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DISRUPTION

Volcanic Disturbances Among the Honorable School Commissioners Begin to Smell of Sulphur.

Frank Miller Asks to Be Released From His Contract to Build Addition to the School House.

Internal disruption of an active volcanic nature at present disturbs the usual serene equanimity of that heretofore very dignified, decorous and still honorable body, the board of education, which has in charge the educational welfare of the young in the hustling, overgrown village of Bemidji. How these same young would have held up their hands in holy horror had they been present last night at the adjourned meeting of the board and heard the appellations—sorehead, sneak, old stiff, hair-pin, low down, mean individual and several other equally choice and even more juicy epithets hurled at a recent acquisition to the honorable body of school commissioners who, since he first sanctified the board meeting with his scintillating, iridescent presence, has caused nothing but discord—ugly, harsh, grating discord in the ranks! He has the proud distinction of having voted "no" on every motion except that for adjournment that has come up before the board since he became a member. In making this assertion last night, Commissioner Casler offered a \$5 cash reward to anyone who could produce evidence to prove its falsity. No one has yet appeared to claim the reward. When Mr. Nye left the meeting of the board Saturday morning last, before adjournment and before the contract was let, he is credited with having said that there was no use for him to remain anyway, for he would vote "no" on whatever proposition might come up.

But to our story:
Frank Miller who, with colors flying, carried off the contract last Saturday for building the addition to the Bemidji school house, his bid of \$6,545 for the plum being several hundred dollars lower than that of his nearest rival, last night asked the members of the school board to rescind their action and release him from his contract. The plum had lost its sweetness: the frost had touched it, perhaps, and it was bitter to the taste. But it now appears to be either a case of eat or pay high for having the educational doctors extract the already half-swallowed plum from an unwilling throat and hand it over to one who has a palate to which the fruit will have a better flavor.

In short, the majority of the school board has no intention of releasing Mr. Miller from the contract which he was so eager to secure only two days ago. Whatever action the board may take the contractor says he will refuse to proceed with the work of putting up the addition, and that he will forfeit his \$300 check, put up as evidence of good faith, in preference.

And all the trouble is laid at the door of Commissioner Nye.

He admits that he approached Mr. Miller after the latter had obtained the contract, "read him the law" and then told him that "he now, before starting work on the contract, knew where he stood." Mr. Nye has been against the proposition from the start. His contention is that the proceedings for getting that much-needed improvement, an addition to the Bemidji school house, have not been conducted according to law, and cites the fact that a new building cannot be erected under the direction of the board of the education without a vote of the district having first been taken.

"His contention is alright as far as it goes," said Mr. Jinkinson last night, "but it does not in the least apply to building an addition to a structure already standing. We have a perfect right to erect such an addition at our own discretion, and are not at all called upon to call a vote of the district on the question. The fact that the present building is overcrowded, that it is utterly impossible to secure school room for the overflow (even the churches are refused us), that 200 children will be left out in the cold this winter for the want of proper school facilities, and that we have the money for the work, is sufficient cause for our action."

The best legal advice in the city was quoted to prove that the stand taken by Commissioner Jinkinson and that portion of the board agreeing with him was the correct one. Judge Spooner was quoted as having said; long before he had any thought of going on the bench, that such a proceeding would be well within the limits of the law.

Mr. Miller gives as his reason for wishing to withdraw the fact that certain parties have threatened to serve an injunction if he tries to build an addition. There is a clause in the contract which protects Mr. Miller from all loss should such a contingency arise. When last night it was proposed to obtain the advice of the attorney general, state school superintendent and all the high authorities in the state, including that of the best lawyers, and he still refused to say he would proceed with the contract even though the advice stated positively that the commissioners were acting according to law in building the addition, the bewildered commissioners shook their heads, and then decided that there was some secret reason for the continued refusal.

No action on the matter was taken last night. The board adjourned without setting a date for the next meeting. Mr. Miller will be given a short time in which to reconsider his action, then another meeting will be called and some final action will be taken.

GOOD CHANCE FOR BEMIDJI

Likely That Eleven Companies will be Dropped From State Militia.

FELL BELOW STANDING AND MAY BE MUSTERED OUT.

This will Leave Vacancies and Make Opening for Bemidji Company.

Bemidji's independent military company has a very good chance of getting into Minnesota National Guard even sooner than had been hoped for. It now looks as though several companies in the state will be dropped from the organization, which will leave vacancies for others.

Results of the government inspection of the Minnesota National Guard by Captain Dyer, of the regular army, have not been given to the public. The inspection was made prior to the summer encampment, and the figures have been in the hands of Adjutant General Libby for several weeks.

It is understood that eleven companies of the guard fell below 65 per cent in their markings, and under the law this means that they should be mustered out. This is a very poor showing, and means either that the companies so marked were sadly run down, or that the inspector marked too rigidly and too closely. Under the state law, unless a company reaches the standard of 65, it must be dropped from the rolls.

These markings are transmitted to Washington, as the inspection of the National Guard is now made under the terms of the new National Guard law. The unfortunate thing about the poor showing made is that the state is now getting its quota of supplies from the government under that law, and the distribution is made on the basis of the number of men in the service. That number has already been determined, and the inspection results may make no change, especially if the authorities delay action.

STATE FAIR

Official Program Will be Hand-some Souvenirs for Visitors to Take Home.

The Minnesota State Agricultural Society will again publish the Official Program of the State Fair this year and will make it as much of a success as last year. The cover design will be by Naughton, the cartoonist of the Minneapolis Tribune, and the book will be handsomely illustrated throughout. Visitors should preserve these programs as souvenirs of the great Minnesota State Fair.

The world famous pacing horse, Dan Patch, will attempt to lower his record of 1:59 1-5 on Monday, August 31, the opening day.

Married Yesterday.

Mr. Oscar Hanson and Miss Tilla Kroz, both of Nymore, were united in marriage at the Lutheran church at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon, Rev. Wilman officiating.

Subscribe for The Pioneer.

GETTING BETTER

Old Timers Say Fishing Will Soon Be Good in the Lake.

Fishing in Lake Bemidji for the past few weeks has been rather poor, but is now getting better. It is never good during the hot summer season, but good sport is always to be obtained in the early fall. Old timers say that within a week or two fish will bite eagerly, and there will be little difficulty connected with catching a good string. A good many rock bass are being caught just now, though they are to be found only in certain spots in the lake.

WON AGAIN

Reliance Today Won the Second of the Series of the International Yacht Races.

New York, Aug. 25. — The Reliance today won the second of the series of international yacht races. The cup defender crossed the line 1 min. and 19 secs. ahead of the Shamrock. The race was intensely exciting from the start and was one of the best ever pulled off. It was witnessed by vast crowds of people.

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