

OFFERS IT THE SCHOOL.

COUNTY WANTS TO GIVE AWAY THE NORMAL INSTITUTION.

President Healy Formally Asks the Board of Education to Take the Cook County Normal School with Its \$400,000 Park—The Idea Is Not Received with a Large Amount of Enthusiasm—Terms Stated and Favorable Report Decided On.

The County Commissioners, through President Healy, yesterday offered to present to the Chicago Board of Education the Cook County Normal School, with its \$400,000 park, and met with a rather chilly reception. The offer was made at a meeting of the Committee on Buildings and Grounds, and the committee, after an hour's haggling, agreed to report to the board in favor of accepting the offer, provided it was legally able to comply with the conditions. On a substitute motion to refer the matter to the board without any recommendation the vote was a tie.

Mr. Healy's "basis of agreement," though not yet acted on by the County Board, except in its general instructions of Dec. 9, was signed by all but two of the Commissioners, and was as follows:

"The County of Cook shall convey the said premises to the City of Chicago for school purposes upon the following conditions:

"(1) The city shall erect suitable buildings thereon, shall establish and maintain thereon without expense to the county a public school or system of schools, which shall consist of a normal high school for the training of teachers, a commercial school, grammar, intermediate, and primary schools of suitable and sufficient capacity to accommodate all the pupils of school age in a proper school district to be formed in the vicinity thereof, and all pupils of school age residing in Cook County, who shall be admitted under the terms of this agreement.

Plan of the Transfer.

"(2) Such school or system of schools shall be under the control and management of the Board of Education of the City of Chicago, and shall be supported and maintained in the same manner as other public schools in Chicago. The whole of said premises shall be held and used by the Board of Education of the City of Chicago for school purposes, and the portions thereof not occupied by buildings shall be suitably prepared, ornamented, and maintained as school grounds for the use of said schools.

"(3) There shall be admitted to said school or system of schools all pupils of proper age residing in the County of Cook who shall desire to attend, and shall apply for admission, free of charge or tuition.

"(4) The said premises and no part thereof shall be used for any other purpose except for schools as herein specified. And neither the City of Chicago nor the Board of Education of the City of Chicago shall have power to lease any portion thereof. And should said premises cease to be used for the purpose and in the manner herein specified the title thereof, together with the right of immediate possession, shall revert to and vest in the County of Cook.

"(5) Said conveyance shall be made by proper indenture, containing all the provisions and terms of this basis of agreement, clearly and definitely set forth."

Proposal Is a Startler.

There was no hand-clapping when Mr. Healy sat down, but he was gazed at by most of the committee in a suspicious and annoyed manner, and then catechised as to what it all meant. Chairman Halle, with an expression of pain, wanted to know if the county could give a good title, and Mr. Drezmal objected that the city had no right to educate county pupils. Mr. Kirk inquired uneasily what was implied in "suitable buildings," and then Mr. Halle objected that if this offer was accepted the occupation of the County Board of Education would be gone.

Mr. Healy found no difficulty in silencing all these objections except the inquiry about the title, and in reference to that submitted a legal opinion just prepared by County Attorney Hes. This opinion gave the same account of the title that was given a few days ago in THE TRIBUNE.

Mr. Mallette moved that the committee report to the board in favor of accepting the offer provided its conditions could be legally complied with, and Mr. Blount seconded the motion. Mr. Kohtz moved a substitute that it be reported without recommendation. The vote was called on the substitute, and the clerk erroneously reported the substitute adopted. Mr. Healy then said if the committee would not recommend the acceptance of the gift he would withdraw the offer. Just then the error in the vote was discovered, and, the vote on Mr. Mallette's motion being put, it was unanimously adopted. Mr. Healy said the County Board on Monday would formally ratify the "basis of agreement."

General Work Done.

The committee opened several bids for the flag-poles required by the flag law, and Mr. Kohtz said the law would cost the board \$15,000 or more. Mrs. Florence Kelley from the Hull House was allowed to make an appeal for a new school-house for the Polk Street School. Mr. Brennan called attention to the affairs of the school for blind pupils. The board had bought a site for it near Douglas Park and the city had appropriated \$50,000 for the building and nothing had been done for eighteen months. The matter was referred to the architect. Chief Engineer Waters reported that Chief Swenie was unable to tell of any accidents from natural gas, but several schools complained that it did not keep the rooms warm.

On motion of Mr. Miller the new school in Fifty-fourth street was named for James W. Scott. Mr. Pettibone asked that the new school at Homan avenue and Thirteenth street might be named for Victor F. Lawson. Mr. Drezmal objected on the ground that Mr. Lawson was "a live man." But the objection was overruled and the school named for Mr. Lawson.