract anything. The question is—whether this Board instructs the Clerk to institute legal proceedings against a member

applicable to Passenger Trains in Great Britain and Ireland.

£ HUNDRED POUNDS will be paid by the Insurance Company to the legal representatives of any person killed by an accident to the train in which the deceased was an ordinary passenger, or who shall have been fatally injured, should death result within Three Calendar Months after such accident, provided that at the time of such accident the person so killed or fatally injured was travelling on the insurance Coupon for the current journey days, with his or her usual baggage.

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 va. Special terms for Brakes for Trips
 during the Summer Months.
 Coffins and every necessary, supplied on
 the Shortest Notice. The strictest regard
 to Economy being specially observed.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, and Deaths.
 BIRTHS

Don-9th inst. John Allison, nail-maker, late of
Blaydon-on-Tyne.
Cage, Illinois, U.S.A.-25th December, aged 6
years and 10 months, Emily Scarborough,
daughter of James T. and Emily Whiteford, late
of Lintz Colhery.

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