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Abstract

Apart from the oldest members of the community the term 'School Board' has relatively little meaning to the vast majority of us. Yet the evidence left by such Boards is still with us. It is usually in the form of schools, very many of which are still in use and which are characterised by their distinctive, if somewhat drab, Victorian architecture. In my own home area, the terms 'low board' and 'high board' are still used, by pupils past and present, to describe two Schools without any awareness as to where these terms originated or what they mean. Yet the School Boards, established by the Education Act of 1870, represent one of the most significant developments in the pattern of education which has emerged within this country during the last 100 years. The origin of our acceptance today of the duty of government to provide for our education can be traced back this short distance in time. School Boards represent the first organised, if somewhat limited, attempt on the part of government to carry out this duty.

Much is known about the efforts of the largest boards, such as those in London and Birmingham, but the work of the smaller boards tends to be obscured by their larger neighbours. The Heworth School Board represents an example of one such smaller body which became of great significance to the area which it served. The accompanying thesis is an attempt to show the problems and achievements of such a smaller board - how it was organised and developed over the years, its relationship with the voluntary education bodies which preceeded and were complementary to the board, its normal day to day affairs, including problems of attendance and finance, the type of education provided, how it was organised and its success or otherwise, and the circumstances leading to its end. Further, it is hoped that some insight will be gained as to the character of the period, particularly the conditions of life at that time which are worth comparing with those that exist today.

The Work of the Heworth School Board 1875 - 1903

Donald Spencelayh

Master of Education Degree

October 1968

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INTRODUCTION

The Education Act of 1870 represents one of the great landmarks in the development of a national system of education in this country. Until the passing of this Act, there was no direct State provision of educational facilities in the country. Prior to 1870, education had solely been in the hands of the voluntary bodies, both secular and non-secular. The State gave some aid to these bodies, particularly in the form of grants for school building, and also inspected these schools as to their efficiency. However, a government enquiry in 1869 into the provision of educational facilities in the industrial areas of the north, revealed that these areas were devoid of adequate provision. Impressive though the efforts of local benevolence had been, the voluntary system of education had provided for little more than half the estimated educational requirements and, moreover, the existing schools were not uniformly distributed. Many of the buildings were found to be unsatisfactory and the attendance very low and irregular.

In 1867, the second Reform Act had been passed. Fired by the need for improving the lot of the growing numbers of the poor, politicians were now more disposed for some measure of national education, even if at a low level. The masses has to be educated if they were to be kept independent and relatively happy. At the same time it was becoming increasingly apparent that other countries in Europe were leaving Britain behind in the field of technical education. If we were to catch up, then there was a general need for a groundwork of elementary education.

There were a number of alternatives in dealing with the existing situation. The government could plan as if there were no educational provision at all and build a state system disregarding the existing schools. Only the liberal extremists were prepared to adopt this policy. An alternative was to check the further development of the voluntary provision and ensure that further development would be of a state system. This was the policy favoured by the Nonconformists and the bulk of the Liberal Party. Another alternative was to

encourage the existing provision of voluntary schools to do as much as possible to meet the existing and future needs, and where inadequacies still existed, the government could step in to fill up the gaps.

The last alternative had the advantage, as far as the government was concerned, of maintaining the existing schools and keeping the cost of providing new schools within reasonable limits. Therefore the Education Bill of 1870, introduced by W. E. Forster, the Vice-President of the Education Department at the time, was based on this concept. It represented a compromise between a voluntary system and a complete state system and as such, was criticised by supporters of both these viewpoints. Forster proposed to build schools in areas where educational provision was found to be inadequate. In districts where such a deficiency was proved, a year was to be allowed to the voluntary institutions to supply the need. If voluntary effort proved insufficient, then School Boards were to be set up to fill the gap and to act as local authorities responsible for the educational provision of their 'school district.' Their function was to establish and maintain Board Schools where necessary and to levy a local rate to help meet the costs involved. The Education Department were to lay down rules to which the School Boards were obliged to conform and certain powers were given them over and above those of establishing and maintaining their schools. All Board schools were to be conducted subject to the usual conditions of public elementary schools. The use of any catechism or distinctive religious formulary was to be forbidden, but the School Boards could determine the form of religious instruction to be given in their schools, subject to the provision of a Conscience Clause. The Boards were to be given power to make bye laws for the compulsory attendance of children between the ages of five and thirteen years and to charge school fees on a scale approved by the Education Department. Where poverty prevented a parent from paying the full school fee, a School Board could, with sanction from the Education Department, remit the whole

or part of the fee for certain periods. A similar power was to be given in the case of denominational schools where School Boards could pay the fees to the managers of a voluntary school. This provision of the 25th Clause of the proposed Act was subject to bitter national controversy and was eventually repealed in 1876. The Education Bill received the Royal Assent on 9th August, 1870.

In spite of the disappointment of the Nonconformists and the National Education League, whose members fought for free, compulsory education on non-sectarian lines, the Education Act of 1870 was a notable achievement. There was no general liking for secular schools; compulsory education could not be enforced until sufficient schools were provided and free education would have meant the withdrawal of the largest source of income to the schools, necessitating a sudden and unpopular charge upon the ratepayers. At the same time, the foundations of a national system of education were being laid. The School Boards were the first step in this development and provided the machinery for a great revolution in the nation's educational conditions.

The parish district of Heworth became one of the areas where it was found that existing educational provision was inadequate. Therefore, a School Board was elected there in September, 1875. It was probably typical of many of the smaller, poorer areas where the new School Boards were established, although as will be seen, its educational achievements were far from ordinary. Lying on the south side of the river Tyne, the parish itself had not come into being until February, 1843. It had formerly been part of the Parish of Jarrow but an Order in Council created the new parish at Heworth on the 24th of that month. At the same time, the Chapelry District of St. Albans was created at Windy Nook, and these two districts became the area which was to be served by the Heworth School Board.

It was not a large district, its total area being a little over 2,800 acres.[1] It was made up of a number of separate villages and hamlets, very unlike the closely built-up urban landscape which is seen in the area today. The principal settlements were the villages of Heworth, Felling and Windy Nook. Low Heworth lay in the approximate centre of the parish around the church of St. Mary and extended north towards the Tyne as Heworth Shore. Southwards, towards the higher points of the district, lay High Heworth, a small hamlet lying about half a mile from Low Heworth and attached to it by a narrow country lane. The most densely populated parts of the district lay to the west. Felling was really two villages - Low and High Felling - separated by the main Newcastle - Sunderland Road and the North Eastern Railway line. Low Felling lay to the north and extended to the banks of the Tyne as Felling Shore. High Felling occupied a ridge of higher land further south, but had gradually spread north on either side of what was now High Street, to join up with Low Felling. This area represented the greatest concentration of population within the district and about a third of a mile south of High Felling, on higher ground still, was the village of Windy Nook. Elsewhere population was very sparse and was mainly concentrated in the north-east and east of the district at the hamlets of Bill Quay on the banks of the Tyne, and Wardley.

At the turn of the nineteenth century the total population was 2,887 but by the middle of the century it had risen to 8,869.[2] Population continued to expand until by 1901, it had reached the figure of 24,331. Although rural in appearance, the parish was essentially industrial in character, and a variety of industries provided employment for the majority of the population. Like so much of south Tyneside, Heworth's staple industries were coalmining,

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(1) Appendix XVIII.

(2) Victoria History of the County of Durham Vol. 2 (1907) p. 263

quarrying and manufacturing of various types. Wardley and High Heworth had in fact grown around coal mines at these points. Quarries were liberally sprinkled throughout the district, there being about forty in the 1830's, mostly to the south west of the area. Manufacturing was largely confined to the immediate vicinity of the river Tyne where apart from the large Chemical Works at Felling Shore, there were a number of alkali factories and industries concerned with shipbuilding, glass and bottle-making, copper manufacturing, pottery and tile-making, lamp black and other smaller concerns. These were the activities which supported the mass of the population but which were never able to give it more than a low standard of living throughout the nineteenth century. It was in such an area that the Heworth School Board began its work.

VOLUNTARY INITIATIVE IN HEWORTH PRIOR TO THE SETTING UP OF THE SCHOOL BOARD

The Situation Prior to 1870

Heworth, as with all other parts of the country, depended upon voluntary initiative for its educational provision. Undoubtedly, the provision was inadequate for by their very nature voluntary organisations, especially those attempting to serve poor areas such as Heworth, suffered from a shortage of money. Even the provision of government grants after 1833 could not solve this problem. Therefore, we find that in Heworth, as in so many other places, no adequate system of education was available.

Those schools that did exist were provided by the usual voluntary bodies, namely the various religious denominations. These strove manfully, but with decreasing success, to cater for the educational as well as the spiritual needs of their parishioners. Apart from that provided by the churches, educational needs were occasionally supplied from other sources. Heworth was particularly fortunate in having certain prominent local business men who, though their liberal outlook and desire to help the community in which they lived and worked, attempted to provide some form of education for at least a few of the general masses. It may be said that these philanthropists and the church bodies had the highest of motives in creating their various educational establishments. However, one can recognise a third category of voluntary effort where the motive was more selfish, that is private educational establishments set up by various individuals for profit.

The latter group of educational establishments provided without doubt the least efficient education and is certainly the most difficult to trace for little evidence of its existence now remains. The most common of this category were the so called 'kitchen' or 'dame' schools run by individuals in their own homes and catering for only a handful of children of varying ages. It seems almost certain that the individuals controlling these schools were poorly educated themselves and the educational value of such places would be virtually nil. At most, these 'schools' would be places

where young children were kept out of harms way while poor parents could earn an income. As far as can be ascertained, this was the only form of educational establishment in Heworth before 1815, apart from such instruction that formed part of the daily pattern at the local poor house.

Such institutions still existed and apparently flourished in the second half of the nineteenth century in Heworth, for as late as 1869, three such schools are mentioned by the headmistress of the Felling Chemical Works Girls School.(1) It may be that some of these places were of a very temporary nature and catered for only parts of the year, as for example, the summer holidays of the larger establishments or during the winter months when parents were reluctant to send their children long distances to school in stormy weather. However, many of them were of a more permanent nature and as we shall see, were in direct competition with the better established schools.

Not all of the voluntary schools established for private profit were necessarily 'dame' schools as defined above, for it seems certain that there were some private adventure schools set up to cater for larger groups of children than were normally found in 'dame' schools. Such schools certainly existed after 1870 and it seems reasonable to assume that they may have existed before that year. The aims of such schools were severely limited to at most the three R's and it is doubtful whether instruction in these subjects was carried out with any efficiency. However, one such private establishment which existed well before 1870 and which certainly had higher aims than mere elementary education was Crow Hall Academy.

The earliest reference to this establishment appeared in a newspaper advertisement for August, 1839, which stated that a

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(1) Log Book, Felling Chemical Works Girls School, October, 1869 p. 17

William Grieve "in consequence of the rapid increase of his school," had moved to the "beautiful and commodious mansion at Crow Hall."(1) An advertisement of the same year informs us that the Academy was conducted by Mr. William Grieve of Trinity College, Dublin and able assistants. The prospectus of the school described Crow Hall as a "fine old mansion containing every requisite to domestic comfort situated near the Sunderland Road, three miles from Newcastle on Tyne and about a quarter of a mile from the railway station."(2) It also commanded an extensive view of the Tyne and the neighbouring villages. The pupils had a fine large playground "secluded from every other connection than that of their school fellows" and "the treatment" was of the most liberal kind.(3) Last, but by no means least, comes the assurance that in Mr. Grieves establishment, there was no corporal punishment.

The scholars attending the academy were drawn from middle class families spread over a fairly wide area, certainly well beyond the boundaries of the parish and including such places as Seghill, Newcastle, North Shields and South Shields. Much more than the three R's were taught for Grieve, in his prospectus, emphasised the need for his establishment to try to fit his pupils for the pursuits of commerce, agriculture, the study of the law and physics. A knowledge of their mother tongue and the ability to write a good commercial hand "with strength, ease, beauty and expedition" he held to be requisite, while even "the ornamental branches of penmanship" had not to be neglected. In addition, land surveying, "useful to the landowner, agriculturalist and country gentleman" was taught as well as Geography and Astronomy.(4) Mathematics and the classical languages occupied a prominent place in the curriculum

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(1) The Gateshead Observer, 21st August, 1839.

(2) Prospectus of the System of Education pursued in Mr. William Grieves Establishment, Crow Hall, Heworth, 1842, p. 10.

(3) Ibid. p. 10.

(4) Ibid. p. 7.

Crow Hall in the mid-19th century

of the school and if a pupil wished to learn a modern language, he had the opportunity of taking French at an extra guinea per quarter. Other extras were drawing, dancing and music, while the physical fitness of the scholars was attended to by a drill sergeant. The cost for board and tuition at the Academy varied according to the age of the pupil. The younger pupils under the age of fourteen years paid £55 per annum, while those above this age paid a smaller sum of £40. Each pupil was expected to bring five towels, a pair of sheets, a knife, a fork and a spoon and his washing, counted as an extra, cost him ten shillings.(1)

How long Grieve kept the Academy at Crow Hall is uncertain, but he was certainly gone by 1850 when a new tenant had taken residence. Despite its short history however, the Academy deserves attention as a voluntary educational establishment unique in Heworth. It provided a form and range of education which was not seen again in Heworth even after the establishment of the Heworth School Board.

The bulk of the education available in Heworth was not however provided by private adventure establishments. The part they played before 1870 was quite insignificant when compared with the efforts of other voluntary bodies. Undoubtedly, it was the local religious groups, of various denominations, which bore the brunt of this effort.

The Church of England, catering for the largest group of inhabitants in the parish, established the earliest of the church schools. This was St. Mary's Church School at Low Heworth. St. Mary's origins go back to 1815 when the school rooms were built. Whether in fact this was the first parochial school is doubtful, for an old headmaster at the school, J. G. Major, writing in a local newspaper, refers to the commencing of a parochial school at 'Nether Heworth' in 1750, which was supported by the inhabitants of Jarrow, Heworth being then part of the Ecclesiastical district of

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(1) Appendix I.

Jarrow - on - Tyne.[1] However, it would appear that this school had fallen into disuse by the turn of the century and there is no evidence of any similar school in existence until 1815.

The erection of St. Mary's school in that year may be attributed to two reasons. First in 1812, an explosion took place at Felling Colliery in which over ninety persons were killed, many of them being children of under ten years of age (a monument to their memory still stands in St. Mary's churchyard). It is possible that the conscience of the inhabitants was aroused by the terrible tragedy, giving rise to the awakening of the idea of a school for such young people. Secondly, and perhaps most important, the vicar at Heworth St. Mary's during this period was the Reverend John Hodgson, himself formerly a school teacher until his ordination in 1804.[2] Coming from the lower classes, he was acutely aware of the need for education and promoted schemes to improve the educational facilities for his parishioners. One such scheme was the agreement between himself and the governors of "the new parish school" in Gateshead to provide "such children of the chapelry who cared to attend, with the same instruction as was imparted to their own."[3] This certainly indicates the lack of a parish school at Heworth but Hodgson's efforts do not appear to have been particularly successful. In 1811, the first year of his scheme, only twenty nine students took advantage (eighteen children and eleven adults), probably because of the distance involved in getting to the Gateshead school. In the three succeeding years, the sum of £5 per annum was sufficient to cover the school charges. Despite the apparent apathy to his scheme, it was undoubtedly Hodgson's propoganda, together with the Felling disaster, that resulted in the building of the school at Low Heworth at a cost of about £250, the sum being raised by public subscription.

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(1) Newcastle Weekly Chronicle, 24th October, 1894.

(2) C. C. Taylor, The Church of St. Mary, Heworth, p.101.

(3) Ibid. p. 102.

In style it was a simple two-storey building situated on a hill overlooking Heworth Dene.(1) In its earliest days it consisted of a schoolroom for boys and another for girls on the ground floor, with three rooms for the accommodation of the staff on the floor above. In later years, when more room was needed, the upper floor was used also by removing the partitions between the separate rooms. Each floor was lighted by three windows on both the north and south sides "with huge chimneys on the gables for heating and round ovens for the heating of food for children from far distances."(2) Most of the furniture installed was made locally by voluntary labour. An inscription over the main entrance read: "Wisdom is better than rubies and all things that may be desired are not to be compared with it."

An open meeting was held in December, 1815 when rules were laid down to regulate the conduct of the school. Students "desirous of instruction in the several arts of Reading, Writing and Cyphering would be admitted on the payment of a weekly sum, (probably between 1d. and 3d. per week), intending pupils to provide their own requisites."(3) Those who "desired religious instruction in the articles of their belief and the Holy Scriptures" could obtain this without extra cost on each day of the week.(4) Further, the institution was not to lend itself to purposes "inconsistent with the highest interests of the Holy Catholic Church and His Brittanic Majesty's Government."(5)

In fact a great deal of time was given each day to the teaching of the principles of the Church of England, especially during the time of a later vicar, the Reverend Matthew Plummer, who actively encouraged this. As well as the three R's, geography, algebra and

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(1) Appendix XIX.

(2) C. C. Taylor, The Church of St. Mary, Heworth, p.104.

(3) Ibid. p.105

(4) Ibid. p.106

(5) Ibid. p.106

history formed part of the weekly timetable. Certainly in the early years there was no attempt to organise the children into standards, "though each child was pushed as far as his or her capabilities went."(1) One pupil, Matthew Reay, was later to become vice-chairman of the Heworth School Board.

The early school masters also carried out the duties of tithe collector, parish clerk, shop keeper and postman and the first to be appointed was John Thornhill. A later holder of these posts was Henry Waters who eventually left and rose to the position of Archdeacon of the Church of England in South Africa. It is interesting to note that while he was master (his mother and sister acted as mistresses in the school) Waters received instruction in Latin and Hebrew from William Grieve at Crow Hall Academy after school hours. William Arthur, who succeeded Waters, is noteworthy in that he held the position of blacksmith before his appointment!

The salaries of the masters and mistresses at the school obviously varied over the period 1815 - 1870 but shortage of money was always the major problem facing the school governors. A letter to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners from the Reverend Plummer in January, 1868 illustrates this, for in it, he asked the Commissioners to increase their subscription to the school from the then £2 per annum to help pay the master's salary of £25 per annum.(2) Up to that time this had been paid from money given by an unknown lady "in the south", the supply of which had now ceased, presumably because of her death. The mistress's annual salary of £12 was raised by subscription, while both master and mistress also had the school pence in addition to their salaries. The same letter also tells us that the average number of scholars at the time was fifty-eight boys and thirty girls.

St. Mary's was certainly the oldest of the schools established

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(1) John Oxberry, 'Felling Notes' Vol. I, p.56.

(2) Unpublished letter from Reverend Matthew Plummer to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, January, 1868.

by the Church of England in the township of Heworth but long before 1870, another similar institution had emerged. The Reverend Plummer was obviously not satisfied by the provision for educating the poorer inhabitants of the area and he continued the work of his predecessor, the Reverend Hodgson, by providing a new school. Again the problem of establishing the school was essentially a financial one and local subscriptions were not enough. Plummer wanted to build his school at Windy Nook to take approximately 120 boys for daily instruction and the total cost of the proposed building (to measure 37 feet x 19½ feet x 10 feet) together with fittings and the schoolmaster's house to be built above the school, amounted to £220. Local subscriptions did not cover this amount but application was made to the Committee of Council on Education and the National Society for grants and £60 was obtained from each body. With this aid, building began in 1841 and by February, 1843, the new school was completed. It is interesting to note that the cost of hiring a stone mason for five days during the building of the school was 19s. 2d. while 'a lad' to assist him, cost 1s. 3d. per day. St. Albans, as the school was called, was still in existence by 1870, but very little is known of its history to that time. As we shall see later however, its efficiency as a school, when compared with St. Mary's, seems very doubtful.

The schools so far mentioned were maintained and controlled by the Church of England. By the second half of the nineteenth century however, there was a substantial Roman Catholic minority in the area. In 1840 for instance, 400 were living within the township and this number grew rapidly during the period of industrial development in the second half of the century, when many Irish immigrants came to Tyneside. The local parish priest in the 1850's and afterwards was Father John Kelly and the education of the children of his flock was a major problem. Up to this time there was no Roman Catholic school available to them, though those who wished could attend the schools already mentioned. He, however, determined

St. John's R.C. School: High Street.
Only the lower storey remains today.

to build a school and for this purpose, he secured a piece of land off High Street between High and Low Felling.(1) The site was not easy for building because of the steep slope and the fact that it was crossed by an old water course. Despite this, plans were drawn up and building was in progress during 1862 and 1863, so that by January, 17th, 1864, the school was opened as St. John's Catholic School. It consisted of a two-storey building and at first only the top storey was used, but as the numbers of the catholic population increased, the whole building was employed for teaching. In this way, more than 400 children could be catered for.

Thus the part played by the two denominational groups mentioned above in providing educational facilities for the people of the township of Heworth was a very important one. Without their efforts, education for the poorer members of the community would have been virtually non-existent. This situation, the dependence of educational provision upon the churches, was reflected throughout the length and breadth of the land before 1870.

There were, however, educational establishments providing elementary education, which were in no way connected to the churches and which attempted to serve the educational needs of the community. Often these establishments were set up by prominent and wealthy local businessmen who felt their responsibility was to assist in the social and moral development of the lower classes which provided their work - people. Liberal and philanthropic individuals of this type were the owners of the Felling Chemical Works, a thriving and prosperous concern at the beginning of the nineteenth century, situated on the banks of the river Tyne at Felling Shore. The two owners, Hugh Lee Pattinson and Robert Redmayne, it has been observed, "were amongst the pioneers who recognised the claim for a share in the better things of life on the part of those who

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(1) Appendix XIX

depended for a livelihood upon their enterprise."[1] In 1845, a school was opened in a large building next to the works which included a reading room and library for the workmen employed in the factory.[2]

We learn much of the ideals and ideas of these men from a circular produced by the Chemical Works in August, 1845, just before the actual opening of the school. In this, it is pointed out that the education of his children is the first and most important duty of a father, for upon it depends their future welfare. Either they would become happy and useful members of society or be persons "indifferent to their social duties and often ending as criminals." This was the choice facing parents! The owners pointed out that the man who had a taste for reading "does not feel the want for the dangerous excitment of drinking and dissipation" while "the calm pleasures of study are open to every man who can read." They also insisted that the education of girls had not to be neglected, for they were to become wives and mothers and upon them would "depend the bringing up of a future generation."[3]

The scheme of education in the school was relatively simple and designed specifically for the lower classes. It was not intended to teach more than the elements of education, namely reading, writing and arithmetic. But, at the same time, it was expected that the teachers would "endeavour to instill into the minds of the pupils, good and moral principles and make their lessons the means of useful knowledge." The owners did not wish to compel attendance at their school if parents wished to use other places of instruction, but because of their desire "that every man's child should have some education," it was decided that a future condition of employment of a workman was that he sent his children to some school or other. If they attended the Chemical Works

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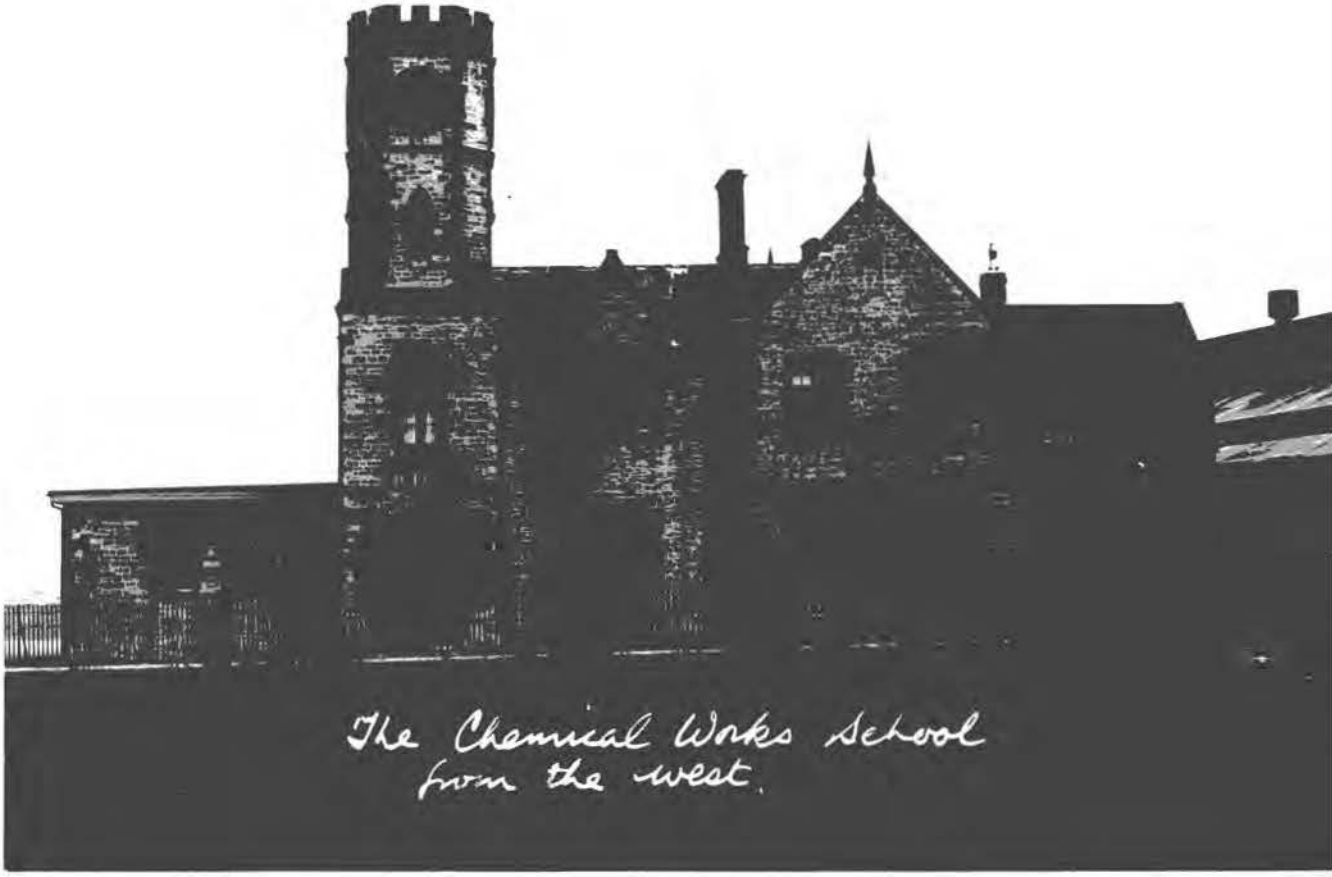
(1) John Oxberry 'Felling Notes' Vol. 2, p. 78.

(2) Appendix XIX

(3) John Oxberry 'Felling Notes' Vol. 2, p.78.



The Chemical Works School from the west.

The Chemical Works School from the south.

School, the cost would be 1d. per week for each child attending, but they would be provided with "books and other requisites" by the proprietors.(1)

To carry out their aims, the owners employed a master and mistress to take charge of the boys and girls respectively and the school itself was divided into two distinct sections, a boys school and a girls school, each of which was made up of a school room and a classroom. Later, an infants school was developed separately with its own mistress, and pupil teachers and assistants were employed as the numbers increased. Little is known about the early years of the school for no records are now available, but there is still in existence a log book from the girls school dating from 1866.

At this time, Elizabeth Baggaley was mistress while James Laidler Robson was master of the boys school and Elizabeth Hall was in charge of the infants. The average weekly attendance at the girls school seemed to vary between 120 and 180, while the boys attendance averaged a little higher. By now the school was subject to regular government inspections and apparently under Baggaley "a striking improvement" had taken place in the school since the last visit of the inspectors, "discipline being excellent and the girls passing a creditable examination."(2)

Despite the exhortations of the managers before the school was opened, attendance does not seem to have been at all regular among the pupils for a variety of reasons. In 1867, the mistress noted that Mondays were always "thin" days, for as fathers often stayed at home on "pay Mondays" from their employment, "the children seemed to expect (and got) the same indulgence."(3) Other reasons were the cost of sending the children to school (dame schools were cheaper), the parents keeping children at home to help in house-

(1) John Oxberry 'Felling Notes' Vol. 2, p. 78.
(2) Log Book, Felling Chemical Works Girls School, March, 1867, p. 5.
(3) Ibid. April, 1867, p.6.

hold chores or to gather in the harvest, the distance that many children had to travel in the winter months and the continual epidemics that affected the area. Average attendances, however, began to improve and reached the 160's and 170's in most weeks by 1868 while the educational side of the school could cause no complaints. In that year the girls had "passed a remarkably good examination in reading, writing and arithmetic" in the annual examination and inspection.(1) As well as the elementary subjects, geography and needlework were also taught to the older girls in the fourth and fifth standards. In the following year the managers suggested that it was not worthwhile to teach these subjects as they were "too much bother" to try for the extra grant obtained, but the mistress pointed out that these had been taught for three years and "the children enjoyed them."(2) At any rate, the subjects continued to be taught in the following years.

Though situated at Felling Shore, the school was drawing its pupils from all parts of the township and children of all denominations attended. In fact some of the children came from beyond the parish boundaries, especially from Gateshead to the west, and it is recorded that two girls were attending from Sheriff Hill which lies beyond Windy Nook to the south west. However, by 1870, competition from other schools more recently opened, was tending to draw pupils away, causing a reduction in the numbers attending.

From 1870 to the establishment of the Heworth School Board 1875

The Elementary Education Act was passed in 1870 but the establishment of the Heworth School Board did not take place until 1875. If it is remembered however, that the Act was intended to fill whatever gaps existed in elementary education provided by

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(1) Log Book, Felling Chemical Works Girls School, March, 1868, p.10.

(2) Ibid. April, 1869, p. 15.

voluntary organisations rather than to establish a system which would take over from them, this is not surprising. In fact, the Act provided that where a deficiency was proved, a year was allowed to the voluntary institutions to supply the need. The churches, of all denominations, did not desire to see their flocks become absorbed by the new secular establishments. Therefore, the period 1870 - 1875 represents the time during which the voluntary bodies in Heworth attempted to make up any deficiency existing there. Their task was a monumental one and their failure to complete it is hardly surprising.

The first of the new 'church' schools built during this period was a 'National' school at High Heworth.(1) This was the third to be established by the Church of England in the area and it was opened on the 7th March, 1870. The first managers were the Reverend Plummer and the Reverend Jones and fifty-nine scholars were admitted under the control of Henry Lovatt, the master, who was later assisted by his sister Elizabeth as sewing mistress.

The actual building is no more, having been demolished in the early 1950's to make way for new housing developments in the area, but it was a single storey building made up of a schoolroom with a fire place, and a classroom with a reading room attached. Later the reading room became a second classroom and their dimensions were; the schoolroom 50 x 20 x 13 10" feet, classroom numer one, 19ft. 10in. x 13ft. 5in. x 13ft., and classroom number two, 19ft. 10in. x 15ft. 5in. x 13ft. The National School seems to have been the biggest of the three Church of England schools for its accommodation in 1876 was for 212 children compared with 167 for each of the other two. The building was certainly satisfactory to the Government Inspector who made the first inspection in 1871 and he reported that the master had made "a very fair start" in

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(1) Appendix XIX

what was "a difficult place." The order of the pupils was creditable and the standard work, "though necessarily elementary and weak in parts," bore witness of careful teaching. A night school was also established during this first year, essentially for older children and workers who were generally "very backward."(1) This evening work was continued for most of the schools history.

Lovatt and his sister were replaced by James Grant and his wife Mary in September, 1871 and the school was by then organised into four standards. The attendance, however, seems to have been very low judging by the numbers examined in each standard that year. There were twenty-one examined in Standard I, three in Standard II, none in Standard III and four in Standard IV. In fact the highest average weekly attendance during this period was sixty-one. Possibly the cost to the parents may have been responsible for such low numbers, for there was only a poor mining community at High Heworth and it is recorded in the log book that parents withdrew their children because they objected to paying 3d. per week.(2)

In 1872, the school certainly did not satisfy the Inspector who reported that the children "did not pass a good examination." His main criticism was that the teaching consisted of "mere mechanical repetition of words and letters" likely "to make the children stupid."(3)

Not all of the day pupils were full-time attenders for in 1873, part-time students were receiving instruction, these being young miners from the surrounding collieries. They were being

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(1) Log Book, National School, High Heworth, June, 1871 p. 10.

(2) Ibid. April, 1872 p. 15.

(3) Ibid. January, 1872 p. 13.

given instruction under Section 8, the Mines Regulation Act, 1872.[1] Twelve such students were originally enrolled and at various intervals others joined so that the numbers on the roll gradually increased and average weekly attendances rose into the eighties. This rapidly dropped, however, with the opening of a school at Wardley from whence many of the students came.

The instruction in the school continued to displease the inspectors; in 1873 one tenth of the grant was lost and in 1874 two tenths, "for defective instruction" which produced "a state of attainments which could hardly be much worse."[2] It is hardly surprising that the Grants left in 1874. They were replaced by James Lawson and wife. The new master does not appear to have pleased Mrs. Plummer, the vicars wife, who it is recorded "was grumbling as usual" and who wanted "all and nothing but scriptures taught" yet expected a good grant.[3] This was hardly a satisfactory situation for the master and he left in June of the following year. The constant change of staff and the pressures from the vicarage was reflected in the Inspectors Report of 1875 which noted that the children were very unintelligent and again two tenths of the grant was deducted. Thus in the five years prior to the establishment of Heworth School Board, the new school at High Heworth could hardly be said to have been successful.

During this same period, attempts were made by other protestant denominations to establish a school in the township. This school was known as the Wesleyan Elementary School and was situated at Bill Quay. It opened on October 1st, 1872, with an enrollment of 174 children. The school was conducted in a building made up of three rooms; a schoolroom (46 x 24 x 11 feet), a classroom (14 x 9 x 11 feet) and an infants department (28 x 14 x 11 feet) under the control of a

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(1) Part I, Section 8 - boys between 10 and 12 years employed below ground had to have at least 20 hours instruction in every two weeks.

(2) Log Book, National School, High Heworth, April, 1874 p. 29.

(3) Ibid. June, 1875 p. 35.

a master, a mistress (ex-pupil teacher) and two pupil teachers. It was a fee-paying school, the fees probably being graded according to the age of the pupils and there is reference to the provision of dictation books "for the 3d. class."(1) The number on the roll gradually increased until there were 260 registered by January, 1873. This was many more than in any of the Church of England schools, though average attendance was much lower, averaging never more than 180 per week. Not all of the scholars were full-time students for in March, 1873, "one or two of the lads from the colliery" were admitted as "half-time" students.(2)

The subjects taught consisted of the usual three R's plus scripture, geography, needlework and music, to which half an hour per week was devoted. The master, George Dickenson, felt that for the last named subject, this time was insufficient for it "to be effectively or usefully taught."(3) Later, drawing was introduced, for fifty-one candidates were presented for the Government Examination in March, 1874. The school was, of course, subject to annual government inspection and examination and in 1873 "the children passed a very moderate examination" while in 1874 they "passed pretty fairly in elementary subjects considering the difficulties in the way of the master and mistress."(4) These difficulties were overcrowding, the continual withdrawal of children by parents who refused to buy books for them, pupils leaving the school as their parents, usually miners, moved on to employment elsewhere, and illness from the various diseases which apparently flourished. In February, 1875 for example, four scholars died from "fever."

By June, 1875, the inspectors report noted that "reading, spelling and arithmetic were good in the Standard I, but weak in

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(1) Log Book, Wesleyan Elementary School, November, 1872 p. 3.
(2) Ibid. March, 1875 p. 16.
(3) Ibid. July, 1873 p. 7.
(4) Ibid. August, 1874 p. 13.

the other standards," while "privy" accomodation was "inadequate and unsatisfactory."[1] However, as we shall see, these problems were to be taken over by the newly established Heworth School Board in December, 1875, when the Wesleyan Elementary School ceased to be a voluntary institution.[2]

Thus two new church schools were established during the period 1870 - 1875 though one ceased to function as a voluntary school by 1876 and the other was proceeding with some difficulty. Yet this was a time of great population growth in the area and even successful schools could not have "filled up the gaps" which clearly existed in educational provision.

As well as the previously mentioned schools, it would seem that at least one other new volunatry school was opened in this period, though it was by no means connected with church activity. In 1872, reference is made in the Wesleyan School log book to a new school at Wardley and that about sixty to seventy pupils who normally attended at Bill Quay were attending there instead. However, by 1874, most of these pupils had returned as the master of the new school had died.

The bulk of the educational work was still being carried out by the schools which had been established before 1870, though their development was continually hampered by shortage of adequate finance. J. G. Major, the last master at St. Mary's for instance, noted in a newspaper article many years later, that there was a continual shortage of educational works, these usually being confined to the Bible and a few copies of elementary reading books.[3] Thus the exhortation to pursue wisdom, inscribed above the school entrance, was a difficulty where one reader had to serve three or four pupils. St. Albans would undoubtedly have similar difficulties

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(1) Log Book, Wesleyan Elementary School, June, 1875 p. 18.

(2) Chapter IV page 47

(3) John Oxberry, 'Felling Notes' Vol. I p. 68.

and its efficiency certainly seems in doubt. In the log book of the Chemical Works Girls School for 1871, the headmistress complained that the pupils who normally attended her school from Windy Nook, thirty to forty in number, were attending St. Alban's and that they had been "lured" there by the master with the promise of being put into a higher standard.(1) Its efficiency is reflected by the fact that, having been inspected in 1871, St. Albans was not receiving any Government grant.

The Chemical Works Schools were certainly beginning to experience difficulty by this time, for the newer 'church' schools were having the effect, as already noted, of drawing pupils away. As, according to the headmistress of the Girls School, these pupils from the outlying parts of the district were often the best pupils, their loss was particularly hard felt. The area the Chemical Works Schools now served was limited largely to Felling Shore, High Felling and Low Felling. The situation was further aggravated by the attitude of the Catholic priests in the parish, who were making determined efforts to persuade the Roman Catholic children to attend at St. John's School. In one instance, a girl was refused confession while she was attending the Chemical Works School.

At the same time, the population of the parish was growing rapidly, especially in the High Felling, Low Felling and Felling Shore area. The mistress, Baggaley, opined that the increasing population was made up of people who "did not value good education for their children." She declared that "when one respectable family" left the neighbourhood, "two of the very lowest seemed to fill up the vacancy," and that "large numbers of dirty children" played in the gutters and never entered a school at all.(2)

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(1) Log Book, Felling Chemical Works Girls School, August, 1871 p. 27.

(2) Ibid. August, 1871 p. 27.

Inspite of these problems however, the school was eminently satisfactory to the inspectors who annually praised the discipline and ability of the children.

In August, 1872, Baggaley left the Girls School "with very great regret" and was replaced by Hannah Cope who faced the same problem of gradually decreasing numbers.(1) In 1873 the average weekly attendance was 110, and this had dropped to 95 by 1874. At the same time, costs were increasing for the managers so that fees were raised to 3d., 4d. and 5d. per week according to the standard occupied by the pupil. By this time, also, the Chemical Works themselves were facing increasing difficulties - they were eventually to close down completely in 1886. It was probably with great relief that the managers in November, 1875, received the offer of the new Heworth School Board to rent and take over the premises of the Chemical Works Schools as a temporary Board School, an offer, which needless to say, they accepted.

By 1875, the voluntary schools in Heworth were certainly not providing a system of elementary education consistent with the needs of the growing population of the area and with the aims of the Elementary Education Act of 1870. In September of that year, a School Board was therefore elected to organise elementary education for the township of Heworth.

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(1) Log Book, Felling Chemical Works Girls School, August, 1872 p. 33.

THE HISTORY OF THE BOARD

Despite the attempts of the various voluntary bodies up to 1875, the provision of educational facilities was decidedly inadequate for the needs of the parish of Heworth. Thus, under the terms of the 1870 Elementary Education Act, a School Board was to become the principal agency for education in Heworth. Well ; though they had tried, the rising costs of providing suitable education for the local population had made the task of the voluntary bodies an increasingly difficult one.

The inevitability of the situation was apparent by August, 1875. On the seventh of that month, a meeting of Heworth rate-payers was held to consider a resolution to establish a School Board for the parish. This meeting was held in the Royal Lecture Hall at High Felling and was presided over by the Reverend James Schofield, the vicar of Christ's Church, Low Felling. It is possible that Schofield had not favoured a School Board for the district, but now that the failure of the churches and the other voluntary bodies was clear, he was prepared to accept the inevitable. In his remarks to the meeting, he hinted that despite the obvious reluctance of the district to adopt the Education Act passed five years earlier, the time had arrived when there was no alternative. He felt that if the people of Heworth did not take action themselves, then "the time was not far off when the Education Department would."(1) Robert R. Redmayne of the Chemical Works, who had proposed the resolution, pointed out that there were between 600 and 700 children running the streets who should have been at school. This was clearly an indication of the inability of the voluntary schools, including the Chemical Works Schools, to cope with the problem. The resolution was seconded by Alfred Septimus Palmer of Wardley and was carried without dissent. This gentleman was to become a prominent figure in the subsequent Board. By profession a mining

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(1) 'Felling Star' August, 7th, 1875.

engineer, he was the brother of Sir Charles Mark Palmer, M.P., the founder of Palmer's Shipyard at Jarrow. Already a member of the Gateshead Board of Guardians for the Heworth District and the Felling Local Board, he was also a distinguished member of the local Volunteer Forces and "was very fond of athletics, steeplechasing and 'aquatics'."(1)

The date set for the election of the School Board was 9th September, 1875. The number of persons to be elected to the Board was seven and any two ratepayers entitled to vote in the election were able to nominate one person "of full age", but no more, as a candidate.(2) Sixteen nominations were given in by the 28th August, but of these, four withdrew by the 2nd of September. Every ratepayer of the parish whose name appeared in the book containing the rate made on the 6th April, 1875, was entitled to vote in the election. The voting was to be by ballot and each voter had seven votes, all of which could be given to one candidate or distributed among the candidates as the voter thought fit.

Membership of the School Board now became a major local issue. Rivalry sprang up between those who represented the local religious groups and those who wished to keep sectarian influences off the Board. Thus the Liberal Association, which had recently been formed in Felling, exerted itself actively in the matter of securing liberal and non-sectarian candidates. After a public meeting held in the reading room of the Chemical Works, it was resolved to run four candidates under its auspices. Apart from Palmer, the others were William Watson Pattinson of the Chemical Works, Edward Smith, an agent of Heworth Shore and Joseph Thompson, a Felling grocer. These four held a series of public meetings to explain their views on the running of the proposed School Board.

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(1) 'Felling Notes', Vol. I, John Oxberry, p. 92.

(2) 'Newcastle Daily Chronicle' August 28th, 1875.

Several of the other candidates ran under the flag of the Church, including Matthew Reay, a Bill Quay shipowner, who had been educated at St. Mary's school at Heworth. The Reverend Schofield and Edmund Daniels represented the Church of England and the Congregational Church respectively, while Father John Kelly was the Catholic candidate. Other candidates were content to identify themselves with no party but stood on their own merits as private individuals.

Despite the interest shown in the membership of the Board, the election itself passed over very quietly. It was held under the auspices of Shaftoe Robson the Returning Officer from Gateshead, the only excitement being when the poll was declared at the Royal Lecture Hall shortly before midnight. There had been twelve polling booths erected throughout the parish and of the total of 2,888 voters on the register, 1,353 voted. Of the four candidates presented by the Liberal Association, three were elected - Messrs. Palmer, Smith and Pattinson. A fourth non-sectarian, Robert Potts 'a gentleman' residing in Felling and running independent of the Liberal Association, was also elected. The others elected represented the church parties and were Reverend Schofield and Matthew Reay for the Church of England and Father Kelly of the Roman Catholic Church. Father Kelly clearly topped the poll, having more than seven hundred votes more than the next candidate. It clearly showed that the minority catholic vote had been very well organised on his behalf.

Following a notice of election being sent to each elected member, the first meeting of the Heworth School Board was held on Thursday, 30th September, 1875, at the Royal Lecture Hall at 2 p.m. At this meeting, William Watson Pattinson was elected chairman and Matthew Reay vice-chairman. George Bolam was appointed as clerk to the Board at a salary of £50 per annum, a position he was to hold with distinction throughout its existence. He was subsequently made clerk to Felling Urban District Council which

eventually succeeded the Board and tragically committed suicide in 1907. An inquest showed that Bolam had been worried over an audit and he had poisoned himself, although the audit itself subsequently showed no deficiency or mismanagement.(1) At this first meeting, it was resolved that all future ordinary meetings of the Board were to be held on the second Monday of each month at 3 p.m.

There were many immediate tasks facing the new School Board and first among these was the establishment of bye-laws for the efficient management of the system of education to be established. This was of course required by the 74th section of the Elementary Education Act of 1870 and such bye-laws needed the approval of the Education Department. Accordingly a committee made up of the Chairman and Messrs. Palmer and Schofield was set up to frame them. The Education Act required that children between five and thirteen attended school for an approved period of time each day. Further, school fees could be remitted on the grounds of poverty but breaches of the School Board bye-laws could lead to the imposition of penalties on parents. For children between ten and thirteen, who had reached a satisfactory standard of education determined by an H.M.I., partial or whole exemption could be given. Bearing these facts in mind, the committee drew up the bye-laws which were approved by the Board and sent to the Education Department for approval. These were subsequently modified by the Committe of Council on Education which felt that some of the bye-laws were unnecessary. However, by November 8th, 1875 the amended bye-laws had been approved.(2)

The biggest problem facing the Board was the establishment of Board Schools and more will be said on this later.(3) New

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(1) North Mail, 5th June, 1907

(2) Appendix IIa and IIb.

(3) Chapter IV page 47

schools would take time to build yet the problem was immediate. Therefore the Board was forced to use temporary premises which were available in the district and in some cases, take over ailing voluntary schools. This had been achieved by February, 1876 but a survey held at this time showed that these schools were neither sufficient nor satisfactory for the needs of the district.

A Building Committe set up to handle this problem recommended the building of a number of new schools and with the consent of the Education Department, work had begun by the end of 1876. By the end of 1878, two new schools had been opened and a third was nearly completed.

School building was a major part of the work undertaken by the Board at this time, but many other activities concerned its attention. As well as the Building Committee other committees were formed to handle Board finances, the management of the existing schools, the selection of staff, attendance and relief and so on. All of the Board members were represented on one or more of these committees, but not all of the members were able to give their time to the various committee meetings. Alfred Septimus Palmer was in fact disqualified from the Board in May, 1878, for being absent for six successive months from all meetings. Jospeh Anderson Thompson, the losing candidate with the highest number of votes at the original election for the Board, was co-opted as a member to replace Palmer.

The Finance Committee was responsible for all costs incurred by the Board and expenditure constantly increased. As the existing schools grew in size, so the cost of supplying equipment, the paying of salaries to the staff employed by the Board, the printing of notices, the provision of fuel, advertising and so on, increased proportionately. The result was that the monthly accounts for payment regularly increased in size.

The School Management Committee was largely concerned with the internal organisation of the schools themselves. The provision of stationery and equipment in the buildings, the numbers and salaries of the staff, the awarding of prizes, the use of schools outside school hours, the implementing of the various Education Acts, were just some of the tasks faced by its members.

The Relief Committee was responsible for more limited but very important tasks. Under the Act of 1870, the Board was empowered to remit the fees of those pupils whose parents, on the grounds of poverty, were unable to pay them. In a parish where poverty was common, many such cases came before this committee. Also compulsory attendance at school for children between five and ten, was a requisite part of the bye-laws and there were many parents who failed in this duty. The committee was responsible for implementing this and defaulters were summoned before the local courts by the committee on behalf of the Board. As we shall see in a later chapter, this was a major problem.(1) The committee was assisted by a School Board Officer whose duties were to report and act on this situation. John Steer, a watchman from Relaw Main, was the first 'Summoning Officer' to be appointed by the Board in February, 1876.

The Candidates Selection Committee, as its title implies, was concerned with the selection of staff working for the Board. This included caretakers and cleaners as well as teaching staff, and their numbers grew as the responsibilities of the Board increased. The normal and regular staff turn-over in the schools meant that the committee met frequently.

Thus, from its inception, the Board members were involved in many and varied activities. By the end of its first triennial period, the Board could be reasonably well satisfied with its

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(1) Chapter VI page 91

efforts. The existing temporary schools, working under conditions that were far from satisfactory and suffering generally from overcrowding, were doing a fair job of work. The H.M.I.'s reports of the period confirmed this and with the school-building efforts made by the Board during this time, the Board could look forward to all round improvement with confidence.

The second election for the Heworth School Board took place on Friday 30th August and again it was for seven members. The organisation of the election apparently left a lot to be desired for a letter to the Newcastle Daily Chronicle complained of the "perfect muddle" of the election affairs of Heworth.(1) Francis Haynes, master at High Heworth National School and the author of the letter, complained that far too much time was spent looking for names that were not on the electoral register. He bitterly complained of the inefficiency in making up the list and suggested that there was far too much confusion at the polling stations. Complaining that voters had had to enter and leave by the same door in most instances, he suggested that High Heworth school, which had an entrance and exit, was much more suited for polling than St. Alban's School. He further complained of the inefficiency of the clerks in charge of the polling stations and that many voters who arrived in time, were excluded from voting because time had expired by the time their names and numbers were found. He particularly mentioned workmen who had arrived at the polling stations in a dirty state because their employers had allowed them no time to change. Despite arriving twenty minutes before 6 p.m. they had not been able to vote owing to the confusion.

Haynes complaints seem justified for in a leading article in the same paper of the next day, severe criticism was made of the organisation of the election. The article repeated the complaint

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(1) Newcastle Daily Chronicle Tuesday, 3rd September, 1878.

that the ratepayers of the parish had not been provided with adequate facilities, the polling arrangements having been "defective and unequal and the registers either incomplete or badly arranged." Therefore hundreds of voters "who were at the booths ready and anxious to cast their votes, were unable to do so."(1) A protest meeting held by these disappointed would-be voters at the end of the poll, culminated in a letter sent to the Education Department. The Daily Chronicle awaited the results of this letter with interest, for it pointed out that it was possible that the Education Department could demand a new election. The letter seems to have been of no avail, for the members returned at the disputed election became the members for the second triennial period of the Heworth School Board. However, it would seem that the lesson was learned for no further occurrences of a similar nature were to mar subsequent elections for the Heworth School Board.

William Watson Pattinson, the chemical manufacturer and chairman of the first Board did not stand for re-election and of the seven elected, five had been members of the first Board. Of these, one was Alfred Septimus Palmer, who despite being disqualified from the Board the previous year for non-attendance, was evidently determined to return.(2) He was in fact, elected chairman of the new Board. The two new members were Father Thomas Carroll and George Plender. The former joined Father Kelly to become the second Roman Catholic priest on the Board and it would seem that the Catholic vote was certainly strong and well organised. George Plender, a resident of Felling since 1855, had come there from Bamburgh. A grocer by profession, Plender was a liberal by politics and acted as Chairman to Sir Charles Plamer M.P. in his political campaigns for thirty years. As a liberal reformer, he had helped in the formation of the Felling Local Board, in 1868, his motion to that effect being seconded by Matthew Reay and opposed

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(1) Newcastle Daily Chronicle Tuesday, 3rd September, 1878.

(2) Appendix III.

by Reverend Plummer, the vicar at Heworth, St. Mary's. Among his many activities, he was also a Guardian of the Poor of the district.[1] Therefore, despite the election of the two Roman Catholic representatives, the same article from the Daily Chronicle, was sure that the ratepayers of Heworth, even on a limited poll, were decidedly hostile to any candidate tinged with sectarianism."[2] Certainly the Reverend Schofield failed to gain re-election to the Board.

The new Board looked back on the previous three years with obvious satisfaction for in reply to a schedule sent by the Education Department, it gave its opinion that there was now no deficiency of efficient school accomodation in its district. Of a total population of about 15000 in 1878, there were 4,041 children of school age and 3,148 were attending Board schools. The Board noted that since its inception in 1875, a marked improvement had been made in average monthly attendance. Before 1875, the figure had not reached 1,000, but in 1876 this had risen to 1,869 and had further climbed to 1,981 in 1877 and 2,115 in 1878.[3] During this time two new Board schools had been built and a third was almost ready. However, much of the education was still being given in temporary premises that had been acquired at the inception of the School Board and most of these buildings were felt to be deficient for the Board's needs. Further, the Board was worried over the educational provision provided by two of the three church schools in the district, and so by August 1881, plans had been approved by the Education Department for the building of a further three new schools. To do this, the Board had not always had the full backing of local public opinion but it had persevered in its aims, correctly as it proved.[4]

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(1) John Oxberry Collection Notes and Comments 1912 - 1915 p 94.
(2) Newcastle Daily Chronicle, Tuesday 3rd September, 1878.
(3) Heworth School Board Minutes, 24th March, 1879 Vol. 3 p 215.
(4) Chapter IV p 58

During the period of the second Board a deputation of three local residents came before it on March 28th, 1881. This was made up of Messrs. Hopper, Robinson and Gladstone, who represented the Felling Ratepayers Association. They were there to ask the Board to call upon the Education Department to increase the number of Board members from seven to nine. They wished this "because of the increased and increasing work of detail, more especially after the completion of the proposed new schools at Windy Nook and Felling Shore."(1) The matter was referred to the School Management Committee for consideration. It was apparently satisfied that the existing Board could carry out its present and future functions adequately for no subsequent application was made to the Education Department.

Thus, as the end of the second period of the Heworth School Board approached, it had by careful planning and preparation, prepared the way for further developments in its school building programme. The Board was eminently satisfied with the performance of its existing schools, both permanent and temporary, when compared with the country as a whole, but it was hopeful of even better things to come as these new plans unfolded.

The third triennial election of the School Board took place on the 12th September, 1881 and again some change took place in its membership. A new Roman Catholic priest, Martin Hayes, took over the place of Father Kelly, so that the Catholic representation on the Board remained the same. Potts and Smith were not re-elected and their places were taken by the Reverend Edward Haythornthwaite of Christs' Church, Low Felling, and Joseph Hopper, a miner from Wardley. The latter was the first representative on the Board from the working classes, which of course made up the vast majority of

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(1) Heworth School Board Minutes, 28th March, 1881. Vol. 4 p 209.

the population of the district. Joseph Hopper was a remarkable product of his social environment. Born on 2nd May, 1856 at Windy Nook, he was the son of an ex-lifeguardsman and miner. Educated at the Chemical Works School under James Laidler Robson, he followed his father into the mines. However, from his early days, his intellectual qualities stimulated an interest in learning, particularly political economy, history and biography. Hopper matured early and at the age of eighteen was placed on the list of local preachers and was constantly in demand as such in the various local chapels. His interest in public affairs caused him to stand for membership of both the Felling Local Board and the Heworth School Board to which he was elected by the age of twenty-five. Subsequently he was elected to membership of the Gateshead Board of Guardians and undoubtedly this greatly influenced him in making his mission in life the provision of homes for aged miners. He was to die at the early age of fifty-three but his memory is still preserved by the Hopper Memorial Homes, constructed for retired miners at Windy Nook shortly after his death.

The composition of the Board was not to remain the same throughout the next three years. Hayes resigned from the Board in January, 1883 and a special meeting was held on 20th March in order to elect some person to fill the vacancy. At this meeting, a letter from the other Catholic representative on the Board, Thomas Carroll, informed the Board that a meeting of Heworth Catholics had selected a suitable candidate to replace Hayes. It seems that the Board was quite prepared to recognise the need of the large Catholic minority in the district to have two members on the Board. It also seems surprising that the members of the various other religious denominations in the parish were prepared to aquiesce to this. Yet there was no apparent opposition to the proposal, and possibly to save the cost of a contested election for the position, the Board accepted the nomination. In this way, Patrick Bennett, a layman of Heworth, became a Board member.

Later, a further attempt to increase the membership of the Board to nine took place. Joseph Hopper made a motion to this effect in July, 1884, "because of the extensive operations of the Board and the need for thorough supervision of the schools," but this was defeated on a vote.(1)

During this time, the building of the three new schools previously proposed was completed at Low Felling, Windy Nook and Felling Shore. Despite the obvious difficulties arising from the change over to the new schools from the old which took place during this period, the Board was highly pleased with the excellent standards and results which the schools were achieving.(2)

One interesting issue developed from the building of the new schools at Low Felling which was to claim the attention of the Board for a lengthy period of time. A public house, the Mulberry Inn, which had formerly been Felling Hall, the home of the Brandling family before they moved to Jesmond, adjoined the school on the west side. This inn was owned by a Mary Clark and the Board took exception to the fact that the back of the building had windows facing into the school yard. The Board members were for temperance to a man and they concluded that these windows had been made without permission. This suggests that the windows had been made while the school was being constructed but as to the question of permission being necessary, from whom was it needed and why? The Board certainly did not own the land upon which the inn stood nor the property, yet it threatened that if the windows were not closed up, barricades would be built immediately in front of them. A lengthy correspondence arose between the two parties but nothing resulted from this, for in March 1882, it was resolved that wooden barricades be erected. The result of this resolution was that an

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(1) Heworth School Board Minutes 7th July, 1884 Vol. 5 p 351.

(2) Chapter V p 89.

agreement was reached that the glass of the three windows involved would be obscured, that is made opaque, and that the owner would pay a rental of 7/- per annum "for the privilege of using the windows."[1] At the same time, instructions were given for the removal of the erection in front of the windows. The owner also offered to pull down a urinal adjoining the school yard. The offer was accepted and the Board countered by deciding that only the glass in the lower half of the two upstairs windows need be obscured. That this was carried out seems doubtful, for in November 1883, following the death of Mary Clark, the Board resolved that if the agreement made with the deceased was not carried out within fourteen days, the offending windows would be barricaded. The new owner, Mrs. McIntyre, seems to have been more persuasive with the Board, for it was resolved in February 1884 that an agreement be signed that the Mulberry Inn could open the three windows facing the school at a fee of 7/6d. per annum.

It would be wrong however, to think of the Board spending all or much of its time on issues of this kind. Normally, it was the day to day running of the schools and the welfare of the children in them, which most concerned the Board members. As the numbers attending the schools increased so did the financial burden on the school rates, a fact which was noted on more than one occasion by both the members of the Board and the ratepayers. The teaching staff employed by the Board had increased considerably while more and more fees were being remitted and increasing numbers of summonses were being taken out against offending parents. It was matters of this type which took up much of the time of the Board.

The concern of the Board over increasing costs and its desire to curtail them, made itself clear as the time of the next School

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(1) Heworth School Board Minutes 28th April, 1882 Vol. 4 p 437.

Board election approached. In August 1884, the clerk of the Board was instructed to convene a meeting of the candidates after nominations had been received in order to try and prevent the cost of a contested election. This evidently succeeded, for the following month the Board passed a vote of thanks to Joseph Hopper and William Simpson for withdrawing their candidatures and saving the parish the expense of a contested election. Patrick Bennett, the recently co-opted 'substitute' member was not one of the seven candidates, for two new members appeared - Thomas Armstrong and James McGuinness. Both were local business men, the former being a Confectioner, Fruiterer and Newsagent and the latter a draper. In February of the following year, Matthew Reay, the vice-chairman and a founder member of the Heworth School Board, died and at a special meeting in April, Joseph Hopper was again elected to the Board.

By this stage in its history, the system of education established in Heworth by the Board seemed to be functioning very smoothly. With the completion of the projected schools, no major problem concerning the supply of school places now existed. But the Board certainly had problems and these were beginning to assume rather large proportions. Apart from that of a general increase in the financial burden, the main problems were those of attendance, the increasing numbers of pupils wanting remission of school fees and the increasing difficulties involved in the summoning of the parents of non-attending children. These features will be dealt with more fully in later chapters.

At the same time, other situations developed which caused difficulties and dissensions among the Board members and which occasionally stirred feelings in the parish generally. The worst of these problems were related to various employees of the Board and extraordinary meetings were needed to solve them. An example of this occurred in March 1886, when the caretaker of Bill Quay Schools, following an inquiry, was dismissed for "his general

unwillingness to do the necessary work" and also for his incivility.[1] This was hardly a matter to stimulate much local comment, but the following month, a similar inquiry into the conduct of the two School Attendance Officers employed by the Board was held. This was undoubtedly of considerable interest to many in the parish, particularly those less worthy parents who were frequently in contact with these men for not sending their children to school. Both men were instantly dismissed for being drunk and incapable while on duty.[2]

In its relation with its teaching staff, the Board was forced from time to time to admonish and occasionally to dismiss teachers for unsatisfactory conduct or results. This kind of action was in fact fairly rare and in its relations with head teachers, the Board was on very cordial terms. However, as will be seen later, on one occasion, a head master was dismissed.[3]

Even the use of the Board Schools was becoming something of an issue. As well as being used for instruction during the day, there was a demand for their facilities in the evenings and at week-ends by a variety of groups. Almost every month requests were made for their use for meetings, entertainments, Sunday schools, treats for the poor and aged and so on. Eventually the Board decided in February 1885 that a scale of charges and regulations was necessary for such use. A single meeting was to cost 5/-. For more than one occasion, the charge was to vary according to the number of meetings held - the more there were, the less the charge. The school rooms were to be closed by 10 p.m. and the persons engaging the use of rooms were to be responsible for any damage that might be caused. Each application was considered on its merits and the Board usually gave favourable consideration to

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(1) Heworth School Board Minutes, 20th March, 1886 Vol. 6 p 150.

(2) Chapter VI p 105

(3) Chapter V p 72

most requests. However, there were exceptions and one such request from a few young men of Bill Quay wishing to use one of the rooms at Bill Quay Board Schools "at a reasonable rent for private Quadrille Parties during the winter season" was refused.(1)

Generally speaking however, such business was part of the normal day to day running of most school boards, and in Heworth's case, did nothing to reduce the normal efficiency and smoothness of the Board's affairs.

Unlike the election of the three years before, the School Board election of 1887 was contested despite the efforts of the Board to prevent it and save election expenses. Thirteen candidates took part and John Simpson and Thomas Reay, the son of the late vice-chairman, replaced Thomas Armstrong who had topped the previous poll and Joseph Hopper. A mining engineer for the Heworth Coal Company, Simpson was to remain on the Board for the rest of its history. The previous year he had been elected to the Gateshead Board of Guardians and was also a member of the Felling Local Board. He was later to become a county magistrate, a position he held for thirty-seven years, and a first representative on the Felling Urban District Council when it came into being.

The increasing responsibilities of the Board is indicated by the fact that in the following December, a youth, William Grey, was appointed at a salary of 6/- per week to assist the clerk of the Board in carrying out his duties. Certainly population was growing rapidly in the parish at this time and as more children were seeking entrance to the schools, the pressure on them was increasing. Despite this, the results and performance of the schools were eminently satisfactory in every way. Compared with the rest of the country the Heworth Board was providing cheaper education and had

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(1) Heworth School Board Minutes, November 2nd, 1885 Vol. 6 p 80

better results than had most School Boards.[1]

Despite its evident satisfaction, the Board did not feel that the system of education established under the School Boards was perfect. It felt improvements could be made and a petition was sent to the Education Department suggesting amendments in the Education Code. Its main points were that children should not gain total exemption from day school attendance until they were thirteen years of age and that the age of half-time exemption should be raised to eleven years. Also, they recommended that 'Continuation Schools' be made an integral part of the elementary system of education and that they be suited to the needs of working boys and girls.[2] Similar ideas were no doubt held by many other boards, but the petition does clearly indicate the feelings of the Heworth Board members regarding their desire for an improvement in the conditions affecting the welfare of young people.

Again, the elction for the new Board in 1890 proved to be a contested election. George Plender, who had served on the Board for twelve consecutive years, did not stand. Joseph Hopper was one of the candidates but he did not succeed in being elected, the only new members being Francis Hogg, a foreman of High Felling, and William Simpson, who had voluntarily stood down with Joseph Hopper at the 1884 election. The membership of the Board was to change in 1892 when Father Carroll died in February of that year. Again, the catholic minority were allowed to place a new member on the Board, and Father John Murphy became the chief catholic representative.

In 1891 the abolition of school fees had a significant effect upon the working of the Heworth Board. It meant that many more children were likely to attend school who had been absent because

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(1) Chapter VII p 120

(2) Chapter VIII p 136

of the reluctance of their parents to pay fees. At the same time, attendance had been rising regularly. In the period 1881 - 1891, the average attendance had risen from 1,727 to 2,224; during the same period the total population of the district had increased from 17,138 to 18,454. Therefore, there was a definite need for more school places. The Board decided that this problem could best be solved by enlarging some of the existing schools rather than build a separate new school. The Board was given permission by the Education Department to proceed with these plans, and by the end of 1893, five of its schools were in the process of being enlarged to provide well over 500 extra places.

In September of that year, another triennial election took place and Thomas Owens, a miner from Wardley, replaced William Simpson as the only new member. In August of the following year, William Watson Pattinson, who had done much to provide educational facilities in the district before the setting up of the Heworth School Board, and the Board's first chairman, died.

A development worth noting during this time was that affecting disabled children living in the district. The Board had been concerned over their welfare for many years, particularly those who were deaf, dumb and/or blind. As early as February 1885, a petition had been sent to the Committee of the Privy Council on Education for an alteration in the law, so as to allow the Board to require attendance of such children at their schools. This had been rejected but the Elementary Education Act (Blind and Dumb Children) 1893, conferred powers on the School Boards to contribute towards the costs of their education. Thus a grant of £100 was contributed towards the Building Fund of the Northern Counties Institution for the Deaf and Dumb. Also, arrangements were made to pay the costs for the education, maintainance and clothing of such children who were sent to this and other similar institutions. Normally, parents were expected to contribute towards the cost as well. From this period until the end of the

Board, many such afflicted children were helped in this way.

An interesting incident of this period is that concerning the Mulberry Inn, which after a lapse of so many years, was again to cause a problem to the Board. In January 1896, it was reported that the agreement regarding the windows overlooking Felling Schools had lapsed and that the present owner, Mrs. McIntyre, absolutely refused to pay the arrears or make future payment. She complained of dampness caused by a shed erected in the school yard but this was rejected by the school managers. Therefore, "to protect the legal rights of the Board," wooden erections were placed before each offending window. At the next meeting of the Board, the Clerk reported that these had been sawn down "by some person or persons unknown" and so it was resolved that they be replaced "in a more substantial manner."(1) What the result of this was is not known, for no further reference can be found to the inn in this particular situation or to the wooden fences that were apparently erected. It must be assumed that some satisfactory arrangement was reached and the issue settled permanently.

As the next election for the Board approached, the regular issue of the number of Board members was again raised. A motion that the number be raised to nine was put to the Board in June 1896 but again it was defeated and so in the following September, following a contested election, seven members were elected. Of these, two were new to the position, replacing the Reverend Haythornthwaite who could only come ninth in the ballot and Thomas Owen, who did not stand. The new members were Lionel Maddison, a miner and James B. Welsh, a timber merchant.

Immediately, the new Board was faced with a new development in its system of education. A letter from the chief H.M.I. of the

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(1) Heworth School Board Minutes February 3rd, 1896 Vol. 8 p 120

1896-1899.

HEWORTH SCHOOL BOARD.

CHAIRMAN:—

ALFRED SEPTIMUS PALMER, J.P., 3, Victoria Square, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

VICE-CHAIRMAN:—

JOHN SIMPSON, J. P., North Leam, Heworth, Felling, R.S.O.

CLERK:—

GEORGE BOLAM, Board Offices, Felling.

SUMMONING OFFICER:—

JAMES W. HARPER, Bolam Terrace, Felling.

ASSISTANT:—

ROBERT HEBRON, Greenfield Terrace, Heworth.

List of Members of the Board.

[illegible] Septimus Palmer, J.P., *Chairman.*
[illegible], J.P. *Vice-Chairman.*
[illegible], 21, Stephenson Terrace, Felling.
[illegible], First Street, Wardley.
Rev. John Murphy, D.D., Catholic Presbytery Felling.
James McGuinness, Shanid House, Felling.
James B. Welsh, 2, Booth Street, Felling.

[illegible] the First Monday in each Month, in the Board Room, No. 4, Wesley Terrace, [illegible] at Seven o'clock, in the Afternoon.

[illegible] Committees.

[illegible] COMMITTEE.

JAMES McGUINNESS.
REV. JOHN MURPHY.
JAMES B. WELSH.

[illegible] COMMITTEE.

JAMES McGUINNESS.
REV. JOHN MURPHY.
JAMES B. WELSH.

[illegible] COMMITTEE.

JAMES McGUINNESS.
REV. JOHN MURPHY.
JAMES B. WELSH.

[illegible] COMMITTEE.

JAMES McGUINNESS.
REV. JOHN MURPHY.
JAMES B. WELSH.

district asked the Board to establish Evening Continuation Schools in the district. Though evening classes were not new to the district, the type of organisation suggested was, and the Board was quick to establish this new development. After all, it had petitioned for something similar in 1889. The new system had started by October 1896 and flourished throughout the rest of the Board's existence.(1)

Following a census taken towards the end of 1896, it became obvious that further additional accommodation was necessary for the school childfen of the district. Additions to the existing schools were not enough and after long deliberation which caused some irritation to the Education Department, it was resolved that a Higher Grade School should be built.

In the mean time a further Board election had arrived. Prior to this, the question of increased membership of the Board was finally solved. It had been raised again in September 1898. when the Felling Evangelical Free Church Council had urged the Board to seek the approval of the Education Department for an increase to nine members. The reasons given for this were the great increase in population (now about 20,000) and the increased educational facilities. The School Management Committee recommended that this be done but the decision was held over until the next Board meeting when the motion was carried by three votes to two. The Education Department acceded to the request and so in September 1899, a Board of nine members was elected at last. Three new members were elected - James Steel, the vicar at Heworth St. Mary's, William Henderson, the manager of a local paint works and Claud Bowes Palmer, a mining engineer. The last named was the son of Alfred Septimus Palmer, one of the members of the first Board. The elder Palmer had been suffering ill-health for a long time and had almost

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(1) Chapter VIII p 137

1899-1902.

HEWORTH SCHOOL BOARD

CHAIRMAN:
JOHN SIMPSON, J.P., North Leam, Felling, R.S.O.
VICE-CHAIRMAN:—
JAMES McGUINNESS, Shanid House, Felling.
CLERK:—
GEORGE BOLAM, Board Offices, Felling.
SUMMONING OFFICER:— JAMES W. HARPER, Hewitson Terrace, Felling.
ASSISTANT:— ROBERT HEBRON, York Terrace, Felling.

List of Members of the Board.

JOHN SIMPSON, J.P., *Chairman.*
JAMES McGUINNESS, *Vice-Chairman.*
WILLIAM HENDERSON, Cromwell Road, Bill Quay.
FRANCIS HOGG, 21, Stephenson Terrace, Felling.
LIONEL MADDISON, First Street, Wardley.
REV. JOHN MURPHY, D.D., Catholic Presbytery, Felling.
CLAUDE B. PALMER, J.P., Wardley Hall, Newcastle.
REV. JAMES STEEL, D.D., Heworth Vicarage, Felling.
JAMES B. WELSH, 2, Booth Street, Felling.

Board Meetings held on the First Monday in each month, in the Board Room, No. 5, Wesley Terrace, Felling, at Quarter-past Five o'clock, in the Afternoon.

List of Standing Committees.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

THE CHAIRMAN
THE VICE-CHAIRMAN
WILLIAM HENDERSON
FRANCIS HOGG
LICNEL MADDISON
REV. JOHN MURPHY
CLAUDE B. PALMER
REV. JAMES STEEL
JAMES B. WELSH

CANDIDATES' SELECTION COMMITTEE.

THE CHAIRMAN
THE VICE-CHAIRMAN
WILLIAM HENDERSON
FRANCIS HOGG
LIONEL MADDISON
REV. JOHN MURPHY
CLAUDE B. PALMER
REV. JAMES STEEL
JAMES B. WELSH.

SCHOOL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

THE CHAIRMAN
THE VICE-CHAIRMAN
WILLIAM HENDERSON
FARNCIS HOGG
LIONEL MADDISON
REV. JOHN MURPHY
CLAUDE B. PALMER
REV. JAMES STEEL
JAMES B. WELSH.

ATTENDANCE COMMITTEE.

THE CHAIRMAN
THE VICE-CHAIRMAN
WILLIAM HENDERSON
FANCIS HOGG
LIONEL MADDISON
REV. JOHN MURPHY
CLAUDE B. PALMER
REV. JAMES STEEL
JAMES B. WELSH.

lost his seat for non-attendance over a six-month period from September 1898. Therefore, he did not contest the election. Steel, a Sunderland man and former vicar at Castle Eden and Stockton, was a prominent local figure. As well as his interests in education, he was also a member of the Felling Local Board and the Gateshead Board of Guardians and was later to become a member of Felling Urban District Council. He was also a principal of the Sunderland Orphanage and a governor of the Gateshead Childrens Hospital.

The new Board rejected the idea of a Higher Grade School and decided instead on two new elementary schools. One of these was completed by 1902 and the other almost so when the Board was finally brought to an end.

Thus, by the time of the election of the tenth and last Heworth School Board in September 1902, the difficulties caused by the rapidly increasing population were being overcome. Three new members, Robert Brown, a miner, Thomas Ross, a foreman, and Joseph Lightfoot, a printer, had replaced Messrs. Steel, Maddison and Welsh, but to both new and old members, it was clear that the reign of the Heworth School Board was coming to an end. The Education Act of 1902 confirmed what had already become fairly clear before that date. The factors leading to the 1902 Act and the end of the School Boards will be mentioned later; suffice it to say here that as a result of the Act, the Board was informed that 1st July, 1903 was the date on which the School Board of Heworth would cease to function as the body responsible for education in the district. The final meeting of the Board was held on 29th June, 1903, during which the representatives of the teachers of Heworth gave their appreciation of the work done by the Board in the cause of education in the district.(1) That it deserved this appreciation cannot be

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(1) Chapter X p 155

doubted, for the Heworth School Board could look back upon a considerable achievement during its history.[1]

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(1) Appendix IV

THE BOARD SCHOOLS

Following the setting up of the Heworth School Board in September 1875, the immediate task was to establish Board Schools and here there were great problems. It would take time to build new schools and yet the problem of getting children into school was immediate. The Board resolved this problem as best it could by taking temporary measures. These involved the take over of some of the ailing voluntary establishments and the use of temporary buildings for new schools. Thus, although the task of the Board was to 'fill up the gaps' left by voluntary provision, it did in fact absorb many of the existing voluntary establishments.

Enquiries were made from the owners and managers of these schools as to the terms they would let their premises to the Board. Robert Carter Junior, the representative of the Wesleyan School at Bill Quay, was agreeable to the takeover of this school for an annual rent of £30 with six months notice if either party wished to terminate the agreement. Similar enquiries were made of the owners of the Chemical Works School. One of the managers, Robert Redmayne, informed the Board that the managers proposed to carry on until the annual inspection in February 1876. After that date however, they were prepared to consider a transfer of the schools to the Board. Further negotiations resulted in an agreement by the Board to take over these schools from February 1st, 1876 at an annual rent of £150, "the proprietors undertaking to keep the roofs, walls and main timbers in good repair."(1)

Other premises were obtained by renting buildings that the Board felt were suitable to serve as temporary schools. Following enquiries concerning a disused residence known as the 'Old Hall' at Bill Quay, the owner, Mason Watson, informed the Board that he was amenable to his property being used as a school at an annual

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(1) Heworth School Board Minutes, 14th February, 1876 Vol. 1 p 68.

rent of £50. In the same way, Robert Potts, the owner of the Royal Lecture Hall in High Felling and a member of the Board, agreed to it being rented as a temporary school for a sum of £40 per annum. Therefore, by the end of February 1876, the Board had an organisation of largely temporary schools which were to form the basis of future development.

It was quite obvious to the Board that these buildings were neither sufficient nor really suitable for the educational needs of the district. Apart from the Chemical Works Schools, the other buildings were rather small and suffered from overcrowding from the start. The Wesleyan School was made up of a school room and a class room in which were housed the older pupils while a second classroom was the Infants Department. Average attendances quickly rose to well over two hundred and the headmaster, Robert Jameson Rowell, was forced to send several children who requested admittance to the 'Old Hall' School. Conditions were no better there. This school was also made up of three relatively small rooms, the largest measuring 35 x 25 feet, and overcrowding was considerable. Thomas Kirtly, the headmaster, complained that the school was so overcrowded that teachers could not superintend their classes individually, the desks being so close together. The position was no better at the Royal Lecture Hall School. Overcrowding became such a problem that it was decided to remove the infants to another place. At first it was thought that a large shop below the Hall might be used, but this proved unsuitable and so in July 1876, the infants were transferred to the United Free Methodist Chapel which had been hired for the purpose.

To arrange permanent accommodation, it was necessary to carry out a survey of the district. This was carried out by a committee of the Board in November 1875 which reported that of a total population of 11,551 inhabitants, a quarter were in the age range five to thirteen. From this preliminary survey the Building

Committee recommended the construction of a number of new schools. These were to be at High Felling, Bill Quay and Wardley and would accommodate 900, 750 and 150 pupils respectively. The former two would cater for both senior and infant pupils while the latter was to be solely an infants school. The Education Department was not however, satisfied with these recommendations and so a new, more detailed census was carried out for the whole district.

According to this census, the number of children requiring elementary education was 4,106. This figure comprised 912 children between three and five years, 930 between five and seven years and 2,264 between seven and thirteen years. The Board estimated that about half of the three to five year-old group would attend school. It was felt that the children of the upper classes, attending private schools elsewhere, would represent 5% of the total and that a further 20% of the total would be unlikely to attend because of unavoidable absenteeism. Therefore, a deduction could be made from the grand total which would reduce the number of places necessary for elementary education to 2,774.

The committee responsible for the census, also divided the parish into three districts - Felling (including High and Low Felling) to the west, Bill Quay, Wardley and Heworth to the east and High Heworth and Windy Nook to the south. On this basis and using the same deductions, the Felling district required accommodation for 1,688 children, the Bill Quay district for 773 children and the High Heworth district for 313 - a grand total of 2,774. The existing schools, excluding the temporary Board Schools, had accommodation for some of this number. In the Felling district, the Chemical Works Schools and St. John's School catered for 705 children, leaving a deficiency of 983 places. In the Bill Quay district, St. Mary's School plus those children attending St. John's, accounted for 254 places, which left a deficiency of 519. In the High Heworth district, the High Heworth National School and St. Alban's, together with children attending St. John's

accounted for 379 places. Therefore, the Board reckoned that there were 66 more places than children to fill them in this third district.

On the basis of these figures and subject to the approval of the Education Department, the committee now recommended the construction of a school at High Felling for 850 children (300 infants and 550 seniors) and a school at Bill Quay for 550 children (180 infants and 370 seniors).(1) In both cases it was thought that a proportion of the numbers attending the existing voluntary schools at Heworth and High Heworth would leave to attend the new Board Schools.

The Education Department recommended the Board to go ahead with the purchase of land for the new schools in the two districts. It was however, at variance with the Board over the question of accommodation at the schools. It was felt that a deduction of 20% for unavoidable absence was too high and the Department was only prepared to accept a maximum deduction of 12½%. Therefore, it concluded that the accommodation required was as follows: Felling 2,007, Bill Quay 958, Windy Nook 382. If the Roman Catholic population was taken into account, the deficiency would be 1,025 places in Felling and 591 in Bill Quay. Windy Nook and High Heworth, on the other hand, would have an excess of 40 places. Furthermore, Her Majesty's Inspector proposed to inspect St. Mary's School and if it did not come up to standard, then the deficiency for the Bill Quay district would be further increased. The Department therefore recommended that the school at High Felling should provide accommodation for not less than 1,000 children. As to the Bill Quay School, the Government Inspector was doubtful if the proposed site was near enough to Wardley for the younger children there. It recommended to the Board that it should provide a school at Bill Quay for 430 children (170 infants and

(1) Heworth School Board Minutes, 20th March, 1876 Vol. 1 p 90.

260 seniors) and should erect an infants school at Wardley for 120 infants.

The School Board felt that the estimates made by the Education Department were too exaggerated and it cited the South Shields School Board to support their case for smaller schools. The Department replied that that particular board had "not yet succeeded in obtaining the utmost school attendance" which circumstances permitted.(1) The Board were also reminded that under the Act of 1870, it was to provide sufficient accommodation not only for those children actually attending school "but for all who ought to do so."(2) A further reminder to the Board was that the population of the parish of Heworth had increased from 9,477 in 1861 to 12,936 in 1871 and the Board appeared to have made no allowance for any further increases in population. It is worth noting that the census taken by the Board in 1875 showed a population of 11,551, more than 1,000 less than the 1871 figure. As the Board's figure was almost certainly inaccurate, the Education Departments claim that the estimates for accommodation were too low seems justified.

However, the Board was now convinced that there was only a need for a school to accommodate 750 pupils at High Felling and, perhaps surprisingly, the Education Department accepted this conclusion. The Department made the proviso that the proposed school should be capable of enlargement and that it "reserved the right of requiring the Board to provide additional accommodation in that locality".(3) The proposed Bill Quay developments also required further modifications for the Education Department had failed to include the transference of the Wesleyan School to the Board as a temporary school and so the deficiency at Bill Quay had increased to 718. As it seemed probable that a further

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(1) Heworth School Board Minutes, 20th March, 1876 Vol. 1 p 90.

(2) Ibid 20th March, 1876 Vol. 1 p. 90.

(3) Ibid 10th July, 1876 Vol. 1 p. 138.

increase in population would take place at Wardley, the Department had no objection to the raising of a school at Bill Quay for 550 children. It was understood that a school for infants would be established at Wardley as soon as the probable increase in population was ascertained.

While these negotiations were being carried out, the sites of the proposed schools were purchased. Robert Wallis of Stocksfield agreed to sell one acre of land from Bog House Farm in High Felling and Ralph Carr Ellison agreed to sell two acres from Blue House Farm, Bill Quay.(1)

The consent of the Education Department having been received, the Board proceeded to appoint an architect to draw up the plans for the new buildings. Thomas Oliver of Newcastle was called to deal with both of the proposed schools at a commission "£5 per cent on the gross cost of the construction of the schools."(2) His plans were submitted to the Education Department for approval. The first were for the High Felling Schools and these were sent in July 1876. After alterations were made on the advice of the Education Department, they were finally accepted in October of the same year. The plans for the proposed Bill Quay Schools were submitted in December 1876 and were accepted in February of the following year. With this acceptance, the Board could obtain tenders for the building of the schools. The first tenders received were those for the High Felling Schools and these were eight in number, the highest being for £7,122 8s. 4d. and the lowest for £5,739 10s. 5d. The latter figure was submitted by R. and J. Harrison of Gateshead and their tender was accepted. The Messrs. Harrison however, declined to accept the contract offered by the Board owing to a misunderstanding on their part as to the kind of brick to be used in the erection of the schools.

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(1) Appendix XIX.

(2) Heworth School Board Minutes, 8th May, 1876, Vol. 1. p. 108.

New tenders were advertised for and this resulted in that offered by Wilkinson and Son of Felling for £5,800 being accepted. Again, for a reason that is not known, the proposed contract was rejected and so it was offered to White and Sproat of Blyth whose tender of £5,970 was the next lowest. This time the contract was accepted. On application, the Public Works Loan Board agreed to loan the Board the money to cover the cost of purchasing the site and erecting the buildings "to be designated High Felling Board Schools."(1)

A similar sequence of events occurred with the proposed schools at Dill Quay. The tender of £4,250 by R. J. and J. W. Carr was accepted on condition that they submitted the names of two sureties for the due performance of the contract. They informed the Board however, that they had underestimated by £600 and so the contract was offered to Stephen Lorraine, with a tender of £4,950, under the same conditions. He also found that he could not do the job at the price he had quoted and so the Messrs. Carr were re-offered the contract at a price of £5,000, which this time was accepted. Again the Public Works Loan Commissioners provided the finance for the site and buildings. A Clerk of Works, Matthew Lowes of South Shields, was appointed at a salary of £2 per week, to supervise the construction of both schools.

During this time, a third school at Wardley was decided upon. The inhabitants of that area obviously felt the need for a Board school for in February 1877, a deputation of three presented themselves to the Board. They urged the establishment of a temporary school until a more permanent arrangement could be made. A committee was appointed to consider the situation and following a visit to the place, a recommendation was made that two cottages owned by Wardley Colliery should be rented at

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(1) P.R.O. Ed 21/4838 August 1878.

an annual cost of £20 as a temporary school for infants. From a number of plans submitted in April 1877, one was selected for a permanent school which was to hold 170 infants. A census of the area revealed that the anticipated growth in population was indeed taking place and so a site was chosen. The land was close to the colliery and belonged to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners who were willing to sell it for £50.(1) The site and preliminary plans were approved by the Education Department and the architect, George Ord, was instructed to prepare more detailed plans for presentation. Meanwhile, the tender of the Harrisons of Gateshead for £1,521 16s. 3d. was accepted and by July 1878, a loan to cover the cost of the site and the erection of the school was obtained.

Therefore, by the second half of 1878, the most important task of the Board, the establishment of new permanent schools, was well under way. The work itself did not proceed without some difficulty. Initially that on the High Felling Schools progressed very well, the Clerk of Works in August 1877, being "satisfied with the workmanship."(2) Lowes however, was soon to report delays in progress for a variety of reasons. Bad weather, an inadequate number of workers, the sending of wrong materials by the plumbers and the slackness of some of the workers were cited as reasons for this. The Bill Quay Schools, started in October 1877, did not appear to present as many problems and progress was more regular. In April 1878, the Clerk of Works complained of the contractors for the High Felling Schools being "very dilatory" and on his request, a letter was sent to them complaining about their progress.(3) They replied that the fact that the work had fallen behind schedule was not all their fault. Difficulties with the ventilation system plus the wintry weather, had contributed to the

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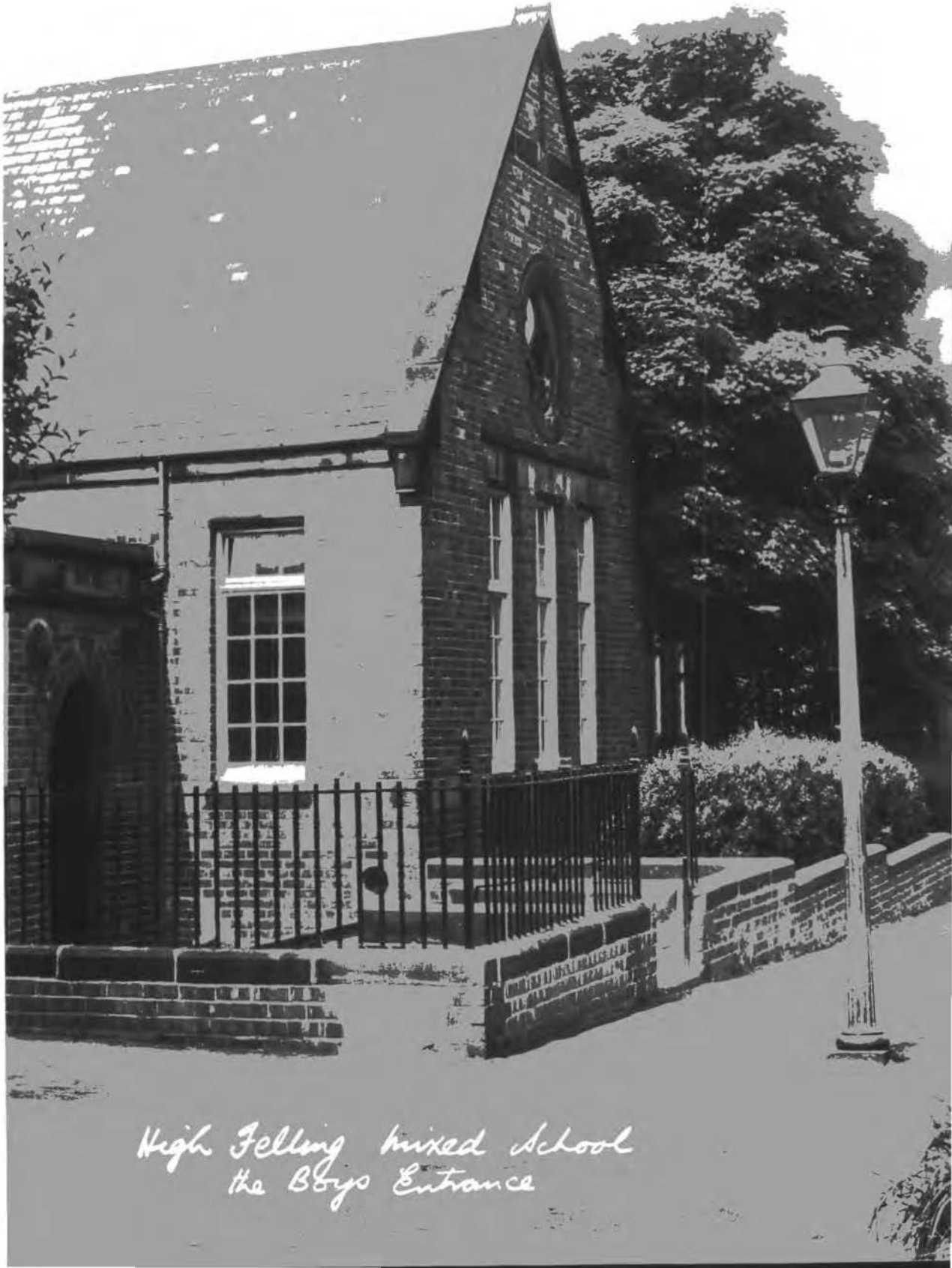
(1) Appendix XIX.

(2) Heworth School Board Minutes, 13th August, 1877 Vol. 2 p 61.

(3) Ibid 8th April, 1878 Vol. 2 p 208.


High Felling Mixed School
the Boys Entrance

delay. It was actually August 1878 before the High Felling Schools were ready for opening, two months later than the scheduled time. The Bill Quay Schools were ready by November of the same year, and although the work had been satisfactory, Lowes complained to the Board of the lack of co-operation between himself and the architect.

The design of these two schools is typical of what became known as the 'central hall' shape which characterised most school building during the period of the School Boards. Both were single storey buildings and consisted of large halls or school rooms around which were grouped smaller class rooms. The High Felling Mixed School was made up of a large school room 79 x 34 feet, its length running from north to south.(1) At the north and south ends of this room, there were two classrooms separated by a corridor leading into either end of the main room. The east side classrooms were the largest being 32 x 22 feet while those on the west side were 22 x 22 feet. There were two main entrances into the school, the boys entering by the south entrance and the girls by the north. The infants school was built immediately west and behind the mixed school. This consisted of a single hall or school room 45.6 x 30 feet running east to west. Attached to the west end were two classrooms measuring 18 x 18 feet, separated by a corridor leading from the entrance into the main room. The infants school room contained a gallery down one side, while the other rooms in both schools were furnished with long benches and desks. The Bill Quay Schools were very similar.(2) The main school room of the mixed school measuring 64.3 x 34 feet was aligned east to west. At the east end there was a single large class room 40.6 x 20 feet while at the other end, there were two smaller classrooms 21 x 20 feet, separated by a corridor.

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(1) Appendix V.

(2) Appendix VI.

Bill Quay Mixed School

High Felling Infants School

The infants school lay on the north side behind and at right angles to the mixed school. The main room was 35 x 25 feet and the two classrooms situated at the north end of the building measured 21 x 20 feet.

Work was started on the new infants school at Wardley in August 1878 but progress was slow. The Clerk of Works blamed an initial shortage of workers for this and later the severe weather early in 1879 was another factor. There seems to have been some dispute between Lowes and the architect and each accused the other of lack of co-operation. As a result of such delays and difficulties it is hardly surprising that by April 1879, Messrs. Harrison, the contractors, had entered into bankruptcy. Despite this, the school was finished by August of that year. The temporary building was closed down and pupils and staff were transferred to the new premises on the 25th of the month.

The new school was a single storey building made up of three rooms.(1) The main school room was not large, measuring 37 x 24 feet; opening direct from the large room on the north east side, were the two class rooms measuring 20 x 18 feet and 18 x 17 feet.

By 1880 it was apparent to the Board that the three new schools were not sufficient for the needs of the district. Population was increasing rapidly and this was putting pressure upon the existing Board schools. This was particularly true in Low Felling where the former Chemical Works School was serving the needs of the northern part of the district. The school was overcrowded and had at least one very disturbing feature. Rats were causing considerable annoyance and danger in the school. In May 1880, Jessie Ann Dunnett, the headmistress at the school, complained to the Board on this matter. She informed the Board that "the man employed catching the rats" had more than he could

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(1) Appendix VII.

sell and she did not see "why a Board School should suffer by the rise and fall of the rat market."(1) The south side of the parish was served by two national schools at High Heworth and Windy Nook.(2) The Board was worried, with good reason, as to the calibre of the education provided in these two schools.

It was decided therefore that preliminary approaches should be made about possible sites for new schools at Low Felling and Windy Nook. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners were prepared to sell an acre of land adjoining the road linking High Hewerth and Windy Nook for £300.(3) A recommendation was made that a school to accommodate 400 children should be built subject to the approval of the Education Department. Similarly, it was recommended that a piece of land belonging to the North Eastern Railway Company should be bought for £650 per acre.(4) On this site, it was suggested that a new school should be built to accommodate 700 children to serve the population of Low Felling and Felling Shore. A school for 200 infants was also recommended for the Felling Shore district.

The preliminary ideas proposed by the Board received a mixed reception from the inhabitants of Windy Nook. In August 1880, the Board received a letter from 172 householders and ratepayers of Windy Nook thanking the Board for its intention to build a school to serve the district. At the same time, a letter from 88 inhabitants of the same area expressed the opinion that a new school "would entail upon the ratepayers a burden which the circumstances did not require, the district already being provided with sufficient school accommodation."(5)

The Education Department, on the suggestion of the Board, proposed to inspect St. Alban's School as to its efficiency. It

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(1) Heworth School Board Minutes, 24th May 1880 Vol. 4 p. 57.

(2) Chapter IX p 143

(3) Appendix XIX

(4) Ibid

(5) Heworth School Board Minutes, 30th August, 1880 Vol. 4 p. 104.

also requested more recent statistics about the existing number of children between three and thirteen years resident in Windy Nook. The inspection was duly carried out in October 1880 and the result was that St. Alban's School was no longer regarded as efficient. The Department felt therefore, that considerable additional accommodation was needed and it suggested to the Board two alternatives. Either an infants school could be erected upon the proposed site and an enlargement made of the High Felling Schools, or provision could be made for this whole deficiency at the new site. It was felt that the new accommodation was needed for between 275 and 300 children, but the final figure would depend upon the results of the census. The Education Department also agreed that there was a need for new schools at Felling Shore and Low Felling. A large body of the inhabitants did not apparently agree with either the Education Departments or the Board's findings. In November 1880 a petition had reached the Board Offices from a number of people who claimed to be paying seventy-five percent of the rates of the district. They were protesting at the three new schools proposed by the Board on the grounds that the existing schools, "built and rented, provided sufficient room for all who needed the education."(1)

The census requested by the Education Department was duly made by the Summoning Officer for the whole district of the School Board. Its findings showed that during the period September 1875 to February 1881, the population of school age had increased by 560, 405 of this increase being in the Windy Nook area. The total number of children in this area between three and thirteen was 863 but on making deductions based on those made in 1876, the Board estimated there was a need to accommodate 567. Further deductions could be made if High Heworth National School

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(1) Heworth School Board Minutes 29th November, 1880 Vol. 4 p 146.

with accommodation for 212 and St. John's which had 39 pupils from the area were taken into account. On this basis places were necessary for 316 pupils. But actual attendance differed from possible attendance. Those actually attending High Heworth National School numbered 118 while 205 children from the area attended High Felling Board Schools. A further 93 children were attending board schools outside the district. These children were at Sheriff Hill and Eighton Banks Board Schools in Gateshead and Durham respectively. It was quite clear that the number of children attending from the Windy Nook and High Heworth Villages was responsible for the increasing overcrowding at High Felling Board Schools. As a result of these findings, it was recommended that permission be sought from the Education Department to provide school accommodation at Windy Nook for 450 children (300 mixed and 150 infants).

By March 1881, the Education Department had approved plans, prepared by Oliver and Leeson of Newcastle, for the new schools at Low Felling to accommodate 479 older children and 246 infants. It also approved the conclusions of the Board regarding the deficiency at Windy Nook and suggested that the site for the proposed school be acquired and plans submitted. Oliver and Leeson were authorised by the Board to present the plans. The Department however, thought that a school at Felling Shore for 200 infants, as proposed by the Board, was somewhat excessive. It was pointed out that St. Mary's Church of England School was supplying part of the accommodation for that area. A further census was made of the Felling Shore, Friars Goose, Heworth Village and Heworth Lane areas of children between three and thirteen and the results caused the Board to recommend the erection of a school for 150 infants rather than 200. A half acre site was offered by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners adjacent to Stoneygate Lane for the proposed school

at £125.[1] The plans for all three new schools were finally approved by the Education Department by July 1881 and tenders were requested. The Board accepted that of G. Waddell of Edinburgh for the Felling Schools (£3,460 18s. 0d.), that of Greason and Stockdale for the Windy Nook Schools (£3,334 12s. 3d.) and that of A. Thompson for the Felling Shore School (£1,435 4s. 4d.). Permission was given for the borrowing of the money needed from the Public Works Loan Commissioners.

By the end of 1881 the second phase of school building carried out under the auspices of the Heworth School Board was well under way. There were no major difficulties or delays to slow down the building of the new schools and staff had been appointed at the Felling and Felling Shore Schools by May and August of 1882 respectively. The Windy Nook Schools were opened in May of the following year. It is interesting to note that a proposal was made in October 1881 that a public baths might be built "in connection with the new schools in course of erection at Low Felling."[2] The following month, the Building Committee reported that there was no authority for the expenditure of public money in this way and so the scheme was dropped.

One problem arising out of the building of the school at Windy Nook was that of water supply. A piped supply of water could not be brought to the site at that time and while the school was being built, it was recommended that a large water tank be constructed for the purpose of collecting rain water. This was found to be unsuitable, for in September 1883, shortly after the school was opened, it was decided that a well should be sunk instead. This was successful but a laboratory report on the analysis of the water showed it to be entirely unfit for drinking

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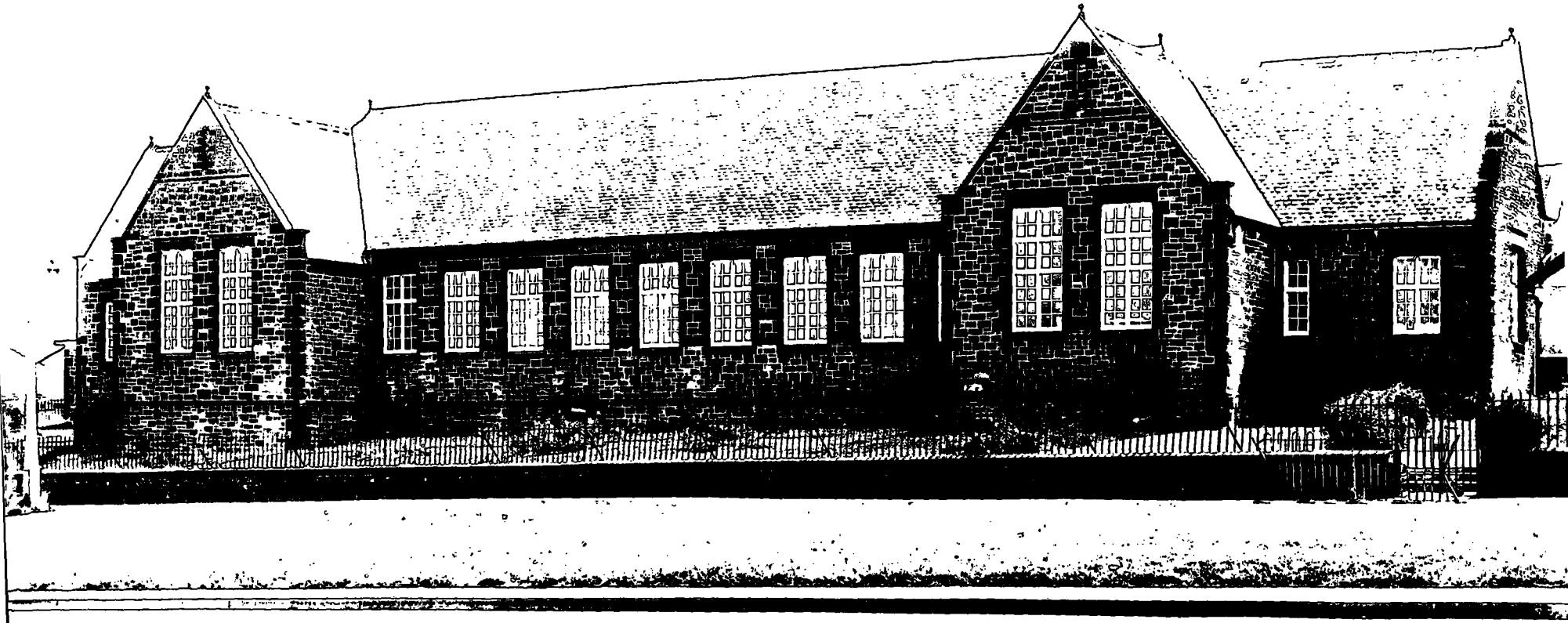
(1) Appendix XIX.

(2) Heworth School Board Minutes 31st October, 1881, Vol. 4 p 344.

Felling Mixed and Infants Schools.

Felling Shore Infants School.



Windy Nook Mixed School.

and washing purposes. As a consequence of these difficulties earth closets rather than water closets formed part of the fittings of the school. This problem of lack of water was not solved until 1891 when the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company laid water pipes to the school.

The style of the school at Felling was different from any of the others previously built by the Board in that it was a two-storey building.(1) The plan was still that of the central-hall type and the length of the building ran east to west to the north of the railway line of the North Eastern Railway Company. The ground floor was built as the infants school which consisted of a school room measuring 37.6 x 20 feet with a northern projection measuring 27 x 18.9 feet and two classrooms measuring 20 x 20 feet and 20.9 x 14.7½ feet at the east and west ends respectively.(2) On this floor were the various rooms for staff for both of the schools. The mixed school was on the first floor, consisting of a school room 20 x 80 feet which was adjoined by two classrooms measuring 30 x 18 feet on the north side. On the east and west ends of the main room there were two classrooms measuring 20 x 40 feet and 20 x 20 feet.

The Windy Nook School was a single storey building similar in layout to those at High Felling and Bill Quay.(3) The site lay north of the main road linking the villages at High Heworth and Windy Nook and the mixed school was aligned east to west and parallel to this road. The main school room measured 63 x 20 feet and was joined at the east and west ends to two classrooms measuring 20 x 18 feet. A fifth classroom measuring 26 x 18.6 feet adjoined the main room on the centre of the south side. The

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(1) Appendix VIIIa. and VIIIb.

(2) P.R.O. Ed 7/27 18th November, 1882.

(3) Appendix IX.

Infants School was joined to the mixed school on the south side and ran at right angles to it. This consisted of a school room measuring 36.6 x 24 feet which had a classroom on its southern end measuring 18 x 18 feet.(1)

The school at Felling Shore was much smaller than the other two.(2) Its site lay on the east side of Stoneygate Lane which linked the village at Heworth Shore with the main east to west Sunderland Road. The main school room was aligned north to south and measured 40 x 19 feet. It was joined at its northern end to a classroom measuring 19 x 14 feet while on its western side there was a second classroom measuring 20 x 14 feet.(3)

In the case of all of the infants schools, galleries were part of the main rooms and occurred in some of the classrooms.

By the end of 1883, the Heworth School Board had built six modern schools but such was the pressure of the growing population that it was soon obvious that the accommodation within them was inadequate for the needs of the district. In fact headmasters were apparently turning children away from their schools, which did not please the Board. A resolution early in 1888 instructed headmasters to admit all children in future who made application and who lived within the district served by the particular school.

In July of the same year, the Heworth Board recommended that practical cookery classes should be taught in the Board Schools. These classes had begun by the end of the year in the four mixed schools, but it was soon obvious that the rooms in which these lessons were taught were inadequate for the purpose. The inspectors report for the High Felling Mixed School in 1889 for instance, noted that the cookery room was far too small for the 48 girls who attended demonstration lessons there. The same was true at Bill Quay. It was decided therefore to enlarge the schools partly

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(1) P.R.O. Ed 21/4841 7th July, 1883.

(2) Appendix X.

(3) P.R.O. Ed 21/4836 1st November, 1882.

because of the increasing pressure on places and partly to provide specialist facilities for the teaching of cookery. In January 1890, Henry Miller the architect to the Board, produced plans for an additional classroom and cookery room at High Felling Mixed School. These were accepted by the Education Department and built by Wallace and Wilkinson, the contractors, at a cost of £334. The two rooms were added to the west side of the main room, and as this now had two little light from that side, a sky light became necessary. No additions were made at the other mixed schools at this time.

By 1891 however, the school population in regular attendance, had risen substantially and it was clear that enlargement of the schools was necessary. In April 1892 plans were prepared by Miller, for the enlargement of certain of the Board schools. The schools to be enlarged were those at High Felling (136 additional infants places.) Felling (40 mixed and 50 infants) and Windy Nook (39 mixed and 36 infants.) Tenders were obtained as was the permission of the Education Department for loans to cover the cost, and a Clerk of Works, George Bell of Newcastle, appointed to supervisethe work. Partitions were introduced into most of the schools during this year to subdivide the large school rooms into smaller and more manageable classrooms. The additions being made at High Felling Infants School was of benefit to the Mixed School, for the infants vacated one of the original classrooms and this was transferred to the Mixed School in May, 1893. In August, it was further decided to enlarge the school at Felling Shore to make it an infant and junior school and this was agreed to by the Education Department. In fact no additions were made to the school apart from a partition which converted the single school room into two classrooms. Further expansion was still necessary and in November 1893 it was recommended that the Bill Quay Mixed School should be enlarged to accommodate an extra 240 children. The Education Department gave its assent and so by the following year, work was taking place at five Board schools

to provide well over 500 extra places.

Despite these measures, overcrowding was still a problem in certain of the Boards schools. This was particularly so at High Felling Mixed School and certain reorganisations were necessary to ease this situation. It was decided that children attending Felling Mixed School from outside of the district (i.e. Gateshead) were to be informed that there was no room for them in Heworth School Board Schools. Also, parents of girls in the second and third standards at Felling, who resided at Felling Shore, were to send their children to the Felling Shore School. Children residing near to and north of Sunderland Road were to attend at Felling Mixed School "or other schools equally convenient," and in this way the pressure at High Felling would be reduced.(1) That this completely succeeded is doubtful, for in February of 1895 following the inspectors report on High Felling Mixed School, the headmaster was instructed to reduce the average attendance at the school to 583.

A new census was made towards the end of 1896 which made it clear to the Board that extra school accommodation was necessary in the parish. At first it was suggested that additions should be made to the High Felling Mixed School but this idea was rejected by the Board. Eventually, after a long period when nothing was done to remedy the problem, the Board decided to go ahead with the building of a new school. Therefore, in July, 1898, the Clerk to the Board was empowered to enter into negotiations with the Ecclesiastical Commissioners to purchase a piece of land near Heworth Church as a site for a new school. The Commissioners were reluctant to sell, probably because of the nearness to St. Mary's Church of England School and so nothing developed immediately.

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(1) Log Book High Felling Mixed Board School, November 7th, 1894 p 389.

In the meantime the Board decided that the problem could be eased by increasing the size of Windy Nook Infants School to take a further 80 children. Plans for this were approved and work was started by early 1899. This of course could not solve the whole problem and the slowness over the negotiations for the site of the proposed new school only aggravated the situation. The Education Department was not happy about this and in a letter to the Board, pointed out that although the problem had been known for at least two years, especially at High Felling, nothing had been done. At this establishment the infants in particular were badly affected. Though the accommodation was for 386, average attendances were usually over 450 and the number enrolled on the books was 522. The Department therefore wished to know what the Board intended to do about the general situation and reminded its members that provision of sufficient accommodation was one of the conditions upon which the annual grant was paid.

Following this communication, the Board decided that the only solution was to create a new type of school for the district - a Higher Grade School. It was to be situated in some central position to which the higher standards of the mixed schools could be transferred. It seems that the Board were not entirely convinced about this proposed development for they resolved that the plans should be drawn up so that the building could be used, if necessary, for an ordinary elementary school. The Education Department readily consented to the idea and it was decided to use the proposed site at Heworth for this purpose and accommodate 600 children there. A committee was set up to visit and inspect similar schools which had recently been erected at Gateshead, Newcastle, Jarrow, South Shields and Sunderland. The result of these visits was very dramatic. What the committee had seen had obviously not attracted them for the motion to build the Higher Grade School was rescinded by six votes to two.

It was now decided, early in 1900, that overcrowding could best be solved by making additions for 120 children at Bill Quay Infants and building two new schools. These were to be at Heworth and High Felling, the latter site to be adjoining Falla Park Road at its junction with Parkinson Street near the western boundary of the district.(1) This school was to be an infants and junior school catering for 540 pupils (300 juniors and 240 infants) and with provision made for future extension for a mixed department. To reduce overcrowding at the High Felling Schools, the first and second standards were to be transferred from the mixed department to the new junior department. The Board of Education was a little worried about the proposed site, which was rather steep, but the Heworth Board had its way and the site was purchased from Messrs. Walla and Scott. The plans submitted by Henry Miller were accepted as were those for the proposed extensions at Bill Quay. Thomas Farrow was appointed Clerk of Works for the new school and work was begun on the one and a half acre site early in 1901. By March 1902, the building was complete and had been approved by the new Board of Education as Falla Park Road School.

The junior school was another of the central-hall type, the main room being a narrow hall 62.6 x 12 feet. In fact it was described as a corridor which "was to be thrown into classrooms when required."(2) The room itself ran parallel with Falla Park Road from west to east. At both ends there were two classrooms measuring 25 x 24 feet while on the north side there were two further classrooms measuring 22.8 x 18 feet. Immediately west and adjacent to the junior school was the infants department. At the eastern end of the main hall there were two large classrooms measuring 24.9 x 22 feet while at the western end, there were

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(1) Appendix XIX.

(2) P.R.O. Ed 21/4835 February, 1901.

Falla Park Road Junior School.

three classrooms. Two measured 22.6 x 20 feet and were separated by the third room measuring 16 x 20 feet.(1)

The building of the new school at Heworth went foreward with much greater difficulty. The site, at Ridley Terrace, had been decided upon for a very long time, but its purchase took much negotiation. It was not until a deputation from the Board had approached the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in April 1902, that sanction was given for the sale. The reason given for the sale was the absence of some assurance that accommodation at St. Mary's School would be increased to meet the needs of the locality. Because of this, the Commissioners felt compelled to sell. Even then, it was suggested to the Board that a more suitable site might be available than the one at Heworth, but the Board rejected this. The Reverend Steel, Vicar at St. Mary's Church, made strong efforts to persuade the other members of the Board not to build at the site but eventually plans were submitted in August 1902. The school was to be a junior school with accommodation for 300 children. The plans were accepted by the Board of Education and building had begun by April in the following year. The school however was not destined to be a 'Board School'. Two months later the Heworth School Board was dissolved and the school was completed in May 1904 as the first of the new schools built under the control of the new local education authority - Felling Urban District Council.

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(1) Appendix XIa and XIb.

THE ORGANISATION AND CONTENT OF THE BOARD SCHOOLS

The Organisation

With the building of the new Board Schools, one of the most important tasks facing the Board, was the appointment of staff, particularly head teachers. The character and quality of the head teachers inevitably was reflected in the character, tone and general attainments of their schools. In these respects the Board was usually successful in its selection of head teachers and little complaint could be made against these teachers, especially on the score of attainments. The turn-over of head teachers, in the mixed schools particularly, was very slow suggesting that the heads were satisfied with their positions and that the Board had selected wisely. In the infants schools, the turn-over was more rapid. There was a great deal of early retirement on the part of the female head teachers employed by the Board, often on the grounds of ill-health. Of course promotion both within and outside the Heworth School Board also contributed to the turn-over of staff.

James Laidler Robson was the first headmaster at the new Board school at High Felling but prior to this, he was the well known and highly respected head teacher of the Chemical Works Schools. The success of these schools, both before and after their control by the Board, made it hardly surprising that Robson was appointed to the High Felling School in preference to the head of the existing temporary Board school at that place. A native of Lucker in Northumberland, Robson had served his time as a teacher at Bamburgh before moving to Felling. There is no evidence as to when he arrived at the Chemical Works School but it was certainly after 1851 when James Swan was the master. He was certainly at the Chemical Works Schools for many years and it was at the age of 59 that he was appointed to the High Felling Board Schools. He was very enthusiastic about moving to his new position and no doubt this was encouraged by the Chairman of the Board who informed Robson that he "would find the new school a

glorious place."[1] Compared with the Chemical Works School, this was probably so, although it was not long before Robson was complaining of the cold draughts passing through the school during the winter months of 1878. Nevertheless, Robson remained at the school and it prospered under his direction until his sudden death in March 1890 at the age of 71.

John Logan, a native of Berwick, was appointed to the headship of Bill Quay Board School in August, 1878 in preference to the masters controlling the temporary Board Schools there. Qualifying at a college in North Wales, he had his first headship at the age of twenty at a school at Shoreswood, near Norham. After seven years he moved to Pegswood Colliery School for two years and then to Bill Quay where he remained until 1890. Then, after Robson's death, he was transferred to High Felling where the Board School made even greater progress under his direction. William Rye was his successor at Bill Quay, and both were still the headmasters of their respective schools at the closure of the Heworth School Board. Thus over a period of twenty-five years, both of these schools were served by no more than two head teachers.

The picture differs when one looks at the Infants Department of these two schools. Elizabeth Smith, the mistress appointed at the High Felling Temporary Infants School, was transferred to the new school where she remained with great distinction until September 1883. Hannah Botcherby became the new headmistress and the school continued to prosper under her control. She remained for just under four years and in April 1887, the former headmistress at the Felling Infants Board School, Mary Bowes, took over. She remained in charge of the school throughout the rest of the School Board period.

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(1) Log Book, Felling Chemical Works Boys Board School, August 26th, 1878 p. 64.

The Bill Quay Infants School was opened in November, 1878 under the control of Annie Doxey. The school was never able to match that at High Felling in its attainments in the annual examinations and in October 1886, Annie Doxey was dismissed. The reason for this was that in the previous examination and report, the school had only earned the 'Fair Merit Grant'. The system of payment by results was certainly unfortunate for Miss Doxey. Hannah Margaret Scott became the new mistress in December but by January of the following year she had left on the grounds of ill-health and Emily L. Taylor, who had also been interviewed with Scott for the post, was given the position. She only remained until July 1889 when Emily Bungard became the new mistress. Despite these changes, the school was making very good progress, so that when Bungard retired in August 1895 Margaret Anderson was able to take over "a very successful infants school."(1) Miss Anderson remained at the school until January 1902 when she was transferred to Falla Park Road Junior School as the new headmistress. In her place, Janet Rutter became the new headmistress at Bill Quay and served there in that capacity after the School Board had ceased to function.

This rapid staff turn-over among headmistresses in infants schools is reflected in the third school built by the Board at Wardley. Elizabeth Ditchburn, the headmistress at the Chemical Works Infants School, was appointed to the temporary Infant School at Wardley in May 1877. By August 1877 she had resigned through ill-health. Harriot Pickering replaced her and she resigned in December 1878. However, this resignation was withdrawn because Pickering had failed to get an appointment in her home area of Driffield. Miss Pickering took over the new

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(1) Log Book, Bill Quay Board School, Infants Department, August, 19th, 1895 p. 224.

permanent building in August 1879 but from then until the end of the Board, six new headmistresses were appointed at various times. It is hardly surprising that Wardley Infants School never figured high in the lists of attainments of the Heworth Board Schools.

On the appointment of James Laidler Robson to the High Felling Mixed Schools in 1878, Robert James Rowell became the new head at the Chemical Works Schools. This was not the first time he had been employed by the Board as a headmaster, for in 1876 he had taken charge of the new temporary Wesleyan Board School at Bill Quay and had remained there until the opening of the Bill Quay Board School. Then he was transferred to the Chemical Works School and when the new school was opened in September 1882 at Felling, he became the first head there. Rowell remained at the school until October 1886 when he was dismissed by the Board. In August of that year, a motion that he be asked to resign was passed by three votes to two. The reasons for this are not clear but from the school log book for November 1885, we learn that charges had been brought against the master by an unnamed member of the School Board and the caretaker. These included that "the children were allowed to run about the school on the desks."(1) A special committee meeting was held to consider these charges and apparently the head was successful in refuting them. Inspectors reports for this period certainly suggest that the school was being carried on satisfactorally. In August 1886, a special meeting, with all members attending, was held to consider the situation. During it, two memorials from the staff of Felling Schools and 206 ratepayers were presented asking for the retention of Rowell. Despite these, a motion that he be dismissed was carried by four votes to three. An attempt to rescind this motion

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(1) Log Book, Felling Mixed Board School, November 6th, 1885 p. 186

at the next meeting was defeated by the same ratio of votes. Therefore Rowell left after ten years, ten months service with the Board and he was replaced by John Heppell Dixon.

Dixon had been appointed to open the new school at Windy Nook in May 1883 and had been there until Rowell's dismissal. On his transfer to the Felling Schools, William Pratt from Gateshead, became the new head at Windy Nook and was still there in 1903. The Rowell episode evidently left a strained situation in the Felling Schools, for shortly after Dixon's appointment, one assistant master resigned and an assistant mistress was suspended and eventually dismissed for insubordination. By March 1889, the managers of the Felling Schools reported to the Board that they considered it to be in the best interests of the school that Dixon should seek an engagement elsewhere. Their reasons for this are not known but in April notice was given to the master and he was replaced by Henry Alfred Wand of Middlesbrough. Wand was the last of the 'Board School' headmasters at Felling.

The Infants Department of these two schools and the new school at Felling Shore reflected the more rapid turn-over of headmistresses that was noted earlier. Frequent resignations, particularly on the grounds of ill-health, took place among these women and this meant that there was an almost continuous movement and change of headmistresses in the Board Schools. It meant too that promotion for female assistants was so much easier than it was for men assistants employed by the Board. The Infants and Junior Schools at Falla Park Road did not have time to show this trend as they were built so close to the ending of the Board.

Apart from the incidents involving Rowell and Dixon, the relationship between the Board and its senior teaching staff was usually very cordial. From time to time, the Board felt the need to remind the head teachers as to their duties, particularly with the collection of school fees and the securing of regular attendance. Occasionally headmasters were reprimanded about closing schools early without the permission of the managers or

for keeping children in school after hours, but these occasions were very infrequent. Any complaints which were brought against the headmasters by other staff, members of the Board or parents had to be looked into by the Board. We have seen that this was the case with Rowell; a similar situation occurred with Logan when he was headmaster at Bill Quay. In January 1887 a Committee of Enquiry was set up to consider charges made against him by two members of the staff and that Logan had "got him unjustly sacked." Furthermore, he had attempted to do the same with Miss Melville, one of the complainants, and had made threats against her. Both accused Logan of sitting at his desk and being "otherwise idle one fourth if not more of his time."(1) The result of the enquiry was that the Board supported Logan and dismissed the two members of his staff. Fortunately, such enquiries were not very frequent.

Relationships between the headmasters and their staff were important to the Board, for they recognised the need for harmony within the schools if progress was to be made. The headmasters had the authority of course within the schools, but in cases of discord, the teachers could not be suspended without permission of the managers. The teachers could also appeal to the Board to hear their point of view, though generally the Board supported the head. The main complaints made by heads against their staff were failure to carry out their general duties satisfactorally. In the latter category, Dixon complained of the "very imperfect manner" in which a member of his staff attended to his duties, especially "while the children were in the ranks and also marching."(2) Robson complained of some of his female members of staff being

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(1) Heworth School Board Minutes, 1st January, 1887 Vol. 6 p. 326.

(2) Log Book, Windy Nook Mixed School, November 2nd, 1883 p. 8.

"more in favour of talking to the male teachers than to looking after their children."(1) In May 1901, Logan indignantly reported that his senior teacher, Brown, had been very insolent. Apparently he had sat on a desk during a lesson given by Logan to Brown's class and had then said in the presence of the pupil teachers, that the lesson was of no value. Incidents of this kind occurred in all of the schools, but were not frequent enough to have any serious effects.

Failure to keep discipline was a more serious problem. Many of the pupils attending the schools were attending despite their wishes and as the classes were large, unruliness created difficulties for some teachers. All of the heads had cause to complain of this from time to time and it was particularly noticeable where young pupil teachers were in control of classes. It seems inevitable that this should occur when the pupil teacher was often not much older than the pupils he or she was attempting to teach. Even qualified teachers had this problem, and in the early days of the Board schools in particular, staff were dismissed for failure to control their classes.

The Board laid down quite clear rules regarding corporal punishment in their Scheme of Education. Headmasters were held directly responsible for all corporal punishment and pupil teachers were absolutely prohibited from inflicting it. Every occurrence of corporal punishment had to be recorded in a special book kept for the purpose and no punishment had to be given "before the expiration of one hour after the commission of the offence."(2) Corporal punishment had not to be administered at all in girls and infants schools.

In their efforts to maintain discipline, many teachers ignored these rules. Consequently, numerous complaints were made by parents to headmasters, teachers and the Board, about

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(1) Log Book, High Felling Mixed School, 4th April, 1881 p. 131.

(2) Heworth School Board, Scheme of Education, p. 10.

assaults made upon their children. Often the children were struck about the head and body by staff and parents withdrew their children in protest. Angry parents came to the schools to protest and often as not an assault would be made upon the teacher involved which usually ended with the classes in uproar. All of the heads complained of this at one time or other and a number of parents were summoned. Nevertheless, certain teachers were dismissed for excesses of this kind and one pupil teacher was suspended for driving a needle into a boy's arm at High Felling Mixed School. It is noticeable that complaints of indiscipline and excessive corporal punishment were more frequent during the early years of the Board than during the later.

Failure to get good results was not a frequent complaint but one which worried head teachers a great deal. This was particularly so when the size of Government Grants to the schools depended upon their success or failure in the annual examinations. Head teachers held monthly tests of all the classes in their schools and the teachers of those classes which did not satisfy them were likely to be severely reprimanded. In October 1880, the Board asked the mistress for the percentage passes for each standard in the Chemical Works Girls School "so that they might know whose fault it was that the percentage was lower than last year."(1) One of the assistant mistress's percentage was 72% while the others averaged 93%. The teacher was subsequently given notice in 1882. A similar complaint was made in July 1884 by the head at High Felling Mixed School where two teachers only achieved percentages of 76 and 83 respectively in a school where the average was 91.5%. Both were cautioned by the head and one of them, the senior assistant mistress, left in October of the

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(1) Log Book, ChemicalWorks Girls School, 10th October, 1880 p. 80.

same year. Luckily for the Board, such teachers were not common and the schools tended to do well in these examinations.

The relationships between the headmasters of the four mixed schools was usually very cordial although there was always a certain amount of rivalry between them. The system of grants based on results made this so. Occasionally a head complained to the Board of the other heads soliciting pupils from his school while they refused to admit poorer and duller children. Wand complained of this about High Felling Mixed School in 1891 and again in 1897. Logan rejected this allegation and stated that even when his salary depended upon the number of scholars, "his principle as a teacher kept him on a higher plane."(1) He further denied that children were refused admission to his school on the grounds of poverty.

A factor which affected the attainments of the various schools was the quality of the children taught in them. It is true to say that the area served by the Heworth School Board was a poor one. The vast majority of the population was made up of 'the labouring classes' who were employed in the staple industries of the district - mining, quarrying, chemicals and shipbuilding. This was an area of rapidly growing population during the period of the School Board which if anything, accentuated the poverty and overcrowding of the poorest classes. During the same period, industries and mines, in particular, closed for long or short periods, according to the prevailing economic conditions. The result was that poverty was always part of the normal life of a large section of the community. The poorest areas were in the northern part of the district. Low Felling, Felling Shore, Wardley and Bill Quay tended to be the main centres of the poorest class. High Heworth, which depended almost solely upon the mine

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(1) Heworth School Board Minutes, 1st February, 1897 Vol. 8, p. 219.

there, frequently suffered when the mine closed at various times. High Felling, Windy Nook and Low Heworth, though having their quota of poor people, tended to contain a higher proportion of the more prosperous members of the community.

The heads were clearly familiar with the pattern of the population distribution. Those whose schools were in the poorer districts, were not slow to recognise that theirs was a more difficult task. Quite rightly, they argued that their schools needed more staff than schools in better districts, if the results expected by the Board were to be achieved. Often the situation was reversed. At Felling Board School, where in 1893 the Government Inspector reported "a careful year's work amongst children of a poor class," Wand complained of such a situation.(1) He drew the attention of the Board to the "poor children, vicious parents, bad habits, unpunctuality and bad attendance" which were additional burdens on the energy of his teachers. He complained that his staff all had their full complement of children in their classes while High Felling School, "which had better class children," was much better staffed than his school.(2) Pye, at Bill Quay, had occasion to complain of similar staff shortages at his school.

In the poorer districts, where the effect of closures and strikes were hardest felt, the Board schools inevitably suffered. When parents were out of employment and money was short, attendance slumped badly. Pye noted during a strike in May 1892, that the Bill Quay children were away from school on Tuesdays and Thursdays as they had to go to soup kitchens. A similar strike at Low Felling led to a different problem for Wand in 1902. A riot developed between strikers and non-strikers in which some of his

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(1) Log Book, Felling Board School, 20th June, 1893 p 240.

(2) Ibid. 16th February, 1896 p 276.

pupils joined. These were punished with the cane and one boy received six strokes for having stones in his hands. The angry parent of the boy visited the school and threatened the head for punishing his boy "for offences in the street over which the master had no control."(1) A deputation of Felling Miners then waited upon the managers of the school charging the head with caning the boy fourteen times. An inquiry was held and the charges were proved false. As a result of the strike, many children did not attend school, for they were being sent out by their parents to gather coal from the waste heaps around the mine.

Thus certain schools suffered more than others as a result of poverty among their pupils, but all of the Board schools had some children who suffered in this way. The Board and staff at the various schools made every effort to help the most needy. In 1893 for instance, Logan at High Felling School, distributed fifty tickets to the most deserving cases for Sunday morning free breakfasts, presumably provided through the good offices of the Board. In the same way free clothing and clogs were frequently given to the most needy children in the Board schools as a result of subscriptions raised by the Board. At High Felling School, concerts were given to raise money for this purpose.

It seems hardly surprising that poverty, poor housing and the standards of the time contributed to frequent periods when the children attending the Board schools were stricken by disease. Hardly a year went by without large numbers of children being absent from school through this cause. Frequently head teachers had to send children home from school who had arrived there from homes where contagious diseases prevailed. Frequently too, head teachers recorded the deaths of some of their pupils who had contacted these diseases. Not surprisingly such diseases

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(1) Log Book, Felling Board School, 5th February, 1902 Vol. 2 p. 46.

spread from the pupils to the staffs within the schools. In January 1882 an assistant at High Felling contacted Small Pox in this way. At the same school in July 1885 a pupil teacher died of fever and the school "lost a teacher of great promise."(1) Two years later, two pupil teachers died of typhoid fever contacted while at that school.

It is not surprising that diseases tended to spread rapidly in the Board schools for overcrowding was a continual problem. Classes were certainly very large and the rooms not particularly so. At Windy Nook School for instance, a room measuring 18 x 20 feet was used to accommodate 36 pupils, while another measuring 18 x 26 feet held 47 pupils. The Board, it seems, worked at a ratio of ten square feet per pupil. As classes were often larger than they ought to be, this ratio would be much smaller. Inspectors frequently complained of this situation particularly at the High Felling Schools. In the mixed schools the children were divided into standards and passage from one standard to the next was determined by success at the annual examinations. The numbers in the standards varied considerably. In the first four standards numbers were very high but they tended to fall sharply above that level. If it is remembered that most pupils left school by eleven or twelve this is not surprising. At High Felling, standards went as high as Standard Seven from early in its history, while at the other mixed schools this standard was not introduced until much later. The small numbers in the upper standards is possibly the reason why the Board rejected the proposed Higher Grade School.

The standards were normally divided into girls and boys classes so that there were usually ten to twelve separate classes, the smaller upper standards being amalgamated. This meant that

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(1) Log Book, High Felling Board School, 13th July, 1885 p 221.

the large school room inevitably held more than one class, each being taught by separate teachers at the same time. The introduction of partitions, which broke the large room up into smaller rooms, was felt to be a great benefit by the staffs of the schools. In the infants schools similar divisions of the children were made. The upper standard was known as standard one and there would be two standards or classes below this. At the lowest level there was usually a 'babies' class for the under fives. Usually the groups above the 'babies' were divided into 'advanced' and 'backwards' divisions. Again this type of arrangement meant more than one class being taught together in the school room until the introduction of partitions.

Each member of staff in the Board Schools was allotted a particular class and he or she was responsible for most of the work of that class, particularly the elementary work concerned with reading, writing and arithmetic. The senior assistants dealt with the upper classes while at the other extreme the pupil teachers were concerned with the lower standards. The head teachers usually took one of the senior classes, and almost invariably in all of the Board schools, they carried out the monthly tests given to all of the standards. In this way, they could check on the progress or otherwise made by the classes under their respective teachers.

Each pupil teacher was made responsible for a particular class and as such could be classified as a practising teacher. At least this view was held by the Board which in 1888 determined that the ratio of pupils to pupil teachers was thirty per pupil teacher. Ex-pupil teachers on the other hand were responsible for classes of fifty, while this number rose to sixty for certificated assistants. Whether the pupil teachers did much teaching is debatable. As late as January 1902, a visit by a Government Inspector to the High Felling Mixed School raised this question. He pointed out that the pupil teachers did little practical teaching and seemed to spend their time marking exercises.

This inevitably put the pressure upon the ex-pupil teachers whose class numbers were greater as a result. However, other evidence from the school log books suggests that pupil teachers spent most of their time as teachers and often their classes obtained excellent results in the annual examinations.

The lot of the pupil teacher seems to have been a particularly arduous one. As well as their time spent teaching, they were also given instruction in their various subjects and in the methods of teaching. This was usually done by the head teacher and his or her senior assistant. Some of this instruction was given during the normal time-table but also before classes began in the morning and after they finished in the afternoon. An inspector, visiting Felling Mixed School in 1892, noted that the pupil teachers there received part of their instruction between 4 and 5 p.m. "when they must inevitably have been too tired for study." He felt this to be "a very objectionable arrangement."(1)

A number of pupil teachers employed by the Board were not really suitable and did not finish their apprenticeships. Usually the reason was their failure to pass the annual examinations. One mother, who felt her daughter was doing too many lessons, informed the head at High Felling Infants, in October 1879, that her daughter, besides being rather lame, was subject to bronchitis and palpitations of the heart. "In fact if she had not been so, the mother would not have sent her to teach."(2) Her lengthy absences caused her to fail the examinations. Other pupil teachers acheived considerable success. Quite a number passed the annual Queens Scholarship Examinations and gained entrance into teacher training colleges. In 1899, seven pupil teachers employed by the Board sat this examination and five passed in the 1st class

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(1) Log Book, Felling Board School, 10th August, 1892 p. 228.

(2) Log Book, High Felling Infants School, 1st October, 1879 p. 71.

and two in the second. One, Godfrey Thompson of High Felling Mixed School, passed third on the list for the whole of England.(1)

The Content

The curricula of the Heworth Board Schools were determined by the Education Codes produced by the Education Department. These Codes determined the subjects taught within the schools, for grants were paid for success in the annual examinations. From the beginning the three R's tended to dominate but as time went by, this dominance was challenged by the introduction of 'specific' and 'class' subjects. In this way curricula became wider but the detail of the work carried out in schools was laid down and paid for by the government. This system of payment by results largely disappeared with the Education Code of 1890.

The Scheme of Education for the Heworth Board Schools was introduced in April 1876 and was based on the Code of 1875.(2) In all of the schools provided by the Board, it was decided that the Bible would be read and instruction given from it, provided that such instruction made no attempt "to attach children to or from any particular denomination."(3) Prayers and hymns were also part of the daily scheme with the same provision as laid down for bible reading. All three activities had to be held in the first half hour of the morning and previous to the closing of the school in the afternoon. The form of prayer and the type of hymn was specifically included in the Scheme of Education so that headmasters and their staffs were in no doubt as to what was

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(1) A former pupil at the school, Thompson proceeded to Armstrong College, Newcastle. He eventually became Professor of Education there from 1920 to 1925. He then held a similar position at Edinburgh and was Director of Moray House for 25 years until his retirement as Sir Godfrey Thompson.

(2) Appendix XII.

(3) Scheme of Education, Heworth School Board, April 1876 p.3.

required. Children however, could be withdrawn from such religious instruction by their parents and when this happened, provision had to be made for their instruction in secular subjects.

In the Infants Schools as well as Biblical Instruction and the "principles of morality" which formed part of this, the other subjects of instruction were reading, writing and arithmetic, object lessons "of a simple character," singing and physical exercises "adapted to the tender years of the children." Also, "the use of the needle" was taught to girls over the age of five.(1)

In the mixed schools certain subjects were considered as essential parts of teaching of every school while others could be added at the discretion of the managers of the schools or by the special direction of the Board. Such discretionary subjects however, had not to interfere with the efficiency of the teaching of essential subjects. As the essential subjects were the grant earning subjects, the introduction of other subjects seldom occurred. As well as Biblical Instruction and the 'principles of morality', the essential subjects were reading, writing and arithmetic for which there was a grant of 3/- per child for those who passed in all three. Other essentials were English grammar and composition, geography (physical, political and commercial), English history, systemised object lessons and elementary physical science including elementary physiology. These were the 'specific' subjects and grants of 4/- were offered for a pass, by children in standards four to six, in each of not more than two of these subjects. Vocal music and drill as well as plain needlework and domestic economy were included as essentials and a shilling of the attendance grant earned by schools was conditional upon the teaching of singing. Elementary drawing was also included, for the Science and Arts Department paid an annual grant based on

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(1) Scheme of Education, Heworth School Board, April 1876, p. 5.

annual examinations in this subject.

Under the New Code of 1876, 'class subjects' for the standards two to six became essentials. Class subjects were taught throughout the schools in these standards and a grant of 4/- per scholar could be earned for a 'good' pass in any two of them or 2/- for a 'fair' pass. The four 'class' subjects were grammar, history, geography and needlework, with needlework being one of the two subjects taken by the girls.

The discretionary subjects included book-keeping, mensuration, geometry and algebra. It was also decided that wherever practicable, in all schools except infants schools, gymnastic apparatus would be provided and that gymnastics would be taught by a competant instructor at such times as determined by the managers.

The above suggests that very wide and liberal curricula were being taught in the Heworth Board Schools but the actual situation revealed a much narrower cirriculum in each school. In both the Infants and Mixed schools the three R's dominated the timetables. Of the other essential subjects singing and needlework were also found in both types of schools, while the Science and Arts Department's drawing examinations were taken annually by the mixed schools. Further 'extra' subjects were grammar, geography and needlework and these were obviously taught as both specific and class subjects. These tended to form the basic subjects taught until the early 1880's for these were the subjects by which the maximum grant could be earned.

The modification of the Code in 1882 allowed the introduction of cookery as a class subject for girls over twelve. A grant of 4/- was allowed where there was adequate provision and where not less than forty hours was given to the subject during the year. After some hesitation by the Board, this subject was introduced into the mixed schools by 1888. By this time also, some broadening of the curriculum was beginning to take place in the schools. At Windy Nook for instance, shorthand was introduced in 1888 and it was noted that "many (of the pupils) seemed quite

interested."[1] The previous year a 'Dicky Birds Society' had been started after a talk by the head on 'Kindness to Animals' and this was shortly followed by the beginnings of a school museum. Despite this apparent broadening of the curriculum, the inspector still noted an undue stress laid on reaching a high percentage of passes in the elementary subjects. In the Infants schools, the more formal teaching was now becoming interspersed with 'recreative activities' such as drawing and weaving, paper folding, intertwining, brick-building and sticklaying.

In 1890, following the Cross Commission of 1888, the grants for the three R's were abolished and the end of payment by results had virtually arrived. This was reflected in the new subjects which were introduced in the Heworth Board Schools. At Bill Quay, shorthand was introduced with success and gardening for the senior boys was added to the curriculum. A school museum was also begun while at High Felling a school library was started in 1892.[2] Two hundred and twenty three books were prchased at a cost of £24 from the Nelson catalogue and twelve more were given by the Band of Hope. These formed the nucleus of the library which was for both the scholars and the pupil teachers. Only children with a full attendance for a week could borrow these books and attendance in the upper standards was seen to improve markedly as a result. Object lessons, which became compulsory class subjects in 1895 had already been started in the schools. At Windy Nook for instance the object lessons for standards V to VII included 'Foodstuffs and where they are produced', 'A hen's egg', 'A pansy', 'The Atmosphere' and the 'Products of coal'. In Standard I, such objects studied included 'The Cow', 'Wool', 'The Mariners Compass' and 'Bread'.

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(1) Log Book, Windy Nook Board School, 3rd September, 1888 p. 111.

(2) Appendix XIII.

During this time, one can detect a change in the character of the teaching as well as the change taking place in the subjects taught. The more formal teaching of earlier years was being relaxed in certain instances in favour of other techniques. Visual aids were now quite common, particularly in the teaching of geography and some science subjects. Lantern slides were used fairly frequently in these subjects and rooms were provided with blinds to facilitate this activity. By the late '90's chemistry, botany, algebra and history were subjects common to all of the mixed schools.

At the turn of the century a new subject was introduced at Bill Quay School. The Inspector's Report of 1900 noted that two of the teachers were qualified to give 'manual instruction.' He felt this to be a rare opportunity and hoped the Board would avail themselves of the chance to introduce this subject. This it did, for the following year a grant of £24 18s. 0d. was earned at Bill Quay for teaching this subject. By 1902 there was a workshop at the school for this instruction which seemed mainly to take the form of woodwork.

Physical education seems to have been the least favoured of subjects in the Heworth Board Schools. In the Infants schools musical drill was part of the curriculum but in the senior schools, despite the Board's apparent provision of gymnastic equipment, there seems to have been remarkably little physical activity of this kind. 'Suitable physical exercises' had been included as part of the Code of 1890 but physical training spread very slowly in the '90's. However, in October 1901, seven dozen bar bells arrived at Windy Nook School for the use of the girls while the boys used dumb bells. Even so, the Inspector had to remind the head at High Felling School the following year, that the Code demanded an hour's drill throughout the school. In 1903, the Felling School gave a drill demonstration in the yard for a visiting Inspector.

Apart from the normal subjects which made up the school curricula, the Board was predisposed at times to allow certain 'outside' lecturers to enter its schools. The attitude of the Board was in favour of temperance and so it is not surprising that lectures on this topic were frequently given in the schools. For example, in 1892 one of the Temperance Society Lecturers was allowed to give a lecture to the pupils of Standards IV to VII at High Felling School on 'alcohol'. The Band of Hope, a great institution during School Board days, was allowed to send one of its lecturers to the same school to give a course of lectures on 'temperance' in October 1895. Lectures on other topics occurred less frequently but if certain topics were felt to be of interest and benefit to the children, the Board were usually inclined to give permission. One example is of a blind man, who showed to each of the classes at High Felling School, the methods employed in teaching the blind to read and count. By means of a typewriter, the man printed a piece of information dictated to him infront of each class.

Having built and staffed the schools, the Board was immensely interested in their performance and attainment. This was particularly the case when the results in the examinations were directly related to the grants awarded to the schools. Following the building of the first three new schools, the Inspector's Report of 1880 is worth noting. It was "eminently satisfactory and showed very good results which were very creditable alike to the Board, Managers and the Teachers."(1) Apart from the highly satisfactory financial aspects of the report, the examination performance of the schools was very pleasing. The percentage pass per scholar varied from 99.3% in the Felling Infants School to

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(1) Heworth School Board Minutes, 29th November, 1880 Vol. 4 p.147.

64.9% at Wardley Infants School, the next lowest being 86.6%. The average for the whole of the schools was 88.8% compared with the average for England and Wales of 80.4%. Thus in a relatively short space of time, a high level had been reached according to the educational standards of the day. Future reports were to show that this standard was maintained.

In 1883 for instance, the average percentage pass fell from the previous years figure of 89.9% to 84.5% but despite this, three of the Board's schools, High Felling Mixed, High Felling Infants and Felling Shore Infants achieved the highest grants possible - the 'Excellent Merit Grant'. The percentage pass for the whole of the Board's schools had risen to 89.5% and 89.0% by 1885 and 1886 respectively. By 1888 the Board could note with satisfaction that for the country as a whole the average pass results in Reading, Writing and Arithmetic were 92.9%, 85.6% and 83.3% respectively giving on overall average of 87.3%. The average results of the Heworth schools for the same subjects were 95.6%, 91.3% and 91.7%, with the total average being 92.3% or 5% higher than for the country as a whole. The Board was also pleased to note that for the whole country, the percentage of schools earning the Merit Grant was 'Excellent' 28.7%, 'Good' 61.8% and 'Fair' 17.0%. In the Heworth Schools, the average was 'Excellent' 50%, Good 50% and "not one single Fair."(1)

In the 1890's the Inspectors Reports on the Heworth Board Schools did not change despite the virtual cessation of payment by results. Individually and collectively the Board's schools were praised for their teaching and successful achievements. Of course some schools received more praise than others. The High Felling Schools may be considered the outstanding schools of the district. In 1895 the mixed school was congratulated by the Board for the

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(1) Heworth School Board Minutes, 3rd September, 1888, Vol. 6 p. 475.

fact that the Inspector had asked the Education Department to pay the grants without a formal visit and examination. In other years the Inspector could report of the "thorough supervision of the head teacher and the hearty co-operation of his staff" being the "very noticeable feature of this highly efficient school."(1) In the same way the Infants School was exempted from inspection in 1895, and Reports of other years left no doubt that this was a very good school.(2)

The other schools of the Board were not far behind, if at all, and throughout the 90's and the turn of the century the annual reports on these schools changed very little. "Highly creditable state of efficiency," "effective supervision," skilful and intelligent teaching," "capable and willing staff," "well managed and sensibly taught school," "very satisfactory state of efficiency," "exceptionally good order," "careful, conscientious teaching," were the type of phrases which appeared almost monotonously in the annual reports. The Board could be well satisfied.

(1) Log Book, High Felling Mixed School, 2nd September, 1898 p.436

(2) Appendix XIV.

ATTENDANCE

The Elementary Education Act of 1870 did not introduce compulsory education in England and Wales. However, it did empower local Boards to make bye-laws which could enforce the attendance of children at school between the ages of five and thirteen unless there was 'reasonable excuse' for non-attendance. Many School Boards failed to make such bye-laws. The Education Act of 1876 encouraged longer and more regular attendance at schools, and prescribed penalties for non-attendance at school for parents and employers. But many exemptions were still allowed and compulsion was not fully complete. It was not until 'Mundella's' Act of 1880 that direct compulsion was secured and all school Boards which had not made bye-laws were compelled to do so. Complete attendance was required between the ages of five and ten. Between ten and thirteen, exemption could only be secured by a child who had reached a standard of proficiency fixed by the bye-laws.

The Act of 1870 did not introduce free elementary education to the country. Fees were to be paid. In poor communities, this factor undoubtedly worked against attendance, even where the bye-laws made attendance compulsory and where fees were remitted for up to a period of six months. The abolition of fee-paying in 1891 undoubtedly helped a great deal in securing a higher percentage of attendance than before.

The Heworth School Board, under the power given to it by the Education Act of 1870, drew up bye-laws regarding attendance on the 8th November, 1875. Parents of children between five and thirteen years of age were to cause their children to attend public elementary schools unless there was a reasonable excuse for non-attendance. Such reasons included their children being under instruction elsewhere, prevention of attendance through illness or the absence of a public elementary school within a radius of $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Full and half time exemption was also possible for children

over ten who had achieved a standard satisfactory to the Board. Parents who were guilty of a breach of these bye-laws would receive notice of this breach and if they did not comply within fourteen days, proceedings would be taken against them. The bye-laws also provided for the remission of the fees charged at the Board Schools for those parents who satisfied the Board of their poverty.(1)

In order to ensure maximum attendance and to remind parents of their responsibilities, the Board decided to appoint a Summoning Officer. The post was advertised in January 1876 at a salary of £80 per annum and the following month, a local watchman from Pelaw, John Steer, was appointed. To carry out his duties, he was provided with a uniform, cap and pair of boots. In order to encourage children and their parents, the Board also decided to give book prizes to every child on the day of the annual inspection who had made at least 400 attendances during the preceeding school year. It was also recommended that all children who never missed an attendance were to be given a shilling book at the end of each quarter.

To deal with those parents who neglected to send their children to school, the Relief Committee was established in June 1876. Its function, as its name implies, was to recommend the remission of fees for those children of poor parents, but also, it recommended the summoning of those parents who failed to heed notice of attendance. By the end of 1876, the fees of 71 children had been remitted for periods from one week to six months, while summonses were taken out against the parents of 53 children.

The new Summoning Officer did not find his task an easy one. In his first report to the Board he stated, "the abuse I receive from the Wardley people is something scandalous." One parent

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(1) Appendix XV.

had shaken his fist in Steer's face and threatened to give him "a good hammering if he came near his house again." Further more, he had been informed that a meeting had been held on the previous Thursday in Wardley "to put down the tyranny of the School Board," and that "if they could not do it by fair means, they would do it by foul."(1) Nevertheless, in December of that year, Steer was able to serve 95 notices and took up 450 reported absentees from school. During that month, of the 25 cases summoned before the magistrates, 18 were convicted.

Not all of the absenteeism from school resulted from parents reacting against the tyranny of the Board. The Summoning Officer noted that the last month of 1876 was a period of inclement weather, and this together with a great amount of sickness prevailing in the district, caused greater absenteeism than normal. Throughout the following year, this officer was to report a great deal of absence from school resulting from illness in the area. The main causes seemed to be fever, inflamation of the eyes and "sore heads." However, the number of summonses taken out rose from 53 in 1876 to 162 in 1877 while the number of fees remitted also rose to 90. Not all of the prosecutions against parents were successful and many cases were dismissed for a number of reasons. The most common grounds for dismissal were illness on the part of the children, attending other schools, such as St. John's, unknown to the Board or the promise of parents to send their children to schools in future. A reason for dismissing one particular case was that the family was nearly starving owing to the father being out of work. Often too, parents could show that their children were over thirteen years of age. However, the majority of cases were pressed successfully by the Board and the offending parents were fined up to a maximum of 5/-.

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(1) Heworth School Board Minutes, 9th October, 1876 Vol. 1 p. 180.

In one case, Thomas Smith the defendant, continually called Steer a liar and threatened him. The magistrates bound him over to keep the peace for six months and to find two surieties of £10. As these were not forthcoming from Smith "he was locked up."(1)

As illness was a reasonable excuse for non-attendance at school, it is interesting to note that in November 1877, the clerk was instructed to write to a certain J. W. Hunter of Felling. He was to be informed that the Board were aware that he was not a qualified medical practitioner. Further, he was cautioned against issuing certificates in favour of children not attending school and signing himself as an M.D.

John Steer was quick to appreciate the difficulties of his job during this year. Apart from the abuse and possible physical damage he was likely to suffer, the sheer size of his task was to worry him. During the year he checked over 6,000 absentees, averaging about 500 visits per month, and during the same time 1,278 notices were served. It is hardly surprising that he felt that summonses should have been served by policemen rather than by himself. It also became clear to him that the task of collecting all of the fees owed to the schools by parents was an "utter impossibility." He noted that they were "ready enough to promise but always full of excuses."(2) His daily travels certainly had the inevitable effect upon his uniform and in July of 1877, he requested an order for a new suit of clothes as his "School Board Dress" had become very shabby.(3)

The quantity of the Summoning Officer's work was not to decrease during the following year. In the first five months over 550 notices were served and 2,800 absences were also checked. Over the same period, numerous summonses were served and Steer was in

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(1) Heworth School Board Minutes 9th July, 1877 Vol. 2 p. 47.

(2) Ibid. 12th February, 1877 Vol. 1 p. 236.

(3) Ibid. 9th July, 1877 Vol. 2 p. 47.

regular attendance at the Magistrates Court at Gateshead. However, it was clear to him that sickness and poverty were the main causes of absence from school. In February 1878 he noted that sickness was mainly in the eastern part of the district and poverty in the western part. In April of the same year, the closure of a seam at High Heworth Colliery caused 150 men to lose their jobs. The poverty of the unemployed often meant that parents could not send their children to school as they could not clothe them. It is rather surprising that this rise in poverty is not reflected in a marked increase in fee remissions which stood at 68 for the first eight months of the year.

The main source of employment in the district were the local mines at Wardley, Low Felling and High Heworth. The Summoning Officer reported to the Board that he suspected that there were many young boys employed there who were under fourteen years of age and who did not have a certificate of proficiency, enabling them to be absent from school. The Board cautioned the collieries involved about this practice and it is perhaps ironic that the Chairman of the Board, Alfred Septimus Palmer, was the local mining engineer for the Bowes Company who owned most of the mines.

In August 1878, the staff were appointed for the new schools at Bill Quay and the caretaker became John Steer, the former Summoning Officer. Perhaps he felt the new position would be less demanding than that which he relinguished. More likely the salary of £78 per annum plus a house and free water attracted him. There were 167 applicants for the vacant post of Summoning Officer, and from a short list of seven, James Bell was appointed in September. In the same month, the new School Board was elected.

The new officer was soon to find that his task was no easy one. A month after his appointment, he requested the Board to supply two witnesses, who had appeared in court on his behalf, with rewards. Ann Harkness, an angry parent, had been summoned

by him for wilfully damaging his clothes, "the property of the Board."[1] The following month he was again complaining of the manhandling and abusive language which he received from a drunken parent. Despite these difficulties, Bell was able to carry out his duties which were largely made up of serving notices and summonses on parents and checking on absentees from the lists obtained from the school registers.

The number of summonses served on parents was continuing to grow, but the attitude of the magistrates to these parents was causing anxiety to the Board. In January 1879 a deputation made up of the chairman and vice-chairman waited upon the Gateshead Magistrates. Apparently, in recent cases, the magistrates had been dealing very leniently with parents who had been summoned for neglecting to send their children to school. The deputation pointed out that only the very bad cases were sent before the magistrates and this only after a detailed investigation by the Board. The effect of this meeting was noted by the Summoning Officer to have made many parents much better at sending their children to school. It had shown to them the determination of the Board to enforce the bye-laws. Bell also reported that the magistrates were dealing with cases more fairly than before; presumably he meant more severely. The Board, however, were not succeeding so well with the problem of fee arrears. Very few of these arrears were being paid up despite the fact that many parents were capable of paying them. James Bell felt that this was largely the fault of the teachers who were not determined enough in the collection of fees. He felt that many parents took advantage of any leniency shown by teachers over this question.

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(1) Heworth School Board Minutes, 14th October, 1878 Vol. 3 p. 90.

It is not surprising therefore, that the number of summonses served continued to grow. This alarmed the Board for the business of summoning parents was becoming very costly. A deputation met with the Gateshead Magistrates in April 1880 to obtain a reduction in the legal charges made to the Board. This does not appear to have been successful and shortly after the Board sent a petition to the Education Department complaining of the cost to Local Education Authorities of prosecutions of this type. The Government Inspector for County Durham was aware of this problem. The Board had appealed to him, stating that where fines had been inflicted, satisfactory results had not followed as no steps were taken by the magistrates to enforce payment. As each summons cost the ratepayers at least 2s. 6d., this was acting as a deterrent from legal proceedings.(1) Significantly, the quarterly prizes for children not missing any attendances were discontinued in November 1879. These were replaced by a cheaper illuminated card which were presented to each child with at least 150 attendances per six months.

It is impossible to blame parents completely for their failure to get their children to school. Often, it was the children themselves who would not attend rather than the unwillingness of the parents to send them. Truanting was common in the district. The parents of such children were summoned before the magistrates but fining them was not solving the problem. Therefore, it was decided that the truants themselves had to be punished. In January 1880, the Board applied to the magistrates for the admittance of Edward Musgrave to an industrial school. The mother admitted that she had no control over the boy and so an order was made sending him to the Abbot Memorial Industrial School in Gateshead until he was sixteen years of age.

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(1) Report of Committee of Council on Education, 1880/81 p. 320.

Truanting still continued and in October of 1880 notices were displayed in the district. These informed the population that a boy had recently been committed to such a school and that it was the intention of the Board to deal with all truants in the same way.

It was still however, sickness and poverty which were the main factors affecting attendances at the Board Schools. James Bell, in his 'perambulations' around the district had noted that many children were deprived from attending school because of lack of clothing. In February 1879, he noted one family of three children who were without shirts and who "were clothed in rags and in a state of semi-nudity."(1) He drew the attention of the Board to certain "ladies and Gentlemen" whose sympathies with the destitute would take practical form if the Board wished to alleviate this distress. In particular, he mentioned a Miss Brown, who supplied free breakfasts on Sundays to children and who, on being furnished with names by the Summoning Officer, had supplied children with clothing and clogs so that they could attend school. The poverty of the district is reflected in the fee remissions which were made. In 1879 and 1880, these were 540 and 490 respectively.

Despite all these difficulties, attendance was improving for the district as a whole. In a report to the Education Department in March 1879, the Board pointed out that prior to the opening of Board schools in the district, the average monthly attendance did not exceed 1,000. For the last seven months of 1876 this had risen to 1,869 and the monthly averages for 1877 and 1878 were 1,981 and 2,115 respectively. In 1880 this figure had risen to 2,505 per month, but as the Government Inspector pointed out, this only represented a little more than 60% of the total number of children between three and thirteen years of age.

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(1) Heworth School Board Minutes, February 10th, 1879 Vol. 3 p. 178.

The Board had a long way to go.

The Summoning Officer employed by the Board was responsible not only for ensuring the attendance of children at the Board schools but also for other public elementary schools in the district. One of these schools was St. John's Roman Catholic School and during this time a dispute arose between this school and Bell. In May 1879 Mr. Duggan, the headmaster at St. John's, complained to Bell that he was giving more attention to the Board School than to his. Bell was further charged with "being a member of a clique" and Duggan had threatened "to kick him out" before the whole school during one of his visits there. Not unnaturally, the Summoning Officer complained of the difficulty of obtaining lists of absentees from Duggan and asked for the protection of the Board. The Board therefore threatened to withdraw Bell's services if he was "not accorded the correct respect and courtesy" while visiting St. John's.(1) The matter did not rest there, for the following month, Bell complained in a letter to the Board of a slanderous attack made upon him by Duggan in the local press. He drew the attention of the Board to wide discrepencies in the returns of attendance made by Duggan to the Board and to himself as the attendance officer. According to Bell, who produced figures to prove his point, the average monthly attendances given by Duggan were much higher than they really were. In some months there were differences of over 40% between the real and alleged figures. Therefore the charges of official neglect levelled against Bell by Duggan were not correct and the Board was being misled.

Mr. Duggan however, continued his attack in the press and made charges which were against Bell's "private character and

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(1) Heworth School Board Minutes, 26th May, 1879 Vol. 3. p. 243.

public conduct." The Summoning Officer therefore requested an impartial investigation and enquiry from the Board. He pointed out that though he had been charged with not giving fair attention to St. John's, of the 1,026 parents before the Board since December 1878, 311 were parents of St. John's pupils. The next highest figure was 165 parents from the Bill Quay Board Schools. Duggan had also claimed in print that a certain unnamed member of the Board was concerned "with the concoction of a foul plot" presumably against his school.(1) The Board felt that the matter could only be resolved by referring it to the Education Department for their enquiry and decision.

The Department replied that it felt it was unnecessary to enter into the question of the accuracy of the returns at that point. The Department informed the Board that it should point out to the managers of St. John's that failure to fill correctly the attendance forms might lead the Board to require them to produce the registers of the school. As there appeared to be no dispute as to whether the information required was reasonable, it did not rest with the Department to offer an opinion on the subject. The Board therefore applied to the Managers of St. John's to supply it with the monthly returns.

The dispute was not so easily solved however. In September 1879, the Summoning Officer called upon the Reverend Carroll, a manager of St. John's and also a member of the Board, with a list of irregular attenders to have the actual number of attendances filled in. Carroll informed Bell that the teachers refused to fill in the attendances and nothing could be done until the Reverend Kelly, another manager and Board member, had returned home. Kelly seems to have been more persuasive for in November of that year, the managers of St. Johns agreed to supply a list of

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(1) Heworth School Board Minutes, 28th July, 1879 Vol. 3 p. 277.

all absentees for use by the Summoning Officers. They would also provide a list showing the number of times present and absent of all children whose parents received notice to attend before the Relief Committee for neglecting to send their children to school. This arrangement was accepted.

The 1880 Education Act secured direct compulsory attendance and all children between the ages of five and ten were now compelled to attend school. Between the ages of ten and thirteen, exemption could only be secured by a child who had reached a standard of proficiency fixed by the bye-laws. In 1883, the Heworth Board amended its bye-laws so that full exemption could be had by the ten to thirteen age group if they had reached a standard equal to that of the sixth standard prescribed by the Code of 1876. Also, half time attendance could be secured by this age group if they reached the fifth standard of proficiency prescribed by the 1876 Code and could show the Board that they were beneficially and gainfully employed.

The Act itself did not significantly reduce the work of the Summoning Officer. Attendance was still very irregular among many of the children and the summonses served upon offending parents continued to be large in number. The average annual figure for the number of summonses served rose to over 200 for the years 1881, 1882 and 1883. The remission of fees during this period continued at the same level reached in previous years. In December 1881, Bell asked the Board for some assistance in carrying out the duties of his office. He pointed out that his clerical work had increased markedly, especially in the serving of notices for both absenteeism and arrears, and that from 1878 to 1881, the number of children on the school registers had increased from 2,628 to 3,128.

The Board decided that the caretakers of High Felling and Bill Quay Schools should be required to devote part of their time each day to looking after absentees in their respective schools. They had now to apply to the headmasters each morning and afternoon for lists of absentees and call on parents to ascertain the cause

of childrens absences. With the opening of the new schools at Felling and Windy Nook, the respective caretakers had to carry out similar duties. In April 1883 it was decided that the caretakers should send their lists of absentees to the Summoning Officer each morning, and he in turn would examine and place them before the Board for examination each month. In this way, it was hoped to increase the average attendance at the Board Schools. In the meantime James Bell lost his position with the Board. In July 1882, following complaints that he was neglecting his official duties, he received one months notice. In August, James Mallon was appointed Summoning and Attendance Officer to the Board. His salary of £80 per annum was later raised to £85 in lieu of the annual £5 provided by the Board for a new suit of clothes.

The attitude of the local magistrates to the cases sent before them by the Board was causing a good deal of concern to its members. Apart from the cost of these cases, which was still high, the magistrates were tending now in many instances to serve attendance orders on parents rather than fine them. In December 1883, the Board sent a memorial to the Education Department asking that the law should be amended so that magistrates be required to punish parents for breaches of the law instead of making attendance orders. Also they desired that the Education Acts should be amended "to prevent delay in the taking of proceedings, to simplify the proceedure, to reduce the excessive costs of proceedings and to secure additional facilities for the hearing of cases by the magistrates."(1)

The attitude of the magistrates is reflected by a particular case brought before them at this time. They were asked by the Summoning Officer to fine a parent, H. Crilley, as he had appeared

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(1) Heworth School Board Minutes, 3rd December, 1883 Vol. 5 p. 238.

before them no less than nine times previously. Patrick Ritson, the presiding magistrate had replied, "If you want them fined, you must get someone else to do it for I will not!" The Board were very disheartened over this case and decided to bring the matter before the Home Secretary. The reply from Whitehall informed the Board that magistrates were guided by the circumstances brought to their knowledge all of which were taken into consideration and influenced the amount of the fine. In this particular case, Crilley had been constantly fined but in the last instance, the reasons given for non-attendance of the child seemed satisfactory Therefore, the magristrates simply ordered that the child should attend in future. The Board was not really satisfied. In July 1884, it was resolved that Bolam, the clerk to the Board, should attend the courts for three months to conduct the Board's cases. It was probably felt that he could present its cases better then Mallon.

Truants, however, were receiving shorter shift from the local magistrates. Children who were obviously beyond the control of their parents and who persistently truanted were regularly sent to the Industrial School at Gateshead. In 1879 the bill for supporting such children in these places was £1 8s. 0d. By 1884, this figure had risen to £33 10s. 6d.

The Truant School at Gateshead was the only local school of this type and the demands upon its service grew annually. Not surprisingly, the pressure for places produced a situation where there were more candidates for places than places available. In December 1884 a communication from the Jarrow, Hebburn and Monkton School Board proposed the establishment of a Truant School to serve the counties of Northumberland and Durham. The Board intimated a willingness to join a conference of School Board members from these two counties, if it was invited to do so. Early in 1885 the Board was asked by its neighbour to supply information with regard to the likely number of boys who would attend the proposed school and the existing number of truants in

the district who were making less than 4% average attendance. The Board was very keen that this school should be established, for they felt that this was the only way truants could be induced to attend school. Therefore, it was resolved at the meeting of the Board in May, that its two representatives at the conference, should have the power to agree to contributing to the cost of establishing the truant school. Unfortunately, in July, the Board was informed that other School Boards approached on this subject, were not enthusiastic about the proposition. The matter was consequently dropped for the moment. It is likely that the cost of the establishing the school was the main factor working against the scheme. The rate burden was already severe and the proposed school would increase it. It seems unlikely that the other Boards had a truant problem which was anyless pressing then that of Heworth's.

It was early in 1885 also, that the School Board at Heworth decided to present a petition to the Committee of Council on Education. This asked for the alteration of the law so as to enable School Boards to require the attendance of Deaf, Dumb and/or Blind children at school. We must assume that the Heworth Board was referring to special schools which could cater for such children rather than the existing Board schools. As early as 1881, the Board had agreed to pay half the fees of two children sent to the Deaf and Dumb Institution at Newcastle, and apparently there were quite a number of similarly affected children in the district. However, the intention of the Board were thwarted by the Education Department who informed it that there was no intention of introducing a Bill for the purpose that the Board desired.

The attitude of the magistrates and the difficulty of ensuring regular attendance at Board schools were still very thorny problems to the Board. In March 1885, a deputation was sent to the local magristrates to ask that police officers be allowed to serve the summonses on parents who refused or neglected to send their children to school. Evidently the Board felt that the power of

the blue police uniform would be considerably more persuasive to reluctant parents than that of its own officer. This deputation appears to have been unsuccessful, for in June 1885 a further deputation on the same subject was resolved upon. The magistrates themselves were continuing to treat parents in a very lenient manner and the attention of the Government Inspector was drawn to this. In January 1886 a specific case regarding a child who was beyond the control of his parents was brought before the magistrates. His mother admitted this and it was asked that he be committed to an Industrial School. Despite this and the fact that the boy had been away from school for over twelve months, the magistrates, Lord Ravensworth and Mr. Ritson, decided to make an Attendance Order only.

Average attendance at school was still very disappointing to the Board. The number of children on the books of the schools in 1885 was 3,406, but the average attendance was only 2,559 or 76.8%. Compared with Jarrow, where the percentage was 80.6 and other local School Boards, the figure was quite low. It was decided therefore, to employ a second Attendance Officer at a salary of £80 per annum. The parish was divided into two districts, the dividing line being the main Sunderland Road stretching from the Gateshead Boundary on the west to the White Mare Pool junction in the east. James Mallon was responsible for the area south of this line and the new officer was to take charge of the area to the north. In July, William Taylor was selected from a short list of seven for the post. As well as the two officers, the caretakers at Felling, High Felling, Bill Quay and Windy Nook acted as assistants. This was the system employed until April the following year.

In that month a special meeting was held to investigate certain charges made against the two Summoning Officers. Apparently, these two were apprehended for being drunk and incapable while on duty. Both confessed their guilt to the Board and they expressed their "deep sorrow and regret that such a thing had occurred."(1)

(1) Heworth School Board Minutes, Extraordinary Meeting, 2nd April, 1886 Vol. 6 p. 167.

Despite their pleas for clemency, it was inevitable that the Board should dismiss them, for on a number of occasions, it had passed resolutions condemning drunkeness and the opening of public houses on Sundays. Both were dismissed immediately with one month's salary in lieu of notice. In their place, it was resolved that only one Summoning Officer be appointed as under the previous system. In May 1886 David Suffern, a foreman of Felling, was appointed, but resigned the post the following month as he could not carry out his duties to the satisfaction of the Board. In his place John Oxberry Junior was appointed. This 28 year old engine driver from Gateshead had been a rival candidate for the post when Suffern was appointed.

Poverty still prevailed in the area during this time. In November 1884, because of the general distress among the population, it was suggested that a committee be set up to relieve those children of poor parents. The Board offered the use of its schools free of charge for the purpose of holding meetings on this matter. Little is known of the work of this committee but it does not seem thatthey could have done much to ease the problem, although clothing and footwear were certainly provided to a great many children in need. The parents however, were still poor and the number of fee remissions made by the Board increased spectacularly. The number of remissions made in 1885 was 767 but this had jumped to 1,378 in the following year. In the year ending June 1886, the amount of fees lost in this way was £506 3s. 10d.

Attendance at the schools still tended to remain very irregular in nature. The persuance of absentees took up a good deal of the time of the Board's officers. It was affecting the caretakers of the schools a great deal, often to the detriment of their other work. So much so that, following an application from them in August 1889, it was decided that they should only seek absentees on two days of any week. The problem was particularly severe at St. John's School and to assist the managers there, the caretakers at Bill Quay and Felling Board Schools were asked to look after

St. John's absentees as much as was possible. Many parents were still failing to comply with attendance orders given by the Magistrates, and the Attendance Officer was authorised to take out summonses against them for this reason.

In December 1890, John Oxberry was appointed Relieving Officer by the Gateshead Guardians and so he resigned his post with the Heworth School Board. This officer had taken his role very seriously and was noted for the talks which he gave on his occupation. One such talk entitled 'Maxims for School Board Officers' was given at South Shields. One of the characteristics he felt necessary for such work was "a perfect command of temper for dealing with a certain class of people whose exasperating words and actions were enough to arouse the angry passions of a saint." He pointed out that it was "not the stubbornness of children but the neglect of parents that they had to battle against." His position was not without troubles and dangers but he generally found "that tact and civility were sufficient protection against these, though not always."(1)

The new Summoning Officer was James Harper of Felling. Undoubtedly he was guided by the maxims laid down by his predesessor and he would have a need of them. From a low of 44 prosecutions in 1888, the number started to rise annually.

The attendance problem was certainly helped in September 1891 with the abolition of fee paying. In the month following this, it was noticed that the average attendance compared with the corresponding period of the previous year, had increased by 506. However, the abolition of fees did not improve the standard of living of the poorest parents. The fees of their children would have been remitted in any case. Those parents who

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(1) Felling Gazette, Friday 1st June, 1889.

had failed to send their children to school were not likely suddenly to change their ways. Irregular attendance did not disappear and in 1892 there were 185 prosecutions for this offence.

The decade 1881 - 1891 had, however, shown a marked if somewhat slow rise in average attendance at the local schools. From the figure of 2,500 noted by the Inspector in 1880 there had been a rise to over 2,800 in 1891. It is unlikely that this figure was as high as 80% of the total possible so more had to be done. The number of parents summoned continued to rise annually so that in the last full year of the Board's existence, 278 prosecutions were placed before the magistrates.(1)

The magistrates themselves, were still often reluctant to impose heavy penalties upon offending parents or truanting children. In 1896, Lord Ravensworth informed the Summoning Officer that the magistrates were extremely unwilling to send a number of children to industrial schools. He did not want to relieve parents of their responsibility to cause their children to attend school and put the expense upon the ratepayers. Further, he did not always believe the Officer's assertion that these parents were incapable of controlling their children. Often a small fine or attendance order was the maximum penalty given. It is not surprising that as late as June 1902, deputations were still being appointed to meet with the magistrates over the question of fines and the cost of summoning parents.

In March 1894, the Board felt that St. John's School had special difficulties in enforcing attendance there. What these difficulties were we are not told, but it may be that as it was not a Board School, it received less attention from the officer of the Board. This claim had been made before, though it was shown

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(1) Appendix XVI.

to be wrong. The Board decided that an assistant Attendance Officer should be appointed for St. John's, half of whose salary of £78 per annum would be paid by the Board and the other half by the managers of the school. He was to be appointed by and be under the control of the Board. Not surprisingly in the following month letters were received from the Felling Methodists and Zion Congregationalists complaining of the Board's decision. It was pointed out in these letters, that the appointment of an Attendance Officer for the exclusive needs of St. John's and whose salary was partly paid out of public rates, "was contrary to the spirit of the Education Act which recognises no denominationalism."(1) The idea was dropped.

However, in August of that year, an assistant Attendance Officer was appointed by the Board. Robert Hebron was the new officer and his duties were for the whole district rather than solely for the use of St. John's school. He was to receive his instructions and duties from James Harper, his superior. Harper remained with the Board until April 1902 when he resigned his position. The Board decided to return to the division of the district into two parts as they had in 1885. Hebron was made responsible for the Number One District to the north at a salary of £90 rising to £100 and his new officer would take charge of the Number Two District to the south. Lionel Maddison was appointed to this position. Maddison was a miner who had been elected to the Board in 1899 and on his appointment, he resigned as a member.

In 1893, the Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act was passed which empowered School Boards to provide for the education of such children. The Heworth Board had petitioned the Education Department to make this obligatory eight years earlier.

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(1) Heworth School Board Minutes, 2nd April, 1894 Vol. 7 p. 476.

In June 1894, arrangements were made with the Northern Counties Institution for the Deaf and Dumb for the admission of children from the district. The Board arranged to pay £17 6s. 8d. annually for 'Education and Maintainance' and £3 0s. 0d. for clothing when necessary. The parents of the children were required to contribute a proportion of the cost according to their means. In October, £100 was contributed to the Building Fund of the Institution. Further arrangements were made with a similar place at Boston Spa in Yorkshire. Ten such children were sent from the district before the closure of the Heworth Board.

The welfare and education of the children of the district was a major responsibility for the Board. Hence the very strenuous and prolonged efforts which it made to improve attendance at the schools within its province. That it failed to achieve complete and full attendance is hardly surprising. The environment in which it worked and the attitudes of the time were working against the Board. Nevertheless it achieved much. The fact that by the mid 1890's the Board Schools were badly overcrowded especially at High Felling, indicates not just a growth in the school population but also some fruition of their efforts to make children attend regularly at school. Schools had to be enlarged and new ones built to cater for this situation. However, the members of the Board, despite their satisfaction at the steadily rising school population, must have been disappointed that the best percentage attendance they achieved was 82.5% in 1902. It may have been of some consolation to them that the national average attendance in 1900 was 82%, and that few school Boards, if any, could claim to have solved the problem of attendance completely.

FINANCE

The implementing of the work of the Board was inevitably costly. Without a sound financial backing, the building of schools, the payment of salaries, the purchase of equipment and material and the normal day to day running of the Board system of education was impossible. Undoubtedly, the shortage of money was the main reason for the failure of the voluntary institutions to provide a full and efficient educational service. The Elementary Education Act of 1870 recognised thepproblem which was largely covered by sections 53 and 54 of the Act. Expenses of School Boards were to be paid from the School Fund which consisted of monies received as fees, or obtained from Parliament in the form of grants or loans. Further, any deficiencies not covered by the school fund could be covered by money paid by the rating authority out of the local rate for any particular area. This was anticipated to be not more than 3d. in the pound on the rateable value of any school board district.

The financial aspects of the Board's work at Heworth were put into the hands of the Finance Committee which was established shortly after the election of the first Board. This committtee, became responsible for the aquisition of income and the payment of School Board expenditure.

Financial problems started early in the life of the School Board for the first election proved a relatively costly affair. The total cost arrived at nearly £200 0s. 0d. including fees for presiding officers, poll clerks, policeman, the hire of halls, booths and cabs, the placing of advertisements in the local press, and the purchase of printed material and stationery. That the Board was zealous of keeping costs to the minimum is shown by the way in which certain tradesmen were persuaded to reduce their accounts, for instance Mr. Johnston's accounts for registers was cut from £50 8s. 3d. to £27 0s. 0d. Such persuasion was not always easy. Frank Ferguson, a joiner who had built certain booths for the election, refused to reduce his fee from £57 16s. 0d. In spite of prolonged negotiations which included a solicitor's letter

on behalf of the joiner, the matter was still not resolved by April 1876. The matter was then sent to the Education Department for settlement after local attempts at arbitration had failed. No record of their Lordships decision is available but the episode reflects the determination of the Board to get value for money. In an effort to reduce the costs of elections, the Board subsequently tried, not always successfully, to prevent contested elections.

Expenses such as the above were met by the most immediate source of income - the money received from the local rates. The financial year ended on the 29th of September, the half year being the 21st of March, and at the beginning of each financial year, the Finance Committee estimated the Board's needs for the ensuing year and issued a precept accordingly. This was issued to the Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Heworth, who were the rating authority. A Rates Collector, Cuthbert Carr, was appointed at a salary of £25 per annum to collect the School Rate for the Parish.(1) The first precept was for £300 to meet the immediate expenses of the Board but the totals for the following years never fell to such a low figure as this. In fact from the period September 1875 to September 1878, the total of the precepts made reached £5,700. In following years the annual figure continued to rise and by 1883, £3,460 was levied from the rates for that year. This of course was a period which coincided with a very busy phase of school building by the Board and as money had to be repaid for loans plus interest received for these projects, it was inevitable that such an increase should take place. Nevertheless, the Board was not happy and in July 1884, a memorial was sent to the vice-president of the Council on Education asking among other things "for special relief in respect of school board rates when shown that a higher rate than 3d. in the pound is required to

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(1) Heworth School Board Minutes, 9th April, 1877 Vol. 1 p. 266.

meet the expenses incurred in the repayment and interest of loans."[1] By this time, the amounts raised in this way were equivalent to a rate of 19.4d. in the pound - considerably greater than the 3d. in the pound originally envisaged by the 1870 Act. The Board was further aggravated by the New Code of 1884 (article 114) which reduced the Grant to public elementary schools if the total income of a school from all sources other than the grant was greater than the grant. As the repayment of loans and interest on loans was not included in the annual expenditure of schools, the Board felt that this threw an additional burden on the rates.

Despite this increasing pressure on the rates, the Finance Committee was able to report in September 1888, that the year's estimates (1888 - 1889) required from the rates would be £2,700 a reduction of £300 over the previous financial year. In fact since 1882/3 the figure levied by rate had gradually fallen from the high sum of £3,460. This was notwithstanding the fact that 1,346 extra school places had been provided during this period, with the opening of Felling, Windy Nook and Felling Shore Schools. As the Committee pointed out, the School Rate had been reduced by £760 or at a rate of over 3d. in the pound on the then rateable value. In fact, the committee proved to be over-optimistic, for a further £100 had to be levied before the end of the financial year and in following years, this trend was reversed and the annual amounts rose.

The Heworth Board, as with all other school boards, was becoming increasingly worried over this growing pressure on the rates and so in February 1896 they were eager to sign a petition sent from the Town Council of West Ham which was to be presented to the House of Commons. The petition pointed out that the burden on local taxation was much greater than Parliament had ever intended and asked that the amount raised in this way should be

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(1) Heworth School Board Minutes, 7th July, 1884 Vol. 5 p. 351.

limited and more provided from imperial funds. In February of the following year, a deputation which had attended a conference organised by West Ham Town Council on the incidence of the School Board Rate throughout the country, reported to the Board. They reported that many School Boards had School Rates higher than that of Heworth, some being as high as 3s. 3d. in the pound. A motion had been adopted that there was need for substantial relief of the burdens existing in poor School Board districts - Heworth certainly belonged to this category. However, the figure raised by the School Rate rose annually and by the turn of the century, more than £5,500 was being raised in this way.

As well as the local rates, a major source of income was provided by loans. Those were granted by the Public Works Loans Commissioners on the recommendation of the Education Department and were specifically for school buildings and school altering projects which, because of the sums involved, were too expensive to be charged direct from the local rate. Under section 57 of the Elementary Education Act 1870, the security for these loans was to be the school fund and the local rate from which repayment and interest would be paid. The repayment of the loans could be spread over a maximum of 50 years at a rate of interest of 3½% per annum.

One of the first acts of the new School Board was to apply to the Public Works Loan Commissioners for the sum of £15,000. Undoubtedly the Board had plans, but at this time they were hardly formulated, and so it is not surprising that no loan was granted. The Education Department required clear and definite plans regarding the building of schools and so it was not until January 1877 that the first loan was sanctioned. This was for the building of High Felling Board School and the amount loaned was £7,059 10s. 8d. including the cost of purchasing the site. In August of the same year £5,856 0s. 0d. was loaned for the building of the new school at Bill Quay and in July 1878 a loan of £1,987 was obtained for the new infants school at Wardley. In all cases, for these first schools built by the Board, the loan was for 50 years and the

annual interest was 3½%.

The year 1881 marked the beginning of a new phase in the planning of further schools and permission was given by the Education Department for the building of three further schools at Felling, Windy Nook and Felling Shore. The loans sanctioned were £5,117 (June), £3,334 12s. 3d. and £1,837 12s. 4d. (August) respectively.

Following the building of the latter schools, no new schools were built until near the end of the period of the School Board in Heworth, but as the school population continued to grow, the existing schools had to be altered to accept more pupils. Thus in January 1893, loans totalling £2,762 6s. 7d. were granted for a period of 35 years to pay for such alterations at High Felling, Felling and Windy Nook Schools. In the following years, loans were obtained for similar purposes elsewhere - March 1894 (Bill Quay Mixed School - £2,327 17s. 6d. over 30 years), August 1896 (Felling Shore School - £120 0s. 0d.), February 1899 (Windy Nook Infants - £628 15s. 0d.) and April 1900 (Bill Quay Infants - £1,204 0s. 0d.). The last school actually built by the Board, when overcrowding at High Felling had reached a maximum, was Falla Park Road Infants and Junior School. The loan for this was granted in October 1900 and amounted to £10,384 6s. 9d., which clearly indicates the rise in costs during the period of the School Board. A further school planned by the Board was that at Low Heworth and its building was approved by February 1903 at a sum of £8,890 12s. 3d. However, the building was not completed until a year after the end of the Board, in June 1903.

The Elementary Education Act of 1870 did not institute a free system of elementary education in the country. School Boards were empowered to establish bye-laws which enabled them to charge a fee for attendance at their schools. However, on the grounds of poverty of parents, School Boards could remit the whole or part of such fees for a renewable period not exceeding six months. The Heworth School Board could therefore, draw upon this other

source of income. A scale of fees was drawn up as part of the bye-laws. Children attending infants schools were to be charged 2d. per week while those between seven and ten years of age were to be charged 3d. per week. Children between ten and thirteen years of age would pay 5d. per week. Later in November 1884, this scale was amended, so that children under the age of five years were charged at the rate of 1d. per week.

During the drawing up of the bye-laws, the Reverend Schofield, the vicar at Christ's Church, Low Felling, proposed that the remission of school fees should apply to children attending other public elementary schools as well as those attending the Board Schools. Undoubtedly he was thinking of the local church schools under the control of the Church of England but he was over-ruled by the remainder of the Board present. It is perhaps not surprising that Schofield should receive no support on this issue. However, he received probably unexpected support from the Education Department which pointed out to the Board that in its opinion they were not being fair. If poor parents were to be compelled to send their children to school because of the bye-laws, the Department felt it "would not be just to deprive a parent of his right to choose the particular public elementary school to which he would send his child."(1) The Department felt that the Board would see the justice of making use of the power they had under section 25 of the 1870 Act in favour of such parents. Thus, the School Board was obliged to give financial support to local voluntary schools in this particular circumstance.

The responsibility for the collection of fees was that of the head teachers of the respective schools. They seemed to be uncertain as to their particular function in this respect. They were instructed by the Board to insist on the payment of fees by the children attending their schools. This rather vague instruction was variously interpreted by the head teachers and on a number of

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(1) Heworth School Board Minutes, 8th November, 1875 Vol. 1. p. 25.

occasions children were sent home either to get fees or because they had no money to pay the fees. Yet according to the Scheme of Education, Section 15, of the Heworth School Board, "no child shall be refused admission on coming to school without the ordinary fee."[1] From time to time, the School Board was obliged to inform these head teachers of this fact. It is hardly surprising then, that although a substantial sum of money was provided by school fees, arrears in their payment did build up. In July 1886 the Board noted that for the financial year 1885 - 86 arrears amounted to £125 15s. 10½d. and it is doubtful whether this amount was ever recovered. In June 1888, it was resolved that the whole of the arrears of school fees up to December 1887 should be struck out of the registers as being irrecoverable and similar actions were taken in October 1890 and September 1891. Large sums of money were involved in these instances; in October 1890 for instance, arrears totalled £415 15s. 4d.

Despite the problem of arrears, school fees provided a useful source of income to the Board and in the first full financial year, £474 1s. 7d. was collected in this way. In the following year, income from this source had increased to £746 4s. 3d. and the total continued to increase over the years. In 1890, £1,100 0s. 1d. was collected in this way. As the school population was increasing during this period, it is to be expected that the amount received as fees would increase also. However, the collecting of school fees had always provided the Board with something of a problem. The reluctance and inability of many parents to pay these fees certainly produced much absenteeism from the schools. In 1891 the Elementary Education Bill before Parliament proposed to pay a grant of 10/- per head on average attendance of children in board schools, in lieu of school fees. The Board noted that for the year 1891, the school fees collected totalled

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(1) Heworth School Board Minutes, 10th April, 1876 Vol. 1 p. 95.

£1,119 10s. 9d. The average attendance for the year was 2,186 and at 10/- per head, this totalled £1,093 0s. 0d. Therefore, on this proposal of the Bill, the Board would lose £26 10s. 7d. Despite this, the Board gave its support to this provision of the Bill which would save the Board considerable problems. In September 1891, the Elementary Education Act abolished fee-paying in all Board Schools, and at Heworth this had a direct effect on attendance.(1)

A large proportion of the money sustaining the efforts of the School Boards was provided by Parliament in the form of annual grants. These were paid to the Boards following annual inspections and reports carried out by Her Majesties Inspectors. The money was provided partly from the success of the pupils in the yearly examinations. The Code of 1871 allowed for grants to be paid for the passing of the three R's and for other "specific" subjects taught extra to these. Also there were attendance grants for pupils in regular attendance and who were presented at the examination; 8/- for infants and 6/- for older students. Grants, however, could not exceed the income of a school from fees, subscriptions and rates, or alternatively, 15/- per scholar in average attendance. This system was largely one of payment by results and was to remain so throughout much of the period of the School Boards. Modifications were made, such as in 1876 when the total grant that a school could earn was raised to 17/6d. per scholar in average attendance, or in 1882 when the Code was modified in several important particulars, but payment by results was still its basis. It is not surprising that teachers and many educational thinkers of the day were not very happy with this system. Neither is it surprising that the local school boards made strenuous efforts to encourage regular attendance and diligence of study among their pupils. An article in a local newspaper in 1879

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(1) Chapter VI p.107

reflected these attitudes in Heworth. Under the section entitled 'Local Notes', the writer "pleaded a little with parents and children attending the Board Schools on the behalf of the School Board masters and mistresses." As Government Inspection was to follow shortly after the Race Week Holidays, the School Board had decided to curtail these holidays so that the children could be thoroughly prepared for the examinations. The writer pointed out that if regular and punctual attendance was the case up to the day of the examination, the parents would "materially assist the Board" in "securing a substantial government grant."(1)

The Heworth Board seems to have been highly successful in its efforts to achieve good results and grants in the Government Inspections. In 1880, the total grant earned by the schools was £1,520 0s. 3d. which was a net increase of £1,430 12s. 2d. over the previous year. The highest grant per scholar was 18s. 10¾d. at the Felling Girls School (formerly the Chemical Works School), while the lowest was 13s. 9¼d. at Wardley Infants School. The average grant for the whole district was 17s. 5d. which was only a penny less than that allowed by the Education Act of 1876 and which compared very favourably with the average grants of the large school boards in England and Wales generally. The highest average grant for the largest boards was in fact 17s. 1¼d. at Sheffield, while for England and Wales, the average was 15s. 3½d. The Report also showed that the Heworth Board Schools were being carried on at less cost to the ratepayers than the average cost of school board schools over the country as a whole; the respective sums were 14s. 1¼d. per scholar in average attendance and 18s. 9¾d. At the same time, expenditure for teaching and other expenses was below the average for England and Wales - £1 19s. 1¼d. per scholar in average attendance compared with £2 2s. 0¾d.

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(1) Felling Guardian, 20th June, 1879.

High grants of this kind depended upon good attendance and high attainments in the examinations on the part of the scholars. When, in the following year, attendance fell because of an epidemic of sickness in the district, the total grant earned was reduced by £224 5s. 3d. The following two years showed a marked increase in grants earned compared with 1881 and this despite the difficulty of changing over to the new schools during this period. It was gratifying to the Board that the High Felling Mixed and Infants Schools, as well as the new Felling Shore Infants School, earned the 'Excellent Merit Grant', the first named earning the highest possible grant obtainable under the New Code of 1876.(1)

As the school population continued to grow from year to year, so the Government grants tended to increase also. This situation could hide the fact that performance in the schools inevitably fluctuated. Between 1885 and 1886 for instance, the percentage of passes in the schools fell from 89.5% to 89% and the grant per child fell from 17s. 7¾d. to 16s. 8d. Yet the total grant had increased from £1,850 7s. 9d. to £1,867 7s. 9d. This was accounted for by the fact that average attendance was larger in 1886 than 1885.

Generally however, the high quality of performance of the Heworth Board Schools meant a continued rise in grants on this basis alone. In 1888, the total grant earned was £2,041 5s. 1d., an increase of £92 9s. 8d. on the previous year, while the following year showed a further gain of £49 2s. 1d. In both 1888 and 1889, these schools obtained an equal share of 'Excellent' and 'Good' grants and the Board schools achieved an average grant per scholar of 18s. 2½d., considerably higher than the average for the country as a whole. These high grant levels inevitably reduced the cost to the rates. In both these years the net cost to the rates

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(1) Appendix XVIIa and XVIIb.

in Heworth was 10s. 6d. per child. The average figure for School Boards throughout England and Wales was between seven and eight shillings higher. Also the gross costs per scholar were still four to six shillings lower than for School Boards generally.

The Education Code of 1890 reflected a new outlook on the part of the Education Department. Whereas up to this time a large part of the grant earned by schools was fixed by success in the three R's examination, this was now abolished. The grant for the three R's was replaced by a fixed grant which was raised from 4s. 6d. per scholar for older children and 8s. 10d. per infant scholar to 12s. 6d. and 14/- respectively. Thus the worst of payment by results was abolished and examinations now controlled only the grants for specific subjects. In 1891, the Education Act which abolished fee-paying in Board schools, replaced it with a further grant of 10/- per head on average attendance. Therefore, this combination of events together with a rapidly expanding school population meant a marked increase in Government grants paid to the Heworth Board. From 1891 to 1892, the total grants obtained leaped from £2,414 11s. 3d. to £3,940 6s. 0d. From this period, the picture hardly changes; the Government grant increased almost yearly until the Board was finally replaced.

Thus, the main sources of income of the Heworth School Board were fairly clear cut. Very little income was raised in other ways. The forms of expenditure facing the Board were many and varied, but apart from the building and alteration of schools, the payment of the teaching staff employed by the Board represented the largest annual expenditure which it had to face.

The Heworth Board decided that all masters and mistresses would be appointed to schools under their control only after advertisements in public papers. Every Board school would be under the general supervision and direction of a headmaster or mistress who would be "responsible to the Board for the teaching,

discipline and conduct of the various departments."[1] It was decided that the number of teachers employed, including the principal, assistant and pupil teachers, would be at the rate of one teacher for not more than forty scholars in each school. Female teachers were to be solely employed in infants schools while teachers of both sexes would work in the mixed schools. Salaries of the head teachers were to be made up of a fixed sum plus a proportion of the Government grant. The salaries of assistant teachers were to be "proportionately liberal."[2]

There were in fact, two types of assistant teachers employed in the Heworth Board Schools. On the one hand there were Certificated Assistants who had obtained their qualifications via the training colleges. On the other hand, there were the ex-Pupil Teachers. These had qualified as teachers after having carried out five years of training in elementary schools. Under the Heworth Board, the remuneration of the certificated assistants was always at a higher rate than that of ex-pupil teachers.

The Heworth Board proposed to use this pupil-teacher system to provide some of the staff which it required. Suitable candidates were to be appointed as monitors at a salary of 2s. 10d. per week for boys and 2s. 3d. per week for girls. Usually parents of prospective pupil-teachers made application to the Board who, on the recommendation of the head teacher, appointed the youngster to the position of monitor. Later, such positions were allocated on the basis of a competitive examination of all candidates for the posts which was held in the presenee of the school managers. Candidates had had to show aptness for teaching to the head teachers before competing for a vacancy.[3] The normal age of this position was about twelve or thirteen. After a year as a monitor, the candidates became first year pupil teachers. The

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(1) Heworth School Board, Scheme of Education, April 1876, Section 11, p. 8.

(2) Ibid. p. 8.

(3) Heworth School Board Minutes, August 2nd, 1886, Vol. 6 p. 209.

Heworth Board decided upon a salary of £12 10s. 0d. for first year male pupil teachers with an annual increase, for five years, of £2 10s. 0d. The rate for female pupil teachers was £10 0s. 0d. and £2 10s. 0d. respectively. Progress from first to fifth year was only possible through success in the annual examination conducted by the Government Inspector. Instruction of the pupil teachers was to be given by the head teachers of the schools, usually for an hour before the school day began. Further, pupil teachers could attend evening classes "either in connection with the Physical Science College or with the Science and Art Classes."(1) Monthly examinations were conducted by one of the local Teachers Associations for the benefit of pupil teachers, and they were expected to attend.

Robert Jameson Rowell, James Toll and William Elliott were the first masters appointed to the Bill Quay, High Felling and Old Hall temporary Board Schools. The salaries of the first two were £100 per annum plus a quarter of the Government grant, whereas the third received £10 per annum less but a free house. To assist these masters, mistresses who had qualified as ex-pupil teachers were appointed at each school at salaries of £40 per annum. Two of these however, had failed to pass their fifth year examinations. Following notice of this from the Education Department, two other mistresses were appointed in their place. It was soon apparent to the Board that the staff available was not sufficient for the number of pupils, especially at High Felling. Here, the number of pupils on the books was 177 in February 1876 and was expected to rise to 200 very shortly. Therefore, a certificated assistant mistress was appointed at £75 per annum and two further assistant mistresses (ex-pupil teacher) at £40 per annum.

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(1) Heworth School Board, Scheme of Education 1876, p. 9.

In 1876, the Chemical Works Schools were taken over by the Board and the existing staff maintained their position there. James Laidler Robson was the head of the Boys School with a salary of £150 per annum. Additional payment was made to him for the successful tuition of pupil teachers at a rate of £5 for one, £9 for two and £3 for each additional pupil teacher. To assist him initially, there was one assistant master (ex-pupil teacher) at a salary of £60 per annum and one pupil teacher. The head of the Girls School, Margaret Lisle, received £90 per annum and the same pupil teacher allowances. She was assisted by three pupil teachers. Elizabeth Ditchburn, the head of the Infants School, received a salary of £65 with the same allowances and was assisted by four pupil teachers.

During the period from the beginning of 1876 to the end of 1878, the number of pupils attending the Heworth Board Schools increased considerably. During this same time, a further temporary Board School for infants opened at Wardley. As a consequence, extra staff were necessary in these schools, particularly in the High Felling Schools. Many of the extra staff were pupil teachers. This growth, together with increases in salary given to head teachers and assistants is reflected in the salaries bills for the period. In 1876, the total salary for teaching staff was £745 18s. 0d. while in 1878, this had risen to £1,671 14s. 6d.

The first of the permanent Board Schools was opened at High Felling in September 1878. The Mixed Department had a principal teacher (salary £130 per annum plus a quarter of the Government grant), a first certificated assistant mistress (salary £80 per annum), a second assistant mistress (£45) and an assistant master (£60). Both the latter were ex-pupil teachers. The principal mistress of the Infants Department received a salary of £65 per annum plus a quarter of the Government grant and was assisted by an ex-pupil teacher mistress (£45) and one pupil teacher. The new school at Bill Quay opened the same year with a similar number and

type of staff drawing the same salaries.

The number of teaching staff employed by the Board and their salary bills continued to increase from this period. In January 1881, the School Management Committee produced a scale of salaries for teachers at the two new schools. Head teachers received £130 per annum plus 12½% instead of a quarter of the Government grant, less the grant earned for sewing instruction. The salary of first assistant certificated mistress was £80 per annum plus 12½% of the sewing grant. Certificated assistant masters received £70 per annum while the salaries of ex-pupil teacher assistant masters and mistresses became £65 and £45 per annum respectively. The reduction in the amount of grant received by the head teachers is very significant. The week before the Board meeting when the new salaries were produced, an article, under the heading of 'Local Notes', had appeared in the Felling Gazette. The writer asserted that head teachers were "disgracefully overpaid" and the assistants, whose duties were "not one whit less arduous than their superiors" received "scarcely sufficient renumeration to eke out a decent living."(1) He suggested that the head teachers salaries should be reduced and the assistants salaries could then be raised without adding to the already high School Board Rate. The writer then went on to mention that one of the headmasters had received during the previous year a salary of about £300, largely due to his percentage of the Government grant. This sum he argued, was grossly excessive and the article suggested a fixed salary of £160 without any share in the grant. The new salary scales suggest that the Board was aware of the situation described in the Gazette and had taken steps accordingly.

The salary scales for the schools at Bill Quay and High Felling did not apply in every case to other new schools. In 1882, the

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(1) Felling Gazette, 21st January, 1881.

new school at Felling to replace the Chemical Works Schools was opened under Robert James Rowell. The salary of the assistant certificated mistress was set at £65 plus 12½% of the Government Sewing grant, while those of the master and two mistresses (ex-pupil teachers) were £50 and £40 respectively. In the Infants Department, the headmistress received £65 per annum plus a quarter of the Government Grant and her certificated assistant received £50. The salary of the headmistress at the new Felling Shore Infants School was the same but she only had the assistance of a pupil teacher. The new Windy Nook School, again showed variations in the remuneration of staff compared with elsewhere. John Dixon, the headmaster, for instance, received £10 less per annum on his fixed salary, while the assistant mistress (ex-pupil teacher) in the Infants Department received £35 per annum.

It is hardly surprising that from junior staff in particular, there were frequent requests for salary increases as they attempted to equalise their salaries with those of their colleagues. A fairly rapid turn-over in staff was another result of this salary situation. In September 1883, new salary scales were produced by the Board which made the remuneration of staff much clearer. Salary was based on qualifications. Certificated assistant masters received £70 per annum which rose by £5 increments to £80 in two years. Certificated assistant mistresses salaries rose from £60 to £70 in the same way. Female ex-pupil teacher assistants, qualified under Article 52 of the Education Code, received £35 which rose to £45 in £5 increments, while if they were qualified under articles 52 and 50, their salaries rose from £40 to £50. Male ex-pupil teachers were on a scale £5 higher depending on qualifications. The following year, a new scale for head assistant certificated female teachers in mixed departments was produced. The starting salary was £70 plus 12½ of the sewing grant, which rose by £5 increments to £80.

The rising salaries bill which by now was over £4,000 per annum, caused the Board in October 1885 to attempt a re-organisation and reduction of staff in the different schools, and thereby make a saving. It is interesting to note the teacher/pupil ratio which the Board worked upon.(1) Head teachers in Mixed departments were responsible for 20 to 30 pupils, while the head teachers of Infants departments were responsible for 30 to 50 pupils. Certificated assistants took charge of groups of 60 and ex-pupil teacher assistants were responsible for 50 pupils. Pupil teachers took groups of 30. Therefore, High Felling Mixed School for example, on a basis of 460 pupils, was made up of one head teacher (20 pupils), two certificated assistants (120), four ex-pupil teacher assistants (200) and five pupil teachers (150). On this basis, an allowance for an expansion by 30 pupils was made. The re-organisation meant that eight teachers and pupil teachers were given notice in various schools, but six of these were re-appointed in other schools leaving a grand total of 66 teaching staff. In August the following year, more alterations and reductions of staff were made. The effect was that quite a considerable reduction in the wage bill was made over the next few years.

The economy carried out by the Board was not without criticism. A letter to the Correspondence Section of the Felling Gazette in 1887 signed 'Watchman' stated that "really good teachers must be paid in accordance with their ability" and that a bad one was "not worth having at any price." 'Watchman' believed that the Board had an efficient staff but that it was in danger of cutting salaries below what could be had elsewhere. His fear was that good teachers would "carry their superior talents to a better market."(2)

The activities of appointment and re-organisation of teaching staff and salary adjustment continued to take up most of the School Management Committee's time. In September 1891, salary

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(1) Chapter V p. 81

(2) The Felling Gazette, 3rd June, 1887.

increases were given to the heads of the High Felling, Windy Nook and Felling Schools rising from £130 to £155, £145 and £140 respectively. Again, in August 1893, the mode of payment to head teachers was altered so that their salaries became a fixed sum and the payment by results was discontinued. The salaries of the four headmasters at High Felling, Felling, Bill Quay and Windy Nook were now fixed at £262, £226, £225 and £209 respectively. Their head assistant mistresses salaries ranged from £93 to £82 and the headmistresses of the five infants schools received salaries varying from £159 to £90.

In subsequent years until the end of the Heworth Board, the salaries of teaching staff continued to grow at fairly regular intervals. Senior assistant certificated masters in 1903 now had a maximum salary of £130 per annum while other assistant masters could reach a maximum of £110. The salaries of certificated and other staff, female and male, were increased accordingly. At the same time the number of teaching staff continued to grow both in the existing schools and at the new Falla Park Road Schools opened in 1902. So the salary bill continued to grow and represented by far the largest portion of the annual expenditure of the School Board.

Apart from the repayment of loans and the salary of teaching staff, there were many other expenses facing the Heworth School Board annually. Election expenses, the purchase of stationery, books and apparatus, the cost of printing, postage and advertising, legal expenses, the salaries of the Officers of the Board and caretakers, all represented annual expenditure which increased year by year.

Sections 59 and 60 of the Elementary Education Act, 1870 stipulated that the accounts of School Boards had to be made up and balanced at least once per year and be subject to a regular audit. In Heworth, head teachers were responsible for the accounts of their individual schools and the Clerk of the Board, George Bolam, was responsible for the accounts of the whole School Board.

The school accounts were submitted weekly to the clerk by the head teachers.

The Auditor to the Board was James Radford who in his first report, complimented the Board on the satisfactory state of not only the Board's books but those of the teachers. A later report requested the Board to incúlcate among teachers and pupils "the avoidance of any semblance of waste or want of economy" for as he stated "the present age is not celebrated for saving or economy."(1) He also complained of the quality of several of the teachers signatures to the receipts for their salaried and inferred that penmanship was not as good as in former days. However he did note the increasing complexity of the work carried out by the Board and complemented the clerk on the quality of his work in keeping the accounts. In fact, the high quality of Bolam's book keeping was constantly emphasised in the Auditor's reports to the Board. On more than one occasion Radford pointed out that this considerable and increasing work was being done by Bolam at a very moderate cost. The major problem noted by Radford was the difficulty of recovering the school fees sharged by the Board and also the high cost of bringing parents, who refused to send their children to school, before the magistrates. Following the 1881 census, the yearly audits became six monthly as the population of the district was now over 15,000, and the high quality of these accounts continued to impress the auditor. In 1885, Mr. Radford resigned as District Auditor because his duties were now "too heavy and anxious for his declining years."(2)

Radford's successor found the accounts generally satisfactory apart from the question of school fees. In May 1889 he noted with regret the continued increase in school fee arrears. He pointed out various ways in which they could be paid. For pauper children the fees could be paid by the local Guardians for the Poor while

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(1) Heworth School Board Minutes, 11th February, 1878 Vol. 2 p. 171

(2) Heworth School Board Minutes, 6th July, 1885, Vol. 6 p. 26.

the Board also had the power to remit the fees of the children of the less wealthy. The Board could also cancel arrears as irrecoverable. In any case, the auditor felt that the arrears column in the accounts should be practically blank. In 1890, a letter to the Board from the District Auditor noted the large increase to the school fee arrears and gave notice that this accumulation must not be allowed to go on. With the abolition of school fees in 1891 however, the problem was at last solved. In subsequent years the Heworth School Board accounts presented no difficulties or problems to the auditor.

As with all School Board accounts, Heworth's accounts showed liabilities almost from the beginning which increased throughout the School Board period. This was almost solely the result of the loans for school building, the repayment of which was never really possible over the life of the Board. In 1877 these liabilities stood at £1,500 0s. 0d. but by the following year, they had jumped to £12,890 7s. 5d. This figure increased as more loans were made and by 1894, the liability had nearly doubled to £24,546 6s. 1d. The record of liabilities is not available after this year, but further loans of nearly £20,000 would probably have helped to push this figure to beyond the £50,000 level. This liability would, no doubt, have been passed over to the new local education authority on the cessation of the Heworth School Board, but by incurring it, the Board had also produced valued assets for the community - the Board Schools.

EVENING SCHOOLS

Under the voluntary system the problem of attendance at school after the age of ten or there abouts was a major one. Among the poor the percentage who attended full time at this age must have been no more than 5%. It was hoped by the government and the voluntary bodies that parents could be persuaded to keep their children at school to a later age but persuasion seldom succeeded among the poor. Therefore attempts, aided by government grants, to develop night schools came from the aim to give to the young more and a fuller education than would normally be probable within the voluntary day schools.

Developments proceeded very slowly. In 1852 assistant teachers could be employed for half a day under a certificated head teacher and take charge of an evening school.(1) After 1855 it was possible for gardeners or other competent persons to instruct in manual work in the afternoons within the day schools, so that the head teacher could be free for evening classes. At the same time, a new type of evening school teacher was recognised. Persons of good character and of practical aptitude for teaching, between the ages of 20 and 40, could be employed and receive a Government grant of from £5 to £10 per session. This was provided that the school was open at least sixty times per year, that it was connected with a grant earning day school and received fees from the scholars at least equal to the grant.(2)

The grants to evening schools were raised in 1858 when scholars who attended for fifty nights in the session could be added to the day scholars for the purpose of capitation grants. In spite of these inducements, the night schools spread only very slowly and failed entirely to attract the vast numbers of children whose day school education was stopped by the early demands of work.

One of the factors holding up the development of such schools was that certificated teachers were not allowed to conduct both

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(1) Minutes of Committee in Council 1852-53, Vol. 1 p. 55.

(2) Ibid. 1854-55, Vol. 1 p. 110.

a day and an evening school. In 1862 this ban was withdrawn, head teachers were encouraged to open evening schools and were allowed to instruct their pupils there as well as the young people of the district. In consequence, there was a rapid growth in the number of evening students who were prepared for the Code examinations of that time. Unfortunately, the majority of these students were presented in the lowest standards and the inspectors were frequently called upon to examine youths and men only in the syllabuses of Standards I and II. Apparently little or no advance was being made upon the day school education.

At Heworth, evening schools were certainly in existence prior to the setting up of the School Board in 1875. The National School at High Heworth which was opened in March 1870, commenced a night school in October of that year. Lovatt, the master, noted that the scholars were very backward. In September the following year an increase of ten in the number of students attending the night school was recorded and by Januray 1873, "a great number of lads from Wardley" were admitted to the class.(1) That at least some of these young men were in employment is evidenced by the fact that one of the number had his arm broken "down the pit."(2) The evening school continued until 1877 at least. By February 1877 Major, another master, noted that the average annual attendance was 76.6 which was a 52.5% increase on the previous year. A grant of £4 4s. 2d. was also earned by the evening school in that year. It seems likely that the evening school did not continue for very much longer, if at all, for by this time the day school was in decline. Of the development of evening schools associated with other voluntary schools little is known. It seems highly likely that the much more successful St. Mary's School at Low Heworth had such a department but there is no concrete evidence that this was the case. The same can be said of the other voluntary schools in existence at this time.

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(1) Log Book, High Heworth National School, January 1873, p. 24.

(2) Ibid. September 1873, p. 27.

The establishment of the Heworth School Board changed the picture to some degree. That the Board was aware of the need for such schools is clear. In its Scheme of Education drawn up in 1876, it envisaged the setting up of separate evening schools for boys and girls above twelve years of age, to be associated with every day school. Significantly, the course of instruction in these schools was to be of the same general character as that adopted for the mixed schools. The Board also felt that the formation of science and art classes in connection with the evening schools and under the supervision of the Science and Art Department should be encouraged and facilitated.

With the many problems facing the Board, it took some time to develop these projects but by September 1879, the Board was ready to proceed. In the local press public notices appeared informing the public of the Board's intentions.(1) Government Science classes were to commence at the new High Felling Board School on Monday, 15th September. The subjects to be taught were 'Practical, Plane and Solid Geometry and Machine Construction and Drawing.' On Friday nights 'Pure Mathematics' was to be taught and the duration of the classes on both nights was to be from 6.45 p.m. to 9.0 p.m. The two teachers involved were James B. Brown and Robert Turnbull. Obviously the level of these classes was much higher than elementary school work and was probably aimed at those pupils who had completed the fifth standard at least and were now in employment.

The demand for such classes evidently existed for the School Management Committee reported at a full meeting of the Board in September 1879 that the science classes had started. It was recommended at this meeting that the whole of the Board members should be appointed as a Committee of Management for the Science Evening Schools plus Messrs. Redmayne and Pattinson. Neither of

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(1) Felling Guardian, 12th September, 1879.

the latter were Board members and there is no reference as to why they should have been appointed to this position. However, both were progressive and enlightened businessmen and had been active managers of the Felling Chemical Works School before its take-over by the Board. It can be imagined that they would have given their active support to the setting up of further education of this type. At the same meeting the fees for the science classes were determined. To take one subject would cost 4s. 6d. for the session, while two would cost 6/- and three 7s. 6d. The teachers of these classes were allowed the use of the schools free of charge but they were required to account for the whole of the revenue received by them to the Committee of Management.

How long these science classes remained in existence it is difficult to say. Certainly in August of the following year, Turnbull requested the permission of the Board to continue his class on the Monday evening. This was granted on condition he paid for the gas consumed on that night and also made some payment to the caretaker for the cleaning of the classroom. Both Messrs. Brown and Turnbull were engaged with their classes on this basis into 1882 but after that year no further notice of permission for these classes appears in the School Board records. As an annual application for the use of the Board school premises for the purpose of evening classes was necessary, it must be assumed that the demand for such science classes fell to a level where it was not economic to run them after 1882. The only other reference to science evening classes occurs in September 1885 when Dixon, the headmaster at Windy Nook Board School, requested permission to use a classroom at High Felling for this purpose, but it would seem that this class only lasted one session for no further reference is made to it.

Other evening classes made rather brief appearances during this time. In August 1882, the Board gave permission to a Mr. H. Luth of Jarrow to use one of the classrooms at High Felling for the purpose of a German language class. The session was for

the winter months (September to March) and the fee asked was £5. The success of the course seems doubtful for in September of the following year, a letter was sent to the erstwhile German teacher threatening a court summons if the previous year's fee was not paid within seven days. During the same year, the Reverend Mason was allowed the use of the large room at Windy Nook School for the purpose of a course of lectures during the winter months. The fee was arranged at 10s. 6d. per night plus 1/- for the caretaker. Again, it seems likely that this course did not last more than one session.

Night Schools, as laid down in the Scheme of Education and under the auspices of the School Management Committee, opened on the 22nd September, 1879. The schools were opened at High Felling School where the master was Thomas Brown and at Bill Quay School. At the latter school, George Dickenson was in charge of the male department while Annie Doxey controlled the female classes. These schools were open four evenings per week (Monday to Thursday) from 7.0 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. and the fees were 4d. per week for males and 3d. per week for females.

These night schools, taking those subjects laid down by the Education Code, were much more successful than the Science classes. They certainly lasted much longer, although their organisation based on the Board schools at High Felling and Bill Quay, was to be greatly modified. The classes at High Felling, organised by Thomas Brown an assistant at the Board School there, appear to have been very successful. His classes were continued yearly from 1879 until 1894 without any apparent difficulty. At first he was allowed the use of the classrooms free of charge but in the session 1881-82 he was charged a fixed sum of £2 2s. 0d. to cover the gas used and the cost of cleaning. An appeal by Brown the following year got the charge reduced to £1 1s. 0d. He pointed out to the Board that the total grant earned by the night school was £7 13s. 6d., implying that the previous fee would take up a rather large percentage of the grant. The Board was apparently quite

satisfied with the running of these classes although in October 1893, it warned Brown that the use of the classroom would be withdrawn if an examination was not held at the end of the session. This suggests that Brown had not presented any candidates for the government examinations in the previous session.

The night school at Bill Quay seems to have been much less successful than that at High Felling. The demand for this type of education would appear to have been much less at Bill Quay. After the initial session, the continuity which marked High Felling was not apparent at Bill Quay. Although William Morris, another of the teachers employed by the Board, was allowed to start a night school at Bill Quay in September 1880, this does not seem to have continued in subsequent years. Further attempts to run such classes in later years - as in 1890 when the assistant masters at Bill Quay school were given permission to start night classes there - seem to have met with the same lack of success.

It would seem that during this period the Board felt that the night school system was not meeting with the degree of success originally hoped for. It obviously felt that the content of the courses presented at these classes was not really satisfactory to the needs of young men and women engaged in employment. In March 1889 the Board had presented a petition to Parliament requesting that 'Continuation Schools' should be made an integral part of the elementary school system. Significantly, the Board suggested that these schools had to be adapted to the needs of working boys and girls "as to attract and interest tired children and prepare them for the actual duties of life."(1) Apparently Heworth was experiencing the national trend with regard to its evening schools. During the period 1870-71 to 1884-85, the number of pupils in average attendance at evening classes nationally had fallen by more than three quarters. The main cause of the decline was undoubtedly

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(1) Heworth School Board Minutes, 4th March, 1889, Vol. 7 p. 29.

the restriction by the Revised Code of grants to examination passes in the three R's. There was a need for the removal of this restriction and the offering of more varied courses if numbers were to increase.

The Report of the Cross Commission 1888 recommended a revision of the evening school regulations. It was suggested that the examination in the three R's before a grant could be earned was too narrow a view of the function of an evening school. It was felt that such schools existed to maintain and continue the education already received as well as to protect adolescents during a dangerous period. Therefore moral and physical training needed to have as prominent a place as ordinary instruction and intellectual training.

The year 1893 saw marked alterations in the Code for evening schools. The attendance of persons over twenty one was recognised for grants and the requirement that scholars should pass in the elementary subjects was abolished. Fixed grants were offered according to the aggregate number of hours of instruction received and were paid upon the instruction of the school as a whole and not upon the attainments of individual scholars. The national result was that evening schools developed at a very rapid rate and adapted themselves more to the needs of the scholars.

Following the new Code, marked changes took place in the provision of evening school education within Heworth. Rather surprisingly the new system was not developed until 1896 when a letter in September from Foster, the chief Inspector of Schools for the district, asked the Board to establish Evening Continuation Schools. The following month the School Management Committee recommended the opening of these new schools at the High Felling, Felling, Bill Quay and Windy Nook Board Schools. Each session was to last from mid-October to early-April and the schools would cater for any person 14 years old and upwards "including men and

women."[1] Each school was to be placed under a certificated head teacher who would be assisted by a staff of qualified assistants. The subjects taught would include the three R's, geography or English history while special subjects such as music, free and model drawing, musical drill and needlework would also be available. It was also recommended that cookery classes would be opened at the four schools for girls over 14 years and women, and if it was possible, dressmaking, needlework and cutting-out would be taught. The fee for such classes was fixed at 2d. per week or 3s. 6d. per term, half of the fee to be returned to those students attending regularly.

The staffs of the Evening Continuation Schools were appointed at special salary rates. Head teachers received 17s. 6d. per week, special subject teachers 5/-, cookery teachers 4/- and ordinary assistant teachers 3/-. In November it was reported to the Board that the opening of the schools gave promise of success. At the High Felling, Felling, Bill Quay and Windy Nook Schools, the numbers on the books were 223, 200, 229 and 205 respectively. Average attendance figures were 189, 126, 150 and 150 respectively. Additional pupils were being enrolled weekly.

An interesting addition to the content of the courses taught at the evening schools was the development of 'Ambulance' classes. In November 1896, the Board gave permission to Dr. Clayton to start such a class at Bill Quay at a rate of 5s. 10d. per night. In December the same year, a Mr. Douglas was allowed the same privilege at the Felling School. These classes were to form a regular part of the Evening School curriculum in subsequent years.

The headmasters appointed by the Board to take charge of these schools were, not surprisingly, the existing headmasters at the day schools. Messrs. Logan, Wand, Pye and Pratt took up these positions at High Felling, Felling, Bill Quay and Windy Nook

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(1) Heworth School Board Minutes, 5th October, 1896, Vol. 8 p. 181.

respectively. The other staff were appointed from the certificated assistants already employed by the Board.

The salaries of the evening school teachers were to vary over the years. In September 1897 it was resolved that the head teachers salaries should be at the rate of 15/- per week while male assistants were to receive 4/- per week and female assistants 3/-. Teachers of special subjects such as ambulance, French and shorthand received 5/- per week. The latter two subjects indicate a further widening of the curriculum within the evening schools. In March 1898 the salaries of head teachers were revised. The basic rate remained the same at 15/- per week, but extra payments were made on the average attendance. At High Felling where the average attendance was 104, Logan received an extra 5/- per week, while Wand, Pye and Pratt received an extra 2s. 6d. At their schools, the average attendances were 61, 44, and 25 respectively. It was also decided at this time that half of the fees would be returned to those scholars who made a 75% attendance over the session. In September of the same year, the salary rates were further revised so that head teachers received 5/- per night while the classes were running and assistants 5/-, 4/- and 3/- per night according to the subjects taught.

By May 1899, the Board was inclined to alter the salary rates again. The average attendances at Logan's, Wand's, Pye's and Pratt's schools were now 96, 21, 37 and 29 respectively so that Logan was paid an extra 5/- per week, and the others 2s. 6d. per week on top of a basic salary of 15/- per week. The other teaching rates remained the same. As an inducement to the students, it was also decided that half of the fees would be returned if more than 70% attendance was made. In September a further review of the salary structure resulted in Logan receiving 20/- per week and the others 17s. 6d. per week. Not all of the head teachers were apparently satisfied with their salaries for Wand, in August 1900, declined to accept the headship of the Felling Evening School at the rate offered the previous session. The Board

decided in September therefore, on a new rate of 17s. 6d. per week for head teachers plus 2s. 6d. extra per week if the average attendance for the session exceeded 100.

Because of the extra work involved, the caretakers also had a case for extra salary. In October 1899 it was decided that the caretaker at High Felling should receive an extra 5/- per week while the caretakers at the other schools were allowed 3/- extra. This was amended in 1900 so that the latter three caretakers received an extra 4s. 6d. per week while extra payment at High Felling remained at 5/-.

Thus after 1896, the provision of education via the evening school system was well organised and apparently efficient. In content it was varied and appealed to a greater number of scholars than before. Certainly the numbers enrolled and the average attendance increased significantly after that date. After the initial enthusiasm when more than 800 scholars were in average attendance, the average attendance settled at a figure nearer 200. Prior to 1896, this figure does not seem likely.

The history of the Evening Coninuation Schools, as organised by the Heworth School Board, was a short one. With the abolition of the Board in 1903, these schools came under the control of Durham County Council where they became part of the higher rather than elementary system of education. During their short span under the Heworth Board, they had filled a need which could not be satisfied by the day schools. As such, the Evening Continuation Schools represented an important contribution by the Board to the community's educational requirements.

VOLUNTARY INITIATIVE IN HEWORTH 1875-1903

The major aim of the Elementary Education Act of 1870 was the provision of efficient elementary education throughout the country whether it be provided by voluntary bodies or School Boards. As we have seen, the deficiency of adequate voluntary provision at Heworth resulted in the setting up of a School Board there in September 1875.(1) Throughout the country, the Act had a very stimulating effect upon the denominations who were providing the bulk of the voluntary education available. Between 1870 and 1876, additional provision was made for about one and a half million school places and the churches provided about a million of them. Obviously the churches were making a determined effort to keep the bulk of educational provision within their hands. Heworth, does not seem to reflect this national trend. The various denominations in Heworth do not seem to have been stimulated by the Act to any real degree. In the period 1870 - 1875, only one new voluntary school had been established and this was proceeding with difficulty. Since 1875, the new School Board had in fact taken over a number of the existing voluntary institutions.(2)

Despite these developments, the voluntary bodies were providing a significant contribution towards the educational needs of the parish of Heworth. Theirs, however, was a decreasing role as the period of the Board increased. It appears also that the quality of the education provided varied considerably between the voluntary schools within Heworth and generally was of a lower standard than in the Board Schools. The main reason for this was undoubtedly the increasing shortage of money available to the voluntary bodies to allow them to carry out their projects. Their dependence upon voluntary subscription and government grants normally resulted in lower salaries for their teachers. Voluntary school staff were usually fewer in proportion to the number of

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(1) Chapter III p. 26

(2) Chapter IV p. 47

children they taught than in the Board schools and less well qualified.

After 1875, the churches provided the bulk of the voluntary education available within Heworth. Apart from these 'church' schools, there were few alternative voluntary institutions, particularly since the Board had taken over the Chemical Works Schools. It seems likely that 'dame' schools were still in existence after the establishment of the School Board. These had been in existence before this event but their continuance would have been made much more difficult as such establishments were now regarded as 'not efficient' by the Education Department. However, a survey carried out by the Heworth School Board as late as February 1881, showed that 213 children between the ages of five and thirteen were attending 'non-efficient schools' and a further seventy-three were attending 'private schools'.(1) It is probable that only a minority of the number mentioned in the survey were actually attending 'dame' schools at this time. 'Private adventure' schools were certainly still in existence. In October 1876 the summoning officer of the Board made a report on Wardley Colliery School, which was such a private establishment. The report tells us that the school, built to accommodate 40 children, did infact contain 86 children of both sexes between the ages of three and twelve. The officer noticed a strong smell of gas coming from pipes below a damp brick floor, while the room contained no desks and the forms were too high for the infants. Also, there were no 'out offices' for the use of the children. No information is available as to the instruction given but the efficiency of such a place would seem to be doubtful. The same officer noted in April 1878 that a great number of children had left the

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(1) Heworth School Board Minutes, 28th February, 1881 Vol. 4 p. 201.

temporary Board school at High Felling and had gone to a 'private adventure' school kept by a Mr. Bourhill.

After 1875, it is very likely that the 'dame' and 'private adventure' establishments would have increasing difficulty in maintaining their existence in Heworth. There is no evidence to suggest that either type of establishment was in existence by the turn of the century.

The 'church' schools in existence at the establishment of the School Board were St, Mary's, St. Alban's, the High Heworth National and St. John's Schools. The former three were under the control of the Church of England and the latter was a Roman Catholic school. It is perhaps significant that of the three Church of England schools, only one was in existence at the end of the School Board period. The most recently established, High Heworth National, lasted the shortest period of time. It has already been seen that the five years from 1870 to the establishment of the Heworth School Board were not successful years for the High Heworth schools.(1) Successive reports had criticised the efficiency of the school which was particularly affected by a very rapid staff turn-over and perhaps too much interference on the part of the managers of the schools. This was not to change significantly in succeeding years.

From July 1875 to October of the same year, three different masters were in charge of the school. At the same time, the Reverend Plummer and his wife insisted on more scripture in the time-table - seven and a half hours per week (one and a half hours daily). Not surprisingly therefore, only nine pupils were presented the following year for examination in elementary subjects. The arrival of James G. Major and his wife as master and mistress in October 1876, brought about considerable improvements. Under Major attendances, the number of subjects taught, and the number

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(1) Chapter II p. 17

of pupils presented, passes obtained in the examinations and the government grant all increased considerably. It is not surprising that this very capable man was appointed to St. Mary's School in July of 1877 as headmaster and clerk. Unfortunately, the effect upon the High Heworth School was disasterous. Major's remuneration while master at High Heworth is worth noting -

for 42 weeks teaching	£42	10s.	0d.
for night school	£4	4s.	2d.
for nine months grant	£15	10s.	7½d.
for returns to the School Board	£2	1s.	8½d.
for private teaching	£2	0s.	0d.

In his stay at the school, he earned £66 6s. 5d. or an average of £1 11s. 7d. per week.

Average attendances continued to be high (about 100) under the new master, Francis Haynes, despite the fact that many children had followed his predecessor to St. Mary's. Attainments however, suffered greatly and in the Government reports for 1878 and 1879 no grants were recommended by the inspector. The master had much to complain about. A lack of work at the colliery was causing a reduction in the average attendance. The school was dirty because the former managers had neglected to pay the caretaker. His wife was not recognised as an assistant teacher "though the former master's wife was."(1) Above all, the school was short of staff. Haynes was the only teacher and although he made numerous requests for pupil teachers to assist him, none were obtained. His only help were two monitors of thirteen years of age, neither of whom were very satisfactory. The need for assistance was at least recognised by the managers and the vicar and curate (Reverend Steel and Reverend Fisher) visited continually in 1880 to help the children for the forthcoming examination. The result was a general improvement in the attainments of the school, though not sufficiently to merit a grant. By this time a male pupil teacher had been employed but his value was highly suspect. The master

(1) Log Book, High Heworth National School, 8th July, 1878 p. 121.

continually complained of his unsatisfactory work, his striking of pupils and his continual lateness. On one occasion the master even ejected him from the school "for insolence and insubordination."(1)

Haynes was given notice to leave the school in April 1881 and George Hindle and his wife were appointed in his place. Hindle was soon to complain about "the neglect of former years" and its effect upon the attainments of the scholars.(2) He was not, however, able to improve much upon this situation and in the inspections of 1881 and 1882, the grants were withheld because of the poor instruction given. It was also recommended that a qualified assistant be appointed. One inefficient pupil teacher was obviously not sufficient help for the master. Hindle resigned his position after the second inspection in 1882.

In August 1882, Annie Donkin, the first headmistress, was appointed to the school but by now the school was in a marked decline. A new Board school had been opened at Windy Nook and average attendances were now as low as twenty to thirty per week. This fall in attendance is reflected in the salary of the mistress, which was reduced by £10 per annum. Now, headmistresses came and went frequently, there being five new mistresses from 1883 to 1886. The Government report for 1886 noted that the school had suffered as a result. Throughout this period, attendances and attainments continued to be low and so it is not surprising that the school closed down on December 21st, 1886. The church could not maintain a school that was not paying its way.

St. Albans, the second of the Church of England schools, was also experiencing considerable difficulty at this time. In 1871 the school had not received a grant following the government inspection and its efficiency must have been in doubt from that date. By May 1878 the Board noted that the school had failed to

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(1) Log Book, High Heworth National School, 18th August, 1880 p. 154.

(2) Ibid. 16th July, 1881 p. 186.

to return forms showing the number of pupils who attended there. This was required of all certified efficient schools by the Education Department. In October 1880 the Board was obviously of the opinion that the school was inefficient and it suggested to the Education Department that the school be inspected. It was important that this be done because the Board recognised the need for the expansion of educational facilities in the Windy Nook area at this time. St. Alban's was inadequate for the need and apparently inefficient as a school, for in November of the same year, the Education Department declared the school as being no longer efficient. It is worth noting that Haynes, the master at the High Heworth school, complained in September of that year that certain of his pupils were attending at St. Alban's apparently because they did no homework there and started later in the mornings and afternoons. The complete loss of Government grants resulting from this should have been the end of the school, yet surprisingly the school still survived in 1884. In March of that year, the School Board instructed its attendance officer not to visit or accept lists of absentees from St. Alban's school. It seems likely however, that the school could not have lasted much longer after that date.

Undoubtedly, the opening of the new Board school at Windy Nook, had hastened the end of the two voluntary establishments at High Heworth and Windy Nook respectively. It may be argued that they would have lasted much longer during the period of the School Board had they been efficiently staffed and organised. St. Mary's the third and oldest of the Church of England schools illustrates the point. It was able to last, with some difficulty, throughout the period of the Board. It must be noted however, that for some of this time, the school was run by Major, the recent headmaster at High Heworth, a very capable teacher indeed. Built to accommodate 176 pupils, the school never averaged more than between 50 and 100 in attendance during the period of the Board. Despite the small numbers and the shortage of books, the school was able to present

capable pupils at the annual examinations. The annual grant rose under Major and his successors. He was infact the last of a long line of masters at the school. In 1883 he left to be succeeded by Margaret Abbott, the first headmistress at the school, and on her retirement in 1886, Bessie Gunn held this position until the school closed. Certainly as late as October 1902, the Board of Education recognised the school as efficient and providing part of the school accommodation within the parish. Despite the aid of Government grants however, financial problems continued to hamper the Governors of the school and the increasing competition from the public schools told at last. In 1904 the school was closed and the building was pulled down to make way for a new parish hall.

St. John's had been built to accommodate the needs of the Roman Catholic minority in the parish of Heworth; a minority which grew rapidly in the second half of the nineteenth century. Though built to cater for 400 pupils, average attendances at the school before the setting up of the School Board were probably much lower. In the session 1874-75 for instance, the average was 145. With the establishment of the Board's non-secular schools, it became a major task of the local parish priests to prevent the absorption of catholic children into them. Significantly, the average attendance at St. John's rose to 165 the following session and to 216 by 1876-77. In fact, in subsequent years, the average attendance rose to between 4-500 following the efforts made by the Catholic clergy. In the 1880's it became clear that the existing accommodation at St. John's was not sufficient for the rapidly growing Catholic population. It was either a question of providing more places or allowing the School Board to absorb the extra pupils. The latter alternative was not acceptable but the existing school premises were not capable of extension. However, in 1892, the then parish priest, Dr. Murphy, purchased a site and building in Brewery Lane, Felling Shore, for £1,250. The building was infact, the former Chemical Works School. This had been taken over by the School Board until the new Board school was opened at Felling in

1882. The school had stood vacant until Dr. Murphy's purchase. After carrying out repairs, adding extensions, walls, furniture and heating apparatus, the new school with a seating capacity for over 600 children was opened as St. John the Baptist's Catholic School on Monday, 29th May, 1893. With the opening of the new school, average attendance rose markedly so that by the mid 1890's, over 700 children were in attendance necessitating further extensions.

Unlike the provision by the Church of England, the Roman Catholic educational provision flourished during the period of the School Board. Like the other church schools, there was a large dependence upon voluntary subscription for the maintenance of the schools. The growing Roman Catholic community was more tightly knit than the other denominational groups within the parish and finance of this kind was more easily obtained. At the same time, the efficiency of the schools provided a valuable source of income from Government grants. In 1874, the grant received was £53 2s. 0d. By the mid 1890's, this sum had risen to nearly £700 0s. 0d. In this way, the Roman Catholic schools were able to exist with the School Board schools, rather than become submerged beneath the growing Board provision.

Their co-existence was not always without some friction. It has already been noted that in 1879, St. John's was in dispute with the Board regarding the lists of absentees required by the Board. This dispute lasted six months before it was resolved. The same problem arose in November 1883 when the teachers at St. John's again refused to send monthly attendance returns to the Board. It appears that the Board requested more information than had been agreed in 1879 and the managers of St. John's had instructed their teachers not to give it. The matter was referred to the Education Department which in January 1884 came out in favour of the managers of St. John's.

About this time also, another dispute broke out between the Roman Catholic parish priests and the Board. The School Management Committee complained that certain children who had attended Felling Shore School since its opening and who had made good progress there, had been compelled to leave and attend St. John's school. Such incidents were apparently typical in a number of the Board schools. The teachers complained that often children affected in this way had no knowledge of the alphabet when they arrived at their schools. Following instruction and "making them of some use in the schools", the children were removed to St. John's.(1) The only reason given was that Father Carroll, a member of the Board, had compelled them to do so. The Board was very annoyed over such cases and it was recommended that advice be obtained from the Education Department as to whether Carroll was justified in what he was doing. The Board however, had second thoughts over the matter and was apparently satisifed that everything was legal, for no further action was taken.

These incidents apart, the Board was able to develop its system of education with a minimum of fuss on the part of the voluntary bodies. Indeed, it is clear that the maintenance of the voluntary institutions within the Heworth parish was a burden that the Church of England in particular, was finding increasingly difficult to carry. No aid from the rates, smaller government grants, more unqualified teachers, smaller salaries and less equipment made this so. Therefore, rather than merely fill up the gaps, the Heworth School Board had almost completely replaced the voluntary provision that existed prior to 1875.

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(1) Heworth School Board Minutes, 3rd December, 1883 Vol. 5 p. 238.

THE END OF THE

HEWORTH SCHOOL BOARD

It was clear, quite early in the history of the School Boards, that their future was to be a short one. In 1888 an important change took place in the structure of local government, by which County Councils and County Borough Councils were established. In 1889, the Technical Instruction Act empowered these bodies to provide technical and manual instruction, except in elementary schools, up to the limits of a penny rate. In 1890, the Local Taxation (Customs and Excise) Act allotted to the County and County Borough Councils a sum of money for the provision of secondary and technical education. Although the elementary schools were excluded from this aid, the importance of the changes lies in the recognition of the county and municipal authorities as suitable bodies for the administration of education. The School Boards did not cover all parts of the county and they were often inefficient, especially in country districts. The Act of 1889 may be seen as the first stage in their abolition although at the time, its main result was to cause confusion in the relation of elementary to secondary education.

The future of School Boards was certainly in doubt from that time. A number of reasons can be put forward as contributing towards this situation. In the first place, School Boards were not always popular with local populations. In rural districts, they were usually too small, too restricted in their views and generally too inefficient. The larger Boards in the towns, were often accused of extravagance and ratepayers were resentful of the levy imposed upon them. Generally, the public looked upon county and county borough councils as more competent administrators of public money.

Moreover, more than half the nation's children were still being educated in voluntary schools. The voluntary bodies difficulties were largely financial and although they received some aid, it was very difficult for them to keep up with the standards set by the better School Boards. There was still a great deal of sympathy and support for the voluntary school system

and much opinion was in support of the idea that voluntary schools needed more support from public funds.

Again, there was the problem of the type of education being provided in the Board Schools. These were elementary schools, yet in the more progressive Boards, more and more advanced instruction was being given to older pupils. In the 1880's higher elementary schools had emerged and later organised science schools, both of which received grants from the Science and Arts Department. The Bryce Commission on Secondary Education (1894-95) recommended that such schools should be recognised as secondary schools and be taken out of School Board control. The latter were resentful of this suggestion and fought against it.

In 1896, a Bill was introduced before Parliament aimed against the School Boards and proposing to make the County Council the chief education authority controlling elementary, technical and secondary education. The county council was to appoint an Education Committee to supplement and not to supplant such existing organisations for educational purposes which supplied efficient education, that is existing Board and voluntary schools. However, the rating power of School Boards was to be limited to a total amount of 20/- per child. Further, state aid was to be available to both voluntary and 'necessitous' Board schools. The existing 17s. 6d. limit was to be abolished and an additional grant of 14/- was to be paid by the State on behalf of each child in such schools.

Such a Bill was unacceptable to the School Boards. The Heworth Board was no exception. It passed a resolution that a petition be sent to the House of Commons condemning most of the clauses of the Bill. It felt that it was not desirable, in the interests of education, to impose on County Councils the duties of the administration of elementary education and that the proper body to carry out this role for a district was the duly elected School Board. It foresaw endless problems caused by the duplicate system of examinations and inspections provided for by

the Bill which would necessarily involve heavy extra expenditure. In its view, friction between the County Councils and School Boards was inevitable particularly where School Boards had to have the consent of these Councils in order to raise the School Board Rate.

The Bill itself was not passed largely due to the opposition of the liberals and the fact that the Conservative Government was divided over the question of rate aid to voluntary schools. It was clear however, that the writing was on the wall for the School Boards. Many of the poorer School Boards, among them Heworth, were finding the problem of the School Board Rate an ever increasing one. A conference of School Boards was held in London early in 1897 to which the Heworth Board sent its representatives. The great difficulty was section 97 of the 1870 Elementary Education Act, whereby a special Grant could be given to poor School Board Districts. The representatives of the Heworth Board reported to its members that though the Heworth rate was considered high, there were many School Board districts where the rate was as high as 3s. 3d. in the pound.(1) The conferenoe had unanimously agreed that section 97, which applied where a rate of over 3d. in the pound was levied, had failed in its object and called for substantial relief of the burdens existing in School Board districts.

The government did nothing in this respect for complete reorganisation was at hand. The confusion of boundaries between elementary and secondary education and the duplication of local authorities made it clear that reorganisation was urgently necessary. As a first step, the Board of Education Act, 1899, brought the Education Department, the Science and Art Department and the Charity Commission into a single Board of Education. The next step resulted from the 'Cockerton Judgement' in 1900, when

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(1) Chapter VII, p. 114

it was shown that the London School Board was spending money on education not provided for in the Public Elementary School Code, that is Secondary Education. In 1902 an Education Act set up a completely new and organised system of elementary, secondary and technical education to replace the chaos that had been developing over the previous years. The main result was that over 2,500 School Boards were replaced by about 300 Local Education Authorities and educational administration was brought into association with other departments of local government.

The larger local education authorities were the counties and county boroughs which were to be responsible for both elementary and secondary education in their areas. Non county boroughs with populations of over 10,000 and urban districts with populations of over 20,000, were constituted the authority for elementary education within their areas, but secondary education in these places was left in charge of the County Council.

In the case of Heworth, the local School Board was to give way to Felling Urban District Council as the body responsible for elementary education in the district. This change over, though not immediate, followed closely after the passing of the 1902 Act. In May 1903, the Clerk reported to the School Board that 1st July, 1903 had been fixed by the Board of Education as "the appointed day" for the Urban District of Felling to take over the duties of the Heworth School Board.(1)

The last meeting of the Heworth School Board was held on Monday, 29th June, 1903. Surprisingly perhaps, not all of the Board members were at this meeting. Francis Hogg, the chairman, presided and Messrs. Murphy, Palmer, McGuinness, Brown and Ross made up the rest of the meeting. It seems that there was some doubt as to whether this was to be the last meeting of the Board. After an amount of routine business had been cleared, Bolam informed the Board that there was a deputation of the whole of the

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(1) Heworth School Board Minutes, 29th May, 1903 Vol. 9 p. 199.

teachers of the Board waiting to be admitted. As this was presumed to be the last meeting, the teachers wished to make some presentations. Thomas Ross then asked if in fact this was the last meeting of the Board. According to Ross, confirmation of 1st July as the closure date of the Board, had not been given by the Board of Education and he felt it unwise to conclude therefore that the last Board meeting was being held. Ross asked a number of questions. If the Board was dissolved at this presumed last meeting, who would have charge of affairs until the new authority came into power? If the heads of the schools applied for instructions who would deal with them? Could the Board be sure that it would not be allowing the business of the schools "to run at large" for the next few weeks?(1) The Clerk informed Ross that unless the Board of Education withdrew the order by the next day, the Urban District Council would take over on the 1st July. Ross replied that he wanted to be sure that the management of the schools would be provided for during the next few weeks. He held that the Board ought to have had word from the new authority before holding the final meeting. This should have been intimated officially to the Board. The rest of the Board however, seemed to have no doubts on this issue and it was agreed that the meeting was the last.

A vote of thanks to the chairman was moved and seconded by Messrs. Palmer and Murphy respectively. In his reply, Hogg recountered that he had attended every meeting of the Board since his appointment as chairman and had done his best to fulfil his duties in that office. He then recalled the various chairman, vice-chairman and members who had served on the Board since its inception and finally reminded those present that George Bolam had held the office of Clerk throughout the Board's history.

Bolam then briefly sketched the history of the Board. When the first members were elected there were 1,500 children on the books.

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(1) Heslop's Local Advertiser No. 51 July 1903.

as against 5,410 at that time. In 1875 a temporary school was opened at Bill Quay but now the Board had seven schools, with twelve departments. Of the original members, Colonel Palmer was the only one now living. The chair had been filled by Messrs. Pattinson, Palmer, John Simpson and Hogg and the vice-chairman by Messrs. Reay, Plender, John Simpson, McGuinness and Henderson. "There was", he said, "something to be proud of in the history of the Board." He had had the honour to be connected with the Board from the commencement of its career and during that time he had seen many changes in the district. The closing of the Chemical Works had been a blow to the district and it had been prophesied that Felling would come to an end through that, but the district had continued to grow. The Board had commenced with a school at Bill Quay and it opened with 120 children whose ages varied from three years to twelve "and not one of them knew a letter."(1) The first operation for each child was to be washed. It was, the Clerk noted, impossible now to see such a sight as was seen on the first morning at Bill Quay. He had spent the best days of his life connected with the Heworth School Board and he could say that the Board had always taken a real interest in the education of the children and with very happy results. It was the first School Board in the Kingdom to obtain the Excellent Merit Grant in every department, and the Board had it for many years. His only regret was that the Board had always confined its efforts to elementary education.

At the conclusion of Bolam's speach the teachers deputation was then admitted. Pratt, the head at Windy Nook, introduced the teachers to the Board. Pye, the head at Bill Quay, then read a valedictory letter from the teachers to the Board. In it, the teachers declared that as the duties of the Board were to terminate, they could not allow the occasion of the last meeting to pass without

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(1) Heslop's Local Advertiser No. 51 July, 1903.

expressing their regret that their connection with the Board in the cause of education was about to be severed. As the governing body, the Board had shown uniform kindness and consideration to those in its employ and had always kept the interest and welfare of children in first place. While always exercising due economy in the administration of public funds, the Board had never carried it to such an excess as to interfere with the efficiency of the work to be done. Its wisdom in this respect had been proved by the success of the Board's schools "which judged by the reports of His Majesties Inspectors, will bear favourable comparison with any other part of the country." Thus, "the teachers labours, unhindered by officialism and unnecessary restrictions and further lightened by the Board's kindly interest, encouragement and sympathy, (had) therefore been deeply concentrated on the education of the child and in this way, on the general progress of the district in the future."(1) The letter ended with the hope that the labours of the Board members in the cause of education would not end with the extinction of the Heworth School Board. It was hoped that their motto would always be "the welfare of the child, moral, mental and physical."(2) A framed photograph of the Board was then presented by the teachers and a silver tray was presented to the chairman. In this way the last meeting of the Heworth School Board was concluded and the Board came to an end.

At this final meeting, many fine things were said as to the achievements of the Heworth School Board. It is perhaps inevitable that on such an occasion this should have been the case. The question arises as to whether such praise and tributes were justified. The facts speak for themselves. Prior to the setting up of the Board, the parish of Heworth, a district where poverty was the common state, was very badly endowed in terms of educational

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(1) Heworth School Board Minutes, 29th June, 1903, Vol. 9 p. 204.

(2) Ibid. 29th June, 1903, Vol. 9 p. 204.

facilities. We have seen that the voluntary bodies had been completely unable to cater for the needs of the area. It is significant that of the five major teaching establishments that existed before the School Board was set up, only two remained at its end - St. John's Roman Catholic and St. Mary's Church of England Schools. Of these two, the latter was to close in the year following the closure of the Heworth School Board.

On its establishment and during its life-time, the Heworth School Board brought about a complete change in the educational situation in the district. Seven new schools were built and the school population rose by more than five times during the twenty eight years the Board existed. New standards of educational achievement were reached during this period which had not been reached before. The Board could be justifiably proud of the standards reached by its schools though today we may suspect the methods by which such standards were set. For its time, it might be claimed that the Heworth School Board was a leader, certainly among the smaller School Boards, in the progress which it made. The evidence suggests that there were not many Boards comparable in size, which bettered or even reached the standards set at Heworth.

Apart from the physical results produced by the Heworth School Board, we must consider the changes in attitudes to education which took place during its time. At the beginning, the suspicion of education by the mass of the population of the district is clear. This is hardly surprising in an area where poverty was prevalent and where every penny from the youngest to the oldest member of a family was needed. There is no doubt that the number of children who did not attend school in 1875 greatly outnumbered those who did. It cannot be claimed that attitudes changed overnight. We have seen how the problem of non-attendance was faced and tackled by the Board and how the Board did not receive the full support from the residents of the district that it might have hoped for. Also, the Board was greatly assisted by

educational legislation that took place during this period, particularly that concerning the abolition of fees and compulsory attendance at school. Yet the increasing growth of the school population cannot be solely attributed to legislation nor the general rise in the size of the population. The fact that the local population had to support the system may have won it a warmer place in popular affection. Undoubtedly too, through the efforts made by the Board, there was an increasing awareness of the value of the education available to the population. It is this change in attitude which is perhaps the greatest contribution made by the Heworth School Board to the district which it served.

We have noticed some of the members of the Board. They were as a body and individually, liberal and humane men, motivated by a desire to improve the lot of the poor. It is clear that it was their vision, vigour and perhaps courage which laid the foundations for future educational development in the district. The fact is that no comparable period of educational advance, in terms of school building, has existed in the district until very recent times. The schools built by the Board, with the exception of those at Heworth Shore (now part of a paint works) and Wardley, are still being used though having been enlarged and altered.* At present, the Urban District of Felling is in the middle of a large school redevelopment plan and many new schools have been and are being built. In this way the old Board schools will gradually be replaced, pulled down and fade into history. This will take time and will not completely come about for many years yet; until it does, the people of today who live, work and go to school in the district, will have much for which to thank those pioneers who were elected to the first Heworth School Board over ninety years ago.

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* Wardley School was vacated early in 1968 and was burned down by vandals on Wednesday, 10th April of that year.

Woodley Infants School - April 1968.

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Appendix I

CROW HALL ACADEMY,

CONDUCTED BY

Mr. Wm. GRIEVE, OF TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN,

AND ABLE ASSISTANTS.

At this Academy young Gentlemen are carefully instructed in the English, French, Latin, and Greek Languages, and every Branch of Practical and Theoretical Mathematics.

Terms.

Board & Tuition, for those under 14 Years of Age.	£	35	0 . 0	per Annum.
For those that are 14, or upwards.		40	0 . 0	ditto.

Extras.

French	1 . 1 . 0	per Quarter
Drawing	1 . 1 . 0	Do
Dancing	1 . 1 . 0	Do
Music	10 . 6	Do
Washing	10 . 0	Do.

Each Pupil is expected to bring 3 Towels, 1 Pair of Sheets a Knife, Fork, and Spoon.

NB A Quarters notice previously to the removal of a Pupil

Part of the Prospectus for Crow Hall Academy

BY-LAWS

REFERRED TO IN THE FOREGOING ORDER.

No. MMMMMX.

BYE-LAWS

MADE UNDER SECTION 74 OF THE

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION ACT, 1870,

AS AMENDED BY THE

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION ACT, 1876

FOR THE

PARISH OR TOWNSHIP OF HEWORTH

(EXTRA-MUNICIPAL) BY THE

SCHOOL BOARD FOR THE SAID PARISH OR TOWNSHIP.

DEFINITIONS:

I.—IN THESE BYE-LAWS

The term "District" means the Parish or Township of Heworth (Extra-Municipal.)

The term "Child" means a child residing in the district.

The term "School" means a certified efficient School.

"Attendance" means an attendance at a morning or afternoon meeting as defined by the Code of 1876.

The "Code of 1876," means the code of minutes of the Education Department made in the year 1876 with respect to the Parliamentary Grant to Public Elementary Schools in England.

The term "Local Authority" means the Local Authority for the district acting for the time being under the Elementary Education Act, 1876.

CHILDREN TO ATTEND SCHOOL.

II.—The Parent of every child of not less than Five, nor more than Thirteen years of age, shall cause such child to attend School, unless there be a reasonable excuse for non-attendance.

REASONABLE EXCUSES.

Any of the following reasons shall be a reasonable excuse, namely:—

(*a*).—That the child is under efficient instruction in some other manner.

(*b*).—That the child has been prevented from attending School by sickness or any unavoidable cause.

(*c*).—That there is no Public Elementary School open which the child can attend within One and a Half Miles, measured according to the nearest road from the residence of such child.

TIME OF ATTENDANCE.

III.—The time during which every child shall attend School shall be the whole time for which the School selected shall be open for the instruction of children of similar age, including the day fixed by Her Majesty's Inspector for his annual visit.

Part of the Heworth School Board Bye-laws

5

PROVISO AS TO RELIGION AND LABOUR ACTS.

IV.—Provided always that nothing in these Bye-Laws:—

(a).—Shall prevent the withdrawal of any child from any religious observance or instruction in religious subjects;

(b).—Shall require any child to attend School on any day exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which its parents belongs; or

(c).—Shall have any force or effect in so far as it may be contrary to anything contained in any Act for regulating the Education of Children employed in Labour.

PROVISO AS TO STANDARD FOR EXEMPTION.

V.—And provided always that—

(a).—A Child between Ten and Thirteen years of age shall not be required to attend School if such child has received a certificate from one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools that it has reached the Sixth Standard prescribed by the Code of 1876.

(b).—A Child between Ten and Thirteen years of age shown to the satisfaction of the Local Authority to be beneficially and necessarily employed, shall not be required to attend School for more than five attendances in each week during which the School is open, if such child has received a certificate from one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools that it has reached the Fifth Standard prescribed by the Code of 1876.

PENALTY.

VI.—Every Parent who shall not observe, or shall neglect, or violate these Bye-Laws, or any of them, shall, upon conviction; be liable to a penalty not exceeding, with the costs, Five Shillings, for each offence.

6

REVOCATION.

VII.—Any Bye-Laws heretofore made under section 74 of the Elementary Education Act, 1870, or under that section as amended by the Elementary Education Act, 1876, are hereby revoked as from the day on which the present Bye-Laws shall come into operation.

The above Bye-Laws were made by the School Board for the Parish or Township of Heworth (Extra Municipal), at a meeting held on the Thirtieth day of April, 1883.

SCHOOL BOARD of the Parish of HEWORTH. SEAL

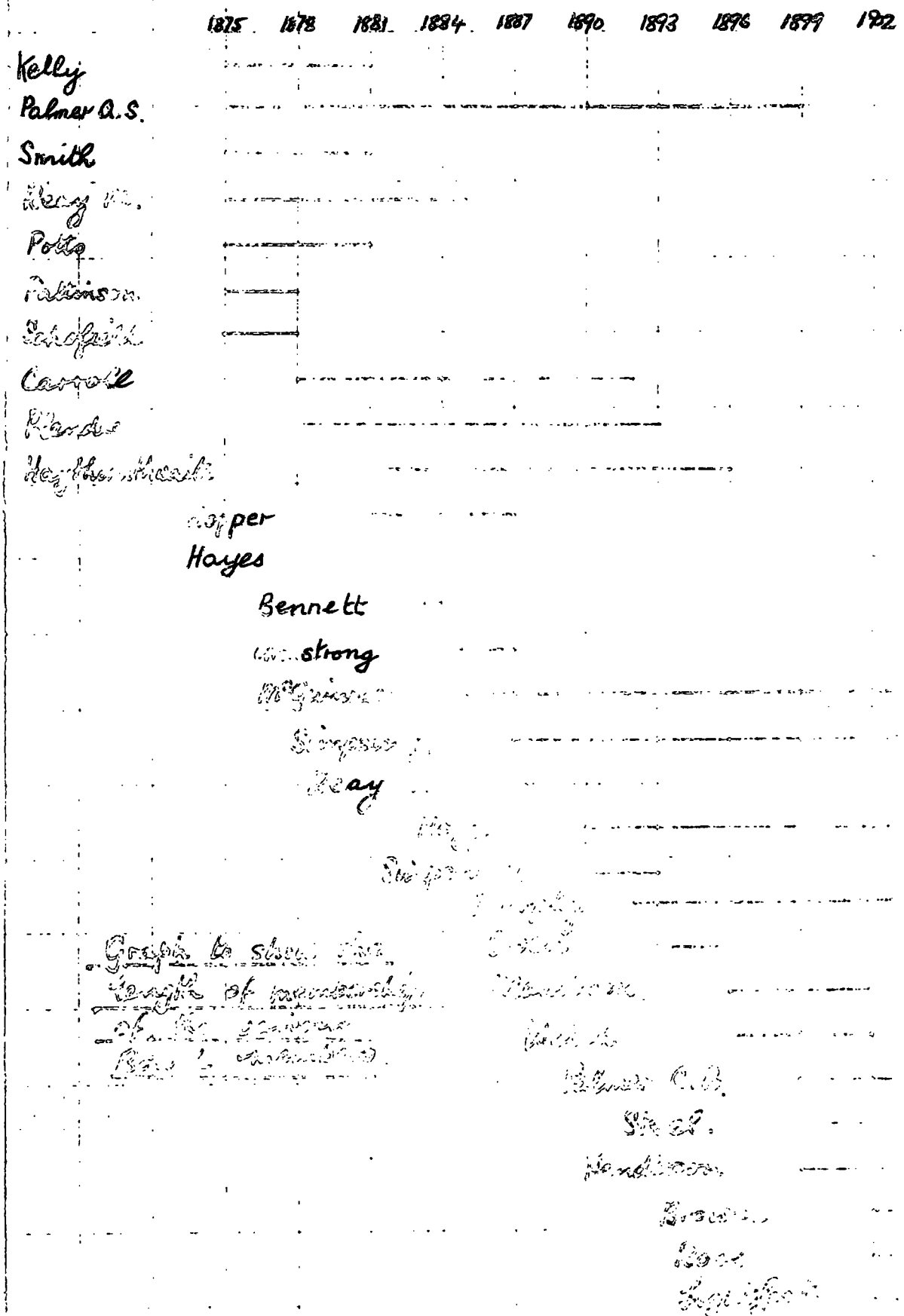
A. S. PALMER, CHAIRMAN.

GEORGE BOLAM, CLERK.

Monday, April 30th, 1883.

Part of the Heworth School Board Bye-laws

Appendix III



Appendix IV

Heworth School Board 1875 - 1878

Reverend John Kelly	Catholic Priest
Alfred Septimus Palmer	Mining Engineer
Edward Smith	Agent
Matthew Reay	Ship-owner
Robert Potts	Gentleman
William Watson Pattinson	Chemical Manufacturer
Reverend James Schofield	Vicar (Christs' Church)

Heworth School Board 1878 - 1881

Matthew Reay	Ship-owner
Reverend John Kelly	Roman Catholic Priest
Reverend Thomas Carroll	Roman Catholic Priest
Robert Potts	Gentleman
Alfred Setimus Palmer	Mining Engineer
Edward Smith	Agent
George Plender	Grocer

Appendix IV

Heworth School Board 1881 - 1884

Matthew Reay	Ship-owner
Reverend Edward Haythornthwaite	Vicar (Christs' Church)
George Plender	Grocer
Reverend Thomas Carroll	Roman Catholic Priest
Joseph Hopper	Miner
Reverend Martin Hayes	Roman Catholic Priest (to January 1883)
Alfred Septimus Palmer	Mining Engineer
Patrick Bennett	(from March 1883)

Heworth School Board 1884 - 1887

Thomas Slater Armstrong	Confectioner
Reverend Thomas Carroll	Roman Catholic Priest
Reverend Edward Haythornthwaite	Vicar (Christs' Church)
James McGuinness	Draper
Alfred Septimus Palmer	Mining Engineer
George Plender	Grocer
Matthew Reay	Ship-owner (to February 1885)
Joseph Hopper	Miner (from April 1885)

Appendix IV

Heworth School Board 1887 - 1890

Alfred Septimus Palmer	Mining Engineer
Reverend Thomas Carroll	Roman Catholic Priest
Reverend Edward Haythornthwaite	Vicar (Christs' Church)
John Simpson	Mining Engineer
James McGuinness	Draper
Thomas Reay	Ship-owner
George Plender	Grocer

Heworth School Board 1890 - 1893

Alfred Septimus Palmer	Mining Engineer
James McGuinness	Draper
John Simpson	Mining Engineer
Francis Hogg	Foreman
Reverend Thomas Carroll	Roman Catholic Priest (to February 1892)
William Simpson	
Reverend Edward Haythornthwaite	Vicar (Christs' Church)
Reverend John Murphy	Roman Catholic Priest (from March 1892)

Appendix IV

Heworth School Board 1893 - 1896

Francis Hogg	Foreman
John Simpson	Mining Engineer
Reverend John Murphy	Roman Catholic Priest
Alfred Septimus Palmer	Mining Engineer
James McGuinness	Draper
Reverend Edward Haythornthwaite	Vicar (Christs' Church)
Thomas Owen	Miner

Heworth School Board 1896 - 1899

John Simpson	Mining Engineer
Francis Hogg	Foreman
Reverend John Murphy	Roman Catholic Priest
James McGuinness	Draper
Alfred Septimus Palmer	Mining Engineer
Lionel Maddison	Miner
James Welsh	Timber Merchant

Appendix IV

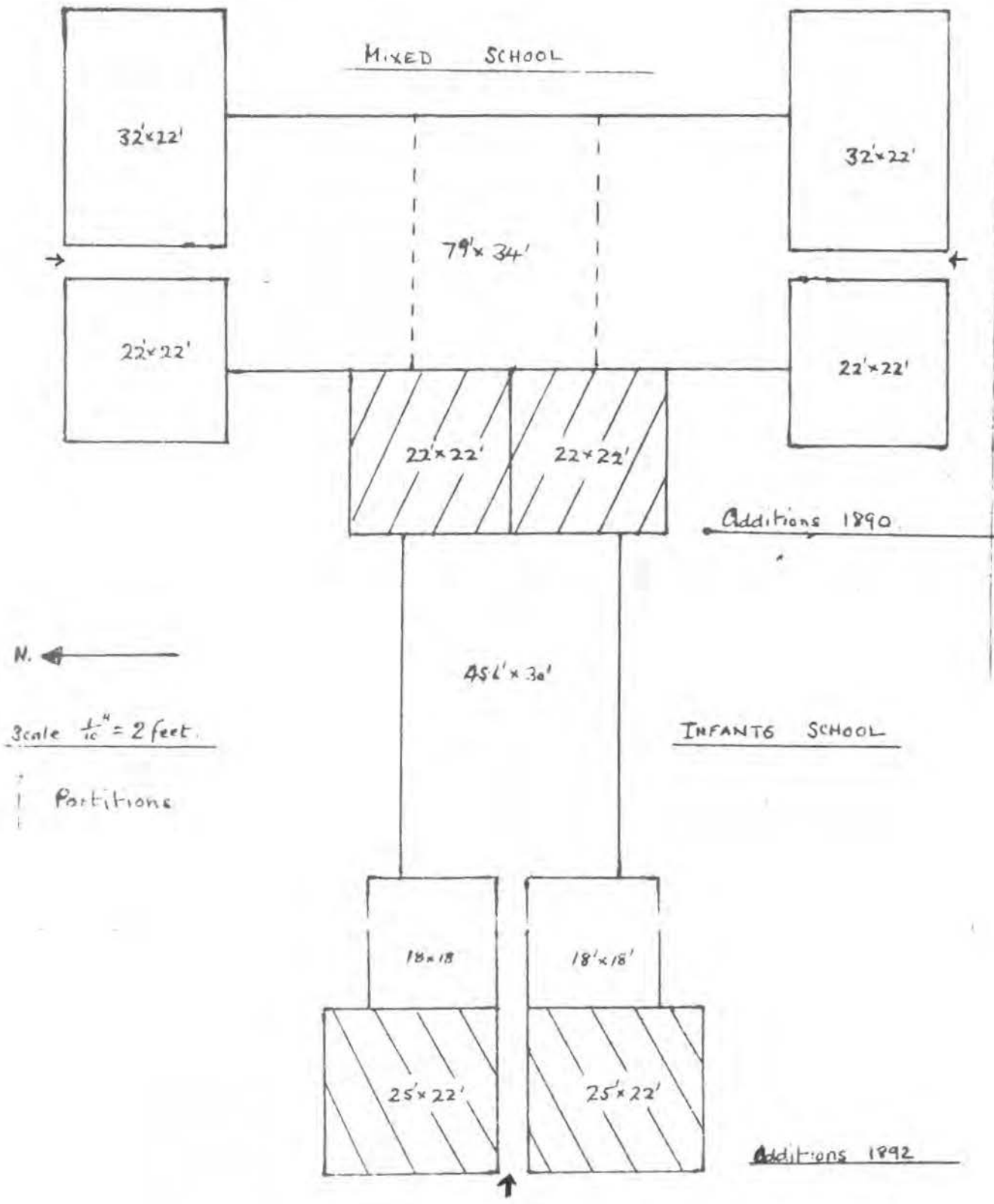
Heworth School Board 1899 - 1903

Claud Bowes Palmer	Mining Engineer
Reverend John Murphy	Roman Catholic Priest
James McGuinness	Draper
Reverend James Steel	Vicar (St. Mary's Church)
Francis Hogg	Foreman
John Simpson	Mining Engineer
William Henderson	Manager
Lionel Maddison	Miner
James Welsh	Timber Merchant

Heworth School Board 1902 - June 1903

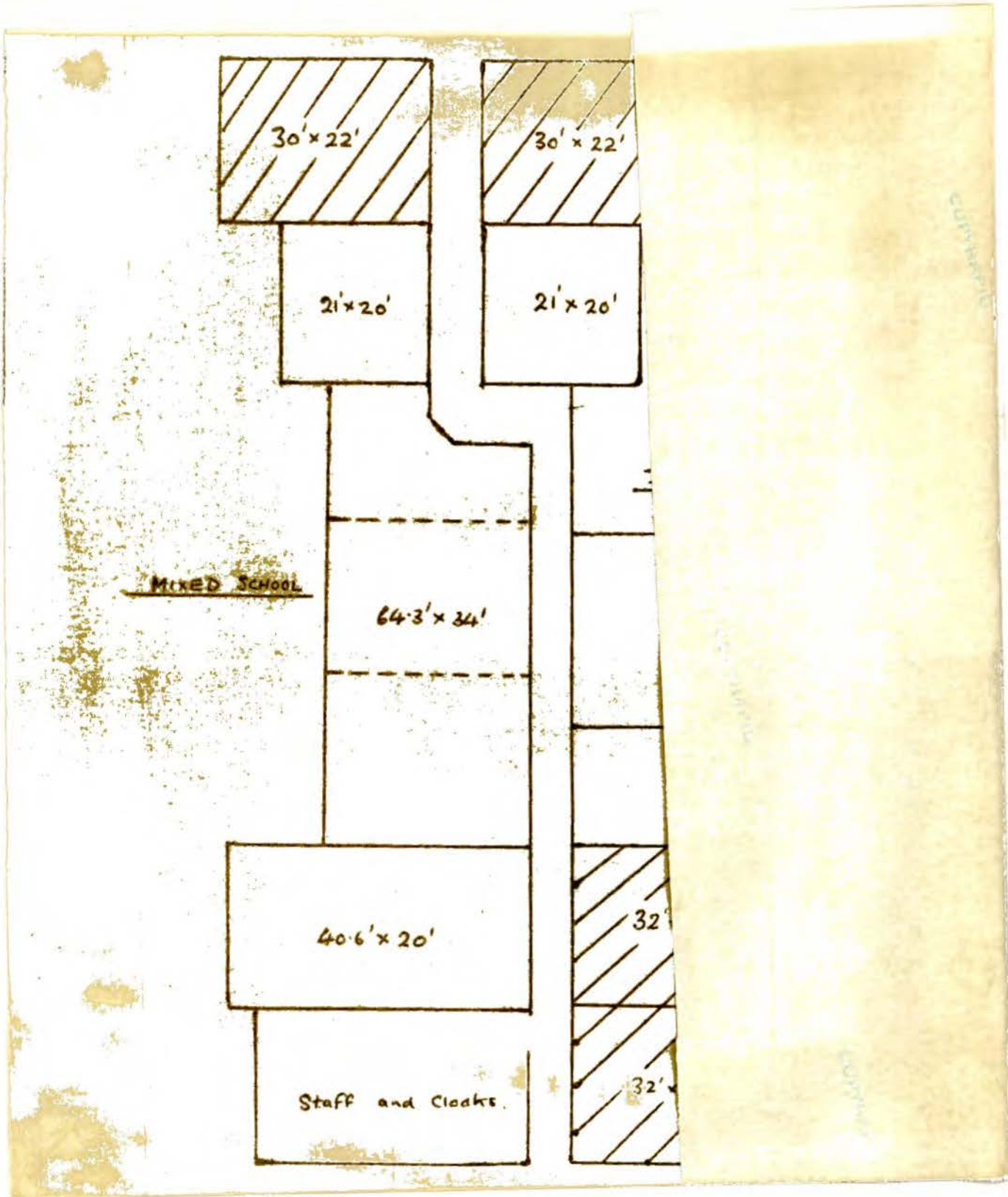
Francis Hogg	Foreman
William Henderson	Manager
Reverend John Murphy	Roman Catholic Priest
Robert Brown	Miner
James McGuinness	Draper
Claud Bowes Palmer	Mining Engineer
John Simpson	Mining Engineer
Thomas Ross	Foreman
Joseph Lightfoot	Printer

Appendix V



HIGH FELLING BOARD SCHOOLS : PLAN OF ROOMS

Appendix VI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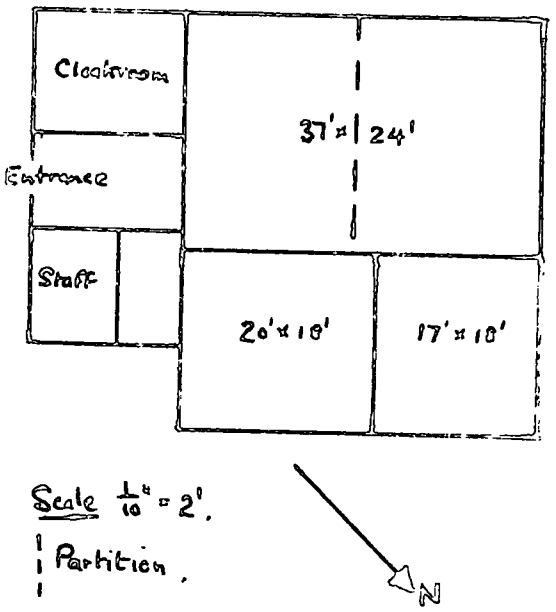
30' x 22'
21' x 20'
21' x 20'
MIXED SCHOOL
64·3' x 34'
40·6' x 20'
32'
32'
Staff and Cloaks.

Appendix VII

Plan of Wardley Infants School



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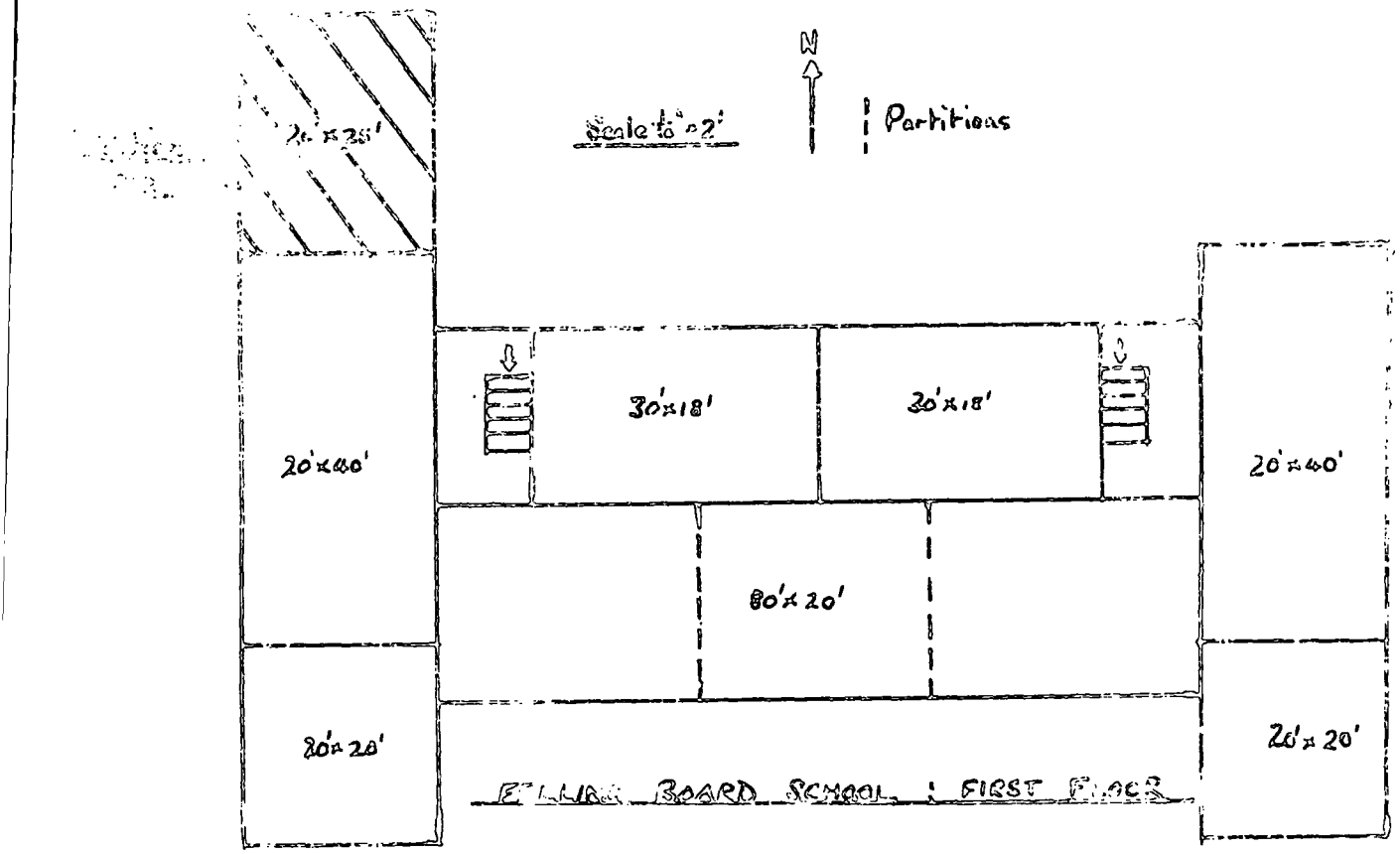

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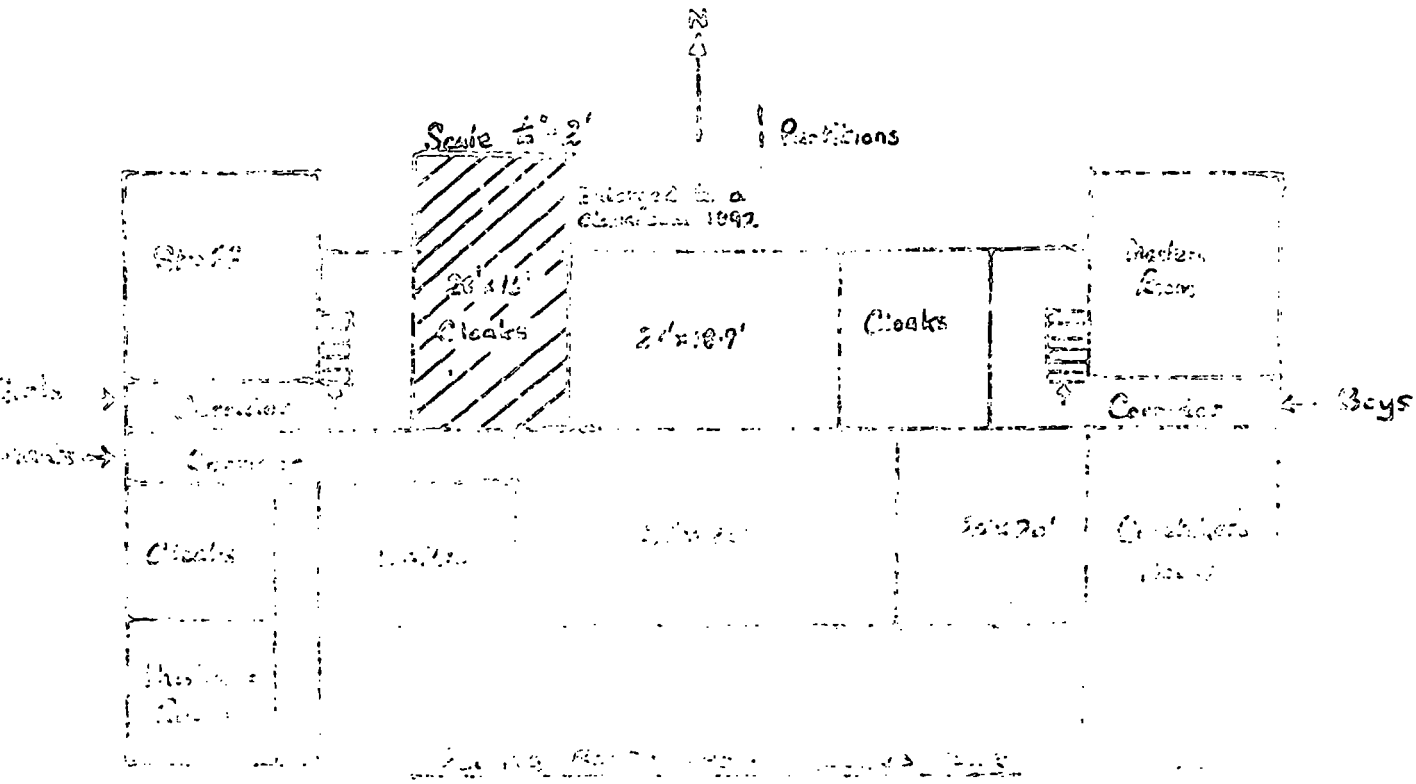
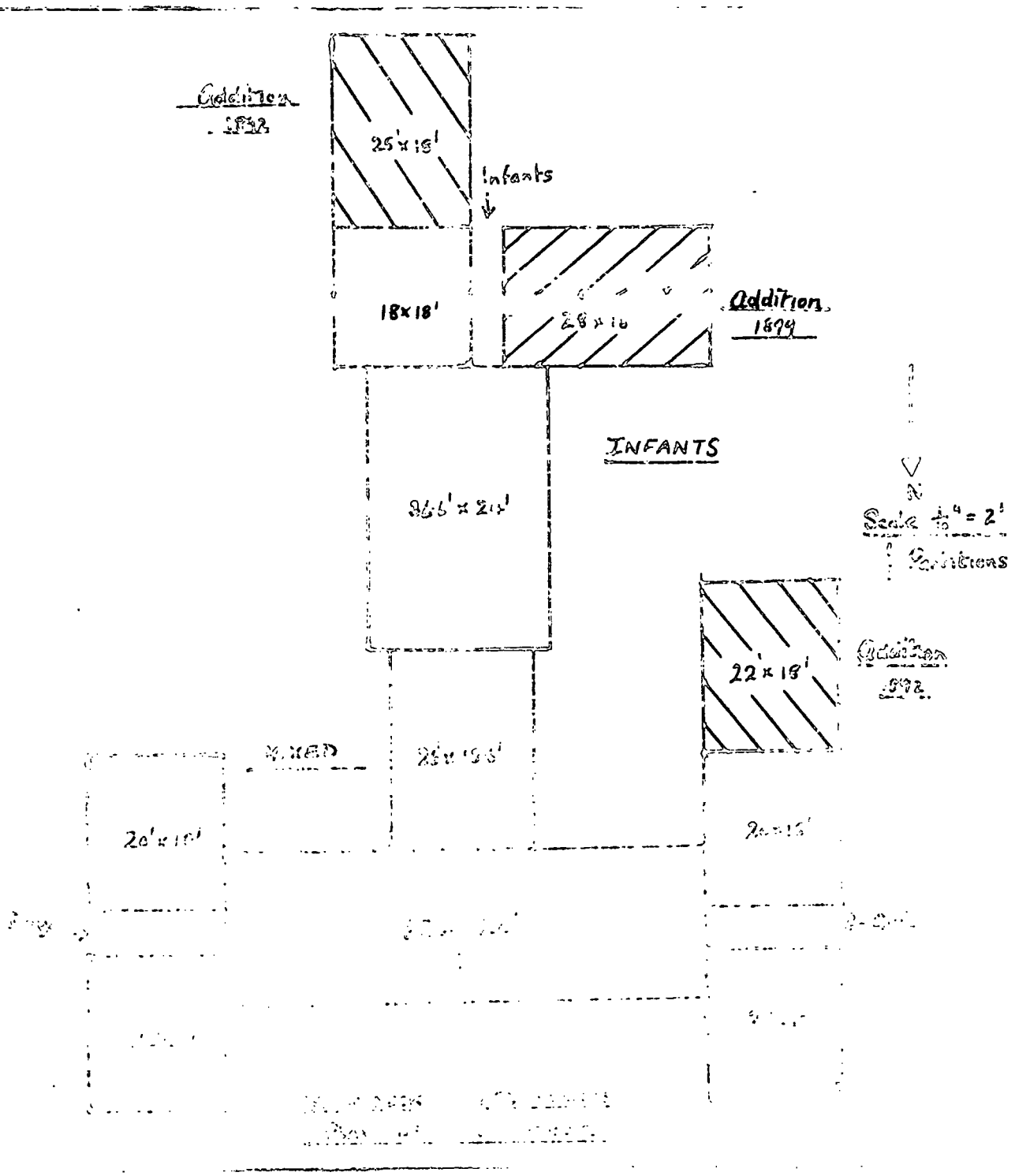
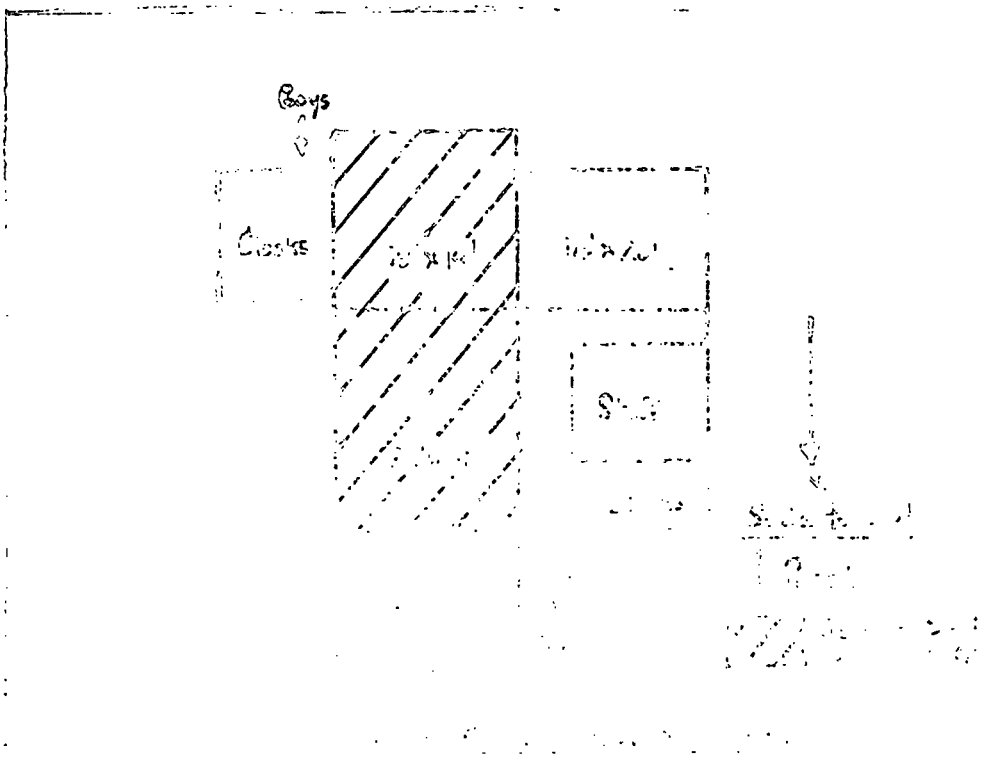


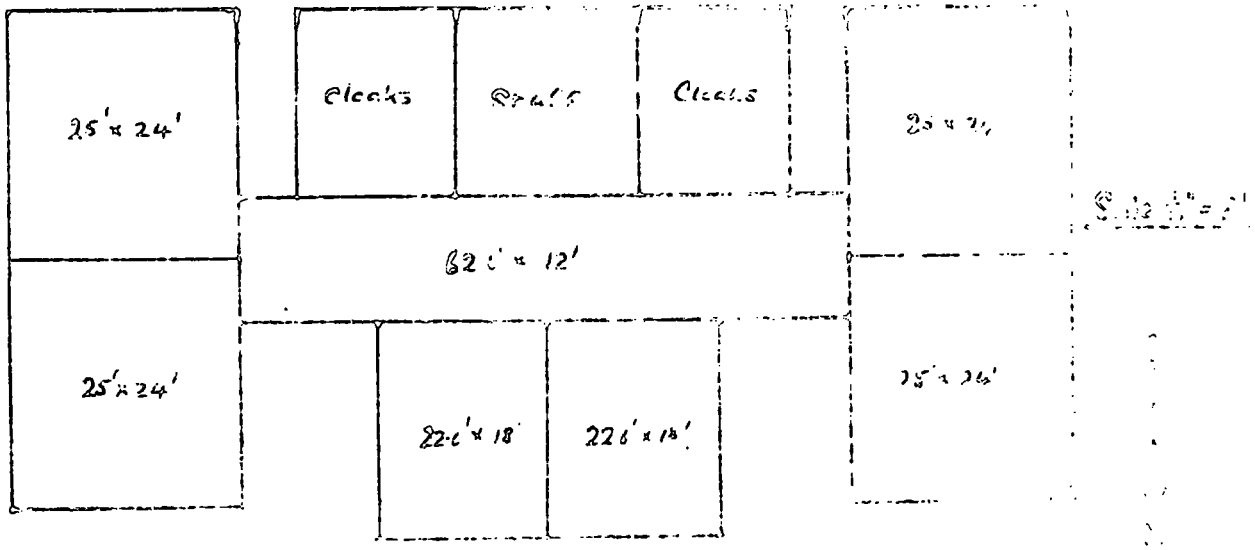
Appendix IX


Addition
1832
25'x 18'
Infants
18x18'
28 x 18
Addition
1879
INFANTS
36'6' x 21'
N
Scale 1/8" = 2'
Additions
22'x 18'
Addition
1892
MIXED
25' x 23'
20'x 18'
20'x 18'

Appendix X

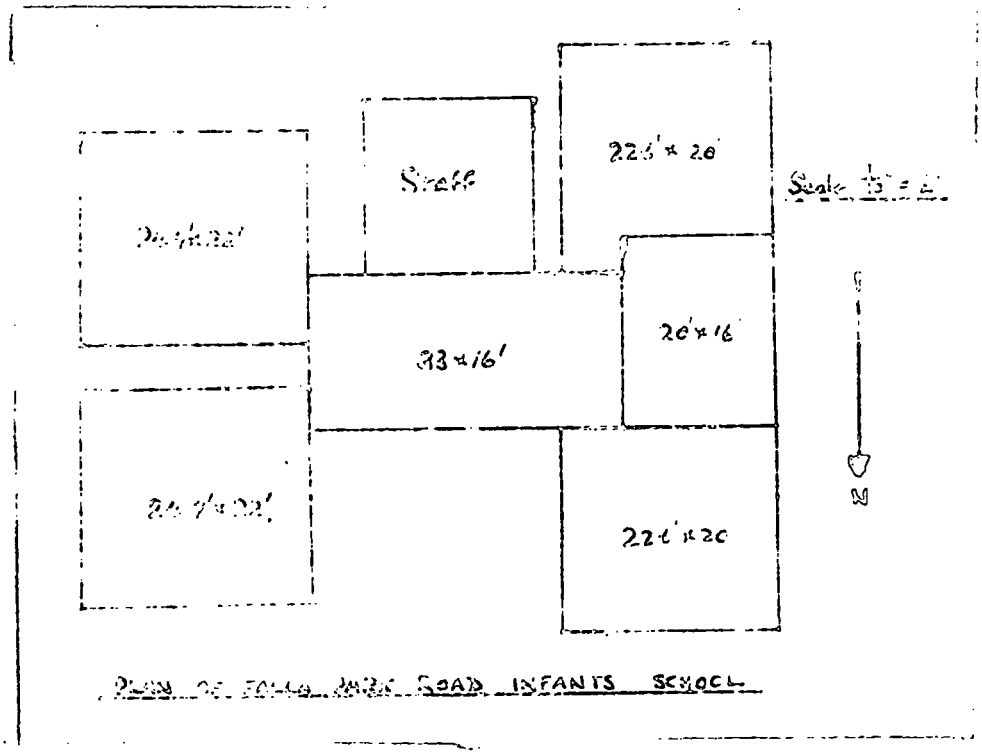


Appendix XI a

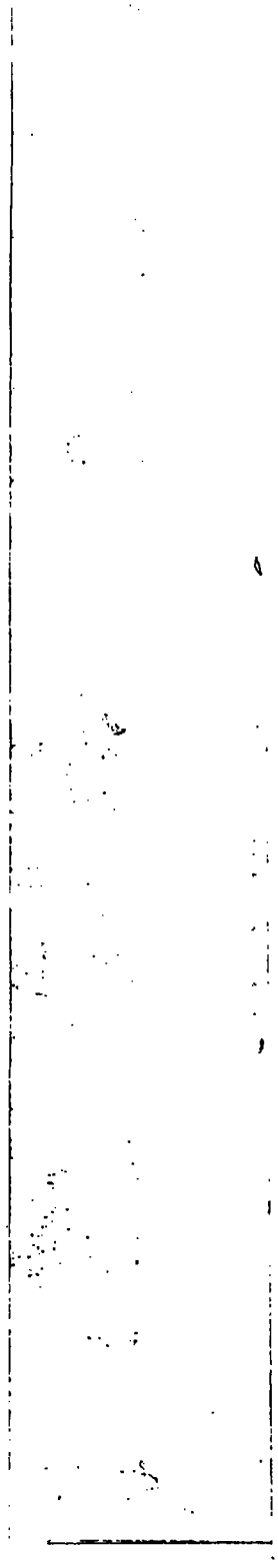


PLAN OF FALLA PARK ROAD JUNIOR SCHOOL

Appendix XI b

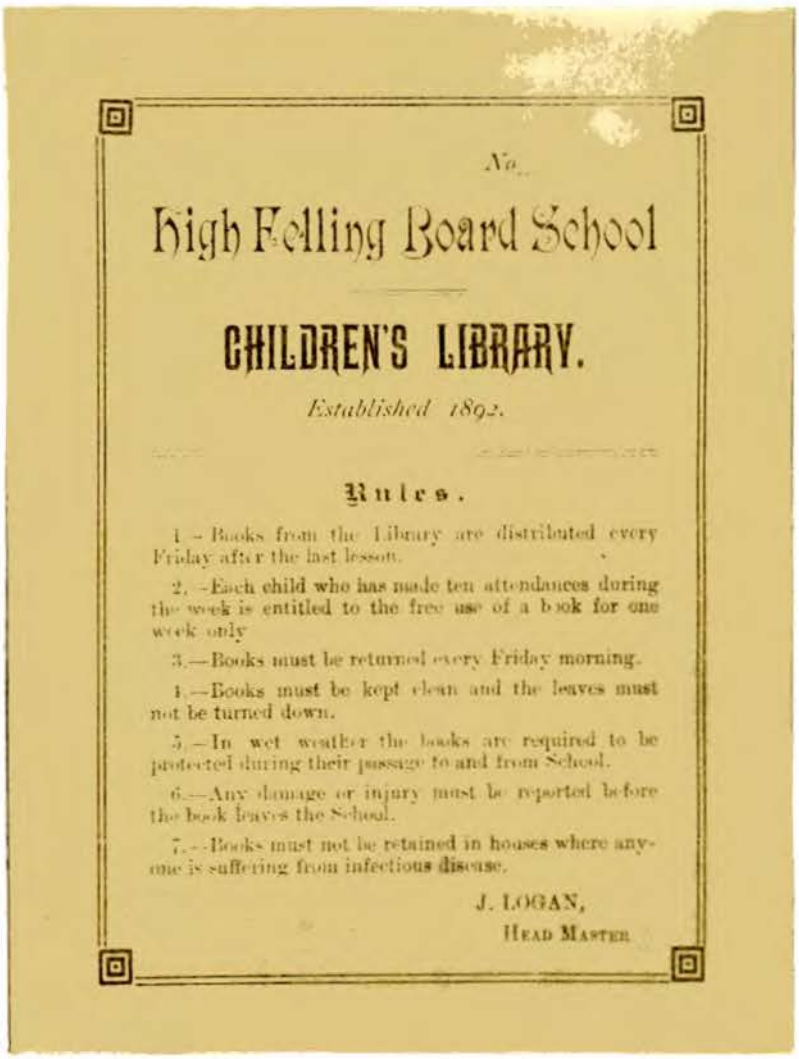


PLAN OF FALLA PARK ROAD INFANTS SCHOOL



Part of the Heworth School Board
Scheme of Education

Appendix XIII



No.

High Felling Board School

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY.

Established 1892.

Rules.

1.—Books from the Library are distributed every Friday after the last lesson.

2.—Each child who has made ten attendances during the week is entitled to the free use of a book for one week only.

3.—Books must be returned every Friday morning.

4.—Books must be kept clean and the leaves must not be turned down.

5.—In wet weather the books are required to be protected during their passage to and from School.

6.—Any damage or injury must be reported before the book leaves the School.

7.—Books must not be retained in houses where anyone is suffering from infectious disease.

J. LOGAN,
HEAD MASTER.

The Childrens Library at
High Felling Mixed School

Appendix XIV

HEWORTH S

REPORTS OF I

FOR THE YEAR E

ON SCHOOLS PROV

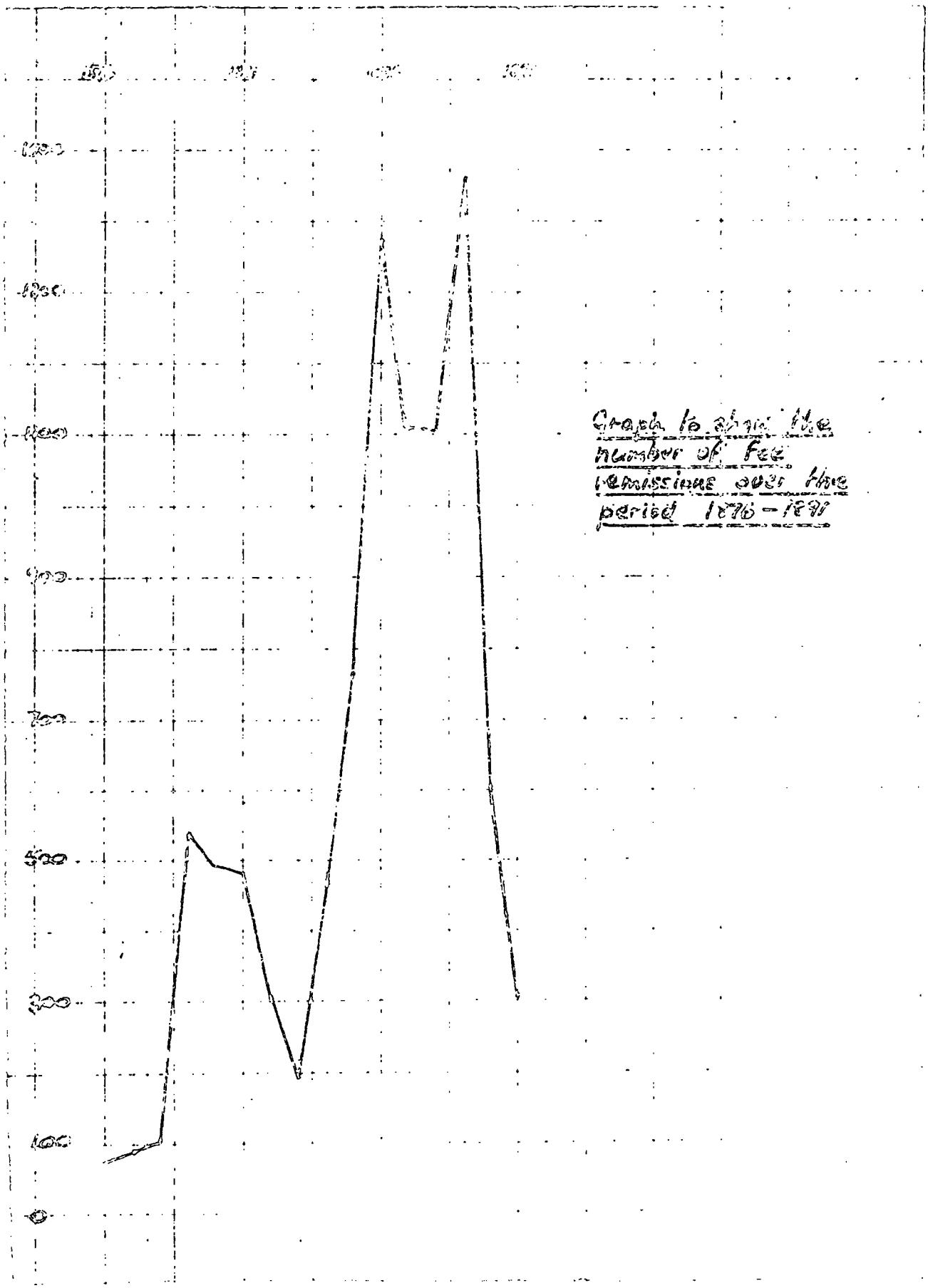
HIGH FE

Mixed School.—"Considering that the order is decid
than last year and that 40 per cent of the cl
in recommending the highest Merit Grant f
requirements laid down in circular 212, and
point is Grammar, and the best is Geography
by ear is very good. It will be seen from th
English, allowance has been made for the fa
of the ventilating shafts are not in good wor

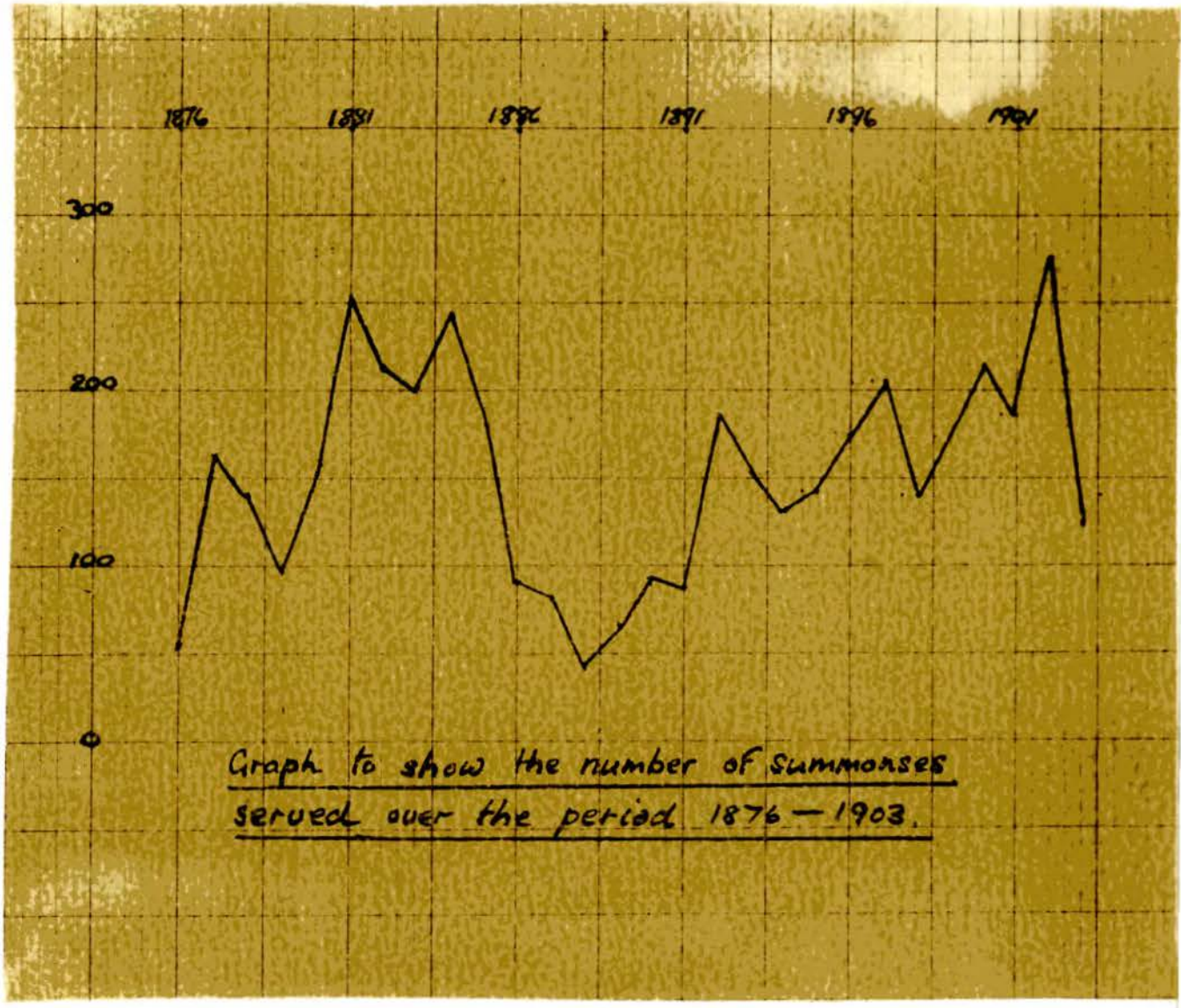
Infants' School.—"The children are wonderfully
results in arithmetic, which has been most i
lessons, and to cultivating the general intelli
to come under the head of recreation and
to produce directly educational results which
are both good, and the order deserves the hi

Part of the Inspector's Report for the
High Felling Schools 1883

Appendix XV


Graph to show the number of Fee remissions over the period 1876 - 1891

Appendix XVI



Graph to show the number of summonses served over the period 1876 — 1903.

TABLE S

Name of School.	
High Felling—Mixed	
Do. Infant	
Felling—Mixed	
Do. Infant	
Bill Quay—Mixed.....	
Do. Infant.....	
Wardley—Infant	
Felling Shore—Infant	
Total	

* This deduction

The total a

A sum e

† This grant

Name of School.
High Felling—Mixed
Do. Infant
Felling—Mixed
Do. Infant
Bill Quay—Mixed
Do. Infant
Wardley—Infant
Felling Shore—Infant
Total

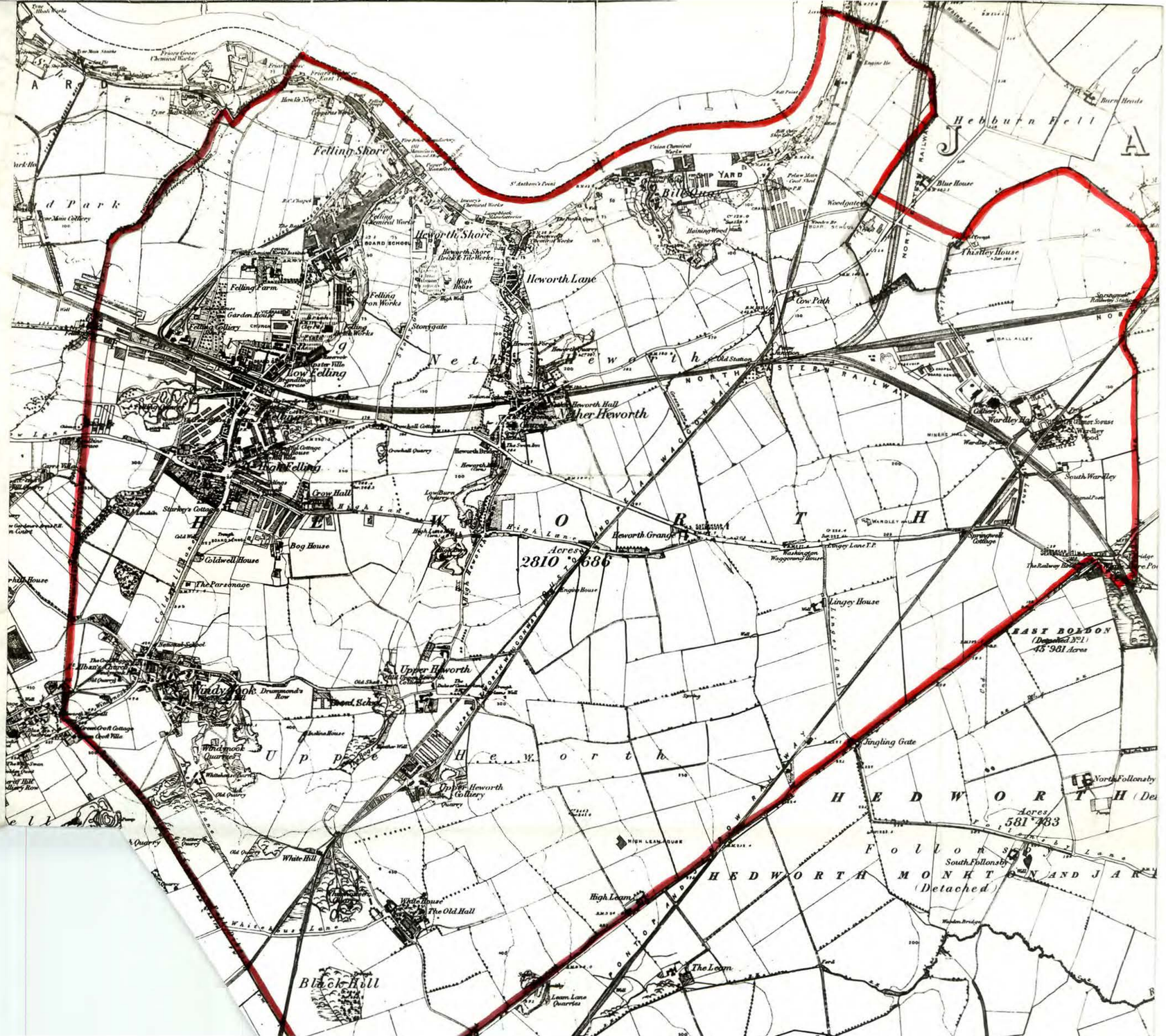
TABLE SH

Name of School.	Salaries paid to Teachers.		
	£	s.	d.
High Felling—Mixed	1	14	5¼
Do Infant...	1	5	6¾
Felling—Mixed	1	12	9½
Do. Infant.....	1	14	3½
Bill Quay—Mixed.....	1	13	4½
Do. Infant	1	10	11¾
Wardley—Infant	1	8	10½
*Felling Shore—Infant	1	0	6¼
Total.....	1	11	6¾

* For 10 months only.

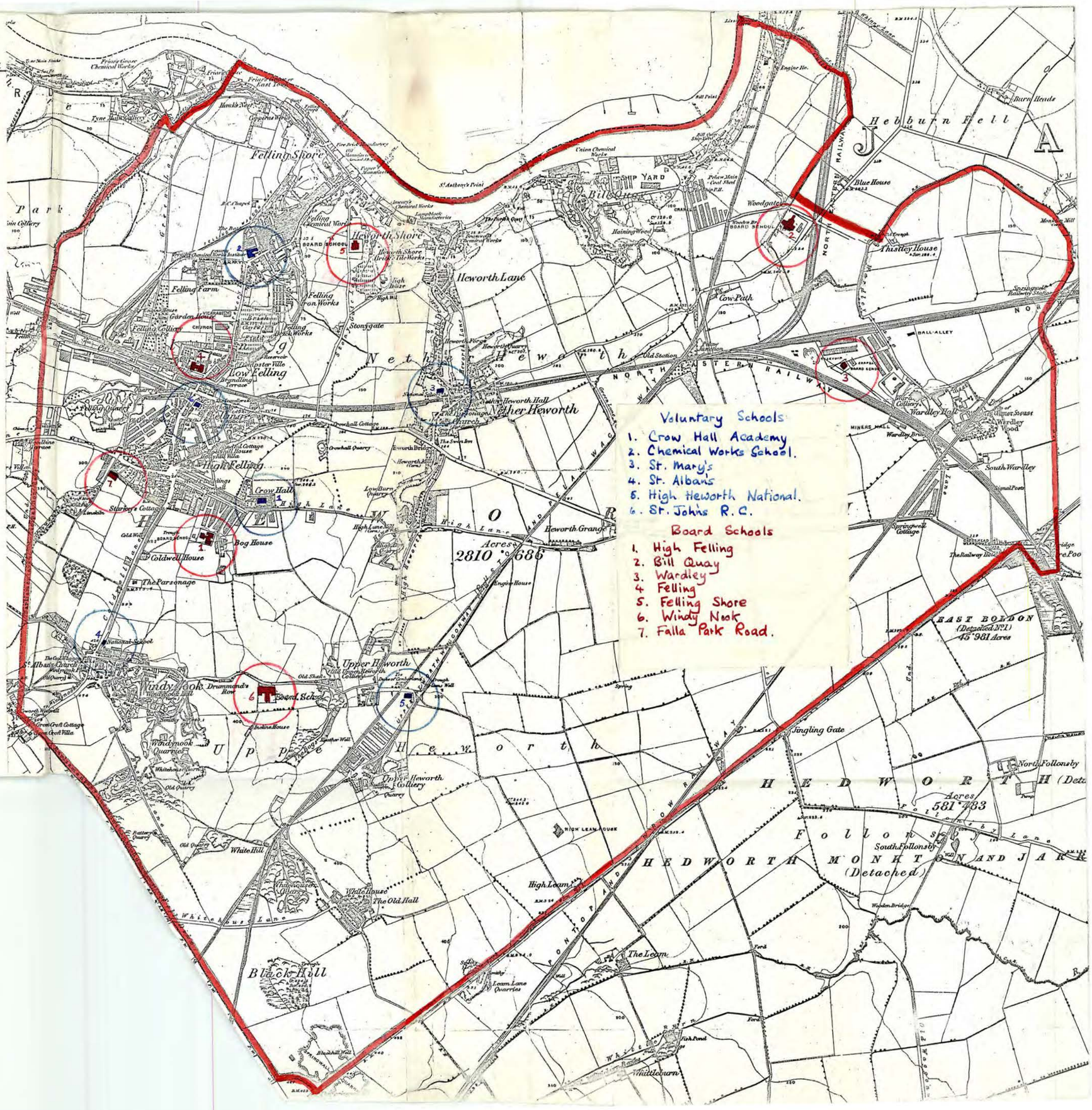
Appendix XVIII

The area served by the Heworth School Board



Appendix XIX

The location of the schools within the parish of Heworth


Voluntary Schools
1. Crow Hall Academy
2. Chemical Works School.
3. St. Mary's
4. St. Albans
5. High Heworth National.
6. St. John's R.C.
Board Schools
1. High Felling
2. Bill Quay
3. Wardley
4 Felling
5. Felling Shore
6. Windy Nook
7. Falla Park Road.
Felling Shore
Heworth Shore
Heworth Lane
Nether Heworth
High Felling
Upper Heworth
Windy Nook
Black Hill
Hebburn Fell
Bill Quay
Wardley
Follonsby
HEDWORTH MONKTON AND JARROW (Detached)
EAST BOLDON (Detached Pt.)
Acres 2810 · 686
Acres 581 · 783
Acres 45 · 981
NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY
Crow Hall
Bog House
Coldwell House
The Parsonage
Blue House
Thistley House
Woodgate
Cow Path
Stonygate
Old Station
Ball Alley
Wardley Hall
Wardley Brae
South Wardley
Springwell Cottage
Jingling Gate
North Follonsby
South Follonsby
High Leam
The Leam
The Old Hall
White House
Whitehouse Lane
Whitehouse Quarry
Windy Nook Quarries
Upper Heworth Colliery
Leam Lane Quarries
Heworth Grange
Heworth Hall
Heworth Bridge
Crow Hall Quarry
Low Felling
Felling Farm
Felling Colliery
Felling Iron Works
Felling Chemical Works
Heworth Shore Brick & Tile Works
Tyne Main Colliery
Park
Bill Quay Yard
Union Chemical Works
Haining Wood
Springwell Railway Station
Burn Heads
Engine Ho.
Bill Point
St. Anthony's Point
Hawks Nest
Copperas Works
Fire Brick Manufactory
Tyne Main Colliery
Printing Ground
Printing Ground
Fisher Terrace
Fisher Terrace
Pottery
Pottery
Pottery