

16.3.26

Special Meeting (contd)

Mr Fair then read to the meeting, a copy of the memorandum to the Minister dealing with some of the arguments on behalf of the Teachers and the school put forward by Major Baird at a recent interview.

(See typed copy of Memorandum attached)

Mr Smith contested the accuracy of some of the statements contained in the memorandum to the Minister as set forth in the attached typed copy, in which each paragraph is dealt with categorically.

Messrs D. Johnston and H. Brown claimed, on behalf of local Teachers, that they should be given equal opportunities with those in Melbourne to complete a Full Art Diploma Course.

Mr Cameron-Smith claimed that work of a high standard was required in certain of the advanced subjects of the Course. The development of a special school for the training of Teachers was not possible in Ballarat owing to the absence of the facilities afforded by Art Gallery, Museum, Pottery, Weaving and other Industries as well as Art Library and the facility for the study of architectural features surrounded by influences not obtainable outside Melbourne.

The training in other schools cannot be as wide or as good as can be obtained in Melbourne.

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Other schools were now training teachers and doing it well. Swinburne College was now doing Diploma work.

Mr Tate said that the question of the Special School had been an active one for the past 12 months. There was perhaps a feeling of irritability among local schools and teachers that they were being passed over by men from abroad being appointed to positions — this was <sup>unfortunate</sup> ~~unfortunate~~ (see page 134)

The Special advanced course at the Working Men's College could not be extended to Ballarat or any other provincial school.

The concession referred to by Mr Brown on behalf of Returned Soldier Teachers and other cases had not previously been put before him. He would see if the Dept. had done all they should have done.

He fully realized that any such thing as a "charity" qualification was not wanted by returned soldier teachers.

There was nothing to prevent Ballarat going on with the work they had been doing and teachers getting facilities for study if they applied for it.

In referring to examinations as a qualification for teachers, Mr Tate said that examinations were not all that was required — they were part evidence only of a man's qualifications. It was sometimes more important to know who trained the man.

The object of the Special School was to