

Souvenir of the Edmonton Schools

Other citizens who have given their time to the work of the Board are Scott Robertson, James McDonald, Thomas Bellamy, Frank Oliver, James McBride, James Lauder, William Howie, Colin Strang, William Short, James Ross, Kenneth McLeod, Robert Lee, Walter Ramsay, A. B. Cushing, W. H. Clark, A. T. Cushing, Dr. W. D. Ferris, Rev. H. A. Gray, Alex. Butchart, S. A. Gordon Barnes, and Alex. May, all of whom are entitled to share in the thanks of the public for useful and enthusiastic service. St. Geo. Jellett was Secretary of the Board from 1893 to 1907.

On the educational side the people of Edmonton have been fortunate in the selection of men and women. Not only has the choice of teachers been a first concern but the development of the best that is in teachers has been a constant aim of the Board. The Edmonton system is in the enviable position of having educational work and organization probably second to none in Canada and it has contributed liberally by example and practice to the forwarding of the whole movement in favor of good educational work. Its teachers have always been leaders in the profession and the ultimate measure of educational work is the character and ability of the teaching body. The staff of the Edmonton schools has furnished a generous number to advanced educational and other positions and outside of the province. Mr. MacKenzie who was principal of the High School from 1895 to 1898 subsequent to his leaving the profession, occupied the mayor's chair of the city. G. J. Bryan who was principal from 1898 to 1901 was appointed from Edmonton to a provincial inspectorship and was afterwards principal of the



Normal School. J. T. Ross went from Edmonton to the Commissionership of Education in the Yukon and is now Inspector of Schools for the Province. Mr. W. Rea now practising law, occupied a leading place among educationists of the province during his eight years' vice with the Board. Mr. J. A. Fife, formerly Science teacher in the High School, is one of the most efficient of the present inspectors. J. W. Sifton, formerly of the High School, is Superintendent of Schools at Moose Jaw. Mr. Walter Secord and Mr. Charles Russell of the Public School staff both serve in the same capacity. Mr. Russell subsequently became Vice-Principal of the Normal School. Mr. Walter Ramsay who was the first principal of the Queens Avenue School and who served the Board faithfully for seven years is the proprietor of the largest florist concern west of Toronto, but maintains his interest in education through his connection with the School Board. Mr. Richard Secord who was the first principal of the schools after legal organization in 1885 and for two years before, is one of Edmonton's most successful citizens and holds on to his school interest by helping along school sports and athletics. Mr. Geo. Welbourne, who was principal before Mr. Ramsay, is a large land owner and farmer west of Edmonton.

On both the administrative and professional sides educational work in Edmonton has been directed by the best minds of the city. Service on the School Board has been looked upon as the most important and most honorable type of public usefulness. The aim with respect to teachers has been to have good ones who could never be considered too good.

The *esprit de corps* of the teachers has been an outstanding if not exceptional mark of the teaching body of the city. The teachers are held together in common friendship and interest by a teachers' club for social and improving purposes of which