

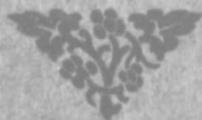
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Our
St. Marys Schools



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Our St. Marys Schools



An Historical Sketch

by

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Chairman of St. Marys

Public School Board.



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Our St. Marys Schools

CHAPTER I

Pioneer Days.

One of the important factors that influenced the history of the origin of common schools in Ontario dates from the latter part of the Eighteenth century, when the United Empire Loyalists turned their backs on the comparative comforts and advantages that had surrounded their homes in the New England colonies and set their faces towards the unbroken forests, which afterwards became Upper Canada. These people had been, as a rule, educated in good schools, established by their British forefathers and those with their property they left behind, but in their new settlements as soon as they had sufficiently advanced to protect themselves from hunger and from the inclemencies of the weather their thoughts at once turned towards the securing of a measure of education for their children. This was imperfectly supplied by a system of private schools scattered throughout the settlements, but an agitation soon arose to secure public support for schools, and as a result large tracts of lands were set aside for school purposes. About 1820 a Township Common Schools Act was passed, and a little later a General Superintendent of Education was appointed, and an endeavor made to secure some uniformity of system. Various changes were made in the subsequent years, especially after the troubles of 1837, until in 1846 our present system was established as a result of the investigations of Dr. Ryerson in Great Britain and Ireland, in Europe and in the New England states.

The township of Blanshard, including the site of the present town of St. Marys, was until 1841 an unbroken forest, and formed part of what was known as the Huron tract, a large block of land which had come into possession of a colonizing company known as the Canada Company. Under the supervision of Mr. Thomas Mercer Jones, a Canada Company commissioner, the survey of the Township of Blanshard was made and was completed in 1839. In the spring of 1841 the first settlers reached the junction of Trout Creek with the Thames River and founded the settlement known for some years as Little Falls. In the fall of this same year Commissioner Jones and Mr. Lauriston Cruttenden, a prominent figure in the after-history of the settlement, attended a public sale of company lands at Little Falls.

Mr. James Ingersoll, a member of a United Empire Loyalist family, which had previously given their name to what is now the town of Ingersoll, entered in September 1841 into an agreement with the Canada Company by which for a cash consideration and a block of land embracing almost the whole central part of the future site of St. Marys, he agreed to erect a sawmill and a gristmill for the use of the settlers. His brothers, Thomas Ingersoll, father of the late Justus Ingersoll, settled in Little Falls and at once began the erection of a sawmill, and the following year the gristmill was commenced. He also built a double log house where Mr.

Chalmers' hardware now stands. In one end of this he lived with his family, and in the other end his son, John Ingersoll, who is still living in St. Louis, kept a few articles in general use for sale; this being the first store in the village. This little apartment was only occupied as a store for a comparatively short time as more pretentious structures were erected, and in it, when vacated, Mr. Walter Lilly, the first shoemaker of the village is said to have taught the few children of the settlement. He and the teachers for a few years following conducted private schools, the township not yet having been divided up into properly organized school sections. Thus we see how closely following the opening up of the settlement were efforts made to provide for the children the advantages of education.

In the fall of 1842 an Englishman named Nicholas Rogers, father of Mr. Thomas Rogers, came to the settlement and built a log house on what is now the Rogers farm, almost across the road from Mr. Doolittle's factory; and being a man of some education he was induced by the villagers to open a private school in his own house. This he did and in the winters of 1843-44 he taught the children of the settlement. For his services Mr. Rogers was paid in part by work done on his farm by parents of the children. Nor did his educational work end here, as to him was entrusted the task of dividing the township into school sections. Little Falls was of course, included in one of the rural sections and so remained until its incorporation as a village about ten years later.

Following Mr. Rogers, Dr. Coleman, a medical practitioner, taught in a building situated on a hill, since levelled, that occupied the site of our town hall. In this building the first secondary school work ever taught in the village was taught by Dr. Coleman. He in addition to the subjects belonging to the common school, also took up high school or what was then known as grammar school work. The Coleman family were among the earliest settlers on the North Ward hill, and their house still remains, being occupied by Mr. Joseph Patterson. The collegiate grounds and several adjoining lots formed part of the Coleman estate at this time. Dr. Coleman's son James was for many years Division Court Clerk in St. Marys.

By the year 1845 the settlement had attained a population of about one hundred souls, and the citizens felt that a regular village survey should be made and that the village should be formally endowed with a name. They also felt that, the school sections having been organized throughout the township, an effort should be made to build a school in the village. To settle the question of a name a mass meeting of the citizens was called one afternoon, but it was found to be impossible to bring harmony out of the varied proposals. Mrs. Jones, wife of Com. Jones, chanced to be in the village that day with her husband, and jocularly it is said, asked the privilege of suggesting a name for the village. The request was immediately assented to, and as her own name was Mary, she suggested that the village be called St. Marys. This seemed good to the citizens for with unanimous approval the village was named St. Marys. In return for the honor done her, Mrs. Jones, who was a daughter of Bishop Strachan, one of the most prominent figures in the early educational history of the Province, gave a donation of £10 sterling to be applied to the new school building fund. Aided by this donation and the voluntary work done by the settlers in hauling the building materials, the stone school at the

corner of Queen and James streets was built at a total cost of £100. The builder was a man named Sellars, and it is said he was assisted by two Highland Scotchmen who could talk little but Gaelic. This was the first regularly organized and publicly supported common school in the village and Mr. Gordon Meighen, father of Mr. Joseph Meighen, was the first teacher. For his services he is said to have received the magnificent sum of \$30.00 per annum, and the privilege of chopping his own firewood. He lived in a house a little north of where Mr. Butcher's cooper shop now stands. It is also said that Mr. Meighen had to journey to Goderich to secure the government grant due to the school.

It might also be mentioned that this school building immediately came into demand for other purposes. It was used as a place for public meetings of various kinds, and the various religious denominations held their services in it for a number of years.

The fairly rapid growth of the village and the settlement of the surrounding country necessitated in a few years the seeking of more school accommodation, and a room was secured in a building near the corner of Jones and Peel streets, almost on the site of Mr. C. Freeman's residence. To this school all the girls were sent, the boys remaining in the stone school. In the Jones St. school at least three teachers taught. Miss Kate Junor, a family name frequently met with in the subsequent history of St. Marys; Miss Ailen, a daughter of a prominent Zorra pioneer; and Miss Green, sister of a wholesale merchant of London. These two buildings remained the only buildings used for school purposes until 1855, when the Jones St. building was superseded by the town hall of Lock-up.

In 1854 the growth of the village was such that application was made to parliament for incorporation. This was granted, taking effect on January 1st, 1855. The first council met in Mr. T. B. Guest's hotel on Jan. 15th, 1855 at 12 o'clock, the county sheriff acting as clerk, and the following officials were duly installed into office; T. B. Guest, Reeve; P. Nichol, W. V. Hutton, Gilbert McIntosh, and John Macdonald, Councillors. Mr. John Sparling was appointed clerk.

The incorporation of the village entailed its separation from the township, both for municipal and school purposes, consequently those Blanshard ratepayers in the part of the school section not included within the corporation of the village were shut off from school facilities. They made application to unite with St. Marys for school purposes and were admitted on an agreed upon basis, thus forming what has ever since been known as the "attached portion." The fixing of an equitable financial contribution from these farms was a matter of considerable friction at various times in the subsequent history of the village.

With the assumption of the dignity of an incorporated village, arose the necessity of a town hall, and after considerable strife between advocates of a Queen street site and a Water street site, a plot of land on Water street was finally secured for a market square and on which in the summer of 1855 a town hall was built. Mr. James Elliott was probably the contractor and the material used was quarried from the grounds around the building. This was a two storey building facing the river and when completed furnished accommodation for the village fire fighting apparatus, also for the cell used to confine culprits who fell into the hands of the pol-

ice. This latter feature gave the building its well known name, the "Look-up." The upper floor which was reached by a covered in wooden stairway on the outside of the wall, was used as a public hall. The unsatisfactory condition of the school accommodation suggested the advisability of securing this hall as a school room and in 1855 Miss Green brought her class of girls to this building, which they continued to occupy until the erection of the Central school a couple of years later.

CHAPTER II.

The Building of the Central.

The first authentic records available commence June 25th, 1856, and the subject under discussion was the securing of a site for a new school. The benefits of centralization and of modern school buildings were fully recognized by these educational fathers of the town for in the face of great opposition they resolved that the stone school and lock-up should be abandoned as unsuitable for school purposes. Fifty years later these buildings were again in use. They resolved to build a new central school which would be up-to-date, provide the needed additional accommodation, and be under the direct supervision of a male principle.

The next subject under discussion at this meeting was the very important one of securing the funds necessary for such a project, and two trustees were sent as a deputation to the council to request that the council provide \$1500 for the building. The council were unwilling and this and many a subsequent request brought forth no response. Here again in later days history has repeated itself.

The Trustee Board included Mr. Joshua Brink, chairman, and Messrs. A. M. German, D. A. Robertson, Adam Lambie, Samuel Fraleigh and William Webb. The meetings were held at this time in the stone school which was commonly known as "the male schoolroom," because here all the boys attended school.

On July 5th, 1856, at 4 p.m. a "meeting of the inhabitants" was called to discuss the question of a school site, and at a board meeting a few days later it was decided to proceed at once with the erection of the building on a site selected on the Tracy farm. This is the present site of the Central school. Messrs. D. A. Robertson, Samuel Fraleigh and A. M. German were named as a building committee and they were instructed to at once secure plans and specifications from a competent source. At the next meeting Messrs. Robertson and German were sent on a little side trip to Stratford to obtain information on the school question. On August 16th, 1856 the plans and specifications furnished by Messrs. Smith and Beatty of London were accepted with slight modifications. Work was not begun, however, until a year later, as, in spite of deputations and written demands the council did not supply the necessary money. They had passed a by-law to raise \$1500 but the money had been applied by the council to other purposes.

The Board for 1857 consisted of Mr. Joshua Brink, chairman, Mr. L. Cruttenden, secretary, and Messrs. A. M. German, D. A. Robertson, Samuel Fraleigh, William Webb, Milner Harrison and William

Moscrip. At their first meeting they appointed the Rev. Archibald Lampman, father of the poet, local superintendent of schools. In April they resolved to go ahead with the new school, and the original plan of Messrs. Smith & Beatty was adopted, using stone instead of brick as the material of construction. On June 16th, 1857 the tender of Messrs. Whimster & Harrison was accepted, and trustees Brink, Harrison and Cruttenden were appointed to oversee the work, for which services they were promised suitable remuneration. The painting and glazing contract was awarded to Mr. Boniface Noel, and the plastering to Messrs. William and John Kelton. A solution of their financial difficulties was attempted by offering \$500 debentures to the Gore Bank at London, at a 20 per cent. discount, and the secretary was instructed to write to the superintendent of education on the legality of the trustees levying a rate for building purposes. The stone school was offered for sale by auction on Fair Day, Sept. 15th, 1857, and although the name of Mr. Marshall McKay appears as a purchaser the property really fell into the hands of the new connexion Methodist church, and a \$400.00 entry in the credit side of the finance report of 1858 probably represents the price received for the property. The corner stone of the new school, which was designed to be a thoroughly modern structure, was laid with considerable ceremony on July 29th, 1857. The teachers, Mr. Donaldson, an elderly Scotchman who taught the boys in the stone school, and Miss Cruttenden, who had charge of 100 girls in the Lock-up, were present as were also the trustees, and the chief town officials. The financial report for the year showed an expenditure of about \$6,000, of which about \$5,000 had been spent on the new school building and about \$1000 on teachers' salaries and other expenses. On Nov. 3rd, 1857 Mr. J. W. Poole of St. Catharines was offered the position of male teacher for the year 1858 at a salary of £120. Mr. Poole was for many years a prominent citizen of St. Marys. On Jan. 5th, 1858, Miss Francis Bonis was engaged as female teacher at a salary of £65 per annum.

On March 1st, 1858, the first lessons were taught in the new school, Mr. Poole and Miss Bonis being the teachers. Miss Eliza McLean was engaged to teach a third department at a salary of £4 per month, her services commencing April 4th, 1858. That the scholars might fully appreciate the privileges of attending this school teaching was continued every alternate Saturday. In 1858, debts incurred in the erection of the new school becoming pressing the trustees engaged Mr. John Sparling to make a collector's roll and collect a special levy of £600 from the ratepayers, this being in addition to the usual levy made by the council. On April 7th Rev. William Caven, afterwards so well known as Principal Caven, was appointed local superintendent of schools, Rev. A. Lampman having resigned.

That wholesome respect for property which is said to have existed in the good old days was not so much in evidence on July 12th, 1858, when a number of persons broke into the school and proceeded to hold a dance. The next evening the trustees met and immediately resolved to prosecute the parties, but before separating they appear to have relented in a measure, for they instructed the secretary to ask the advice of the chief superintendent in the matter. At this meeting Mr. Alexander Young was engaged as assistant teacher at a salary of £65 per annum. At the close of the year Mr. Poole and Miss Bonis retired from the staff and were

succeeded by Mr. and Mrs. Warburton. Mr. Young and Miss McLean being re-engaged. Mr. James Oddy was engaged to build fires through the cold season at a salary of \$1.00 per week. It was also resolved to hold the general school examinations on Dec. 21st and 22nd and parents, guardians and those interested were requested to attend.

The Board for the year 1859, consisted of Mr. Walter Mitchell chairman; Mr. L. Cruttenden, secretary, and Messrs. W. McLean, Robert Flaws, Daniel McDougall and A. M. German.

The problem of providing a bell and clock for the town was one of the questions exercising the minds of the board, and Messrs. Mitchell and Flaws were appointed a committee to look into the matter; a committee also was named to wait on the council to ask their co-operation in procuring these. Whether or not the present dummy dials in the tower were the result of their deliberations the reports do not indicate. The board also decided to abandon the Saturday school teaching sessions.

At one of the February meetings Mr. John Sparling presented the rather unusual bill of \$4.00 for his services in acting as secretary at the annual school meeting of the ratepayers. This was finally ordered to be paid with the brief addition to the motion of the blunt phrase "notwithstanding the meanness of the charge."

Mr. Warburton does not appear to have given satisfaction as Principal and on Feb. 10th Mr. J. A. McLellan, who subsequently became one of the most illustrious of educationalists in Ontario, was offered the position at a salary of \$700 per annum. Mr. Warburton was relieved of his duties and he applied for permission to become a pupil in the school under Mr. McLellan, who took charge on March 1st, 1859. On April 18th 1859, Miss Adeline Shenck, who held a first class teacher's certificate was engaged at a salary of \$300, her duties commencing May 20th. Under Mr. McLellan the school appears to have awakened more than usual interest in the village, and the citizens evidently spoke of the results obtained with considerable pride. Mr. McLellan further stimulated educational interest by giving private tuition in languages, mathematics and other advanced branches of learning, which were not taught in the public school. The general school examinations held at mid-summer this year was an event of wide interest, and was conducted in the presence of a large number of citizens, both ladies and gentlemen, including the Trustee Board Rev. W. Cayen, the local superintendent, Rev. Mr. Smyth, Rev. Mr. Edwards, Drs. Wilson and Smith, Mr. McGregor of the McGill Model School, Montreal; and others. Many words of commendation were bestowed on Mr. McLellan and his staff of Mr. Young, Miss Shenck, and Miss McLean, whose junior department it is stated had an average attendance of over one hundred.

In the autumn Miss McLean resigned and was succeeded by Miss McCorkindale, and the board by resolution decided in the future to employ none but teachers possessing a Normal school certificate. This principle was adopted by very many subsequent boards even down to the present day.

The presence of stumps and sandpits in the school grounds was apparently not considered an advantage for we meet with an bill of Michael Flanery for taking out 46 stumps, \$11.50, leveling

grounds, \$10.00 and filling a sand-hole \$2.40. This was doubtless the hole from which sand used in construction of the building was obtained. The December examinations was again an occasion of great interest and Mr. McLellan was made the recipient of a congratulatory address and a case of mathematical instruments, by his pupils.

In 1860 the board meetings were held in Clondsdale Hall, wherever that was, and were presided over by Mr. J. Brink. Mr. W. Mitchell was appointed secretary at a salary of \$12.00 which was an advance of \$2.00 over that given to previous secretaries. The other members of the board were Messrs. D. McDougall, R. Flaws, W. McLean and Geo. McIntyre. Mr. McLellan's advanced ideas were evidenced by a request for \$25.00 with which to purchase apparatus for the school, and the mid-summer examinations were again a great event in the village, and it was boasted that the school was not surpassed by any in the province. A number of visitors were present including Mr. James McGregor of Montreal Central School. The needlework and embroidery of Miss Shenick's department was especially commended.

In February another of the many changes in the teaching staff took place when Mr. A. Young resigned and Mr. Robert M. Fleming was offered the position at a salary of \$300. A little later Miss Josephine Young was engaged to assist Miss McCorkindale at a salary of \$10.00 per month. In August Principal McLellan resigned, wishing to continue his studies and he was succeeded by Mr. David Fotheringham, afterwards Inspector Fotheringham of York County, whose death was announced recently. Mr. Fotheringham took charge Oct. 1st 1860 and Mr. McLellan was presented with a flattering certificate expressing the appreciation of the board with his work. The teachers were instructed to open and close each room by scripture reading and prayer and a Bible was purchased for each room. The outlay was not large however as the total cost of the Bibles was \$1.00. Early in the year an educational meeting was held in Stratford, at which Dr. Ryerson, Superintendent of Education, was present. Owing to changes being made in the school law St. Marys would be able, if they so desired, to establish a grammar school. At a meeting on Oct. 8th 1860 the matter was taken up and a committee appointed to investigate and secure information on the subject. The movement aroused strong opposition, but the committee finally reported strongly in favor of its establishment. They also reported that verbal promises of support had been received from about 20 pupils, and that the majority of the ratepayers were favorable to the movement. Public meetings were held to discuss the question but it was still unsettled at the close of the year. An economical wave seems to have struck the board at this time and as a result Mr. Fotheringham and Miss Shenick resigned.

CHAPTER III.

The Grammar School Established.

The year 1861 is noteworthy chiefly because of the establishment on an efficient scale of the grammar school. The first regularly organized school for advanced work in the village. The board this year comprised Mr. J. Brink, chairman, Mr. Jas. Whinster, secretary, and Messrs. D. A. Robertson, R. Eaton, G. McIntyre, and D. McDougall. Mr. Edgar Frisby was appointed principal at a salary of \$600 per annum, his duties to terminate at mid-summer. Miss Corrigan was engaged as assistant at \$200 per annum, and in March Miss Moser was added to the staff of the junior department at \$12.00 per month. In June Mr. Fleming was released and the principalship of the proposed grammar school was offered to Mr. McLellan at a salary of \$700.

July 13th, 1861 was the date of the final consummation of the grammar school project. The common school trustees met representatives appointed by the county council, namely Messrs. W. V. Hutton, A. J. Belch, T. B. Guest and Dr. Wilson and they agreed to unite to form a joint board for the purpose of conducting a united common and grammar school in the village under the title of the St. Marys Union School. Mr. J. Brink was the first chairman of the united board and Mr. Jas. Whinster was appointed secretary. Resident grammar school pupils were to pay a fee of \$2.00 per quarter and non-resident \$4.00 per quarter. The staff of the school consisted of Mr. J. A. McLellan, principal, and Mr. E. Frisby, Miss McCorkindale, Miss Corrigan and Miss M. E. Moscrip.

After the establishment of the grammar school and the inauguration of Mr. McLellan's regime, school matters went along very quietly for two or three years. Beyond routine business and the filling of vacancies on the staff little business of importance came before the board. In school affairs Mr. McLellan's authority was apparently supreme, and his wishes were quickly acceded to. The board at this time appeared to have no regular place of meeting, sitting sometimes in Victoria Hall, sometimes in the British Hotel, but perhaps the majority of meetings were held in the National Hotel.

Mr. Frisby, who had remained as senior teacher of the common school, voluntarily retired on the first of October 1861, and was succeeded by Mr. John Sinclair, who was given a salary of \$400. At Christmas Miss Margaret McCorkindale resigned her position on the staff, after two years' service as teacher in the 1st female department and was succeeded by Mrs. Lucinda P. Griffiths at a salary of \$300. There appears to have been no regular pay day for the teachers at this time and consequently they often were months behind in their salaries, often not receiving their full year's pay at the close of the year owing to a shortage of money in the hands of the treasurer. Mr. McLellan continued his university studies while principal and in 1862 he was allowed leave of absence for the month of January to attend lectures at the University; again in May he was granted four weeks that he might write his examinations. That he was successful is evidenced by the fact that in his agreement of 1863 he is designated a Bachelor of Arts, and in his agreement of 1864 he is described as a Master of Arts. In

1862 his salary was increased to \$800, a very respectable sum as salaries went in those days. The Trustee Board for 1862 was constituted as follows; Mr. Joshua Brink, chairman; Mr. James Whimster, secretary, and Messrs. T. B. Guest, Geo. McIntyre, A. J. Belch, D. A. Robertson, Robert Eaton, Jas. McFadden, W. V. Hutton, Daniel McDougall, and Dr. Wilson.

The destruction of school property was evidently worrying the board at this time for we find a resolution notifying the teachers that they would be held responsible for all glass broken and other property destroyed in their respective rooms, unless they were able to give to the board the names of the parties doing the damage. They were instructed to expel any pupils guilty of breaking glass and failing to replace it within six days.

At midsummer Mrs. Griffith resigned and was replaced by Miss Kate Junior, and at the close of the year, as Mr. John Sinclair did not hold a normal school certificate, he was replaced by Mr. Angus Sinclair. On Aug. 20th, 1862, Mr. Joshua Brink resigned his position as chairman of the board owing to continued ill-health. Mr. Brink held the position of chairman of the school board almost continuously for ten or fifteen years. He was succeeded by Mr. D. A. Robertson who had previously held the position for a short time. In these days a school census was taken yearly. For the year 1862 Mr. James Whimster was paid the sum of \$12.00 for doing this work, and his report showed a total of children between the ages of 5 and 16 of 722. This would give a total population in the town of not a great deal less than at present, yet the total amount of money raised by the taxpayer for school purposes was only \$1800.

The question of the abolition of the grammar school fees came up at the close of this year, and at the first meeting of the board of 1863 the grammar school was made a free school. That the board of 1862 must have been of a somewhat conservative type is evidenced by a resolution passed at the December meeting and forwarded to Dr. Ryerson, Supt. of Education, protesting against any change in the school system. On the board of 1863 Mr. Robt. Flaws and Mr. Wm. McLean replaced Mr. J. Brink and Mr. Daniel McDougall, and at their February meeting we find the first move towards the modern system of utilizing the banks in municipal financing. This meeting also gives a hint of the disturbed conditions of the currency in these times. Mr. George McIntyre was appointed treasurer of the school board, replacing the town treasurer, Mr. E. Long, and Mr. Long was asked to hand over to Mr. McIntyre all moneys belonging to the school board, to be deposited in the Bank of Montreal in the name of the Union School Board, that the interest might be credited to the board and that all moneys paid out should be drawn out by the cheque of the treasurer at the order of the board. At the next meeting Mr. Robertson resigned in consequence of Mr. Long having tendered him the school moneys in silver which the bank would not accept, consequently he was unable to carry out the wishes of the board in this regard. Mr. Long was then re-appointed treasurer, and the resolution of instructions regarding the moneys was rescinded. In July 1863 a resolution to secure the teaching of the Bible in the school was introduced but it failed to pass. It was designed to force the teachers to use the Bible, as a text book, and required the giving of one lesson a day in all the senior departments of the school. In the summer of this year a well was dug at the Central. For the digging and stoning

of which Mr. Thomas Robinson received the sum of \$1.48 per foot. Steps were also taken to erect a picket fence six feet high, on Church and Elizabeth streets, to enclose the schoolgrounds. It was however, two years later before the fence was completed. At the close of the year \$25.00 was voted to be spent in books to be given as prizes at the examinations and on Dec. 18th, at 2 p.m. the trustees attended the examinations at the school.

The year 1864 was noteworthy chiefly in that it was in this year that St. Marys assumed the dignity of a town. The first Mayor being Mr. T. B. Guest, who had the rather unique experience of having presided over the first Council in the Tp. of Blanshard as Reeve for 1851, the first council of the Village of St. Marys as Reeve in 1855, and the first council of the Town of St. Marys as Mayor in 1864. The other members of the council represented the various wards as follows; North Ward, Messrs. Milner Harrison, W. V. Hutton and A. Beattie; Sth Ward, Messrs. R. Box, John Moore, and Daniel Wilson; West Ward, Messrs. James McCougall, Dr. A. E. Ford, and Thomas Birch. As St. Marys did not separate from the county until 1865, Mr. R. Box was elected Reeve by the council, and Mr. Milner Harrison, Deputy Reeve, to represent them in the County Council. The Trustee Board for this year included Mr. D. A. Robertson, chairman; Mr. James Whimster, secretary, and Messrs. A. Beattie, T. B. Guest, A. Eaton, Robt. Flaws, Wm. McLean, James McFadden, R. Barbour, A. J. Belch, W. V. Hutton, Dr. Wilson, R. Birch, and John Adair. The ward system of representation was the system in vogue after incorporation and the two year term of office prevailed instead of the three year as formerly. The board agreed among themselves as to who would retire at the end of the first year, and hereafter one half retired each year.

In July 1864 Mr. Angus Sinclair resigned to attend college and a flattering testimonial voiced the high esteem in which he was held by the board. For his position applications were received from Mr. David Hunter, Mr. John A. Hunter, D. B. Whimster, and J. W. Poole. Mr. Poole secured the position at a salary of \$400, thus becoming for a second time a member of the staff, having previously taught in 1858. On Sept. 14th, 1864 Mr. McLellan resigned his position as principal, having secured a position in a large educational institution in Quebec. Every effort was made to retain him, including an offer of \$1000 per year, an almost unprecedented salary in these times, but without avail and the board reluctantly allowed him to go. A lengthy testimonial was passed by the board and presented to him, expressing the high opinion in which he was held by the citizens, their satisfaction at the high standard of the school had attained under his principa'ship, the reputation he had won as an instructor, their great sorrow at his withdrawal, and their hopes for his future well-being. A most unfortunate sequel was a rather bitter dispute in the adjusting of the salary duo him.

Mr. Joseph Leggett, of the Oakville Grammar School was appointed to succeed Mr. McLellan, and he commenced his duties about Oct. 1st, 1864.

CHAPTER IV.

The First of the Ward Schools.

The population of those between the ages of five and sixteen as shown by the school census was 914 at the close of 1863, and consequently relief from overcrowding was one of the problems that the boards of 1864 and 1865 had to face. The ratepayers of the West Ward began a vigorous agitation to have a school built on the west side of the river. A petition, signed by a large number of ratepayers and householders from this ward, praying that immediate action should be taken in the matter was presented to the board. A number of the trustees favored this solution of the difficulty, but the majority contented themselves with appointing a committee to report on the possibility of securing a suitable site in the West Ward and then postponed the erection of the building until the following year. Meanwhile to relieve the overcrowding they again secured the Lock-up for use as a school room. This was opened on June 8th 1864, with Miss E. McLean in charge as teacher. For some time efforts had been made to sell a small lot on Queen street beside the old stone school, and an offer of \$100 having been obtained, it was accepted, and the committee were instructed to apply this amount towards the purchase of a school site in the West Ward, which presumably was done and the site secured.

At the first meeting of the board of 1865, the West Ward school question was again discussed. The urgency of the need of increased accommodation was presented by Principal Leggett and Mr. Poole. A committee was appointed to endeavor to secure additional accommodation. This committee reported on March 20th in favor of proceeding with the erection of the West Ward building. This precipitated another struggle between the supporters of this policy and those opposed, but those favorable had secured a majority at the board and it was resolved to proceed with the erection of the building, and a committee was named to investigate the requirements and secure plans and specifications. This committee reported on April 17th and after an unsuccessful effort of some of the trustees to delay the project the committee's plans for a new two-room stone school were adopted. Two additional lots were purchased from Mr. James Redford for \$70.00 and Mr. A. Niven was engaged to survey the grounds. In April contracts were let for the erection of the building, Mr. David Hunter being awarded the mason work at \$631.00 and Messrs. Craig and Hamilton the carpenter work at \$586.00. Mr. R. Barbour was appointed Inspector of work on the building. Mr. Hunter later withdrew from his contract and another effort to cause the delay or abandonment of the project was made by the members hostile to it, but tenders were again advertised for and on May 22nd the contract for the mason work was awarded to Messrs. Knox and Caldwell for the sum of \$665.00. Messrs. Craig and Hamilton were given the carpenter work and Mr. Robert Davy the plastering at 18 1/2 cents per yard. St. Marys/ine had not yet won its fame evidently as the specifications called for the use of Guelph lime. Mr. Pender secured the painting contract. In the autumn Mr. Barbour reported that the contracts were completed in a workman-like manner and according to specifications.

The rooms were then furnished and opened on the first of the year 1866, with Miss E. Cruttenden and Miss K. Junor in charge.

The board of 1865 was composed of the following members; Mr D. A. Robertson, chairman; Mr, R. Barbour, secretary, and Messrs R. Flaws, W. McLean, R. Birch, A. Beattie, J. Adair, R. Eaton, J. Fullerton, W. N. Ford, L. C. ench, and T. B. Guest. One of the first acts of th's board was to appoint a committee to draft a set of rules and regulations for the conducting of business of the board. This committee reported at the next meeting and the rules and regulations as proposed by them were adopted and ordered to be printed.

Non-resident pupils attending the classical section of the grammar school were again made subject to a fee of \$2.00 per quarter in advance. Prizes were apparently offered at each examination in the school. For the June examinations the board voted \$20.00, with which books were to be purchased from the department of education to be awarded to the successful pupils. The overcrowding of Mr. Leggett's room led him in April to ask permission to employ one of his more advanced pupils to assist him in h's work. H's request was granted as was also his request for leave of absence to write his examinations at Toronto. An entry in the financial statement for th's year 1865, shows that Mr. Wm. Dale received \$42.50 for acting as assistant to Mr. Leggett. Miss E. McLean resigned her position in the Lock-up at midsummer and was succeeded by Miss E. Cruttenden at a salary of \$200.00. At the close of the year it was found necessary to appoint an additional teacher in the first English department and Mr. D. B. Whimster was engaged at a salary of \$450.00 per annum. The only other name considered for the position was that of Mr. A. T. Fotheringham.

On Nov. 8th 1865 a motion was passed which indicated that the trustees were ambitious to make St. Marys an educational centre. The secretary was instructed to communicate with the board of school trustees of the Townships of Blanshard, Downie, Fullerton, and Hibbert, asking them to coalesce with the St. Marys school board in making application to the county council of the county of Perth at their next meeting that the said townships and town be made a circuit for a board of examiners for granting certificates to teachers. The examinations to be held in St. Marys.

The following well remembered names were included in the school board of 1866; Mr. D. A. Robertson, chairman; Mr. R. Barbour, secretary, and Messrs. J. McDougall, G. Carter, W. V. Hutton, M. Harrison, J. Fullerton, R. Box, R. Eaton, R. Harstone, W. N. Ford and W. McLean.

The question of imposing a fee on non-resident grammar school pupils had been the cause of heated discussions for a number of years. This year a \$2.00 per quarter fee was imposed at the January meeting, but at a later meeting th's was rescinded by a six to three vote, and the Grammar School again made free. The seating of some of the rooms claimed the attention of the board this year and Jaques and Hay of Toronto were given an order for 20 sets of seats for the grammar school. The erection of the West Ward school did not for long remedy the overcrowding and three months after its opening the teachers complained that the rooms were so overcrowded that they found it impossible to do justice to the children. Consequently the

board again secured the old town hall or lock-up for use as a school room, and Miss M. McEvey was engaged at \$16 per month to teach there, her duties commencing early in May.

On March 9th 1866 Mr. J. Leggett resigned the principalship owing to long continued ill-health and his resignation was accepted with many expressions of regret, and he was given a highly eulogistic testimonial. An advertisement for a principal brought applications from a large number among whom were the names of many who in later years won prominence in educational and other lines of activity. Among the applicants were J. J. Bell of Kingston, C. W. Stickell, of Cobourg; T. A. Bryce of Toronto; A. Devitt of Waterloo; Silas Minor of Fergus; John King of Peterboro; Joseph Morrison of Burrit's Rapids; David Lennox, of Alexandria; A. P. Spotton of Woodstock; Edgar Frisby of Lancaster; D. Junor, student at Toronto University; J. W. Jolly of Huntingdon; Spencer A. Jones of Peterboro; J. R. Youman of Farmersville, Wm. Sinclair of Wardsville; C. H. Mockridge B.A., graduate of Trinity College, of Welland; and Alfred Lafferty of Richmond Hill. Mr. Mockridge was appointed to the position and he entered in his duties in May 1866.

On Aug. 13th, 1866, Rev. William Caven resigned his position as local superintendent of schools after having served in that capacity for over eight years. For the position two names were considered, the Rev. Robert Hall and Dr. D. H. Harrison, the latter being the choice of the board.

In this year began the practice of borrowing money from the bank to meet the salaries and other expenses. The chairman was instructed to borrow from the Bank of Montreal, when necessary moneys sufficient to pay the teachers quarterly. This policy was carried out more or less thoroughly by subsequent boards doubtless much to the advantage of the rather meagrely paid teachers. The estimates of the moneys to be raised by direct taxation this year was, for common school purposes \$2457.00; for grammar school purposes \$343.00. The practice of voting money to be spent in prizes awarded at the examinations was continued. For the December exams, \$10.00 was donated to procure books for this purpose.

On Nov. 16th, 1866, Mr. Whimster, assistant in the grammar school, notified the board that he would not accept the salary of \$450, which they had offered to him for the following year. Notwithstanding rather extraordinary efforts to induce the board to retain him, including a petition signed by 68 pupils Mr. Whimster severed his connection with the school, and was made the recipient of a flattering testimonial by the board. Applications for his position were received from Mr. E. B. Sparling, G. B. Sharpe, D. Y. Hoyt, Thomas Smith, C. H. Clarkson and K. Junor. Mr. Clarkson whose name was subsequently well-known among high school teachers in Ontario, was engaged at a salary of 425.00, his services to commence the beginning of the year.

That the West Ward school should be in charge of a male teacher was the decision reached by the board and in November Mr. K. Junor was appointed at a salary of \$350, to teach in the first room there, taking the place of Miss K. Junor, who retired from the staff at the close of the year. Miss Mary D. Moscrip was engaged to teach in the junior department of the common school at a salary of \$200. The only change in the membership of the board for 1867 was that Messrs. J. McDougall and W. McLean were replaced by Messrs. John Harrison and Thomas McIntyre, Messrs. D.

A. Robertson and R. Barbour were again respectively chairman and secretary. Mr. Barbour's salary was this year fixed at \$40.00 and Mr. Wm. Best, the caretaker, received the sum of \$190. Early in the year the chairman was instructed to have a deed of the old school property on Queen St. executed in favor of the new connexion Methodist church of St. Marys. The building was by them enlarged and to some extent remodelled and put into its present form.

Overcrowding seems to have been a more or less chronic condition then as it is now, for in May the teachers complained that the primary departments were overcrowded, and at midsummer the ground floor of the old Oddfellows' Hall, the building now occupied by Messrs. Dunseith & Thompson, was secured and fitted up as a schoolroom. Miss Jane Barbour was engaged to teach there, her work commencing about the Middle of August. At the September meeting Mr. D. McLarty addressed the board on behalf of the volunteers and asked that they be allowed the use of the schoolroom in the Oddfellows Hall on Oct. 10th and 11th for the purpose of having a supper. The request was granted as was also a request from Mr. J. L. Barron for the use of this room for the training of Sabbath school children, doubtless in preparation for some Sunday school entertainment.

Mr. Moeckridge resigned at the end of the year and the names of Mr. Peter Wright of Norwood and Mr. James McGrigor were mentioned for his position. The former was the choice of the board and he was given a salary of \$900. Mr. Kenneth Junor's salary was increased to \$500 and he was promoted to take the position of grammar school assistant. Mr. Clarkson having resigned in consequence of an insufficient increase in his salary. A successor to Mr. Junor as teacher of the first division of the West Ward school was advertised for, and Mr. H. R. McEvoy was the successful applicant, his salary being \$350. Female teachers must evidently have been plentiful in those days and the board very economical for the salaries of all the female teachers were reduced to \$200 per annum when being re-engaged for 1868, excepting that of Miss M. E. Moscrip who still received \$250. Testimonials of their ability and of their efficient services were given Mr. Moeckridge and Mr. Clarkson on their retiring from the staff.

The members of the board of 1868 were Mr. D. A. Robertson, chairman; Mr. R. Barbour, secretary; and Messrs. W. V. Hutton, Thos. McIntyre, G. Carter, J. Harrison, W. N. Ford, Andrew Forrester, D. A. Robertson, M. Harrison, R. Eaton, R. Harstone, and Dr. D. Wilson. For the position of local superintendent two nominations were made. Rev. Mr. Curran and Dr. Harrison. The latter who held the position in 1867 was re-appointed.

The convenience of the gravel in the West Ward school grounds was a source of trouble to the trustees and measures were taken to prevent parties hauling it away. In April the board purchased a quantity of inch pine lumber 12 feet long and 8 inches wide and piled it away to dry. Later in the year it was used in flooring the central school. The following resolution passed by the board in Oct. 1868, indicates that the trustees of that date had no sympathy with those who would refuse women the advantages of higher education. "Resolved that in the opinion of this Board the withholding the government allowance for girls attending the grammar schools of this province is unjust and prejudicial to the

best interests of society, that the superior education of girls is as important to the well-being and prosperity of the country as that of boys, and to deny for this object a share of the public funds is assuming a power that does not belong to the department of public instruction." To emphasize their protest two hundred circulars embodying the above resolution was ordered to be printed and distributed throughout the town.

CHAPTER V.

Mr. Tytler's Regime.

The close of the year brought even more than the usual number of changes in the staff. As early as October Mr. Wright handed in his resignation and Mr. Poole and Mr. Junor intimated that it was not their intention to teach the ensuing year. The board endeavored to induce Mr. Wright to reconsider his resignation but at the following meeting he re-affirmed his intention to withdraw. The vacancy was then advertised and 24 applications were received, among the applicants being Dion C. Sullivan, Brantford, A. Devitt, Oakwood; J. Bruce Ross, Embro; Wm. Bond, Pieton; C. A. Neville, Berlin; J. J. Wadsworth, Streetsville; Robt. Hardie, Peterboro; Wm. Tyler, B.A. Smiths Falls; J. W. Jolly, Prescott; Peter McLaren, Komoka; Alex. Hamilton, Brant Co., and others. At a subsequent meeting the application of Wm. Tytler, a graduate of Toronto University, was accepted and his salary fixed at \$800. For Mr. Poole's position in the common school 20 applications were received and Mr. A. C. Orr received the appointment at a salary of \$400. Miss McEvoy also resigned and Miss Agnes Barbour was appointed her successor. All the lady teachers for the ensuing year were given a uniform salary of \$200. An attempt was made to lessen the staff by appointing no assistant in the grammar school. This policy proved unsatisfactory as after complaints of overcrowding had been made to the board, Mr. Geo. Shurtleff of Toronto was engaged at a salary of \$400. Mr. Shurtleff began his duties Mar. 31, 1869.

The board of 1869 was composed of Mr. D. A. Robertson, chairman; Mr. R. Barbour, secretary; and Messrs. T. B. Guest, T. McIntyre, G. Carter, J. Harrison, W. N. Ford, A. Forrester, M. Harrison, R. Eaton, R. Harstone, and Dr. Wilson. A fee of \$2.00 per quarter was imposed on all non-resident pupils whether attending the public or grammar schools. Mr. Wm. Best was given \$240 for his services as caretaker.

London exhibition was evidently one of the events of the season as the teachers were given a holiday in which to attend it.

On Nov. 15th the board gracefully acknowledged having received "the very liberal and praiseworthy donation" of \$60 from Mr. Jas. Trow, M.P.P., and decided that as the gift had been made for the benefit of the rising generation the sum be appropriated for prize books to be distributed at the Christmas examinations.

Mr. Shurtleff, assistant in the grammar school, having been offered a larger salary in another school severed his connection with the school on Oct. 1st, and Mr. Poole was engaged to complete his year.

The board of 1870 contained a few new names being comprised of D. A. Robertson, chairman; R. Barbour, secretary, and Messrs.

W. L. Hutton, Alfred McDougall, A. J. Belch, D. Miller, W. N. Ford, T. B. Guest, R. Harstone, J. Harrison, T. McIntyre, and Dr. Wilson. The Rev. D. Waters, LL.D., was appointed local superintendent and his inspectoral duties as defined by a committee required an inspection every three months, and a report to the board.

On Feb. 1st, Mr. Orr resigned owing to illness. The vacancy was advertised and applications were received from the following: J. A. McKellar, Goderich; J. B. Ganton, Oakville; Alfred Goodbow, St. Marys; Jas. Scott, Clinton; Dr. Maybe, Stirling; J. Butler, of Aylmer, Que; and Thos. A. Bryce of Toronto. Mr. McKellar received the appointment at a salary of \$450. At mid-summer the Central was re-shingled and 25 new seats were ordered for Mr. McKellar's room. The noon interval for the pupils was extended to one and a half hours. On Oct. 31st the first mention is made of the separation of the common and grammar schools. The question was again discussed on Nov. 7th, but in view of the probable legislation at the coming session of the legislature" action in the matter was deferred. However, in his re-engagement for the ensuing year Mr. McKellar was given full control of the common school while Mr. Tytler retained his position as head of the grammar school.

At the October meeting Mr. McEvoy intimated to the board that he would not accept a re-engagement as he was about to enter another profession. The West Ward ratepayers were anxious as to the future of their school so they presented a largely signed petition to the November meeting praying that a male teacher be secured to continue in charge of the school and also that the 4th and 5th books be taught there. The board promised consideration of their request. An advertisement for a male teacher for this school brought 30 applications, and that of Mr. T. S. Pot of Fish Creek was accepted. On leaving Mr. McEvoy was presented with a testimonial bearing witness to the satisfactory services he had rendered during his three years' engagement with the board.

At the school board of 1871 the following gentlemen occupied seats: Mr. D. A. Robertson, chairman; Mr. R. Barbour, Secretary and Messrs. W. N. Ford, R. Eaton, T. McIntyre, H. F. Sharp, J. W. Poole, W. L. Hutton, D. Miller, R. Harstone, T. B. Guest and A. McDougall. Mr. Barbour's salary was fixed at \$50. The principal's report for January showed an average attendance of 42 $\frac{1}{2}$, or a little more than are now attending, but this included the grammar school pupils whose numbers are not given. Estimates for the year asked that \$3200 be levied on the ratepayers for common school purposes and that \$300 be levied for grammar school purposes. The taxes collected from the attached portion was this year \$90. In March the board gracefully acknowledged another donation of \$60.00 from Mr. James Trow, M.P.P. Of this amount \$7.60 was turned over to the separate school as their share and the remainder was assigned to the purchase of books to be given as prizes. In March a quantity of maple flooring was ordered, that it might be properly dried preparatory to re-flooring one flat of the Central school.

The year 1871 witnessed some important changes in the school-system. The historic name of Grammar School was superseded by the term High School. Similarly what had been generally termed the Common School was subsequently known as the Public School. The title of Local Superintendent of Schools was also changed to that of Inspector of Schools. Dr. Waters was continued in the position as

inspector and in view of the increase of duties pertaining to the office his salary was increased to \$60.00, at which figure it remained until the present year. On Sept. 12th, 1871, Mr. Hay resigned to accept a position in Stratford. His resignation was accepted and Mr. Charles A. Barnes engaged to fill the vacancy. On Oct. 1st Mr. Tyler having been offered a position in the Dundas high school at \$1,000 per year, resigned, but on the promise of \$1,000 for the ensuing year he withdrew his resignation. The female teachers were all re-engaged at increases of from \$25.00 to \$50.00, according to their certificates.

The scattered and detached position of the various rooms was the cause of continued friction. Frequent resignations and consequent changes in the staff resulted from attempts to move teachers from one school to another against their wishes. This friction was frequent between the male teachers in the West Ward and the principal or the other teachers there, due to the ill-defined limits of the authority of each. There was also constant difficulty in the classification of the pupils. In the autumn of 1871 the inspector and the classification committee endeavored to limit the number of classes each teacher was obliged to teach to as few as possible, and consequently advised that the 4th class be withdrawn from the West Ward. This was met by a storm of protest and a petition of ratepayers which had the effect of delaying the change. The same effort was made the following year but again unsuccessfully. Then the proposal to withdraw the male teachers from the West Ward school was a source of trouble for years. This proposal was made by the board of 1872 but the opposition was too strong at first, although since that time a male teacher has been engaged to teach there only at intervals for short terms.

At the close of 1871 Mr. D. A. Robertson retired after having served continuously as chairman for almost ten years, and previously to that time had spent several years at the board. Mr. Robert Harstone was elected chairman for 1872, and Mr. R. Barbour was re-appointed secretary. The other members were:— Messrs. J. W. Poole, H. F. Sharp, A. McDougall, R. Eaton, Thomas McIntyre, J. E. Harding, Wm. Currie, John Adair, W. L. Hutton, and W. N. Ford. The new board decided that additional accommodation was necessary so space for an additional room was found in the Oddfellow's Hall, and Miss Jane Sinclair was engaged to teach there. At mid-summer Mr. T. S. Potts, having secured an offer at a larger salary elsewhere, resigned and Mr. A. Goodbow took his place in the West Ward school, entering on his work on Aug. 21st, 1872. At the close of the year Mr. McKellar, principal of the public school, resigned and the positions of headmaster of the high school and principal of the public schools were again combined with Mr. Tyler in charge. Mr. Barnes was then given the senior division of the public school. The Chief Superintendent of Education notified the board that the School Act required that each high school should have at least two teachers so Mr. Goodbow was transferred from the West Ward to the Central as high school assistant at a salary of \$500, and Miss A. Miller was added to the staff of the public school.

The Trustee Board of 1873 presented some changes. Messrs. Hutton, McDougall and Easton retired, and their places were taken by Messrs. R. Box, Stephen Myers, and Dr. Harrison. Mr. J. W.

Poole was elected chairman and Mr. Barbour re-appointed secretary. Early in the year a deputation was sent to wait on the Government asking certain amendments to the high school act, and seeking a re-adjustment of the high school district so as to include the township of Blanshard. They also waited on the Perth county council seeking a grant towards the high school. Yearly for several years the same request was made to the county council, but up to this time unsuccessfully. The money received from the attached portion this year was \$103.00.

CHAPTER VI.

The Building of the High School.

The school census of 1872 had shown a school population between the ages of five and sixteen, of 1023; the largest in the history of the town up to that time and possibly since. This fact and the inspector's complaint of overcrowding led the board to take the first steps towards the erection of the present high school building. In April, 1873 a committee was appointed to report on the question of additional school accommodation, and the probable cost of the erection of a suitable building. Properly owners of available sites were communicated with, the North Ward hill being apparently being favored by the trustees. The project, however, was not carried forward until the following year. At mid-summer Mr Barnes resigned his position on the public school staff and was succeeded by Mr. George Moir, who began his lengthy service in the St. Marys public schools on Aug. 16th, 1873. The close of the year brought several other changes in the teaching staff. Mr. A. Goodbow resigned and Mr. G. Moir was given his position as high school assistant at a salary of \$500.00. His place in the public school was taken by Mr. Francis McNeil at the same salary. As an assistant in the public school Mr. Wm. Gray of Fergus was engaged at \$400.00 per year. Of the female teachers Miss Miller, Miss A. E. Barbour and Miss M. E. Moscrip resigned. Miss Barbour who had taught for five years and Miss Moscrip who had been a member of the staff for about twelve years were each tendered highly complimentary testimonials in recognition of their faithful services. To fill the vacancies caused by these resignations, Miss Louise McCormack and Miss Charlotte Allen were secured, and given charge of their respective rooms at the beginning of 1874. Dr. Waters, who for three years had filled the position of inspector of schools with marked ability notified the board on Nov. 25, 1873 that he would not be able to continue in the position as he purposed moving to St. John, N.B., His resignation was accepted with regret and the board passed a resolution, a copy of which was forwarded to Dr. Waters, eulogizing his many valuable services in school affairs and expressing their appreciation of his uniform kindness and courtesy. On Dec. 15th Mr. William Alexander B.A., was appointed inspector of the local schools.

The only change in the Trustee Board for 1874 was the election of Mr. E. W. Harding to succeed Mr. Robt. Barbour. Mr. J. W. Poole was chosen as chairman and Mr. R. Barbour engaged to act as secretary.

On March 5th, 1874, a resolution sympathizing with the relatives of their ex-public school principal, the late Mr. J. A. McKeller

who was killed in a railway wreck at Komoka, was passed by the board and a copy forwarded to his friends. On May 8th Mr. W. Gray resigned on account of ill-health and Mr. James Dusty was appointed to fill the vacancy temporarily, and held the position until the end of the year. While the board was discussing his application at one of their meetings the minutes inform us that the fire bell rang and the trustees unceremoniously broke up the meeting. On August 2nd, Mr. Frank McNeil resigned and on Sept. 1st his place was taken by A. John Brydon who taught until the close of the year. Miss S. L. Barbour also resigned at this time and was given a complimentary testimonial.

The estimates for the year required a tax levy on the rate-payers of \$3513 for public school purposes and \$350 for high school purposes. For the last half of 1873 the board received a legislature grant for high school purposes of \$391, which was based on an attendance of 46 pupils at a rate of \$8.50 per pupil. For the first half of 1874 the grant was \$480 or \$7.50 per pupil on an attendance of 64.

Discussion on the new school project which was first opened by the board of 1873 was resumed early in 1874. On February 25th a meeting was called to discuss not only the crowded state of the rooms but also the dangerous position of some of the ward schools. Although it appears the matter was never openly discussed it appears evident from the course of events that while the new North Ward building was ostensibly to be another of the many ward schools into which the St. Marys public schools were broken up, the real purpose of most of the trustees was to erect a building that would be suitable for a high school and thus a law of centralizing more of the public school pupils in the Central school. A committee to select a site reported on two suitable locations, one between Queen and Jones streets, East Ward, and the other the Coleman property, on Water street on the North Ward hill. Finally lots 13, 14, and 15, on the east side of Water Street was chosen, the price paid being \$600. After a considerable amount of discussion, numerous votes and the presenting of petitions, it was finally decided to erect a two storey four-roomed brick school, and R. Barbour was engaged to prepare plans and specifications. Evidently with a view of keeping the peace all round board also acquiesced in a demand for an addition to the West Ward school. This was most strenuously opposed by certain members of the board who maintained that it should be deferred until the completion of the North Ward building. They were over-ruled, however, and a motion to have plans and specifications prepared and to ask for tenders for the erection of a one-room stone addition to the West Ward building was carried. Mr. Barbour was also engaged to prepare these plans.

On April 29th the tenders for both buildings were opened and awarded to the following; Messrs. Craig and Hamilton secured the contract for the West Ward addition at \$1084. For the North Ward building, the wood work was awarded to Messrs. Craig and Hamilton at \$2100. Mr. James Elliott was awarded the stone and brick work at \$2446; Mr. Wm. Williams secured the plastering at \$380; and Mr. John Wilford the painting at \$125. Messrs. J. W. Poole, R. Harstone, J. Adair, J. E. Harding and W. N. Ford were named as a building committee and Mr. R. Barbour appointed in-

spector of work. The board sent a requisition to the council for \$6335 for the purpose of building these rooms. On June 19th a motion was passed mildly censuring the Mayor for leaving the chair and thus preventing the passing of their requisition, and also asking for a special meeting to deal with the matter.

The buildings were completed that autumn and on Nov. 6th, 1874, a meeting was called to discuss the separating of the two boards. At this meeting a resolution was passed that the united board of the public and high school trustees be dissolved at the close of the year. A committee was appointed to report on a suitable division of school property. This committee advised that the new North Ward building be handed over to the newly constituted high school board, and that the public school board retain all other school properties. This was adopted and the separate boards took charge of their respective duties at the beginning of 1875. Mr. W. Tytler became the first principal of the high school and Mr. George Moir was appointed principal of the public schools at a salary of \$600. The other members of the public school staff were; Mr. J. Campbell, first assistant at \$150; Misses Barbara Catanach, E. Cruttenden, Charlotte Allan, and Matilda Nugent at \$250 each; and Misses L. McCormack and J. Morphy, each receiving \$225.

The public school trustees met for the first time after the dissolution of the old united board in the town hall on January 28th, 1875. The following trustees were present; Messrs. Wm. Currie, J. Adair, E. W. Harding, S. Myers, A. W. Knox, and W. N. Ford. Mr. Currie was elected chairman, Mr. R. Barbour secretary, and Mr. E. Long, treasurer. The accounts of the board were ordered to be kept in the Federal Bank. The board as above constituted remained unchanged for five years, and Mr. Currie retained the chairmanship until 1879, when he was succeeded by Mr. John Adair.

The erection of the high school building and the absence of the high school pupils necessitated a considerable re-arrangement of the pupils and teachers, and it was not until June 1st that this was finally completed. In May the old Oddfellows Hall was vacated and the seats removed to two rooms in the high school building, which were secured for public school purposes. A partition was removed from one of the large rooms in the Central school, thus leaving the arrangement of the rooms there as they are at present. Mr. Moir, Miss M. Nugent, Miss B. A. Catanach, and Miss Jennie Morphy were assigned to the four rooms in the Central; Mr. J. Campbell, Miss E. Cruttenden and Miss Emma Ford, who joined the staff on June 1st, were sent to the West Ward; Miss Allan and Miss Louise McCormack took charge of the rooms in the high school building. At midsummer one of the rooms in the high school had to be given up to make room for the increased attendance of high school pupils, and the pupils attending there were distributed among the other rooms. This resulted in serious overcrowding and necessitated the securing of additional accommodation the following year. The total enrolment for June 1875 was 571, and the average attendance for three months ending June 30th was 445. The estimates for the year called for a levy on the taxpayers of \$3300.

Early in the year a petition signed by 51 citizens of the West Ward was presented to the board praying that Miss Cruttenden be allowed to continue her instructions in plain and fancy sewing, which they declared to be a great benefit to their daughters,

The board, like the very practical body of men which they were, allowed the female teachers to teach plain sewing in their respective rooms on one afternoon of each week, but expressly stipulated that no fancy sewing should be taught in the schools.

At midsummer Miss Crutenden and Miss B. A. Catanach severed their connection with the school, the latter to take a position near her home in Elora. Miss R. F. Barbour was engaged to complete Miss Catanach's term. At Christmas Miss Alan and Mr. Campbell declined re-engagement. For the following year the staff was composed of Mr. Geo. Moir, principal, at a salary of \$700; Miss Nugent, at \$400; Miss McCormack at \$300; Miss Morphy at \$250; Miss A. E. Barbour, at \$400; Miss Ford, Miss Watt, and Miss R. F. Barbour, each at \$225.

The securing of an additional room to relieve the overcrowding was accomplished by an agreement with the council by which the board were permitted to fit up the old town hall or Lock-up for school purposes. This was done at a cost of \$1300. The large doors and windows in the west end were built up with stone; the large supporting pillars were removed and the building otherwise renovated. In addition a flowing well was obtained by drilling and a five foot picket fence built to enclose the grounds. On April 21st the room was opened with Miss M. Watt as teacher.

In the summer of 1876 the Centennial Exhibition was held in Philadelphia and the board expressed their willingness to grant any of the teachers who wished to attend a week's leave of absence on the very liberal condition that they should procure and pay a substitute.

On Oct. 24th the board officially invited the Hon. Adam Crooks to visit the schools and to hold a conference with the teachers from St. Marys and the surrounding district. There is no record however that the invitation was accepted.

At the close of the year Miss Nugent resigned and Miss Emily M. Pearson of Paisley was engaged to take her place at a salary of \$300. All the other teachers were re-engaged.

CHAPTER VII.

The Attached Portion Arbitration.

For many years more or less friction prevailed between the town and the attached portion of the township. The collection of the school tax levied by the school board was one of the sources of trouble. After the separation of the public and high school boards there was the additional difficulty of determining the rights of the children from the attached portion in the High school. One of the incidents of this conflict was the seizure of two steers belonging to Mr. Wm. McGrigor, by bailiff Wm. Box, for school taxes, an action which involved the board in a law suit. After repeated meetings and conferences, and a considerable amount of trouble and annoyance the matter was satisfactorily settled by an arbitration. The arbitrators were Daniel Home Lizars, county judge; John M. Moran, inspector for South Perth, William Alexander, inspector for St. Marys; Andrew Driver, representing the Township of Blanshard, and W. N. Ford, representing the town council.

After due consideration these arbitrators reached an agreement which apparently proved satisfactory to all parties. The details of the agreement were unfortunately omitted from the minutes, but immediately following this settlement the chairman of the board was instructed to make a requisition on the Township of Blanshard instructing them to levy and collect from the ratepayers of that portion of Blanshard joined to the union school section of St. Marys and Blanshard the sum of \$190, the amount settled to be paid under the report of Judge Lizars and the other arbitrators, dated Aug. 23rd, 1877, which sum was to be paid to the treasurer of the St. Marys school board before Dec. 15th. In addition to this sum the board received the legislative grant belonging to this attached portion, amounting to sums varying from \$28.00 to \$36.00 per year. Apparently since this requisition above mentioned Blanshard has continued to levy and collect certain rates in this portion of the township and has paid them over to the school board without any further requisition from the board. For over 20 years preceding this settlement the St. Marys board yearly appointed a collector who levied and collected a specified tax-rate from the ratepayers of this attached portion. By this agreement the township officials levied and collected the tax and a frequent source of irritation between the town and that portion of Blanshard attached to the town for school purposes, was removed.

CHAPTER VIII.

Difficulties of Accomodation and Classification.

In February 1877 the inspector recommended that the principal's room be re-seated with single desks, a request not complied with until 32 years later. He reported an attendance in the principal's room of 82 which with absentees and several others who were fit for promotion would bring the enrollment up to about one hundred. He recommended that the class be divided into a junior and senior division and suggested that a room be secured by utilizing the upper storey of the old town hall. Mr. Alexander's recommendations were not acted upon by the board and on Oct. 30th he resigned. The board endeavored to persuade him to withdraw his resignation but without avail and on Dec. 12th 1877 it was accepted and John M. Moran, Inspector of Schools for the South Riding of Perth was appointed his successor.

The close of every year and almost every half year brought a large number of changes in the teaching staff, this being largely due to the old model school third class certificates, which expired at the end of three years. Owing to the scarcity of second-class normal trained teachers a considerable proportion of the teachers possessed only the model certificates and as these were constantly lapsing it necessitated frequent changes. For the following year the staff consisted of Mr. Geo. Moir, principal; and Misses. A. E. Barbour, J. McCormack, R. F. Barbour, E. Watt, E. Pearson, B. McLaren, N. Delmage, S. M. Ford, and Mrs. Wilson. The average attendance for 1877 was about 450 and the estimates required a levy of \$3365. The salary of Mr. Best the caretaker was \$340. In April 14th Mr. R. Barbour, owing to enforced absences from town, resigned his position as secretary of the board after hav'ng

served in that capacity for over 12 years. Mr. Moir was engaged to complete his term of office.

In May the board granted a request of Misses Simpson and Kain for permission to use the old town hall on Water street as a Sabbath school, on condition that they make a satisfactory arrangement with the caretaker. A committee was also empowered to re-floor the upper rooms in the Central school.

In July 1878 a special committee reported on the suitability of the upper room in the old town hall and of Mr. Moore's church for school purposes giving the preference to the latter which was secured by rental for \$60.00 a year and the seats in the remaining room in the high school which up to this time had been used for public school purposes, were transferred to the stone church on Queen street, which had been vacated by the school board in 1858.

In 1879 Mr. John Adair replaced Mr. Currie as presiding officer of the trustee board and Miss Maggie Barbour and Miss Annie Laughton replaced Mrs. Wilson and Miss Delmage on the teaching staff of the schools. The inspector complained of the overcrowding of two of the rooms, and recommended the formation of an additional room. This was not done but applications were asked for the position of monitor, and Miss M. Parish was engaged at \$12.00 per month. The other applicants were Miss S. Wilson, Miss Knox, Miss Currie, Mr. Marshall and Mr. Fotheringham. At midsummer Miss Louise McCormick resigned and the board expressed their regret at losing the services of such a valuable teacher. Mrs. McMurchie filled the vacancy temporarily, and Miss Belle Oliver received a permanent position on the staff. At the close of the year Mr. Moir and Misses A. E. Barbour, R. F. Barbour, M. Barbour, S. Ford, and A. Laughton were re-engaged at the old salaries, Miss Oliver received \$400 and Misses Eliza McCormack and Jennie Knox were added to the staff at \$225 each.

One peculiarity in the elections in those days was that the trustees conducted their own elections. They named their own officials at the polls and also selected the polling places. Mr. John McLean was elected in 1880 by the South Ward but the election was declared void by Judge Lizars. In the bye-election he was again returned. The other members of the board for this year were;— Messrs. W. N. Ford, John Adair, E. W. Harding, S. Myers, and A. W. Knox. Mr. Ford was elected chairman and Mr. N. E. Birch was appointed secretary at a salary of \$35.00 per year, in succession to Mr. Moir who had held the position since the resignation of Mr. Barbour in 1877.

The inspector's report for 1880 contained some interesting recommendations. In the first place he advised that one of the rooms in the West Ward be closed and converted into a playroom for the children. He also commented on the fact that one part of the work of a principal was almost entirely neglected in St. Marys, in that the principal rarely, if ever, visited the other rooms in order to supervise the work of the other teachers, and give them the benefit of his counsel. The poor furnishings of the rooms were also subjects of comment.

No change was made in the trustee board for 1881, Mr. Ford being re-appointed chairman and Mr. Birch secretary.

On the staff Miss E. Cruttenden and Miss C. Wilson were en-

gaged, taking the places of Miss E. McCormack and Miss B. Oliver, both of whom had declined re-engagement. On March 10th Miss A. E. Barbour resigned and her lengthy and highly satisfactory services were recognized by a fitting testimonial. Miss Lizzie C. Campbell replaced her on April 1st at a salary of \$350 per annum. At midsummer Miss Ford resigned and Miss E. Watt was engaged to complete her term. At the close of the year Misses M. Barbour, C. Wilson and J. Knox retired. The staff for the year 1882 was composed of the following teachers; Mr. Geo. Moir, at a salary of \$800; Miss Maggie Campbell at \$400; Miss R. F. Barbour at \$300; Miss Nellie Delmage, Miss A. Laughton, and Miss Lizzie Delmage at \$250; Miss A. Knox, Miss E. Cruttenden and Miss E. Watt at \$225. The inspector's report for the last half of 1881 especially commends Miss Cruttenden's "superiority in the teaching of good manners and things of that kind."

For the years 1882 and 1883 the board consisted of Messrs. W. N. Ford, John Maclean, E. W. Harding, J. Adair, A. W. Knox, and S. Myers, the latter being chairman.

In 1881 a committee was appointed to consider the advisability of establishing a fifth class in the public school. After consulting with the high school board this committee in March 1882 reported in favor of the proposal, basing their decision on "the right of the children of ratepayers to receive a purely English education in the public school." The recommendation was adopted by the board and at Easter 1882 a fifth class was established in the principal's room. A communication from the minister of education dated April 4th, 1882, informed the board that they had full authority under the regulations to continue teaching a fifth and also a sixth class in the public school. The additional work thus given the principal obliged the board in February 1883 to engage an assistant, and Miss C. Wilson was secured. In November 1883, however, the inspector recommended that, as he found all the pupils in the principal's room doing practically the same work, the teaching of the additional class be discontinued and that the services of the assistant be dispensed with. This was done at the end of the year.

In 1882 one room in the West Ward was re-seated with double seats bought from Mr. A. S. Harrington at \$3.50 each. The estimates for this year required that \$3650 be raised by the town for public school purposes. The legislative grant to the town, including the grant for inspection, was \$350 in 1877, but had increased to \$607 in 1880 and \$575 in 1882. The register for October, 1882, showed an enrollment of 534 with an average attendance of 426. Three of the rooms had seventy or more pupils. In the early part of the year Miss Jennie Knox attended the Normal and Miss Agnes Knox acted as substitute during her absence. At the close of the year Miss A. Laughton and Miss Lizzie Delmage retired and were succeeded by Miss Alice Wilson and Miss Annie Pook, each at a salary of \$200. On Feb. 15th, 1883, Mr. William Alexander was again appointed inspector, succeeding Mr. Moran, who had held the position for five years.

The estimates for 1883 called for a levy of \$3750. In this year the amount received from the attached portion was \$180, instead of \$190, as had been the amount following the arbitrators' award of 1877. The legislative grant for the attached portion for this year was \$28.00. The attendance report for May 1883 gave the enrollment as 562 and the average attendance as 441. In the

autumn coal furnaces were installed in the Central school at a cost of about \$400.

At midsummer Miss N. Delmage and Miss R. F. Barbour resigned and were succeeded by Miss M. P. Barbour and Miss Agnes Knox at salaries of \$250 and \$225 respectively. Their duties began on Sept. 3rd. On Oct. 2nd, 1883, Mr. Moir resigned after a term of service of a little over ten years. His resignation was not immediately accepted, but he was granted leave of absence until the end of the year, and Mr. J. W. Laird was secured as substitute. On Dec. 22nd, after considering the merits of twenty-two applicants for the position of principal the board engaged Mr. Laird at a salary of \$600. The other teachers of the staff were all re-engaged for the ensuing year.

The January elections of 1884 produced no change in the membership of the Trustee Board, but on May 15th Mr. John Adair resigned. His retirement, after a continuous membership of over 20 years, was recognized by the passing of a highly complimentary resolution by the board, which referred to his faithful services and also expressed their regret that he had found it necessary to withdraw. Mr. A. Beattie succeeded Mr. Adair as representative of the North Ward. On March 31st, 1884, an old tried and trusted, servant, Mr. Wm. Best, retired, after a continuous service of nearly twenty years as caretaker of the schools. He was succeeded by Mr. Henry Whitworth, who continued in the position for several years.

Ill health caused the retirement of Miss M. Campbell in March 1884, and on April 1st, Miss Adelaide Verth was added to the staff at a salary of \$250. At midsummer the Misses Knox resigned their positions being taken by Misses R. F. Barbour and M. Pilby. For the following year, 1885, the staff consisted of Mr. J. W. Laird, principal; and Misses M. Barbour, A. Verth, A. Pook, R. F. Barbour, E. Watt, E. Cruttenden, A. Wilson, and M. B. Miller. The trustee board remaining unchanged, but Mr. E. W. Harding was chairman.

The recent change in the readers, renders interesting the fact that on April 15th 1885 the trustees ordered the introduction into schools of the series of readers that has just been discarded.

At various times a new school building for the North Ward had been proposed but never seriously discussed. In July 1885 Mr James Coleman wrote offering certain lots in the North Ward for sale. The communication was referred to a committee but no report was ever brought in. The estimates for 1885 called for a levy of \$3635. The average attendance for September was 471, and four rooms had an enrolment of from 73 to 79 each.

In July Miss Pook resigned and Miss Susie Wright was engaged to take her place. At the end of the year Misses Wilson, Verth, and Watt resigned, and Misses Belle Delmage, L. Ingersoll and A. L. Thompson were given the vacant positions.

The trustee board for 1886 and 1887 was composed of Mr. E. W. Harding, chairman; and Messrs. W. N. Ford, M. J. Beam, A. Beattie, A. W. Knox, and S. Myers. In August a committee was ordered to proceed with the re-seating of another room in the West Ward. In September a motion was passed that the elections should be held at the same time as the municipal elections in accordance with the Act of 1885. The total attendance for September 1886 was 543, and the average 455. The nine rooms had enrollments varying from 28 in the principal's to 86 in Miss Cruttenden's

and 100 in Miss Thompson's. The following month the enrollment was 530, but the average attendance dropped to 217. In the principal's room the average was 9. In Miss Deilmage's, with 73 on the roll the average was 16. This remarkable falling off was due to an outbreak of diphtheria, so deadly a disease in those days. Several pupils died, Miss Deilmage's room alone losing three.

For the year 1887 the only change in the teaching staff was the engagement of Miss A. Wilson to replace Miss Deilmage, who resigned. In October Miss McKenzie of Stratford requested the use of the Church street school for a singing class. It was granted on condition that she make arrangements with the caretaker regarding heating and lighting. At the close of the year Miss R. F. Barbour resigned and was succeeded by Miss Maggie L. Wilson.

For the years 1888 and 1889 Mr. A. W. Knox was chairman of the board, the membership of which remained unchanged until the death of Mr. A. Beattie in the spring of 1888. In the election that followed Mr. J. C. Gilpin became the representative of the North Ward. The school attendance this year was very large, the average attendance for November being 498. The classification committee made an effort to more equally arrange the pupils among the various rooms, and, to assist themselves in the task they laid down the rule that any pupil, after reaching the second class, could be sent to any of the town schools. In this way they tried to avoid the unnecessary division of each teacher's time among too many classes. The principal did not fare very well, however, as he was assigned a fifth class, a senior fourth and a junior fourth. The question of teaching singing in the schools was debated, in this and several following years, but although adopted by the board on two or three occasions it was never finally put into effect. The Central school was opened as a night school with Mr. Moir in charge in this and two or three following winters. Another lot on the east side of Ontario street was purchased for \$25.00 and added to the grounds of the West Ward school.

At midsummer Misses Wright and Miller were granted leave of absence to attend the Normal school, and Misses Sarah Davis and Mary L. Harrison were engaged to take their places, the latter continuing on the staff for 1889 in the place of Miss Thompson.

At the close of 1888 Mr. E. Myers withdrew after fourteen years continuous service, as a member of the board. In the elections following Mr. T. D. Stanley was returned in his place as representative of the South Ward.

CHAPTER IX.

The Schools Criticised.

The overcrowding problem again became urgent, the enrollment in September 1888 reaching a total of 599. To relieve this a room in the Oddfellow's Block on Water street was rented for \$100 a year and fitted up as a schoolroom. This was opened in the autumn with Miss J. Fairweather in charge as teacher. A committee was appointed to consider the advisability of building a new school in the North Ward, but the inspector's report soon after apparently discouraged the project. In his report he referred to the great difficulties of classification on account of the classes being distributed among five different buildings. He strongly advised more

school accommodation at the Central so that as many as possible of the detached rooms could be discontinued. At midsummer Miss Ingersoll and Miss Harrison were granted leave of absence to attend the Normal and Miss E. G. Mitchell and Miss M. Watson engaged to fill the vacancies. For the following year Mr. Laird was re-engaged as principal at a salary of \$725, and Misses E. G. Mitchell, R. P. Barbour, M. Miller, S. Wright, A. Wilson, L. F. Ingersoll, E. Cruttenden, J. Fairweather and C. DeMage, at salaries ranging from \$325 down to \$225.

At the close of 1889 Mr. W. N. Ford voluntarily retired and the board fittingly remembered his twenty years of active service. For the years 1890, 1891, and 1892 the following gentlemen occupied seats at the school board, Messrs. M. J. Beam, A. W. Knox, E. W. Harding, T. D. Stanley, J. C. Gilpin, and J. W. Wood. Mr. M. J. Beam occupied the chair for 1890 and 1891.

The auditor's report for the year 1889 showed a levy on the town of \$4120, and a legislative grant of \$393. The attached portion paid \$180 and \$14.30 was received as its legislative grant. The number of names on the roll for June 1890 was 604, with an average attendance of 520; these figures being the largest that the records show, although the reports of attendance were not preserved in the minutes in the earlier years of the history of the schools. To deal with the resulting overcrowding a committee was appointed in March. They were instructed to report on the number of rooms required, on the best locality and probable cost of lands buildings and furnishings complete and if thought advisable to have plans and specifications made. This committee reported progress two or three times subsequently and then apparently abandoned the project.

Principal Laird's report of the night school conducted by him, the preceding winter showed the total enrolment of 103 pupils, of whom 78 were males and 25 females. The average attendance was 44. The school was open for two hours a night on two nights a week, in all 25 nights. The board expressed themselves as pleased with the success of the venture. In October Mr. A. C. Moutier was granted the use of Mr. Laird's room in the Central on one night per week for a class in elocution on the usual conditions that he make his own arrangements with the janitor.

At Christmas 1890, Miss Cruttenden retired after many years of faithful service, having first taught in St. Marys in the old Lock-up school in September, 1856, and having in the succeeding years rendered particularly efficient service in the schools. The chief object of her teaching was never to achieve success at examinations but rather to nourish a broad and true culture within her pupils. In pursuing this object she was wonderfully successful as her pupils and successive principals and inspectors have borne witness.

For 1891 the teaching staff was composed of Mr. J. W. Laird, and Misses M. Miller, A. Wilson, L. F. Ingersoll, S. E. Wright, E. G. Mitchell, M. P. Barbour, N. May Harding, Maggie Harrison and Jessie Black. In August Miss Miller resigned and was succeeded by Miss Alice Donald. In this year the entrance examinations were made yearly instead of half yearly, and the same practice was also adopted in regard to the promotion exams.

At the close of 1891 Misses Harding and Harrison retired, and were replaced by Misses C. B. DeMage and Tillie Brown. Mr. J. C.

Gilpin was appointed to the chair in January 1892 and continued in the position for two years. Dr. Thomas Gray was appointed the first representative of the public school board to sit on the collegiate institute board. This was in accordance with a new Act of Parliament, which required the public school board to appoint one representative.

On Sept. 1st 1892, a resolution of regret at the death of one of their members, Mr. A. W. Knox, who had represented the South Ward for several years, was passed, and on Nov. 3rd, Mr. W. W. Haines took the seat rendered vacant by his decease.

According to the auditors' report for 1891 the town raised for public school purposes \$3700, and received from the attached portion \$214.16, including the legislative grant. Coal this year was bought for the schools for \$4.68 per ton. The average attendance for June 1892 was 475 and the roll contained 551 names. Some of the rooms contained over eighty pupils.

Nearly eighteen years ago, in his first report dated Nov. 1st, 1892, Inspector Alexander had the following striking comment on St. Marys public schools: "St. Marys cannot boast of its public school accommodation. No other town in this county and I believe very few if any, towns of any importance in the province but can boast of better public school accommodations than your town. It is a poor plan to have the teachers scattered around in five different buildings, but as you are all, I feel sure, convinced of the truth of what I have stated, I will simply ask you to take up this question with a view of supplying at an early date that which your town so much requires, namely, good accommodation for all the school children."

For 1893 all the old staff were re-engaged excepting Miss Delmage, who declined, Miss Mary Malcolm taking her place at a salary of \$200. The membership of the board remained unchanged until the death of Mr. M. J. Beam. On July 6th, a resolution of regret at the loss to the board and of sympathy with the bereaved family was passed and forwarded to Mrs. Beam. At the October meeting Mr. Joseph Deavers took his place at the board for the balance of his term.

The Oddfellow's Hall having proved unsatisfactory as a classroom was given up at midsummer and the pupils distributed among the other rooms. In consequence of thus cutting down the number of class rooms to nine, Miss Malcolm's services were no longer required. A return to the half yearly system of promotion examinations was decided on and promotion examinations accordingly conducted at Christmas and midsummer. Mr. J. N. Gray was granted the use of a class room at the Central for an evening drawing class on the usual conditions of arranging for heating, lighting, and caretaking.

At the November meeting all the teachers were re-engaged excepting Miss Black, who retired, Miss C. B. Delmage taking her place. Mr. Laird, however, informed the board that he wished to retire at the end of the year. His resignation was accepted and his faithful and efficient services as principal for over ten years were acknowledged by the board in a most complimentary resolution of appreciation.

On Nov. 26th out of some twenty-six applications for the position of principal the board selected that of Mr. W. D. Spence and

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 Kuen 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-

caney. Mr. W. W. Haines acted as chairman for the years 1898 and 1899.

On May 5th, 1898, following the death of Mr. William Alexander Mr. William Irwin received his appointment as inspector of St. Marys schools, a position which he still ably fills. The decease of Mr. Alexander removed an able and efficient officer who nearly twenty-five years previously received his first appointment as inspector in St. Marys, and who, during his long tenure of office constantly strove to impress on teachers and trustees that the physical, mental, and moral needs of the children were matters of first importance in the management of school affairs.

Inspector Irwin had occasion early in his term of office to criticize the schools. In his report dated June 23rd he included the following comment, "The inside of the rooms and the surroundings outside are not in keeping with many of the homes from which the pupils come. There is a bareness and want of cheerfulness about some of the rooms that has a depressing effect upon both pupils and teachers. This I think is a mistake." The board this year resolved to mitigate, if possible, some of the defects in ventilation and to this end employed Architect Powell who furnished a plan for a system of ventilation. This was adopted and the suggested changes made in the Central and West Ward schools at a total cost of about \$1400. In August another lot adjoining the West Ward school grounds was purchased at a cost of \$55.00.

For the following year 1899 all the teachers were re-engaged, the principal's salary being \$750 and the assistants' salaries ranging from \$250 to \$325. On the trustees board Mr. James Laing succeeded Mr. E. W. Harding as representative of the West Ward. Mr. Harding's retirement after twenty-five years of continuous membership was made, the subject of a kind resolution in which the board expressed its regret that he should find it necessary to withdraw, and also their appreciation of the very great interest he had taken in all the various problems that had confronted the board during his long term of membership. Mr. Harding was then appointed their representative on the collegiate institute board for 1899.

The inspector's report for April 1899 contained the recommendation that music be taught in the schools and also a complaint that the heating of the Central school was very imperfect. No action was taken with regard to the teaching of music, but to properly heat the Central new furnaces were installed at a cost of \$350.

CHAPTER X.

Some Heavy Annual Expenditures.

At the close of 1899 M^{rs} M. P. Barbour resigned and was succeeded by Mr. P. Harding. M^{rs} Thompson was granted leave of absence to attend the Normal and Miss M. Gillies was appointed to the vacancy during her absence. All the other teachers were re-engaged. For the following years 1900 and 1901 Mr. A. H. Lofft occupied the chair at the trustee board.

The amount levied on the town for public school purposes in 1899 was \$4100. The leg's'ative grant, including grant for inspection

was \$416. The receipts from the attached portion, including the legislative grant were \$159.55. Of the expenditure, \$464.92 was expended for fuel, \$100 for rent, and \$811.50 for repairs. The average attendance for March was 377 and the enrollment 457. For Sept., the numbers were 400 and 446 respectively.

Empire Day in 1900 was made an occasion of considerable display. The children assembled at the Central school and marched to the Town Hall where patriotic addresses were delivered and songs and recitations contributed by the pupils.

A schedule of salaries ranging from \$225 to \$325 according to qualifications and length of experience, was adopted by the board for the assistant teachers.

An effort was made to minimize the evils of the examination system, the teachers being ordered to give a test every Monday morning and to record the results for consultation at the close of the term.

The trustee board for 1901 consisted of Mr. A. H. Lofft, chairman; and Messrs. T. D. Stanley, Wm. Webster, W. W. Haines, John Howard, and Joseph Longthorne. The teaching staff continued unchanged except that Miss Gillies supplied during Miss Box's absence at Normal. Miss Thompson resigned, however, about the middle of March and Miss C. Waring was engaged to succeed her. At mid-summer Mr. P. Harding resigned and Miss Gillies and Miss Box were added to the permanent staff. In the autumn all were re-engaged for 1902.

In March 1901 compulsory vaccination was ordered and thoroughly enforced by the board on the recommendation of the board of health.

On June 21st 1901 Trustee William Webster resigned and in the election following Mr. D. Maxwell was returned in his place. The board as thus constituted continued unchanged during 1902. Mr. T. D. Stanley succeeded to the chair in 1902 and remained in that position until the close of 1904.

One of the first acts of the trustees in 1902 was to pass a resolution of sympathy with the relatives of their deceased treasurer, Mr. E. Long, who for fifty years or more had served in that capacity. His daughter, Miss E. Long, who for some years had acted as his assistant, was appointed to the vacancy on Feb. 6th and still continues to acceptably fill that office.

According to the auditors' report for 1901 the town received a government grant, including the inspector's allowance, of \$424, and raised by direct levy \$3,800. From the Township of Blanshard for the attached portion \$197.60 was received. Of the expenditure fuel totalled \$333.43; rent \$100; repairs and supplies \$289.42. A new schedule of salaries was drawn up by which holders of model school certificates received from \$225 to \$275 a year and normal graduates from \$312 to \$348.

The school board for 1903 was composed of Mr. T. D. Stanley, chairman; and Messrs. A. H. Lofft, D. Maxwell, J. G. Longthorne, R. B. Gill, and T. B. Bennett. Dr. C. F. Smith was appointed representative on the collegiate institute board.

In the summer of 1903 the Dormer property adjoining the Central school grounds was, after some negotiation, purchased for \$2500. The grounds purchased were added to the Central school

playgrounds and the house, by removing the partitions and ceiling, was converted into a schoolroom. This additional room was opened after the holidays, thus requiring an additional teacher.

The former practice of engaging teachers at Christmas was in 1903 changed and all teachers' engagements were made to terminate at midsummer. This year Miss B. Irvine retired and Miss A. Wilson who had been a faithful and efficient teacher was granted a year's leave of absence on account of ill-health. Miss Wilson did not, however, avail herself of the privilege of returning at the expiration of that period. To fill the vacancies and supply the new room, Miss O. Sparling, Miss F. Webster, and Mrs. Atkinson were engaged.

In 1904 the town was sub-divided into four wards instead of three as formerly and Messrs. John Ready and R. Treacy became representatives of the newly constituted East Ward. In the South Ward Mr. Maxwell retired and was succeeded by Dr. Hotham, who retired in May and Mr. W. W. Haines was returned in his place.

There were 443 names in the registers in January 1904 with an average attendance of 343. In April the numbers were 472 and 418. In 1903 according to the auditors' report the town raised by levy \$4500, and received a government grant, including grant for inspection, of \$418.50. From the attached portion a total of \$194.85 was obtained. Fuel in that year cost \$533.87; rent \$100, and supplies and repairs totalled \$789.16. In July the schedule of salaries was again re-adjusted. Holders of model certificates received from \$250 to \$300, and Normal graduates from \$324 to \$432. Mr. Spence was re-engaged at a salary of \$900. The assistants this year were; Misses L. F. Ingersoll, F. Webster, S. G. Box, M. Roberts, O. Sparling, L. Huston, E. G. Mitchell, Mrs. Atkinson, and Mrs. Southcombe. The inspector in his report complained that some of the rooms were poorly heated.

At the close of 1904 Mr. T. D. Stanley, who had been for 16 consecutive years a member, and for five years chairman of the board, retired. Mr. R. Treacy also withdrew and Messrs. R. W. Dillon and T. Gordon were elected to the vacancies. Mr. T. B. Bennett was appointed to the chair. On Sept. 20th Mr. Dillon resigned his seat and was succeeded by Mr. H. H. Stevenson.

In 1904 the town raised by levy \$5,000, and received a government grant of \$418. From the attached portion, including the government grant \$195.00 was received. The fuel bill was \$669.45; rent \$100.00, repairs \$269.84.

CHAPTER XI.

The New School Agitation.

On March 2nd, 1905, a committee was appointed to again take up the question of a new school. This committee reported on the cost of maintenance for the preceding four years, but eventually the project was, like so many previous efforts, abandoned. On May 25th 1905 Inspector Irwin had the following comment to make regarding St. Marys Public schools: "The church school is an old building, with a leaky roof and badly fitted windows, hard to heat, with no ventilation except from windows and very uncomfortable in winter. It is situated too close to the London branch of the G.T.R. and I am surprised that there has been no protest against using this as

a schoolroom for primary pupils." With regard to the West Ward school he said; "The ventilation is poor, the approach from one side is by a steep and dangerous slope. The building itself is in a very good state of repair and will last for a hundred years at least. The grounds are bleak and dreary in winter, and hot and parched and uninviting in summer and the only ornaments are the two closets and the old woodshed." As to the Dormer building it is dismissed with the following terse sentence, "The Dormer building is merely a temporary makeshift." The Central came in for a lengthy comment, in which the difficulty of properly heating the classrooms, and also the poor layout were emphasized. And his report closes with the following generalizations; "The school buildings certainly are not buildings in which the citizens of this sold town take any pride. No one would ever thinking of asking a stranger to visit them.

"The environment of children exerts a formative influence upon their plastic minds. In this respect the children of this town suffer during the hours spent in and around the schools."

At midsummer 1905 Mrs. Southcombe, Miss Sparling and Miss Huston resigned and Miss Mitchell was granted one year's leave of absence on account of illness. To fill the vacancies Miss L. McVannell, Miss E. Hobbs, Miss B. J. Hamilton and Miss C. Waring were engaged. At the close of the year Miss Roberts withdrew and was succeeded by Mrs. Neelands. On January 24th Miss McVannell having secured a more advantageous position, resigned and Miss D. J. Cook was secured to complete her term. At midsummer Miss B. Irvine was engaged to take this room. All the other teachers were re-engaged. The salaries of the assistants varied from \$325 to \$450 and the principal received \$950.

The only change in the membership of the trustee board for 1906 was caused by the retirement of Mr. A. H. Lofft who for eight years had been the efficient representative of the North Ward. Mr. Joseph Patterson succeeded him.

The auditors' reported that in 1905 the town raised by levy for public school purposes \$5200, and received a government grant of \$368. From the attached portion \$190.70 was received. There was spent for fuel \$365.; on rent \$100, on repairs and supplies \$289.26. The school registers showed an enrollment and an average attendance, respectively, of 418 and 364 for January 1906; of 427 and 390 for May, and 408 and 363 for September.

The board again took up the question of better school accommodation and instructed a committee to get plans and make enquiries as to the possibility of enlarging the present Central school before taking up the question of building a new school. This committee after considerable investigation allowed the proposal to drop.

On Nov. 1st 1906, Miss Hobbs resigned her position on the staff, and closed her work on Nov. 30th. Her class was distributed among the other rooms and the stone church school on Queen street was abandoned, thus bringing the number of schoolrooms down to nine. At the close of the year Mr. Spence asked three months' leave of absence which was granted and at the expiration of that time the leave was renewed until midsummer. During the first three months Mr. Peter Gowans was engaged as supply and during the second 3 months Miss K. Rice B.A. At midsummer all the regular teachers were offered re-en-

gement, but Miss Ingersoll, on request, was granted one year's leave of absence, but did not return to the staff until the end of 1909. Miss E. G. Mitchell who had been granted leave of absence in 1905 returned to the staff at midsummer 1907.

The auditors' report for 1906 showed the receipts to be \$5,000 raised by levy, \$411 in government grants, and \$192.55 from the attached portion of Blanshard township. The expenditure included \$400 for fuel, nearly \$400 for repairs and supplies and \$100 for rent.

The Trustee Board of 1907 was composed of Messrs. W. W. Haines, J. G. Longthorne, J. Patterson, T. B. Bennett, J. Ready, T. Gordon, W. H. Tovell and Dr. Stanley. Mr. J. Ready was appointed to the chair and continued in that position during 1907 and 1908.

Mr. Spence resumed his work at the beginning of the autumn term but soon decided to retire from the teaching profession, and on Oct. 1st, 1907, he put in his resignation, which was accepted, and on Oct. 8th he was released from his duties. The following day the board met and in a list of thirty applications for the vacant principalship that of Mr. D. G. Anderson of Atwood was accepted at a salary of \$700, and on Oct. 21st, 1907, he began his work in St. Marys and he has proven himself to be one of the most efficient principals that has ever occupied that position in St. Marys. On Oct. 31st Mrs. Neelands, having secured a position in the Consolidated School at Guelph, was released from her engagement and was succeeded by Miss M. Gordon. On Jan. 7th, 1908, Miss Cox resigned on account of ill-health and Miss L. E. Abbott was secured to complete her term.

The receipts from town rates in 1907 were \$5,200, from government grants \$435, and from the attached portion \$174.70. The expenditures included \$442.06 for fuel, \$50.00 for rent, and \$726.84 for repairs, supplies and some miscellaneous items.

On the Trustee Board of 1908, Mr. W. H. May replaced Mr. J. Patterson as representative of the North Ward. On March 5th the new school question was again raised, and a resolution was passed recounting the many objections to continuing the present very unsatisfactory arrangement. A committee was appointed to report on the feasibility and probable cost of a new school building. Inspector Irwin in his report of April 14th 1908, again emphasized his disapproval of the conditions prevailing, as may be seen from the following extract: "The school accommodations here are very inferior, indeed, and not at all in keeping with the standing and importance of the town. In many of the rooms the ventilation is bad, the scattered school's render it difficult for the principal to exercise proper supervision over the various departments. The time has surely arrived for the board to proceed with the erecting of a commodious Central school." Again in his report of Nov. 16th, 1908, he said, "The heating and ventilation in the different rooms are very unsatisfactory. Either a new Central school will have to be erected or extensive and expensive improvements made in the old building."

In the summer of 1908, the Lock-up building was sold and subsequently torn down. This building, built originally as a town hall, fire hall and police station, had been used for school purposes, excepting for comparatively short intervals, ever since its erection in 1855. To accommodate the pupils who attended there the stone school on Queen street was again secured and utilized as a classroom,

after having been abandoned a year and a half previously.

The town raised by levy in 1908, for school purposes \$5,000; from government grants \$550 was received, and \$170 from the attached portion of the Township of Blanshard. \$471.25 was spent for fuel, \$333.34 for rent and \$592.00 for repairs, supplies and miscellaneous expenditures. There was no change in the membership of the trustee board for 1909, and Dr. J. R. Stanley was appointed chairman.

On June 28th 1909 the ratepayers were asked to vote on a by-law to raise \$40,000 to construct a new school. The by-law was defeated and in order to relieve the overcrowding the board with considerable difficulty secured a room in the rear of the Willard block on Wellington street and it was converted into a schoolroom. In spite of its unfavorable situation and lack of playgrounds the board find it necessary to continue its use. This room was opened Nov. 28th, 1909, with Miss L. Ingersoll in charge.

In 1909, after repeated recommendations by the inspector, a course of art and construction work was introduced into the schools with very favorable results. The auditors' report for 1909 showed receipts of \$5,500 from the school levy, \$494.75, including \$45.00 for inspection, from legislative grants, and \$155.80 from the attached portion. The disbursements included \$447.36 for fuel, \$100 for rent, \$531.25 for repairs and miscellaneous expenditure, and \$200 spent in re-seating the principal's room. It will be noted that since 1906 owing to a change in the law no legislative grant has been received for the attached portion of the Township of Blanshard. The total enrollment in the various rooms in March 1909 was 442, with an average attendance of 370, and for April the figures were 445 and 380.

CHAPTER XII.

Present Conditions.

The following is the teaching staff for the current school year of 1909-10, Mr. D. G. Anderson, principal at a salary of \$900; Misses F. Webster, and L. F. Ingersoll at \$475; Miss E. G. Mitchell and Mrs. Atkinson at \$450; Misses B. J. Hamilton, M. Gordon, C. Waring and B. Irvine at \$425 and Miss M. McCamus at \$400. On Jan. 1st, 1910 Mr. H. E. Illingworth, A.R.C.O. began the teaching of vocal music in the schools, thus carrying out a recommendation that successive inspectors had been urging for over 20 years. Mr. Illingworth's salary is \$250 a year, and each room receives one lesson per week.

The present board of public school trustees is composed of Dr. J. R. Stanley, chairman; and Messrs. W. H. May, J. Ready, T. B. Bennett, W. W. Haines, T. Gordon, W. H. Tovell and R. J. Teskey. Mr. A. Carman is secretary, and Miss M. E. Long, treasurer. Messrs. B. F. Lancaster and R. S. Graham are auditors. Mrs. Smith is caretaker in the West Ward schools and Mr. D. Ross has all the others under his charge. Mr. William Irwin, B.A., is inspector and is also one of the inspectors for the County of Perth.

Of the various school buildings a little might be said. The Central is a substantial stone, two-storey building, without a basement excepting a little excavation done with difficulty in order to make room for two hot air furnaces. The school is badly laid out the rooms being of very inconvenient shapes. The light is supplied by windows for the most part on three sides of the rooms, and con-

sequently annoying and injurious cross lights are the rule. The ventilation is provided by a variation of the Smead-Dowd system and like all gravity systems is of very unequal efficiency. The ceilings are of a most unusual height and so add to the difficulties of heating and ventilation. There are no playrooms, teachers private rooms, nor cloak rooms and in this, as in all the other buildings, the sanitary conveniences are without the building and are of the most crude character. Outside, the building is bare and uninviting and in need of extensive repairs. The grounds at the Central are fairly commodious or will be when properly levelled, but the old Dormer building, standing as it does in the middle of the grounds, seriously encroaches on the play space.

The Dormer building just spoken of is a single room, built of stone with a ceiling about 20 feet in height and heated by a stove. It was only intended as a makeshift and can never be anything else. There are, of course, no playrooms or cloak rooms and a little frame addition at the rear serves as a porch to its only door and also as a coalshed.

The West Ward building is also of stone and contains three rooms, which like those at the Central, are lighted from three sides and present the same objectionable features. The ceilings are of an unnecessary height and the rooms consequently difficult to heat. Owing to the difficulties of excavating, furnaces have never been placed in this school and stoves still serve to unequally and inadequately heat the different rooms. Ventilation is almost entirely dependent on the opening of windows with its attendant annoyances and dangers. Outside the building is plain and without ornament. The grounds are exposed to cold winds in winter and are dry and parched in summer and owing to their hilly nature the playing of field games is impossible.

The stone school at the corner of Queen and James streets is a single room building built in 1845 and abandoned as unsuitable for school purposes on at least two occasions, but, owing to the difficulty in securing accommodation, still of necessity used as a school room. It is long and narrow, with high church-like ceiling, lighted from both sides and so difficult to heat that in cold weather two stoves are employed. There are practically no playgrounds and moreover it is situated at the corner of two busy streets and quite close to the railway depot.

The Willard building is a comfortable room, of inconvenient shape situated in the rear of a Wellington street block and approached by a narrow alley. There are only a few square feet of playground and no grass. At best it is a crude makeshift. It, like the stone church school, is a rented building.

A glance at the amounts spent yearly for fuel, repairs and rent should be sufficient to impress anyone with the waste of the present system. For seven years fuel has averaged over \$500 per year, and is yearly increasing. Rental including tax remission totals at least \$250, while repairs that would be largely avoided in good buildings have for the past ten years averaged \$425 per year. Various other items of expense that could be saved might be enumerated.

One of the pleasing features of the development of the towns springing up throughout the Canadian West is the provision made for the education of the children. Churches wait, pavements wait, other civic improvements wait until schools are well provided for. Moreover the schools they build are commodious, expensive, and thor-

oughly up-to-date, Calgary though a young city has already provided eight or ten large stone schools of a thoroughly modern character, and the expensive churches, pavements and other improvements are following. This would appear to be the proper order of procedure but in St. Marys the churches are models of excellence, the town hall is a very creditable civic building, the stores are excellent, sidewalks are coming, macadamized roads prevail on many streets while the schools are scattered, disjointed, out-of-date structures that have served their day and generation and should now be succeeded by a modern structure somewhat in keeping with the character of the other public buildings. Taken altogether it is not creditable to a town of the wealth and importance of St. Marys that their schools are of such an unsuitable character. Successive inspectors have complained in no unmistakable language that the school buildings are quite out-of-date and that the numerous Ward rooms render efficiency impossible. Successive principals for forty years have spoken of the difficulties of supervision and of the injurious effects on teachers and pupils of poor heating and bad ventilation. Successive boards have from time to time for many years recognized the evils and sought remedies. The great obstacle that has always paralyzed their efforts has been the sectionalism displayed by the various Wards preventing a united effort to secure a commodious modern building in place of the present scattered, inefficient Ward rooms with their crude and primitive equipment.

Still on it creeps,
Each little moment at another's heels,
Till hours, days, years, and ages are made up
Of such small parts as these, and men look back
Worn and bewildered, wondering how it is,
Thou trav'lest like a ship in the wide ocean,
Which hath no bounding shore to mark its progress.

* * *

Mr. Bonis, father of ex-Warden Bonis, taught in the little stone school on Queen St. in the years 1854 and 1855, and leaving before the close of the year a Mr. Wright completed his term. His sister, Miss Bonis, taught in the Central school on its opening day, March 1st, 1858.