

playgrounds and the house, by removing the partitions and ceiling, was converted into a schoolroom. This additional room was opened after the holidays, thus requiring an additional teacher.

The former practice of engaging teachers at Christmas was in 1903 changed and all teachers' engagements were made to terminate at midsummer. This year Miss B. Irvine retired and Miss A. Wilson who had been a faithful and efficient teacher was granted a year's leave of absence on account of ill-health. Miss Wilson did not, however, avail herself of the privilege of returning at the expiration of that period. To fill the vacancies and supply the new room, Miss O. Sparling, Miss F. Webster, and Mrs. Atkinson were engaged.

In 1904 the town was sub-divided into four wards instead of three as formerly and Messrs. John Ready and R. Treacy became representatives of the newly constituted East Ward. In the South Ward Mr. Maxwell retired and was succeeded by Dr. Hotham, who retired in May and Mr. W. W. Haines was returned in his place.

There were 443 names in the registers in January 1904 with an average attendance of 343. In April the numbers were 472 and 418. In 1903 according to the auditors' report the town raised by levy \$4500, and received a government grant, including grant for inspection, of \$418.50. From the attached portion a total of \$194.85 was obtained. Fuel in that year cost \$533.87; rent \$100, and supplies and repairs totalled \$789.16. In July the schedule of salaries was again re-adjusted. Holders of model certificates received from \$250 to \$300, and Normal graduates from \$324 to \$432. Mr. Spence was re-engaged at a salary of \$900. The assistants this year were; Misses L. F. Ingersoll, F. Webster, S. G. Box, M. Roberts, O. Sparling, L. Huston, E. G. Mitchell, Mrs. Atkinson, and Mrs. Southcombe. The inspector in his report complained that some of the rooms were poorly heated.

At the close of 1904 Mr. T. D. Stanley, who had been for 16 consecutive years a member, and for five years chairman of the board, retired. Mr. R. Treacy also withdrew and Messrs. R. W. Dillon and T. Gordon were elected to the vacancies. Mr. T. B. Bennett was appointed to the chair. On Sept. 20th Mr. Dillon resigned his seat and was succeeded by Mr. H. H. Stevenson.

In 1904 the town raised by levy \$5,000, and received a government grant of \$418. From the attached portion, including the government grant \$195.00 was received. The fuel bill was \$669.45; rent \$100.00, repairs \$269.84.

## CHAPTER XI.

### The New School Agitation.

On March 2nd, 1905, a committee was appointed to again take up the question of a new school. This committee reported on the cost of maintenance for the preceding four years, but eventually the project was, like so many previous efforts, abandoned. On May 25th 1905 Inspector Irwin had the following comment to make regarding St. Marys Public schools: "The church school is an old building, with a leaky roof and badly fitted windows, hard to heat, with no ventilation except from windows and very uncomfortable in winter. It is situated too close to the London branch of the G.T.R. and I am surprised that there has been no protest against using this as