

he accordingly began his duties on January 1st, 1894, his initial salary being \$550.

At the January elections, 1894, Mr. Wm. Webster succeeded Mr. Jos. Beavers as representative of the South Ward. Mr. T. D. Stanley was appointed chairman for the years 1894 and 1895, and Dr. Irving was appointed to represent the public school trustees on the collegiate institute board.

During the summer of 1894 the Central school was re-shingled, also the East side of the West Ward. The cost was \$103 and \$56 respectively for the two buildings.

Inspector Alexander's opinion of St. Marys school accommodation did not improve as time went on. In the fall of 1893 he used quite vigorous language in commenting on the unnecessary difficulties arising from the scattered position of the various rooms. In his report of Nov. 1st, 1894 he again criticized the "insufficiency and unsatisfactory nature of the school accommodation," and also said, "I do not know of any town that is so badly off in the matter of public school accommodation as St. Marys ... The scattered state of your schoolrooms has led to another evil, viz., a defective classification. I feel certain that the board would not have adopted the present classification had they not been driven to it by the present unsatisfactory nature of the school accommodation." The inspector also reported against the half year promotion examinations, and they were consequently discontinued.

In August 1894 Miss Wright resigned and Miss Annie Allen was added to the staff, and at the close of the year Miss Brown retired and was succeeded by Miss Alice G. Wilson. The principal's room was so overcrowded that Miss Kien was engaged as his assistant until midsummer.

For 1895, 1896 and 1897 the membership of the board remained unchanged. At their first meeting in January 1895 Mr. A. Carman, the present efficient secretary, received his appointment, succeeding Mr. N. E. Birch, who had held the position for some fifteen years. Mr. Carman's initial salary was \$30.00. Dr. Irving was appointed their representative on the collegiate institute board.

All the teachers were re-engaged for 1896 and Mr. J. W. Wood became chairman of the trustee board for the years 1896 and '97. During the latter year Mrs. Atkinson, formerly Miss R. F. Barbour, acted as substitute for Miss Donald and for Miss A. G. Wilson, while they attended Normal in the spring and fall terms respectively. At midsummer 1897, Miss A. Donald and Miss Allen resigned and Miss L. M. Thompson, and Miss Belle Donald were added to the staff. All the teachers were re-engaged for 1898.

The auditor's report for 1896 showed that the town raised by levy \$3600 and received a government grant of \$437, including \$45 for school inspection. The attached portion provided \$182 and a legislative grant of \$15.28. The attendance for May 1897 averaged 416 and the enrollment was 479. During the holidays the ceiling was removed and a porch built at the Lock-up, a stone porch was also added to the tower door at the Central school at a cost of \$129. Owing to the difficulties encountered the committee abandoned their intention of putting furnaces in the West Ward school.

Mr. J. C. Gilpin, after over ten years service voluntarily retired at the close of 1897 and Mr. A. H. Lofft succeeded to the va-