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GUIDE ADVOCATE, WATFORD, AUGUST 27, 1915

EAST LAMBTON
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Annual Report of Inspector N. McDougall to the County Council

Inspector's Office,
Petrolia, June 3rd, 1915
To the Warden and Councillors of the
County of Lambton.

Gentlemen,—
I have the honor to present the
following report on the Public Schools
and Continuation Schools of East Lamb-
ton for the year 1914.

TEACHERS

During the year 123 teachers were em-
ployed. 90 of these taught in rural
schools and 33 in urban schools. One
had a University degree, ten first class
certificates, 89 second class certificates,
and fourteen third class certificates. The
number of male teachers was twenty-
one, and female teachers 102. As com-
pared with ten years ago there is a de-
crease of five in the number of male
teachers and a decrease of thirty-one
in the number of teachers holding third
class certificates. There is of course a
corresponding increase in the number of
First and Second class certificates.

In the matter of salaries there has been
a most marked change in ten years. In
1904 the average teacher's salary for the
entire inspectorate was \$392.00 while the
average for 1914 was \$600.00. This is an
increase of over fifty per cent.
The aim of the Education Department
has been to improve the schools by
placing them in charge of better trained
teachers and I think every public school
inspector finds that the progress and in-
fluence of the school depend largely up-
on the teacher. Wherever a teacher has
a true conception of duty and works
zealously and persistently to mould the
minds, ideals and characters of the
pupils and to awaken an educational
interest in the community, there is gen-
uine progress, although the school ac-
commodations and equipment may not
be of the best. But where there is in-
difference or incompetence on the part
of the teacher, the school cannot prosper.
The secret of good schools is good
teachers. Therefore, I believe an In-
spector can best aid the cause of edu-
cation by endeavoring to inspire teachers
to put forth supreme efforts in the dis-
charge of their responsible duties and by
urging trustees and people to give their
teachers loyal and generous support. I
would say the staff of teachers in East
Lambton, with but few exceptions, are
earnest, competent, and progressive. Of
course, experienced teachers usually do
better work than inexperienced teachers
but the difficulty is the majority of them
leave the profession when they are in
position to do their best work by reason
of a few years' experience.

TRUSTEES

The position of school trustee is a very
responsible one; but I fear the average
trustee does not realize his responsibility.
Nearly one-fourth of all the taxes raised
is expended upon the schools, and be-
cause we are recognizing more clearly, as
time passes, the supreme importance of
education as the basis of all true progress,
intellectual, industrial and social, even
larger sums will be expended upon the
schools of the future. It is the duty of
trustees to provide the very best facili-
ties possible for the education of boys
and girls. Money wisely expended upon
education will bring greater benefits to
the individual, the community and the
nation than money invested in any other
way.

The question might be raised, are
trustees doing the best possible in the
discharge of their duties. In answer to
the question, I would say that, so far as
the trustees of East Lambton are con-
cerned, they have done wonderfully well,
considering the many changes of one
kind and another in connection with our
schools in the last ten years. But the
prevailing feeling of educationists
throughout the Province is that general
conditions demand more alert and
thoughtful attention on the part of the
trustees, in welfare of the schools.
The opinion has been expressed by some
that rural schools could be more eco-
nomically and efficiently managed by
township boards of trustees of from five
to seven members, than under the pre-
sent system of three trustees for each
section. Such an arrangement would
make it possible for the inspector to meet
trustee boards more frequently and dis-
cuss with them the needs of the schools.
Of course there are disadvantages in the
township board system which I need not
take the time necessary to discuss. Upon
the whole, I think educational interests
will be better served by the present ar-
rangement of a board of trustees for
each school, with provision made for
either township trustee associations or
county trustee associations, to meet once
a year. If such associations were formed,
and the education department made part
of the legislative grant to each school
payable on the condition that at least
one representative from each board of
trustees attended the annual trustee
association meeting, I believe they would
be a great success in stimulating the in-
terest and enthusiasm of trustees and in
keeping them informed as to the general
trend of educational movements.

In Enniskillen Township a trustee
association has been in existence for two
or three years, but it has not accom-
plished what would have been possible
had each school board been compelled or
induced by some regulation to send a
representative to its meetings.

It is the duty of trustees to bring
the school accommodations and equip-
ment up to the standard required by
departmental regulations in a reasonable
time. To what extent is this being done?
I answer, we have much to be thankful
for in the way of improvements. In East
Lambton, during the last ten or twelve
years, twenty-two new school buildings
have been built or old school buildings
re-built and made practically new. In
addition to these new buildings many
other schools have undergone more or

less extensive repairs. In the matter of
providing the necessary equipment, good
progress has been made. Every school,
with the exception of two, has provided
a library of books suitable for pupils of
all ages, from the youngest to the oldest.
The total value of the equipment (ex-
clusive of furniture) in the rural schools
was \$8,000.00 at the end of 1914.

But while we are encouraged by the
improvements that are being made, we
realize that much remains to be done.
Many of the school closets are not kept
in repair and but few of them are looked
after in the winter time, although the
regulations state expressly that the
trustees arrange for this to be done. At
least one third of the schools have no
water supply on the premises and in a
number of other cases school wells have
unsanitary coverings and are not care-
fully cleaned at least once a year, as re-
quired. The school room seats are in
many cases still the old-fashioned double
kind, which, however, are being slowly
replaced with the more modern seats and
desks.

Perhaps the most serious defect in our
rural school accommodations, at the pre-
sent time, is that in about one-half of
them no approved heating and ventila-
tion system has yet been provided. We
are all greatly shocked when we read of
our brave Canadian soldiers being killed
by the use of poisonous gases on the
part of the enemy, and yet we are un-
concerned although every year hundreds
of children are being poisoned in our
unventilated schoolrooms and many
of their lives shortened thereby.
Good ventilation in schools and homes
would be the most effective way of
stamping out the great white plague
which is still too prevalent in our midst.
This is a subject that could profitably be
discussed at Trustee Associations at
which representatives from every trustee
board should be present.

Another respect in which trustees
might show greater interest is in the care
of school grounds and in providing for
the caretaking of the school-room. The
system of basing a certain portion of the
school grants on the grading of the ac-
commodations has, however, brought
about considerable improvement in the
care of school premises.

PUPILS

The total enrolled attendance in all
Public Schools and Continuation Schools
of East Lambton was 4207. The average
daily attendance was 66 per cent of en-
rolled attendance. Compared with ten
years ago there is a decrease in the en-
rolled attendance of 1153 but a consid-
erably increase in the percentage of daily
attendance.

It is encouraging to note this increase
in the regularity of attendance but there
is room for still further improvement in
this regard. Monthly reports sent to the
Inspector by teachers would indicate
that in at least thirty per cent. of the
sections there are some cases of inexcu-
sable none attendance and irregularity.
Beginning with September 1915, the
Minister of Education is requesting all
those entrusted with Educational Au-
thority to see that the Compulsory
Clause of the school act is strictly en-
forced. In urban centres truant officers
have been appointed to enforce the law,
but in the rural parts of my Inspectorate
no such officers have been appointed and
consequently it is very difficult, if not
impossible, to compel the regular attend-
ance of all pupils between eight and
fourteen years of age. The teacher is
put to great inconvenience and the pro-
gress of the school greatly hindered by
the irregularity of a few pupils who
themselves suffer a greater loss. Free
schools and compulsory attendance were
the two Cardinal Principles upon which
Egerton Ryerson founded the Ontario
Public School system; but neglect to en-
force the law of compulsory attendance
has been so long continued that some
people are quite indignant when their
attention is called to the fact that their
children who are of school age must be
sent regularly to school. Of course
teachers and inspectors, who are reason-
able do not object to occasional non-at-
tendance, where such is absolutely
necessary; but persistent irregularity and
prolonged none attendance, except in
case of sickness, cannot be tolerated. It
would seem, however, that the matter
cannot be properly regulated until the
County Council makes use of the power
given it by the School Act to appoint a
Truant Officer for the County. I see by
newspaper reports that the Inspector
of the Children's Aid Society has been
suggested as a suitable person for County
Truant Officer in Perth County. I should
think Mr. Wilkinson of the Children's
Aid Society in Sarnia would make an ex-
cellent Truant Officer for Lambton
County.

Since my last report to the County
Council a revised course of study has
been issued by the Education Depart-
ment. While this new course of study
makes adequate provision for instruc-
tion in the three R's and closely related
subjects, greater emphasis than formerly
has been placed on such subjects as
Supplementary Reading, Hygiene, Physi-
cal Culture, Manners and Morals,
manual training, horticulture and agri-
culture. The kind of education that sat-
isfied conditions in pioneer days will not
meet the requirements of present day
life. The great purpose of education is
to prepare boys and girls to become
efficient members of society. Therefore
social conditions change there must be
changes in our educational system to
meet these changed conditions. The
pupils in our school are studying more
subjects now than they formerly did.
They are required to read in each class

several books besides the school readers.
This is called supplementary reading,
which trains pupils to read and appre-
ciate good literature. This habit of reading
will enable them to extend their educa-
tion after leaving school. In the matter
of physical culture we have made a
beginning, but Ontario has certainly
been slow in recognizing the importance
of this phase of school training. In the
Watford Public School and in some of
the schools of Enniskillen Township
competitions in physical drill were held
and \$40.00 in prize money was obtained
from the Strathcona Trust Fund. In the
urban schools a modest start has been
made in manual training such as paper
folding, paper cutting, weaving, clay
modelling and mechanical drawing, all
of which tends to develop the creative
faculties of the child's mind. In regard
to agriculture and horticulture I may
say that about one-half of the school
children in the rural schools of East
Lambton have home garden plots in
connection with school fair competitions.
The school fairs in Enniskillen, Euphe-
mia, Dawn and Brooke have created a
great deal of interest amongst the
parents and the children. By such
means we believe a new interest will be
awakened in agriculture and rural life.
I trust these remarks will make clear
to you that while we are trying to give
all pupils a thorough training in the
essentials of a common school education,
we are also endeavoring to be sufficiently
progressive to meet the requirements of
advancing civilization.

FINANCIAL

Municipality	Receipts	Exp's.
Brooke	\$ 2223.04	\$ 15983.86
Dawn	14397.07	13631.75
Enniskillen	31684.01	20335.80
Euphemia	14974.40	9219.56
Warwick	14857.48	12930.35
Alvinston	2748.86	1970.94
Arkona	1750.73	1355.47
Oil Springs	2750.62	1862.59
Watford	3405.87	3225.17
Petrolia	12690.88	12120.03

\$12149.86 \$ 92535.52
The total expenditure in ten years has
increased 50 per cent. The average teacher's
salary in urban schools including
continuation teachers was \$607.00 for the
year 1914.

The average teacher's salary in rural
schools \$580.00.
The average cost per enrolled pupil for
East Lambton \$22.83.

The average cost per enrolled pupil for
Province of Ontario not including cities
is about the same as for East Lambton.

GRANTS—RURAL SCHOOLS

Municipality	Gov. Grant	Co. Grant
Brooke	\$1522.93	\$228.86
Dawn	1302.18	209.66
Enniskillen	1797.47	280.33
Euphemia	817.21	119.25
Warwick	1219.71	165.22
	\$6659.50	\$1013.32

S. S. No. 5 Euphemia received a special
government grant of \$114.37, for
fifth class work and an equivalent county
grant of \$114.37 plus a supplementary
grant of \$100.00.

URBAN SCHOOLS

Municipality	Gov. Grant	Co. Grant
Alvinston	\$707.90	\$853.55
Arkona	303.51	385.78
Oil Springs	623.25	785.08
Petrolia	482.52	
Watford	198.87	

\$2316.05 \$2024.41

The government grants in the case of
Oil Springs, Alvinston and Arkona in-
clude the grants for both public school
and continuation work. The county
grant in each of these cases is for con-
tinuation work only and includes the equi-
valent of the government grant together
with a supplementary grant of \$250.00
each to Alvinston and Oil Springs and
\$150.00 to Arkona. These continuation
schools are doing good work and are
worthy of the generous support that is
being given them.

Three schools, viz., S. S. No. 1, Euphe-
mia, 23 Enniskillen and 20 Enniskillen
received special government grants for
school garden work, totalling \$108.00.
The special library grants to rural schools
for the year amounted to \$54.61. These
grants were given for increasing the
library.

The total grants for 1914 are about the
same as for 1913.

GENERAL REMARKS

The entrance and fifth class examina-
tions were held at the usual centres with
the following results:—292 entrance
candidates wrote and 192 passed; 18
fifth class candidates wrote and 12 pass-
ed. The small number of pupils taking
up fifth class work in our rural schools is
not gratifying. The teachers are qual-
ified to teach the work and there is plenty
of accommodation in the schools for
those who desire to take the course, but
the farmer's sons and daughters are not
availing themselves of the opportunity.
The average boy and girl in the town
and city get some high school education,
and there is no reason why the average
boy and girl in the country should not
take up the fifth class course, which is
equivalent to junior high school work.
The successful farmer of the future will
require a good general education.

While we all deeply regret the present
war I believe the pupils in our schools
since the outbreak of the war have gain-
ed a more intimate knowledge of the
British Empire and the principles for
which it stands; also of world history
and geography than would have been
possible under ordinary circumstances.
In this connection let me congratulate
the County Council upon the patriotism
it has shown in the generous financial
support it has given to aid the cause of
the Empire in this great struggle.

In concluding my report I may say
that during the year I visited every
school and department in my Inspector-
ate twice and at each visit did my utmost
to encourage and assist the teachers in
their noble work. Permit me also to
thank the County Council for the active
interest it has taken in educational mat-

ters and for the support it has given the
County Inspectors in every way possible.
Yours respectfully,
N. McDOUGALL, I.P.S.
East Lambton.

Bowling

Two rinks from Forest and two from
Alvinston were here Friday to play on
the Watford green. Forest played in the
afternoon against Watford and Alvinston
played against the home rinks in the
evening. Afterwards Forest and Alvin-
ston played a rink which resulted in a
win for the southern town. The score:—

FOREST	WATFORD
L. P. McKendry,	F. Lovell,
R. E. Scott,	S. W. Louks,
L. D. Scott,	G. L. Harper,
C. W. Stewart,	J. McKercher,
skip....24	skip....15

FOREST	WATFORD
W. Benjamin,	J. H. Hume,
Dr. Walters,	F. O. McIlveen,
C. McDonald,	J. W. McLaren,
T. Maylor,	Dr. Brandon,
skip....16	skip....14

ALVINSTON	WATFORD
D. Spice,	F. Lovell,
J. Hume,	G. Harper,
C. Reid,	J. McKercher,
R. Hopper,	S. W. Louks,
skip....14	skip....22

ALVINSTON	WATFORD
Tedford,	J. H. Hume,
W. Germain,	M. Davies,
J. Laird,	Dr. Brandon,
skip....19	J. W. McLaren,
	skip....12

FOREST	ALVINSTON
Benjamin,	Tedford,
Walters,	Germain,
McDonald,	Irving,
Maylor,	Laird,
skip....12	skip....14

Harvesters' Excursion

The first harvesters' excursion to the
northwest from this district left here on
Tuesday last. Among those who were
ticketed through by Mr. J. H. Hume, C.
P.R. agent Watford, were the following:
James McDonald, Ed. Styles, John
Bowley, E. McCormick, E. Fowler,
Jacob Temple, D. Gillies, Roy Hollings-
worth, B. Doan, W. Pearce, F. Pegatt,
W. M. Lampman, J. R. Doan, John
Byce, Alex. McClure, C. Lucas, E.
Long, Miss Mary Kerr, W. Blain, Miss
S. Routley and sister, Andrew Johns, K.

Williamson, J. Gavigan, Miss Pearl
Williamson, O. Edwards, H. Reid, Morris
Smith, Geo. Stillwell, W. Smith, F.
Parker, Lloyd Smith, W. McChesney,
J. Higgins and others.

BORN.

In Arkona, on Sunday, Aug. 15th to Mr.
and Mrs. Chas. Eastman, a daughter.
In Arkona, on Saturday, Aug. 14th, to
Mr. and Mrs. Alex. Johnston, a son.
In Sylvan, on July 29, to Mr. and Mrs.
Lloyd Campbell, a daughter.
In Bosanquet, 2nd con., on Aug. 11, to
Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Sitter, a son.
In Watford, on Wednesday, Aug. 18th
1915, to Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Dodds, a
son.
In Watford, on Aug. 25th, to Mr. and
Mrs. S. H. Hawkins, a daughter
Hilda Beatrice.

MARRIED.

Con. 2, McGillivray, Tuesday, August
17th, Mary, relict of the late Stewart
Ovens, and mother of the late Dr.
Thos. Ovens, formerly of Parkhill, in
her 85th year.

DIED.

In Petrolia, on Sunday, August 15th,
Levina Tooley, beloved wife of Robert
Parker, Sr., aged seventy-seven years.
In Sarnia township on Monday, August
16th, 1915, James Johnston aged 70
years, 3 months and 10 days.
In Watford, on Thursday, Aug. 19th,
1915, Robenia, relict of the late Wil-
liam Shepherd, aged 39 years, 10
months.

Pip! pip! pip! pip! pip! is the tune
to which the farmers are working in
some districts, and to go along the high-
way in any direction, you would think
that you were in close reach of some
famous water resort, but when you think
twice you know that as far as the water
is concerned it is there, and the pip!
pip! pip! is the last resort for the farm-
ers to get their crops harvested. It is
the small horsepower engines that the
farmer has attached to his binder to
relieve his horses while cutting the grain.
Some have one make and some another,
here is an auto motor, and there a marine
motor, but all are busy, and it makes
one wonder how the experiment will
make out, and if the farmer will save
enough out of his oats to pay for the
engine.



FORD Car (Without Body) \$450
FORD Roadster \$480
FORD Touring Car \$530

F. O. B. FORD, ONTARIO

RAY MORNINGSTAR, Arkona, dealer for Watford and Warwick.

G. A. HADDEN, Alvinston, dealer for Brooke and Alvinston.

Watford's Foremost Shoe Store

NO MATTER WHAT

Your past experience may have been, no matter how well you have been satisfied with the Shoes you have been buying elsewhere, you certainly should see our NEW SHOES FOR FALL before making your next purchase.

THE BEST SHOES

in the trade for the money is what we aim to give you—in every grade that we sell. Once wear Our Shoes and you'll know why we make such stirring claims for them. Call at

WHITE'S SHOE STORE

Just opened—Nearly one ton of Rubbers—all first quality, and we can fit any shoe.
Men's and Boys', Women's, Girls and Boys' Rubber Boots. All sizes.

We are here to please our customers. We prefer many small profits to a few large ones. Our business was never better. Small Profits and Quick Returns keep us busy. We keep prices down.

CASH OR TRADE **J. WHITE**