

Our Vacations consisted of every other Saturday, ten days at Easter, the Queen's Birthday, two weeks in August, and eight days at the close of the year.

In the Midsummer of 1861 I returned to Wardsville, where I remained for a year and a half. When I returned they had a fine Brick School House to replace the old one, with a High School in it upstairs. In 1862, the late Reverend D. J. Macdonnel, who was held in such high esteem in the Presbyterian Church in Toronto, taught in the Wardsville Grammar School. The Building was well-furnished with Maps, Blackboards, and School Apparatus. The Text-books used were Sangster's Arithmetic, and Bullion's Analysis of Grammar.

#### PROMOTION OF EDUCATION IN STRATHROY.

In 1851, before the Village of Strathroy was separated from the Township of Adelaide, a School House was built by the adherents of the Church of England there, and the School in it was taught by Mr. William Hildyard. In 1859, Strathroy became an incorporated Village, and, in 1860, a Three Roomed Frame Building was erected on Colborne Street. Two Rooms were used for Public School purposes, Mr. Thomas Armstrong being Principal, and the other Room was devoted to a Grammar School. It was opened in 1861, and was taught by Mr. J. N. Sommerville, who was succeeded by Mr. R. W. Young, M.A., who became Librarian in Toronto some time afterwards.

About 1866, the Frame Building was moved to the back of the Lot, and the present Colborne Street School House, containing Four Rooms, was built of Brick. Both Buildings were used for Grammar School and Public School purposes, the junior Pupils occupying the Frame Building.

In 1871, the Population had increased so rapidly that it was found necessary to provide further School accommodation, so the present Maitland Street School House was built. This Building is of Brick, and contains Four Rooms.

In 1874, the High School and Public School Boards separated, and a Brick High School House, containing Two Rooms, was erected. During the same year the Public School Board erected a Brick School House on Caradoc Street, containing Two Rooms, to meet the demands of a constantly increasing Population.

In 1886, two more Rooms were added to the Colborne Street School House, and a Kindergarten Room was fitted up, and continued in operation for about five years, when it was closed on account of the small number of Children attending it.

When County Model Schools were established in 1877, one was opened in connection with the Strathroy Public Schools, and was continued in operation until the Western County Model Schools were closed by the Education Department in 1907.

From 1886 until the closing of the Kindergarten Classes, there were eleven Teachers on the Public School Staff; but during late years, the number has been reduced to nine, owing to the yearly gradual decrease in Child Population.

The Citizens of Strathroy have always taken a commendable interest, and just pride in their Schools. The Board are careful in the selection of their Teachers, and, when they secure those who give satisfaction they try to retain their services as long as possible. One Teacher, (Miss Mary Armstrong), has now been on the School Staff for thirty-eight years, another for thirty-three years, and others ranging from 10 to 20 years. Miss Armstrong's Father was the Master of the Public School in 1860.

STRATHROY, February 8th, 1910.

R. DIPROSE, *Secretary.*