

The History of St. Thomas Schools—Continued

Scott Street School—A four-roomed building on Scott street was opened in 1882. Was remodelled in 1911 and enlarged to the present eight-roomed building, and was opened in January, 1912. Miss Lizzie Hall was the first principal. Subsequent principals were Miss Sutherland, Miss H. Robinson, A. B. Cooper, Jas. A. Ross, A. McInnes, Miss E. Wyatt, O. L. Latham, C. C. E. Thompson.

Manitoba Street School—The four-roomed building at the north end of Manitoba Street, was opened in 1885 with Mrs. Thornton, (nee L. Hall) as principal. Subsequent principals were Miss I. Flach, Mr. I. N. Wheeler, Miss Alice Cowan and Miss Annie MacColl, the present principal.

Catholic Separate School—In 1870 a two-room brick school was built on the present site, together with dwelling adjoining for the use of the Sisters of St. Joseph. This religious order took possession on February 2nd, 1879, and have provided the teaching staff continuously till the present time. The first superior was Mother Bonaventure and the first teachers, Sr. M. Bernard and Sr. M. Celestine. In 1807 the present substantial convent was built for the exclusive use of the Sisters, and in 1904 and again in 1914 extensive improvements were made to the school building and at present it is quite modern in all its appointments, and contains five well equipped teaching rooms, one assembly room, splendid wide corridors, one library, lavatories on both floors, and has low-pressure steam heating apparatus. Mother Euphemia is the present superior and Sr. Eugenia the principal. The number of pupils enrolled in 1914 was 220.

The Model School—The 1906 session of the Model School was the last, the training of all teachers since then being carried out in the Normal Schools of the province. St. Thomas was one of the first centres where Model Schools were established by the education department in 1877, with 24 students at the first session. Mr. N. M. Campbell was principal from that date until his death in October, 1899. Mr. William Rennie completed the term for that year. The last principal, Dr. S. Silcox, was appointed in December, 1899 and in addition became Inspector of Public Schools, Mr. John McLean retiring after a service of 22 years (1878 to 1899 inclusive).

In 1866, the Rev. D. W. Rowland was local superintendent of schools at \$8 per annum. In 1867 Mr. Colin McDougall earned \$20 superintending the work of the schools. From

1868 to March, 1878, the Rev. Geo. Cuthbertson filled the position of local superintendent of schools in addition to his work as pastor of Knox Church. Giving up this latter position and leaving the city, he resigned the position of superintendent, and was succeeded by Mr. John McLean, who had been a member of the board from 1875 to the date of his appointment. Mr. McLean retired in 1899 in order to make possible the union of the office with that of principal of the public schools, including the Model School. He was succeeded by Dr. S. Silcox, the present inspector, Mr. J. A. Taylor, succeeding him.

Collegiate Institute—This institution had its origin in the Classical School, which, established in St. Thomas at an early period, about 1847, became the recognized County Grammar School in 1853. Since 1853 the school has had the following principals: Rev. J. Fraser, Rev. N. Burns, Mr. L. Younghusband, Mr. W. N. Keefer, Rev. J. McClure, Rev. J. Somerville, M. A.; Rev. G. Grant, B. A.; Mr. John Millar, B. A.; Mr. Sheppard, B. A.; Mr. N. Quance, B. A., and Dr. Arthur Voaden, M. A., the present principal. In 1871 its designation was changed to a High School. In 1878 the old High School building was erected at the north end of Pearl street at a cost of about \$10,000 for building and \$2,000 for site. The attendance outgrew the accommodation of this building by the end of the century. In 1880, on the report of the H. S. Inspector, it was erected into a Collegiate Institute. In 1902 it was torn down and a new building erected on the same site at a cost of \$28,000, and this was remodelled and enlarged in 1912 into the present handsome and commodious building.

On July 28th, 1865, seven Grammar and six Public School trustees met and amalgamated the two boards under the title of High and Public School Trustees. Since that date there have been the following chairmen: 1865—67, Judge Hughes; 1868, J. King; 1869—1872, H. Caldwell; 1873—1890, D. K. McKenzie; 1891—1894, John Midgley; 1895, W. B. Doherty; 1896—97, W. H. King; 1898, J. W. MacKay; 1899, A. W. Graham; 1900, T. W. Crothers; 1901, E. H. Millington; 1902, S. Dubber; 1903, F. Doggett; 1904, J. A. Kilpatrick; 1905, F. W. Wright; 1906, J. R. Martin; 1907—8, E. C. Sanders; 1909, Dr. R. M. Lipsey; 1910, Albert Roberts; 1911, Dr. E. W. Honsinger; 1912, Henry Roe; 1913, Dr. C. C. Lumley; 1914, A. S. Smith.

Reminiscences of St. Thomas School Days

BY DR. I. H. COYNE, F.R.C.S.

MY SCHOOL recollections go back to 1853; for I was a pupil at the age of three and a half years. I attended Common School for eight years, and after three and a half years in the Grammar School, matriculated at the University. Owing to extreme youth, I did not attend College until January, 1867. Meanwhile I remained at the Grammar School until the fall of 1865, when I entered the late Mr. E. M. Yarwood's office. To brush up my knowledge of University subjects, I went back to school during the spring of 1866. After so long a period, it is not easy to recall many details of school-life. Dates, names, sequences, are apt to get confused and mis-placed. Details lose all sense of proportion. Often it is minor and insignificant incidents that survive in the memory, while more important ones have passed into oblivion. But for better or for worse, I am to attempt to set down what I remember of my early schools and schoolmasters.

When I first toddled to school with my elder sister and brother, Colonel Talbot had died the February before, the

first court-house was in course of construction, the separation of the county of Elgin from Middlesex was not completely effected, and St. Thomas was beginning to assume the airs and dignity of a county town.

Nearly opposite Ann street, and just north of the spot where Judge Ermatinger's house stands, was the old Grammar School, a one-storey building with shutters on its many windows, and only a few feet to the north was the two-storey edifice used for the Common School. Both were frame structures.

My first teacher, Mr. McTaggart, remained but a day or so, after I became a pupil, and made way for the late Mr. Archibald McLachlin, who had previously taught in Aldborough. The latter resided on Walnut street, on the same lot as the Alexander Love house, in a building which is still standing. The place is impressed upon my memory by the circumstances that my mother took me there to see the new McLachlin baby. Among later teachers in the old common