

CHINESE STUDENTS ARE SEGREGATED

Separation Made at Opening of School Yesterday—Students Resume Studies After Vacation

After a little over eight weeks of freedom, school students, if they did not actually plunge right into school duties yesterday, at least broke the ice of another term in preparation for regular studies again. The usual preparations on resuming classes occupied the biggest part of the day at most of the schools, but in a few instances studies were started.

Opening exercises were held at some of the schools which had no closing ceremony, but at other schools the opening exercises will be held after the students have settled down to school life and are regularly placed in positions for school to continue along ordinary lines.

At some of the schools of the city and outside municipalities the presentation of entrance certificates and school trophies won in sports and for cadet work was made and addresses suitable for the occasion were delivered.

The segregation of Chinese students from the other pupils in the city schools was carried out according to plans. There are about 200 Chinese students attending the Victoria schools and this is the first time that a complete segregation of the Oriental pupils from the others in attendance at the schools has been made, although segregation to a limited extent was in force in some schools.

Complete figures for all the schools have not been handed in, but a normal enrollment is reported.

Segregation

Sir,—Allow me to express my opinion as that of a Chinese girl concerning the welfare of the Chinese pupils. I do not think that it would be justice in putting the Chinese pupils in segregated schools. For why was this step taken to separate the Chinese from the western pupils I do not know, except that there is a motive behind it and the real motive was concealed by saying that "The best educational interest of the Chinese pupils demand that they be segregated," which I think is a very poor argument indeed.

Why only the Chinese and not other Orientals or nationalities? Is it because the school board accused the Chinese pupils of being unclean, for the Chinese compared with other nationalities are probably just as clean and tidy, if not more so.

A segregated school will only cause

bad feeling among the Chinese, because they feel that they are being unjustly treated by the school board. Not only this, if Chinese pupils are segregated it will almost be impossible for them to speak decent English with fluency.

I haven't heard of any other country, province or city yet proposing this method of segregated schools for other nationalities or race. Why should then the School Board in Victoria propose this method? Surely there is a bigger motive than that of being purely for the benefit of the Chinese pupils.

As I myself have attended the public schools, I know that the Chinese pupils are really very studious and obedient. They often rank at the head of their respective classes and are not backward in their work or very disobedient to their teachers, neither very troublesome. Then why should they be segregated? Isn't the former system of education just as good or even better than this new system, when the new system causes so much discontent? Then why create bad feeling and resentment among the Chinese? Furthermore, the greater majority of the Chinese pupils are British born and will soon become citizens of Canada. Then why make a poor start by segregated schools that will cause prejudice and ill-feeling? Don't you wish the Chinese to become good citizens of Canada? I am sure that some of our Chinese citizens in Victoria pay heavy taxes every year.

What the school board has done is not Christian. However, I sincerely hope that the school board of Victoria will be sensible to set the matter right again rather than to have prejudice between the two countries.

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1405 Store Street, September 14.