


ANNUAL REPORT

/// OF THE ///

Public Schools

/// OF THE ///

City of Victoria,

1899.



LS 856-521

6-521

ANNUAL REPORT

... OF THE ...

Public Schools

... OF THE ...

City of Victoria,

For the Year Ending December 31st, 1899.

Published by the order of the School Board.

GREENWOOD, SMITH & RANDOLPH,
VICTORIA, B. C.

NW
971.58
V649



Members of the School Board.

Term Expiring January, 1900, A.D.

R. B. McMICKING, - - - - - Chairman.
A. L. BELVEA. Wm. MARCHANT.

Term Expiring January, 1901, A.D.

LEWIS HALL. A. G. MCCANDLESS. MRS. MARIA GRANT.

Officers of the Board.

Superintendent of Schools }
and }FRANK H. EATON, M.A.
Secretary of the Board... }
Assistant Secretary - - - MISS M. A. McDONALD.
Office of the Board—City Hall.

The regular meetings of the Board are held on the second Wednesday of every month at 8 p.m.



To
estal
the)
and
city.
incr
Sev
diffi
over
exp
oug
adm
the
app
stea
in :
near
spo
par
whi
the

GENERAL REPORT.

TO THE CITIZENS OF VICTORIA :

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN :—Following the precedent established a year ago, the Board of Trustees has directed the publication of a report of the past year's administration and of the present condition of the public schools of the city.

Expenditure.

The total expenditure of the year was \$49,219.82, an increase over that of the previous year of \$3,592.38. Several circumstances contributed to this result. The difficulty in 1898 between the Board and the City Council over the appropriation made it necessary to limit the expenditure of that year to an amount very much less than ought to have been expended, thus throwing upon the administration of 1899 a burden that properly belonged to the previous year. Three additional teachers had to be appointed during the year to meet the requirements of the steadily increasing school population ; and some advances in salaries were considered necessary in order to more nearly equalize them with those paid to teachers of corresponding rank in other parts of the province.

The details of expenditure are to be found in another part of this report.

Repairs and Alterations to Buildings.

In addition to the petty expenditures under this head which are continually necessary, the condition of four of the school buildings demanded the outlay of considerable

sums in effecting permanent and substantial improvements.

The Spring Ridge school-house was thoroughly renovated, including painting inside and out; and new out-buildings, with modern sanitary provisions complete, were erected.

The Kingston street building, which had for a number of years been in disuse for school purposes, was thoroughly repaired and put into a condition of occupancy.

The work done on the South Park building consisted principally of retopping the chimneys, repairing the slate roofing, erecting an inclined roof over the central portion, where the original gravel roof leaked badly, building a storm-porch at the main entrance and laying a tile drain below the front foundation to prevent the flooding of the basement.

The section of the Central buildings occupied by the Boys' School required considerable work at the foundation in the laying of new sills. In the portion occupied by the High School one of the brick walls, which was in danger of falling, was torn down and rebuilt, a much needed vestibule was built, a system of ventilation was constructed, and the class-room accommodation improved by the removal of a partition and other internal changes

The amount spent at Victoria West was principally for interior painting and calsomining; and that at the North Ward was mainly for considerable repairs to the gutters and down pipes.

School Accommodation.

The crowded condition of the South Park School made it necessary to re-open the Kingston street building

and at once occupy two of its three class-rooms; the remaining room is ready for occupancy as soon as the expansion of the school population in the James Bay district shall require it.

The building at Victoria West has but five class-rooms, and one of these is too small for the accommodation of a division of average size. For two years the primary (sixth) division has been conducted in the Mission House, rented for that purpose. The inadequacy of the present building for the requirements of this district, and the serious unsuitability of its location seem to call for the erection at an early date of a more commodious building on a more desirable site.

All the regular class-rooms of the North Ward and of the Hillside buildings are now occupied, and in addition one division of the former school is conducted in a very unsuitable extemporized class-room in the third storey. To properly accommodate that division, and to provide against the steady increase of the school population of this district, the Rock Bay building with its two class-rooms should be immediately put in thorough repair.

All available class-rooms in the Central School district are now occupied—four in the Spring Ridge School, eight in the Girls School, eight in the Boys School and four in the High School. The number of pupils in this part of the city is increasing steadily, and more class-room accommodation must shortly be provided.

Reforms Effected.

During the year the Board published a set of regulations governing its own proceedings, and defining its policy in regard to various matters of administration.

These regulations embody a number of changes of considerable significance:—

Teachers' salaries had in the past been regulated according to no well defined principle. In consequence a good deal of haphazard inequality in the relative amounts paid had developed. Under the new rules of the Board, teachers of the graded schools are divided into three classes, Grammar, Intermediate and Primary, and a maximum and minimum salary assigned to each class. Between these limits all advances of salary are made to depend entirely upon the teacher's efficiency.

Recognizing the fact that, other things being equal, a teacher of high scholarship is more desirable than one of inferior attainments, the Board now requires that all teachers except those of primary classes shall hold First Class Certificates, with the proviso that teachers already on the staff with a lower certificate may retain their positions for a limited time at the discretion of the Board. There was another important reason for raising the standard. First Class certificates are life certificates, while those of lower grades have to be renewed from time to time. It is a serious detriment to the service to have the energies of the teacher divided between the school work and anxious preparation for a Certificate Examination.

Heretofore the method of grading the schools consisted in prescribing an arbitrary amount of work for each year or term, and requiring pupils to attain an arbitrary percentage in a final examination on this work, as a condition of promotion. One result of this system was the overcrowding of lower divisions while the numbers in the upper divisions were relatively very small. Pupils were

frequently sent back for a whole year's unprofitable review of work they had already been over, and teachers were under too strong a temptation to cram for the examinations, to the detriment of rational teaching. Under the new rules the pupils of each school are to be at all times distributed with approximate equality among the Divisions. Teachers and pupils are relieved in large measure from the baneful dread of final examinations, and generally the classification is effected on the principle that the school exists for the pupils and not the pupils for the school.

In March, Ben Williams, Esq., who had for many years discharged the duties of the Secretaryship in a very able and satisfactory manner, resigned that office. In order to centralize the business of the Board and effect a small saving in expense the City Superintendent was appointed Secretary, with Miss M. A. Macdonald Assistant Secretary. This arrangement is no doubt advantageous to the conduct of the Secretarial work; but I am not entirely sure that it may not involve a sacrifice of the time and energy that should be given to the proper work of the Superintendency—sufficient to more than balance the account.

New High School Building.

It has been the ambition of the Board that the Victoria Schools should gain a reputation, not only as the best in British Columbia, but as the equal of any in Canada. The steady improvement achieved during the past two or three years brings that goal within measurable distance. There is, however, one serious obstacle in the way of its complete attainment; it is this, no city can make any pretensions to excellence in its system of schools if ample provision is not made for Secondary as well as for Elementary

Education. Everywhere the High School is regarded as an absolutely necessary part of the system. There is probably not a city on the Continent of America of the size, wealth and importance of Victoria that has not a respectable and commodious High School building. Not only is it discreditable to this city that no such building has been provided for the accommodation of its otherwise excellent High School, but the unsuitable quarters in which the latter is now housed will almost immediately be needed for the accommodation of the lower grades of the Central District. The Board and the City Council of the ensuing year should address themselves earnestly to this problem. The sum of \$25,000 should be voted for the erection of a creditable High School building, with commodious classrooms and modern equipment. The repayment of the loan necessary for this purpose might be spread over a short term of years, instead of the amount being added to the permanent debt of the Corporation.

Educational Reform Urged on the Minister of Education.

The School system of the province makes no provision for the professional training of teachers, and no adequate provision for their training in general scholarship. This is a radical defect. The assumption by the Government of the responsibility of maintaining a system of popular education seems naturally to involve the obligation to make the system as efficient as possible, especially in respect to the qualifications of the teachers; else proper value is not given to the public for the large expenditure involved.

Profoundly impressed with this view, the Board some

months ago waited on the Minister of Education and urged upon him the necessity of a revision of the regulations regarding High Schools and Teachers' Certificates. In order to put the matter before him in a concrete form the following suggested changes were submitted:—

1. The curriculum of all High Schools to comprise two consecutive courses, Junior and Senior.
2. Both Courses to be essentially non-classical, providing, however, for elementary classics as options.
3. Junior Course Certificates to be awarded by the Council of Public Instruction to all students who satisfactorily complete the Junior Course.
4. The Senior Course to be open only to those who hold Junior Course certificates.
5. Senior Course certificates to be awarded to students who complete the Senior Course.
6. In addition to the Junior and Senior non-classical course, High Schools with four or more teachers to provide an essentially Classical Course open to students who have passed examination on the Junior and Senior Courses and the classical options.
7. Classical certificates to be awarded on completion of the Classical Course.
8. All candidates for Teachers' certificates, except University graduates, to be required to hold High School certificates. No further scholarship tests to be necessary.
9. Holders of Junior Course certificates to be considered as having satisfied the scholarship requirements for Second-class Teachers' Certificates.

10. Holders of Senior Course certificates to be considered as having satisfied the scholarship requirements of First-class Teachers' Certificates.

11. Only University graduates to be eligible for certificates as regular High School teachers.

12. A course of professional training extending over, say, fifteen weeks, to be given every year in Victoria, Vancouver and Nelson (or Rossland) by a specially qualified instructor appointed for that purpose.

13. This course of training consisting of pedagogical instruction, together with observation and practice in the public schools, to be open to those who hold High School certificates.

14. No one to be certificated as a Public School Teacher who has not had professional training equivalent to that to be provided for as above.

School for Deaf Mutes.

At the interview with the Minister of Education referred to above, the importance of establishing a provincial school for deaf mutes was also urged upon him. It was pointed out that the whole appropriation in behalf of this unfortunate class of children is expended on some four or five pupils who are sent out of the Province for their education, while all the rest are left without any opportunity for the instruction necessary to make them intelligent and useful citizens.

Manual Training.

It is a matter of congratulation that, under the provisions of the McDonald Sloyd Fund, Victoria Schools are likely to have the advantage of Manual Training for three

years without cost to the city. The introduction of this most important and practical phase of Elementary Education, through Sir William McDonald's generous endowment, will give added prestige to the schools; and once its purpose is made clear to the public, its continuance as a permanent feature of our school system will doubtless be assured.

From the foregoing outline of the past year's administration, it will be apparent, I think, that your Trustees have discharged their duties in no perfunctory spirit. They have addressed themselves earnestly to the task of increasing in every way the efficiency of the schools, and I am confident that in no previous year has more been accomplished in this respect. In this connection it is incumbent on me to say that the experience of the past year has fully vindicated, if that were necessary, the wisdom of the Board of two years ago in appointing a City Superintendent. It is only by acting upon the initiative and under the expert advice of such an officer that any Board of Trustees, however zealous, and however capable, can hope to devise and carry into effect such measures as may constitute a definite, consistent and progressive policy.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Yours faithfully,

R. B. McMICKING.

Chairman Victoria City School Board.

s to be con-
rements of

ible for cer-

nding over,
in Victoria,
cially quali-

pedagogical
ctice in the
High School

ublic School
y equivalent

ducation re-
a provincial
im. It was
ehalf of this
some four
ce for their
any oppor-
them intelli-

nder the pro-
Schools are
ing for three

REPORT OF CITY SUPERINTENDENT

R. B. McMICKING, ESQ.,

Chairman School Board.

DEAR SIR,—In response to your request for an account of the inner life and condition of the schools, to be published as part of your Annual Report, I respectfully submit the following :

Progressiveness of Teachers.

In a very real and literal sense "the teacher is the school"—conditions of housing and equipment, of textbooks and courses of study, are of secondary importance compared with the character, culture, professional knowledge and administrative skill of the teacher. A good teacher will do good work under any circumstances. A poor teacher will do inferior work under even the most favorable circumstances. A system of city schools cannot be progressive unless its teachers are progressive. It is therefore very gratifying to me to be able to report that during the past year the teachers generally have manifested a very marked interest in the attainment of higher standards of excellence. Indifference or self-satisfaction in this respect has characterized very few members of the staff. The spirit of the discussion in teachers' meetings, my observations in the schoolroom, and the uniformly ready response accorded to individual suggestion on matters of method and discipline, all unite to assure me of this hopeful condition of our schools.

Professional Aids.

There are two means of professional improvement which I should very much like to be made more accessible to our teachers: Educational literature, and opportunity for visiting other schools. A considerable number of the teachers not only have had no Normal training, but have never seen any other than Victoria schools. A good many subscribe for educational journals, some of which are helpful; and a few from time to time buy educational books of standard value. Still, on the whole, there is a dearth of available literature of this sort. Professional reading for teachers is so necessary that the Trustees may very well consider the propriety of a small annual appropriation towards the foundation of a pedagogical department in our city library. At the same time it is as much the duty of all teachers to provide themselves with suitable books, as it is the duty of a mechanic to provide himself with a set of suitable tools.

There is, however, no means of freshening up a teacher's ideas as effective as direct observation of other teachers' work. It would be, I am sure, of very material advantage to many of our teachers to obtain a short leave of absence occasionally and visit the excellent schools of Seattle, Tacoma and Spokane, not to mention those of cities farther away.

Individuality of the Teacher.

One of the recent regulations of the Board very properly emphasizes the direct responsibility of each individual teacher for the methods of instruction and discipline followed. Where there is responsibility there must be commensurate freedom of action. Supremacy within the

class-room is a prerogative of each teacher, and an essential condition of originality and effective work.

Another of the Board's regulations, that abolishing the "chain-gang" system of promotions, as it has been aptly called, has also tended very materially towards the free assertion of the teacher's individuality, and the substitution of rational teaching for compulsory cramming. It is too soon, however, for the effect of these regulations to have been fully realized. It will take, perhaps, another year for all the teachers to completely readjust themselves to the new conditions.

Course of Study.

It has been thought best not to effect any radical modification of the course of study either in the High or Graded schools until new regulations of the Department in respect to text-books and scholarship standards are announced. It is generally understood that important changes in these matters are in contemplation, as they are very much needed. There is no good reason why we should be obliged to carry on our school enterprises indefinitely under statutory conditions that may have been the best possible a decade or two ago, but are already long since outgrown.

Yours respectfully,

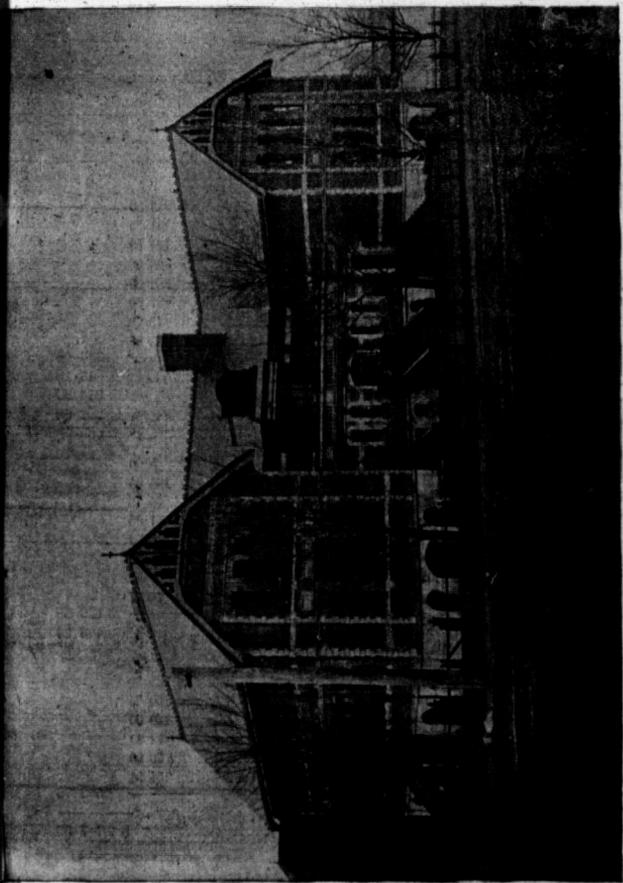
FRANK H. EATON,
City Superintendent.

d an essential

at abolishing
s it has been
towards the
and the sub-
ramming. It
regulations to
haps, another
st themselves

t any radical
the High or
Department
standards are
at important
n, as they are
ason why we
erprises inde-
ave been the
already long

ATON,
perintendent,



EXPENDITURE, 1899.

Janitors' Salaries.....	\$ 2,862 50	
Fuel.....	1,088 30	
Board Expenses—		
Secretarial Salary.....	\$ 265 00	
Publication Financial Statement.....	31 20	
Publication Annual Report.....	105 70	
Publication Trustees' Regulations.....	26 60	
Telephone Rental.....	288 00	
Janitor City Hall.....	30 00	
Office Sundries.....	72 70	
Election Expenses.....	164 35	
		983 05
Advertising.....		48 10
Furniture.....		343 50
Supplies.....		292 50
Repairs and Alterations to School Buildings—		
Rock Bay.....	\$ 5 00	
North Ward.....	164 05	
Central, including High School and Gymnasium..	1,095 74	
South Park.....	511 05	
Kingston Street.....	409 70	
Spring Ridge.....	781 61	
Victoria West.....	190 33	
Hillside.....	16 37	
		3,123 85
Fire Insurance.....		403 00
Miscellaneous—		
Telephone Rental, Schools.....	\$ 135 00	
Scavenger Work.....	130 85	
Rent Mission House, Victoria West.....	120 00	
Water Rent, Victoria West.....	12 00	
Deaf Mute Instruction.....	50 00	
Sundries.....	154 91	
		602 76
Carried forward.....		\$ 9,747 50

Sal
T
SSpe
Inte
Pro
Bal

EXPENDITURE, 1899.

Brought forward..... \$ 9,747 56

Salaries—

Teachers.....	\$37,672 26	
Superintendent.....	1,800 00	
		<u>39,472 26</u>
		<u>\$49,219 82</u>

RECEIPTS, 1899.

Special Rate, 2 mills.....	\$25,963 30
Interest.....	57 90
Provincial Government per capita grant.....	20,506 68
Balance from General Revenue.....	2,691 94
	<u>\$49,219 82</u>

CERTIFIED CORRECT.

JAS. L. RAYMUR, AUDITOR.



2,862 50
1,088 30

983 05
48 10
343 50
292 50

3,123 85
403 00

609 76
9,747 56

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE FROM 1873-4 TO 1893-4.

YEAR.	Average Attendance	YEAR.	Average Attendance.
1873-74	113.50	1884-85	710.70
1874-75	272	1885-86	809.70
1875-76	302	1886-87	894.29
1876-77	374	1887-88	917.39
1877-78	450.15	1888-89	996.11
1878-79	398.99	1889-90	1096.23
1879-80	398.78	1890-91	1284.63
1880-81	410.09	1891-92	1528.02
1881-82	433.45	1892-93	1636.27
1882-83	414.55	1893-94	1656.70
1883-84	679.65		

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE, TOTAL EXPENDITURE AND COST PER PUPIL FROM 1894-5.

YEAR.	Average Attendance.	Total Expenditure	Cost Per Pupil Based on Average Attendance.
1894-95	1842.81	\$49,559.32	\$26.89
18 5-96	1810.47	45,780.69	25.38
1896-97	1878.88	43,811.67	23.30
1897-98	1960.52	45,316.83	22.88
1899	2111.95	49,219.82	23.30

Teachers Employed During the Term Ending December 31st, 1899.

NAME.	Date of Appointment.	Grade of Certificate.	Annual Salary.
HIGH SCHOOL—			
E. B. Paul, M. A.....	September, 1892.	First A	\$1,320
A. J. Penco, M. A.....	August, 1893.	" "	1,200
E. H. Russell, B. A.....	February, 1895.	" "	1,080
Miss Rosalind Watson, B. A.....	August, 1896.	" "	1,000
CENTRAL SCHOOL, BOYS.			
J. D. Gillis.....	August, 1897.	First B	1,080
J. F. Sallaway.....	August, 1889.	Second B	800
A. W. Currie.....	August, 1896.	First B	750
Miss E. E. Sylvester.....	August, 1889.	First B	650
W. T. Clark.....	August, 1895.	First A	600
J. J. Stephenson.....	January, 1894.	Second B	660
Miss E. M. Jesse.....	August, 1893.	Second B	600
Miss A. Nason.....	January, 1896.	First B	600
CENTRAL SCHOOL, GIRLS.			
Miss M. Williams.....	August, 1884. (Prin'l, Aug. 1893.)	First B	1,080
Miss L. A. F. Barron.....	April, 1884.	First B	800
Miss A. Keast.....	September, 1886.	Second A	750
Miss S. A. Robinson.....	October, 1887.	First B	750
Miss M. Lawson.....	April, 1897.	First B	650
Miss E. S. Shrapnel.....	February, 1895.	First B	600
Miss F. A. Brown.....	August, 1896.	First B	600
Miss Alexa Russell.....	November, 1890.	First B	660
SOUTH PARK—			
Miss A. D. Cameron.....	August, 1883. (Prin'l, Aug. 1894.)	First B	1,080
Miss L. M. Speers.....	August, 1893.	First B	700
W. N. Winsby.....	August, 1894.	First B	650
D. S. Tait.....	July, 1898.	First A	650
Miss P. Frank.....	August, 1893.	First B	600
Miss C. T. Lorimer.....	August, 1889.	Second A	600
Miss A. E. Fraser.....	August, 1899.	First A	600
Miss M. C. Maclean.....	August, 1894.	First B	600
NORTH WARD—			
A. B. McNeill.....	August, 1890. (Prin'l, Aug. 1894.)	First B	1,200
Miss C. A. Dowler.....	September, 1892.	First B	800
Angus Galbraith.....	November, 1896.	Third B	650
J. M. Campbell.....	July, 1898.	Second A	650

Teachers Employed During the Term Ending December 31st, 1899.

NAME.	Date of Appointment.	Grade of Certificate.	Annual Salary.
NORTH WARD—Continued.			
Miss A. Spragge.....	August, 1894.	First B	\$ 600
Miss S. J. Murton.....	August, 1892.	Second A	600
Miss E. J. King.....	October, 1891.	First B	600
Miss N. E. Marchant.....	August, 1899.	First A	450
Miss L. M. Grant.....	July, 1898.	First B	600
SPRING RIDGE—			
Mrs. F. E. Taylor.....	August, 1895.	Second A	650
Miss M. S. Blackbourne.....	January, 1899.	First B	450
L. A. Campbell.....	September, 1895.	First B	600
Miss E. M. Arthur.....	January, 1899.	Second B	600
VICTORIA WEST—			
L. Tait.....	October, 1893.	First B	1,080
Miss A. F. Gardiner.....	November, 1896.	First B	800
Miss L. M. Powell.....	October, 1898.	First B	600
Miss I. M. F. Barron.....	August, 1891.	Third B	600
Miss C. C. Christie.....	August, 1893.	Second A	600
Miss E. Nisbet.....	December, 1895.	Second A	600
HILLSIDE SCHOOL—			
Miss S. Blackwell.....	Octo , 1897.	Second A	600
Miss E. E. Harrap.....	January, 1899.	Third B	540
Miss M. Lucas.....	April, 1895.	Third B	600
KINGSTON SCHOOL—			
Miss E. G. Lawson.....	August, 1891.	Second A	800
Miss F. C. Fraser.....	August, 1890.	First B	600



Teachers' Meetings—1900.

Throughout the year 1900, except during the summer and winter vacations, the City Superintendent will hold meetings of the teachers of the various grades every month in accordance with the following schedule :—

1. On the third Monday of every month, Teachers of Chart and First Primer Classes.
2. On the third Tuesday of every month, Teachers of Second Primer and First Reader Classes.
3. On the third Wednesday of every month, Teachers of Second Reader Classes.
4. On the Third Thursday of every month, Teachers of the Third Reader Classes.
5. On the third Friday of every month, Teachers of Grammar Classes.
6. Principals of the larger Graded Schools at the call of the City Superintendent.
7. Teachers of the High School at the call of the City Superintendent.

The meetings of the teachers of the graded schools will be held in the office of the City Superintendent; those of the High School teachers in the High School building.

All teachers are required to attend these meetings.

Teachers' Institute.

The regular meetings of the Teachers' Institute are held on the second Friday of every school month.

SCHOOL CALENDAR—1900.

January 8.—First term begins.

April 13.—Good Friday, statutory holiday.

April 16.—Easter Monday, statutory holiday.

April 17, 18, 19 and 20.—Provincial Institute meeting.

May 24.—Queen's Birthday, statutory holiday.

June 29.—End of first term.

August 13.—Second term begins.

September 3.—Labour Day, statutory holiday.

.....—Thanksgiving, statutory holiday.

December 21.—Second term ends.



