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THE PROVISION OF PUBLIC
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN AND
AROUND THE CITY OF DURHAM

(1870 - 1902)

by

B. P. STANNEY

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ABSTRACT OF THESIS

The last thirty years of the nineteenth century saw an enormous expansion in the supply of schools for the children of the working classes. This occurred as a result of the Elementary Education Act of 1870, which created school boards in each district to supply public elementary schools to fill the large gaps existing in the voluntary system.

To study in detail the progress of this period one small region of the country was selected, i.e. an area of one hundred square miles or so of County Durham, with the City of Durham at its centre. The development of the provision of public elementary schools in this area, together with the associated problems, has been traced in each district, throughout the thirty seven districts involved, with the help of local records and the files of the Ministry of Education.

Apart from the City, where there was adequate educational provision, it was essentially a region of small communities each dependent upon the local pit for existence. The provision of efficient schools in these mining villages in 1870 was very poor, there being only 2,500 places for over 10,000 children. The religious bodies and the colliery owners made strenuous efforts to remedy this situation. By 1875, when the first compulsorily formed board was elected, the number of places outside the City had been more than tripled, but a deficiency still existed.

The position was aggravated by the increasing population (the number of children in the area increased by 6,000 between

1871 and 1901), and the migratory character of the inhabitants. Building of new schools and enlargement of existing ones continued steadily until 1902, by which time a total of 25,000 places was available.

This great increase in quantity was accompanied by a corresponding improvement in quality. Standards of construction and staffing were raised, the range of subjects constantly enlarged, and the schools made altogether happier and more efficient places.

Thor wiz ne signs o' Scheul Boards when Aw wiz a lad:
Aw went into the pit when but nine summers aud,
Te keep a trap door on an aud rolley way,
For the wonderful wage ov a shilling a day.

From "The Driver", by Alexander Barrass.

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PREFACE

The aim of this thesis is to trace the development of the provision of elementary school places following the 1870 Act, both by voluntary effort and by the school boards. The national figures for this from year to year are readily available from the annual Reports of the Committee of Council on Education, but their size defeats the imagination and one is left with a vision of Hercules labouring with massive bricks and seas of mortar to house the Young Illiterate.

But when one learns that the name of the Young Illiterate was Richard Cummings, and that he first attended school in April 1892 at the age of eight years, after his mother had bought him a pair of shoes upon being threatened with a summons under the bye laws, then comprehension begins. And to know that it was the Thornley Board School to which he went, built from locally quarried stone and opened some fourteen years earlier to accommodate 606 children similarly placed, at a cost of £4,000 borrowed from the Public Works Loan Commissioners, then the whole picture is reduced to life-size proportions and understanding follows.

Accordingly, a small area of County Durham, about one hundred square miles in extent, has been taken as a sample, and the school development traced district by district, together with the problems associated with this development. No selection in the choice of these districts has been exercised, the entire area being covered. This has resulted in some repetition,

but to have done otherwise would have inevitably made the result less representative of the national progress as a whole.

These accounts of the growth in the number of school places in the districts form the main body of the work. They are arranged in alphabetical order and each is accompanied by a graph showing the corresponding improvement in school attendance. Preceding them is a survey of the provisions of the relevant Acts of Parliament, and a group of topics illustrating the general trends in the sample area as a whole. In both these sections the more important developments in the area have been summarized as statistics and compared with the national values so that it may readily be seen how typical this sample - one sixhundredth of England and Wales in area and containing one threehundredth of the total population - is. These two sections are linked to the district accounts by many cross references, so that particular instances of a general tendency may be easily found, and vice versa, the position in one district may be related to the large scale development.

REFERENCES

Most of the material for the district accounts was obtained from the files of the Ministry of Education (to which further reference is made in the Bibliography) and from the minute books of the school boards which are stored in the Shire Hall, Durham, or in the case of the Durham School Board in the Education Offices, Durham.

References to the files of the Ministry of Education are shown as M.E.... followed by the number of the file, and where applicable, the date of the document concerned. Those records of the Ministry which have been transferred to the Public Record Office are shown as P.R.O.... followed by the number and date. References to the local material are shown as S.H.... followed by the name of the School Board and the date of the entry, or in the case of Durham City E.O.... followed by the date.

I N T R O D U C T I O N

This is an account of how the Elementary Education Act of 1870, and subsequent legislation, affected a part of County Durham, an area which "seems one vast colliery, the air blackened by smoke, the land traversed by tramways and railways, huge chimneys and engine-houses in every direction."⁽¹⁾ It was also in 1870 that the first annual meeting of the Durham Miners' Union was held.⁽²⁾ The growing solidarity amongst the miners was demonstrated by the general strikes in the Durham collieries in 1879, and again in the disastrous spring of 1892. The position of the pitman at the time was not an enviable one. Wages were low, the coal market uncertain, and alternative industry lacking. Every boy in a mining village followed his father to the pit, whilst still of an age to be in a present day junior school.

"The Education Act of 1870 was not an Act for a common universal education, it was an Act to educate the lower classes for employment on lower-class lines"⁽³⁾ With this in mind, against the background of coal and social unrest the following pages find their place.

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- (1) Report of the Committee of Council on Education, 1873-4, p.137
 (2) Wilson, A History of the Durham Miners' Association, 1907, p.25.
 (3) H. G. Wells, Experiment in Autobiography, 1934, Vol. I, p.93.



THE 1870 ACT AND SUBSEQUENT LEGISLATION

The Rt. Hon. W. E. Forster, Vice President of the Committee of Council on Education and the member for Bradford, rose to introduce the Bill which was to develop into the great Elementary Education Act of 1870 on the evening of 17th February. He stated what the Bill was intended to accomplish. "I believe that the country demands from us that we should at least try to do two things, and that it shall be no fault of ours if we do not succeed in doing them - namely, cover the country with good schools, and get the parents to send their children to those schools."⁽¹⁾ To achieve these results he proposed "to complete the present voluntary system, to fill up gaps, sparing the public money when it can be done without, procuring as much as we can the assistance of the parents, and welcoming as much as we rightly can the co-operation and aid of those benevolent men who desire to assist their neighbours."⁽²⁾ The Bill was reprinted three times before leaving the Commons, and yet another three times during its passage through the Lords between 22nd July and 2nd August. Another week was spent in discussing amendments and the royal assent to "33 and 34 Victoria, Chap. 75" was given on 9th August.

The Act, consisting of one hundred sections and five schedules, was essentially a compromise. It did not create a new

(1) Elementary Education Bill, 1870. Debate in Parliament, p.7.
 (2) Elementary Education Bill, 1870. Debate in Parliament, P.8.

national system, or a compulsory system, or a free system. It left room for private endowments, school fees and voluntary effort, but it was the first occasion on which the State had accepted ultimate responsibility for the provision of sufficient elementary education.

It began by defining an elementary school as one in which "elementary education is the principal part of the education there given," and stipulated that fees were not to exceed ninepence per week (Sec. 3).⁽¹⁾ For a school to be a public elementary school it was necessary for it to fulfil certain further conditions, chief of which were:

1. That any child could be withdrawn from the religious instructions or observances of the school, the so-called conscience clause. A similar ruling had been in force since 1852, after which date no school could receive a grant unless it was observed. Although a valuable safeguard, it would appear that the clause was not used by parents to any considerable degree. In 1887 the Headmaster of the Blue Coat National School in Durham City stated that in his school of 200 boys it had been applied only twice in seventeen years.⁽²⁾
2. That the religious instruction could only be given at the beginning and/or end of a school session.
3. That the school had to be open at all times to inspection.

(1) Fees were, in general, kept well below this level (see p.41)
(2) Second Report of the Cross Commission, Question 25,639.

4. That the school had to be conducted in accordance with the conditions required to be fulfilled by an elementary school in order to obtain an annual parliamentary grant (Sec. 7).⁽¹⁾

No school that was not a public elementary school could receive a parliamentary grant (Sec. 96).

The country, other than London and Oxford, was divided up into school districts, which were the boroughs (Durham City is the only one in the area under review) and the civil parishes (of which thirty-six are concerned, ranging from small districts in which as few as thirty-four people lived to comparatively large parishes with populations of over 5,000).⁽²⁾ The principle applied was that "There shall be provided for every school district a sufficient amount of accommodation in public elementary schools available for all the children resident in such district for whose elementary education efficient and suitable provision is not otherwise made" (Sec. 5). No age range was mentioned, but that applied by the Education Department was from three to thirteen years. The Department was charged with the duty of investigating the available elementary school accommodation in every district (Sec. 8). Inspector's reports were received from each district, giving an account of the total population and the number of inhabitants who were of the class whose children could be expected

(1) It was from this fourth condition that much of the Department's control over the schools stemmed. A general survey of the powers of the Department is given on pp. 36-9.
(2) This area, consisting of the borough of Durham and the thirty-six surrounding parishes is referred to on subsequent occasions as the "Durham area".

to attend elementary schools. From this last figure a working total for the school accommodation required was determined on the basis of 1 to 5, i.e. one child of school age to every five inhabitants. Information was also provided on efficient schools already in the district, together with recommendations as to how any deficiency should be corrected. Accounts of these reports are provided for all the districts concerned.

Using these reports as a basis for its deliberations the Department informed the district by notice of its decision as to whether the accommodation was sufficient,⁽¹⁾ and if not, what steps should be taken to make it so (Sec. 9), together with any union of districts which was thought desirable (Secs. 40 and 41). In only two districts in the Durham area was the provision considered adequate, as compared with 3,465 of the total of 8,551 dealt with throughout England and Wales by the end of May, 1873. A typical first notice for the Durham area is reproduced following p.74 for the township of Coxhoe. If the requirements of the notice were

(1) In considering this question of "sufficiency" all efficient elementary schools in the surrounding locality were considered, whether "public" or not (see p.98). A distinction was drawn, however, concerning their "suitability". The "public" schools were considered to be appropriate for all children, whereas the others were only considered appropriate for the children of the denomination to which the school belonged, e.g. Roman Catholic. Thus if there were 500 working-class children in a district, of whom 200 were Roman Catholics, and only a Roman Catholic non "public" school for 200, then a board school for 300 was required; even if the Roman Catholic school had been large enough to accommodate all the children in the district these 300 "public" school places were still required; and if the Roman Catholic school was large enough for only 100 children then a board school with 400 places was necessary.

not met a final notice was sent, again outlining the educational needs of the district. This final notice contained a warning that if the requirements were not supplied, or were not in course of being supplied, within six months, then a school board would be compulsorily formed (Sec. 10). The final notice for Coxhoe is also reproduced. These and other orders were required to be published by advertisement in the local papers and also by affixing copies on the doors of churches and notice boards throughout the district (Sec. 80). In the area considered the thirty-seven original districts were reduced to twenty-seven owing to the formation of united districts, and in only eight of these was the final notice not met and school boards formed compulsorily. One district, the borough of Durham, applied to the Department to make an Order for a school board, under Sec. 12.⁽¹⁾ The national total of school boards formed by 1882 was 2,089 of which 976 had been called into existence by the voluntary application of the ratepayers.⁽²⁾

The main duty of a school board as stated in Sec. 10, was to "take proceedings forthwith for supplying the public school accommodation", and when this was done "the school board shall maintain and keep efficient every school provided by such board" (Sec. 18). This supply could be obtained by building new schools (Sec. 19), or taking over existing ones (Sec. 23).⁽³⁾ Thus the

(1) See pp.85-8.

(2) Report of the Committee of Council on Education, 1881-2, p.xxvii.

(3) See p.62, for example.

minimum amount of accommodation to be provided by the boards was decided by the Department, but any provision in excess of this was to be at the boards' discretion, for Sec. 18 stated that a board "shall from time to time provide such additional accommodation as is, in their opinion, necessary in order to supply a sufficient amount of public school accommodation for their district".

The boards were ad hoc bodies elected by the ratepayers (Sec. 29), consisting of between five and fifteen members, the exact number decided by the Department for each district (Sec. 31), and every voter had a number of votes equal to the number of members to be elected (Sec. 29). The rules respecting the election and retirement of members were given in the second schedule. Elections were to be triennial, and any insufficiency in the number of the members, whether due to retirement (a frequent occurrence) or lack of nominations at election (this occurred more than once in the Durham area) was to be filled by persons elected by the other members. Where nobody offered himself for election (this also happened) then those members of the retiring board who were willing to serve continued and completed the number as before. The fourteenth rule of this schedule, together with Sec. 33, was the occasion for a lengthy dispute between Thornley School Board and the Department, details of which are given under that district⁽¹⁾

Rules respecting the proceedings of boards were laid down in

(1) See pp. 133-7.

the third schedule, chief of which were that a chairman and vice-chairman were to be appointed, the Department to be informed of their names and addresses, and that the board was to meet not less than once a month. The boards had the power to make bye laws (Sec. 74) with the approval of the Department. All boards in the Durham area exercised this power.⁽¹⁾ The maximum age range for compulsion was from five years to thirteen years, and children between ten and thirteen were to be totally or partially exempted upon reaching a certain level of education (in most cases the fourth standard for the former, and the third standard for the latter). No compulsion could be applied if the nearest school was over three miles away, but this was reduced to two miles in most bye laws.⁽²⁾ The difference between the minimum age at which compulsion could be applied, i.e. five years, and that for which the boards were expected to supply accommodation, i.e. three years, was at the root of an extended dispute between Durham School Board and the Department, details of which are given in the district account.⁽³⁾

The boards were empowered to draw money from the rates to meet their expenses (Sec. 54), and they could charge fees, the scale of which had to be approved by the Department (Sec. 17). These fees could be remitted in cases of poverty.⁽⁴⁾ Money could be borrowed from the Public Works Loan Commissioners, on the

-
- (1) See p.30.
 (2) But see p.59.
 (3) See pp.91-2.
 (4) See p.41.

recommendation of the Department, ⁽¹⁾ for the building or enlarging of schools, repayable with interest over a period of a maximum of fifty years (Sec. 57). ⁽²⁾ There were thus four main sources of revenue i.e. the annual government grant which depended on the size and examination results of the schools under the board ⁽³⁾ and of which no part was to be made in respect of any instruction in religious subjects (Sec. 97), rates, fees, and loans from the P.W.L.C. The annual grant could not exceed the total income derived from any other sources, i.e. rates and fees, (this also applied to non-board schools, where rates were replaced by voluntary contributions), and the accounts were to be audited twice yearly (Sec. 59).

Regulations governing the management of a board school were stated in Sec. 14:

"1. The school shall be a public elementary school within the meaning of this Act.

2. No religious catechism or religious formulary which is distinctive of any particular denomination shall be taught in the school."

This last clause was accepted by the government after the Rt. Hon. W. F. Cowper-Temple, the member for South Hampshire, had put it forward as an amendment. It is indicative of the importance that was attached to this point that although it was not the only

(1) See p. 38, also pp. 67-8.
 (2) See p. 42.
 (3) See p. 34.

amendment put forward by Cowper-Temple and accepted by the government it became known as the "Cowper-Temple clause". Explaining his attitude towards this controversial topic, Cowper-Temple said on the third night of the second reading that:

"The State in this matter of education ought to be unsectarian, but it must be Christian. It had been ruled by high authority that Christianity was part and parcel of the law of the land; and before a witness could give evidence he must take an oath; and when a child was put into the witness-box it was the duty of the judge to ascertain whether the child had been taught religious truth so as to be aware of the sin of telling a falsehood. The State ought to take care that in the non-denominational schools established under the Bill some religious instruction be given. The Bible should be read and explained, and the Ten Commandments and the Lord's Prayer should be taught. To allow the Bible to be read without explanation would be unfair and cruel to the children."⁽¹⁾

In fact it was not stipulated that any non-denominational religious instruction should be given, but no barriers were raised to individual boards making such regulations as they saw fit. In only one of the boards under review was it not given.⁽²⁾ Of the total of 2,255 school boards in 1888, only 21 in England and 70 in Wales made no provision for religious teaching, readings, observances, etc.⁽³⁾

Sec. 16 gave the Department great power which can be compared with Sec. 99 of the 1944 Act. "If any dispute arises as to whether the school board have done or permitted any act in contravention of, or have failed to comply with the said regulations

(1) Elementary Education Bill, 1870. Debate in Parliament, p.139.
 (2) See p.77. But see also p.110.
 (3) Appendix to the Final Report of the Cross Commission, p.408.

[those dealing with the conduct of a public elementary school] the matter shall be referred to the Education Department, whose decision thereon shall be final."⁽¹⁾ Sec. 97 provided some financial relief for poor areas. Where a rate of 3d. in the pound on the rateable value produced a sum equivalent to less than 7/6 per child in average attendance, then a grant, additional to the annual grant, was payable to increase the revenue to this sum. The extent of the developments initiated by the Act were clearly under-estimated, and Forster believed that in only a small minority of cases would the school board rate exceed 3d. Throughout the country this proved not to be the case, however,⁽²⁾ and in the area examined only Durham City was able to keep below this figure.

In the area of a school board, if the managers of any school not previously in receipt of an annual parliamentary grant applied to the Department for a grant, the Department had the power to refuse the application if they considered the school to be unnecessary (Sec. 98). This power was only brought into consideration once in the Durham area, and details of the case are given under the district concerned.⁽³⁾ The first board school in the Durham area was opened in February 1877 at Framwellgate Moor, over four years after the first one in the country as a whole at St. Austell, Cornwall.

(1) See p.37.
 (2) See p.18.
 (3) See pp.138-40.

The short amending Act of 1873 made some minor changes, e.g. school board accounts were to be audited only yearly instead of half yearly. The attendance at school of children whose parents were in receipt of Poor Law relief was made obligatory, unless one of the "reasonable excuses" applied, and the guardians were required to pay the school fees. The percentage of the population in June, 1873, under compulsion by bye laws was approximately 17%, as compared with the national average of 39%.

The Elementary Education Act of 1876, Lord Sandon's Act, introduced the first comprehensive measure of compulsion. This was not done by a direct ruling, but by forbidding the employment of children under ten years, and of those between ten and thirteen who did not hold a certificate of proficiency in the 3 Rs or a certificate of due attendance at a certified efficient school (Sec. 5), the so-called labour certificate. It was further stated that "It shall be the duty of the parent of every child to cause such child to receive efficient elementary instruction in reading, writing and arithmetic" (Sec. 4), a clause comparable to Sec. 36 of the 1944 Act.

The provisions concerning employment were to be enforced by school boards, and, for those areas not under the jurisdiction of a board, by school attendance committees appointed by the guardians of the poor law unions comprising the parishes concerned (Sec. 7). These committees had the power, but only at the request of each parish, to make bye laws for the parishes under its

jurisdiction similar to those outlined in Sec. 74 of the 1870 Act (Sec. 21). These nice distinctions between compulsion and no practical alternative to compulsion, and between central and local legislation, were not appreciated by the Durham Union. The Clerk wrote to the Department in April, 1877.

"The fourth section of the Act imposes upon the parent of every child the duty of seeing that such child is educated, and the fifth section prohibits the employment of any uneducated child. Under the seventh section the provisions of the Act respecting the employment but not as to the attendance of children are to be enforced by the School Attendance Committee. The eleventh section makes it the duty of the Committee after due warning to a parent who neglects to provide efficient elementary instruction for his child to complain to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction. The twenty-first section provides that the School Attendance Committee for the Union comprising a parish, on the requisition of the parish, but not otherwise, may make bye laws respecting the attendance of children at school under Section seventy-four of the Elementary Education Act, 1870.

The Committee of this Union are unable to reconcile the twenty-first section with the other sections of this Act and they will feel obliged by your informing me:

First. Whether the Committee can enforce the provisions of the Elementary Education Act, 1876 with respect to the attendance of children at school in any parish in their district without having first received from such parish a requisition under the twenty-first section?

Second. If they can do so what is the object of making bye laws respecting the attendance of children at school if without such bye laws the Committee can enforce their attendance?

Third. If they cannot do so what duties have the Committee to discharge under the Act?"⁽¹⁾

The brevity of the reply precluded a comprehensive answer.

"My Lords cannot undertake to give an authoritative interpretation of an Act of Parliament. I may, however, point out that Section

(1) P.R.O. Ed. 6/14, 28/4/77.

eleven is intended to meet certain exceptional cases of parental neglect. With regard to your other questions you will find the duties of the School Attendance Committees stated in the first line of section seven."⁽¹⁾ This was the line concerning the enforcement of the provision concerning employment of children. In other words the School Attendance Committees were primarily to be "Enforcement of employment conditions" Committees. This was changed in 1880.⁽²⁾

There were certain exceptions to Sec. 5, as provided in Sec. 9, i.e.

1. Children who lived further than two miles from a public elementary school.
2. Children over eight, with the permission of the local authority, who were engaged in "necessary operations of husbandry and the ingathering of crops." The maximum period permitted for this was six weeks per year. Part time employment for children of any age was permitted provided it "does not interfere with the efficient elementary instruction of such child." Sec. 18 was a formidable sentence of 172 words, and gave the Department power to pay the fees of elder children, under certain conditions, at public elementary schools.

But it is a far cry from Westminster to Durham, and it is one thing to pass a general enactment like Sec. 4, and quite another to enforce it throughout the country. By the spring of 1880 only

(1) P.R.O. Ed. 6/14, 30/4/77.

(2) See p.15.

four districts in the Durham area had applied to the Unions to make bye laws and the percentage of the population under compulsion was 35%, as compared with the national average of approximately 64%. The Elementary Education Act later in the year, Mundella's Act, completed the turning of the screw of compulsion. Sec. 2 imposed upon all school boards and school attendance committees the duty of making bye laws respecting the attendance of children at school under Sec. 74 of the 1870 Act.

Public opinion had changed considerably in the forty-three years since Lord Brougham introduced his Education Bill into the House of Lords. He had said then:

"There ought to be, in no time, in no country, whatever might be the constitution of the country, and the state of society, any positive and direct compulsion as to the education of the people There was a line over which the law giver ought not to pass, and beyond which he forfeited all claim to support, by the violation of some of the most sacred principles It was a violation of individual liberty . . . a system which would be intolerable to the citizens of a free state, and only fit, if fit at all, for a country ruled by a despotic government, where liberty being little known, slavery was the more bearable."⁽¹⁾

By 1867, however, Matthew Arnold was able to write: "I find the idea of compulsory education becoming a familiar idea with those who are interested in education. I imagine that with the newly-awakened sense of our shortcomings in popular education the difficult thing would not be to pass a law making education compulsory; the difficult thing would be to work such a law after we had got it."⁽²⁾

(1) House of Lords. Hansard, 3rd Series, Vol. XXXIX, p.434.
 (2) Report of the Committee of Council on Education, 1867-8, P.298.

How true this proved to be. The minutes of school boards at this period give testimony to the Trojan work done by the boards in sifting all the instances of absence, interviewing parents and judging each case on its merits. The time spent in attempting to apply the principle of compulsion in many individual cases, as many as fifty a month, without undue harshness was enormous. Slowly, however, the uphill task was completed.

The Elementary Education Act of 1891 eased considerably the duty of the boards and committees in enforcing attendance of children, as the attendance graph for the Durham area shows. ⁽¹⁾ It also largely removed the difficulties concerning collection of fees. ⁽²⁾ Sec. 1 made a fee grant, of ten shillings a year for each child over three years and under fifteen years at school, available for all those public elementary schools wishing it. In these schools, if the fees previously did not exceed ten shillings a year, then no fee was to be charged, and where the fees exceeded ten shillings then this excess was in future to be the maximum fee (Sec. 2). There were certain stated exceptions to this, which in all cases had to receive the approval of the Department, and fees could not, in any case, exceed sixpence per week (Sec. 4). If the total received from fees, books and other purposes had not exceeded ten shillings a year, then no charge of any kind was to be made (Sec. 3). Sec. 5 of this Act echoed the same section of its predecessor twenty-one years before, with one small but important

(1) Shown following p. 23.

(2) See p. 41.

difference. The phrase "a sufficient amount of accommodation in public elementary schools" had become "a sufficient amount of accommodation in public elementary schools without payment of fees." Fees were not completely abolished - that did not happen until 1918 - but the principle had been accepted. All the boards in the Durham area accepted the fee grant, all except Bearpark School Board abolishing fees. A description of what occurred there is given in the district account.⁽¹⁾ Of the 19,577 public elementary schools in England and Wales at the time only 132 (including two board schools) refused the grant, and 15,914 (including 4,664 board schools) abolished fees.

And so the three main stages of development can be viewed in retrospect. Education is made available, it is then made compulsory, and finally it is made free. One of the main remaining problems is that of the quality of the education itself, one that remains with us to-day. Associated directly with this is the school leaving age which received attention in the Elementary Education Acts of 1893, 1899 and 1900. The Act of 1893, passed during Gladstone's short-lived fourth ministry, raised the minimum age at which a child could obtain total or partial exemption from ten to eleven, and this was further raised in 1899 to twelve, with certain modifications for agricultural districts. The 1900 Act empowered local authorities to make bye laws for the compulsory attendance of children up to fourteen years of age,⁽²⁾ and the

(1) See p. 49.

(2) See p. 26.

maximum penalty for a breach of these laws was raised, from the five shillings it had been since 1870, to one pound.

There were three other pertinent measures enacted as the old century closed. The Voluntary Schools Act of April, 1897 gave the Department power to make an aid grant, in addition to the annual grant, to help the many voluntary schools throughout the country experiencing the greatest difficulty in making both ends meet.⁽¹⁾ A voluntary school was defined as a "public elementary day school not provided by a school board," and the aid grant was not to exceed in the aggregate five shillings per child.⁽²⁾ Increased assistance was also made available for board schools in the Elementary Education Act two months later. This was in response to much public feeling throughout the country concerning the amount spent from the rates on education. All school boards in the country had been circularized by the council of the County Borough of West Ham in 1896, urging them to press for a greater government grant to boards. The council pointed out that Sec. 97 of the 1870 Act gave very little help "seeing that as against

(1) See p. 93, for example.

(2) The voluntary schools could not compare favourably on strictly educational grounds with the rate-fed board schools. In 1898 in the board schools there was 1 certificated teacher to every 81 children; in the voluntary schools 1 to every 107. In the board schools the cost of teaching staff was 42s. 9d. a child; in the voluntary schools, 32s. 9d. In the board schools 68% of the teachers were certificated; in the voluntary schools, 51%. See Report of the Committee of Council on Education, 1898-9, pp. 7, 51, 86. See also p. 32.

3½ millions raised by local taxation in those districts where the school board rate is threepence in the £ and upwards, only a sum of about £18,000 is applicable in relief under the provisions thereof". It was further stressed that "no fewer than 2,127 boroughs and parishes, out of an aggregate number of 2,394 are levying rates at the present time of threepence and upwards in the £, and in no less than 310 boroughs and parishes is the rate levied one shilling and upwards in the £." The rate in West Ham at the time was 2s. 4d. in the £, and it was considered that "the amount falling upon local taxation in successfully administering the educational work of the country has now reached such proportions that the charge is intolerable and a dangerous barrier to municipal progress."⁽¹⁾ The rates in the various board districts in the area under consideration are given from time to time in the district accounts. In the 1897 Act, Sec. 97 1870 was modified, and the grants payable under it increased considerably. The original sum of 7s. 6d. was increased by 4d. for every penny by which the school board rate exceeded 3d. The maximum value was 16s. 6d.

By the Board of Education Act, 1899, the Education Department (including the Department of Science and Art) was replaced by the Board of Education, which was charged with "the superintendence of matters relating to education in England and Wales." This formidable body consisted of a president appointed by the

(1) Draft of the petition of the County Borough of West Ham to the House of Commons, 13 January, 1896.

Sovereign, and of the Lord President of the Council, the Principal Secretaries of State, the First Commissioner of the Treasury, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer. It never met.

And so to the death of the school boards in the Education Act, 1902. "For the purposes of this Act the council of every county and of every county borough shall be the local education authority" (Sec. 1), "school boards and school attendance committees shall be abolished" (Sec. 5).

SOME GENERAL TOPICS AFFECTING THE DURHAM AREA

1. The Graphs of school places (shown on the following page).

The Durham area figures were compiled by addition of the places in each of the districts concerned year by year, and correspond quite closely with the national progress⁽¹⁾ although the proportion of school board places is much greater for the latter. This relatively small school board provision in the Durham area was at least partly due to the large number of places provided by colliery schools.⁽²⁾

Another difference between the development in the area and in England and Wales as a whole, as shown by the graphs, was the percentage increase in places provided between 1870 and 1902, i.e. 380% for the area compared with the national value of 260%. The reasons for this greater percentage increase in the area were:

- (i) The provision in 1870 was poor, the number of places per head of child population being .39, compared with the national average of .43.⁽³⁾
- (ii) The provision by 1902 was in excess of the national average, owing to the migratory character of the population,⁽⁴⁾ the places per child having risen to 1.22 compared with the national figure of 1.03.⁽³⁾

(1) Figures obtained from the Annual Reports of the Committee of Council on Education 1870-98, and of the Board of Education 1899-1902.

(2) See p. 31.

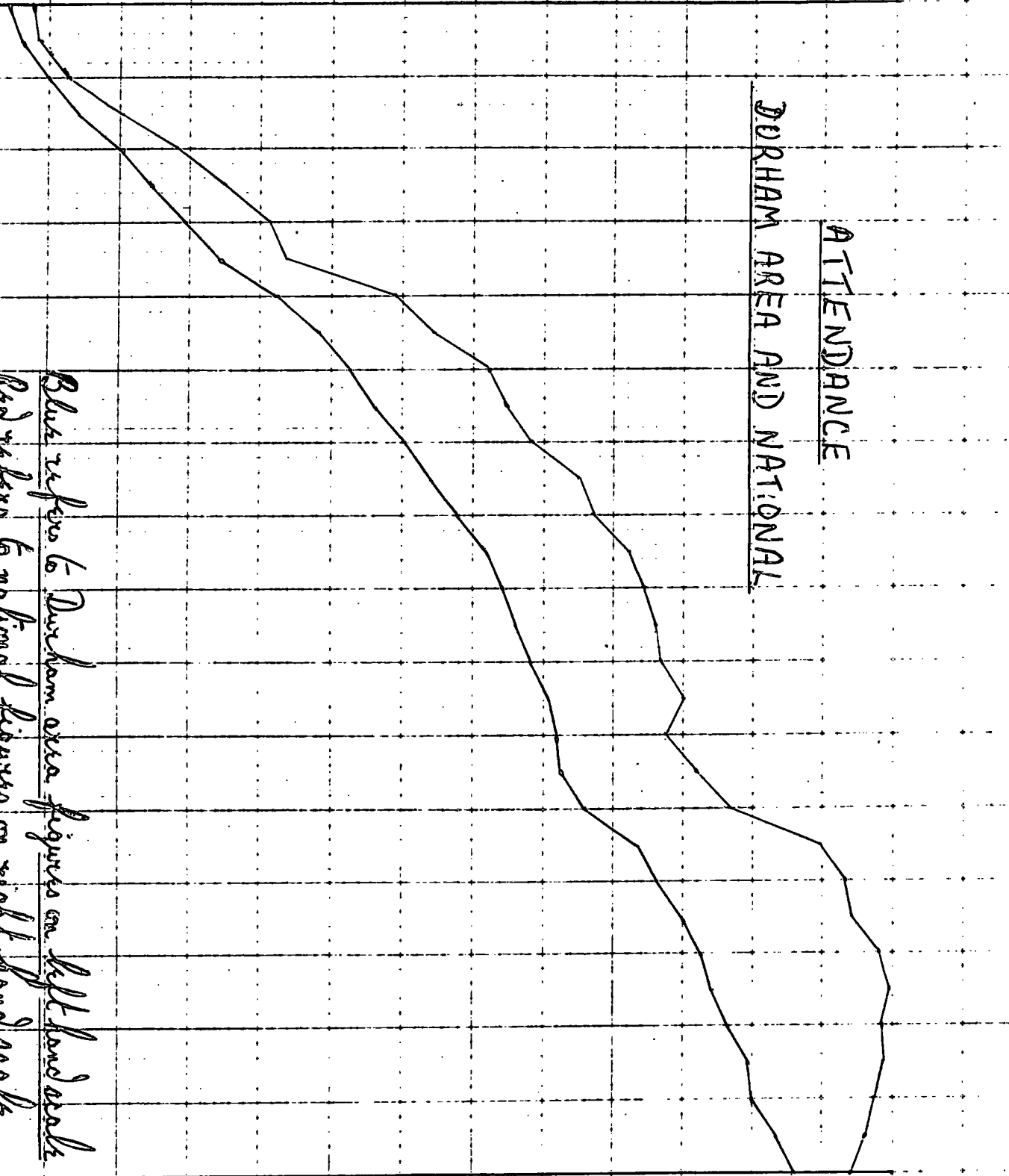
(3) Child population calculated as p. 25.

(4) See p. 29.

DURHAM AREA ATTENDANCE

DURHAM AREA AND NATIONAL ATTENDANCE

18,250
17,000
15,750
14,500
13,250
12,000
10,750
9,500
8,250
7,000
5,750
4,500
3,250

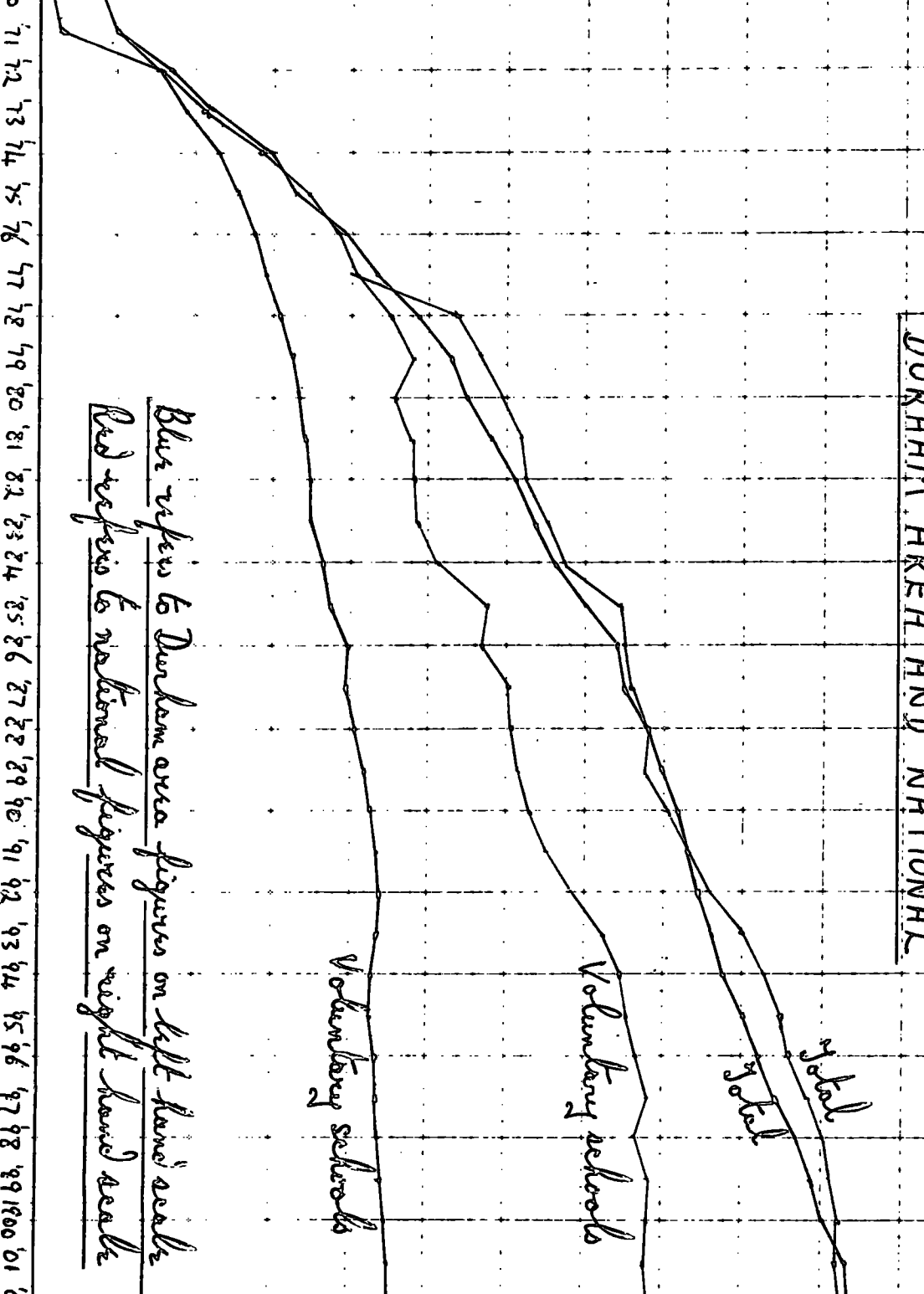


NATIONAL ATTENDANCE (IN MILLIONS)

*Blue refers to Durham area figures on left hand scale
Red refers to national figures on right hand scale*

DURHAM AREA PLACES

5,000
7,000
9,000
11,000
13,000
15,000
17,000
19,000
21,000
23,000
25,000
27,000



SCHOOL PLACES

DURHAM AREA AND NATIONAL

School

School

Voluntary schools

Voluntary schools

Blue refers to Durham area figures on left hand scale

Red refers to national figures on right hand scale

1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002

NATIONAL PLACES (IN MILLIONS)

1 1/2 2 2 1/2 3 3 1/2 4 4 1/2 5 5 1/2 6 6 1/2 7

(iii) The percentage growth of the population in the area, i.e. 53%, was greater by 6% than the national average.

Three periods are observable on the Durham area graphs:

a. In the early and middle seventies when voluntary bodies made a great effort to meet the requirements of the 1870 Act, and the number of places was more than doubled in seven years. Their task was made more difficult by a considerable increase in population during this period (the population of the area increased from 68,000 in 1871 to 87,000 in 1881). The poor provision in the smaller districts in 1870 is emphasised by the fact that half of the places were in the city of Durham, in which considerably less than one quarter of the population resided.⁽¹⁾

b. In the years immediately following this, when the board schools were "filling the gaps", 1877-85 (approx.).

c. During the remaining years when a steady rise in the number of places was necessary to meet the requirements of a growing population. The population increased by over 17,000 in the years 1881-1901, mainly in the period of the early nineties.

This great increase in the quantity of school buildings was accompanied by a corresponding improvement in quality. Most of the schools of an 1870 and earlier vintage were simply large rooms, e.g. Coxhoe National School for 180 children was a rectangular building 51 feet by 28 feet, 12 feet high. The ventilation (other than by draughts), sanitary and heating

(1) See also p.5.

arrangements, porches, window space etc. were normally sadly inadequate, judged by modern standards, and it was unusual for there to be satisfactory playground facilities. The schools built after 1870 were required to reach a somewhat higher standard, as the plans following p.56 for New Brancepeth Colliery School, built in 1873 for 247 children, show. It was of single storey construction, and was typical of the better schools built at the time, although the central heating was a great luxury. Not only are porches, playgrounds, etc. provided, but rooms apart from the main schoolroom have been introduced, the beginning of the development of classrooms. One of the less desirable features of the seventies and eighties is clearly marked, i.e. the infants' gallery. The Department's standards continued to rise throughout the period, as described in the accounts of the various boards.⁽¹⁾ Two main features of this further improvement were the fitting of the galleries with desks, soon followed by the removal of the galleries completely, and the introduction of sliding partitions in the schoolroom, thus taking the development of classrooms one step further.

2. The graphs of attendance (shown on the following page).

These were compiled in a similar manner to the previous graphs, the Durham area figures being obtained by addition of the annual average attendance in each of the eighty or so schools concerned by 1902. These figures also correspond quite closely

(1) See also pp. 36-7.

to the national progress, although here again the proportional increase for the area between 1870 and 1902, i.e. 490%, was considerably greater than the total for England and Wales, i.e. approximately 320%. This difference is explained by a greater increase in the percentage attendance for the area than the national average, being 61% compared with 49% (see below), and also a more rapid percentage growth in population, as stated previously.⁽¹⁾

Again three periods are apparent on the Durham area graphs:

- a. The period of voluntary effort, which coincided with a considerable rise in population, 1870-7 (approx.).
- b. The years following this until 1891, when the board schools were opened and compulsion was being increasingly applied.
- c. The remaining years, commencing with the rapid increase in the early nineties due both to the fee grant and a sharp rise in population, when it seems that more or less maximum attendance had been reached.

Taking these figures in conjunction with the decennial census returns, the following values for the percentage attendance result:

| | | |
|------|------|--|
| 1871 | 22%. | National figure in the region of 26%. |
| 1881 | 65%. | National figure in the region of 55%. |
| 1891 | 78%. | National figure in the region of 65%. ⁽²⁾ |
| 1901 | 83%. | National figure in the region of 75%. |

(1) See p.22.

(2) The figures for England and Wales were calculated by the same method as for the Durham area and thus also incorporate the approximations (i) to (iv) as explained in the text. Another method was to consider the average attendance as a percentage of the children on the registers. In 1898 this gave a national value of 81.66%, compared with 73% from the method used above. See Report of the Committee of Council on Education, 1898-9, p. iv.

These values for the area are essentially approximate, but they do provide a general reflection of the progress made. The reasons for their approximate nature are:

- (i) No accurate statistics are available for the number of children in the districts and so the Department's ratio of one to five of the total population has been used.⁽¹⁾ Even a detailed census, as taken in Durham City, did not produce accurate returns,⁽²⁾ and this lack of precise information concerning the number of children to be educated was a national concern.⁽³⁾
- (ii) The expression 'school age' meant from three to thirteen years, as the correspondence between the Department and Durham School Board in 1877 showed.⁽⁴⁾ Compulsion, however, when it was applied did not begin until five years and ended in most cases considerably before thirteen years, particularly before the progressive raising of the school age in the nineties. In consequence the percentage attendances calculated in this way do not represent the proportion of those obliged to attend who attended, as is the present day usage. The attendance figures, of course, also cover the same age range, and the percentage attendance figures quoted accordingly represent the proportion of all those

(1) Report of the Committee of Council on Education, 1888-9, p.xiii.

(2) See p.90.

(3) See E. Eaglesham, From School Board to Local Authority, 1956, p.110, for the difficulties experienced by the London School Board in this matter of determining the number of children in their area.

(4) See p.91.

between three and thirteen years, whether obliged to attend or not, who attended.

- (iii) For the reasons just stated it has been impossible to take into account the additional children who came under compulsion in 1893 and 1899. The Durham School Board was the only local authority in the Durham area to implement the provision of the 1900 Act before 1902.
- (iv) The annual average attendance figure for each school is the number that was used by the Department for purposes of calculating the annual grant. It represented the number of children who had made 200 attendances during the year,⁽¹⁾ and not, as nowadays, the total number of attendances divided by the maximum number of attendances possible for one pupil in a year. The latter method of calculation normally gave a higher value, e.g. in Thornley in 1880, 350 compared with 316.
- (v) The area was not self-contained. Many children resident within the area attended schools outside, e.g. Tudhoe Colliery School, and other children outside came into the area for schooling, e.g. children from Hetton-le-Hole attended West Rainton C. of E. School. An accurate assessment of the numbers of such children over the whole period is not possible.

Reports by H.M.I's illustrate another aspect of this question of attendance.⁽²⁾ In 1883, H.M.I. Bernays stated that the 1880

(1) See p. 35.

(2) The names of these H.M.I's for the Durham district occur from time to time in the district accounts. They are as follows: Oakeley 1870-7, Swettenham 1877-9, Bernays 1879-93, Northrup 1893-5, Holman 1895-8, Ward 1898-1902.

Act "though not yet so operative as could be wished, has added very materially to the average attendance",⁽¹⁾ but five years later it was reported "It is to be feared that a very large number of children never go to school at all, and that still more escape the necessity of attending school before the age of seven."⁽²⁾ Again in 1892 he stated "The attendance generally continues to be far from satisfactory, and in many cases local authorities and even managers are wont to accept the most paltry excuses."⁽³⁾ As late as 1896 H.M.I. Holman wrote "The percentage is very low in some cases - just over 60% in one district - but in a few cases it reaches 90%."⁽⁴⁾ This well illustrates the changing emphasis of the time. In the seventies the focus of attention was upon the greatly increasing numbers at school, but with the introduction of universal compulsion this gradually shifted to the considerable numbers who still were not, until in the nineties this had been further defined as percentages.

The attendance figures that are given with each district account need to be viewed in the light of the graph for the whole Durham area. The former exhibit fluctuations due to a great variety of causes, some ponderable others imponderable, and these

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- (1) Report of the Committee of Council on Education, 1883-4, p.250.
 - (2) Report of the Committee of Council on Education, 1888-9, p.252
 - (3) Report of the Committee of Council on Education, 1892-3, p.6.
 - (4) Report of the Committee of Council on Education, 1896-7, p.140. The district with the percentage attendance of "just over 60%" was Chester-le-Street, situated just outside the Durham area.

fluctuations are levelled out when the larger area is considered. The most important single cause is that of rapid changes in population, considered under the next heading. Other causes are temporary closing of schools in the district, changes of educational provision in surrounding districts, alterations in fees, and epidemics. The latter were often of most formidable proportions, and it was by no means unusual for schools to be closed for two or three weeks as a result. The fact that in February, 1900 the doctor in Thornley reported he had been "quite unable to attend to all the cases of scarlet fever/brought to my notice" illustrates this point. Reasons for changes in attendance of a less obvious nature are the influence of two great strikes, recessions and booms in the coal industry, the influence of changing attendance officers (usually old, part-time, and poorly paid officials) and changing teachers, labour troubles at individual collieries which reached a peak in the 1890 period, and the weather. When money was short, many parents felt that their children were better employed in begging and scavenging than at school, and in a severe winter a mile or a mile and a half is a long way for small feet on bad roads. There was at least one occasion when a school (Ushaw Moor St. Joseph's R.C. School) was closed for a period in order to provide accommodation for the families of evicted miners. (1)

Despite these variations, however, each district reveals the

(1) See p. 101.

same pattern. In each community the ratio of child attendance to population increased many fold between 1870 and 1902. Indeed, in nearly half the districts there was no ratio in 1870 at all, there being no efficient school.

3. Drifts in population

As old pits were worked out and fresh ones opened, so the miners and their families migrated from one district to another in search of work. These rapid changes in population are commented on in H.M.I. Holman's report for 1896. "The supply in this district needs very careful watching. So-called colliery villages often grow to a population of from six to eight thousand, and may suddenly decrease to almost as many hundreds owing to the opening or closing of mines."⁽¹⁾

These unpredictable fluctuations in population were used on more than one occasion by school boards as an excuse to delay the erection of schools,⁽²⁾ but the overall effect was to leave many schools half empty, in the wake of the departing population, whilst new schools were needed in the areas in which the fresh mines were sunk. In two cases schools were closed, as the districts were abandoned, less than eleven years after being built (the closing of a board school required the approval of the Department).⁽³⁾ The result of these movements of population was that the number of places per head of child population in

(1) Report of the Committee of Council on Education, 1896-7, p.138.

(2) See p.80, for example.

(3) Elementary Education Act, 1870, Sec. 18. See p. 48.

the Durham area was appreciably higher than the national average.⁽¹⁾

4. Bye laws

The authorities making bye laws in the Durham area in 1902 totalled fifteen, i.e. nine school boards (the borough board for Durham and eight parish boards), the school attendance committees of the Durham, Lanchester, Easington, Houghton-le-Spring, and Chester-le-Street Unions, and the school attendance committee for Brandon and Byshottles.⁽²⁾ A copy of a typical set of bye laws, those made by the Durham Union for Brancepeth, is shown following p.54. The variations from this were of a minor character only, e.g. in the Chester-le-Street Union, the fifth standard replaced the fourth in 5(a), and the fourth standard replaced the third in 5(b). Apart from changes required by Acts of Parliament, e.g. the raising of the minimum age for exemption, there was little alteration throughout the period. This static state was commented on by H.M.I. Northrup in 1894.

"The greatest drawback to the efficient education in the mining parts of the district is the low standard of total exemption fixed by the bye laws of the boards The children who pass the fourth Standard or the fifth, whichever is the one for total exemption, are expected to leave school before the end of the next year, and consequently, suitable and efficient teaching staff is not provided for them. They often share the attentions of a teacher with another class, or get lessons at haphazard as the time can be spared for them. But they are not encouraged to stay at school.

On the other hand, where the managers are thoughtful

(1) See p.21.

(2) See p.58.

enough to provide a competent teacher for the first class, the boys and girls begin to take an interest in their work, and as they make more progress they begin to wish to keep on at school, and thus a large upper class is gradually formed which pays both educationally and financially. There are many schools where the instruction is thoroughly efficient in the lower classes, but breaks down in the highest."⁽¹⁾

There was no evidence in this area of any determined growth in the higher standards which was so characteristic of the nineties elsewhere, a prerequisite of this growth being the existence of a fairly prosperous artisan population which was not present to any marked extent.⁽²⁾

5. Colliery Schools

By this term is meant those schools built and owned by the colliery owners. The titles varied considerably, e.g. Waldridge Colliery Undenominational, Page Bank British, or simply Nettlesworth Colliery, but the character remained largely unchanged. In thirteen districts in the Durham area in 1902 the colliery owners were either providing, or sharing the provision of, the necessary schools. In other districts they contributed largely to the financing of schools built by the religious bodies, e.g. Sacriston Wesleyan School. It can only be a matter for conjecture whether the other voluntary bodies in these districts would have been able, if necessary, to do without the help of these local organized centres of capital, or whether

(1) Report of the Committee of Council on Education, 1894-5, p.79.

(2) For Morant's analysis of the conditions leading to the rise of higher grade schools see E. Eaglesham, From School Board to Local Authority, 1956. Appendix A.

more boards would have been formed. In one district at least, i.e. the united district of Witton Gilbert, Waldrige and Edmonsley, it was put on record that but for the owners a board would have been necessary.⁽¹⁾ It appears that the general policy of the owners was to meet the requirements of the 1870 Act where the other voluntary bodies were unlikely to do so. It was only in those districts where there was no colliery of significance, e.g. Croxdale, or where there was some dispute between rival owners, e.g. Bearpark, or where the pit was not in a thriving condition, e.g. Thornley, or where the district included centres of population, apart from the mine that were not catered for by voluntary agencies, e.g. Cassop, that in fact boards were formed.

For statistical purposes the colliery schools have been merged with the other voluntary schools, but there was a difference between the two. The former were provided as the more agreeable alternative to supporting a board, whereas the latter were normally more concerned with the religious significance of schooling. From time to time H.M.I. Bernays submitted to the Department a list of what, in his opinion, were the best twelve schools in the Durham district, not only for percentage of passes, but also discipline, tone and thoroughness of teaching. It was very rare for a colliery or board school to be included in this, although by 1890 they formed over 40% of the total. A description of colliery schools is contained in his report for

(1) See p. 151.

1879.

"British and colliery schools are often synonymous, the former being, in many cases, quite unconnected with the 'British and Foreign School Society.' These are for the most part well supplied with apparatus and have a good staff of teachers; but, except in a few instances, there is scarcely any supervision on the part of the managers. The colliery companies generally build schools in order to avoid a board, and the management of them is thus left to some official, who seldom has either the time or the inclination for such employment. Hence this class of school comes to be practically farmed by the teachers - an extremely bad system"⁽¹⁾

6. Dames', or Adventure Schools.

All the information and figures provided refer to recognized efficient, grant-aided schools only, unless otherwise stated. There may have been a few small schools in the Durham area that measured up to the Department's standards of efficiency although they were not recognized as such, but I have no information relating to them. All references to these 'dames'' schools (there were over twenty in the borough of Durham alone in 1871)⁽²⁾ were such as to imply that in instruction, or premises, or both, they were deficient. H.M.I. Oakeley's report in 1873 contained his impression of them.

"Most of the private and adventure schools were condemned as worthless. I do not know whether I was most astonished at the badness of the premises or the poverty of the instruction: thirty or forty children huddled together without classification in an ill-ventilated dingy room; about a dozen tattered reading books of different kinds: a few spelling books and broken slates, such was the sight which often greeted us at entrance, and in most cases

(1) Report of the Committee of Council on Education, 1879-80, p.220.

(2) See petition following p.88.

scarcely a child could work out a sum in addition, though it was frequently stated that some of them 'were in practice'."(1)

In his biography of Herbert Smith, Lawson describes the school the young Smith attended before entering the pit in 1872 at ten years of age. It was run by a dame, the fees being two-pence per week.

"The school was held in the Primitive Methodist Chapel. This chapel later became a stable. There was a morning and afternoon session. The chapel forms were used as seats for the scholars. There were no desks and no ink. When writing the scholars used their knees as rests, but very little writing was done. The major portion of the time was given up to Scripture, knitting, sewing and elementary reading The girls knitted and the boys watched There was no room for manoeuvring."(2)

There were a small number of recognized efficient, non grant-aided schools, e.g. The Countess Vane's, and information is provided concerning these under the appropriate district. The last one became grant-aided in 1881.(3)

7. Annual Government Grant

This was quite apart from any later grants for particular purposes, e.g. fee grant or Sec. 97 grant, and the method of its computation varied. In February 1862 Mr. Lowe, the Vice President of the Committee of Council on Education, explained the principles of the Revised Code in the House of Commons. "It proposed to give capitation grants on each attendance above a certain number -

(1) Report of the Committee of Council on Education, 1873-4, p.141.

(2) J. Lawson, The Man in the Cap, 1941, p.19.

(3) See p. 99.

say one hundred, to be subject to reduction upon failure in reading, writing or arithmetic."⁽¹⁾ This system, the "payment by results" system came into operation on 1st April 1863, providing for a capitation grant of 12s. for each pupil. Of this amount 4s. was to be paid for a minimum of two hundred attendances a year (morning and afternoon counting separately), and 2.8s. each for success in annual examinations in reading, writing and arithmetic. These rigid rules were relaxed in 1867 when additional grants were offered, on the result of individual examinations, to schools which in addition to the obligatory subjects organized a three year course in the upper standards in certain "specific" subjects, e.g. geography, history, grammar. The following decades saw a further steady emancipation. The Code of 1871 greatly extended the list of "specific" subjects, and in 1875 these individual grants were supplemented by grants for "class" subjects, which were optional subjects that, if undertaken, had to be taught to whole classes and throughout Standards II-VI. The curriculum from 1875 thus consisted of three main parts:

- a. The obligatory subjects.
- b. The "class" subjects.
- c. The "specific" subjects.

In 1883 H.M.I. Bernays gave his opinion of the working of "payment by results" in the Durham district. "Under the present system they the teachers naturally look to the most fruitful

(1) The Education of the Adolescent, H.M.S.O., 1926, p.11.

means of earning a livelihood, and thus there is a tendency to lose sight of the true welfare of their scholars and to regard them mainly as so many potential "passes" or "failures". And hence it is, I believe, that there is so little personal interest in the children, and that they so rarely exhibit any general intelligence and information."⁽¹⁾ The nineties saw the lingering death of "payment by results". In 1890 the capitation grant was made solely dependent on the number of children in attendance, and the annual examination was restricted to sample groups. In 1895 inspection - "visits without notice" by H.M.I.'s - began to replace the annual examination, as mentioned in the district accounts. The introduction of the Block Grant in 1900 finally marked the end of the period.

8. Supervision by Education Department⁽²⁾

There was no suggestion in the 1870 Act that the Department (The Lords of the Committee of the Privy Council on Education) was to perform a role similar to that of its successor, the Board of Education, which was charged with "the superintendence of matters relating to education",⁽³⁾ or of the modern Minister of Education who has the duty "to promote the education of the people".⁽⁴⁾ The chief function of the Department was that of

(1) Report of the Committee of Council on Education, 1883-4, p.257.

(2) See G. Kekewich, *The Education Department and After*, 1920. The earlier part of these memoirs of the man who succeeded Cumin as Secretary in 1890 gives a vigorous personal account of the development of the Department from 1868 onwards.

(3) Board of Education Act, 1899, Sec. I(I).

(4) Education Act, 1944, Sec. I(I).

paymaster, and its main power the "power of the purse".

The most important aspect of this power stemmed from the fact that every public elementary school had to be conducted "in accordance with the conditions required to be fulfilled by an elementary school in order to obtain an annual parliamentary grant".⁽¹⁾ These conditions were contained in the Department's Code of Regulations which had to be laid "for not less than one month on the table of both Houses of Parliament"⁽²⁾ before becoming operative. The Code was a comprehensive instrument, concerning not only the curriculum (as described under the previous heading) but also sites and plans of new schools, qualifications and number of teachers, equipment and other factors covering the whole range of school management. Unless schools conformed to these standards the annual grant, or part of it, was in jeopardy.

It was through the H.M.I's that the continuous effect of the Department was mostly felt, and the Department's use of the power of the grant in conjunction with the grant regulations mostly exercised. Standards of staffing, building, equipment and general facilities were constantly improved following the recommendations they made after visiting the schools.⁽³⁾ The fact that the parliamentary grant depended upon these recommendations being carried out gave the managers little choice in the matter.⁽⁴⁾

(1) Elementary Education Act, 1870, Sec. 7(4).

(2) Elementary Education Act, 1870, Sec. 97.

(3) See p. 63, for example.

(4) See p. 83.

Over school boards in particular the financial supervision exercised by the Department was comprehensive. All loans from the P.W.L.C. had to be approved by the Department, as did the scale of fees, and the threat of "surcharge" was ever present. The district auditor, an official appointed by the Local Government Board, had this power to "surcharge", that is, make the members of a school board personally liable for any expenses incurred by the board which were not directly sanctioned by Act of Parliament or the Department's own regulations. Although this control was independent of the Department it did much to ensure that only permissible expenses were incurred.

But finance was not the only weapon wielded by the Department over school boards. The Department might declare a board to be in default for failing to act, e.g. failing to supply accommodation as considered necessary by the Department,⁽¹⁾ or for failing to comply with the Code,⁽²⁾ and replace it with a new board, formed either by the Department's own nominees⁽³⁾ or by a fresh election.⁽⁴⁾ The threat of this was usually sufficient to bring the refractory board to heel,⁽⁵⁾ as the Department doubtlessly hoped would be the case, for it was too extreme a measure to be used frequently and was obviously only suitable in cases of

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- (1) Elementary Education Act, 1870, Sec. 11.
 - (2) Elementary Education Act, 1870, Sec. 16. See p. 10.
 - (3) Elementary Education Act, 1870, Sec. 63.
 - (4) Elementary Education Act, 1870, Sec. 66.
 - (5) See p. 94.

gross failure or recalcitrance.⁽¹⁾

9. School board districts

In 1902 there were no very small parish boards, such as helped to bring the whole school board system into disrepute,⁽²⁾

in the Durham area. None of the parish boards in the area exercised jurisdiction over a population of less than 1,500, whilst the largest was in a district with a population of over 5,500. Nationally, something like one half of the parish boards were in districts with a population of less than 1,000. The reasons for this lack of very small boards in the area were:

(i) The smaller districts tended to be self-contained mining communities, for which it was the normal practice of the local colliery owner to provide an efficient school.⁽³⁾

(ii) The area was well populated and where a small district had no school it was usually possible for the Department to:

a. arrange for the children to attend school in a neighbouring district,⁽⁴⁾ or

b. unite two or more such adjacent districts to form a compact whole.⁽⁵⁾

(iii) Amalgamation by the Local Government Board.⁽⁶⁾

(1) The Department did not always over-ride the wishes of a board when not in sympathy with them. See p.95, for example.

(2) See Lowndes, *The Silent Social Revolution*, 1937, pp.67-70.

(3) See p.120, for example.

(4) See p.116, for example.

(5) See p.107, for example.

(6) See p.64.

The accounts for the board districts are given in more detail than are the others, as the material is preserved in a far more comprehensive and available state, i.e. the minutes, ledgers, etc. of the various boards. Additional statistics are given from time to time:

- a. Teacher:pupil ratio. This is calculated on the number of full-time staff receiving a salary of £30 p.a. or more. Pupil teachers, monitors, sewing mistresses and so forth have not been included. It was improved from an average of approximately 1:60 to 1:40, which is very similar to the averages for England and Wales. Changes in staff occurred very frequently.⁽¹⁾
- b. The cost of education per child. This includes salaries of teachers, books, rates, fuel, repairs, replacements and improvements, but not structural alterations, extensions, general administration or repayment of loans. It was increased from £2.1 p.a. to £2.6 p.a., which again is very similar to the national figures.
- c. Government grant:local monies ratio. The government grant includes all money received from the central authority, for whatever purpose, other than the initial loan. This also corresponds closely with the national average. In the eighteen seventies the grant was something rather more than one third of the money raised locally, but by 1902 the two were of about the same value.

One of the main reasons for the increase in the proportion

(1) See p.70, for example.

of the government grant was the 1891 fee grant. Not the easiest of the boards' functions before this grant became operative had been the weekly collection of school pence. The first method normally employed was to refuse admission to all children who did not bring their pence with them for the current week. This was relaxed until two or three weeks' grace was given, and then when it was realised that this was impracticable a second method was used. This usually consisted of a monthly list of defaulters being sent to the board for their consideration, no child being refused admission to school. The board generally remitted the fees of children on this list for periods of up to six months and it was only when the board was convinced that the parents could afford the fees that payment was demanded;⁽¹⁾ in one district in the Durham area it was the custom to employ those children whose fees had been remitted on domestic chores about the school.⁽²⁾ Another district helped to meet the problem by reducing the general level of fees rather than remitting them in selected cases. The average value of the fees in the Durham area in 1888 was a little under 3d. per week, which was slightly in excess of the national figure.⁽³⁾

d. Rates. This is the annual amount paid to the board by the

(1) The School Board for the United District of Cornforth and Thrislington remitted a total of £74.5s.10d. due for fees between 29 September 1884 and 3 April 1886, one quarter of the amount actually collected. See S.H. Cornforth, May/86.

(2) See p. 142.

(3) Report of the Committee of Council on Education, 1888-9, P.x.

rating authority, stated as the penny equivalent per £ of the rateable value of the district. It varied so considerably from district to district, and in some cases from year to year, that average values have little significance. For a comparatively settled district, e.g. Framwellgate Moor, there was little change throughout the period, i.e. 6d. in 1877, 6.3d. in 1901. The minimum value was 3d., for Durham City, and the maximum, for one year only, 36d. for Thornley.

e. Loans from the P.W.L.C. By 1902, eight of the nine boards in the Durham area were in receipt of loans from the P.W.L.C., the exception being the Haswell School Board formed five years earlier. These figures correspond with the general position throughout England and Wales at the time.

The cost involved in the repayment of these loans, together with the interest, formed a considerable item in the total expenditure of the boards concerned. In some cases it totalled over one third of the amount spent on all other commitments, although the average value for the Durham area was approximately one quarter which was similar to the national average. Of this substantial sum only something like one third was repayment of the principal, the rest being interest. These points are illustrated in the detailed expenditure of the Thornley School Board for December, 1879, as shown in the district accounts.⁽¹⁾

The loans were made, on the recommendation of the Department,

(1) See p. 143.

over a period of up to fifty years at a rate of interest of three and a half per cent per annum. They could be repaid by fixed amounts annually, to include both repayment of principal and interest, or by a gradually diminishing amount which included a fixed repayment of principal together with the interest on the outstanding sum. The latter method was preferred in the Durham area, only two boards repaying loans by fixed amounts. Of the total of £28,991 borrowed by the eight boards, a little over half still remained to be paid in 1902.

10. Outline map

An outline map of the Durham area is included in the appendix, with all schools in receipt of government grant in 1870, 1875 and 1902 respectively, distinctively marked. Board schools and voluntary schools are differentiated, and changes such as closures of schools, transfers to boards etc. are also shown. The precise location of the schools in Durham City are shown on a large scale map, which is a copy of one submitted by the Board to the Department in 1881. Each school in the area is numbered, corresponding to the numbering in the district accounts.

D I S T R I C T A C C O U N T S

BEARPARK

This parish was originally known as the extra municipal part of the township of Elvet (St. Oswald), and included both Bearpark and Houghall. It later became known as Bearpark as this had become the largest place in the district owing to the development of the colliery there and the abandonment of the one at Houghall. In 1895 it was divided into two distinct parishes, Bearpark and St. Oswald's. The Inspector's report dated 17 June 1872, stated that the population, which was almost wholly concentrated at Houghall Colliery, was 1,038, of whom 935 were of the class requiring elementary education. On the ratio of 1:5 this meant that accommodation was required for 187, and there was no efficient school in the district. There was an old school at Houghall Colliery no longer fit for use, and as the population was increasing the report recommended that this be closed and a new one for 200 or more children be built.

In consequence, the first notice, dated 18 July 1873, required a school for 200 to be constructed at Houghall. No action was taken, the population continued to increase with the development of Bearpark Colliery, and the final notice, dated 25 November 1874, required a school for 200 at Houghall and also a school for at least 100 at Bearpark. As a result of this the Bearpark Colliery Company submitted plans in February 1875 for a school at Bearpark which were approved soon afterwards. The scheme fell through, however, for the reason expressed in a

letter from H.M.I. Oakeley to the Department on 4 June 1875.

"The Bearpark Colliery, I believe, have now determined not to build schools, on the reasonable ground that they find the Houghall people will do nothing, and it will be hard on them after building schools for their Colliery to be rated for Houghall. At any rate Bearpark is entirely independent of Houghall being at least three miles from it though in the same township.

Durham people interested in Houghall are most anxious that the Department shall form a school board without delay (the time allowed in the final notice has expired). The colliery swarms with children: there is no school of any kind: a few children come into Durham, some attend Shincliffe schools. The sooner an order for a board goes the better." (1)

This advice was acted upon, and elections held on 13 July 1875. The first meeting of the five members took place a fortnight later. Bye laws were printed in September, and in December two sites were purchased from Durham University. Plans and tenders were considered in January 1876, and after approval of the plans by the Department the tenders were accepted in June, a loan of £6,394 being acquired from the P.W.L.C. The construction proceeded rapidly and Houghall Board School for 229 was opened on 12 March 1877, one week before Bearpark Board School for 424. Mr. John Taylor from the Wesleyan Day School, Durham, was placed in charge at Bearpark at a salary of £100 p.a. plus half the government grant, together with an assistant mistress, a similar staff being appointed at Houghall. The fees were 3d. a week for those children under seven years, and 4d. for the older ones. A fortnight before the opening of the

(1) P.R.O. Ed. 2/134, 4/6/75. See also p.32.

schools it was resolved by the Board "that it be an instruction to the several teachers of the schools connected with this Board that the Bible be read unaccompanied by any sectarian explanation by the teachers."⁽¹⁾ An additional mistress was soon appointed at Bearpark, together with a part time school warden for the district who received £5 p.a.

In July 1878 a new board was elected, including Rev. Headlam, Vicar of St. Oswald's, who served on the next six successive boards until 1896. The policy concerning children who owed fees was changed. Previously admission had been refused to all who owed more than one week's fees, but now they were no longer excluded. Instead a list of all such arrears was sent to the Board each month for their decision, a list which grew considerably during the general strike in the early summer of 1879. The effect of this strike accounts for the drop in average attendance shown on the graph for the following year. The teacher:pupil ratio at this time was 1:58, the cost of education per child £2.5 p.a., the ratio of government grant:fees:rates approximately 4:3:13, and the rates 11d.⁽²⁾ Many small improvements were undertaken, after promptings from the Inspectors, during this period. Wash stands were installed for the girls, the fees were slightly reduced, a supply of wall pictures was obtained and hat pegs were fixed.

(1) S.H. Bearpark, 28/2/77.

(2) See pp. 40-2.

Early in 1886 Houghall Colliery closed down and the Board sought permission from the Department to close the Houghall school under Sec. 18, 1870 owing to the ensuing decrease of attendance. The Department refused permission. The attendance continued to decline steadily, and the Headmaster left to take over the Shincliffe National School which reopened in November 1886. The Board continued to press for permission to close the school until eventually in March 1888 this was forthcoming.⁽¹⁾ It was shut on the understanding that it would be reopened if required. All the books, maps, etc. were transferred to Bearpark, the clock and desks translated to the voluntary system, the latter to North Brancepeth Colliery School and the former to St. Oswald's School, Durham, for 30s. The school itself was taken over in 1892 by the Durham Rural Sanitary Authority as an isolation hospital.

Further improvements at Bearpark came in the shape of fitting the infants' gallery with desks, purchasing a piano and constructing porches. The Board obtained copies of the syllabuses of religious instruction in use by the school boards at South Shields and Gateshead.⁽²⁾ These were sent to the Headmaster "in order that he may (provided he deem it desirable so to do) incorporate any portion or portions of such schemes in his plan of religious teaching, or to be otherwise used by him as he might think expedient." It was decided at this time that corporal punishment

(1) See p. 29.

(2) Details of these are given on pages 345-6 of the appendix to the Final Report of the Cross Commission.

was only to be inflicted by the Head Teacher, and was always to be entered in the Log Book.

In 1891 the fee grant was accepted, and the infants' fees abolished, although a fee of 1d. was retained for Standards I and above. A total of £9 10s. 1d. was obtained in this way for September and October 1891. How closely the Department watched the operation of this aspect of the 1891 Act is demonstrated by the fact that the Board received a letter from the Department in December on this subject.⁽¹⁾ It was pointed out that the amount which might be charged for fees was £8 13s. 9d., and an explanation was asked for concerning the excess. The standard when fees became payable was accordingly raised from one to two. A further illustration of the administration of the Act occurred some two years later. The Department received a representation under Sec. 5 from the 120 parents of over 300 children in Bearpark, whose names were given on a list accompanying the representation. The parents stated that they desired that their children might receive education without payment of fees, and that in the district of the Board there was an insufficient amount of this type of accommodation.⁽²⁾ The Department informed the Board of this communication, asking to be furnished with a return of the number of free places existing. The Board replied that there were no free places above Standard I, but that if the Department

{1} S.H. Bearpark, 29/12/91.
 {2} S.H. Bearpark, 14/6/94. See p. 17.

wished then the whole school would be made free. All fees were abolished after the summer holidays, the Headmaster's salary being fixed at the same time at £165 p.a., irrespective of the annual grant.

Further improvement continued. New lighting was installed, the mixed school was divided into separate departments, and two more pianos purchased. Sanction for the omission of the annual inspection for 1895 was given on the recommendation of the H.M.I.⁽¹⁾ In the same year the parish was divided into two by Local Government Board Order dated 23 September 1895, i.e. the parish of St. Oswald's which was that part nearest to and south and east of the City of Durham, and the parish of Bearpark. By Article II "The Parishes of Bearpark and St. Oswald's as altered by this Order shall be united and form a United School District," and the existing Board continued with its functions unchanged. The sharp drop in attendance after 1898 is due to the fact that during the early nineties there had been a large increase of population in adjoining centres, i.e. Sacriston, Ushaw Moor and New Brancepeth, and the excess children had come to Bearpark for schooling. After some delay these districts enlarged their own schools, or built new ones, and this process had been completed round about 1898.

The population in 1901 was 2,145. In 1902 the teacher:pupil ratio had been reduced to the very low value of 1:28, the cost of

(1) See p.36.

education per child had risen to the high level of £3.2 p.a., the ratio of government grant:rates was 1:1:6 and the rates were 12d. Of the £6,394 borrowed, £4,029 was still outstanding.⁽¹⁾

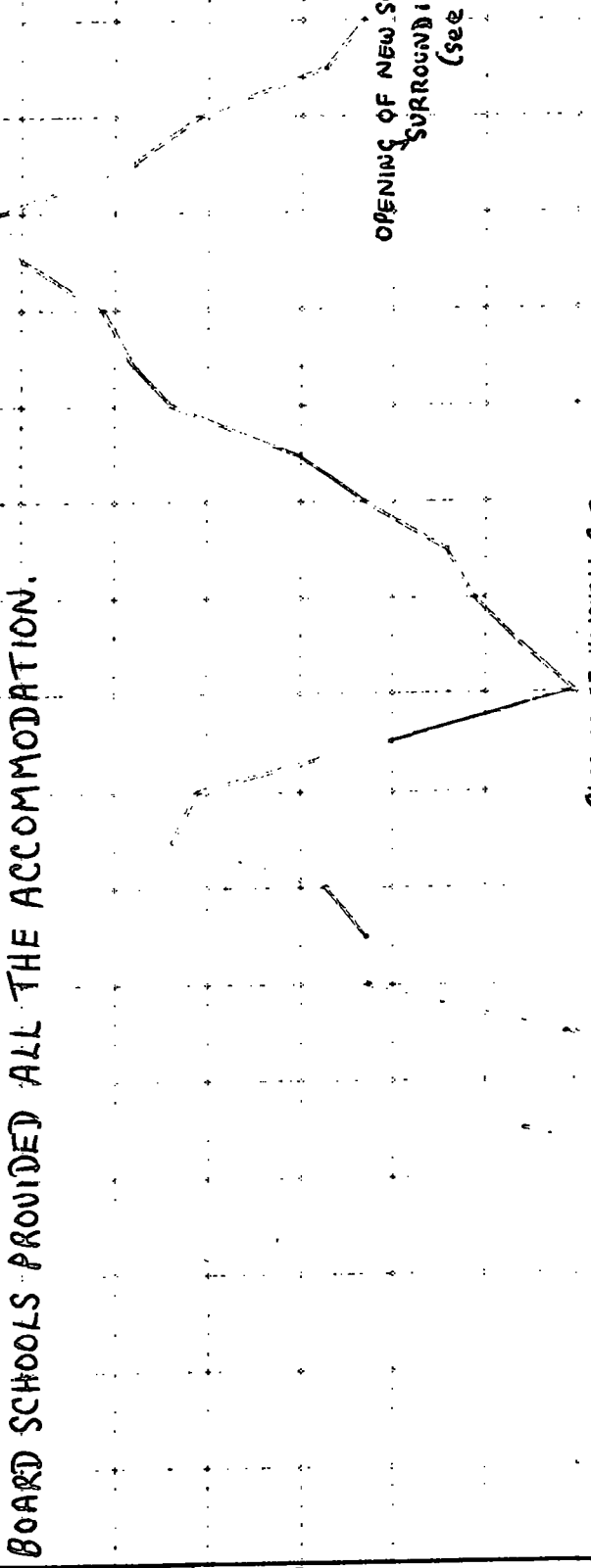
The 1902 provision was:

No. 50. Bearpark Board School 444.

(1) See pp.40-3.

BEARPARK. A COLLIERY DISTRICT WHERE THERE WAS NO VOLUNTARY PROVISION IN 1870, AND THE OWNERS DID NOT SUPPLY THE NECESSARY PLACES (see p.322) BOARD SCHOOLS PROVIDED ALL THE ACCOMMODATION.

450
 400
 350
 300
 275
 250
 225



CLOSING OF HOUGHALL PIT
 (see p.48)

OPENING OF NEW SCHOOLS IN
 SURROUNDING DISTRICTS.
 (see p.50)

GENERAL STRIKE
 (see p.47)

1870 1871 1872 1873 1874 1875 1876 1877 1878 1879 1880 1881 1882 1883 1884 1885 1886 1887 1888 1889 1890 1891 1892 1893 1894 1895 1896 1897 1898 1899 1900

BELMONT

The 1870 provision was:

No. 1. Belmont C. of E. School 80.

This parish was originally known as the extra municipal part of the township of St. Giles or Gilligate, the name being changed in 1895. The Inspector's report, dated 14 June 1872, stated that the population was 3,259, of whom 2,934 were of the class requiring elementary education. On the ratio of 1:5 this meant that accommodation was required for 587, and the efficient schools in the district were the Belmont school and Countess Vane's School for 181, leaving a deficiency of 326. The latter school was one of the few recognized efficient, non grant-aided schools in the Durham area at this time, but the general trend was for them to apply for grant, and the Countess Vane's School became grant-aided in 1879, after which the attendance figures are included on the accompanying graph.

By the time the first notice appeared, dated 18 July 1873, the Belmont school was in the course of being rebuilt to accommodate 214, thus reducing the deficiency to 192. In consequence, places for this number were required to be supplied, but the new St. Giles' School just inside the borough boundary and only one fifth of a mile from Belmont⁽¹⁾ could accommodate a considerable number of the older children. The Countess Vane's School was enlarged in 1875 to 222 to take the infants and excess of older

(1) See Appendix.

children, the name being changed at the same time to Londonderry C. of E. School, and no final notice was necessary.

The 1875 provision was:

Belmont C. of E. School 214.

Bye laws were made by the Durham Union on 27 September 1879, this being one of the few districts in the area which applied to a school attendance committee before the 1880 Act.⁽¹⁾ The Belmont school was enlarged the following year after the managers had received a letter from the School Attendances Committee in Durham, pointing out that sixty infants were attending an uncertified school in the parish, and that there was no proper accommodation available for them.⁽²⁾ The large room formerly used as the school until 1874 was repaired and opened on 16 February 1880. The Londonderry C. of E. School was enlarged in 1897.

The population in 1901 was 3,102.

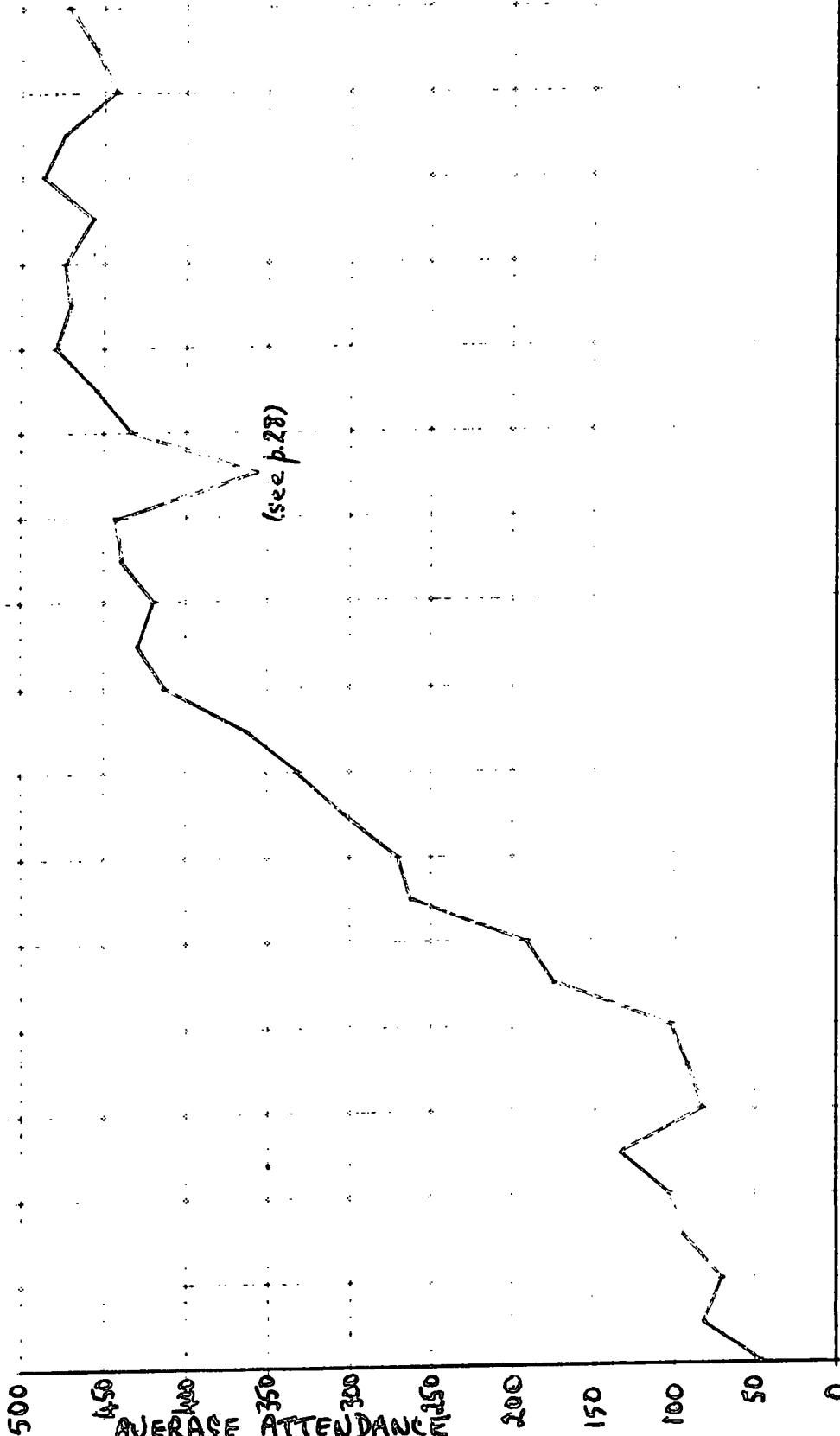
The 1902 provision was:

| | | |
|---------|-----------------------------|------------|
| | Belmont C. of E. School | 336 |
| No. 49. | Londonderry C. of E. School | <u>285</u> |
| | | 621 |

(1) See p. 15.

(2) M.E. E11/12, 3/2/80. This was probably not unconnected with the dispute at that time between the Department and the Durham School Board concerning the provision of an infants' school in that part of the borough adjoining Belmont (see pp. 91-4)

BELMONT A DISTRICT WHERE THERE WAS STRONG VOLUNTARY SUPPORT TO SUPPLEMENT THE 1870 PROVISION.



1870 '71 '72 '73 '74 '75 '76 '77 '78 '79 '80 '81 '82 '83 '84 '85 '86 '87 '88 '89

BRANCEPETH

The Inspector's report, dated 4 September 1871, stated that the population was 1,558, of whom 1,403 were of the class requiring elementary education. On the ratio of 1:5 this meant that accommodation was required for 280, and the only efficient school was Brancepeth C. of E. School for 160, which had just been placed on the annual grant list.

There was another school, the Oakenshaw British School also for 160, built by the colliery owners, but the instruction was not considered efficient. This was corrected, following the general policy of the owners, by 18 July 1873 when the notice appeared. Thus a total of 320 places was provided, and there was no deficiency.

The 1875 provision was:

| | | |
|---------|----------------------------|------------|
| No. 27. | Brancepeth C. of E. School | 160 |
| No. 28. | Oakenshaw British School | <u>160</u> |
| | | 320 |

Bye laws were made by the Durham Union on 16 February 1878. They are reproduced on the following page.

The Oakenshaw school was closed owing to a stoppage at the colliery due to labour trouble from November 1878 until February 1880, which accounts for the sudden drop in attendance at that time.⁽¹⁾ It was enlarged just before this stoppage and again in 1888. There was a steady growth in the population, but by Local

(1) M.E. E11/49, 1/11/80.

Government Board Order dated 21 December 1881 a detached part of the township comprising 1,138 persons and containing the Oakenshaw school was transferred to Stockley. In consequence the attendance figures for these townships have been combined.

The population in 1901 was 364.

The 1902 provision was:

Brancepeth C. of E. School 160.

BYELAWS REFERRED TO IN THE FOREGOING ORDER.

No. MDCXXLIH.

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 BRANCEPETH by the School Attendance Committee of the DURHAM UNION.

Definitions.

1. In these Bye Laws

The term "district" means the Parish or Township of Brancepeth.

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.

2. The parent of every child of not less than 5, nor more than 13, 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 two miles, measured according to the nearest road from the residence of such child.

Time of Attendance.

3. 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.

Proviso as to Religion and Labour Acts.

4. 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 parent 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.

5. 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 Fourth 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 150 attendances in each year if such child has received a certificate from one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools that it has reached the Third Standard prescribed by the Code of 1876.

Penalty.

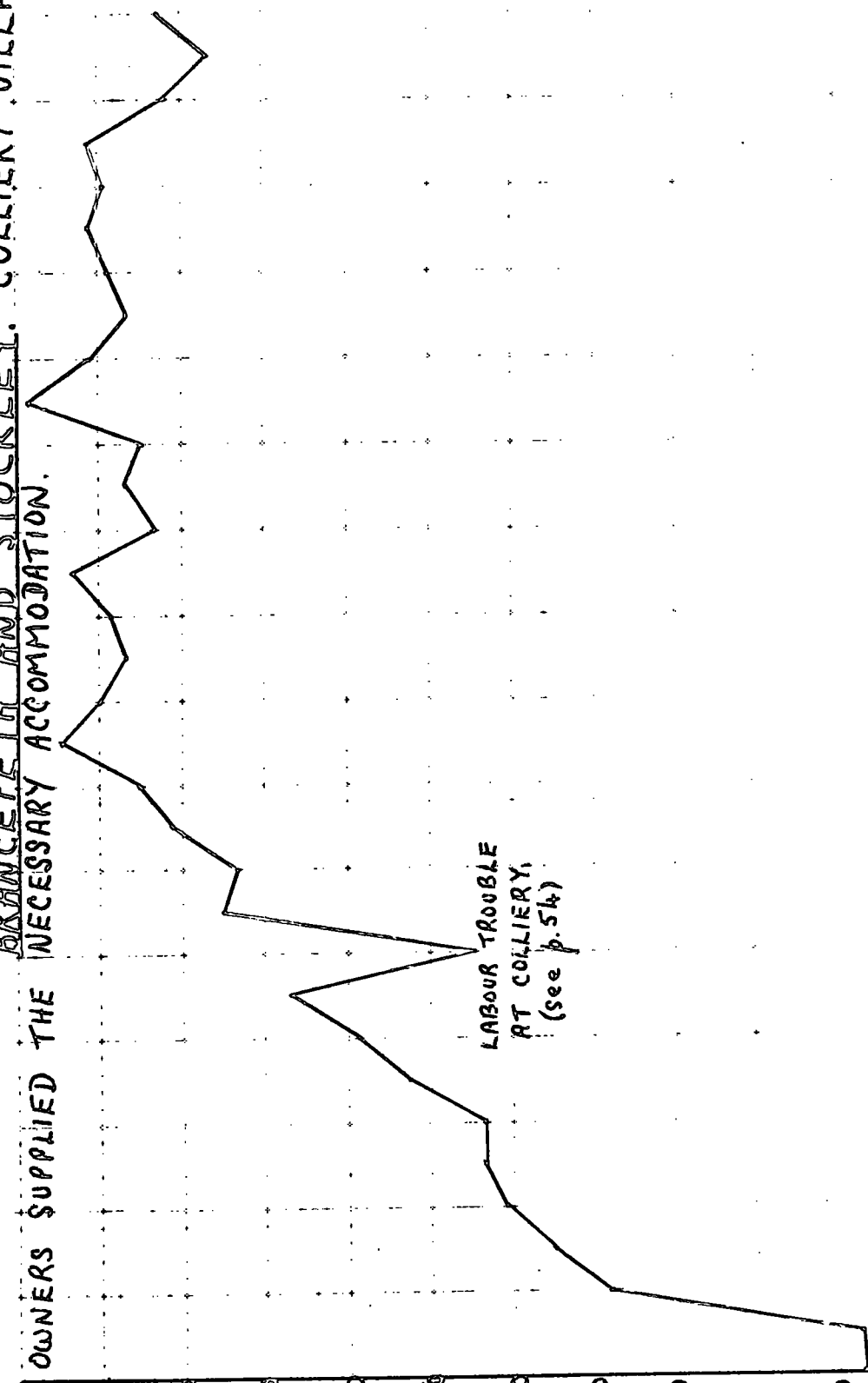
6. Every parent who shall not observe, or shall neglect or violate these Bye Laws, or any of them, shall, upon conviction, be liable to a penalty not exceeding, with the costs, five shillings for each offence.

The above Bye Laws were made by the School Attendance Committee of the Durham Union at a meeting held on the 16th day of February 1878.

THOS. CHAWFORD, Chairman.

W. S. LISLE, Clerk.

BRANCEPETH AND STOCKLEY. COLLIERY VILLAGES WHERE THE OWNERS SUPPLIED THE NECESSARY ACCOMMODATION.



LABOUR TROUBLE AT COLLIERY (see p. 54)

1870 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102

BRANDON AND BYSHOTTLES

The 1870 provision was:

| | | |
|--------|-----------------------------|------------|
| No. 2. | Old Brandon National School | 212 |
| No. 3. | Waterhouses British School | <u>161</u> |
| | | <u>373</u> |

The Inspector's report, dated 13 February 1872, stated that the population was 4,400, of whom 3,960 were of the class requiring elementary education. On the ratio of 1:5 this meant that accommodation was required for 792. The efficient schools in the district were Brandon Colliery School for 109, which became grant-aided later in the year, together with the two previously named schools, the latter of which, a colliery school, had been enlarged to 233. There was thus a deficit of 310 places, and the population was increasing steadily. It was situated at five main centres, i.e. Waterhouses Colliery (1,000), Old Brandon (300), Brandon Colliery (1,700), Boyne Colliery (700) and Sleetburn Colliery (700).

The first notice, dated 1 August 1873, required additional accommodation at Brandon Colliery for 50 infants, a school for 120 at Boyne Colliery, and a school for 120 at Sleetburn Colliery. By 1875 these requirements had been more than met by the colliery owners. A larger new school had been built at Brandon Colliery and schools had been constructed at Boyne Colliery (North Brancepeth) and Sleetburn Colliery (New Brancepeth). The plans for the latter school are shown on the following page. (1)

(1) See also p. 23.

The 1875 provision was:

| | |
|--|-------------|
| (Old) Brandon National School | 212 |
| Waterhouses British School | 233 |
| No. 29. Brandon Colliery School | 475 |
| No. 30. North Brancepeth Colliery School | 490 |
| No. 31. New Brancepeth Colliery School | <u>247</u> |
| | <u>1659</u> |

The population continued to increase however, and the position was made more difficult when the managers of the New Brancepeth school wrote to the Department in July 1876. They stated that the school would be shortly discontinued as the colliery did not wish to be further burdened with the expense, and they wished to hand it over to the school board when it was formed.⁽¹⁾ Accordingly a further notice, dated 6 November 1876, required a school to replace that closed at New Brancepeth, together with a further one for 275 in the neighbourhood of Browney and Meadowfield, two new centres of population. The final notice, dated 29 January 1877 repeated these requirements. Very soon after this there was a considerable drift away from the collieries, and although the New Brancepeth school remained closed for over a year it was found that the accommodation was sufficient. Messrs. Bell Bros. Ltd., the owners of Browney Colliery, submitted plans for the Browney school in 1877, but the project was discontinued until 1881, when a school for 407 was

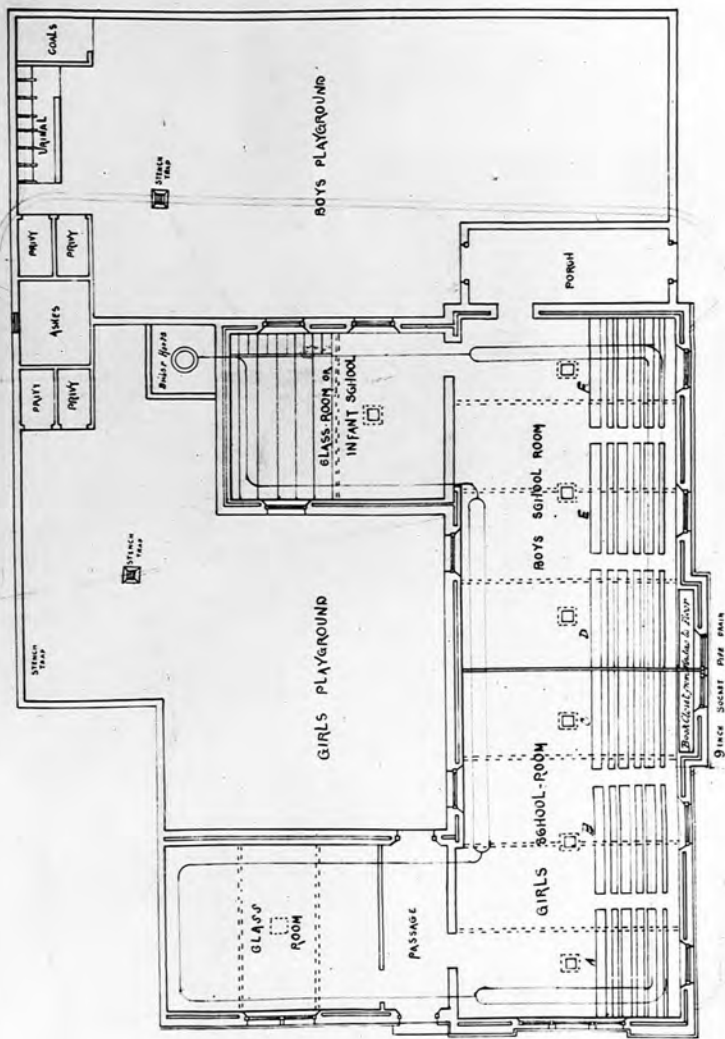
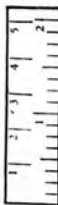
(1) P.R.O. Ed. 2/136, 3/7/76.

REFERENCE

SCALE $\frac{1}{8}$ " INCH TO A FOOT

Ventilation Pipe
Drainage
Heating Pipe

SHEET NO. 1



Ground Plan

built. A new community grew up during this time at Langley Moor, and in 1880 a new school, St. Patrick's R.C. School for 236, was opened. The 1881 census showed a population of 10,853.

Until 1883 the district came under the jurisdiction of the School Attendance Committee for the Durham Union, but in July of that year the Local Board applied to the Department for permission to set up their own committee, ⁽¹⁾ which came into being in September. During the subsequent years the schools were continually enlarged as the population grew, until their capacity in 1902 was over 50 per cent greater than the 1883 figure.

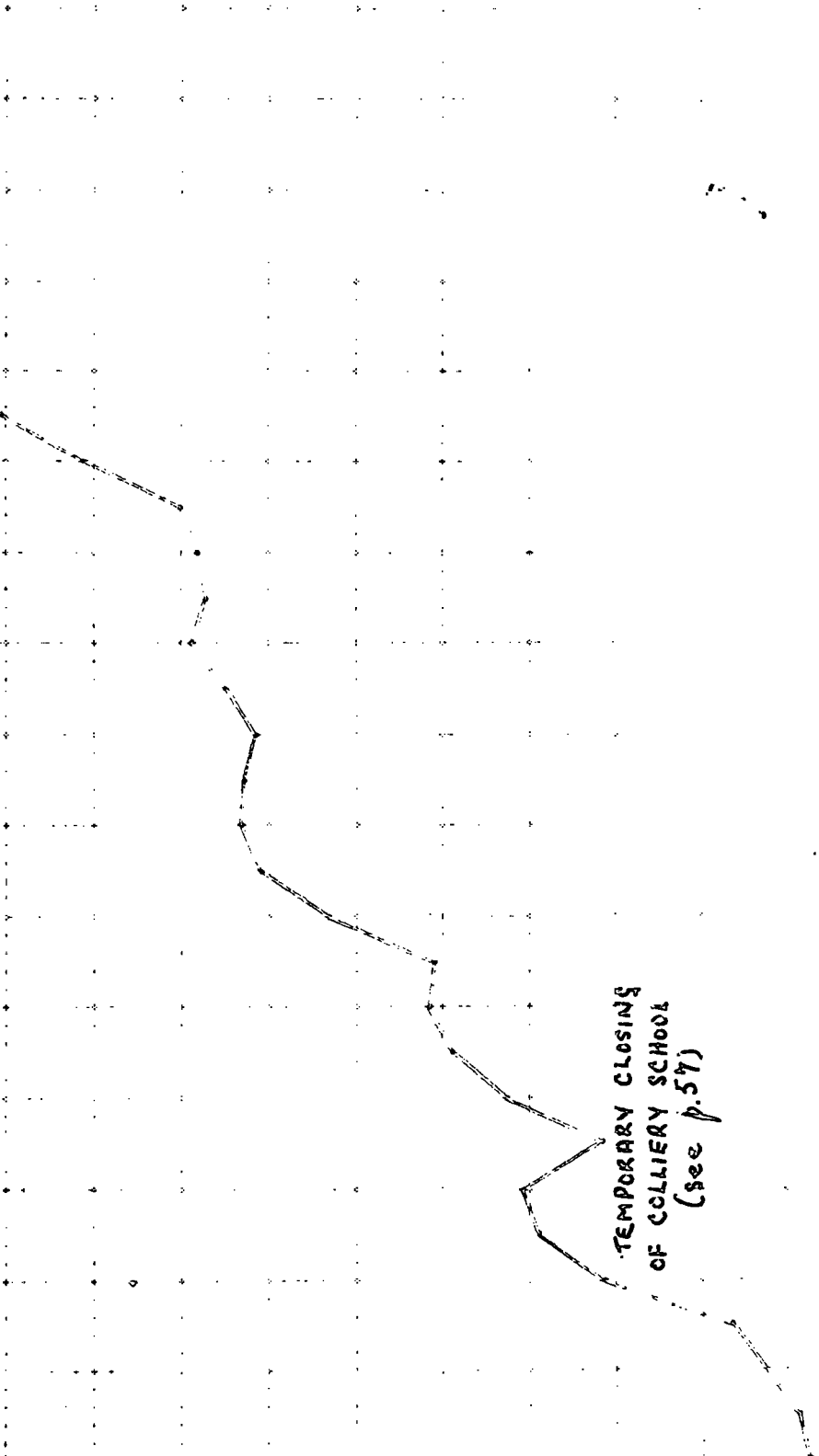
The population in 1901 was 15,573.

The 1902 provision was:

| | | |
|---------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| | Brandon National School | 215 |
| | Waterhouses British School | 416 |
| | Brandon Colliery School | 932 |
| | North Brancepeth Colliery School | 726 |
| | New Brancepeth Colliery School | 541 |
| No. 51. | St. Patrick's R.C. School | 264 |
| No. 52. | Browney Colliery School | <u>505</u> |
| | | <u>3,599</u> |

(1) P.R.O. Ed. 2/136, 31/7/83.

BRANDON AND BYSHOTTLES. A LARGE COLLIERY DISTRICT WHERE THE ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED WAS SUPPLIED BY A JOINT EFFORT ON THE PART OF BOTH OWNERS AND RELIGIOUS BODIES, MOSTLY THE FORMER.



TEMPORARY CLOSING OF COLLIERY SCHOOL (see p.57)

2750
2500
2250
2000
1750
1500
1250
1000
750
500
250
0

1870 '72 '74 '75 '76 '77 '78 '79 '80 '81 '82 '83 '84 '85 '86 '87 '88 '89 '90 '91 '92 '93 '94 '95 '96 '97 '98 '99 '00 '01 '02

BROOM

The Inspector's report, dated 17 June 1872, stated that the population was 157, of whom 136 were of the class requiring elementary education. On the ratio of 1:5 this meant that accommodation was required for 27. There was no efficient school in the district, but accommodation was available in neighbouring areas for this small number, and the Department made an order to this effect. Bye laws were made by the Durham Union on 28 September 1878.

By 1884, however, the population had considerably increased and a further notice, dated 12 January 1885, required a school for 90 to be provided in Broom village. A final notice, dated 16 March 1885, repeated this. It was drawn to the attention of the Department that there were two schools already available for the village, both within the radius of two miles as required by the bye laws, i.e. at North Brancepeth and Ushaw Moor. The Department replied that though these schools were within the two mile limit and not full, their distance (one and three-quarter miles) made them unsuitable, particularly for the younger children. A compromise was finally reached. The North Brancepeth Coal Company Ltd., who owned the fifty houses in the village, converted a dwelling house into a temporary school for the infants and younger children, while the older ones attended the schools named above.⁽¹⁾ The school was opened in July 1885, but did not receive

(1) This correspondence is contained in M.E. E11/57.

an annual grant.

The population continued to increase (in 1891 it was 1,508) and it was replaced by a new school, built by the company and opened in June 1892, for 347. The reason for the drop in attendance in 1901 is due to the fact that a new school had been opened at Ushaw Moor, which was nearer for many of the children than the Broom school.

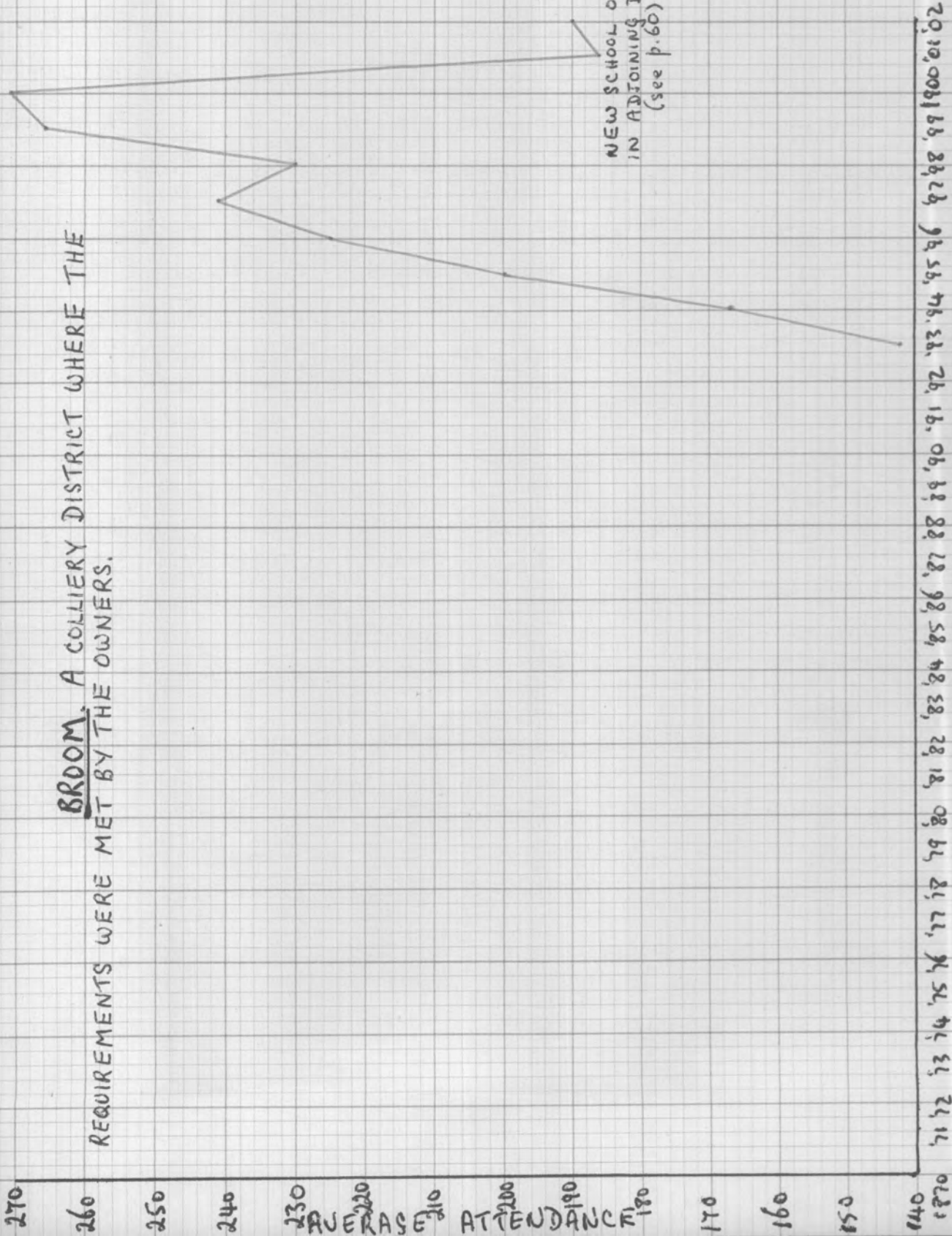
The population in 1901 was 2,253.

The 1902 provision was:

No. 53. Broom Park Colliery School 347.

BROOM, A COLLIERY DISTRICT WHERE THE REQUIREMENTS WERE MET BY THE OWNERS.

NEW SCHOOL OPENED IN ADJOINING DISTRICT (see p. 60)



CASSOP.

The 1870 provision was:

No. 4. Tursdale Colliery School 200.

The Inspector's report, dated 30 October 1871, stated that the population was 783, being concentrated at two main centres, i.e. Cassop (300) and Tursdale Colliery (483), over three miles apart. The number of the class requiring elementary education was 705. On the ratio of 1:5 this meant that accommodation was required for 141, and that separate provision would have to be made for Tursdale and Cassop. The only efficient school in the district was the one named above.

Accordingly, the first notice, dated 31 July 1873, required a school for 60 children to be erected in Cassop. The population of the district increased, but no effort was made to accommodate the children, and so the Final Notice, dated 24 April 1875, required a school for 240 to be constructed.

The 1875 provision was still:

Tursdale Colliery School 200.

Nothing was done⁽¹⁾ and so elections were held on 21 December 1875. Five members were elected, including the local vicar, and the first meeting called for a fortnight later. Messrs. Bell Bros. Ltd., the owners of Tursdale Colliery School, did not wish both to contribute to the funds of the Board for the running of a Cassop school, and at the same time to support their own school at

(1) See p.32.

Tursdale. This was in line with the general policy of the owners. They agreed to transfer the Colliery School to the Board at terms very advantageous to the latter. It was taken over from 1 May 1878, at a yearly rental of £40, including all apparatus, the colliery owners to be responsible for all such repairs and alterations as might be called for from time to time by the Department.

A site was purchased in Cassop in July 1876, and permission requested, and granted, to build an iron school, rather than one of brick and stone, owing to "the migratory character of the population", and "the probability of the coals underneath the proposed school being worked at some future time".⁽¹⁾ Plans and tenders were considered in March the following year, and after alteration and approval of the plans the tenders were accepted in September, and a loan of £2,427 obtained from the P.W.L.C. Bye laws were approved, and Cassop Board School for 255 was opened in September 1878 with one mistress at a salary of £50 p.a. plus half the government grant. The fees were 3d. a week for children up to eight years, 4d. for those above eight but who had not passed the fifth standard, and 6d. beyond this. These were somewhat above the average for the area.⁽²⁾ It was resolved "that one hour in each day immediately before the closing of the School be set apart for Religious instruction." In the following February a part time school warden was appointed at a salary of £10 p.a.,

(1) S.H. Cassop, 7/7/76.

(2) See p.41.

and as it was found that so many fees remained unpaid, prepayment was insisted upon. The teacher:pupil ratio at this time was 1:52, the cost of education per child £2.4 p.a., the ratio of government grant:fees:rates approximately 5:4:15, and the rates 19d.

On 4 January 1882, Mr. John Oddy, the butcher at New Cassop, found himself in the unusual position of appointing a school board.⁽¹⁾ He had been the only person to offer himself for election to the Board, and so found it incumbent upon him, by Rule 6 of the first part of the second schedule of the 1870 Act, to "elect a person to each vacancy." This he did without demur, and the work of the Board continued. The infants' galleries were removed, the fees reduced, new stoves installed, a harmonium purchased, and several other small improvements executed. These did not include the laying on of water to Cassop, as the following minute shows. "Resolved that during the hot weather Mr. Richardson [the Headmaster] be authorized to employ a boy to supply drinking water for the children at a payment of 6d. a week, and that Mr. Richardson be authorized to purchase the necessary vessels for storing the water." It was a simple story of the Board keeping the schools going, and after each annual inspection undertaking those repairs and improvements the H.M.I. considered necessary.⁽²⁾ The Board did introduce one improvement of its own volition. It doubled the staff at Cassop in 1883. Previous to this Mr. Bowerbank, a man of fifty, had been in sole charge since 1881, but

(1) S.H. Cassop, 4/1/82.

(2) See p.37.

together with a female monitor, Miss Susannah Atkinson, he was given one month's notice, and it was resolved that they be replaced by "a Man and his Wife." Although no disciplinary action was taken in this instance by the Department, a close check was kept on these matters, and when Bowerbank was appointed headmaster at Brasside Board School the Department wrote to the Framwellgate Board, pointing out to them the circumstances under which he had left Cassop.⁽¹⁾

By an Order of the Local Government Board, in September 1885, the township was amalgamated with the township of Quarrington on 25 March 1887 under the name of Cassop cum Quarrington.⁽²⁾ By a further Order the property, liabilities, etc. of the Cassop School Board were transferred to the Quarrington School Board. This account continues under that heading, see p. 122.

(1) S.H. Framwellgate Moor, 28/10/85.

(2) See p. 39.

CORNFORTH AND THRISLINGTON

The 1870 provision was:

No. 5. Cornforth C. of E. School 115

The Inspector's report for the township of Cornforth, dated 7 February 1872, stated that the population was 3,416, of whom 3,075 were of the class requiring elementary education. On the ratio of 1:5 this meant that accommodation was required for 615. The neighbouring small township of Thrislington, with a population of 93 including 18 children, was united with Cornforth (Sec. 40), so there was a total of 633 places required. The only efficient school was Ferry Hill Iron Works School for 337, situated at West Cornforth, which had been placed on the annual grant list the preceding year. The Church school was having difficulty retaining qualified staff at this period and was removed from the list, so there was a deficit of 296.

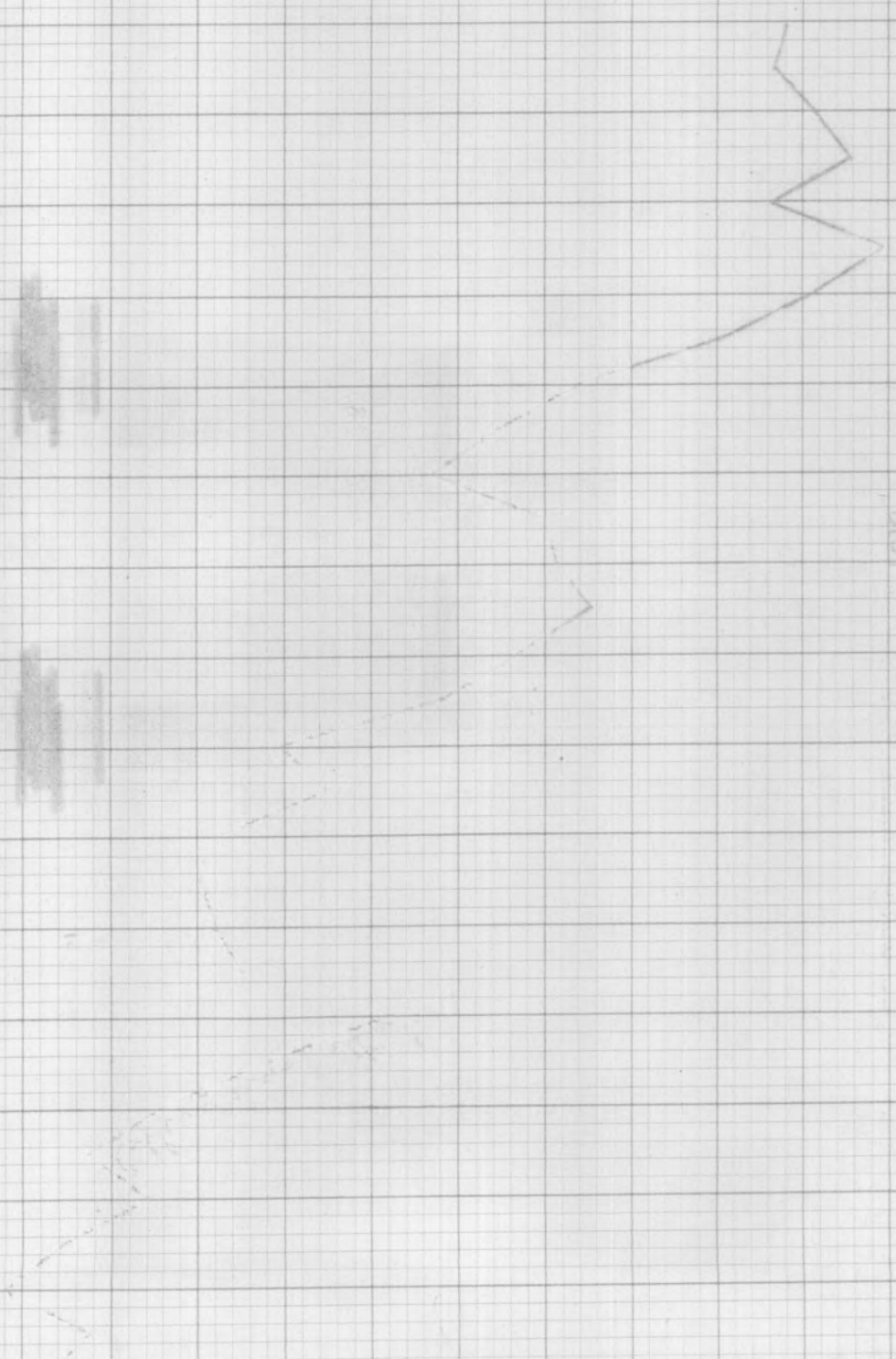
The Iron Works School was enlarged towards the end of 1872 to accommodate 615, but with a rising population this was not enough. The first notice, dated 15 July 1873, required further accommodation for 60 at Cornforth, but pointed out that if the Church school was improved and a certificated teacher appointed no final notice would be issued. The school fulfilled these conditions by January 1875, but in July the school was closed.

The 1875 provision was:

No. 32. Ferry Hill Iron Works School 615.

In March 1876, Rev. M. Duggan, the local vicar, wrote to the

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Vertical handwritten text on the right side of the page, possibly a label or title.

Department informing them that the school could not afford to pay for the services of a certificated teacher and that there was no prospect of the school re-opening. "I think the time has fully come for a school board. The population has rapidly increased since 1873, there being 306 new houses, mostly at West Cornforth. If my Lords pursue their enquiries further they will find that something ought to be done, and done quickly, for the better education of the rising generation. Not one third, I believe, of the children go to any school."⁽¹⁾

The final notice, dated 1 May 1876, required accommodation for 315 children at Cornforth. A further attempt was made to run the Church school efficiently but in November 1876 Rev. Duggan wrote again to the Department.

"I am still of the opinion that the school cannot continue. So long as a large proportion of the workmen are compelled to pay the School Money at the Office, and are, therefore, obliged to send their children to the Iron Masters' Godless School, there is little hope of the Church school being able to contend against such fearful odds. I shall be glad to see a school board as at least there can be then the simple reading of the Word of God and its unsectarian teaching."⁽²⁾

Elections for the Board were held on 1 February 1877, when five members were elected, including Rev. Duggan, who served on the Board until his death four years later. The first meeting was called for 23 February. Progress was not rapid. By September 1878, when a census showed 1,192 children requiring elementary education in the area, school building had not begun. Bye laws

(1) P.R.O. Ed. 2/138, 21/3/76.
 (2) P.R.O. Ed. 2/138, 23/11/76.

had been approved, and a school warden on one day a week duty had been appointed, but nothing more concrete had been accomplished despite constant queries from the Department. Early the following year the Rosedale and Ferryhill Iron Company, the owners of the Ironworks school, went into liquidation, and after much deliberation the Board decided to take over the school at a yearly rental of £12 from 1 November 1879. A master was appointed at a salary of £110 p.a. together with an infant mistress at a salary of £60 p.a. Fees to be charged were 2d. for children under seven, and 3d. for those above. It was further resolved that "it be an instruction to the Teachers that the Bible be read in the School provided by the Board unaccompanied by any sectarian explanation." There was a considerable drop in the population at this time (the 1881 figure was 2,646), which accounts for the sudden drop in the attendance graph. In February 1880 an assistant master was appointed to the Cornforth (Ferry Hill) Board School as it had become known. The teacher:pupil ratio was then 1:54, the cost of education per child £1.8 p.a., the ratio of government grant:fees:rates approximately 3:2:3, and the rates 3.25d.⁽¹⁾

When the tenancy had been running for two years the Iron Company expressed the desire to sell the school. The Board offered £500, but this was not considered sufficient and they received notice to quit. Agreement was finally reached for the sale at £600, but when plans of the school, together with details

(1) See pp.40-2

of its state of repair, were submitted to the Department they declined to recommend a loan.⁽¹⁾ The Board stated they were willing to considerably improve and enlarge the buildings and provide a playground. On these conditions a loan of £1,637 was approved - £600 for the purchase, the rest for improvements. The number accommodated was decreased to 560.

In November 1884 the infliction of corporal punishment was restricted to the Head Teacher, and was to be performed "as leniently as possible". This was decided after complaints had been made to the Board concerning "excessive and unnecessary corporal punishment having been inflicted on the children attending the School."⁽²⁾ It was later resolved that a strap was to be used, and that "if any other instrument is used it will be at the Teacher's own risk as to the consequences which may arise."⁽³⁾ The story of the following years is the usual one of steady but reluctant progress, undertaken only after the constant promptings of visiting inspectors.⁽⁴⁾ In this case progress was particularly slow. By 1885 the teacher:pupil ratio had risen to the formidable figure of 1:70, but it was not until 1889 that three new staff were appointed. In the same year a further £100 was borrowed for repairs, and book prizes introduced for attendance.

The fee grant was accepted in 1891 and all fees abolished.

-
- (1) S.H. Cornforth, 6/7/82.
 - (2) S.H. Cornforth, 20/11/84.
 - (3) S.H. Cornforth, June/92.
 - (4) See p. 37.

The considerable rise in attendance that resulted from this caused the Department in August 1893, to require a new school to be built. The Board enquired if they could extend the present one for an additional 140 instead, and submitted plans which were accepted in January of the following year, although the Department stated that a new school would also be required. The tenders for this extension, the lowest of which was £1,000, caused the Board to change its mind and decide to build another school as originally suggested. This decision was in turn reversed, however, when the fresh tenders were received. The Board were in a quandary. Extra accommodation had to be provided. The attendance at the school exceeded the numbers for which it was built, and the true solution was to build a large new school, but this involved more expense than they were willing to incur. Even the enlargement plus a smaller school was in the Board's opinion excessive. A solution was found in the old Church school, now defunct. This was rented for a sum which must have warmed the hearts of the Board, namely 2s. 6d. per week. The approval of the Department was given in June 1894 for the school to be used as a temporary infants' school for 110 while, as the Board put it, "plans for both additional accommodation at West Cornforth and the building of a new school" were in progress. This temporary school, rechristened Old Cornforth Board School, opened two months later. The plans of the Board materialized in the form of a somewhat increased enlargement at West Cornforth for 189, at a

cost of £1,300, which loan was sanctioned by the Department, but no new school. When the Department enquired in April 1895 as to what steps were being taken to provide a permanent new school, the Board replied that there was no longer any need for one. The nearby Coxhoe National School had lately been enlarged, and this together with the improvements the Board had undertaken were sufficient.⁽¹⁾ The matter was left there, but the annual inspection of 1896 required improved out-offices and cloakroom functions at the temporary school. The architect was instructed by the Board that "the erections are to be of as inexpensive a character as possible." They amounted to £96 and were completed by August 1896.

Throughout the last years of the Board the average attendance of both teachers and pupils was low, and the spirit of the schools very poor. There was, on the average, a new teacher once every month, and most of the Board's time was taken up with appointing new ones, interchanging existing ones, and refusing requests for increased salaries. There was much absence without permission, so much so that it was decided in May 1899 that "the Head Teachers be instructed to keep a register of the attendance of all teachers in their respective departments and to submit such register to each meeting of the Board". The damage done to the school by marauding children reached serious proportions, doubtless

(1) An account of these developments is contained in S.H. Cornforth, August/93 - April/95.

reflecting the poor esteem in which the school was held in the district. A further resolution decided that "P.C. Million of West Cornforth be requested to give increased attention to the Board's School at that place to prevent damage being done thereto and that for so doing he be paid the sum of thirteen shillings per quarter of a year."

The total population in 1901 was 5,149. In 1902 the teacher:pupil ratio had been reduced to 1:39, the cost of education per child had risen, but was still low at £2.1 p.a., the ratio of government grant:rates was 1:.8, and the rates 9.5d. Of the £3,037 borrowed, £1,962 was still outstanding.⁽¹⁾

The 1902 provision was:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Cornforth (Ferry Hill) Board School | 749 |
| Old Cornforth Board School | <u>110</u> |
| | <u>859</u> |

(1) See pp. 40-3.

650
600
550
500
450
400
350
300
250
200
150
100
50
0

CORNFORTH AND THRI SLINGTON
A LARGE DISTRICT WHERE VOLUNTARY RESOURCES WERE
INSUFFICIENT, AND A BOARD TOOK OVER THE WHOLE RESPONSIBILITY
FOR PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION.

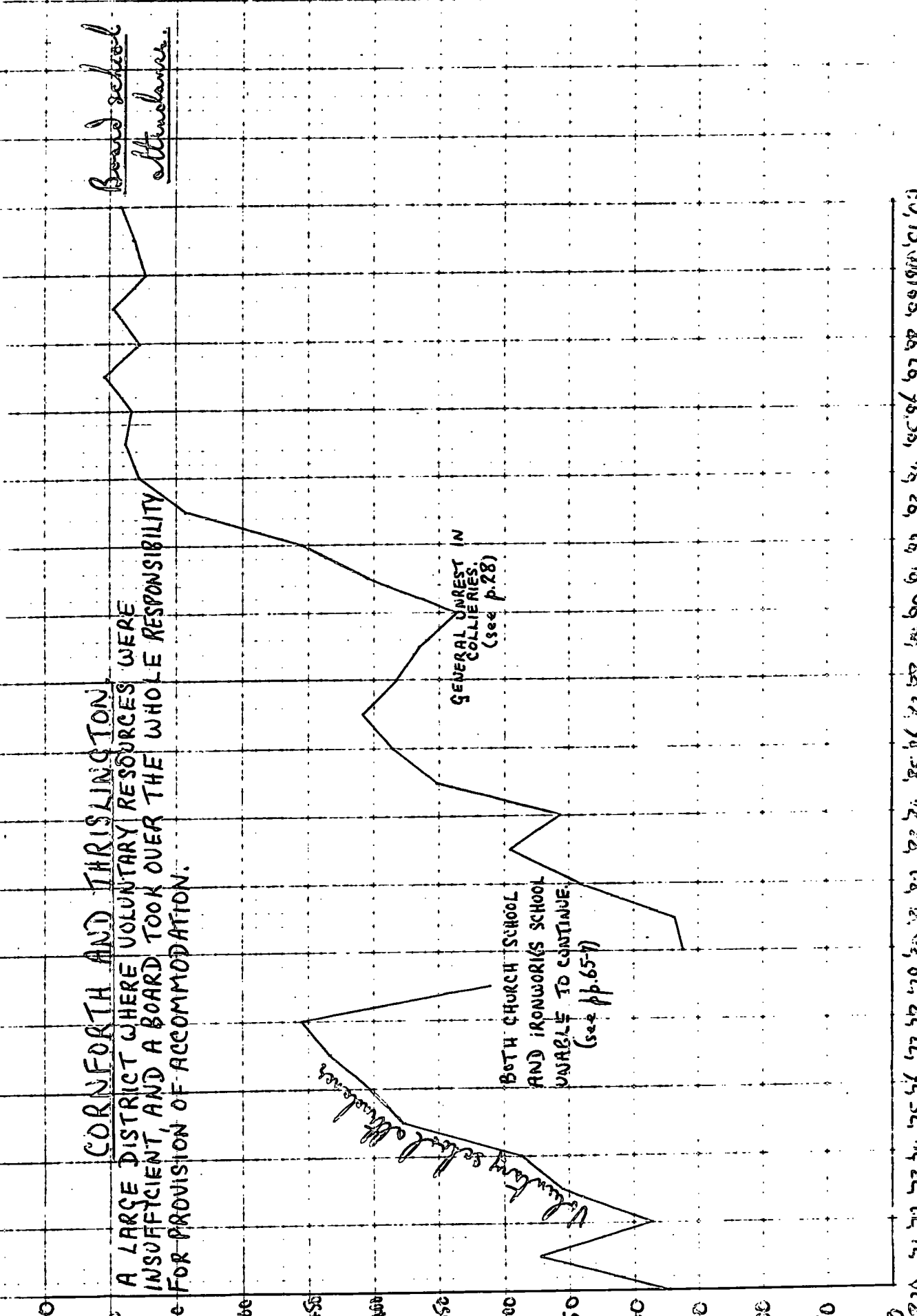
Board school
attendance

Voluntary school attendance

BOTH CHURCH SCHOOL
AND IRONWORKS SCHOOL
UNABLE TO CONTINUE.
(see pp. 65-7)

GENERAL UNREST IN
COLLIERIES.
(see p. 28)

1870 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 1900 01 02



CORNSAY

The Inspector's report stated that the population was 1,432, all of whom were of the class requiring elementary education. On the ratio of 1:5 this meant that accommodation was required for 286, together with another 25 from the adjoining township of Esh who lived close to the boundary and could be dealt with most conveniently by Cornsay. There was no efficient school in the district, although there was a small school for 69 at Cornsay Almshouses.

By the time the first notice appeared, dated 9 October 1873, the position had considerably improved despite an increasing population. There was a Roman Catholic school for 281 under construction at Cornsay, and plans were being prepared by the Colliery owners, Messrs. Ferens and Lowe, for the construction of a school for 150 at Cornsay Colliery. The building of this colliery school was in line with the general policy of the owners in districts where the formation of a school board was unlikely as the educational needs of centres of population apart from the mine were being met by other voluntary bodies. The notice stated that if these preparations were duly completed and if the Almshouses school was made efficient by provision of suitable desks and a certificated teacher, then no final notice would be issued. This proved to be the case. In 1875 the provision was:

No. 33. New Cornsay St. Charles' R.C. School 281.

The following year the Almshouses school became efficient, and in

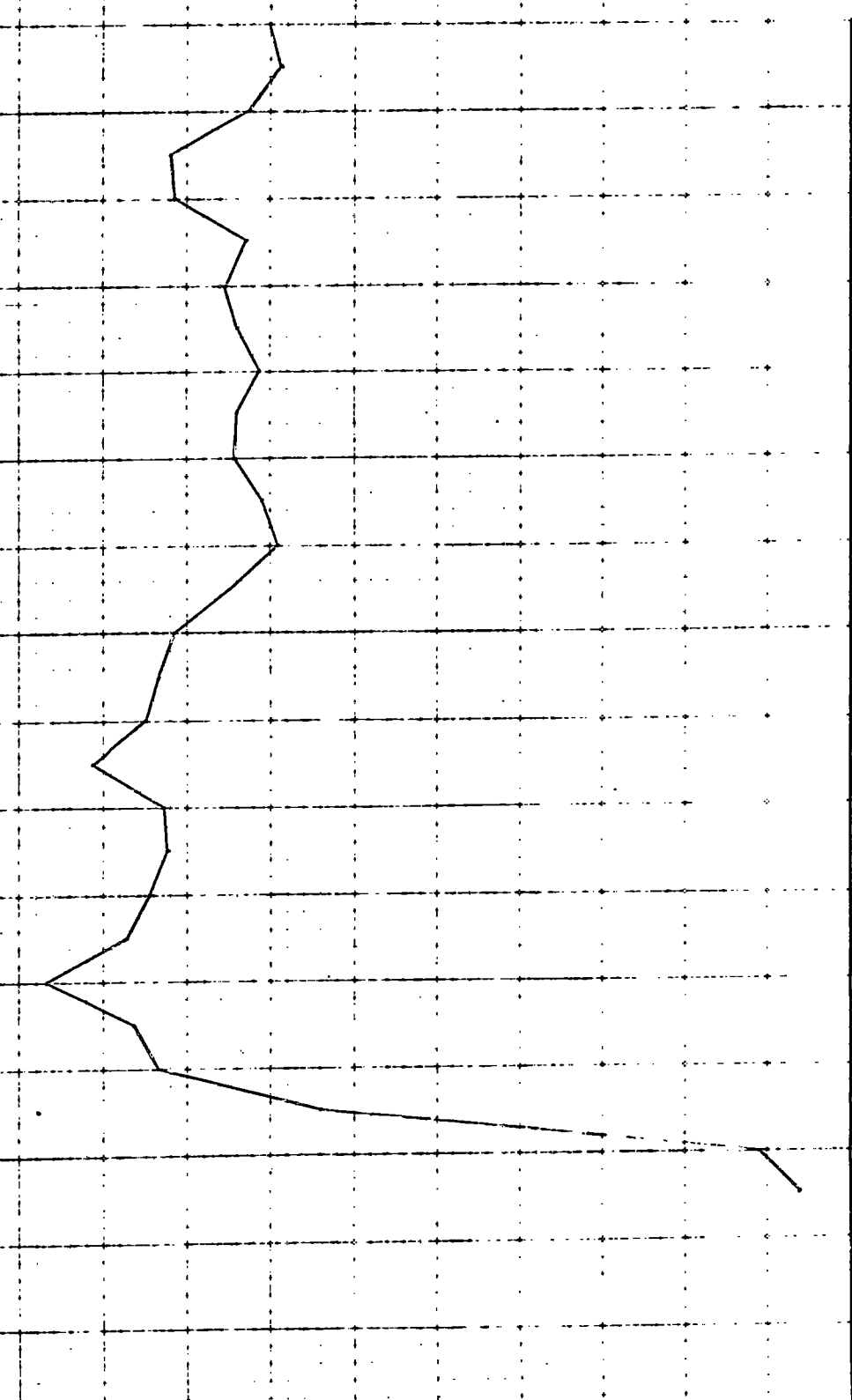
1877 the Cornsay Colliery School for 284 opened. This increased size was necessary to meet the growing population which had reached the figure of 2,327 by 1881. The latter school was enlarged again soon afterwards, and also in 1888. The numbers attending the school grew (213 in 1878, 394 in 1902) whilst the number attending the R.C. school correspondingly dropped (218 in 1878, 57 in 1902). Bye laws were made by the Lanchester Union on 21 September 1880. In 1900 the small Almshouses school was closed.

The population in 1901 was 2,160.

The 1902 provision was:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| New Cornsay St. Charles' R.C. School | 281 |
| No. 54. Cornsay Colliery School | <u>419</u> |
| | <u>700</u> |

CORNSAY, A DISTRICT WHERE OWNERS AND RELIGIOUS BODIES COMBINED TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY PLACES.



'1871 '72 '73 '74 '75 '76 '77 '78 '79 '80 '81 '82 '83 '84 '85 '86 '87 '88 '89 '90 '91 '92 '93 '94 '95 '96 '97 '98 '99 '00 '01 '02 '03

COXHOE

The Inspector's report, dated 13 February 1872, stated that the population was 3,749, of whom 3,375 were of the class requiring elementary education. On the ratio of 1:5 this meant that accommodation was required for 675. The population was principally situated at two main centres some mile and a half apart, i.e. Coxhoe where there were 395 children needing accommodation, and East Hetton where the number was 280. There was only one efficient school, which had just been placed on the annual grant list, Coxhoe National School for 180, and two that were not recognized, Coxhoe Temperance Hall British School for 70 and Coxhoe Primitive Methodist School for 114. There was no school at East Hetton deserving mention.

When the first notice arrived the position had not improved. This notice is reproduced on the following page. The final notice, also reproduced, shows that an effort was made by the voluntary societies, but there was still a deficiency in both areas. The contribution from Garmondsway Moor proposed in the first notice was dispensed with as the Kelloe National School was enlarged to cater for the children from this area. The Department preferred this arrangement, as a minute at the time shows. "Contribution is complicated and always gives a great deal of trouble."⁽¹⁾

(1) P.R.O. Ed. 2/138.

The 1875 provision was:

| | | |
|---------|------------------------------------|------------|
| No. 34. | Coxhoe National School. | 180 |
| No. 35. | Coxhoe Primitive Methodist School. | <u>109</u> |
| | | <u>289</u> |

The deficiency was not met and elections were held on 12 November 1875. Five members were elected, including the local vicar, and the first meeting called for three weeks later. Bye laws were approved in April 1876, and a site belonging to the East Hetton Coal Company selected. Plans for an iron school on this site were accepted in September, and arrangements were completed for the building to start in December. In March of the following year the managers of the Temperance Hall school asked if the Board would contribute to the repairs of the school, pointing out that this would obviate the necessity of building a new school in Coxhoe. The Board replied they had no power to do this.⁽¹⁾ However, the school was brought up to standard without this help and appeared on the annual grant list in 1878, but the services of a certificated teacher could not be retained and it was permanently removed the following year.

Before building commenced at East Hetton a protracted controversy arose concerning the mineral rights of the site, the transaction for which had not been completed. The dispute continued for over a year, by which time the collieries had stopped working, and the population dropped considerably (the

(1) S.H. Coxhoe, 2/3/77.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION ACT, 1870.
Section IX.

2500
Final Notice B. F.

COUNTY OF DURHAM.

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF COXHOE.

WHEREAS the Education Department, in pursuance of the Elementary Education Act, 1870, did, on the 19th September 1873, publish a Notice of their decision as to the Public School accommodation required for the above District: And whereas no public inquiry has been directed to be held, and more than a month has elapsed since publication of the said Notice; Now, therefore, the Lords of the Committee of Council on Education

Hereby give Final Notice as follows:—

- I. The School District is the Township of COXHOE.
- II. The Schools named in the first Schedule to this Notice are considered to be available for such District.
- III. Additional Public School accommodation of the amount and description mentioned in the second Schedule to this Notice appears to be required for the District.
- IV. Their Lordships hereby direct that the Public School accommodation mentioned in the said second Schedule be supplied within a period not exceeding six months from the date of the publication of this Notice.
- V. If at the expiration of such period the Public School accommodation mentioned in the said second Schedule has not been supplied, or is not in course of being supplied with due despatch, their Lordships will cause a School Board to be formed for such School District.

SCHEDULE I.

| Name and Description. | Situation. | No. of Children accommodated. | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------|--------|----------|------------|
| | | Boys. | Girls. | Infants. | TOTAL. |
| Coxhoe National School - - - - | | | 180 | | 180 |
| Coxhoe Primitive Methodist - - - - | | | 109 | | 109 |
| TOTAL | | | | | 289 |

SCHEDULE II.

| Amount and description of accommodation required. | Situation. | Particulars. |
|---|--------------|--|
| For 280 children - - - | East Hetton. | If the Temperance Hall British School is placed under a certificated teacher, and otherwise conducted as a Public Elementary School (Elementary Education Act, 1870, section 7), public school accommodation for 70 children will be provided at Coxhoe. |
| For 105 children - - - | Coxhoe. | |

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT,

18th day of March 1875.

Notice No. 13,337.

The DURHAM UNION.

F. R. Sandford

Secretary.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION ACT, 1870.

Sections IX., XLIX., LI.

Notice B. C. ✓

COUNTY OF DURHAM. ✓

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF COXHOE.

WITH CONTRIBUTORY DISTRICT OF GARMONDSWAY MOOR.

WHEREAS the Education Department, in pursuance of the Elementary Education Act, 1870, have received the Returns in the said Act mentioned, and made such inquiry as they think necessary with respect to the School accommodation of the District hereinafter mentioned; Now, therefore, the Lords of the Committee of Council on Education have decided, and

Hereby give Notice as follows:—

- I. The School District is the Township of COXHOE.
- II. It is proposed to make the Township of GARMONDSWAY MOOR, in the Union of SEDGEFIELD, contribute to the provision and maintenance of a School in the District in respect of the number of children named in the second Schedule to this Notice.
- III. The School named in the first Schedule to this Notice is considered to be available for the District.
- IV. Additional Public School accommodation of the amount and description mentioned in the second Schedule to this Notice appears to be required for the District.

SCHEDULE I.

| Name and Description. | Situation. | No. of Children accommodated. | | | |
|------------------------|------------|-------------------------------|--------|----------|--------|
| | | Boys. | Girls. | Infants. | TOTAL. |
| Coxhoe National School | - | 180 | | | 180 |
| | | | | TOTAL | 180 |

SCHEDULE II.

| Amount and description of accommodation required. | Situation. | Particulars. |
|--|--------------|---|
| (1.) For 100 boys, 100 girls, and 100 infants, for 20 of whom it is proposed that the Township of Garmonds-way Moor shall contribute to this Township. | East Hetton. | If a Public Elementary School for 300 children is voluntarily provided at East Hetton with due despatch, no further accommodation will be required under item (1), and no order directing contribution from the Township of Garmonds-way Moor will be issued. |
| (2.) For 215 children | Coxhoe. | If the instruction at the Temperance Hall British School be made efficient by the appointment of a certificated teacher, accommodation will be provided at Coxhoe for 70 children; and if the instruction at the Primitive Methodist School be made efficient by the appointment of a certificated teacher, further accommodation will be provided at Coxhoe for 144 children, and the accommodation required under item (2) will be reduced to accommodation for 31 children, which might be conveniently provided by the addition of class-rooms to the existing schools. |

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT,

10th day of September 1873.

Notice No. 10,398.

Union of DURHAM.

F. R. Sandford

Secretary.

1881 figure was 2,455). The educational provision was considered adequate for the reduced numbers and the Board's functions were confined to those of a school attendance committee. A part time "attendance and enquiry officer" was appointed at £5 p.a., and parents of children whose attendance was not satisfactory were interviewed. Not being in possession of a glasshouse the Board felt in a strong position to throw stones, and several owners of small adventure schools in the district were informed that their premises were insanitary and should be improved.⁽¹⁾

The population slowly drifted back, and in January, 1882, following a census of the district, the Board were informed that an infant school was required at East Hetton. The Welsh Chapel was taken over, with the Department's approval, and converted at an expense of £92 borrowed from the P.W.L.C., to accommodate 71 children. The school opened in January 1883 in the charge of a female teacher whose salary was £50 p.a. The fees were 2d. per week. In 1885 the National school was enlarged to 290, and in the same year, after considerable pressure from the Department,⁽²⁾ the Board once again began to search for a site for the East Hetton school. This time things moved more smoothly, although slowly, the Board making sure that the site was actually purchased before proceeding further. A member of the Board who was an amateur architect drew up the plans, but they were rejected, the

(1) S.H. Coxhoe, 25/9/79.

(2) See p. 38.

Department insisting upon a professional being employed. This was done, and building began in March 1887 for a school of 306 at a total cost of £1,700 borrowed from the P.W.L.C. 1887 was Victoria's Jubilee Year, and a memorial stone in the west elevation was inscribed commemorating the fact. A plain stone, laid ten years earlier, would have better served the purpose. The school was opened in February 1888 under a Headmaster at a salary of £75 p.a. plus one quarter of the government grant, together with the mistress from the old infants' school which was shut. Further staff were appointed soon afterwards to deal with the great increase in numbers. The fees were 2d. a week for those children under seven years, 3d. for Standards I, II and III, and 4d. for those above. The teaching of scripture was forbidden, but each day opened with a hymn and the Lord's Prayer.

Meanwhile the inhabitants of Quarrington Hill wrote to the Board asking for an infant school to be supplied, pointing out that there were 43 infants in the locality and no school catering for them. The Board again demonstrated its predilection for places of worship by taking over a room lately used as a chapel by the Primitive Methodists at a rent of five shillings per year. The room was converted at an expense of £86 to accommodate 96 children, and opened in February 1889 with one mistress. The fees charged were 2d. a week. The Department informed the Board that it considered 1d. sufficient, but the Board insisted upon the larger amount and as the permissible maximum was still 9d. the

Board had its way. In 1890 the teacher:pupil ratio was as high as 1:66, the cost of education per child a lowly £1.4 p.a., the ratio of government grant:fees:rates approximately 4:3:7 and the rates 11.75d. (1)

In 1891 the fee grant was accepted and all fees abolished. In the same year the Primitive Methodist school was closed with a resulting deficiency in accommodation, which was met by an enlargement of the East Hetton school to 406, at a cost of £500. The National school was enlarged three years later to 410. In the remaining period improvements under prompting continued. Pianos were obtained, sliding partitions installed, and water taps for drinking purposes fixed. The Quarrington Hill school was supplied with a playground and enlarged for a further 50 children at a cost of £509 in 1901.

The population in 1901 was 3,278. In 1902 the teacher:pupil ratio was 1:49, the cost of education per child £2.3 p.a., the ratio of government grant:rates was 1:.4, and the rates 12d. Of the £2,887 borrowed, £2,085 was still outstanding. (1)

The 1902 provision was:

| | | |
|---------|-------------------------------|------------|
| | Coxhoe National School | 410 |
| No. 55. | East Hetton Board School | 406 |
| No. 56. | Quarrington Hill Board School | <u>146</u> |
| | | <u>962</u> |

(1) See pp.40-3.

CROXDALE

This district was formed by the amalgamation of the townships of Hett and Sunderland Bridge by order of the Department in April 1876.

The Inspector's report for Hett, dated 30 October 1871, stated that the population was 394, of whom 355 were of the class requiring elementary education. On the ratio of 1:5 this meant that accommodation was required for 70. There was no efficient school either within or without the district to supply this, and accordingly the first notice, dated 31 July 1873, required a school for 70 to be built in the village. Local feeling was strongly opposed to this, and the Department was informed that most of the children were already at school outside the district at Sunderland Bridge (1 mile) and Tudhoe (1½ miles). But according to the returns received from these townships there was no surplus at the former, and a large deficiency at the latter. The final notice, dated 27 July 1874, reiterated the requirement. Rev. Greator, the local vicar, attempted to put off the evil day by informing the Department early in 1875 that he was trying to open a school, but H.M.I. Oakeley reported that this was but "a vague idea" and that there was "nothing definite enough to warrant further delay". A final effort was made in March. It was suggested that the Hett children could attend the new school that was going to be built at Browney Colliery in the neighbouring township of Brandon, but this was only for the

children of the miners there, and the election was duly held on 31 March 1875. Five members were elected, and the first and only meeting took place three weeks later, with Rev. Greatorex as chairman. A letter was despatched to the Department explaining the difficulties of building a school in so small a district, particularly as fourteen acres on the border between Hett and Sunderland Bridge had been recently purchased for building purposes and the size of the future population was very uncertain. The matter was left in abeyance for a year, when the two townships were united.⁽¹⁾

The Inspector's report for Sunderland Bridge stated that the population was 355, of whom 340 were of the class requiring elementary education. On the ratio of 1:5 this meant that accommodation was required for 68, and this was supplied by Croxdale C. of E. School for 63, which was not in receipt of an annual grant and was only recognized pending new buildings. The Department's notice stated that the accommodation for the district was sufficient, but that new buildings for the church school were required. In 1874 this school became grant-aided, although not as yet in new buildings, and so the 1875 provision was:

No. 36. Croxdale C. of E. School. 63

Shortly after this the population of the township increased considerably (the 1881 figure was 1,372), and the church school

(1) See p.39.

was insufficient.

On the same day as the order for amalgamation, the first notice for the united districts, now known as Croxdale, required a school for 135 between Hett and Sunderland Bridge, and another for 150 at Sunderland Bridge. The final notice, appearing only two months later, repeated these requirements but stated that the second school would not be required if the Weardale Colliery Company opened a public elementary school at Tudhoe Colliery (just in the neighbouring district of Tudhoe) with the express purpose of providing for these 150 children who lived near the colliery. This proved to be the case soon afterwards, and so only the one school was required. The ratepayers were inimical to the last. On Boxing Day 1876 they wrote to the Department stressing their conviction that a school board was not necessary,⁽¹⁾ despite the fact that the church school had closed just before owing to lack of teaching staff. H.M.I. Oakeley stated his opinion of this in a minute to the Department. "The only grounds of the ratepayers is that they do not believe in schools at all: there is no school in their district and I am afraid they will delay doing anything as long as they can."⁽²⁾

A dispute arose concerning the appointment of the Croxdale School Board. The ratepayers of Sunderland Bridge would not accept the old Hett Board, but insisted upon fresh elections for

(1) P.R.O. Ed. 2/139, 26/12/76.

(2) P.R.O. Ed. 2/139.

the whole board. The Department declined to dissolve the original board and after much correspondence a compromise was reached. Elections were held for two additional members from Sunderland Bridge, making a total of seven. The first meeting was held in March 1877, but the increase in numbers did not result in any great increase of educational zeal. Tentative enquiries concerning a site were made, and a census taken, but most of the time at the meeting was spent in local bickerings between the two groups. The Department wrote in August asking why nothing had been done, but no action was taken by the Board. Elections for the second board were held in March of the following year, but so little interest was shown that only three candidates offered themselves. A census was again taken in June, showing that 240 children were in need of accommodation, and the Department informed the Board that they required a school of this size to be built with "all due dispatch".

After much delay a site was finally purchased in February 1880, and plans were submitted in March. In December bye laws were approved, and in the following February building of the Croxdale Board School for 240 began, at a cost of £1,990, borrowed from the P.W.L.C. The fees were 3d. a week for infants, 4d. a week for Standards I and II, and 5d. a week for those above. Eight dozen bibles were ordered, and the school opened in November 1881 under a Headmaster at a salary of £100 p.a., together with an assistant mistress. Two further teachers and

a school attendance officer were appointed soon afterwards. The Board insisted that each teacher provide his own leather tawse, the only instrument approved for corporal punishment. There is much unconscious humour provided in the Board's minutes at this time, e.g. on 6 June 1883 it was "Resolved that the Clerk order one Stone Carbolic Disinfecting Powder to be sent to Mrs. White the caretaker with instructions to throw one or two handfuls into the Urinals and W.C's once or twice a week, also to be careful of it," and later "Mrs. Bell and her son attended and the Boy said he was sorry for throwing the inkwell at Mr. Wightman and promised to behave better in future. Resolved that the salary of Mr. Wightman as Head Master be, and the same is hereby increased to one hundred and thirty pounds per annum". In 1885 the teacher:pupil ratio was 1:51, the cost of education per child was £1.9 p.a., the ratio of government grant:fees:rates approximately 3:2:5, and the rates 7.25d.⁽¹⁾

In 1889 the annual grant was suspended until such time as the school was rendered "less draughty and uncomfortable".⁽²⁾ These defects were rapidly remedied, and the slow improvement continued until the end of the period. The fee grant was accepted and all fees abolished, pianos were obtained, glazed partitions installed and the playground asphalted. In 1901 a drill instructor was appointed, and in December 1902 plans were

(1) See pp40-2.

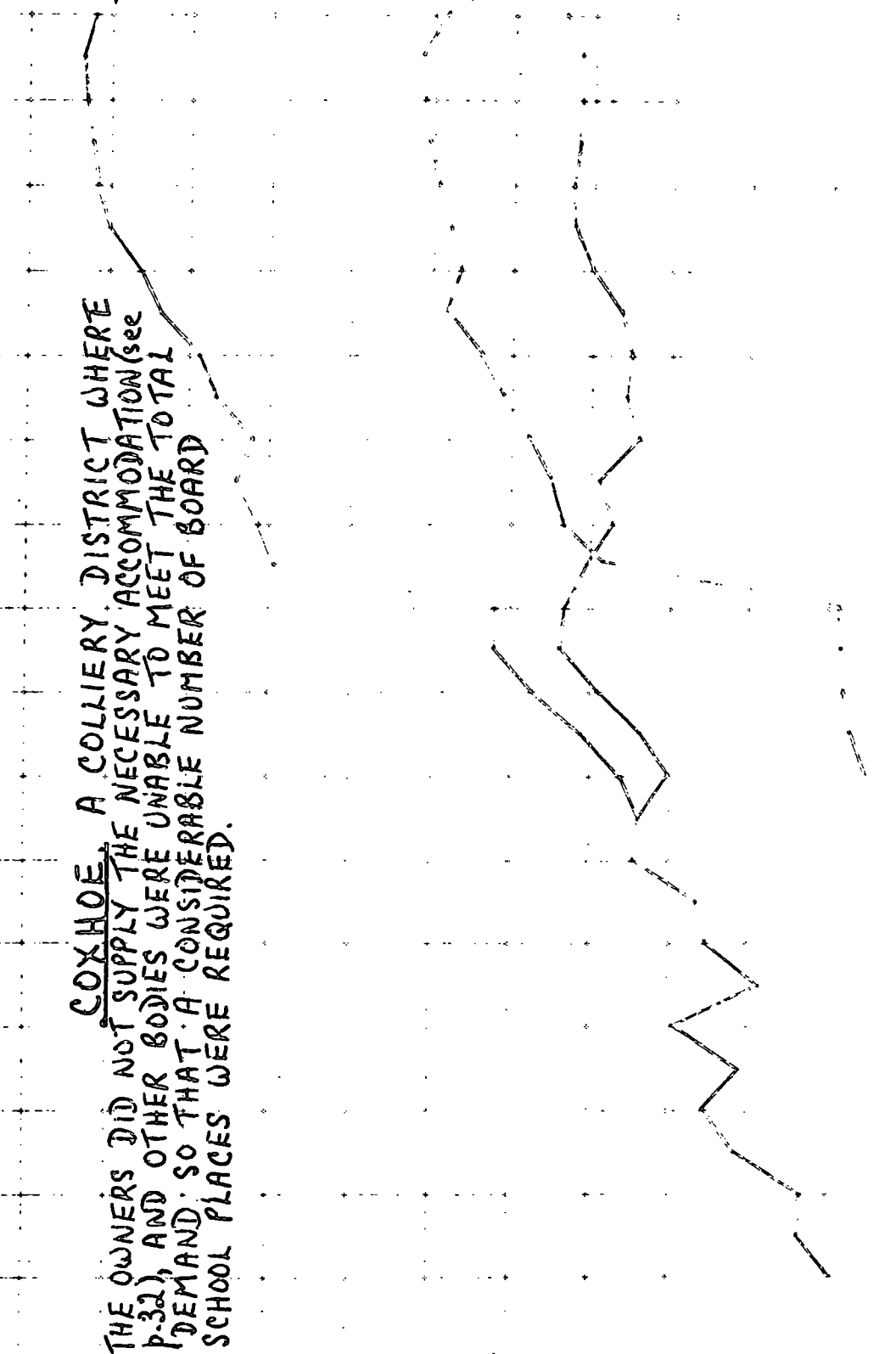
(2) See p. 37.

Total Attendance

Board school attendance

Voluntary school attendance

COXHOE, A COLLIERY DISTRICT WHERE THE OWNERS DID NOT SUPPLY THE NECESSARY ACCOMMODATION (see p.32), AND OTHER BODIES WERE UNABLE TO MEET THE TOTAL DEMAND: SO THAT A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF BOARD SCHOOL PLACES WERE REQUIRED.



1900 1901 1902 1903 1904 1905 1906 1907 1908 1909 1910 1911 1912 1913 1914 1915 1916 1917 1918 1919 1920 1921 1922 1923 1924 1925 1926 1927 1928 1929 1930 1931 1932 1933 1934 1935 1936 1937 1938 1939 1940 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949 1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956 1957 1958 1959 1960 1961 1962

being prepared for an enlargement of the school.

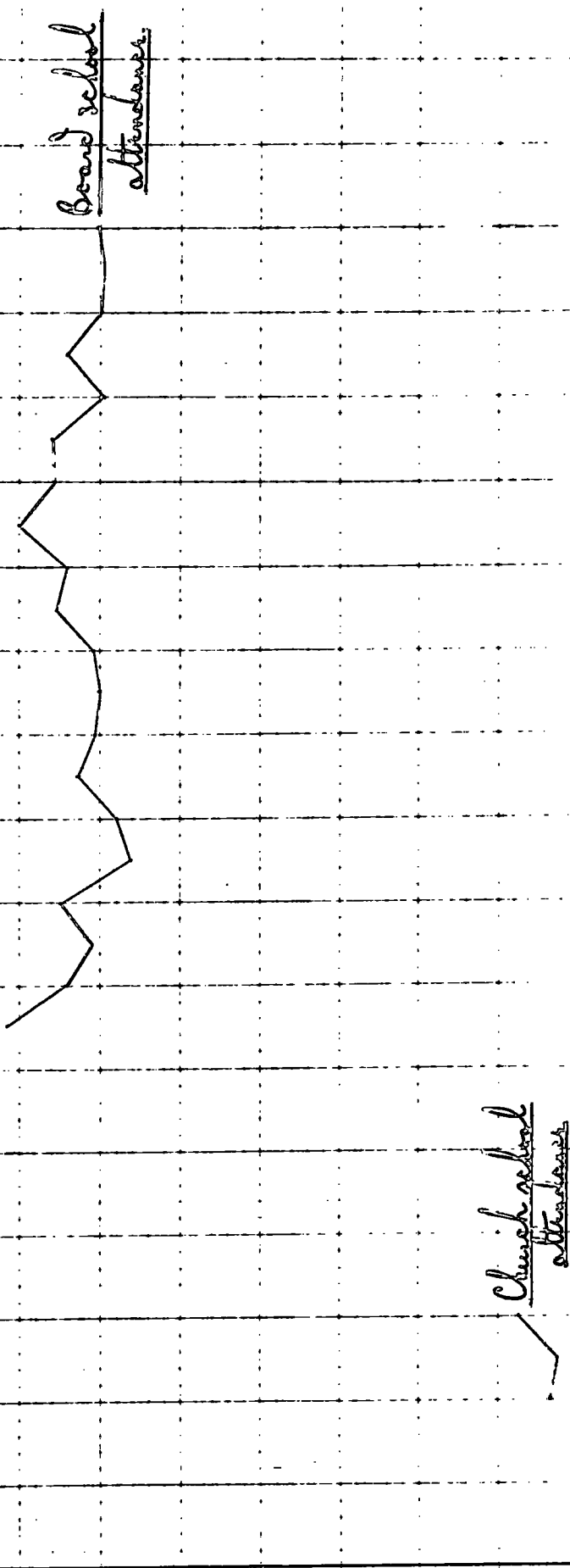
The total population in 1901 was 1,771. In 1902 the teacher: pupil ratio had been reduced to 1:40, the cost of education per child had risen to £3.4 p.a., the ratio of government grant:rates was 1:1.8, and the rates 11d. Of the £1,990 borrowed, £318 was still outstanding.⁽¹⁾

The 1902 provision was:

No. 57. Croxdale Board School. 240.

(1) See pp.40-3.

CROSDALE, NOT A COLLIERY DISTRICT (see p 32) AND RELIGIOUS BODIES WERE NOT STRONGLY SUPPORTED. A BOARD SCHOOL WAS NEEDED TO PROVIDE ALL THE ACCOMMODATION.



Church school attendance

Board school attendance

1870 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 1900 01 02

DURHAM CITY

The 1870 provision was:

| | |
|--|--------------|
| No. 6. Blue Coat National School | 684. |
| No. 7. Boys' Model School | 140. |
| No. 8. Girls' and Infants' Practising School | 263. |
| No. 9. St. Cuthbert's R.C. School | 341. |
| No. 10. St. Godric's R.C. School | 268. |
| No. 11. St. Margaret's Parochial School | 310. |
| No. 12. St. Oswald's National School | 480. |
| No. 13. Wesleyan School | <u>139.</u> |
| | <u>2625.</u> |

Following the passing of the 1870 Act, returns were prepared and forwarded by the council before the end of the year. A special meeting of the council took place in January 1871 to discuss these returns, which showed that although the provision of education was more than adequate, ⁽¹⁾ i.e. 2,625 places, the number of children attending was only 1,250. It was accordingly proposed that application be made to the Department to direct the formation of a school board, under Sec. 12, as only in this way could compulsory education be introduced. The ensuing debate showed how divided were the ratepayers on this question of compulsory education. The following extracts from the main speakers tell their own story. Caution, humanitarianism, parsimony, snobbery, reaction, even idealism, all play their part.

(1) See p. 5.

The Mayor, Mr. Watson, was opposed to compulsory education.

"This is a very nice and delicate question of imposing a penalty on a parent where, in cases very frequent, the wages earned, or the household services rendered by a child or children under thirteen are actually necessary to prevent a hard-working father from becoming a pauper, or being reduced to the level of one; or it may be to supply a refractory child with a rod to punish his parents, and expose them to fine and imprisonment, and shorten the supply of the necessaries of life to the members of the family."⁽¹⁾

He continued by stressing the expense involved in erecting and running new schools, and pointed out that for a school of 1,000 a rate of $4\frac{3}{4}$ d. would be needed, and concluded

"I think better of my native town than that it require compulsory education. Many large towns may require it; but we don't abound with street Arabs, at which the compulsory clauses aim. On the contrary, I feel most firmly convinced it will be a heavy burden to ratepayers, with a most minute benefit to the objects intended, and a tyrannous scrouge of the labouring poor."

Councillor Hutton spoke eloquently in its favour.

"The question as to the best means of educating the poor and those unfortunate creatures who seem to be almost lost to society, has been session after session before Parliament, almost from our childhood, and they have been puzzled in their efforts to produce something calculated to meet the requirements of all denominations of Christians. Now during the last session of Parliament, we find that both Whigs and Tories agreed to support the principle of compulsory education. We ought to be glad that such a measure has been passed, because it has been passed in such a form as to satisfy every denomination If the Act was carried out much of the idleness, profligacy, vagrancy and crime would cease to exist. We should certainly have fewer people brought into prison. I do not mean that education would entirely take away vice, crime and pauperism, but I do say that a considerable portion of the money spent in supporting prisons and the like would be spent in educating children, many of whom under the present system

(1) This, and following quotations from the council debate, are taken from the Durham County Advertizer of 20 January 1871.

become a disgrace to society, and qualifying them for happiness and usefulness. It is our duty to see that the children alluded to are sufficiently informed to enable them in after life to improve themselves as much as they like in liberal education."

Councillor Blackett agreed with the Mayor.

"The Act tells us most distinctly that a school board shall only be formed when the Education Department have published a notice that there is an insufficient amount of public school accommodation. In the absence of any communication from the Education Department it would be premature for us to force them to do that which they, I may say, in their discretion have thought very likely wise to put off. A cathedral city, boasting as it does of its charities and schools, does not need to be classed with, I may say, low and swarming populations abounding in all sorts of vice."

Other voices recommended caution. It would be best to wait and see what happens in other places, they suggested. Yet others stressed the Mayor's point of $4\frac{3}{4}$ d. on the rates. Alderman Boyd, the proposer of the motion, carried the day.

"I do not want in the slightest degree to detract from the credit due to those gentlemen who have endeavoured by voluntary efforts to increase the school accommodation in the city of Durham. On the contrary, I think every credit is due to them; but I contend that no voluntary efforts can be successful to anything like the degree of providing for the education of the children of the city. Voluntary efforts have been tried assiduously, and perhaps in no town more than this by every denomination of Christian, to educate the whole of the children and it cannot be said in Durham that it is difficult to get children educated. No voluntary system will educate the children of our town population at present. It is only by compulsory education that this can be done. It is by that means, I say, that you will be enabled to educate this great mass of children, and I contend that a saving rather than expenditure, will be effected, by educating the class who now form our great criminal and pauper population.

Why, sir, is it not a fact that already twenty two boroughs representing four millions of people, have applied for a school board? Is it not a fact that when this Act was put before the legislature, it was acknowledged by every

portion of the community, and by every political party, that some compulsory measures were needed?"

The application produced an immediate reaction. A member of the council who was absent from the meeting wrote to the Department the next day. He pointed out that had he been able to attend he would have voted against the motion, thus making the votes cast for and against Alderman Boyd's proposal equal. The Mayor would in this case have had the casting vote, and so the motion would have been defeated! A petition, a reproduction of which is shown on the following page, was despatched soon afterwards, and this was followed by another petition sixty feet long, signed by the ratepayers and presented personally, by the chapter clerk, at the Department.

But it was all in vain. Elections were held on 15 March 1871, when nine members were returned including Alderman Boyd, and the first meeting of the Board took place a fortnight later. A comprehensive census was taken during the year, the results of which were incorporated in the Inspector's report, dated 13 June 1872. The report stated that there were 2,069 children between three and thirteen for whom elementary schools should be provided, and the efficient schools in the area accommodated 2,625. The supply was therefore adequate, although it was noted that the provision for infants was not good, "but it is not so bad we can interfere".

The Board's main function during its first years of office was that of enforcing attendance. Bye laws were approved, a

full time school warden was appointed at 35s. per week, and 700 handbills were distributed in March 1873 announcing that the Board "intend at once to put the compulsory Clauses of The Education Act in force". Compulsory attendance was not rigidly enforced where it was thought that considerable hardship would result. A typical entry, dated 13 June 1873, illustrates this point.

"William Sweeting of Framwellgate applied to the Board to be allowed to have his boy for three months during the herring season to assist him instead of attending School. Agreed to on condition that an undertaking in writing be given by Sweeting to send the Boy to School for six months, in lieu of the three months, after he attains the age of thirteen."⁽¹⁾

It was found that recourse to the Magistrate's Court was necessary to enforce attendance, and the first four parents were summonsed in October, the maximum penalty being inflicted in each case.

Figures concerning attendance were submitted by the warden to the Board monthly.

| Year | Summonses under Bye-laws | Total number on roll | Daily average attendance ⁽²⁾ | Percentage attendance ⁽³⁾ |
|------|--------------------------|----------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1873 | Not given | Not given | 1020.3 | Not given |
| 1874 | 52 | 1999 | 1418.3 | 70.9 |
| 1875 | 43 | 2266 | 1786.5 | 76.8 |
| 1876 | 28 | 2185 | 1571.2 | 71.9 |
| 1877 | 8 | 2223 | 1551.32 | 69.7 |
| 1878 | 22 | 2366 | 1687.5 | 71.3 |
| 1879 | 48 | 2538 | 1804.38 | 71 |
| 1880 | 47 | 2452 | 1803.95 | 73.5 |
| 1881 | 36 | 2454 | 1851.84 | 75.4 |
| 1882 | 45 | 2490 | 1938.72 | 77.8 |
| 1883 | 29 | 2412 | 1871.54 | 77.59 |
| 1884 | 34 | 2432 | 1952 | 80.26 |

(1) E.O. 13/6/73.

(2) These were not the figures used for annual grant purposes.

(3) Calculated by considering the daily average attendance as a percentage of the total number on the roll.

The early figures for percentage attendance need to be considered with care. The total population of the borough increased by only 526 from 1871-81, (i.e. from 14,406 to 14,932), and yet the total number of children on the roll increased by 455 from 1874-81. This would tend to show that in 1874 a considerable number of children were not on a school roll, and that the percentage attendance figures were somewhat optimistic. It also seems to show that the School Board returns for the number of children requiring accommodation in the borough were inaccurate,⁽¹⁾ and that the general assessment of 1:5 would have been nearer the mark.⁽²⁾

In 1875 the supply of schools was identical to that of 1870, but in the following year a new school, St. Giles' C. of E. School for 153, became grant-aided. At the beginning of 1876 the Department wrote to the Board referring to the want of infants' accommodation, in particular in the Framwellgate district. This shortage was aggravated by the closing of an adventure school in the neighbourhood, and after lengthy enquiries the Board agreed a school was necessary. A site was purchased in 1877, plans approved, and the Framwellgate Infant Board School for 183 opened with one mistress in March 1879, at a cost of £2,873, borrowed from the P.W.L.C. Bible reading was included in the course of instruction. When a female school attendant

(1) See p.25.
(2) See p. 5.

was appointed at £6 p.a. the Board drafted an impressively detailed list of seventeen duties for her, covering two sides of foolscap. She was to wash, polish, scrub, sweep, black-lead, clean, light fires, lock and unlock, turn on and turn off, etc. She wrote to the Board. "After receiving the abstract of the Rules for the School Keeper, I find the duties required of me are more numerous than I expected when appointed."⁽¹⁾ Her salary was raised to £8 p.a.

A lengthy dispute was in progress at this time concerning the provision of another infant school, at Gilesgate. The affair started in 1877 and continued for some six years. In June 1877 Rev. Norton, Vicar of St. Giles', informed the Department that the infant department of the St. Giles' School was to be closed later in the year, as it was found to interfere with the work of the rest of the school. The Department enquired from the Board what steps were going to be taken concerning this. A census of the children between five and thirteen in the Gilesgate district was taken, and a copy submitted to the Department, it being pointed out that the accommodation for infants was in excess of the requirements, even without St. Giles'. The Department replied that they wished to know also the number of children between three and five, stating that it was the "invariable practice of this Department, in estimating the amount of accommodation required, to take into account all children between the

(1) E.O. March/79.

ages of three and thirteen."⁽¹⁾ This information was provided, and the Board were informed in December that it would appear there was a deficiency of 120 and "my Lords would be glad to learn that your Board are in negotiation for a suitable site". The Board argued that by law they "had no jurisdiction over children between the ages of three and five, did not possess any legal powers to appropriate the Ratepayers' money providing School accommodation for Children between such ages, and that the invariable practice of the Department would be no justification for such an expenditure."⁽²⁾ The Department replied unequivocally in February 1878. "It is the duty of a School Board to see that sufficient accommodation is provided not merely for such children as may legally be compelled to attend school, but for all children resident in their district for whose elementary education efficient and suitable provision is not otherwise made (see Secs. 5 and 6, Elementary Education Act 1870)."⁽³⁾

The Board responded by stating that very few children under five attended school in Durham, and then turned their attention to Rev. Norton. In March they asked him to build an infant department, only to be informed that this was economically

(1) E.O. 6/10/77.

(2) E.O. 30/1/78.

(3) E.O. 4/2/78. In this case the children not "legally compelled to attend school" referred to those beneath the minimum age laid down by the bye-laws, but the phrase equally applied to those above the maximum laid down by the bye-laws. Bearing in mind the vague definition of "elementary" education in the 1870 Act, the Department's letter could be interpreted as stating that it was a duty of boards to provide "higher grade" schooling.

impossible. They then enquired if the school could be transferred to the Board. Rev. Norton replied

"It is true that the School, like other new Schools, has had an up-hill battle to fight during the few years it has been open. It has had to contend against the ignorance, irregular attendance, and inability to pay fees, of a very poor and long neglected set of children, in times especially bad, when voluntary subscriptions were as hard to get as fees. Still the School has been doing a great work the Trustees have no thought of giving it up."(1)

He concluded by saying the Trustees would like to help, and were willing to sell a suitable site to the Board. Here the matter rested for a while, although the school warden on two occasions stressed the continuing lack of infants' accommodation in St. Giles.

During this time the Department were considering the advisability of issuing a requisition, as the following minute in the Department's files shows

"Requisition under Sec. 18, 1870. The difficulty of the measure depends on the fact that the Board cannot enforce attendance on children between three and five years of age. Are you satisfied that if a good infant School for 120 were opened in the locality it would be well attended - or should the School be limited to a smaller number? It would never do to require the Board to build a School which was likely to remain half empty."(2)

In June 1880 and again three months later, the Department wrote to the Board drawing attention to the lack of accommodation. The Board continued to quibble, however, and maintained that there were no "reasonable grounds" for refusing admission to infants at St. Giles', and referred the Department to the

(1) M.E. Ed. 16/61, 25/4/78.

(2) M.E. Ed. 16/61, 16/2/80.

Code of 1876, Chapter 2, Annual Grants - Part I. Article 17 of this stated that before any grant was made to a school the Department had to be satisfied that "no child is refused admission to the school on other than reasonable grounds." The Department replied that it had no power to dictate to the managers of a voluntary school what class of children they must provide accommodation for, pointing out that it would be equally reasonable to assert that Article 17 was violated if the managers of a boys School declined to admit girls. This correspondence decided the Department. Cumin, then assistant Secretary, stated his opinion in a minute to the Secretary. "The School Board of Durham ought to provide an infant school for at least 70. This we have tried to get for years and failed to do so. I think I would advise a Requisition but it is a serious case and requires the decision of the Head of the Department."⁽¹⁾ Sir Francis Sandford gave his permission, and at the beginning of February 1881 the Board were informed that unless they took "immediate steps for making this provision Their Lordships will be compelled to issue a requisition"⁽²⁾

Still the controversy was not ended, although the Board accepted the inevitable and began to look for suitable sites, the whole area being a difficult one for building purposes owing

(1) M.E. Ed. 16/61, 17/1/81.

(2) E.O. 4/2/81. A school board could be declared in default for failing to supply such additional accommodation as was required in a requisition, see Elementary Education Act, 1870, Sec. 18. See also p.38.

to mining subsidence. They were, of course, predisposed against the one offered by Rev. Norton, and selected one close by called the 'Young Street' site. Plans of this were submitted in November. The Department replied that an H.M.I., Mr. Bernays, had visited the site and considered the one offered by Rev. Norton as "much superior". To this the Board responded rather heatedly that local qualified opinion had pronounced the 'Young Street' site as safe to build on, and "no weight can be attached to the hasty judgement given by Mr. Bernays. He has no knowledge whatever of local workings, and their effects, and so far as appears took no pains to inform himself". The Department's attitude was summarized in a minute by an official of the legal section of the Department in March 1882. "I do not think we can object to the Board's site on any other grounds than those of danger from subsidence. The advantages, if any, in respect of Mr. Norton's site do not appear to me so pronounced as to justify our over-riding the express wishes of the Board."⁽¹⁾

An Inspector of Mines from the Home Office was asked to report upon the site, and he stated clearly that it was perfectly safe to build on the 'Young Street' site, so permission to build there was granted immediately. It was not until a year later, after the Department had written enquiring about the delay, that the Board began to prepare plans. The original tender accepted by the Board was for £1,470, which amounted to £11.15s. per child accommodated. The Department refused to sanction this

(1) M.E. Ed. 16/61, 3/3/82.

and stated that £10 per child was the usual amount. The Gilesgate Infant Board School for 123 was finally opened with one mistress in February 1885, at a cost of £1,259, borrowed from the P.W.L.C. The teacher:pupil ratio at this time in the Board's school was 1:76.

The local records covering the period 1885-96 are not available, and the Ministry files are silent over this period, which would imply that nothing of moment occurred. By 1896 both Board schools had been improved and enlarged, i.e. Framwellgate to 195, Gilesgate to 174, as had several of the voluntary schools, although the Wesleyan school was shut in January 1894 owing to "considerable financial difficulty".⁽¹⁾ The attendance figures were appreciably higher.

| Year | Summonses under Bye-laws | Total number on roll | Daily average attendance | Percentage attendance |
|------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1896 | 13 | 2997 | 2631 | 87 |
| 1897 | 6 | 2995 | 2609 | 87 |
| 1898 | 2 | 2897 | 2568 | 88 |
| 1899 | 6 | 2982 | 2632 | 88 |
| 1900 | 24 | 2975 | 2438 | 82 |
| 1901 | 20 | 2952 | 2438 | 83 |
| 1902 | 40 | 3046 | 2566 | 84 |

These figures underline the unreliability of the percentage attendance values for earlier years already referred to. The population was 14,679 in 1901, i.e. 253 less than in 1881, and yet

(1) In his evidence before the Cross Commission (see p. 3) the Headmaster of the Blue Coat National School had said: "I believe that people are beginning to think twice upon this subject; some of them do not seem to care about paying rates on account of education and also subscribing to schools." Question 25, 528. See also p. 18.

the total number on the rolls had increased by 592. The Department's ratio of 1:5 was close to the mark here. The later figures compare quite favourably with present day attendance percentages for the City, which fluctuate around the ninety per cent mark.

By 1902 the staff ratio in the Board's schools had been decreased to 1:36. Throughout its existence the rate had been of the order of 3d., and of the total of £4,132 borrowed, £2,888 was still outstanding.

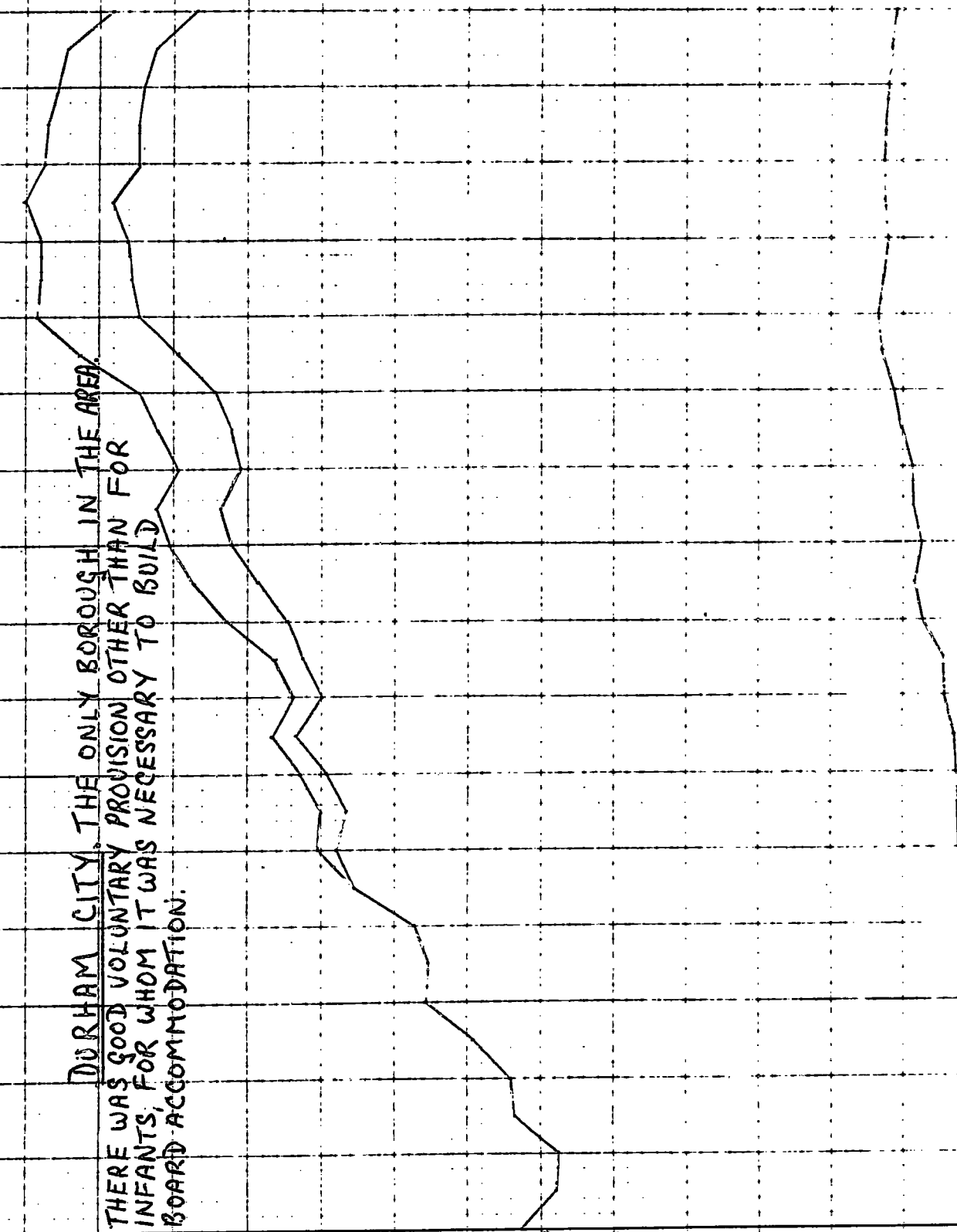
The 1902 provision was:

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Blue Coat National School | 809 |
| Boys' Model School | 216 |
| Girls' and Infants' Practising School | 380 |
| St. Cuthbert's R.C. School | 336 |
| St. Godric's R.C. School | 530 |
| St. Margaret's Parochial School | 484 |
| St. Oswald's National School | 568 |
| No. 58. St. Giles' C. of E. School | 202 |
| No. 59. Framwellgate Infant Board School | 195 |
| No. 60. Gilesgate Infant Board School | <u>174</u> |
| | <u>3894</u> |

DURHAM CITY, THE ONLY BOROUGH IN THE AREA,
 THERE WAS GOOD VOLUNTARY PROVISION OTHER THAN FOR
 INFANTS, FOR WHOM IT WAS NECESSARY TO BUILD
 BOARD ACCOMMODATION.

Total attendance
 Voluntary school
 attendance

Board school
 attendance



1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021

ESH

The township covered a large area, and in the early seventies was being rapidly developed as a mining district. The resulting influx (the population more than doubled in ten years) together with the requirements of the 1870 Act, confronted the voluntary bodies with a huge task.

The Inspector's report, dated 21 June 1872, stated that the population was 2,700, of whom 2,296 were of the class requiring elementary education. The number of children to be accommodated was considerably in excess of the normal ratio of 1:5 of the labouring population, being in fact 554. They were distributed as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| Esh Village and Hill Top | 144 |
| Quebec and Hamsteels Colliery | 184 |
| Cornsay Colliery | 25 |
| Esh Winning | <u>201</u> |
| | <u>554</u> |

The efficient schools in the area were Esh C. of E. for 72, Esh St. Michael's R.C. for 128, Quebec C. of E. for 144 and Newhouse St. Mary's R.C. (situated between and available for both the Esh Winning and Hamsteels and Quebec children) for 158, a total of 502. Although these schools were regarded as supplying "suitable" education⁽¹⁾ they were not grant-aided, and in consequence their attendance does not appear on the accompanying graph until

(1) See p.5.

they were placed on the annual grant list. This was in the following years:

Late 1872, Quebec C. of E.

1873, Esh C. of E., Newhouse St. Mary's.

1881, Esh St. Michael's. This was the last efficient non grant-aided school in the Durham area.⁽¹⁾ All efficient provision after 1881 in the area was by "public" elementary schools.

By the time the first notice, dated 9 October 1873, was issued the number of children to be accommodated had risen to 986. New premises for the Quebec school, renamed Hamsteels St. John Baptist School, were being built for 263; Esh (Crook) British School had been built for 240 and was in course of being enlarged to 299 at Esh Winning; and Cornsay St. Charles' R.C. School was also in the process of construction. This latter school, although outside the district, would provide accommodation for the twenty five children who lived in Esh, on the boundary with Cornsay. The rapid growth in Ushaw Moor Colliery meant that 100 children needed places there, and it was planned to build Ushaw Moor St. Joseph's R.C. School for them. The 1875 provision

| | | | |
|------|---------|--|--------------------|
| was: | No. 37. | Esh (Crook) British School | 299 |
| | No. 38. | Esh C. of E. School | 72 |
| | No. 39. | Newhouse St. Mary's R.C. School | 158 |
| | No. 40. | Hamsteels St. John Baptist C.of E.School | 263 ⁽²⁾ |
| | No. 41. | Ushaw Moor St. Joseph's R.C. School | <u>140</u> |
| | | | <u>932</u> |

(1) See p. 34.

(2) 50 places here were reserved for children from the adjoining township of Lanchester

This, together with the twenty five places at Cornsay and the 128 at Esh St. Michael's, made a total of 1,035, and so the demand was met.

But a final straw was added that almost broke the camel's back. Langley Park Colliery was greatly expanded in 1875. Although this was outside the district a considerable number of the miners came to live in Esh, which in consequence was responsible for providing education for their children, 150 in number. The religious voluntary resources had been well-nigh exhausted and the colliery owners, Consett Iron Co. Ltd., had stated in March 1876 that they did not contemplate provision for these children.⁽¹⁾ A final notice, dated 1 May 1876, required a school for the children to be built. H.M.I. Oakeley wrote to the Department before the final notice was issued.

"It will be rather hard on the rest of the Township, which has done so much voluntarily. The only chance of avoiding a Board will be if the wrath certainly stirred up against the Consett Company throughout the Township when the Final Notice is received has the effect of inducing the colliery to build a school notwithstanding what they say."

This did not prove to be the case. A last effort was made, and in January 1877 the plans for Langley Park Colliery C. of E. School were submitted to the Department, the school for 187 opening fourteen months later. Bye laws were made by the Lanchester Union on 21 September 1880. The fluctuations in the attendance graph between 1878 and 1882 were due mainly to labour

(1) This agreed with the owners' general policy, as in this case they would not be liable to rating by a school board formed in Esh.

troubles at Ushaw Moor Colliery, at which there was an unusually high proportion of Irish Catholic pitmen. The school was closed in January 1882 for several months and used as a hostel to house the women and children of the miners who had been evicted from their homes. (1)

The accommodation was enlarged steadily in the following years to cater for the continuously increasing population. In 1899 the Ushaw Moor school was closed and replaced by a larger new school for 405 in 1900, built by Messrs. Pease and Partners Ltd., the owners of the colliery. The population in 1901 was 7,830.

The provision in 1902 was:

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Esh British School | 510. |
| Esh C. of E. School | 52. |
| Newhouse St. Mary's R.C. School | 159. |
| Hamsteels St. John Baptist C. of E. School | 330. |
| No. 61. Langley Park Colliery C. of E. School | 409. |
| No. 62. Esh St. Michael's R.C. School | 294. |
| No. 63. Ushaw Moor British School | <u>405.</u> |
| | <u>2159.</u> |

(1) See Welbourne, *The Miners' Unions of Northumberland and Durham*, 1923, pp.214-220.



FRAMWELLGATE MOOR

This parish was originally known as the extra municipal part of the township of Framwellgate. The Inspector's report, dated 15 June 1872 stated that the population was 2,355, of whom 2,120 were of the class requiring elementary education. On the ratio of 1:5 this meant that accommodation was required for 424. There was no efficient school, the Framwellgate Moor National School for 90 children being described as "a wretched place in bad repair, badly drained, moderately lighted and with no separate offices. It is not capable of enlargement." It became extinct soon afterwards.

Accordingly the first notice, dated 18 July 1873, required a school for 424 to be built. The local vicar, Rev. Ridley, made efforts to meet the requirements of this order, but there was no support for the voluntary school either from religious bodies or the local mine owners, and the final notice, dated 16 September 1874, reiterated the demand.

Elections were held on 11 May 1875, five members being elected including Rev. Ridley, and the first meeting took place a fortnight later. The Board began by asking for permission to take over the National School. This suggestion was vetoed by the Department, and so a site was purchased, and plans submitted in September 1875. Bye laws were approved in January 1876 and building began soon afterwards. The Board appointed a single man, Mr. Hamer, as Headmaster at a salary of £120 p.a. plus half

the government grant, together with an assistant mistress, and Framwellgate Board School for 420 opened in February 1877 at a total cost of £3,724 borrowed from the P.W.L.C. The fees were 2d. for children under seven, and 4d. for those above. A young assistant mistress, Miss Matthews, joined the staff soon afterwards, a further appointment being made when a man who lived in a house nearby was paid 4d. per week to ring the bell daily before school. The teacher:pupil ratio at this time was 1:77, the cost of education per child £1.8 p.a., the ratio of government grant:fees:rates 2:3:10, and the rates 7.5d.⁽¹⁾

The services of a school warden were procured at the rate of nine shillings for three days a week, and a night school was started but closed almost immediately owing to lack of support. In December 1879 the following terse statement appeared in the Board's minutes. "Resolved that the Clerk be instructed to give notice to Mr. John Hamer and Miss Elsie Matthews to terminate their engagement with the Board." Whatever the nature of their infringement (no disciplinary action was taken) the Board were determined that neither their Victorian consciences nor the annual grant were further to be disturbed, and the replacements were a married couple at a fixed joint salary of £200 p.a.

Three years later prizes were introduced for attendance. The scholar in each standard with the best attendance received a book. This obviously unsatisfactory arrangement was changed

(1) See p. 40-2.

shortly afterwards when a prize was awarded to each scholar who had made 400 or more attendances during the year. Throughout this period and for many years to come the parents of children whose attendance was unsatisfactory were interviewed individually by the Board. There were often as many as ten cases per month dealt with, although the number slowly decreased. In only a few isolated instances were summonses taken out against the offenders, but many fees were remitted, particularly so when the miners at the local colliery were on strike. In 1883 a new Headmaster, Mr. Ashcroft, was appointed, who stayed at the school for the next twenty years and built up one of the best Board schools in the Durham district. The annual reports on the school from this date were very good, and in 1895, the first year in which the abandonment of the system of annual inspection was introduced,⁽¹⁾ the school was exempted. Additional staff were appointed in 1885, the teacher:pupil ratio being reduced to 1:48.

In the same year, after promptings by the Department, an old schoolroom was reopened in the small village of Brasside, nearly three miles from Framwellgate. The school catered for the forty or so children in the vicinity, and cost the Board forty four pounds to renovate. Six years later another classroom was added by the conversion of the cottage next door at a further cost of fifty eight pounds. Mr. Bowerbank, as mentioned in the Cassop account,⁽²⁾ was appointed master. He died four

(1) See p.36.

(2) See p.64.

years later, to be succeeded by a steady procession of teachers none of whom stayed longer than eighteen months.⁽¹⁾ Their attitude can readily be understood when one realises that they had no help other than a sewing mistress, and that on more than one occasion the school was closed for the day "to enable workmen to execute repairs to prevent smoke from percolating through the walls from the adjoining house." Indeed the other thirty cottages in the 'Long Row', as it was known, were pulled down in 1894 owing to their wretched state, but Brasside Board School remained. The following description of a school in the North East did not apply to Brasside, but might well have done so.

"I spent an afternoon in a village school. The number present was 44; 35 of these were spread over the first five standards, and 9 infants were in two groups. Thus the master, a man of sixty years, had seven classes to teach. And he had no help whatever, except for the needlework. I sat in the school and watched him with deep interest. Seven classes were to be kept going. How would it be done? First, the two groups of infants were set to copy some letters that had been put on the blackboard; then the I. was set to transcription; IV. and V. worked sums from their arithmetic; and the master gave the object-lesson for the day to II. and III. combined. This lesson was remarkable; it was broken in so many pieces. A boy would stand up in IV. or V. and say, 'Please, Sir!' The master would turn from his class, ask the interrupter for his difficulty, give him a hint, or step to his side, and, quick returning, pick up the thread of the broken lesson as best he might. Or with a side glance he would observe a boy or girl apparently stuck in a sum; and 'Are you fast? Tell me if you are fast', was thrown encouragingly again and again to the group at arithmetic. Two or three excursions to the infants, a hasty inspection, from his place, of the I. transcription, an order to clean slates and refill them; such breaks were constantly recurring; yet on through it all went the object-lesson."⁽²⁾

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- (1) See Lowndes, *The Silent Social Revolution*, 1937, p.23 for an account of the village teacher's life at this time.
- (2) Report of the Committee of Council on Education, 1898-9, p.282.

In 1886 water was laid on to the school at Framwellgate, and in the summer of 1892 the luxury of central heating was installed at a cost of £150. With the acceptance of the fee grant in 1891 and the consequent abolition of fees the attendance considerably increased, and further staff were appointed. A Post Office savings scheme was established in 1894, the purchase of chemical apparatus and small articles for object and occupation lessons being approved the following year. The turn of the century saw the introduction of a library, and in 1902 one of the Pupil Teachers at the school obtained a place in the first division of the London University Matriculation examination, a success which reflected very creditably on the school in general and the Headmaster in particular.

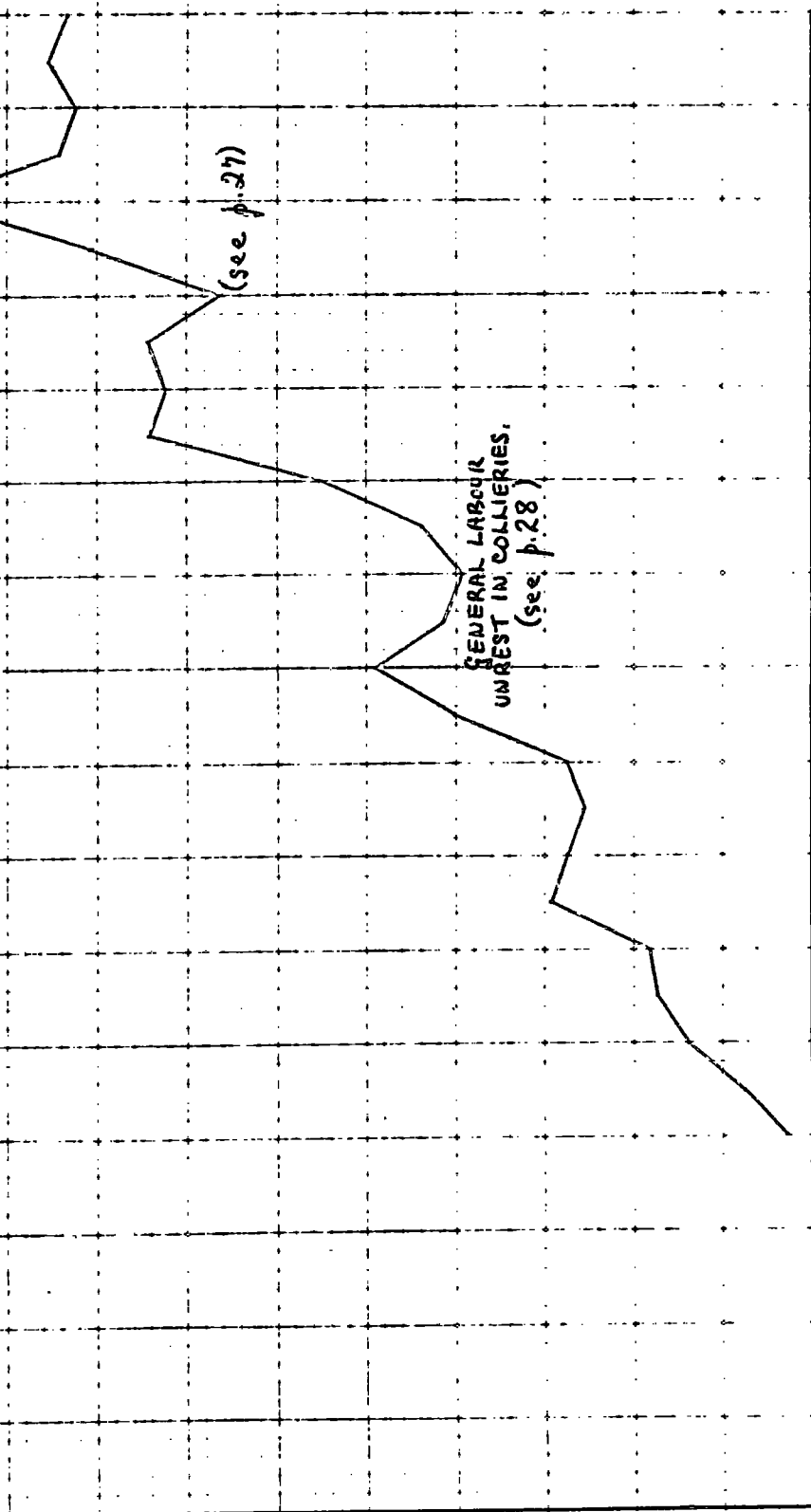
The population in 1901 was 3,159. In 1902 the teacher:pupil ratio was as low as 1:29, the cost of education per child £2.4 p.a., the ratio of government grant:rates 1:.9, and the rates 6d. Of the £3,724 borrowed, £2,557 was still outstanding. (1)

The 1902 provision was:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| No. 64. Framwellgate Board School | 420. |
| No. 65. Brasside Board School | <u>95</u> |
| | <u>515</u> |

(1) See pp.40-3.

FRAMWELL CATE MOOR. A DISTRICT WHERE THERE WAS LITTLE SUPPORT
 EITHER FROM THE OWNERS OR THE RELIGIOUS BODIES, AND SO A
 BOARD WAS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE ALL THE PLACES.



(see p. 27)

GENERAL LABOUR UNREST IN COLLIERIES. (see p. 28)

1819 '71 '72 '73 '74 '75 '76 '77 '78 '79 '80 '81 '82 '83 '84 '85 '86 '87 '88 '89 '90 '91 '92 '93 '94 '95 '96 '97 '98 '99 '00 '01

GREAT LUMLEY, LITTLE LUMLEY AND COCKEN

The 1870 provision was:

No. 14. Lumley National School 167

The Inspector's report for the township of Great Lumley stated that population was 1,818, all of whom were of the class requiring elementary education. On the ratio of 1:5 this meant that accommodation was required for 363. The population of Little Lumley was 326, of whom 54 were children requiring elementary places, and there were a further 17 children in the neighbouring small township of Cocken. The only efficient school in the area was the one named above.

The three townships were united by the Department for considerations of elementary education, and there was thus a total of 434 children to be accommodated, i.e. a deficit of 267 places. The population was so distributed that schools in Great Lumley would suffice for the whole area,⁽¹⁾ and accordingly the first notice, dated 10 September 1873, required that the mixed school be converted into a boys' school (it was so situated that it could not be enlarged) and that an additional school be erected at Great Lumley for 267 girls and infants.

The 1875 provision was still:

Lumley National School 167

Part of this requirement was on the way in 1875 when Lumley Girls' School for 163 was under construction, but the final

(1) See p.39.

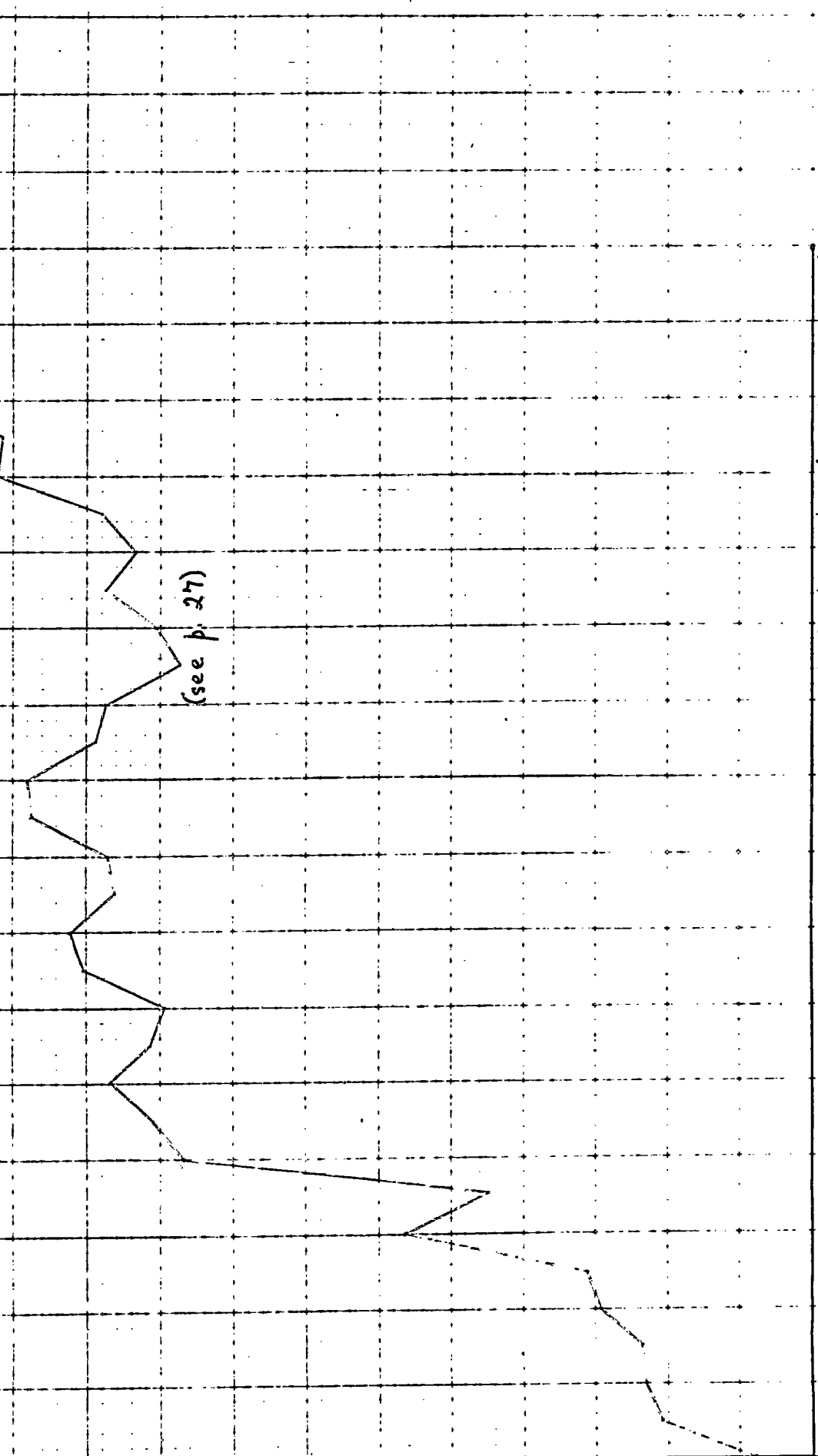
notice, dated 6 May 1875, stated that accommodation for 100 infants was still required.

The girls' school opened in the following year, and the enlargement for the infants in 1878, both largely financed by the Earl of Durham. Bye laws were made by the Chester-le-Street Union on 23 September 1880, the schools being enlarged in subsequent years. The total population in 1901 was 2,666.

The 1902 provision was:

| | |
|--|------------|
| Lumley National School | 220 |
| No. 67. Lumley Girls' and Infants' National School | <u>338</u> |
| | <u>558</u> |

GREAT LUNLEY LITTLE LUNLEY AND COCKEN. A UNITED DISTRICT WHERE THE 1870 PROVISION WAS SUPPLEMENTED BY VOLUNTARY EFFORT, AND NO BOARD WAS NECESSARY.



(see p. 27)

10100115. 28 15. 93 58 71 53 74 93 46 97 48 99 40 08 32. 22 12. 92 52 42 82 12 83 24 22 52 42 82 12 83 24 44 84 77 96 77 78 74 84 74 73 74 73 74 71 11. 02 81

HASWELL

The Inspector's report, dated 12 February 1872 stated that the population was 5,622, of whom 5,341 were of the class requiring elementary education. It was concentrated entirely at two main centres, Haswell (3,322) and South Hetton (2,300). On the ratio of 1:5 this meant that accommodation was required for 1,068, i.e. 631 at Haswell, 437 at South Hetton. There was no efficient school in the area.

The first notice, dated 16 July 1873, accordingly required a school for 630 at Haswell and for 440 at South Hetton. This considerable task was already being undertaken by the collieries, as this was entirely a mining district, and the necessary places were provided without the need for a final notice. The 1875 provision was:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| No. 42. Haswell Colliery School | 667 |
| No. 43. South Hetton Colliery School | <u>476</u> |
| | <u>1143</u> |

Bye laws were made by the Easington Union on 25 November 1880, and in the following years both schools were enlarged.

But Haswell Colliery did not prosper, and in October 1896 the secretary to the managers of the school informed the Department that the school would be closed at the end of December "as the managers are not in a position to carry it on beyond that date." The local residents formed a Voluntary Schools Committee, and several public meetings were held, but little support from

ratepayers was forthcoming. A final notice was issued requiring a school to replace the now dormant colliery school. In February 1897 the secretary of the committee informed the Department that a school board was necessary as "between 300 and 400 children are without any means of obtaining an education."

Elections were held in June, the seven members of the Board meeting for the first time on 1 July. The old colliery school was taken over at a yearly rental of £30, together with a lump sum of £140 for the furniture, an arrangement to which the Department agreed provided certain minor improvements were made. These improvements did not include installation of gas lighting or of water-closets, two ideas which the Board considered but decided would be too expensive. The Haswell Board School opened in October with a considerably reduced attendance owing to the drop in population. The teacher:pupil ratio was 1:71. In January 1898 Rev. Oldroyd, a member of the Board, reported on the religious instruction.

"I was present also during the forty minutes assigned for opening the Schools with Hymn and Prayer, to be followed by an intelligible course of Bible Teaching. This latter part I consider most unsatisfactory. There was no Bible Teaching but the whole School (i.e. the Mixed Department) was grouped together and a number of selected hymns and moral songs were the subject of collective repetition. There was no Bible Lesson given, and the whole exercise gave me the impression of lack of interest and a feeling of relief when the time arrived for marking the Registers."⁽¹⁾

The attendance steadily increased and further staff were appointed. The infants' gallery was replaced by dual desks in

(1) S.H. Haswell, January/98.

1902.

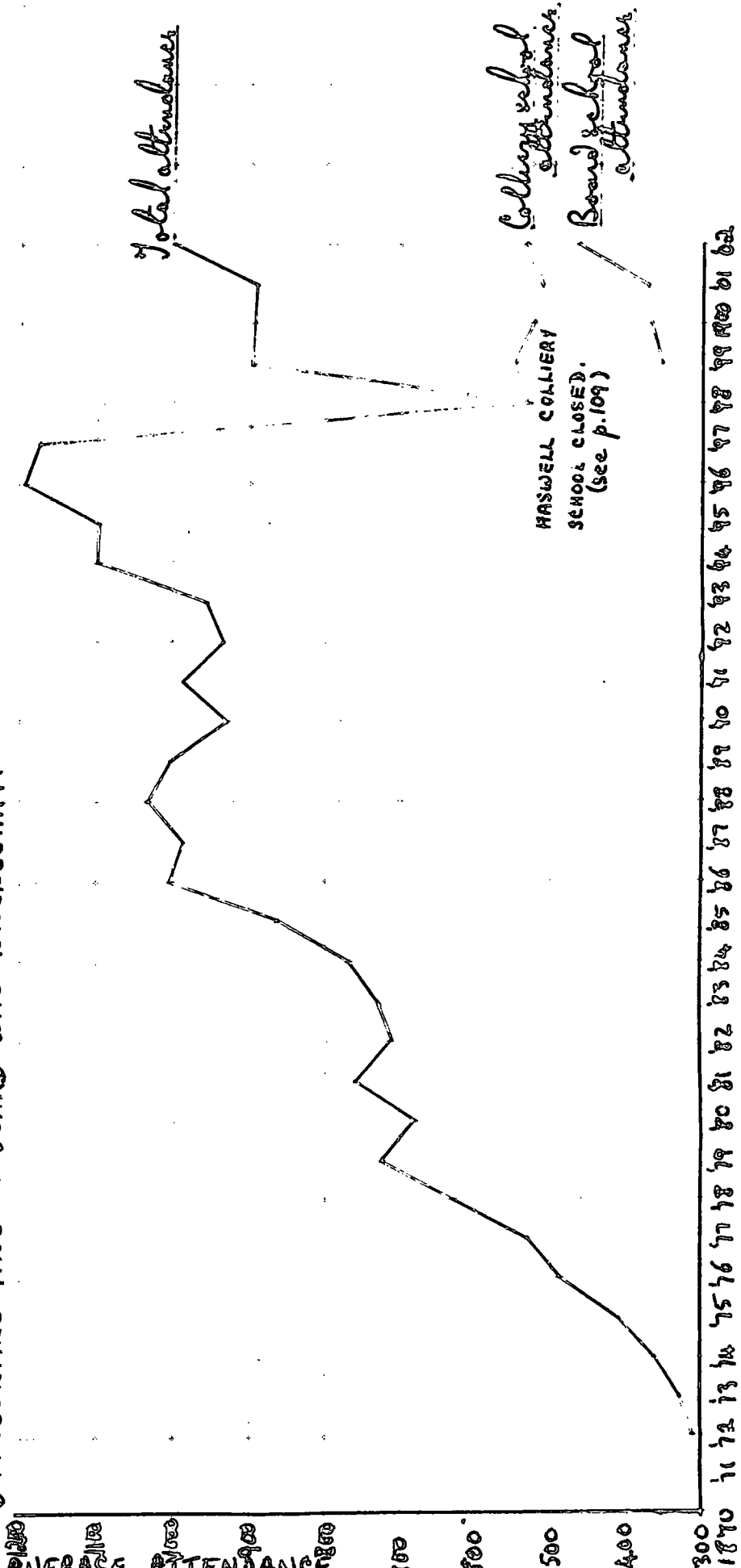
The population in 1901 was 5,512 (it had risen to 6,276 in 1891). In 1902 the teacher:pupil ratio had been reduced to 1:47, the cost of education per child was £2.5 p.a., the ratio of government grant:rates 1:.6, and the rates 5.45d. No loan had been obtained from the P.W.L.C. (1)

The 1902 provision was:

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| South Hetton Colliery School | 663. |
| Haswell Board School | <u>766.</u> |
| | <u>1429.</u> |

(1) See pp. 40-3.

HASWELL. A COLLIERY DISTRICT IN WHICH THE OWNERS SUPPLIED THE NECESSARY ACCOMMODATION, UNTIL ONE OF THE COLLIERIES ENCOUNTERED FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES AND A BOARD WAS NECESSARY.



KIMBLESWORTH

The Inspector's report, dated 12 February 1872, stated that the population was 34, of whom 30 were of the class requiring elementary education. On the ratio of 1:5 this meant that accommodation was required for only 6 children, and it was recommended that they attend the Witton Gilbert or Nettlesworth schools. A mine was opened in the district, however, and by the spring of 1876 the population had increased to 647, including 177 children between the ages of three and thirteen years. A miner at the colliery wrote to the Department in March 1876 on behalf of the inhabitants, pointing out the lack of school places,⁽¹⁾ and enquiries were started.

The first notice, dated 12 June 1876, was sent requiring a school for 150 (177 minus one eighth allowance for absence),⁽²⁾ and a final notice hard upon its heels on 28 August 1876. The Charlaw and Sacriston Collieries Company Ltd. responded to the notice, as usually happened in these small, self-contained, mining communities,⁽³⁾ and plans were submitted early in 1877. The Kimblesworth Colliery School for 205, came into operation in 1879. Bye laws were made by the Durham Union on 23 October 1880, and the school was improved and enlarged five years later.

The sudden drop in attendance in 1890 probably corresponds

(1) M.E. E11/173, 30/3/76.

(2) This was more than would have been required if the general assessment of 1:5 had been applied.

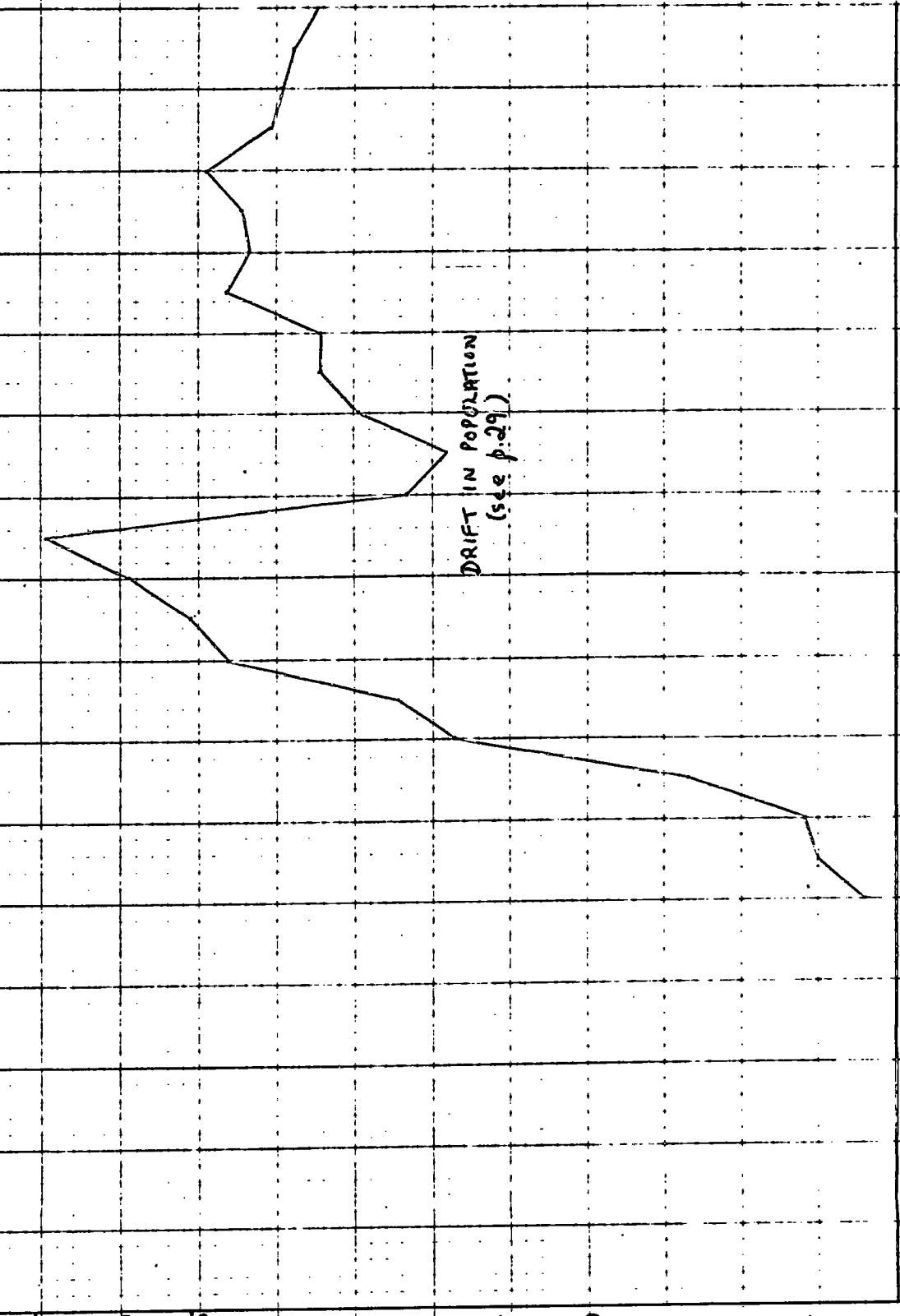
(3) See p. 32.

with a movement of population which is not shown by the decennial census figures, i.e. in 1881 it was 1,132, in 1891 it was 1,192. The 1901 figure was 1,216.

The 1902 provision was:

No. 66. Kimblesworth Colliery School 434.

KIMBLESWORTH. A COLLIERY VILLAGE FOR WHICH THE OWNERS SUPPLIED THE NECESSARY ACCOMMODATION.



DRIFT IN POPULATION
(see p. 29)

1870 '71 '72 '73 '74 '75 '76 '77 '78 '79 '80 '81 '82 '83 '84 '85 '86 '87 '88 '89 '90 '91 '92 '93 '94 '95 '96 '97 '98 '99 1900 '01 '02

LANCHESTER

The Inspector's report, dated 24 June 1872, stated that the population of this extensive township was 3,137. This was resident in four main centres, i.e. Lanchester 1,019, Holmside 1,536, Butsfield 331, Burnhope and Hamsteels 251. Of this number 2,925 were of the class requiring elementary education, and so on the ratio of 1:5 this meant that accommodation was required for 585. There were three schools in the district, one at Lanchester for 189 and two in the Holmside area for 100 and 119 respectively, but none of them were efficient.

By the time the first notice appeared, dated 21 August 1873, the old school at Lanchester, founded nearly 100 years earlier, had been made efficient and placed on the annual grant list, so the demand at one of the centres had been met. The following schools were still required however:-

- (1) For 300 at Holmside
- (2) For 60 at Butsfield
- (3) For 50 at Burnhope and Hamsteels.

(1) was partly met when the instruction at Burnhope Colliery School for 119 was made efficient, following the usual practice of owners in districts where the necessary accommodation for the non-mining areas was likely to be met by other voluntary bodies, and the school came on the annual grant list in 1874. (2) was met when the Saltley C. of E. School, outside the district, was enlarged soon afterwards. (3) was met by the new enlarged

school of Hamsteels St. John Baptist C. of E. School in the adjacent township of Esh, where a similarly vigorous effort by voluntary societies was called for.

The 1875 provision was:

| | | |
|---------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| No. 44. | Lanchester Endowed Parochial School | 189. |
| No. 45. | Burnhope Colliery School | <u>119.</u> |
| | | <u>308.</u> |

The final notice, dated 10 January 1876, required an extension of the colliery school for a further 80 pupils, together with a school for 145 near Holmside village. The colliery owners continued to play their part by enlarging their school as demanded, and also contributing towards the cost of extending and bringing up to standard the old inefficient Holmside National School.⁽¹⁾ It was enlarged to 203 places, and came on the annual grant list in 1877. Bye laws were made by the Lanchester Union on 21 September 1880, and both the Parochial and Colliery schools were considerably enlarged in subsequent years.

The population in 1901 was 4,640. Towards the end of the following year Holmside National School was closed, and replaced by a school outside the area of this survey and so the provision at the close of 1902 was:

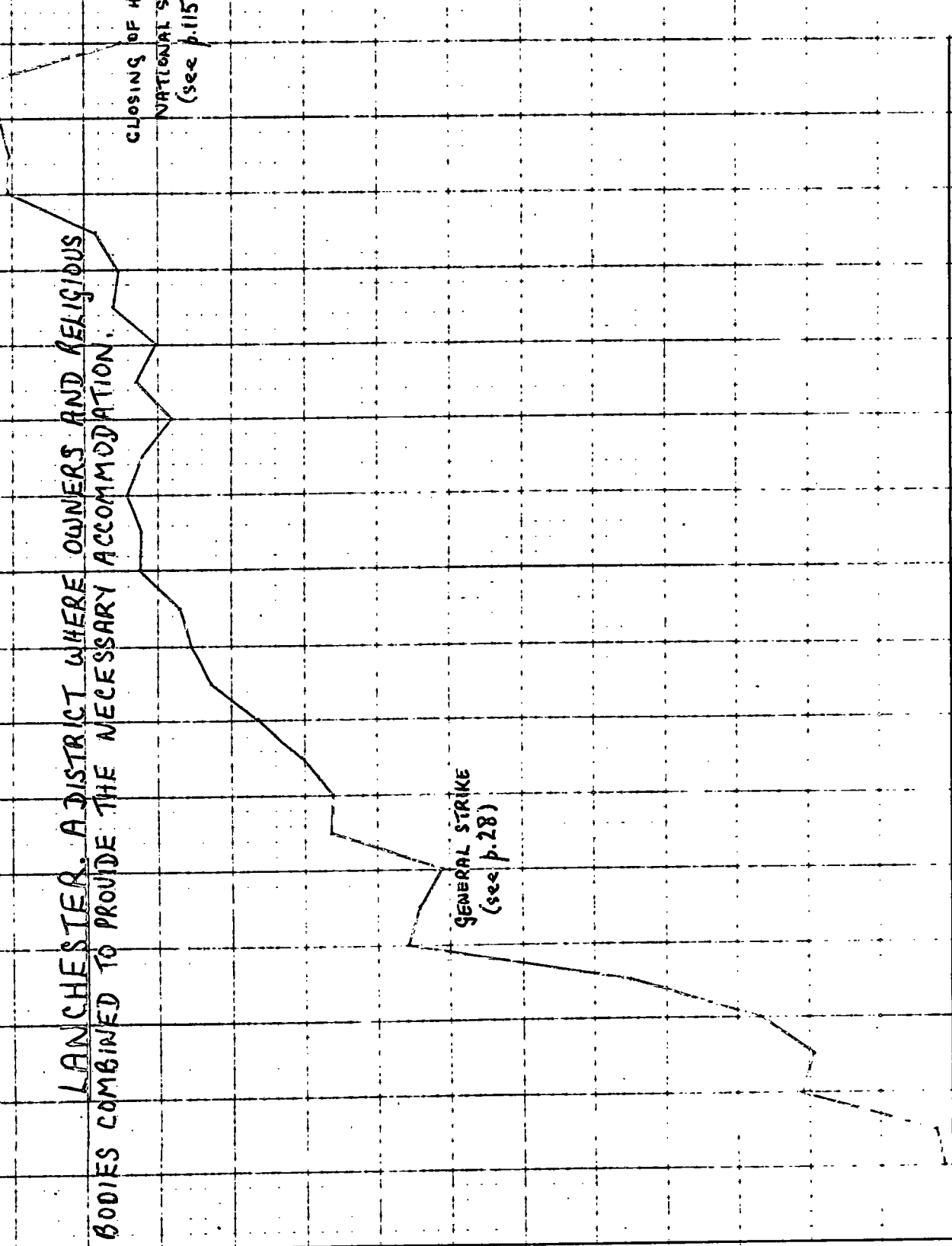
| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Lanchester Endowed Parochial School | 288. |
| Burnhope Colliery School | <u>524.</u> |
| | 812. |

(1) See p. 31.

LANCHESTER. A DISTRICT WHERE OWNERS AND RELIGIOUS BODIES COMBINED TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY ACCOMMODATION.

CLOSING OF HOLMSIDE NATIONAL SCHOOL.
(see p.115)

GENERAL STRIKE
(see p.28)



1870 1871 1872 1873 1874 1875 1876 1877 1878 1879 1880 1881 1882 1883 1884 1885 1886 1887 1888 1889 1890 1891 1892 1893 1894 1895 1896 1897 1898 1899 1900

LANGLEY

The Inspector's report, dated 17 June 1872, stated that the population was 116, of whom 21 were children requiring elementary education. There was no school in the district, and it was recommended that places should be provided in the neighbouring townships of Lanchester and Witton Gilbert. A notice was issued, dated 30 August 1873, stating that the Lanchester Endowed School and the Witton Gilbert National School would supply the necessary accommodation. (1)

Bye laws were made by the Lanchester Union on 21 September 1880. The population by 1901 was still only 291.

(1) See p.39.

MOORSLEY

The Inspector's report, dated 1 August 1871, stated that the population was 1,025, all of whom were of the class requiring elementary education. On the ratio of 1:5 this meant that accommodation was required for 205. There was no efficient school in the district, but it was noted that "the whole district belongs to the North Hetton Colliery who propose to build a school to accommodate the children" as was the normal practice in such districts. (1)

When the first notice, dated 1 August 1873, appeared, the North Hetton Colliery School for 228 was in course of being supplied, and so no final notice was required.

The 1875 provision was:

No. 46. North Hetton Colliery School 228.

Bye laws were made by the Houghton-le-Spring Union on 25 October 1880, the school being enlarged twelve years later.

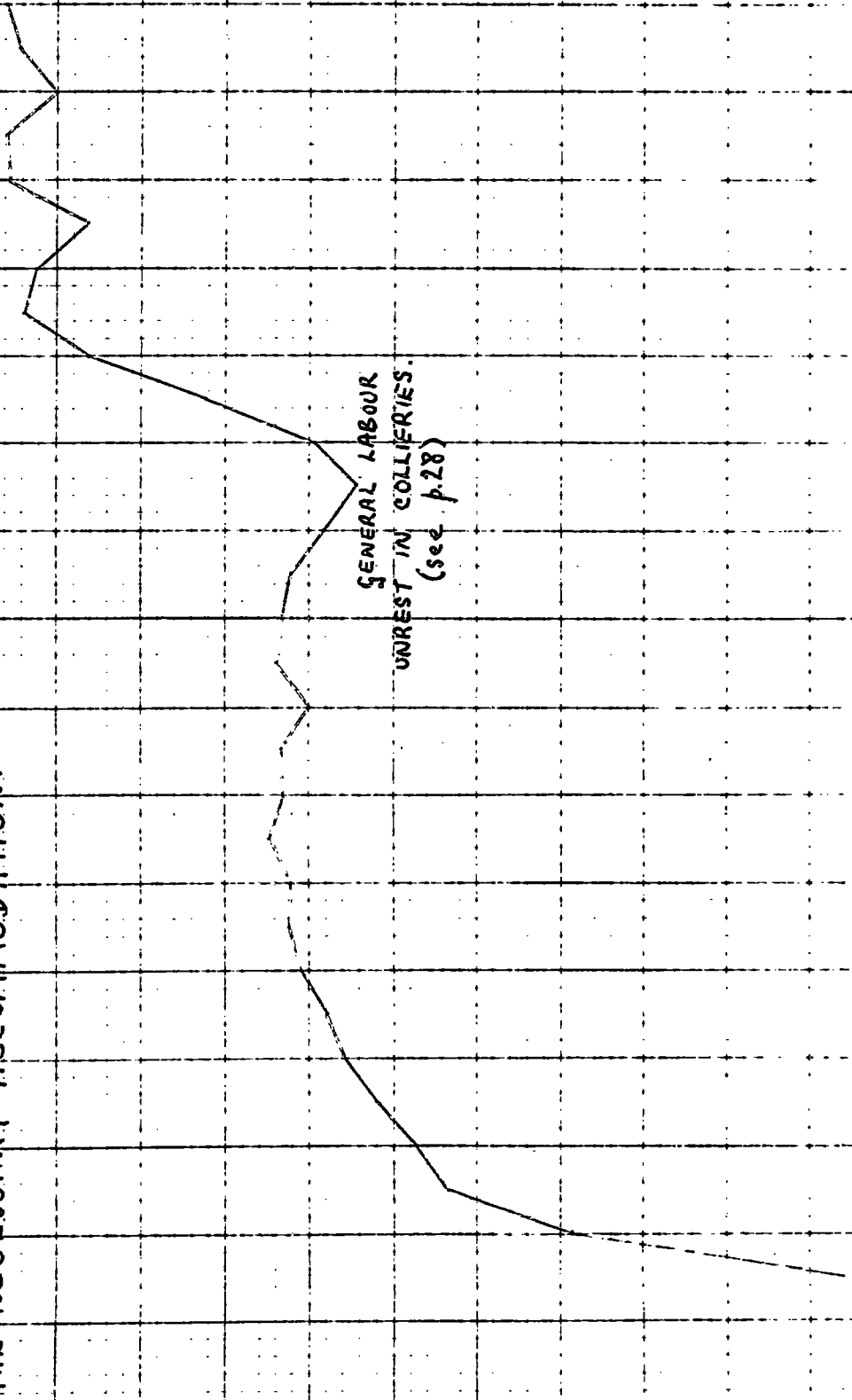
The population in 1901 was 1,033.

The 1902 provision was:

North Hetton Colliery School 372.

(1) See p. 32.

MOORSLEY, A COLLIERY VILLAGE FOR WHICH THE OWNERS PROVIDED THE NECESSARY ACCOMMODATION.



GENERAL LABOUR UNREST IN COLLIERIES. (see p. 28)

1874, 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910

PITTINGTON

The 1870 provision was:

No. 15. Pittington National School 167.

The Inspector's report, dated 22 January 1872, stated that the population was 2,106, of whom 1,916 were of the class requiring elementary education. On the ratio of 1:5 this meant that accommodation was required for 383, the only efficient school in the district being the one named above, situated at Pittington Colliery. A number of children in the area were attending Leamside C. of E. School in the neighbouring district of West Rainton.

By the summer of 1873 the Pittington school had been enlarged to 191, and it was decided that the Leamside school could take 24. This left the children at Littleton Colliery to be accommodated, totalling 125 at the time, and the first notice, dated 31 July 1873, required a school for this number to be built. The 1875 provision was:

Pittington National School 191.

The Littleton Colliery School for 203, built by Lambton Collieries Ltd., came into operation the following year.⁽¹⁾ Bye laws were made by the Durham Union on 23 October 1880, the Pittington school being enlarged six years later.

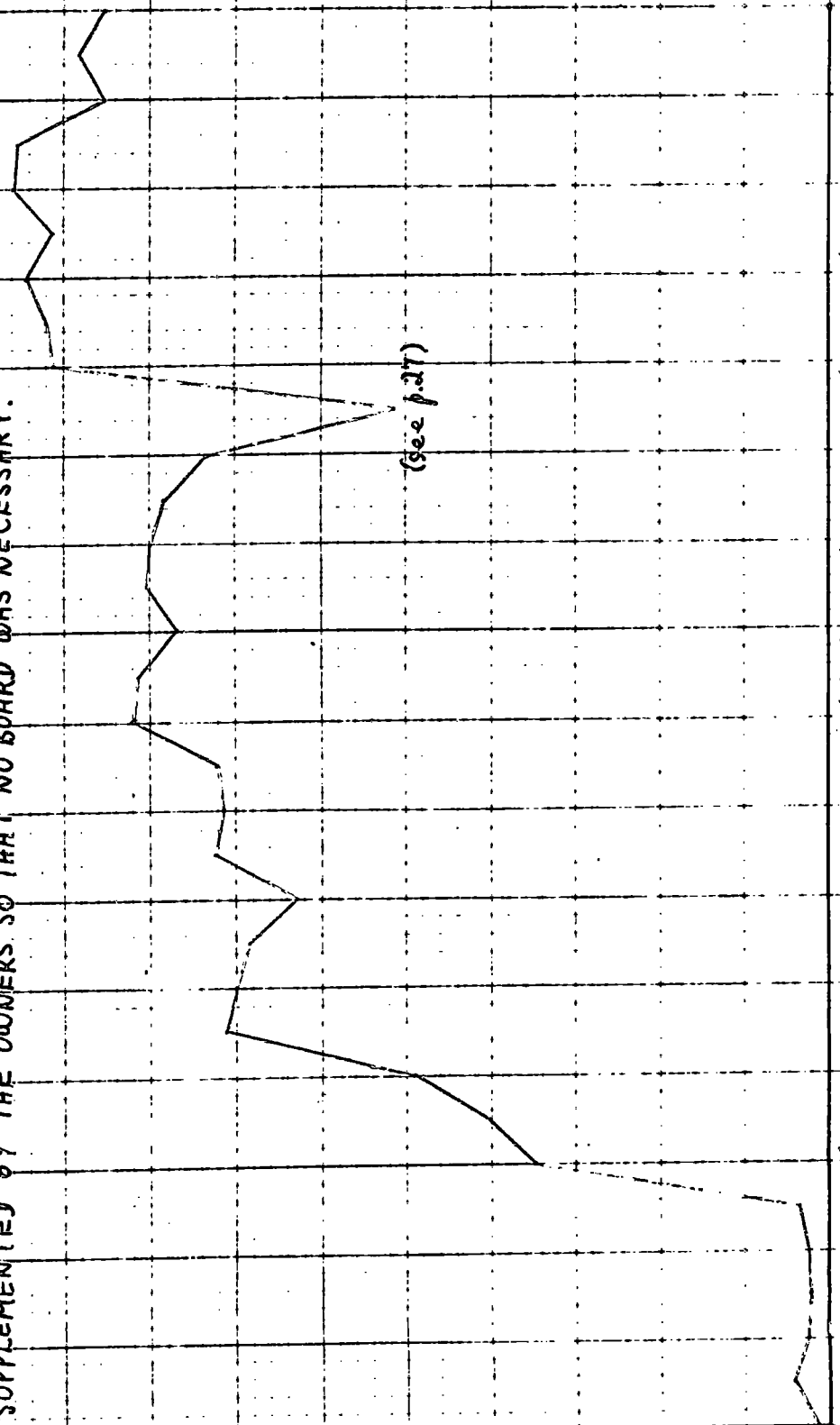
The population in 1901 was 1,983.

(1) See p.32.

The 1902 provision was:

| | | |
|---------|----------------------------|-------------|
| | Pittington National School | 244. |
| No. 68. | Littletown Colliery School | <u>203.</u> |
| | | <u>447.</u> |

PITTINGTON, A COLLIERY DISTRICT IN WHICH THE 1870 PROVISION WAS SUPPLEMENTED BY THE OWNERS SO THAT NO BOARD WAS NECESSARY.



(see p. 27)

1870 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

PLAWSWORTH

The Inspector's report, dated 26 July 1871, stated that the population was 717, of whom 681 were of the class requiring elementary education. On the ratio of 1:5 this meant that accommodation was required for 136. The only school available was the Nettlesworth Colliery School for 112, but the instruction there was not regarded as efficient.

The notice stated that if the instruction was improved, and an additional classroom added to the school, then the requirements would be satisfied. This was done, as in the other small mining villages, ⁽¹⁾ and the school, for 175, was placed on the annual grant list in 1876. Bye laws were made by the Chester-le-Street Union on 23 September 1880.

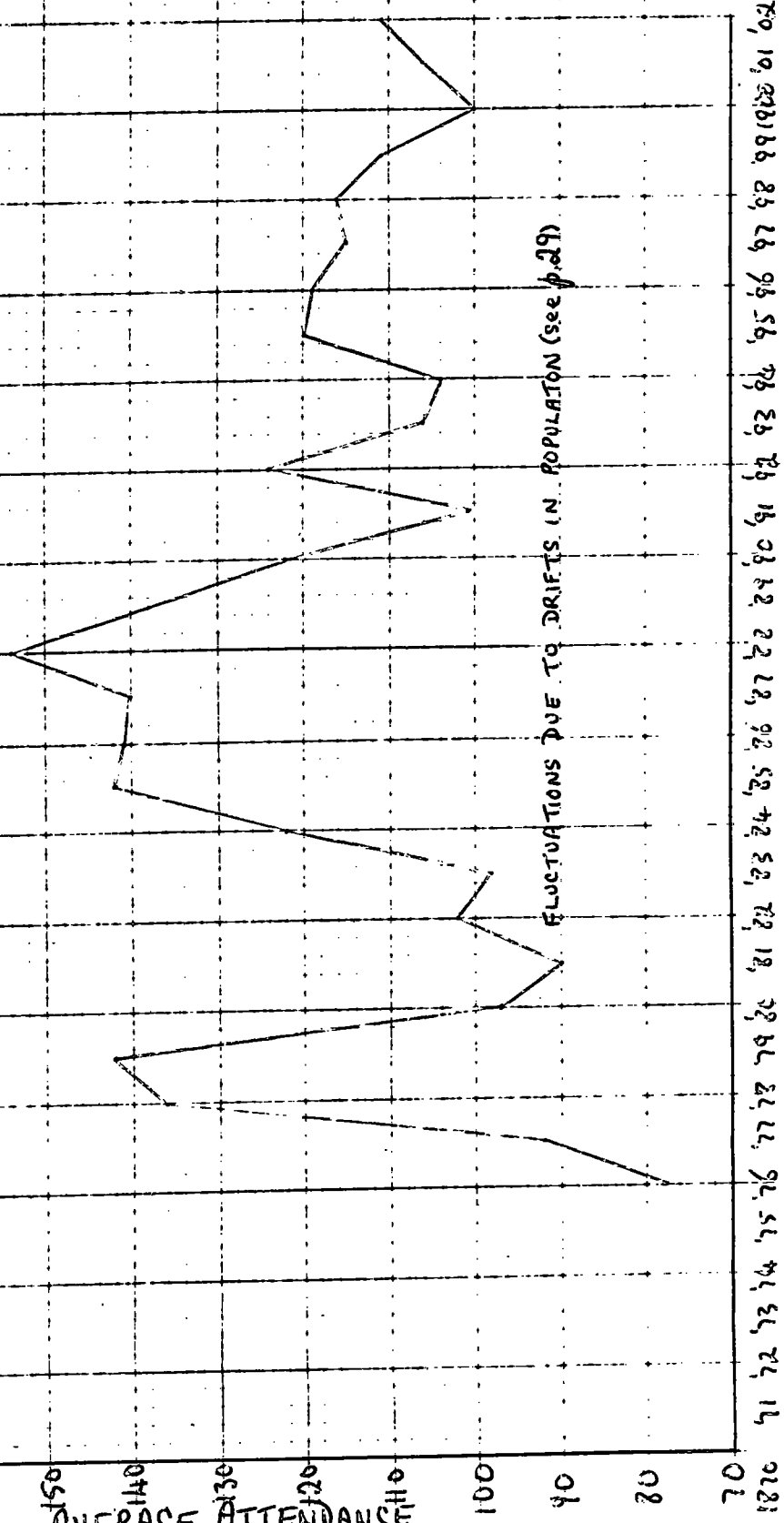
The considerable fluctuations in the attendance graph during the late seventies and again in the eighties are probably due to drifts in population, so frequent in the area, not shown in the decennial returns, i.e. in 1881 the population was 942, and in 1891 it was 1,055. The population in 1901 was 1,246.

The 1902 provision was:

No. 69. Nettlesworth Colliery School 175.

(1) See p.32.

PLANSWORTH A MINING VILLAGE FOR WHICH THE OWNERS SUPPLIED THE
NECESSARY ACCOMMODATION.



QUARRINGTON

The Inspector's report, dated 30 October 1871, stated that the population was 865, of whom 830 were of the class requiring elementary education. On the ratio of 1:5 this meant that accommodation was required for 166, and there was no efficient school in the district.

The first notice, dated 18 July 1873, required a school for this number to be erected at Quarrington Hill, where most of the population lived. Nothing was done, and the final notice arrived, dated 18 March 1875, repeating the requirements. Still no action was taken, and so elections were held on 9 November 1875, the five members (they included the local vicar) attending the first meeting of the Board a fortnight later.

Bye laws were approved and sites inspected, but in March of the following year Coxhoe Pit was laid in and a large scale exodus from the district began. The position was described in a letter to the Department.

"The population of Old Quarrington has very considerably decreased, and is still decreasing day by day, and unless the Colliery is re-opened, of which there is no probability whatever, the entire mining population will leave the neighbourhood. In one row alone at Old Quarrington consisting of some twenty five to thirty houses not more than five or six are inhabited, and those are occupied by old people."⁽¹⁾

The Board applied for dissolution but permission was refused, and the meetings became infrequent and purely formal. No one stood for election in 1878, and so the previous five members were

(1) P.R.O. Ed. 2/137, 17/5/77.

deemed re-elected. This situation continued until May 1887, when the Board took over the functions of the Cassop School Board.⁽¹⁾ The first election for the five members of the new Cassop cum Quarrington School Board took place some six months later.

Further improvement of the schools continued as before. Porches were added, also curtains over the inside doors at Cassop, now renamed Quarrington Board School, to reduce the draught. Modifications were carried out at TurSDale in 1889 which while increasing the general efficiency reduced the capacity to 134.

The fee grant was accepted and all fees abolished in 1891. The attendance was still poor and it was resolved "that a hand-bill notifying the abolition of School fees in the Board's schools and warning parents of children attending the same that greater regularity of attendance will be insisted upon in future, be printed and circulated in the Board's district."⁽²⁾ There was some response to this as the attendance graph shows, although this improvement was partly due to an increase in population. As late as 1899 the school warden was informed that if he could not improve the average attendance to at least 85 per cent he ought to resign.

In the later years there was much changing of staff, still further general improvements, e.g. installation of sliding

(1) See p.54.
 (2) S.H. Cassop cum Quarrington, 29/7/91.

partitions, and an increase in size of the Board itself from five to seven. In 1901 the Headmasters' salaries were made independent of the government grant and fixed at £135 p.a.

The population in 1901 was 1,610. In 1902 the teacher:pupil ratio had been reduced to 1:32, the cost of education per child had risen to £2.5 p.a., the ratio of government grant:rates was 1:.7, and the rates had been reduced to 6d. due to amalgamation. Of the £2,427 borrowed only £394 was still outstanding.⁽¹⁾

The 1902 provision was:

| | | |
|---------|--------------------------|-------------|
| | Tursdale Board School | 134. |
| No. 70. | Quarrington Board School | <u>260.</u> |
| | | <u>394.</u> |

The attendance graph is shown with Cassop (see p. 64.)

(1) See pp.40-3.

SHADFORTH

The 1870 provision was:

| | | |
|---------|---------------------------|-------------|
| No. 16. | Shadforth National School | 60. |
| No. 17. | Ludworth National School | <u>90.</u> |
| | | <u>150.</u> |

The Inspector's report stated that the population was 1,064, of whom 958 were of the class requiring elementary education. On the ratio of 1:5 this meant that accommodation was required for 191. There were two efficient schools in the district as named above.

The first notice, dated 30 August 1873, required additional accommodation at the Ludworth school for 41. This was not forthcoming, however, and the school lost the services of its certificated teacher, which meant that it was no longer conducted as a public elementary school. This was a difficulty often encountered by the small voluntary schools, a difficulty which grew more acute at this time owing to the increasing competition by the board schools which on the average paid their certificated staff an appreciably higher salary.⁽¹⁾ The final notice, dated 2 March 1875, required a school for 131 to be built at Ludworth, unless the National School was enlarged and a certificated teacher appointed.

The 1875 provision was:

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Shadforth National School | 60. |
|---------------------------|-----|

(1) See, for example, Report of the Committee of Council on Education, 1888-9, p.220.

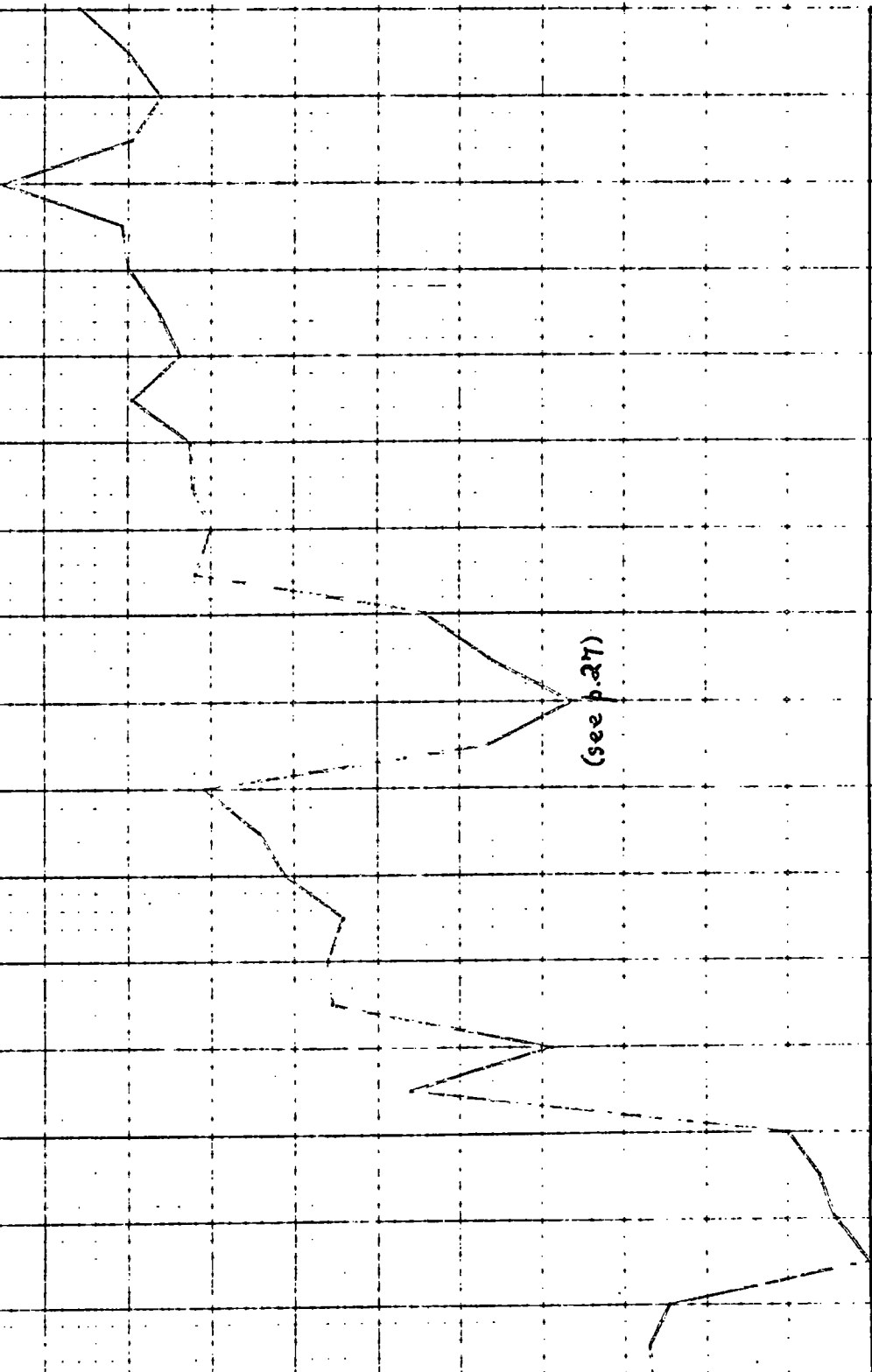
The necessary improvements were made at Ludworth, and the school was replaced on the annual grant list in 1877 and further enlarged in 1884. Bye laws were made by the Durham Union on 23 October 1880, the Shadforth school being extended eleven years later.

The population in 1901 was 1,495

The 1902 provision was:

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Shadforth National School | 123. |
| Ludworth National School | <u>283.</u> |
| | <u>406.</u> |

SHADEFORTH, A DISTRICT IN WHICH THE 1870 VOLUNTARY PROVISION WAS EXPANDED TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY ACCOMMODATION.



(see p. 27)

1870 71 '72 '73 '74 '75 '76 '77 '78 '79 '80 '81 '82 '83 '84 '85 '86 '87 '88 '89 '90 '91 '92 '93 '94 '95 '96 '97 '98 '99 '00

SHERBURN; SHERBURN HOSPITAL AND WHITWELL HOUSE

The 1870 provision was:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| No. 18. Sherburn Hill National School | 94. |
| No. 19. Sherburn National School | <u>158.</u> |
| | <u>252.</u> |

The Inspector's report for the township of Sherburn stated that the population was 2,175, of whom 1,958 were of the class requiring elementary education. On the ratio of 1:5 this meant that accommodation was required for 392. The population of Sherburn Hospital was 142, of whom 24 were children requiring accommodation. The population of Whitwell House was also 142, of whom 25 were children requiring places. The schools in the area were those named above, although there was another at Sherburn Hill Colliery for 180 but its premises were not of a sufficient standard to entitle the school to recognition.

The three districts were united by the Department for considerations of elementary education, and there was thus a total of 441 children to be accommodated, i.e. a deficit of 189. By the time the first notice was issued the Sherburn school had been enlarged to 203, thus making a total provision of 297. The notice therefore required a school for 144 to be provided, but stated that if the Colliery school improved its premises then this would be considered sufficient. This was immediately done, as in other districts where the formation of a board was unlikely,⁽¹⁾ and so no

(1) See p. 32.

final notice was issued.

The 1875 provision was:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Sherburn Hill National School | 94. |
| Sherburn National School | 203. |
| No. 47. Sherburn Hill Colliery School | <u>180.</u> |
| | <u>477.</u> |

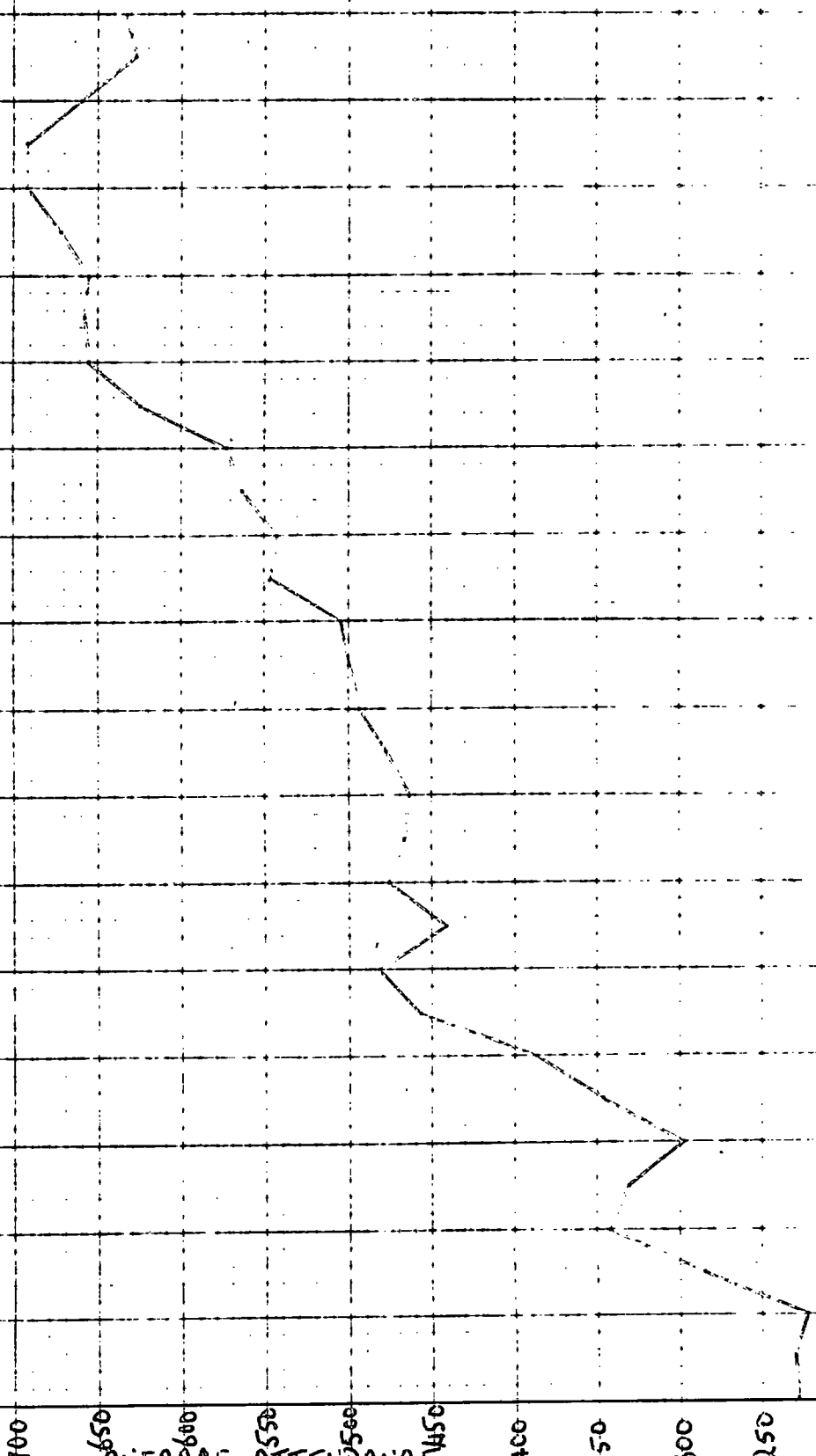
Bye laws were made by the Durham Union on 23 October 1880. At about the same time the Sherburn Hill National School was enlarged to 170 places and used only for girls, the Colliery school acting as its masculine counterpart. The Sherburn school was extended nine years later, and in 1890 a separate school for infants was erected at the Colliery.

The total population in 1901 was 3,459.

The 1902 provision was:

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Sherburn Hill National School | 170. |
| Sherburn National School | 298. |
| Sherburn Hill Colliery (Boys') School | 180. |
| No. 71. Sherburn Hill Colliery (Infants') School | <u>150.</u> |
| | <u>798.</u> |

SHERBURN SHERBURN HOSPITAL AND WHITWELL HOUSE. A UNITED DISTRICT IN WHICH THE 1870 PROVISION WAS SUPPLEMENTED BOTH BY THE OWNERS AND THE RELIGIOUS BODIES SO THAT NO BOARD WAS NECESSARY.



1870, 1871, 1872, 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914

SHINCLIFFE

The 1870 provision was:

No. 20. Shincliffe National School 227.

The Inspector's report, dated 30 October 1871, stated that the population was 2,123, of whom 1,911 were of the class requiring elementary education. On the ratio of 1:5 this meant that accommodation was required for 382. The only efficient school was the one named above, which consisted of two adjacent but separate schools for 118 boys and 109 girls.

But with the development of Shincliffe and Houghall Collieries (the latter being situated in the neighbouring district of Bearpark) the population grew rapidly, and the first notice, dated 31 July 1873, required a school for 120 infants in the district, together with a school for 150 older children at the Colliery. This was met by an enlargement of the National Girls' School in 1874 to accommodate 150 infants, the Boys' School being closed at the same time, and the construction by the colliery owners of Shincliffe Colliery School for 201.

The 1875 provision was:

Shincliffe National School 257.

No. 48. Shincliffe Colliery School 201.

458.
—

This fell short of the actual accommodation required by about 40 places, but the nearby Board School at Houghall which opened in March 1877 had more than sufficient available places for

these children.

This was the first of the four districts in the area to apply to a school attendance committee for bye laws before 1880, and bye laws were made by the Durham Union on 22 December 1877. At this period, however, there was a steady drift of population away from the district, as occurred quite frequently in these mining villages, and in 1883 the National School closed. This was followed in 1886 by the closing of the Colliery school,⁽¹⁾ which left the district without any educational provision whatsoever. In consequence the National School was reopened at the end of 1886 for boys, girls and infants, the Headmaster from Houghall Board School (which also closed soon afterwards)⁽²⁾ being appointed to take charge.

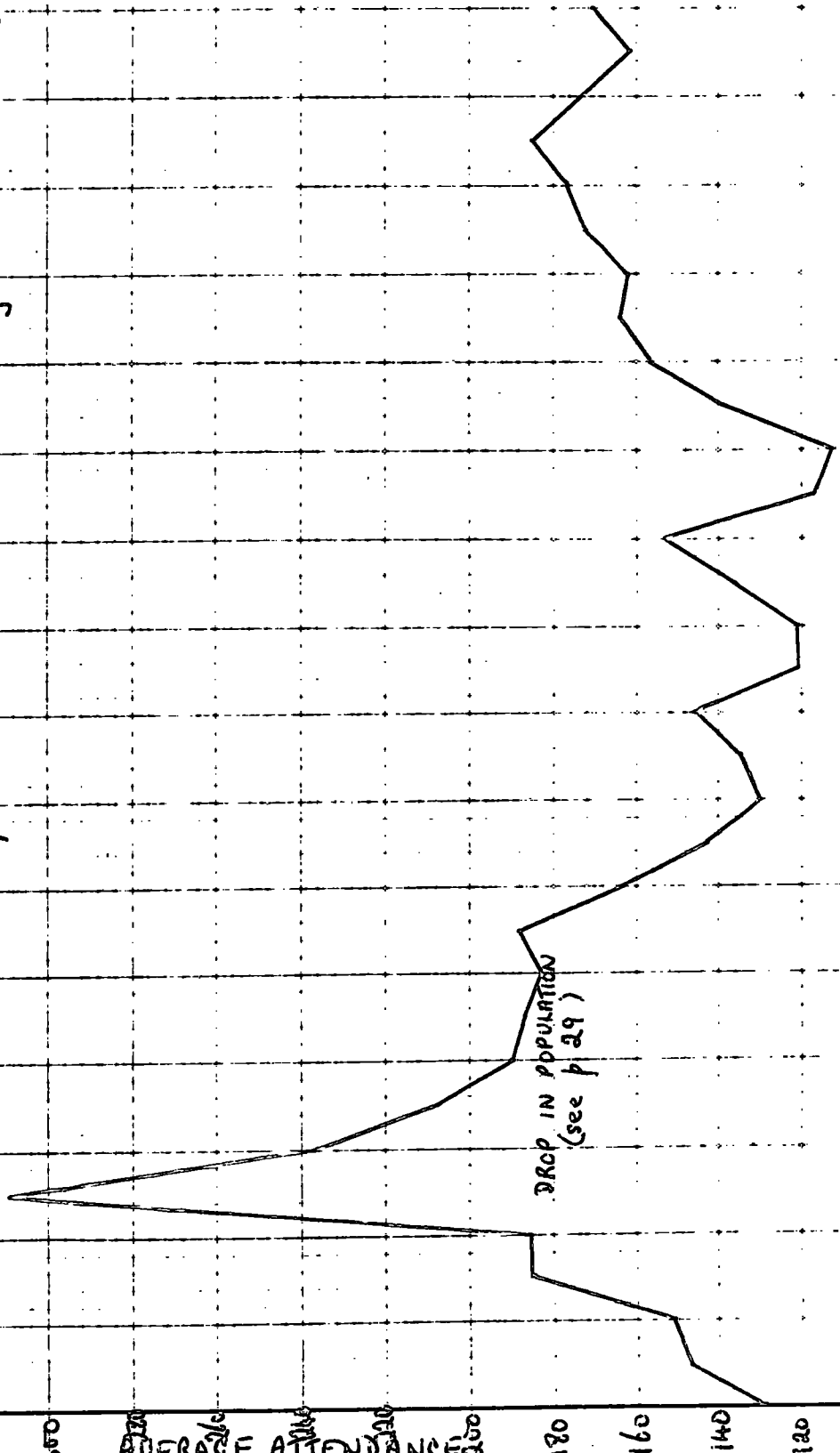
The population in 1901 was 748.

The 1902 provision was:

Shincliffe National School 262.

(1) See p.31.
(2) See p.48.

SHINCLIFFE, A MINING VILLAGE IN WHICH THE 1870 PROVISION WAS SUPPLEMENTED BY THE OWNERS, AND WHICH WAS LATER LARGELY ABANDONED.



DROP IN POPULATION
(see p 29)

1870 1871 1872 1873 1874 1875 1876 1877 1878 1879 1880 1881 1882 1883 1884 1885 1886 1887 1888 1889 1890 1891 1892 1893 1894 1895 1896 1897 1898 1899 1900

STOCKLEY

The 1870 provision was:

No. 21. Page Bank British School 118.

The Inspector's report, dated 13 February 1872, stated that the population was 712, of whom 675 were of the class requiring elementary education. On the ratio of 1:5 this meant that accommodation was required for 135, and the only efficient school in the district was the one named above. The report recommended that the school be enlarged to accommodate 135, and that the classroom be much improved as it was small and badly ventilated.

By the time the first notice arrived, dated 18 July 1873, these requirements had been more than met by the colliery owners, as was usual in the small mining communities, a new school for 318 having been built.

The 1875 provision was:

Page Bank British School 318.

The school was further enlarged in 1878, and again seven years later. Bye laws were made by the Durham Union on 23 October 1880.

The population in 1901 was 2,667.

The 1902 provision was:

Page Bank British School 437.

Oakenshaw British School 408.

845.

Attendance figures are given with those of Brancepeth. ⁽¹⁾ The

(1) See graph following p.55.

township was merged into Willington in 1904.

THORNLEY

The Inspector's report, dated 18 November 1871, stated that the population was 3,359, of whom 3,300 were of the class requiring elementary education. On the ratio of 1:5 this meant that accommodation was required for 660 children, and there was no efficient school in the district. There were two or three small schools existing, including a Roman Catholic and also a Colliery school, but their premises were unsatisfactory and they were not on the annual grant list.

The first notice, dated 16 July 1873, accordingly required a school for 660 to be erected. No action was taken, and the final notice, dated 3 March 1875, appeared in due course repeating the same requirements. The colliery company informed the Department that they could not afford to build a school, as had been done in other districts,⁽¹⁾ and elections were duly held on 23 November 1875. Five members were elected, including the local vicar who was appointed chairman and served on the Board for the next fifteen years, and the first meeting took place some fortnight later.

The Board soon set about its business. Copies of "Owen on School Boards" were obtained for each of the members, a site was purchased, and plans, together with bye laws, submitted in February 1876. Owing to an extensive fire at the colliery the population had considerably decreased and the proposed school

(1) See p.32.

was only large enough for 606. The Department gave its permission for this, with a proviso. "My Lords will not decline to approve of the plans which have been forwarded, on the understanding that an adequate enlargement will be effected as soon as the state of the population requires."⁽¹⁾ No enlargement was in fact ever required.

In April the resident Roman Catholic priest, Rev. Foran, informed the Board of his intention to proceed at an early date to build a new denominational school in the district. The Board decided by the Chairman's casting vote to continue with its plans, a decision which was to cause much thought at the Department later.⁽²⁾ In May the tenders for the school were considered, and with a fine lack of superstition the foundation stone was laid by the chairman on Friday, 13 October.

An interesting dispute arose in April 1877 between the Board and the Department, concerning the interpretation of two sections of the 1870 Act, i.e. Sec. 33, and rule 14 of the first part of the second schedule. Sec. 33 stated that: "In case any question arises as to the right of any person to act as a member of a school board under this Act, the Education Department may make such order as they deem just for determining the question, and such order shall be final unless removed by writ of certiorari" This appeared, together with Secs. 31, 32,

(1) S.H. Thornley, 24/4/76.

(2) See pp. 138-42.

and 34, under the sectional heading of "Election of school boards" Rule 14 stated that: "If a member of the school board absents himself during six successive months from all meetings of the board, except from temporary illness or other cause to be approved by the board r.... such person shall cease to be a member of the school board, and his office shall thereupon be vacant."

At the Board meeting in April 1877 the Clerk pointed out that the attendance of one of their number, Philip Cooper, had been extremely irregular. He had attended only six of the twenty three meetings since the formation of the Board, and in particular he had been absent for the last six months from all meetings. This was stated in notices for the next meeting, and was entered as part of the business to be transacted by the Board. When Cooper heard of this he wrote to the Department, and appeared at the next meeting, in May, with a letter from them. "I am directed to state that my Lords are informed by Mr. Cooper that his absence from the meetings of the School Board during the month of January last was due to temporary illness and that therefore his seat is not vacant."⁽¹⁾

The Board were not satisfied, however, and it was decided that Cooper had ceased to be a member of the Board under the provision of rule 14 of the first part of the second schedule. The next day Cooper wrote once more to the Department informing

(1) S.H. Thornley, 18/5/77.

them that: "The three gentlemen forming the majority decided that your Lords' decision had no force, and was not worthy of any attention" The Department forwarded a copy of this letter to the Board, requesting their observations thereon, and drawing their attention to Sec. 33.

The Board replied that the rule rather than the section appeared to offer the more appropriate guidance, as the former dealt with absence whilst the latter seemed from the sectional heading to relate to election of school boards. In which case the decision was for the Board to make, not the Department. Concerning Cooper's alleged temporary illness in January, no proof of this had been offered, and "the Board felt that the intention of the clause in the schedule would be completely nullified if they were to accept the excuse, i.e. alleged temporary illness in any one month, was a satisfactory cause of absence for six consecutive months."

Early in August the Department communicated again with the Board.

"My Lords have now received from Mr. Cooper a medical certificate from his doctor, as well as a statement from a gentleman staying at his house in January last, which satisfies them that he was unable by reason of illness to attend the January meeting. My Lords are therefore clearly of opinion that Mr. Cooper has not absented himself during six successive months from all meetings of the Board except from temporary illness, and they cannot regard his seat as vacant."⁽¹⁾

The Board replied by asking "whether the intimation therein

(1) S.H. Thornley, 6/8/77.

contained is intended to be merely an expression of opinion or whether the Education Department have assumed the power in this case to make and intend it to be an order under Sec. 33?" The Department replied that it was intended only to convey an opinion, in response to which the Board informed them that they adhered to the resolution of Cooper's disqualification.

And there the matter rested until December, when once again Cooper wrote to the Department complaining that he had been ignored and his right to vote disregarded at meetings of the Board he had attended during the autumn. It was not until March 1878 that the Department communicated tersely with the Board. "I am to request that you will have the goodness to transmit a copy of the case submitted to counsel and of his opinion thereon."⁽¹⁾ To which the Board replied that they were satisfied as to the legal bearing of the case with the advice of the clerk, a solicitor of many years' standing.

The dispute moved into its final stages with the next letter from the Department.

"The opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown was:

- (i) Temporary illness does not require the approval of the school board, that approval is confined to other causes not being temporary illness,
- (ii) Sec. 33 of the Elementary Education Act, 1870, applies to any question that may at any time arise as to the right of a person to act as a member of a School Board and is not confined to cases of disputed election."

(1) S.H. Thornley, 12/3/78.

Still the Board refused to rescind its decision, and in July 1878 an order was made by the Department to the effect that Cooper was still entitled to act as a member of the Board.⁽¹⁾

The Board, however, dug in its heels and refused to act upon the order and informed the Department so in August. A reply was soon forthcoming.

"I am directed to state that my Lords regret to learn that your Board persist in illegally excluding Mr. P. Cooper from his seat at the School Board. My Lords will now direct a communication to be addressed to the Auditor in order that he may consider the propriety of surcharging the members of your Board in respect of moneys illegally spent by your Board out of the rates."⁽²⁾

This galvanized the Board into action, and counsel's opinion was taken. This advice was that the matter should be taken to the Queen's Bench Division, but the final battle was never joined. The triennial election was almost due and both sides were content to let the matter drop.

Fate, in the guise of an oversight by the returning officer, had the last word. The notice for the election was not published in due time, and so under an earlier rule of the same part of the disputed schedule "the retiring members, or so many as are willing to serve, shall be deemed to be re-elected." This included Cooper. Indeed, he became chairman of the third board in November 1881.

While this matter was pursuing its protracted course the

(1) S.H. Thornley, 25/7/78.

(2) S.H. Thornley, 22/8/78. See p. 38.

ordinary affairs of the Board continued. In August 1877 a headmaster was appointed, at a salary of £100 p.a. plus half the government grant, together with two mistresses. The Thornley Board School was opened in October, at a total cost of £4,400 borrowed from the P.W.L.C. The fees were 3d. a week for infants and paupers, 4d. for Standards I and II, and 6d. for those above, rather in excess of the average for the area. The Board agreed to the proposal that "a sufficient number of Bibles be obtained," but there is no mention of a syllabus for religious instruction until December, 1892, when a letter was received from the Bishop of Durham urging the Board to adopt the syllabus in force under the local South Shields, Gateshead and West Hartlepool Boards, which they agreed to do. The attendance was very poor. A part time attendance officer was appointed at a salary of £10 p.a., and in view of the size of the classes two pupil teachers were appointed before Christmas 1877.

In January 1878, three months after the opening of the Board school, Rev. Foran wrote to the Department asking for the new St. Godric's R.C. School to be put under government inspection and placed on the annual grant list. He stated that the school was in the charge of a certificated teacher, and that the average attendance was about 100. The Department informed the Board of this application, requesting that "looking to the terms of the Elementary Education Act 1870" they should be "favoured with any remarks which the Board may wish to make upon this

application."

The Board replied that the school was already attended by many children for whom the Board's school was expressly intended. To allow it to become technically "efficient" would bring it into direct competition with the Board and render useless a large amount of the expenditure which had been entailed. "The Board venture to suggest that this is exactly one of those cases contemplated by Sec. 98 of the Elementary Education Act, 1870, and that the said St. Godric's schools are unnecessary and should not be entitled to receive a Parliamentary grant." H.M.I. Oakeley supported this view in a letter to the Department in March. "This seems a clear case - I think grant should be refused."⁽¹⁾

The Department asked the Board to take a census of the district, stating that the "serious step" of refusing an annual grant to a school of 100 could not be taken without showing that the Board school was sufficiently large to provide for all children of school age in the district. This census showed that the Board school was of sufficient size for the whole school population. The matter was taken to the Vice President and the Lord President. No decision was made, the former noting, "This is a difficult case," and further enquiries were made.

The affair hinged on the times at which the two schools had been opened. Rev. Foran pointed out that notice had been given

(1) M.E. E11/311, 14/3/78.

to the Board before it had decided on the site of the proposed Board school, as to his intention that an efficient school for Roman Catholics would be opened. The Board conceded this point, but stated that as Rev. Foran had had no plans nor any definite particulars, they "considered it their bounden duty at once to carry out the instructions of the Education Department, as they had no confidence in their being any real definite intention to proceed to build." The matter was further complicated by the fact that there were no Roman Catholic children in attendance at the Board school, and of the 172 Roman Catholic children in attendance at St. Godric's by March 1879, 160 had never attended any other school. It was thus not quite like the celebrated Dan-y-Craig case.⁽¹⁾

In April 1879 the Department enquired if the Board felt they could obtain the attendance at the Board School of the Roman Catholic children at St. Godric's if the annual grant was refused to that school. The Board did not appear too sanguine. When pressed, they replied that it was impossible to express any positive opinion, but they would do their best. The Lord President's opinion is stated in a minute at the time. "The attendance is such that I think we ought not, unless forced, to close the school, which we should do if we decline in any way to recognize it as an efficient school."⁽²⁾ So Sec. 98 was not considered applicable. But the matter did not rest there.

(1) See Adamson, *English Education 1789-1902*, 1930, p.361.
 (2) M.E. E11/311, April/79.

Early in August the school was inspected by H.M.I. Bernays, who found that the premises were efficient and the school conducted by a certificated teacher, but that the teaching was of a poor standard. An official of the legal section noted in the Department's files at some length after this report was submitted.

"Previous the Act 76 the Department required two things in non-aided schools before recognizing them for purposes of supply:

- (1) That the premises were efficient,
- (2) That the instruction was efficient,

but we always accepted the appointment of a certificated teacher as a guarantee of the future efficiency of the instruction.

The question arises are we to follow the same principle in the case of schools which apply to be certified as efficient, and accept the appointment of a certificated teacher in such cases as a sufficient guarantee of the efficiency of the instruction. I should say, "No", because:

- (1) The application to be so inspected comes voluntarily from the managers, and is not practically forced upon them as it was under the Act of 70 - we have therefore a right to require a higher standard of efficiency.
- (2) The recognition as certified efficient confers the power of granting labour certificates⁽¹⁾ which was not conferred by simple inspection for purposes of supply.
- (3) The schools are annually inspected, which would be useless if the Inspector is bound to pass the instruction.
- (4) The fact that a teacher is certificated may be to some extent a guarantee of good instruction, but the principal teacher may be a mere dummy, or past work, or become utterly careless of his or her duty."⁽²⁾

An additional note was made by Sir F. Sandford. "Upon consideration I agree with this opinion."

(1) See p.12.

(2) M.E. E11/311.

So the school was not recognized, and the Department informed the Board. "I am directed to state that My Lords have declined for the present either to recognize the Thornley R.C. School as a certified efficient school, or to place it on the list of those to which annual grants are to be made." Shortly after this, however, the certificated teacher was replaced at St. Godric's by a more efficient one, and the school finally became grant-aided in 1882.

Meanwhile, at the Board school an additional master had been appointed at the insistence of the Department, thus reducing the teacher:pupil ratio to 1:72. The cost of education per child at the time was £2.0 p.a., the ratio of government grant:fees:rates approximately 3:2:3, and the rates 11d.⁽¹⁾

There were twenty or so children whose fees had been remitted owing to the poverty of their parents, and in December 1878 the teachers were instructed "that they are to employ those children whose fees are remitted to look after the fires." Class distinction was apparent even in schools provided for the labouring poor! In the following April the fees were slightly reduced in an attempt to improve the attendance, the teachers' salaries being correspondingly cut at the same time. The account sheet for December 1879 is given on the following page. It is typical of the other boards in the area at the time.

(1) See pp.40-2.

| | | | |
|--|------|------|--------------------|
| Mr. Douglas: master | £7 | 13s. | 10d. |
| Miss Wilson mistress | £5 | 7s. | 8d. |
| Mrs. Douglas mistress | £4 | 12s. | 4d. |
| Mr. Hall assistant master | £4 | 14s. | 7d. |
| Clerk's salary (Quarterly) | £7 | 10s. | 0d. |
| Clerk's incidentals | | 10s. | 0d. |
| P.W. Loan Commissioners (Half yearly) | £117 | 8s. | 1d. ⁽¹⁾ |
| T. R. Clifford Books, etc. | £21 | 6s. | 8d. |
| (This item was considerably more than the average, which was approximately £5) | | | |
| John Wade, Attendance Officer (Quarterly) | £2 | 10s. | 0d. |
| Mrs. Cutter, cleaning | £2 | 0s. | 0d. |
| Mrs. Martins, materials for do. | | 9s. | 2d. |
| Jas. Forsyth, coals | £2 | 9s. | 0d. |
| John Martins, repairs | | 2s. | 6d. |
| Total | £176 | 3s. | 10d. |

There were 289 children in attendance at the school. The Board were so reluctant to appoint an assistant for the girls' department that Miss Wilson finally took matters into her own hands, and with the Board's permission appointed a helper at 5d. a week, paid by herself. One can only guess at the quality of this assistance.

An Anglican Sunday school, and choir practices, were being held in the school during out of school hours, and there was a feeling amongst some members of the Board that certain of the teachers were being influenced by this. In consequence the following statement was approved by the Board and made known to all the staff in October 1880.

"That whilst the Board would prefer teachers of religious character, they wish the teachers distinctly to

(1) The annual payment to the P.W.L.C. consisted of £88 15s. 6d. repayment of loan, plus $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ interest on the outstanding sum of £4,172 7s. 7d. which amounted to £146 0s. 8d., thus making a total of £234 16s. 2d.

understand that the Board does not require them to be members of any particular Church or religious denomination, or to assist or take part in any choir or Sunday school connected with any Church or denomination, but leaves them at perfect liberty to please themselves."(1)

By the end of 1883 the attendance had improved and two further assistants were appointed, thus reducing the teacher: pupil ratio to 1:61. This attendance, although improved, was by no means as regular as it might have been as the following entry shows. "The Clerk was instructed to write to the Warden and urge upon him to secure the attendance of all the children in the neighbourhood at school between now and the examination, especially those who are likely to pass their examination." The "payment by results" system made the successful children considerably more valuable than the others.(2)

Early in 1884 a severe depression hit the colliery, which was the main source of livelihood for the district. At the end of April the Board informed the Department that no wages had been paid to the miners since 21 March and that many of the children were being kept from school to go begging. The Board were without funds and had been unable to pay salaries etc. as the Overseers could not pay the monies required from them, the colliery rateable value representing five sevenths of the whole. A very difficult time followed. The staff was reduced to Mr. and Mrs. Douglas, and their salaries were again lowered.

(1) S.H. Thornley, 4/10/80.

(2) See p.35.

Repayment on the loan became overdue, and under pressure legal proceedings were taken against the Overseers. In 1884 only £75 was received, less than one quarter of the normal yearly grant from the rates. Even this small amount was equivalent to 10.6d. All economies possible were practised, and with the help of the grant claimed under Sec. 97,⁽¹⁾ together with a rate which reached the impressive level of 36d. in 1887, and a sizeable overdraft the Board just kept its head above water, but the area remained impoverished for a considerable number of years. Attendance at the school dropped sharply and the annual reports were poor, but such was the depressed state of the district that little could be done. Poverty and lethargy are not the conditions to stimulate and promote an expanding education.

Slowly conditions improved, and in June 1889 the staff was increased and a serious drive begun against absenteeism. The parents of any child not making half the attendances in any month, without good reason, were summonsed. In the first month six summonses were proceeded with and six convictions obtained. This policy was pursued for the next two or three years, by which time the stage had been reached when almost all children were receiving at least some schooling. The 1891 fee grant, which resulted in the Board abolishing fees, was a major consideration in this progress. In September 1891 the Warden reported that 161 children, of the 500 children in the district eligible for

(1) See p. 11.

compulsory education, were not attending any sort of school at all, but a year later almost all these children were on the books of the schools although in many cases their attendance was still irregular and did not qualify for annual grant. Between 1891 and 1901 the child population increased by approximately 40%, but the attendance (for annual grant purposes) increased by over 200%.

The story of the last ten years is the usual one of steady general improvement with the constant promptings of the Inspectors in the background.⁽¹⁾ In 1893 new desks were provided for the whole school and an organ bought from the proceeds of concerts. In the following year water was laid on and the drains made effective for the first time. The imposition of corporal punishment was restricted to the Head Teachers, and in December, after years of complaint, new stoves were provided, but not until a small girl had been so severely burnt that she died a week later were locks bought for the guards. The luxury of a drinking cup and chain appeared in 1896 and prizes for attendance made a tardy appearance in 1897. Two years later central classes at Wheatley Hill were provided for the pupil teachers at the school, in association with the Wheatley Hill, Haswell, and Wingate School Boards. During this same period the number of changes on the staff was considerable, no less than 39, but the teacher:pupil ratio had been reduced to 1:50.

The population in 1901 was 2,938. In 1902 the cost of

(1) See pp 37.

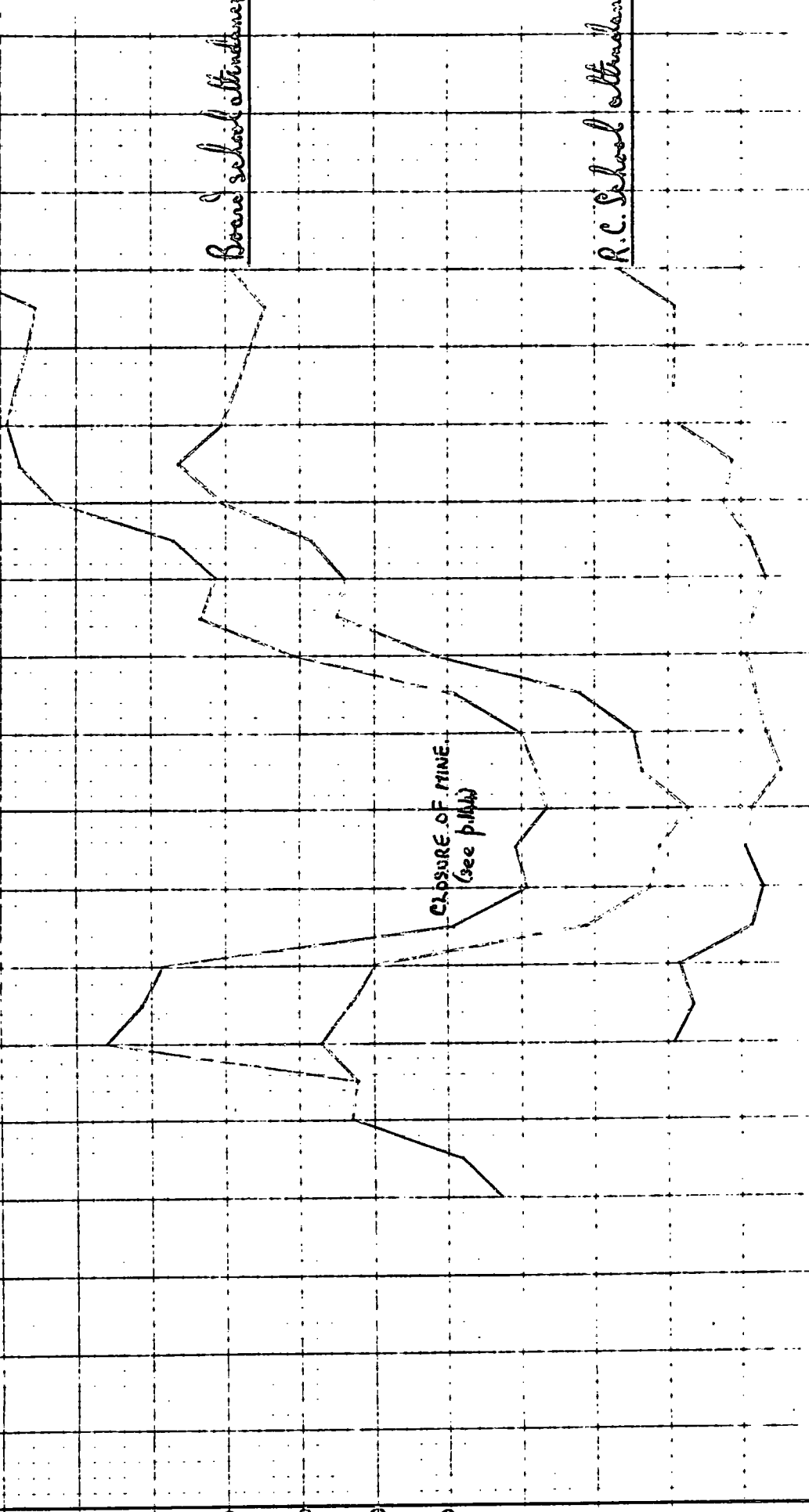
education per child remained at a lowly £2 p.a., the ratio of government grant:rates was 2:1, and the rates 20d. Of the £4,400 borrowed, £2,129 was outstanding.⁽¹⁾

The 1902 provision was:

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| No. 72 Thornley Board School | 606. |
| No. 73 St. Godric's R.C. School | <u>230.</u> |
| | <u>836.</u> |

(1) See pp.40-3.

THORNLEY, A MINING DISTRICT IN WHICH THE OWNERS
 DID NOT SUPPLY THE NECESSARY ACCOMMODATION (see p.) AND SO A BOARD WAS
 NECESSARY, AS WELL AS SOME DISPUTED ROMAN CATHOLIC PROVISION.



1871 1872 1873 1874 1875 1876 1877 1878 1879 1880 1881 1882 1883 1884 1885 1886 1887 1888 1889 1890 1891 1892 1893 1894 1895 1896 1897 1898 1899 1900 1901 1902

WEST RAINTON AND MOORHOUSE

The 1870 provision was:

| | | |
|---------|------------------------------|-------------|
| No. 22. | Leamside C. of E. School | 98. |
| No. 23. | West Rainton C. of E. School | <u>500.</u> |
| | | <u>598.</u> |

This was the only district in the Durham area, other than the borough of Durham, in which the supply of elementary places in 1870 was sufficient.⁽¹⁾ The Inspector's report stated that the population of West Rainton was 2,237, of whom 2,090 were of the class requiring elementary education. On the ratio of 1:5 this meant that accommodation was required for 418. The neighbouring small township of Moorhouse with a population of 72, including 14 children, was united with West Rainton, and so there was a total of 432 places required. This was provided by the above named schools and so the notice, dated 31 July 1873, stated that no further provision was required.

The 1875 provision was still:

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Leamside C. of E. School | 98. |
| West Rainton C. of E. School | <u>500.</u> |
| | <u>598.</u> |

Bye laws were made by the Houghton-le-Spring Union on 25 October 1880, and during the eighties and early nineties both schools were considerably enlarged. The fall in attendance over the later years is accounted for by a decrease in population,

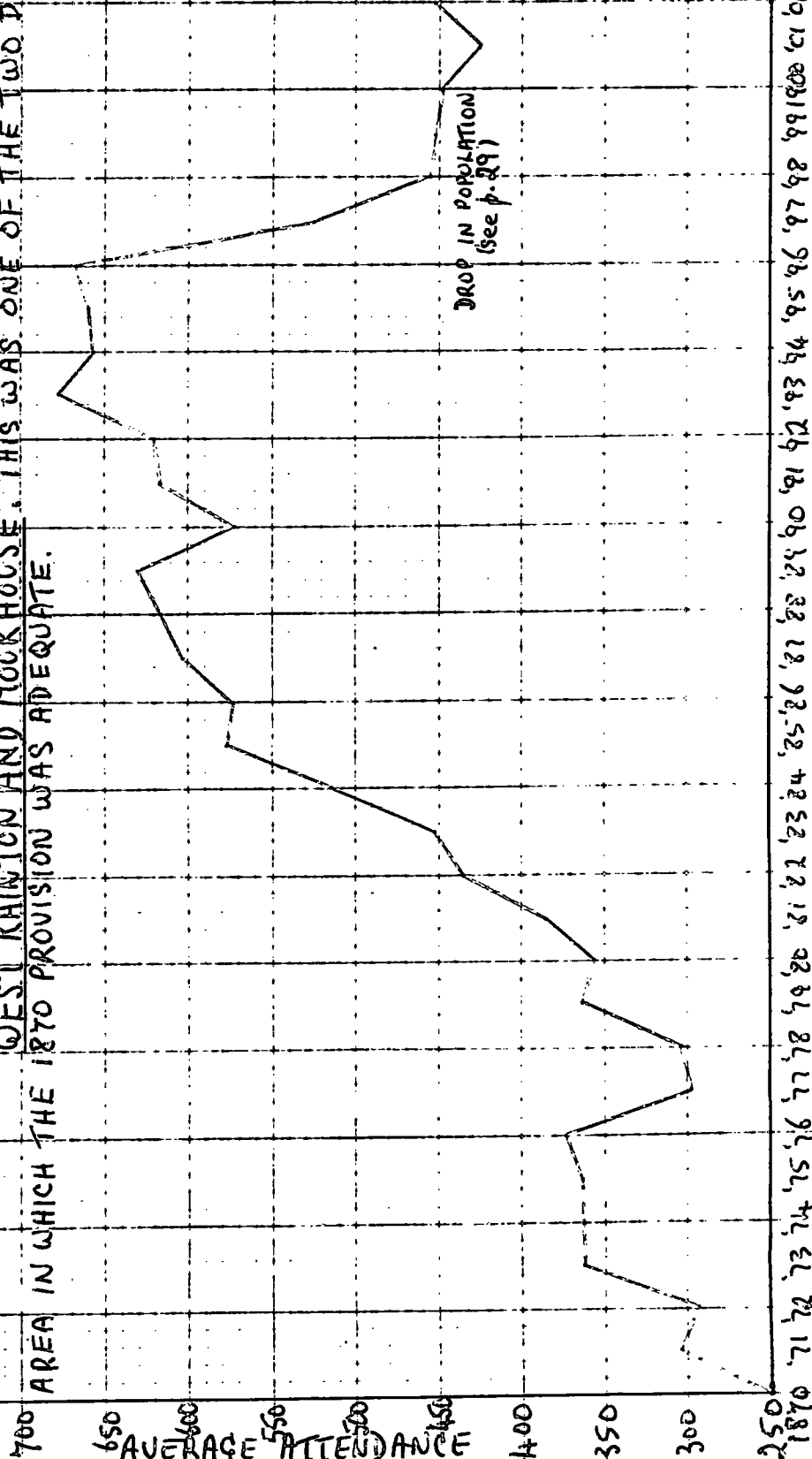
(1) See p. 5.

i.e. in 1891 it was 2,883, and in 1901 had dropped to 2,268.

The 1902 provision was:

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Leamside C. of E. School | 345. |
| West Rainton C. of E. School | <u>567.</u> |
| | <u>912.</u> |

WEST RAINTON AND MOOR HOUSE. THIS WAS ONE OF THE TWO DISTRICTS IN THE AREA IN WHICH THE 1870 PROVISION WAS ADEQUATE.



DROP IN POPULATION
(See p. 29)

1870 1871 1872 1873 1874 1875 1876 1877 1878 1879 1880 1881 1882 1883 1884 1885 1886 1887 1888 1889 1890 1891 1892 1893 1894 1895 1896 1897 1898 1899 1900 1901 1902

WITTON GILBERT, WALDRIDGE AND EDMONSLEY

The 1870 provision was:

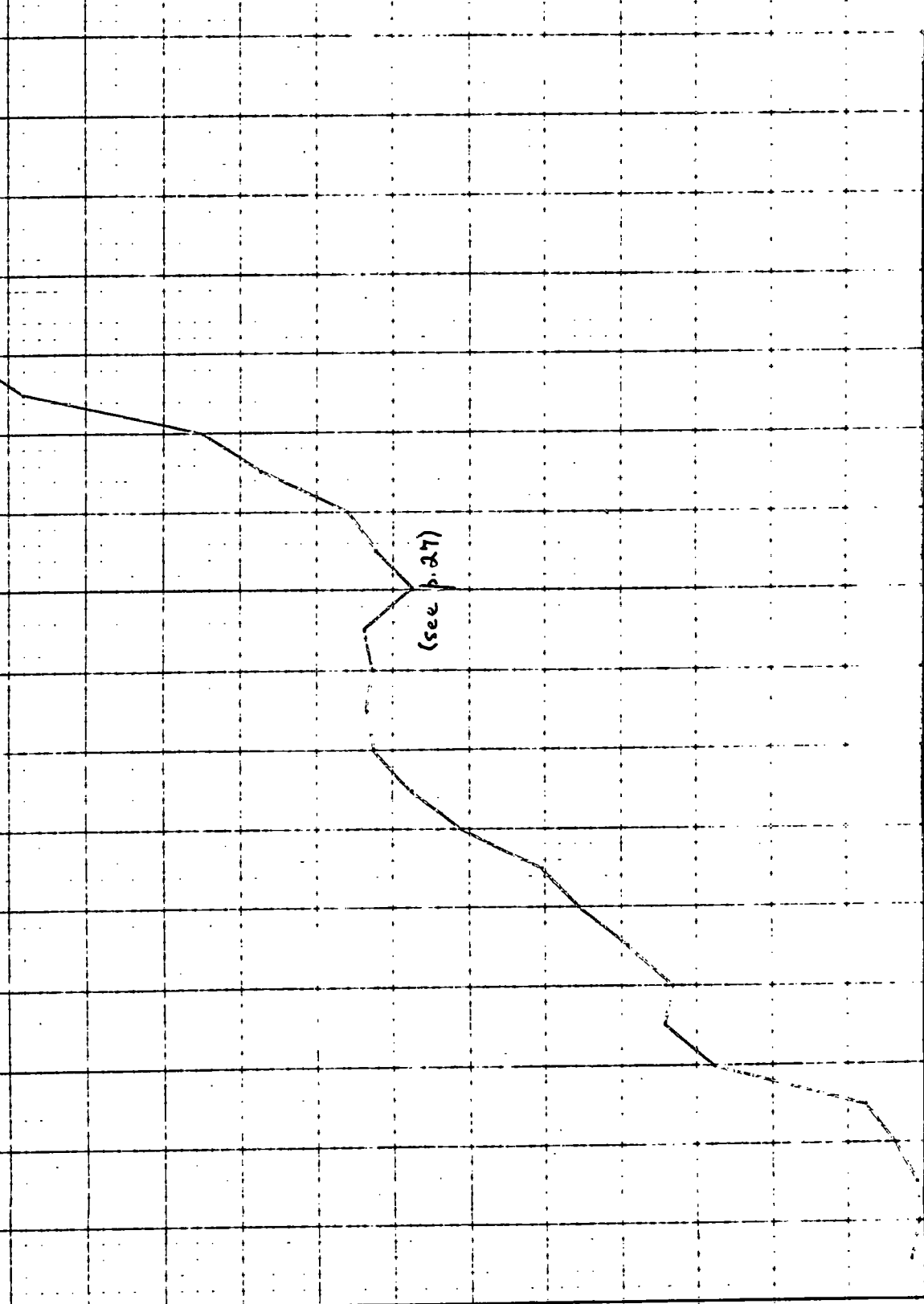
| | | |
|---------|----------------------------------|-------------|
| No. 24. | Sacriston National School | 190. |
| No. 25. | Sacriston St. Bede's R.C. School | 113. |
| No. 26. | Witton Gilbert National School | <u>100.</u> |
| | | <u>403.</u> |

The Inspector's report for Witton Gilbert, dated 30 December 1871, stated that the population was 2,708, of whom 2,438 were of the class requiring elementary education. On the ratio of 1:5 this meant that accommodation was required for 487. The population of Waldrige was 892, of whom 178 were children requiring accommodation, and the population of Edmonsley was 864, including 156 children. The efficient schools in the area were those named above. There was another school, at Waldrige Colliery, providing places for about 100 but its premises were not of a sufficient standard to entitle the school to recognition.

The three areas were united by the Department for considerations of elementary education, and there was thus a total of 821 children to be accommodated, i.e. deficit of 418. The first notice, dated 30 August 1873, required:-

- (a) A school for 130 at Waldrige Colliery, but stated that if the existing colliery school was enlarged to this number and its premises improved, this would satisfy the requirement.
- (b) A school for 138 at Edmonsley.
- (c) A school for 30 at Sacriston, but stated that if the R.C. school was enlarged by another classroom, this would be sufficient.

WILTON & LEBERT WALDRICE AND EDMONDSLEY, A LARGE MINING DISTRICT IN WHICH THE 1870 PROVISION WAS SUPPLEMENTED BY BOTH THE OWNERS AND OTHER VOLUNTARY BODIES.



(see p. 27)

1871 234 1872 234 1873 234 1874 234 1875 234 1876 234 1877 234 1878 234 1879 234 1880 234 1881 234 1882 234 1883 234 1884 234 1885 234 1886 234 1887 234 1888 234 1889 234 1890 234 1891 234 1892 234 1893 234 1894 234 1895 234 1896 234 1897 234 1898 234 1899 234 1900 234 1901 234 1902 234

(d) A school for 120 at Twizell Colliery.

All these requirements were met by voluntary effort partly from the religious bodies and partly from the colliery owners.

(The local vicar remarked in a letter to the Department that but for the collieries a school board would have been necessary. ⁽¹⁾)

By 1875 two of the existing schools had been enlarged, including the R.C. school thus satisfying (c), and plans were under way to meet the other requirements.

The 1875 provision was:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Sacriston National School | 190. |
| Sacriston St. Bede's R.C. School | 173. |
| Witton Gilbert National School | <u>204.</u> |
| | <u>567.</u> |

(d) was met in 1876 by the colliery owners, who built a school at Pit Hill for 250 and another at West Pelton for 78, both just outside the area but within easy reach. The colliery owners also satisfied the requirements of (b) and (a) by building the Edmonsley British School for 227 in 1876, and improving and extending the Waldrige Colliery Undenominational School for 165 which was placed on the annual grant list in 1877.

Bye laws were made by the Chester-le-Street Union for the district on 23 September 1880. The five schools in the district were enlarged steadily to meet the needs of an increasing population and by 1895 the accommodation figures for 1878 had been

(1) P.R.O. Ed. 2/153. See p. 32.

almost doubled. Even so there was a deficiency in the number of places and early in 1896 the Department issued a final notice stating that a further school was required in Sacriston. The owners of the Colliery there, the Charlaw and Sacriston Collieries Company Ltd. wrote to the Department. "Our position is this. We have prepared plans and will build a school if no one else does. But as the Roman Catholics and the Church each have Schools there is a wish among the nonconformists to build one of their own in connection with which we would largely subscribe."⁽¹⁾ This proved to be the case and Sacriston Wesleyan School for 320 became recognized in 1899.

The population of the united districts in 1901 was 9,315.

The 1902 provision was:

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Sacriston National School | 368. |
| Sacriston St. Bede's R.C. School | 355. |
| Witton Gilbert National School | 308. |
| No. 74. Edmonsley British School | 573. |
| No. 75. Waldridge Colliery Undenominational School | 405. |
| No. 76. Sacriston Wesleyan School | <u>320.</u> |
| | <u>2,329.</u> |

(1) P.R.O. Ed. 2/153, 11/4/96. See p.31.

CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY

It can be seen that the sample area, although exhibiting characteristics of its own, was largely typical of the country as a whole. The grossly inadequate amount of accommodation in 1870 was greatly expanded both by the voluntary bodies and the school boards during the next thirty years until there was more than sufficient. The vast majority of children had been induced to attend the schools, at which in almost all cases fees had been abolished, and the quality of both buildings and instruction was constantly being improved under the directions of the Department through the H.M.I's. The annual expenditure on each child consequently steadily increased, being greater at the rate-fed board schools than at the voluntary schools.

The variations from the national progress were due mainly to the industrial and social conditions in the area at the time. These variations were:

1. Despite the poor provision in 1870 there were considerably less board school places provided in proportion to voluntary school places than the average for England and Wales. This was due to a great voluntary effort, as shown in the graph of school places for the area.⁽¹⁾ Much of the economic help for this came from the colliery owners, whose obvious policy was to avoid the formation of boards wherever possible, either by erecting their own schools or subscribing to the local religious organizations

(1) See graph following p.21.

to assist them to build denominational schools.⁽¹⁾

2. Owing to the migratory nature of the inhabitants schools were built for large populations and later required to serve only small communities, while new schools were constructed elsewhere in the area for the same children. The result of this was that the number of places per head of child population by 1902 was 1.22, compared with a national value of 1.03. This fact, together with the poor provision in 1870 referred to above, and a more rapid growth in population than the average, resulted in a considerably greater percentage increase of places between 1870 and 1902 in the area than in the country as a whole, i.e. 380% compared with 260%.

3. In 1902 approximately half of the parish boards in England and Wales exercised jurisdiction over populations of less than 1,000, but the smallest board in the area considered was in a district of 1,500 people. This absence of very small boards was due mainly to the colliery owners, and to the fact that the area being well populated districts could be united and still form a compact unit.

4. In the area as a whole compulsion was applied most reluctantly before 1880, and the Standards for exemption kept low thereafter. There was no growth in the higher Standards as occurred elsewhere, a prerequisite of this growth being the existence of a relatively prosperous artisan population.⁽²⁾

(1) See pp. 31-2.

(2) See p. 31.

5. Despite the facts recorded in (4) above, the percentage attendance in the area although starting as low as 22% in 1871 (compared with a national figure of 26%), had jumped to 65% by 1881 (compared with the national figure of 55%), and was 83% in 1901, 8% in excess of the national average.⁽¹⁾ These last two points seem to indicate that the adult population of the area was, in general, more appreciative of the value of education for its children than the average for England, and that if economic conditions had not been so poor greater development would have occurred.⁽²⁾

Allowing for these variations, the area fairly reflects the progress made in the six hundred other areas of similar size throughout England and Wales, which in the aggregate show such a wholly impenetrable vastness.

(1) See pp.24-6.

(2) See Welbourne, *The Miners' Unions of Northumberland and Durham*, 1923, p.205.

MAIN SOURCES OF REFERENCE AND GENERAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Elementary Education Acts 1870, 73, 76, 80, 91, 93, 97, 99, 1900.

Voluntary Schools Act 1897, Board of Education Act 1899, Education Act 1902.

School board minute books and ledgers stored in the Shire Hall, Durham, and Education Offices, Durham, covering the period from the formation of the boards until 1902.

Files of the Ministry of Education, particularly:

(a) Series Ed. 2, the parish files, which contain the reports and recommendations made by the Inspectors of Returns as part of the educational census provided for by Sec. 67 of the 1870 Act. They also contain copies of the School Accommodation Notices issued by the Department, and general correspondence and papers concerning accommodation and the provision of new schools.

(b) Series Ed. 6, the poor law union files, which contain papers relating to the formation and business of the school

attendance committees, together with printed copies of bye laws for the parishes comprising the Unions.

(c) Series Ed. 16, the borough files, containing similar material to Ed. 2 for the boroughs.

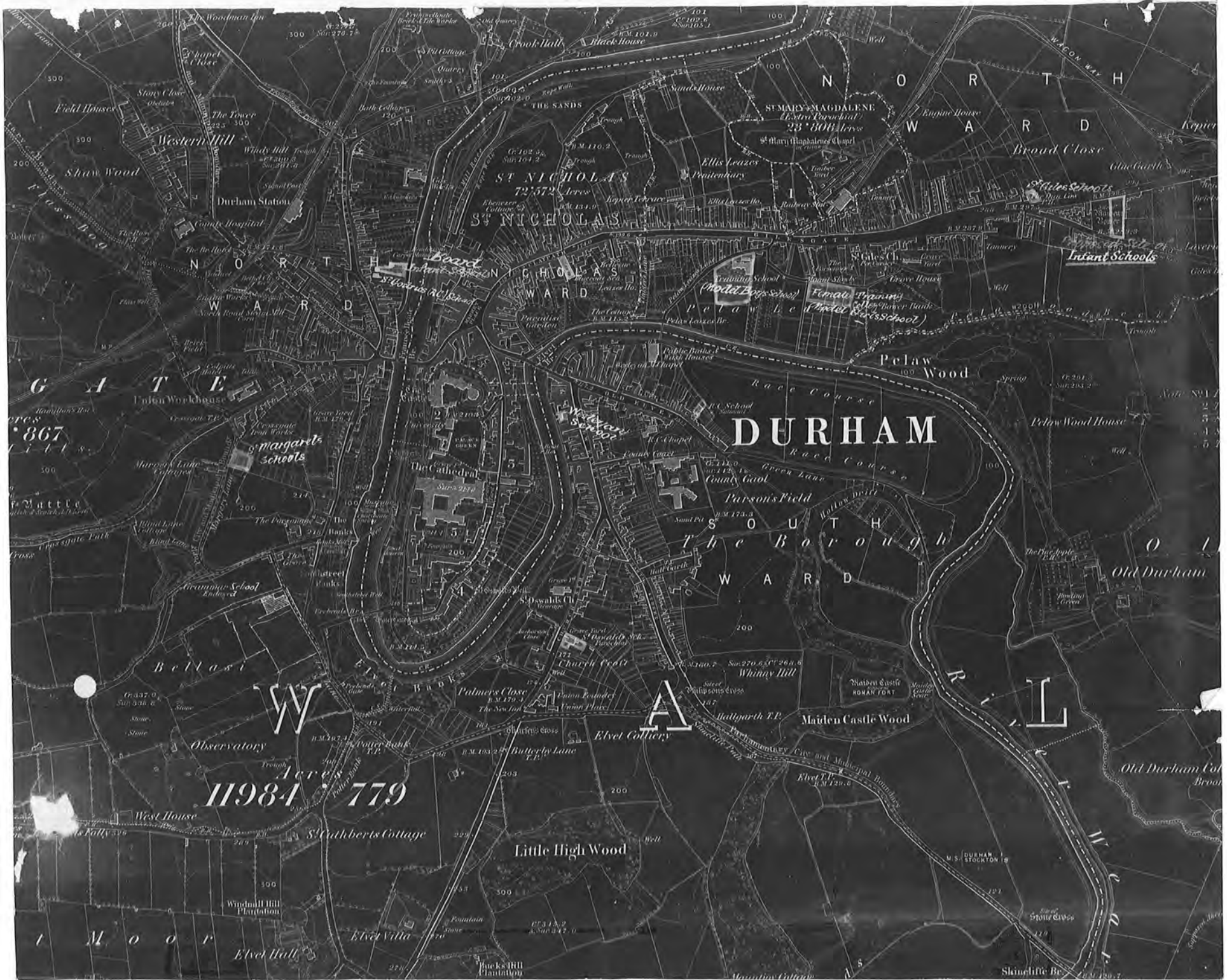
(d) Series Ed. 7, the preliminary statements, containing information on premises, staff, etc. of individual schools.

(e) School files, which occasionally contain material to supplement the above.

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