



Education News

Bishopstone

1878

STRANGE SCENE AT A MEETING

On Wednesday evening last a meeting of the ratepayers of this village was held in the Church School room for the purpose of taking into consideration the recent report of Her Majesty's Inspector of Schools, in which complaint was made of the imperfect manner in which the schools were furnished, and also that the efficiency of the schools was not being maintained.

The chair was taken by the curate, the Rev. R. K. Corser, at 6.30 and there were also present Mr. W. Dore, Mr. J. Williams, Mr. T. Hickman, Mr. W. Dore, jun., Mr. J. Lawrence, Mr. G. Westall, Mr. J. Povey, Mr. Williams, jun., Mr. Waterman, Mr. Knight, schoolmaster, and others.

The Chairman in introducing the business of the meeting, explained that the parish was now called upon to provide something like £50 or £60 for the proper furnishing of their schools so as to get rid of the complaint made by Her Majesty's Inspector. Towards those sum a collection he had caused to be made in the church had produced £4 19s., and he had also a further sum of £10 which might be applied to the purpose. He proposed a voluntary rate of two pence in the £. which would produce about £38, which he thought would be sufficient to meet the requirements of the case. He then called upon Mr. Knight to read the Inspector's report, and also to offer any explanation of the somewhat unfavourable report of the efficiency of the scholars.

The report having been read Mr. Knight explained that during the year a great number of children had been sent to the schools who had never been sent before, their education having been altogether neglected, - this had brought down the former standard of the school. The complaint, he contended, did not apply to the regular scholars or to those who had been sent in proper order.

The meeting was then addressed by Mr. J. Williams who, in course of some very strong remarks, expressed his determination not to contribute to a voluntary rate. He would much prefer a School Board, who would get a proper certificated master and mistress, and would see that the schools were properly conducted.

Mr. Hickman thought a voluntary rate would meet the case, and explained that at Shrivensham the schools were efficiently managed without a School Board. Mr Hickman and Mr. Dore having expressed their readiness to merit the case by contributing to a voluntary rate, provided the principal ratepayers agreed to that course.

Mr. William again declared he would have nothing to do with the proposed plan, and a scene of great confusion ensued. Mr. Williams declaring that from what he had been told, ratepayers of the parish had been insulted by Mr. Knight, and were compelled to take their children away from the school and send them elsewhere.

Mr Westall and others, however, declared that their children received every attention, and that they were perfectly satisfied with the present master. For some time very strong language was indulged in, and the meeting became a mass of confusion, order being subsequently somewhat restored on the part of the majority of those present through their attention being directed more especially to the action of the chairman and Mr. Dore, jun., who were indulging in a violent altercation. The chairman, it appeared, charged Mr. Dore, with laughing at him, which Mr. Dore denied, which led to a scene of a somewhat indescribable character, in the midst of which the chairman left the room, and the meeting broke up in greater confusion without any practical plan being adopted for raising the necessary money to put the schools in an efficient condition.

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