

a schoolroom for primary pupils." With regard to the West Ward school he said; "The ventilation is poor, the approach from one side is by a steep and dangerous slope. The building itself is in a very good state of repair and will last for a hundred years at least. The grounds are bleak and dreary in winter, and hot and parched and uninviting in summer and the only ornaments are the two closets and the old woodshed." As to the Dormer building it is dismissed with the following terse sentence, "The Dormer building is merely a temporary makeshift." The Central came in for a lengthy comment, in which the difficulty of properly heating the classrooms, and also the poor layout were emphasized. And his report closes with the following generalizations; "The school buildings certainly are not buildings in which the citizens of this sold town take any pride. No one would ever thinking of asking a stranger to visit them.

"The environment of children exerts a formative influence upon their plastic minds. In this respect the children of this town suffer during the hours spent in an around the schools."

At midsummer 1905 Mrs. Southcombe, Miss Sparling and Miss Huston resigned and Miss Mitchell was granted one year's leave of absence on account of illness. To fill the vacancies Miss L. McVannell, Miss E. Hobbs, Miss B. J. Hamilton and Miss C. Waring were engaged. At the close of the year Miss Roberts withdrew and was succeeded by Mrs. Neelands. On January 24th Miss McVannell having secured a more advantageous position, resigned and Miss D. J. Cook was secured to complete her term. At midsummer Miss B. Irvine was engaged to take this room. All the other teachers were re-engaged. The salaries of the assistants varied from \$325 to \$450 and the principal received \$950.

The only change in the membership of the trustee board for 1906 was caused by the retirement of Mr. A. H. Lofft who for eight years had been the efficient representative of the North Ward. Mr. Joseph Patterson succeeded him.

The auditors' reported that in 1905 the town raised by levy for public school purposes \$5200, and received a government grant of \$368. From the attached portion \$190.70 was received. There was spent for fuel \$365.; on rent \$100, on repairs and supplies \$289.26. The school registers showed an enrollment and an average attendance, respectively, of 418 and 364 for January 1906; of 427 and 390 for May, and 408 and 363 for September.

The board again took up the question of better school accommodation and instructed a committee to get plans and make enquiries as to the possibility of enlarging the present Central school before taking up the question of building a new school. This committee after considerable investigation allowed the proposal to drop.

On Nov. 1st 1906, Miss Hobbs resigned her position on the staff, and closed her work on Nov. 30th. Her class was distributed among the other rooms and the stone church school on Queen street was abandoned, thus bringing the number of schoolrooms down to nine. At the close of the year Mr. Spence asked three months' leave of absence which was granted and at the expiration of that time the leave was renewed until midsummer. During the first three months Mr. Peter Gowans was engaged as supply and during the second 3 months Miss K. Rice B.A. At midsummer all the regular teachers were offered re-en-