

Martin, needless to say, signified his assent. He was thankful the Board members could not see his nervous condition after his quick almost breathless trip. He was soon invited into the Board Room.

Martin had appeared as an applicant before the sixty member Board of Education of the City of Liverpool, England, in 1922. He could not help forming a contrast between the more dignified and debonair English Board and these Brandon counterparts. The latter were closer to the democratic ideal but beyond the trapping were the traditions and background of Mother England. He was to learn later that the chairman was an Englishman - George Fitton.

The candidate 'fielded' many questions:

"What position did you hold before you were appointed Principal at Treherne?"

The teacher replied that he was Assistant Principal in Treherne for one and a half years and when the principal moved to Neepawa the Board made him principal with an increase in salary of \$400.00.

"Why do you wish to move to Brandon?"

The applicant said he wished to teach in a larger centre.

Someone said:

"Are you going to get married?"

Martin felt the member seemed to be touching on his private life but he replied that it was possible. Everyone laughed at the reply.

The teacher gave himself to think as the French say, when one parsimonious member remarked that he always thought the Board should use Kavanagh's reply as a reason for employing teachers at lower salaries. No one however, supported the speaker.

Did Kavanagh know Latin?

The teacher replied that he thought so. Latin was a major subject in his B.A. Degree. He further added that he was trained as a teacher, under the English Board of Education at St. Mary's College, Hammersmith, London, and he had taught Latin.

How about your discipline, Mr. Kavanagh?

The applicant replied that so far he had no difficulty. The matter had not arisen. The students were generally helpful and cooperative.

One member remarked that Kavanagh was so big that any student would be impressed.

Chairman Fitton asked:

"What was your attitude towards the Brandon Teachers' Strike in 1921-1922?"

Kavanagh answered that he came to Canada in 1923 and really knew very little about the questions involved.

The latter reply caused a lively debate. One member remarked that the Board wanted teachers who were not involved in it and wanted to make a new start.

One member was going to ask the candidate about his religious preference, but Superintendent Neelin whispered we should not ask such questions. The Public Schools are non-denominational. (Kavanagh was amused by this question because the Superintendent had, in the course of a friendly exchange before the applicant entered the Board Room, asked and obtained all pertinent information on the matter.)

The next question rather stumped the applicant.

"We have applications from a Mr. Fox and a Mr. Donough, who are seeking the principalships at Earl Haig and Earl Oxford - would you support their applications?"

Kavanagh was acquainted with the two teachers named and knew them to be religious fanatics. He did not like the question and he did not wish to pass judgement on professional colleagues so he said:

"I know both the persons named but I would prefer not to offer an opinion on their applications."

The Board members seemed to like the reply.

There were quite a few other questions and then the Board Chairman intimated they had other applications to consider. Martin withdrew and Mr. Neelin asked the candidate to see him about 10:30 at his residence at the corner of Louise Avenue and Second Street, when he would be informed of the result.

For two hours Kavanagh wandered the streets of Brandon in a happy and confident mood. The Board seemed to be friendly, but who were the other candidates? Were they better qualified than he? If he got the job he could get married but if he did not, what should he do? There were very few cities with the size and prospects of Brandon. There were few challenges in Treherne and he wanted more scope for his ability. As regards marriage it was now or never.

The time passed slowly, but when he visited the Superintendent his friendly greeting dissipated his questionings as he said:

"Mr. Kavanagh, the Board decided to accept your application and I hope you will get married soon."

Kavanagh thanked him and they afterwards became friends.

Martin, on setting out for Treherne, took a wrong turn in the unfamiliar streets. He almost reached Alexander before he was aware of his mistake. A sleepy householder informed him of his mistake. He turned about and drove through Wawanesa and Glenboro to his destination. He went to bed at dawn and