

1878

ACHAN
SCHOOL

1878

1878

Taraachan School

January 15

This School formally opened to-day - Representing the School Board there were present Rev. Mr. MacKinnon and Mr. Mackay, members, and Mr. Leslie, Clerk - D. Mr. Macdonald Teacher.

January 18

School opened for actual work on Wednesday the 16th present thirty four. Numbers increased during week to fifty three. Time taken up in testing children and attempting to arrange them in classes. Scarcely any two with same book

January 25

Experienced great difficulty in getting books. Adopted Nelsons Royal Readers in the first three Standards Arithmetic of same series in all the Standards. School Board have supplied Slates pens and ink. Thursday and more particularly Friday very stormy. Attendance considerably less these two days.

1878

February 1

Attendance has kept up very well all this week. Applied to the School Board for a Monitor. Est classes formed and all arranged in Standards. Time Table prepared and adopted. No Teacher of Evening has been appointed as yet.

February 8

Began History with Standards IV, V, and VI. Attendance good. Number enrolled is now eighty three. Nothing else worth recording. Visit from Park on Tuesday, about things required for School.

February 16

Everything now going on smoothly. Progress very satisfactory. Began with Finlay Mackenzie as Monitor, more time given to each class and work better done. Essay given out for Monday.

1878

February 23

Visit from Rev. W. Mackinnon, Priest Member of School Board on Friday. Work throughout the week according to the Time Table. Ordinary progress. Monitor unwell - off work for three days.

March 1

Monday of this week wet and cold twenty two absent. Ploeghing Match at Skibo on Friday, eighteen absent. Average for week less on that account. Monitor absent unwell for two days. Began to give out home work to most of the pupils.

March 8

Visit from J. C. Sutherland-Walker Esq. of Skibo Member of School Board on Wednesday; with him Architect and Contractors of School. Weather very stormy throughout week, attendance affected thereby.

1878

April 26

Attendance coming down very much, a good many kept at home to work. Applied to Clerk to instruct the Compulsory Officer to call on defaulters next week. A section of class seven advanced to class six Standard I.

May 3

The work going on pleasantly and progress reasonably good - irregularity of attendance considered - Begun the third class with Grammar on book, and Geography on map orally - Compulsory Officer has not put in an appearance as yet.

May 10

Market held at Clastmore on Monday. The day is kept as a general holiday. Only six put in an appearance dismissed them soon. Compulsory Officer visited the School on Thursday. Gave him the names of thirty absentees and irregulars.

1878

May 17

A few young ones have come in in consequence of the Compulsory Officer's visit. The average is very little better however as a number of the more advanced have left. Work same as usual. Nothing new.

May 24

Weather in early part of week was very stormy, attendance therefore less. Enrolled three. Six have left this week as their parents leave the District at the term. The three upper standards represented by only three throughout week. Dilling up lower standard during time set down for Geography.

May 31

Attendance of junior pupils is rather on the increase, but the more advanced are very irregular. Higher subjects merely nominal. Favourable progress in arithmetic throughout. Copies kept cleaner than at first. Home work well done.

1878

June 7

Enrolled five new boys who have come to the District after the term. Average attendance considerably increased this week. Work going on quietly - nothing occurred during the week specially worthy of notice.

June 14

A few away on Thursday as it was the Fast Day in Dornoch. a good many on Friday as the elder members of the family have gone to hear "the men" and the young ones have to do duty at home. Work as usual. Ordinary progress.

June 21

Cattle market at Bonar Bridge on Monday. a number of boys were away at it. Attendance coming down somewhat. Two boys only attending half time owing to ill-health. Nothing else specially worthy of note.

1878

June 28

Re-arranged higher Classes for reading lessons. Adapted No 5 Royal Reader for Standards four and five. Dictation very defective. Special attention given to it this week. All other lessons according to time-table.

July 5

a beginning has been made with sewing this week Miss Helen Munn to act as Teacher per. tem. Wrote to Compulsory Officer regarding a few children who attend very irregularly - Others regular in attendance and making fair progress.

July 12

Visit from the Compulsory Officer on Friday. Gave him the names of fifteen irregulars and of a few who have not put in an appearance yet. Attendance this week rather above the average of late. Got a bell frame and drilling up the younger children in arithmetic.

1879

March 21

Attendance throughout the whole of this week has been extremely irregular owing to the stormy weather. Twenty five children on Roll did not make a single attendance - most of them being those who are to be presented for Inspection.

March 28

Weather somewhat better and therefore attendance improved on last week Average over 60 - notice of Inspection on Monday the 31st. A good few may be absent from illness. Preparing classes for work of Inspection.

March 31

School inspected today. The remaining days of the week were given as a holiday. Two boys Robert Calder and William Mathieson were absent without any sufficient reason, though their names appeared on the Schedule.

March 31st 1879. School inspected.

Present 45 boys 28 girls; under
J.M. Macdonald, C.T. Master,
Elizabeth Grant, Monitor.
Jane Macpherson, Sewingmistress
H. June, H.M.O.

April 11

A slight falling off in attendance. The bigger boys have all gone to work and very few of the younger ones have come in yet. Formed most of the Classes for current year in Reading and Arithmetic.

April 18

Fever seems to be spreading in Spinningdale and several families have been kept at home from the fear of catching the infection. A good many are working at potato planting. Began Senior Class with Latin and map of England.

1879

October 24

The present state of matters is very unsatisfactory. Attendance is more than a third less than for corresponding period last year and instead of improving is more inclined to fall off. Potato-lifting keeps even the smallest at home.

October 31

On Friday there were only twenty ten present out of over eighty in the school district between the ages of five and fourteen. Such a state of matters requires exceptional action, wrote Clerk of School Board to bring the case before the Board.

Oct

November 7

Visit from Compulsory Officer on Friday. Prepared a list of incorrigibles for Clerk to hand the School Board at meeting on Monday. This week has been the worst I have yet had - an average of 25% compared with over fifty last year at same date.

1879

November 14

Although the harvest must be over and potatoes up the average is much the same. Want of boots and other articles of clothing is the most common excuse for absence. Nothing worthy of recording took place during week.

November 21

Visit from Compulsory Officer on Friday. Gave him the names of five incorrigibles to be summoned before the Board at a meeting on Tuesday. The improvement in attendance is not very great. Lessons according to Time Table. Nothing new. Monitor left on Friday.

November 28

Thanksgiving for Harvest in the Parish on Wednesday - no children put in an appearance - everybody seems to have gone to hear Mr. Kennedy in Free Church. No service in Established Church. Mistake in attendance Register in marking for ~~Friday~~ Thursday in Wednesday's space.

1880

July 23

Summary of Inspector's Report.
"The order is excellent, and the Standard work is on the whole well done. The lower Standards know grammar well, but it should be more thorough in the higher. History and Geography should have more care, and till greater proficiency is attained in these ordinary subjects, Special subjects should not be attempted. The part of the boys' playground nearest the School should be sailed, and the lower frames of the window looking into the girls' playground should be obscured."

W. M. Macdonald, Certificated Teacher.
Mrs Macdonald, Sewing Teacher.

Assessors, Clerk of School Board

July 23

Summary of Inspector's Report received yesterday and copied verbatim on preceding page. Grant received this year is £54. 14. 6, including the distance grant. No sewing during this week. Otherwise work conducted much as usual.

July 31

The School Master for Fees ends next week and it is therefore intended that the summer session should end with that date, namely 6th August. A better attendance may be expected on opening as Harvest should then be well over.

August 6

The children are invited to the Annual Party to Skibo on Tuesday. Thursday following is the Fast, so that it would not be any great advantage to keep open later than today. Communion is a week earlier this year and this makes the holidays that much earlier.

1881

May 13

Summary of Inspectors Report
 "This School continues to be conducted with excellent discipline, and results very satisfactory in the circumstances. Notation Tables and Writing might improve. I would request the attention of the Managers to the very large number of children qualified by less than 250 attendances, and to the low general average attendance. The improvements recommended last year have not yet been carried out."

One Unit has been deducted from the Grant because the defects pointed out by H. M. Inspector have not yet been remedied.

D. M. Macdonald Certificated Teacher
 Mrs Macdonald Governing Mistress

May 13. 1881. Signed on behalf of School Board by J. Leslie
 Clerk of Board.

1881

May 20

First quarter for year 1881-2 ends with this date. The average attendance for that period is only 39.8 as against 52.1 for the corresponding quarter last year. In 1878-9 it stood as high as 65.3. The decrease is something remarkable and deserves attention.

Attended funeral of Mr. Ross late Schoolmaster of Whitfasc on Wednesday. Mr Macdonald taught in my absence.

May 27

Enrolled three new scholars this week. two of them girls, are infants a few away all this week owing to their parents changing from one house to another. In three cases parents have left the District.

June 3

Numbers keeping up very well on the whole especially when compared with those at the corresponding date last year. Work however is very elementary and most of the children are infants either in years or mind.

July 25

The average for this and last week is even less than last year for same weeks. I thought then that the attendance had attained to zero but it seems it can even fall below it. Both of the new Standards monthly begun.

August 1st

In terms of a minute of the School Board Holiday have to be given today. Work throughout the week as usual. Nothing to record more than the usual dreary routine.

August

Reports of both Day and night schools received from Clerk of the School Board today and copied on next pages. The remark which winds up the Day school Report is only an echo of what has been almost weekly insisted on this book. It is sincerely to be hoped that some improvement may now take place and that some work of a higher nature than has been possible for the past year or two may be done before next Inspection.

Summary of The Inspector's Report on the school and Remarks (if any) to be made.

Day School - "The state of attendance in this school (District is simply deplorable, and the Managers should distinctly understand that the school in present circumstances loses nearly as much Grant as it gains from results. No fifth or sixth Standard came forward, and for years the Geography and History Grant has been forfeited because the requisite proportion of children in the higher Standards has not been attained (Article 18 & 2). The Managers should at once put in force the Compulsory powers at their disposal. The indifference of the parents evades, if it does not indeed surpass, that met with in the remote Hebrides and it is quite clear that both parents and employers violate section five of the Education Act 1878. Three of the children in the first Standard - all under five years of age - have not been in school since April, and are at present in employment as herds. The results are altogether moderate but good teaching is impossible in the circumstances."

Evening School - "The results are altogether very creditable. As the Evening School supplies a felt want in the district it is hoped the Managers will encourage the continuance of the school next winter."

My Lords trust that the Board will do all in their power to secure regularity of attendance.

A better Report will be looked for next year as the condition of an unredressed Grant (Article 32.161).

The scholars numbered 13 and 20 on the Evening School Examination Schedule are disqualified under Article 39

School Staff as before

1884

September 26

Opened School on Monday of this week. Only ten came that day. The number by the end of the week increased to no more than nineteen - just the same number entered in the corresponding week after last years Holidays

October 3

Very few new names have been added to the roll this week and the attendance is any thing but satisfactory. Little or no work can be done with such a state of matters. Note Compulsory Officers to visit defaulters but nothing has been done

October 10

Having received another appointment and the School Board, at a meeting held on the 3rd Inst., agreeing to take accept my resignation as at this date I cease to act as Teacher of Karachan Public School and all responsibility devolves on my successor.

1884

October 13th

Opened this school today as teacher pro tem. with my brother, Francis R. S. Black as Monitor: there were present 10 boys & 3 girls. I thought the children very far back indeed. C. A. S. B.

October 21st

My brother Charles R. S. Black having left as agreed by the board, I took full charge of the School today. Monday 20th. F. R. S. B.

October 27th

Attendance of last week far below that of the preceding one, Children still in a very backward condition with many subjects. Those absent are, lifting the Potatoes. F. R. S. B.

1884

October 31st

Thursday of this week was observed as a thanksgiving day for the harvest, a holiday given. Beginning of the week stormy attendance very poor. special drilling on num. Ar. to all the standards except I. F. R. S. B.

November 7th

Attendance improving, work pretty satisfactory. Children seem to have wakened out of sleep, getting quite active at work especially at arithmetic, began giving out home exercises to standards II, III, & IV. No sewing mistress appointed as yet. Enrolled one more boy on Register. F. R. S. B.

November 14th

Had a visit from compulsory officer, attendance greatly improved, work getting beautifully, supplied standards II, III, IV & I with multiplication tables and tables of weights and measures &c. to the higher standards II, I. More work prepared, but some parents don't seem to approve of it.

1884

December 25th

Today! (Daniel A. Bethune) entered "in
 duties as each of this school. There were
 present in all 43 scholars 31 Boys and 12
 girls. Most of my time spent in organ-
 izing them and placing them in their
 proper Standards. The great majority of
 them will have to get books. Have no
 History, Geography, or Grammar taught
 and consequently will at once attend to
 these branches. Shows the school
 Register (Daily Attendance) very disordered
 and blotted and consequently have notified
 to the Board of the Board that I wish a new
 one. The school room I also found in a
 pitiful state of dirt and as yet the
 Board have taken no steps in the mat-
 ter. There are no pointers in the school
 Average for this week 58.6

Miss Bethune has been appointed Sewing
 Mistress & duties commence in the first
 of the ensuing week.

1885

January
~~December~~ 2nd

Thursday of this week being observed here
 as New Year's Day I gave two days as
 Holidays. Attendance increased this week
 and 50 scholars were present on Monday
 but they are again falling off, probably
 the "Old Style" being the cause. The Duplication
 Examination schedule for 1884 not being
 found I am at a loss still, to standard
 the pupils properly. Commenced giving out
 Home Lessons. Intimates that I was to
 commence singing as part of the daily
 routine. Intend taking up a few hymns
 for a commencement.

January
~~Dec~~ 9th

Attendance this week coming down and
 the average is only 55.9. As alleged last
 week the "Old Style" is the cause.
 Weather also has been rather stormy &
 many of the younger pupils cannot come
 forward. Work progressing favourably.
 Announced that two holidays would be
 given on Monday & Tuesday on account
 of "Old Style" celebration. Home Lessons well
 prepared or? thus a marked improvement in

1885

Reading and Arithmetic

January 16th As notified last week two holidays were given for "Old Style" festivities, and unusual of the holidays the attendance was poor. The average this week is 33.1. Standard 14 has commenced Scottish History and Geography, and progress is satisfactory on the whole. Intend sending in a list of defaulters to the School Board Officer early in the week. Home Lessons continue to be well done. Adopted "Chamber's" English Reader Book I. for Standard I. Edited by J. M. D. McMillan M.A.
 S. A. Andrews, District.

January 23rd (Attendance increased this week and the average is 44.1. Had a visit from Mr. J. M. D. McMillan of the School Board on 21st inst. on the whole satisfactory. There is nothing more worthy of note.

1885

January 30th Had a visit from Defaulting Officer early in this week. Average has kept up very fairly and this week it has reached 44.6. History & Geography are very intelligently got up by some of the scholars, on account of color in the chest, I was unable to start the singing, but will do so in the beginning of next week.

February 6th Singing commenced this week, but progress is anything but satisfactory. There seems to be an innate deficiency in the pupils, which no training can eradicate. Other subjects are progressing, but work is hard. Employed an "interim" today, (an assistant at present in the New School Bromonty), while on business regarding annual school concert which came off to-day. Average for this week 46.4 which is encouraging.

1886

August 6th

Great decrease in attendance, which in all probability will continue till the breaking up for holidays, which I am to give on Wednesday 11th Oct.
Only one or two pupils put in an appearance as representatives of Standard III and IV. so no start of any consequence has been made with those in the new Standard work.

August 13th

Have Autumn holidays on Wednesday 11th Oct. on account of sacramental fast being observed on Thursday.

September

Summary of Inspector's Report on this school received, and will be found copied verbatim on next page

1886

September

Summary of Inspector's Report on Larcachau Public School and remarks (if any) to be made

"This school is steadily rising in efficiency under the present skilful and hard working teacher, but his efforts are sorely hampered by chronic irregularity of attendance. Viewed in the light of this very serious drawback to effective work, the results achieved during the past year are in a high degree satisfactory. History and Geography are well ahead of the code requirements, the grant for elementary Grammar and Intelligence is creditably earned, and the proficiency shown by the pupils in the subjects of Examination for the various standards, is on the whole decidedly praiseworthy.

A less angular style of writing should be adopted, and an attempt made to infuse some expression into the Reading, which at present is rather monotonous"

My Lords desire to point out that in noting the numbers on the Registers at the end of each week, no children of school age who have not passed the fifth Standard should be struck off the

1887

May 13th

I can note no improvement in the Attendance and work is retarded very much by the irregularity of those who have attended. Only one representative of Standard VI. and also one in Standard III. Weather is good and favourable to attendance. Do not expect to present many on next Examination, as many of my best pupils have left the district or are shortly to do so. School open on Monday but no attendance.

20th

Attendance has kept the same. No improvement. Time Table somewhat prolonged and Reviewing lessons forms the principal feature. Geography and Arithmetic are fairly well up though much yet remains to be done. History in most Standards is in an advanced stage. Nothing of special note calls for remark this week.

27th

Visited the school found the work carried on satisfactorily, visited the attendance Register.

W. M. W.

27th

As will be seen from the above entry I had a visit from W. M. W. Esq. Member of

1887

27.

Registers and found them correct. He commented on the meagre attendance and I supplied a list of 27, 17 of which have not put in an appearance since 15th February and are still in the district, together with the remaining 10, who were in the district up till 27th May. Though not in attendance I may mention that only two "irregulars" are included in the above list. The work is much the same but much in the drag on account of the irregularity of those attending.

June 3rd

Only two defaulters put in an appearance, notwithstanding last week's report to the Clerk and his consequent action thereon. Today I had present only the sum total of 13, 9 Boys and 4 girls.

This is exceedingly disheartening and stands in need of radical change. Enrolled one new scholar this week.

10th

A few defaulters put in an appearance this week at the beginning, but have since been the same. As a result of the action of the Clerk, as also a call from the Clerk.

The one of 10th is 10th and after a conference. It is 10th and 10th and 10th

1888

August

Summary of N. M. Impi. Report on
Greich Larechan Public School (Sutherland)

"The scholars who attend with anything like tolerable regularity acquit themselves very creditably. The late and limited attendance of young children is a serious drag on the school's efficiency, especially in the later stages of school work. The average attendance has fallen five, and the school population is said to be slowly diminishing. The summoning of two defaulting parents before the School Board recently seems to have had a beneficial, if rather evanescent, effect; but it is obvious more drastic compulsory measures are required occasionally."

Daniel G. Bellhouse Pres.

Signature of Clerk } A. S. Bellhouse

1888

September 28. Opened school upon Monday after Summer Holidays.

Attendance was, and is, ^{still} poor, as was expected from the lateness of the harvest.

The average for the week amounts to 9.7 or about 31% of those on the Roll. Have made a start with Standard II, V & I, but much progress can not be made until well on in Winter.

October 5.

This week we were visited with a most unusually severe snow storm, which found many of the children quite unprepared; consequently the attendance this week showed a marked increase. With four or five exceptions all the children enrolled on Register are beyond two miles, and many those from the coast. The harvest work is no more than begun in some instances and winter-tilling follows, so attendance will not show much improvement until the Standards I, II & III have made the progress.

1891.

July 24th

Attendance remains the same 36 + there being a good few very irregular. Held an Examination on paper in Standards III. IV. V to-day. Results in arithmetic were gratifying all over. Received notice from the Clerk of H. M. I. visit on Wednesday 29th Oct

July 29th

Annual Inspection. There were present 45 pupils 22 Boys & 23 Girls. Some Summer holidays.

August 18th

Received Mr. Maj. J. Report on Lavachan School a copy of which will be found copied verbatim on the other side.

1891

14.8.91.

Summary of the Inspector's Report on British, Lavachan Public School.

"The attendance has improved considerably and may now be considered fairly satisfactory. The school has also risen in efficiency, the general results being very creditable. Reading has improved. Writing is better in the copy-books than in the worked papers. Arithmetic is a strong subject throughout, and the children show creditable speed in working. With the exception of Grammar, which is somewhat backward, the class subjects are taught with a good measure of success. Needlework receives due attention. A few Reading sheets and some additional Maps are required"

(Master) Daniel A. Beckune
(Clerk)

1897

5th March The attendance continues pretty good. Average 28.4. Still dragging away at elementary arithmetic with St. II. The progress is not much. Infants and I have received introductory lessons in numbers. The Reading throughout the school is a dull, monotonous drivel, saddening to listen to. At the present rate of progress, it will take months to break the children off this bad habit, and get them to read in a natural tone of voice. In Grammar I gave first lessons on the Tenses to II, I and VI. No doubt, this is unusual, but in the present condition of this school absolutely necessary.

1897

11th March Compulsory Officer called this forenoon supplied him with names of absentees. On his way to visit them.
(Signed) J. Wm. Calder

12th March Owing to illness and stormy weather the attendance has fallen to 22.6 - a drop of 6 from last week. Arithmetic throughout the school is deplorable. In St. II & V the Multiplication Table is very imperfectly known and Memorization and Revision as in all the other classes are extremely bad. During the whole week the Quits have with II & V, was devoted entirely to sums in simple Mult. and Division. It is useless to advance till they know these. Ball-frame and kindred exercises to Inf and St. I. Elementary lessons on Grammar. Progress slow. Etc. above III is fair. In classes below it is as in former. Best price with Paris

1897

2nd July

No school on Monday as I was absent on private business.

On Tuesday, I attended at Gortnash, as a witness, in the case of Widow Gurn, defaulters. No one appeared on her behalf and a warrant was granted for her apprehension, but as she is old and bedridden, it is not likely it will be put in execution.

Remainder of week as usual.

Oral and written exam. on Friday but the results were very moderate. Nothing else could be expected in the circumstances.

9th July

Regular routine according to Time Table. Attendance remarkably good. Average 34.2 being 95% of the possible. On Wednesday there was not a single

1897

16th July

The attendance though less than last week continues good. Average 32.6 Progress fair though owing to the exceedingly backward state of the school when I took charge, the results at the forthcoming examination will be far below what I could wish. Nothing deserving special mention.

23rd July

The Attendance continues good. Average 33.2. Greater part of the time was occupied in revising and brushing up for examination. Written exam. on Friday. Much of the work was fair only. Most of the scholars seem never to have mastered the elementary rules of Arithmetic - results accordingly. Spelling and Dictation not deplorable.

1897

30th July

The attendance keeps up well.
Average for week 33.9.

Busy revising and preparing
for examination.

On Thursday evening the children
were entertained to tea, cake &c.
by Mr. Gilchrist of Bepisdale.
At the same time she distributed
eight prizes for best attendance
during the past school year -
four for boys and four for
girls. Miss Lygon, Bepisdale
kindly presented three prizes
for sewing.

30th Aug Official Inspection by
Mr. Munro - Fraser & Co. S.
Present 18 Boys and 18 Girls.

1897

6th Aug

Wednesday was given as a holiday
after examination. As is usual
the attendance shows a big drop
now that the official inspection is
past. All present were advanced
a stage, and a fair start made
to new standard work.

13th Aug

School open as usual till Wednesday
evening. School closed on account
of Sacrament on Thursday and
Friday. Annual Vacation given
to date from Tuesday next, 17th -

1900

The following is a copy of H. M. Inspector's Report on this School for Year ended 30th June last.

Aug.

"The School is marked by several good features. Reading, Writing and Arithmetic are satisfactory, and the neatness of the written work deserves praise. The Composition of the Candidates presented for the Merit Certificate, is on the whole good, but attention is called to the extent of the work required in Arithmetic for this distinction. Sewing is well attended to. Glass subjects are fairly good. Neither Drawing nor Singing is taught in the school. The Pupils are taught Military Drill, but Physical Exercises according to an approved system, should be taught in the lower division."

Merit Certificates are enclosed for J. Campbell and J. Vass. The school should be visited more frequently by the Compulsory Officer.

1900

5th Oct. School reopened on Monday, after the Harvest holidays. The attendance was poor. Average only 23.8.

12th Oct.

The attendance has much improved. Average for week 31.6. Some, who have not yet appeared, are employed at farm work.

19th Oct.

Usual routine. There has been a further increase in the attendance, the average for the week being 33.8. Lessons generally are fairly well got up, and fair progress has been made.

26th Oct.

Potato-digging is now general in the district, and some scholars are kept at home to assist their parents. Consequently the Average has fallen to 31.6. Satisfactory progress throughout.

1901.

The following is a copy of H. M. Inspector's Report on this school for year ended 30th June last.

16th Sept 1901

"In Reading, Writing and Arithmetic the school does in the main good work, and English and Geography are in general taught with satisfactory success. The written work is carefully done and figuring is very neat. A satisfactory start has been made in Grammar and Nature Drawing.

Attention is however called to the following defects:-

1. Towards the close of December 1900 History had been scarcely begun, and the Candidates presented for the Merit Certificate in June 1901 did not possess a knowledge of any leading event subsequent to the Jacobite Rebellions.

2. Nature Knowledge was not taught to the Senior Division during the year.

3. Physical Exercises according to an approved system was recommended in last year's report for the Junior Division.

been taken of the recommendation.

4. No kind of singing is taught in any of the divisions.

Attention was called last year to the requirements in Arithmetic for the Merit Certificate. Attention is now called to the entire syllabus of subjects to be proposed by Candidates for the Merit Certificate, which is to be found in the Appendix to the Code. The examination papers worked by the pupils will be called for at visits of inspection. It is expected that in future a fortnightly instead of a monthly record of work will be kept.

The character of H. M. Inspector's report does not warrant the issue of Merit Certificates for pupils in this school.

A deduction of 10th has been ordered under Article 32 (b) owing to the very unsatisfactory nature of the work done during the past year.

David Stewart
Clerk

1906.

16th Nov.

The attendance this week has reached 43.4, which is the highest average recorded since the school was opened after the harvest holidays. Good, steady work has been done throughout, and progress has been very satisfactory. On Monday, I received from the Clerk, a copy of the new regulations drawn up by the Board for the Cleaning, Lighting &c. of the school.

23rd Nov.

The weather has been exceedingly wet and stormy, but notwithstanding the attendance totals 40.2 of last week. Good progress throughout.

30th Nov.

The weather continues wet and cold, but attendance only slightly affected. Average 42.4. Progress throughout has been

1906.

The following is a copy of the new regulations drawn up by the Board for the Cleaning, Lighting &c. of the school -

Floors of school (which includes Class-rooms, Clerk-room and Lobby) to be brushed with damp sawdust, every evening or morning, and the desks, tables and window-sills dusted.

Floors, along with the offices (and floors of same) to be washed out once a month.

Walls of Class-rooms, Clerk-room and Lobby to be brushed down once a month.

Doors, desks and wood-work of walls to be washed once a year during the holidays, including the offices.

Windows, cleaned outside and inside when required.

Fires to be lit in the cold season as soon as possible.

1906

Copy of Report.

Crook Lancham Public Schol.

County of Litchfield 2261

Form 32 (3), 2261

The school was visited on the 1st instant by the Department's Inspector and the Medical Officer of Health for the County of Litchfield, who report as follows:-

Main Room:- This room is insufficiently heated, and poorly ventilated; there are no fresh air inlets, and the outlets are not in working order.

Class room:- There are no proper means of ventilation. The windows were found closed and the children were working in a fetid atmosphere.

Cloak rooms:- It is not clear why only one cloak-room is used for coats. The one so used is dirty and ill-lit.

Offices:- The offices should be put in order and kept clean.

1906

General:- The walls of the schoolrooms need distemping; and better and more definite arrangements should be made for cleaning the floors; they must be swept every day, and washed at least eight times a year.

During the whole week the weather was exceedingly wet and disagreeable. However the attendance continued good. Average 42.2. Text exercises in Arithmetic and Composition were on the whole, very well and neatly done. Through-out with very few exceptions.

On Tuesday evening, Mr. Hardie Chairman of School Board with Rev. Mr. Campbell and Mr. J. M. M. Members, visited the school and fully considered the report by N.H. Inspector and the Medical Officer of Health.

1908

25th Sept

Reopened school after the annual vacation today on Tuesday Miss Munro, Ex. P. T. Loring Public School, took up duty as teacher of the junior class on that day. Attendance fair.

5.00

Regular work according to the attendance pretty fair. Average 35. Yesterday evening, Mr. Carnegie, accompanied by Mr. Carnegie and a large party from Mills Castle and Oriskany House, visited the school and presented the Delchist Memorial Prizes provided annually by Carnegie.

9th Oct. Ordinary school work carried on. Attendance slightly better than last week. Nothing special to record.

16th Oct. A slight increase falls to be noted in the attendance. Average for this week 35. Nothing special to record.

1908

13 Oct

John Calder Defunct Officer

23rd Oct. Attendance shows a slight increase upon last week figures. Book work done.

25th Oct. Potatoes lifting has now begun, and consequently the attendance has fallen to an average of 29 - a drop of 7 from last week.

26th Oct. School closed this week to afford the children an opportunity to assist in securing the potatoes.

27th Oct. The potatoes have now been lifted and stored. Though a few potatoes are short, without sufficient cause. Average for week 21. There is no more to be done.

1909

19th March

For the first three days of the week the weather was very stormy and unsettled. There were frequent heavy showers of snow, and the cold was intense, but towards the end of the week the conditions became more favourable. Attendance low and irregular Average 27.8 Compared with 29.6 last week. Work as far as possible according to Time Table and progress, in the circumstances, satisfactory.

26th March The weather is now more genial and springlike and as a result the attendance has improved. Average 31.2 an advance of almost four upon the previous 27.8 week. Work as far as possible according to Time Table and progress, in the circumstances, satisfactory.

1909

Visited school this evening at 3.30 and found Daily Register correctly marked.

Jas. F. Hardie
2.4.09

2nd April School regularly taught according to Time Table. Attendance slightly lower than last week. Ordinary progress. This evening the school was visited by J. A. Macdonald Esq. N. M. D.; Dr. Dick County Medical Officer; Mr. Rose, Sanitary Inspector, and the following members of the School Board viz Mr. Hardie, Chairman and Mr. D. Munro, with Mr. Shaw, Clerk. The purpose of their visit was to consider what can be done to remedy the defective water supply to the school.

6th April John Calder Deputes Officer

1910
25th Feby. Education (Scotland) Act 1908.

School Board of Crish

This Act provides that it shall be the duty of every parent or guardian to provide efficient education for his or her children who are between five and fourteen years of age.

And that a School Board shall have power, with the approval of the Scotch Education Department, to prescribe two or more dates in each year as the dates of commencing and terminating school attendance for children within their district. A child shall be deemed to attain the age of five years on the prescribed date next succeeding its birth.

birth, and shall be deemed to attain the age of fourteen years on the prescribed date next succeeding the fourteenth anniversary of the child's birth.

According to the authority given by Section 7(2) of the Education (Scotland) Act 1908, and with the approval of the Scotch Education Department, The School Board hereby prescribe the following as the dates of commencing and terminating school attendance for children within their district namely:-

1st January, 1st April and 1st September.

A child must begin attendance at school on the date next succeeding the fifth anniversary of the child's birth, and on the

1910

7th Oct.

Regular work according to Time Table.

Attendance increased to 35.6

Satisfactory progress.

The Gilchrist Memorial Prizes for best attendance, annually given by Mr. Carnegie, were presented on Tuesday evening of last week. Mr. Carnegie was unavoidably absent and her place was taken by Miss Lauder, Cupisdale, who was accompanied by a distinguished party from Skibo Castle and Cupisdale House. There were also present Mr. & Mrs. Hardie, Clachmore and Rev. W. Ritchie Crich House. Miss Holm entered upon duty on 8th Oct.

14th Oct.

The attendance has advanced to 37.6 or 91.7 %, notwithstanding that harvest work is in full swing. Good work and gratifying progress.

1910

21st Oct.

School open on Monday only.

Part of the week granted as holidays to give the children an opportunity to help with the potatoes.

28th Oct.

School regularly conducted according to Time Table. Some children have been engaged securing the potatoes this week, and consequently the attendance has fallen to 34.8 or 86.8 %. Good work done throughout.

4th Nov.

Although the weather has been exceedingly cold, with heavy showers of sleet or rain daily, the attendance has advanced to 35.5 or 86 %. Thursday was observed as a day of thanksgiving for the harvest - no school.

the school was conducted by Miss Helen.

1914

7th Sept. Visited School, examined Registers and found them correct.

A. D. Cameron.

11th Sept.

1st July School conducted as usual. Progress quite satisfactory. Three new scholars enrolled yesterday. Summer now on Roll 39. Closed this evening for Annual Vacation.

1st Aug. Reopened school on Tuesday. Owing to war. Headmaster away with Territorial Force. Assistant in charge. Average Attendance for week 27.5.

8th Aug. Average Attendance for this week 31.4. Work carried on as far as possible in accordance with Time-table.

1st Sept. David Huff, Deputy Officer

1st Sept. Attendance more irregular this week. Compulsory Officer visited School this week and his attention was drawn to irregular attenders. Average Attendance 26.8. Work conducted same as previous week and progress fairly satisfactory.

Attendance still irregular. Average for week 27.5. Rev. A. D. Cameron visited School this week and signed Registers. Progress fair throughout.

14th Sept. Examined and tested Registers & found it correct. Kept - Examined the children in Religion & knowledge & found them carefully taught.

Chas. L. Ritchie

15th Sept. Attendance has risen this week to 30.2. Rev. P. L. Ritchie visited School, examined children in Scripture and signed Registers. Mrs. Carnegie of Skibo, accompanied by a party of friends, visited School Monday evening and distributed Prizes.

Copy of H. M. Inspector's Report on
this school dated 17/11/15.

1916.

11th Jan.

David Inf. Default Officer

"The temporary head teacher devotes herself assiduously to her school duties, and the children are receiving careful and capable instruction. Reading, Written composition and oral Intelligence are the most successful branches.

The points brought to the teachers' notice in connection with expression in Recitation, variety of Physical Exercises, oral composition, oral Arithmetic, and Handwriting will no doubt receive attention.

The offices are in a filthy condition through neglect, and a heavy deduction under Article 32 (b) will be made without further warning, unless they are constantly kept clean. The Board should furnish forthwith a statement of their proposals in this important matter."

The immediate attention of the Board is requested to the grave defect mentioned in the last paragraph of the above report.

14th Jan.

The Average Attendance this week has risen to 18.8 or 67.1 per cent. The compulsory Officer visited school and his attention was drawn to the defaulters.

Good progress has been made throughout the school.

21st Jan.

This week the Average Attendance is 19.9 or 71 per cent. Work regularly conducted. Nothing requiring special mention.

28th Jan.

The Average Attendance has slightly increased this week also. Average for week 21.1 or 76.3 per cent. Work according to Time Table.

1914

3rd Aug Regular routine according to time table. On Friday the attendance fell to 23. On other days it was much higher. Average 26.2. Percentage 90.3. One girl - an infant - enrolled on Tuesday. Number now on Register 29.

8th Aug David Buff default-officer.

10th Aug Ordinary routine. Attendance same as last week. Progress, generally, is quite satisfactory.

14th Aug School conducted as usual. Attendance 89 ap. Fair progress throughout. The annual Communion held in all the Churches in the Parish. School closed on Thursday and Friday.

1917

24th Aug School open as usual, except on Monday, which was the last day of the Communion. Attendance slightly lower than last week. Average 73. Percentage 85. Some scholars are very irregular and unpunctual and give a great deal of unnecessary trouble. Part of an entry under date 28th April 1916 is quoted below, as it describes the present situation very well. It is as follows:-

Owing to the low and irregular attendance, it is simply impossible to do good and effective work, and at present, the outlook is, to say the least, most discouraging. Parents, or the majority of them, seem quite indifferent and frequently keep their children at home on the flimsiest excuses, and frequently on no excuse at all.

1919

21st March ^{Cough} Whooping, has made its appearance among the scholars and is spreading rapidly. A few are suffering from the "Flu", and others are affected by skin eruptions. The above causes have reduced the average to 44.6 or 58.4 per cent. Work completely disorganised and progress much less than ordinary.

2nd March Owing to the prevalence of Whooping Cough among the scholars, the school has been closed by medical authority.

Copy of letter from Medical Officer of Health for the County.

(opposite page)

1919

Wick

2nd April 1919

David Shaw Esq.

Clark to the School Board.

Bonar Bridge.

Larachan School.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of yesterday's date, I am asking the County Clerk to issue a Closing Order for Larachan School to cover the period from 14th March till 19th April.

Mr. Campbell's letter, which I return herewith, refers to the week ending 22nd March, so it will be best to date the order from 14th March, and he can then cancel the attendance made during that week.

I hope to get the orders which

123
1919

are still outstanding for schools
in your district sent to you in
a few days.

Yours Faithfully,

George D. Dick

Int. Medical Officer of Health
County of Lutherland.

Copy of Telegram from Medical
Officer.

"Wick - 21st April 1919

To Shaw - Borer Bridge

Extended Larachan order
two weeks.

Dick. "

1919

23rd May

Reopened school on Monday last (19th).
Attendance very low. Some scholars
are still confined to the house.
Average 11.4 and percentage 49.5
Work, after so long an interval,
and with so few present, of a
scrappy and elementary nature.

30th May

Better attendance this week, though
it is still low and irregular.
Average 20.6. Percentage 79.2

6th June

The attendance has fallen to
19. Percentage 73. Steady
progress is simply impossible
under the prevailing conditions

120

1921

Oct. 10 Regular work as per Time Table.
Attendance exactly the same as
last week. Progress quite
satisfactory. Nothing requiring
special mention.

14th Oct. Attendance very irregular.
Average 25.6 and
percentage 72. Fair work
done throughout, but hampered
by the irregularity. One girl has
made only 14 attendances out of
18, since reopening of school
after Autumn holidays. Default
Officer absent up at present and
unable to go this morning.

21st Oct. Attendance very low and irregular.
Average 25.6. Percentage 79.3.
The attendance is so bad that
effective work is impossible.

1921

Report on Religious Instruction
for Year ended 31st July 1921.

Larachan P.S.
Mark: Excellent.

"This is a very
interesting school. The Infant
and junior sections were alert
and accurate in both memory
and history. The senior section
with few exceptions, were correct
in their answers and good in
their recitations. There is a
considerable eagerness and interest
shown by all the children.
The work is of a high standard."

3rd Feb. Weather dry, though exceedingly cold.
Attendance much improved.
Average 27.6. Percentage 89.
Very satisfactory work done
throughout.

10th Feb. Ordinary work. Attendance same
as last week. Progress fair.

14th Feb. Fairly good weather, but attendance
only moderate. Average 25.
Percentage 80.6. Ordinary work
and progress.

24th Feb. The first four days of the week were
very cold and wet, resulting in a
low and irregular attendance.
Average 23.2 only and percentage
74.8. Satisfactory work was
impossible in the circumstances.

Copy of A. N. Inspector's Report
on this school, dated 13/12/21.

32. 22.61. Lasechan Public School
Sutherland County Education Authority.

A good feature of the instruction
in this school is the frank, ready
and intelligent manner, in which
the majority of the scholars respond,
under oral examination. In other
respects also the results obtained
are generally very creditable,
Arithmetic, Composition, and
Spelling in the Senior Classes
being of more than average merit.

In the highest Senior Class four
of the five pupils enrolled are
already thirteen years of age, and
two have attained the age of fourteen
years. This represents an unsatisfactory
relation between age and attainment,
and an effort should be made to
accelerate progress in the school.

1922

so as to enable pupils to satisfy the requirements of Article 28-I at or about the age of 12 years."

"It is satisfactory to observe that increased vigilance is being exercised in the matter of attendance. There are still, however, isolated cases of irregularity, and further improvement will be expected. This school is one of the few in the County in which the annual average attendance for the statistical year ending 31st July 1921 has fallen below eighty-five per cent. of the average roll."

1922

3rd March During the week the weather was mild and pleasant, but owing to influenza being prevalent in the surrounding district, the attendance was low and very irregular, and school work much interrupted in consequence.

19th 22

7th March Chas Duff Default Officer

6th March Visit - Gilbert W. L. H. H. J.

10th March Regular examination & found correct Report L. B. B. B.

1st March School work and fairly good progress. Attendance low and very irregular. Percentage 80.6 only.

17th March Regular routine as per time table. Attendance still low and irregular. Average same as last week.

28 th Sept.	Average attendance	25.4	95.0%
5 th Oct.	Average attendance	25.0	95.0%
12 th Oct.	Average attendance	25.0	95.0%
19 th Oct.	Average attendance	25.8	95.5%

Inspector's Report on Religious Instruction.

Laracan School visited 15th Dec 1928

Seniors I, II.

The Psalms and Proverbs were repeated without hesitation or error. Catechism questions were answered accurately and with intelligence. The 53rd chapter of Isaiah was recited without hesitation.

The Conversion and Missionary journeys of St. Paul, have been carefully studied - and the pupils answered questions readily and clearly.

Juniors

The juniors know the Psalms and Acts so well that they recited the Lord's Prayer with accuracy and intelligence. Both Senior I and II answered all the questions put from the list of questions prepared. The reports were all able to answer Catechism questions. - Mr. R. H. Ritchie.

Oct 22nd Angus McKay Default Officer.

24th Oct. Average attendance 25 = 92.5%

School closed today - school on 5th Nov. - school was open - started a holiday for pupils - 21st Nov.

Examined Register and found all correct - Alexander Gunn - 24.6.

ending

9th Nov. Average attendance 26.7 = 91.5%

Received a medical certificate for one pupil who is ill.

15th Nov. School is closed today - Thanksgiving for the Harvest.

16th Nov. Average attendance 24.5 = 90.7%

Mr. Barron, H. M. I. S. examined the pupils today - 16th Nov.

Nov 22nd Angus McKay Default Officer.

23rd Nov. Average attendance 26.6 = 91.7%

30th Nov. Attendance lowered this week by pupils who are suffering from colds.

Average attendance 23.6 = 87.4%

Copy of H. M. I. S. report on next page.