

NEW NORWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT REQUESTED

Law Amendments Committee Hears Arguments Concerning Proposal

February 22 1924

Evidence and arguments for and against the bill which proposes to create a new school district in St. Boniface, to be known as the Norwood school district, in the south end of the city, were heard by the law amendments committee of the legislature yesterday morning.

The case for the petitioners, which was stated by John P. McArthur, Mrs. McArthur and Ald. F. H. Wilson, claimed that there should be a division because of the extravagance of the St. Boniface school board, and it was contended that more money was spent on education than was necessary. It was also stated the St. Joseph academy and the Provencher, in the north end, were not conducted as non-sectarian schools, as required by the Public Schools' act.

H. J. Symington, K.C., who appeared for the St. Boniface school board, told the committee that nothing had been done by the board that had not the sanction of the provincial department of education and three governments. Hon. Dr. Thornton, when minister of education, he said, had gone into the matter and had satisfied himself the schools were being conducted to the best interests of the province and in accordance with the public school laws, and in view of that, he submitted, it ill-became the 600 who had signed the petition to say it was illegal and that the schools were sectarian and were being conducted contrary to the act. Counsel stated religious instruction was given after 3 o'clock, which was in compliance with the law.

In regard to the proposed division, Mr. Symington said that the new school should only include wards 4 and 5; that was if the committee decided to report the bill.

The petition asks for the inclusion of the larger part of ward 1 as well, the assessment for school purposes under the proposed division being north end, \$7,558,190; south end, \$8,158,990.

McArthur Speaks.

Mr. McArthur informed the committee the desire to separate was not because of religious or racial antagonism, as had been stated in the press and on the platform, but to get away from extravagant school administration.

Brother Joseph, principal of the Provencher school and Ald. Arthur McFadyne gave evidence in opposition to the bill, and Mr. and Mrs. McArthur having been heard in reply the committee adjourned to meet again next week to determine what shall be its decision on the bill.

Broadway Baptist Wolf Cubs