

1899.

28<sup>th</sup> April.

The following Medical Certificates have been received this week:-

Herbert Knowe,  
Chirnside,  
N. B.

24<sup>th</sup> April 1899.

Thereby certify that the children of William Chapman Whiteris may now attend school without risk of conveying infectious disease.

S. Macvic, M.B. & C.

Summerhill,  
Aytou.

The children of James Utterson, Whiteris, may now attend school.

April 25<sup>th</sup> 1899.

James Duncan Jeffrey,

The following parents Andrew Pringle, East Reston, and Andrew Hurves, Aytou Station, informed me that Whooping-cough was in their families.

The usual weekly list of absent and irregular pupils made out for School Board Officer. Object Lessons, Infants and Physical Drill and Singing as usual. Registers examined.

1899.

5<sup>th</sup> May.

Was informed, that Adam Utterson had left the district, and that I might remove his name from the Register. Miss Straiton got a Testimonial from me, as she wished to apply for a situation at Coldstream.

Received Examination Schedules from Clerk to School Board, in view of the Inspection of the School which takes place in June.

The list of Irregular Scholars was prepared for School Board Officer. There are still several cases of Whooping-cough. The Infants received a lesson, the subject being "Wheat"; and Singing and Physical Exercises were given as usual. Daily, and Weekly checking of Registers.

9<sup>th</sup> May

Examined Registers, and found them marked up to date and correct.

The Headmaster exercises a constant and strict supervision in the Examination, and checking the School Registers, so may be proved from the frequent entries in Log Book.

William Nisbet  
Chairman  
S. M. Seddes  
Correspondent



1899.

12<sup>th</sup> May.

Received the following Medical Certificate:-  
Mr. A. Gladstone's children may now attend  
School.

James Duncan Jeffrey.

May 5<sup>th</sup> 1899.

Received also from Clerk to School Board Form 68,  
and Form 68 Summary.

The attendance during the past week has been better  
than that of the preceding week, but whooping-cough  
is still keeping pupils from attending school.

The weekly list of absent and irregular pupils was  
made up for School Board Officer.

The Infants received an Object Lesson this afternoon  
the subject being 'The Lark Tree'.

Singing and Drill were given as usual, and all  
the School Registers were examined and checked.

19<sup>th</sup>

Received intimation that the following pupils had left the  
District School, and were leaving the district viz Christina  
Learmouth, Jessie Learmouth, Nellie Learmouth, and Harry Stobie,  
also Oswald Stobie, John Stobie, William Stobie, James Stobie and  
John Rae. List of absent and irregular pupils made up for School  
Board Officer. The Infants received an Object Lesson - subject 'The Goat'.  
Registers examined and checked. Singing and Drill given as usual.

26<sup>th</sup> May.

1899.

Received the following Medical Certificate:-

St. Helens.

Ayton.

Berwickshire.

May 20<sup>th</sup> 99.

This is to certify that Archibald Craig, Peckwalls, is  
in my opinion now free from Whooping-Cough  
and able to attend school.

David R. Taylor.

As the Whitsunday Term approaches, the attendance  
of pupils slackens. Those who are leaving the district  
stay away from school, and others give the excuse, that  
they were helping their Mothers.

The work of the school has been steadily performed.  
The Infants received an Object Lesson, the subject being  
'The Whale', and Singing and Drill were given as  
usual. The School Registers were examined.

2<sup>nd</sup> June.

Received the following Medical Certificate:-

Summerhill.

Ayton.

May 29<sup>th</sup> 1899.

Andrew Leith may now attend school.

James Duncan Jeffrey.



1899.

2<sup>nd</sup> June.

The names of children, who have left the District at the May Term have been debited.

Received 'New Registers of Daily Attendance', also a 'New Summary Register'.

Enrolled four new pupils on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June.

Miss Wood obtained liberty to leave her classes, as she was going to a marriage; a Monitor for the day was appointed to assist Miss Dunne. Physical Exercises, and Singing were given as usual, and there has been a general revision of work.

9<sup>th</sup> June.

Admitted the following new pupils this week viz Thomas Bolton, Maggie Reitch, and George Kenton, also Isabella Swanson has left, as the distance was too far to come to Aytou School.

In order that the past instructions given by the teachers maybe thorough, the work during the past week has consisted largely of revision.

Form 1st and Examination Schedules are prepared for H. M. Inspector of Schools.

The Infants received their usual weekly lesson the subject being 'Hemp'. Singing and Physical Exercises were given as usual. List of irregular and absent scholars made out for School Board Office.

1899.

16<sup>th</sup> June.

During the week I have received the following Communications:-

School Board Office.

Aytou 14<sup>th</sup> June, 1899.

Dear Sir,

I have just received intimation from Mr. King, that he proposes to inspect Aytou Public School on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> inst. at 9.15 a.m.

I am,

Yours faithfully,  
G. M. Geddes.

School Board Office.

Aytou 14<sup>th</sup> June, 1899.

Dear Sir,

I have to intimate to you that the Board at a meeting held this week, have fixed the Summer Holidays for this year - for Aytou Public School - to date from 24<sup>th</sup> July (inclusive) to 11<sup>th</sup> September.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,  
G. M. Geddes.

(Continued on next page.)



1899.  
16<sup>th</sup> June.

School Board Office,  
Apton 16<sup>th</sup> June 1899.

Dear Sir,

Having consulted the Members of the Board, I have now to intimate to you that Monday, and Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> inst. will be held as holidays at Apton Public School, the former being the holiday allowed after the Inspection of the School, and the latter being Midsummer Holiday.

I am, Dear Sir,  
Yours faithfully,  
G. M. Geddes.  
Clerk.

To make the work of the school thorough, there has been a general revisal; and the principle steadily kept in view has been to act fairly towards every pupil - remembering that defects in one subject shall not debar pupils from being advanced in others.

I had specially to report the case of William Chapman to the School Board. This boy <sup>was</sup> absent a considerable time on account of Whooping-cough, and has since gone to work without a Labour Certificate.

June 23<sup>rd</sup>

School Inspected,

W. G. King. H. h. J.

Summary of H. M. Inspector's Report on page 155.  
Received the following Medical Certificate:-

St. Helens.

Apton.

Berwickshire.

June 21<sup>st</sup> 1899.

This is to certify that in my opinion Martha Pringle age 10 yrs. is not of great mental capacity, and consequently slow to learn. Her memory is bad.

David R. Taylor.

30<sup>th</sup> June.

The school was re-opened on Wednesday morning, when it was found that several pupils were absent. Made out list of absentees, and irregular attenders for School Board Officer, and impressed upon him, to inform parents that the school age was up to fourteen years of age. The Infants received a special Lesson, and the Singing Lesson, and Physical Exercises were given as usual. Admitted four new pupils one of whom Sarah Purves is much behind for her years - cause Bad Health.



1899.

7<sup>th</sup> July.

Received the following medical certificate:-  
July 1<sup>st</sup> 1899.

Andrew Curves's children, Aytou Station, may now attend school.

James Duncan Jeffrey.

The following communication was sent to the School Board viz.

(copy.)

School House.

Aytou.

5<sup>th</sup> July 1899.

Aytou School Board,  
Gentlemen,

Bring under your special notice the following pupils, who are within school age viz.

	age	Date of Birth	day.
James Kemmon,	13.	85 - 10 - 17.	
George Allan,	13.	86 - 6 - 25.	
William Young,	12.	86 - 11 - 1.	
William Chapman,	13.	85 - 9 - 16.	
William Smail,	13.	86 - 1 - 16.	
Agnes Kinghorn	13.	85 - 8 - 2.	
Jessie Craig	13.	86 - 5 - 22.	

	Age	Date of Birth	day.
Annie Laurie	13.	86 - 4 - 15.	

The reasons for their absence are given on the list made up for School Board Officers.

See Rule 3<sup>rd</sup> of Regulations issued by Education Department relative to attendance  
Jam

Faithfully yours,  
William Cook,

Miss Wood has been absent from her school duties during the past week, having gone to Edinburgh to sit for the certificate examination.

Miss Straiton informed me, that she had obtained another situation as Assistant Teacher at Glenhice, and told her, that she should communicate at once with Aytou School Board.

Made up the weekly list of absentees, and irregular attenders for School Board Officers.

14<sup>th</sup> July.

The classes of the school have made progress in the ordinary, and class subjects. Begun a course of Elementary Science in Agriculture, and Botany, in which the boys from classes 1-5 have shown much interest, also the Junior Boys have shown a like pleasure. Made up list of Absentees, and Irregular Pupils for School Board Officers.



## Ayton Public School, Berwick.

179  
4496

(15.7.99). Summary of the Inspector's Report on the School, and Remarks (if any) to be made.

In this school, after making some allowance for the prolonged closure of the school on account of epidemic sickness, payment of the grants may be recommended at the same rates as last year.

The results in the junior division are quite satisfactory under the circumstances.

In working sums no form of counting by units should be allowed. Singing is very good in this department.

In the higher classes the oral work is very fair, and with the exception that Arithmetic is weak in the fifth and sixth standards, the written exercises are well done. Singing is satisfactory.

Needlework is very good in all the classes. A military instructor should be employed to drill the older pupils."

I am to point out that Mr. Cook, Miss Dunne, and Miss Straiton have not returned their forms of acceptance, although it is stated on Form 9 (b) that they have accepted the Superannuation Act.

Miss Straiton will shortly receive her certificate.

J.S.R.

1899.

21<sup>st</sup> July.

With the exception of William Young, none of the pupils named in letter to School Board (5<sup>th</sup> July 1899) have returned. Made out a list of absentees and irregular attenders for past week, and the School Board Officers obtained the same. The work of the school has been performed in the usual manner. The Infants received a special lesson in Mental Arithmetic, also singing, and Physical Exercises were given to all the pupils.

26<sup>th</sup> "

To-day the school was closed for the Autumn Holidays. Before dismissal Miss Straiton, who is leaving for another situation, was presented with a collection of valuable books, as a token of esteem.

Received the following communication from Clerk to School Board.

School Board Office.

Aytou, 25<sup>th</sup> July, 1899.

Dear Sir,

I am instructed by the Board to acknowledge your letter to them of 5<sup>th</sup> inst. where you bring before their notice certain pupils of school age, who have absented themselves lately from school.

The Board have directed me to write to the parents of these pupils, and warn them of the consequences, that may follow, should their children not be sent back to school after the holidays.

I am,  
Yours faithfully,  
Mr. Cook Esq.  
Headmaster  
Aytou Public School.

I am,  
Yours faithfully,  
G. M. Geddes.  
Clerk.



157 1899.  
26<sup>th</sup> July

Was informed by James H. S. Doughty Esq. Solicitor, Aston, that his boys, who left Aston Public School last year, had done well at George Watson's College, Edinburgh. The one had got the First Prize of his class for Arithmetic, and the other had obtained a certificate for Physics, and Drawing.

15<sup>th</sup> September. The school was reopened, after six weeks vacation, and the attendance of pupils was good, for an opening day. Miss Torrie who has been appointed to succeed Miss Straiton, was present, also the rest of the staff. Several new pupils have been admitted. A list of irregular, and absent pupils was made out for School Board Officer. The work for the past week has been preliminary. The following alterations have been made on the Time-Table viz. "Freehand Drawing" instead of Map-Drawing on Monday - "Elementary Science" on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons from 3 to 3.30 - Composition or Dictation on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Map-Drawing forms part of the Geography Lesson on Monday and Tuesday - Physical Geography, and "Nature Knowledge" on Friday afternoons, and on each Thursday revise the Meanings, Spelling and Grammar.

158

1899.

15<sup>th</sup> September.

Staff of the school:-

William Cook, certificated 1<sup>st</sup> class.  
Elizabeth H. Dummel, " 3<sup>rd</sup> "  
Rose Wood, Assistant (Ex P. Y.)  
Margaret Ann Stephen Torry, (Ex P. Y.) Assistant.

22<sup>nd</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup>.

During the past week the following pupils have left viz. Agnes Kinghorn, Mary Lyall, and William Chapman, who are all above fourteen years of age; also George Allan and Henrietta Johnston who have gone to other schools. Jasper Swanston, who has been unwell for some time, has left, the distance being too far for him to walk.

Made up a list of irregular, and absent children for School Board, which their Officer obtained. The harvest on some farms, in the neighbourhood, not being finished, some of the older children have not yet returned to school.

All the staff have been attentive to their duties, and the work of the school has gone on satisfactorily. The classes are being filled up, and the weak ones are being carefully marked.



1899.

29<sup>th</sup> Sept.

Received the following communications from Clerk to School Board:-

School Board Office,  
Aytou, 26<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1899.

Dear Sir,

The Board at their meeting held last night had before them your communication of yesterday's date, with list of apparatus required for the teaching of Drawing and draft rules for the cleaning of Aytou Public School and Offices.

I am directed to intimate the Board's approval of the same, and in regard to the apparatus as per your list, the Board have agreed to pay your train fare to Edinburgh on Saturday, so that you may select the articles required, as suggested by you.

I have also to intimate that Serjt. J. Cummins has been appointed to drill the scholars in Aytou Public School half-an-hour twice a week to be devoted to said drill, the arrangements for same to be made by you and Serjt. Cummins.

The Board have also had under their consideration the subject of the presenting of prizes to the scholars at the close of the school year, and while not yet deciding upon the number to be given, the Board would wish it to be known throughout the school, that Prizes will

be given, and the details can be afterwards arranged in due time.

Yours truly,  
G. M. Geddes  
Clerk.

W. Cook Esq.  
The School House, Aytou.

School Board of Aytou.  
Aytou, 27<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1899.

Dear Sir,

Yours of to-day received, I note that the boy George Kenton, and the girl Jessie Craig are now at school.

I may mention that I am directed by the Board, to send warning notices to the parents of Annie Laurie, Cocklaw; Robina Greig (Dalgetty) Aytou; William Smail, Hemington; Mary Purves, Aytou Station, and James Menon, Aytou.

I may also intimate that the contract for coals to be supplied to Aytou Public School, this season, has been given to Mr. James Dalgetty, Coal Merchant.

I have this morning been informed by the Education Department, in reply to my inquiry, sent at your request, that you accepted the Superannuation Act on 22 July, and that Miss Dunne has not yet



1899.

notified her acceptance of the Act.

I have no objection to the school ashpit being cleaned out.

Yours truly  
G. M. Geddes,  
Clerk.

M. Cook Esq.,  
Public School, Aytou.

Rules to be observed for Keeping Aytou Public School, and Offices in proper order.

- 1<sup>st</sup> That the class-rooms be swept every (School) night, and dusted in the morning.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> That the Fires be lighted, and the Rooms properly ventilated at a reasonable time before the School opens.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> That the Offices be swept, and the woodwork and floors washed at least once a week.
- 4<sup>th</sup> That the School Windows are to be cleaned each quarter.

William Cook, Headmaster.

The work of the school has been performed in a satisfactory manner. List of absentees and irregulars given to School Board Officer.

1899.

Sergeant Cummins commenced to drill the older pupils this afternoon at the usual hour.

6<sup>th</sup> October.

Gave Mrs. Allan, the cleaner of the school, a copy of the Rules to be observed for Keeping Aytou Public School, and Offices in proper order.

Received Drawing Sheets (Freehand) and other necessary apparatus from the School Board.

Made out list of absent, and irregular attenders for School Board Officer; and also got notice regarding the absence of some which was ill-health.

The Infants received a special Object Lesson - the subject being "The Cat," which interested them very much. Lessons in Drill, Drawing, Nature Knowledge, Elementary Science, and Singing have been given as usual. All the School Registers have been examined, and checked.

13<sup>th</sup>

"

During the past week the attendance in a number of cases has been broken owing to potato gathering, which has taken place on several farms in the neighbourhood. The work of the school has been performed in the usual manner. Examined Walter Lothian as to his fitness to be in the "Sixpenny" class. Yesterday afternoon the school was closed.



October 18<sup>th</sup>Schml Visited,  
W. Y. King. U. Va. J.

" 20<sup>th</sup> Potato lifting has been general in the district, and that has caused a number of the Senior Pupils to be absent. Received the following communication from Clerk to School Board:-

School Board Office,  
Ayton - 14<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1899.

Dear Sir,

I am instructed to intimate to you, that Serjt. Cummins having suggested that it would be advisable in the interests of discipline, that the Headmaster should be present while the scholars are being instructed in drill, the Board have taken the same view, and would therefore request that you should attend along with the drill instructor, while the children are being drilled.

I am,  
Yours truly,  
G. M. Geddes,  
Clerk.

Wm Cook, Esq.,  
Headmaster,  
Public School, Ayton.

1899.

October 20<sup>th</sup>

Where breaches of discipline have occurred, punishment has followed. Serjt. Cummins reported, that the Drill had improved by my presence. List of irregulars and absent pupils given to School Board Officer. The ordinary work of the school has been performed, and the Infants received special Arithmetical Drill.

" 27<sup>th</sup>

Received the following communication from Clerk to School Board.

School Board Office,  
Ayton 24<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1899.

Dear Sir,

I have to intimate to you that Robinco Dalgetty has been excused by the Board from further attendance at school, owing to her mother's illness. Mary Howes and James Mennon were also excused at last Board Meeting, but you will observe that they are both now over 14 years old.

Please say if William Smail has returned to school. I observe his name is not upon last list of absentees. Thomas Swinton who is over 14 years of age has been reported by the School Board Officer as not coming back to school.

Wm Cook, Esq.,  
Headmaster,  
Public School,  
Ayton.

Yours truly,  
G. M. Geddes,  
Clerk.



1899.

October 27<sup>th</sup>

During the past week the attendance has been good. The usual work has been performed, and where weakness has been shown, efforts have been put forth to strengthen. Registers have been examined and checked. Singing and Military Drill have been given as usual. Infants received a special lesson.

Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>

Received the following communications from Clerk to School Board:

School Board Office

Ayton 31<sup>st</sup> Oct. 1899.

Certificate Examinations 1900.

Dear Sir,

I enclose herewith to send to you Forms and Enclosures which I have received from the Sec. Ed. Department for Miss Wood, and Miss Torry, in connection with the above named Examination.

I am,

Yours truly,

G. M. Geddes.

Clerk.

Mr. Cook, Esq.

Headmaster

Public School, Ayton.

The above mentioned Forms and Enclosures were given to Miss Wood and Miss Torry.

1899.

Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>

School Board Office,  
Ayton. 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov. 1899.

Dear Sir,

Drawing.

As requested by you I wrote to the Secretary, Scotch Education Department asking "how far it is expected that pupils in a country school, who for the first time, are taking Drawing (Fourth Schedule 1899) are expected to profess", to which the Secretary has replied (dated yesterday) that "I am directed to state that it is expected that the requirements of the Junior Division laid down in the Fourth Schedule to the Code of 1899, with the addition of construction of Simple Seales should be overtaken in the first year."

Yours truly,

G. M. Geddes.

Clerk.

Mr. Cook, Esq.

Headmaster,

Public School, Ayton.

The weather during the past week has told in a degree upon the attendance, several children are unwell. Made up list of irregular and absent children for week. To-day there was no Military Drill, owing to the inclemency of the weather. Special Lesson to Infants - "Steam".



1899.

Nov<sup>r</sup>. 10<sup>th</sup>.

The following change in the Time-Table has been found to be an improvement viz whilst classes II and III are at their Arithmetic class I has Reading and vice versa. The work of the school has been performed in the usual manner. Special inquiry has been made regarding absentees. Made out list of irregular and absent scholars for School Board Officer. The Singing Lesson, and Drill were given this afternoon.

" 14<sup>th</sup>.

Received the following communication from Clerk to School Board:

School Board Office.  
Aytou 15<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup>. 1899.

Dear Sir,

Elementary Science.

I duly submitted to the Secretary Scotch Education Department the scheme of Elementary Science which you asked me to forward to him, and I have now his reply (dated 11<sup>th</sup> inst) stating "I am to state that my Lords approve the scheme of Elementary Science submitted for the Senior Divisions (boys) in this school."

Yours truly,  
G. M. Geddes.  
Clerk.

W. Cook Esq<sup>r</sup>.  
Headmaster,  
Public School, Aytou.

1899.

Nov<sup>r</sup>. 17<sup>th</sup>.

With a continuance of good weather the attendance has kept well up. The work of the school has been performed in a steady and conscientious manner. Where pupils have been negligent the spur has been applied, and attention has been given, where weakness has appeared. Made out a list of absent and irregular pupils, and was informed by School Board Officer that Elizabeth Prentice who was now above fourteen years of age, had left school.

Military Drill for the older pupils, and Physical Exercises, and Musical Drill have been given to the other pupils. Singing Lesson was given as usual.

The infants received a Special Lesson this afternoon the subject being "The cow" which was illustrated.

Nov<sup>r</sup>. 24<sup>th</sup>.

Examined Registers, and found them marked up to date, and correct.

William Nisbet  
Chairman  
G. M. Geddes  
Clerk



1899.

Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>

Received the following communication from Clerk to School Board:-

School Board Office,  
Apton, 21<sup>st</sup> Nov. 1899.

Dear Sir,

The School Board Officer reports that Elizabeth Prentice, who is now over 14 years of age is not to be sent back to school.

He also reports that the parents of William Smail state positively that the boy is now over 14 years of age his birthday being 16<sup>th</sup> Nov.

Yours truly,  
G. W. Geddes.

W. Cook Esq.,  
Apton.

Made out a list of irregular and absent children for School Board Officer. There are some whose irregularity is marked, these have been specially reported to the School Board.

As the days are rapidly shortening the interval for dinner has been half-an-hour, thus enabling children from the country to reach home in daylight.

Military Drill, Physical Exercises, and Singing were given as usual. The Chairman of the School Board, and Clerk, examined all the School Registers. The Infants received a Special Lesson; subject - "Cork".

1899.

1<sup>st</sup> Dec.

Received the following intimation from Clerk to School Board:-

School Board Office,  
Apton, 28<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1899.

Dear Sir,

The Board at their meeting held last night fixed the Christmas Holidays for Apton School to run from 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec. 1899 to 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan. 1900, both days inclusive, work to be resumed on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan.

Yours faithfully,  
G. W. Geddes.

W. Cook Esq.,  
Headmaster,  
Public School, Apton.

The work of the school has been performed in the usual manner. Special attention has been given to classification. Made out list of Irregular and Absent children for School Board Officer. The Record of Work for the past month was made out for the various classes.

The Infants received a Special Lesson this afternoon - subject being "Water", which was illustrated by means of pictures.

Military Drill, Physical Exercises, and Singing Lessons were given as usual.



1899.  
8<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>.

Received the following from W. Geddes, Clerk  
to School Board:-

School Board Office,  
Aytou 7<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1899.

Dear Sir,

Herewith beg to enclose to you for your use  
a copy of Circular 264, from Scotch Education  
Department relating to School Registers.

I am,  
Yours truly,  
W. M. Geddes.

Wm Cook Esq<sup>r</sup>,  
Headmaster,  
Public School, Aytou.

The weather partly during the past week has been  
stormy, which has told somewhat on the attendance,  
in some cases the absent children have colds.

Regular weekly list of absent and irregular pupils  
drawn up for School Board Officer.

The usual lessons have been given in Singing,  
Military Drill, and Physical Exercises.

The Infants received their usual weekly  
object lesson, the subject being "Sea".

Smart punishment has been inflicted upon  
certain pupils for disobedience.

1899.  
15<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>.

Owing to stormy weather the attendance of pupils  
during the past week has been materially lowered.  
A number of children have colds, and others owing to  
bad roads have been unable to attend school.

Was informed by W. Geddes, Clerk to School Board, that  
the Ladies' Committee, who superintend the Industrial  
Department, would visit Aytou School on Monday  
first at 2 o'clock p.m.

Informed the staff to complete a "Scheme of Work"  
to be submitted to H. M. I. for approval.

For the Upper classes the "Scheme of Work" is based  
upon the Subjects laid down by the Scotch Education  
Department, and embodied in Code 1899 Arts 19 A.

1. 2. 3. 4 (a-b-c-d-e) 5, 6 (a-b-c) 7 (a-b-c-d).  
For Reading, Writing and Arithmetic - the Fifth  
Schedule, with modifications (Code 1899.)

For Drawing Schedule IV as required by Education  
Department for Country Schools (First Year) or  
Junior Division (Code 1899.)

Nature Knowledge as approved by Education  
Department, and Sewing according to Schedule Third.

The Infants received a Special Lesson, and lessons in  
Singing, Military and Physical Drill were given as  
usual. List of irregular and absent scholars prepared.



1899.

22<sup>nd</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>.

The attendance during the past week has been below the average, which can be accounted for as follows viz, the stormy nature of the weather, and children being absent to attend Sabbath School Treats. The Committee of Ladies, appointed by the School Board to superintend the Industrial Department, visited the school on Monday last, and expressed a desire to see the Drill given by Serjt. Cummins. They also saw a small part of the work performed by the Senior Boys, and they expressed their satisfaction and pleasure with the whole.

Singing Lessons, and Lessons in Physical Drill were given at the usual times.

The children were informed, that the "Holidays" would commence to-morrow; and that School Work would be resumed on Wednesday  
3<sup>rd</sup> January 1900.

The work for the Month ending at the above date, was entered in the "Record Books"; and weekly summaries completed.

1900.

5<sup>th</sup> January.

Resumed work after the Christmas Holidays. A good many pupils have been absent during the past week. Examined Class IV in Mental Arithmetic, and informed Miss Torry to give due attention to the subject, also to exercise the Class on the Aliquot Parts of £1 &c. A case in which Discipline had to be exercised was satisfactorily concluded.

Made out list of irregular and absent scholars for School Board Officer.

Singing and Drill were given as usual.

12<sup>th</sup> "

During the past week, on account of illness, I have been unable to attend to my school duties.

Received from Clerk to School Board the following:-

School Board Office.

Aston 9<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1900.

Dear Sir,

I regret to know that you are on the sick list and trust that you will soon be better.

I have seen the Chairman in regard to the re-opening of the school, and have arranged for the work being carried on by the Staff until such time as you are able to resume duty.

W. Cook Esq.,  
Headmaster,  
Public School, Aston.

I am yours truly,  
G. M. Geddes,  
Clerk.



1900.

19<sup>th</sup> January. Acting upon the advice of my Medical Adviser, I have had reluctantly to keep my bedroom during the past week. Received the following communications from Clerk to School Board. viz.

School Board Office.  
Aytou 16<sup>th</sup> Jan'y. 1900.

Dear Sir,

I have to intimate to you that the Board have granted the use of Miss Dunne's classroom in Aytou Public School, including the use of the piano, on Friday evenings to Mr. J. Cousins for the getting up of a kinderspiel among the children of the district.

The terms are that Mr. Cousins be held responsible for any damage done to the School Building, or furniture, and that he provide his own heating and lighting, and pay the cleaner for any extra cleaning should such be required.

Yours truly,  
G. M. Geddes.  
Clerk.

W. Cook Esq.  
Headmaster,  
Public School, Aytou.

1900

19<sup>th</sup> January.Aytou, 14<sup>th</sup> Jan'y. 1900.

Dear Sir,

The School Board Officer has been laid up with influenza, which explains his not calling for lists.

I have ordered 4 do. pairs Drumb Bells to be delivered to you for Aytou School.

If there be any carriage to pay on same, please pay it, and I will repay you the amount.

I trust that you are improving in health.

Yours truly,  
G. M. Geddes.

W. Cook,  
Aytou.

The lists for the past two weeks, for irregular and absent scholars have been exceptionally heavy.

26<sup>th</sup>

"

Resumed work on Wednesday morning, having been off duty for two weeks and two days, on account of Influenza and Bronchitis.

The attendance of pupils has been considerably below the average, during the past week.

Made out list of absentees for School Board Officers. The Infants received a special lesson the subject being "Dogs".

Singing lessons, and Physical Exercise (Drumb Bells) were given.



1900.

2<sup>nd</sup> February. Received the following from Clerk to School Board:-  
 School Board Office  
 Ayrton 24<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>. 1900.

Mr Cook W<sup>g</sup>,  
 Headmaster,  
 Public School, Ayrton.

Dear Sir,

I have to intimate to you that the Board have increased the present salary of Miss Dunne by Five Pounds per annum, and have instructed me to forward to her and excerpt from their minutes, which I have duly done, a copy of which I herewith beg to send to you in due course, and the Board think it would be advisable that you should copy the said excerpt in the Log Book of the school.

I am dear Sir, Yours truly,  
 G. M. Geddes, Clerk to School Board.

copy. "Excerpt of Minute of a Meeting of School Board of Ayrton, held on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of January 1900.

"The Board resolve to record in their minutes the satisfaction and pleasure they feel at the highly creditable and efficient manner in which Miss Dunne has conducted Ayrton Public School during the recent absence, owing to illness of the Headmaster, for which timely service the Board desire their thanks to be conveyed to Miss Dunne, and the Board further resolve to express their appreciation of Miss Dunne's services on this occasion, as well as of her regular work under the Board by making an increase to her present salary

of five Pounds (£5) per annum dating from 16<sup>th</sup> February next, and the Clerk be instructed to forward to Miss Dunne and excerpt from this minute containing the said Resolutions of the Board."

(Signed) John M. Lothian,  
 Chairman.

G. M. Geddes,

Clerk to School Board.

School Board Office.

Ayrton 31<sup>st</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1900.

Dear Sir,

I have to intimate to you that the School Board have fixed Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March next as the date for the Triennial Election of the School Board, and that in the event of a Ball Ayrton Public School will be required as a Polling Station on that date.

I am, your truly,

G. M. Geddes, Clerk to School Board.

Mr Cook W<sup>g</sup>,

Headmaster, Public School, Ayrton.

The attendance of pupils at school is better than that of last week, but the absentees are still very numerous. Made out weekly list for School Board Officers. The Infants received a special lesson the subject being "Copper". To the Senior Pupils the Drill Instructor gave physical exercises, and the rest of the pupils were exercised in a suitable manner. Singing lessons were given as usual. The time for dinner is now three-quarters of an hour 12.30 pm - 1.15 pm.



1900.

9<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup>.

Received the following intimation from Clerk to School Board:-

School Board Office.  
Ayrton 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup>. 1900.

Dear Sir,

I have to intimate to you that Miss Marjory A. Beaton, late of Rosebank Public School, Dundee, has been appointed Assistant Teacher (Ex. P. T.) in Ayrton Public School, at a salary of £40 per annum, in room of Miss Torry resigned, and she will enter upon her duties on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> inst. As Miss Torry will leave on 9<sup>th</sup> inst. I have no doubt but you will be able to arrange for her classes being carried on in the interval.

I am,

Yours truly,

G. M. Geddes.

Clerk.

Wm Cook Esq<sup>r</sup>,

Headmaster,

Public School, Ayrton.

Was informed by School Board Officer that Isabella Melville, and John Melville had left for Edinburgh, also that Walter Mc. Lathian had died - their names were deleted.

The attendance during the past week has improved, although several pupils are absent owing to illness. Made out list of absent and irregular pupils for Sch. Board Officer. Usual School work.

1900.

16<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup>.

During the past week the weather has been remarkably stormy, and as a consequence, the attendance of pupils has been very low. There is also a good deal of illness amongst the scholars. Miss Beaton entered upon her duties as Assistant Teacher on Tuesday morning.

To-day the attendance was very meagre, and a good number of the pupils had wet feet, in these circumstances it was deemed advisable to close the school.

23<sup>rd</sup>

"

On Monday the attendance of scholars was improved, but the unsettled state of the weather has decreased the attendance. Yesterday the school was closed it being the Winter Fast Day.

Made out a list of irregular, and absent pupils for School Board Officer. It was reported, that several pupils were still unwell.

2<sup>nd</sup>

March

School visited w.n.

83 Boys 62 Girls present.

H. Murray Sub-Inspector



1900.  
2<sup>nd</sup> March

During the past week we have followed the ordinary time-table giving an hour of interval viz from 12.30 to 1.30 p.m. The attendance has improved during the past week although the list of irregular and absent scholars is still long. Yesterday the pupils had a half-holiday in celebration of the Relief of Ladysmith. The children displayed the greatest enthusiasm. Today the usual lessons in Dumb-Bell exercise, and Singing were given.

9<sup>th</sup> "

The attendance has considerably improved this week, owing principally to the better weather. In the Intermediate, and Senior Divisions a good deal of attention has been bestowed upon the Reading, and Repetition, and in some cases there has been improvement. Made out list of absent, and irregular pupils for School Board Officers. Was informed by Mr. James G. S. Doughty, that the School would be required on Friday the 16<sup>th</sup> March, as that was the date for the School Board Election. Class IV has been, and will continue to be, under Miss Beaton for Arithmetic, and it works much better than dividing the class. Class V has been in my room for Arithmetic. Registers examined, and checked.

1900.

16<sup>th</sup> March.

The following was received by Miss Beaton:  
Scotch Education Department,  
55, Whitehall, London. S. W.  
9<sup>th</sup> March 1900.

1. Queen's Scholarship and Studentship Examination 1899.
2. Dundee (13) Rosebank N. School.

Madam,

I am directed to inform you that at the Examination held in December last you were successful, and obtained a place in the First class.

If engaged in a school you should immediately inform the Managers of this result.

I have the honour to be,  
Madam,

Your obedient Servant,  
H. Craik.

To Miss Marjory A. Beaton.

N.B. Candidates who have passed this Queen's Scholarship and Studentship Examination are held to have qualified in Geography and History. They must therefore, in accordance with the Syllabus, omit these subjects when examined for a certificate.



1900.

16<sup>th</sup> March.

The attendance during this week has on the whole been good. The work of the various classes has been satisfactorily performed. Today the school was closed on account of the Triennial School Board election - the Polling took place in the school.

23<sup>rd</sup>

..

Received the following letter from Clerk to School Board:  
School Board Office.  
Ayton 21<sup>st</sup> March 1900.

Dear Sir,

I have to intimate to you that the Board have fixed Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April next being Good Friday as a holiday at Ayton Public School.

I have also to intimate to you that the Board at their meeting held last night appointed Dr. Taylor as Visiting Member for Ayton Public School, and as the visiting member has been given certain powers by the Board in regard to repairs of the school Buildings and Furniture, and the purchase of school Material and appliances, you should intimate to him during his visits anything in relation thereto requiring attention. At other times you can intimate as before those matters to me.

Wm Cook Esq,  
Headmaster,  
Ayton Public School.

I am dear Sir,  
Yours faithfully,  
G. M. Geddes.

1900.

23<sup>rd</sup> March.

The greater part of the past week has been stormy, thus preventing country children attending school. A good number only put in an appearance to-day, being absent the rest of the week.

Made out list of irregular, and absent scholars for the guidance of the School Board Officers.

Last Monday Physical Drill had to be abandoned, on account of the storm, but to-day the lesson was given. Singing lessons have been given as usual. The Infants received a special lesson in Mental Arithmetic.

Examined Registers and found them correct.

David R. Taylor  
March 23<sup>rd</sup> 1900.



1900.  
30<sup>th</sup> March.

Received the following from Clerk to School Board:-  
School Board Office  
Ayton 24<sup>th</sup> March, 1900.

Dear Sir,

Herewith send to you Circulars Nos 284 and 287 received from Scotch Education Department, and dated 22<sup>nd</sup> Inst; relating to "School Registers" and "the proposal and admission of Pupil Teachers", with accompanying copies of "Regulations" and "Schedule of Enquiries" (Form 15c)

Yours truly,  
G. M. Geddes.

Wm Cook Esq<sup>r</sup>,  
Headmaster, Ayton Public School. Clerk.

School Board Office.  
Ayton, 30<sup>th</sup> March, 1900.

Dear Sir,

I have now to intimate to you that the Committee of Ladies appointed by the School Board, to supervise the industrial work at Ayton Public School are, Mrs Taylor, St. Helens, Mrs Nisbet, Redhall, and Miss Cowe, Summerhill House. They purpose visiting

The School on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> prox. at 2.30 p.m.

Wm Cook Esq<sup>r</sup>,  
Public School,  
Ayton.

Your truly,  
G. M. Geddes.

The attendance during the past week has been very good. The following are samples of reasons given for absence:- "Agnes was away from home yesterday". M. Jones. "Mary was sick yesterday". J. Mennon. "Christina Sait, not at school being stormy weather". J. Sait. Agnes has been bad with "Gothache". M. Jones.

Made out weekly list of irregular, and absent scholars for the use of the School Board Officer. The usual duties of the school have been faithfully discharged; Physical Drill and Singing Lessons given as per Time Table.

6<sup>th</sup> April.

The attendance for the past week has been very good. The Rev. Mr. Aiken visited the school this afternoon, and expressed his pleasure at such a good attendance of pupils. List of absentees and irregular pupils made up for School Board Officer.

In order that the girls of the Senior Division may get



1900.

6<sup>th</sup> April

the benefit of instruction in Nature Knowledge, the lesson is given on Friday afternoons from 2.20 to 2.50.

Physical Geography Lesson to Classes I, II, & III, also given on Friday afternoons from 1.45 to 2.15. The Infants received a special lesson the subject being "A Book". Singing and Drill as usual.

12<sup>th</sup>

"

The attendance during this week has on the whole been good, although towards the end of the week there has been a decline. Some of the junior pupils have been unwell, and some of the senior pupils have been at work other than their school duties.

Two new pupils viz, Annie Gladstone, and William Geige, have been admitted this week. To-morrow being Good Friday the school will be closed.

Received the following from Clerk to School Board:-

School Board Office.

Ayton 11<sup>th</sup> April, 1900.

Dear Sir:- The Board have granted the loan of the school Pianos for the Concert and Assault at Arms, to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> inst. The usual conditions of loan on such occasions will apply in this case, as to any damage the instrument may sustain.

Wm Cook Esq,  
Public School,  
Ayton.

Your truly,  
G.M. Geddes.

1900.

20<sup>th</sup> April.

Received the following note from Mr. Geddes, Clerk to School Board:-

School Board Office.

Ayton, 18<sup>th</sup> April, 1900.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your note regarding the repair of backyard door, I have now made enquiry as to what was done by the tradesmen. No orders were given to them to repair the door, but it appears that when working at the school, they observed the broken hinge, and fixed up the same.

I have now sent word to the joiner to have it properly done.

Yours truly,

G.M. Geddes.

Wm Cook Esq,

Public School,

Ayton.

During the past week the school has been visited by two members of the School Board viz, the Rev. W. Cairns, and the Rev. W. Aiken.

Admitted Mary Wilkinson who is a new pupil. Made out list of irregular and absent scholars for the use of the School Board Officer. The attendance of pupils has not been so good this week, as last. The Infants received a lesson in Mental Arithmetic.



April 23. 1900. Examined Registers and found them correct.  
David R. Taylor.

" 27<sup>th</sup> The School Board Officer reported, that Annie Laurie, who was now above fourteen years of age, had left school, and was going to work.  
The Rev. Mr. Aiken called on Monday for a few minutes, and also to-day to inform me, that the Committee of the Golf Club had no desire that boys should absent themselves from school, when there were "Matches" on the Golf Course. Amount collected for War Fund £1.6.8.  
Made out a list of absent, and irregular scholars for the use of School Board Officers.  
The Infants received a special lesson this afternoon, the subject being "The Cat" - which roused their attentions, and interest.  
The Senior classes have had practice in Drawing on paper; and the usual lessons in Singing, have been given. The Drill Instructor reported, that the boys and girls of the Senior Division were considerably improved in their Physical Exercises.  
Mr. Ramsey, Piano Tuner called, and tuned the school Piano.

1900.

May 4<sup>th</sup>.

Made out a list of irregular, and absent scholars for School Board Officer; the list was not long as the attendance for the past week has been good.  
For a breach of Discipline, Thomas Redpath and his brother John were punished.

James Cunningham was admitted as a new scholar.  
The children were allowed to witness the Great West's Bear Trial, which passed through our village between 10.15 and 12. noon; and in consequence the Morning attendance had to be cancelled - it not being the full two hours.

The Rev. Mr. Aiken visited the school, this afternoon, to see the children at Drill.

The Infants received a special lesson, the subject being "The Horse".

Singing Lessons, and Physical Drill have been given as usual.

Received from Clerk to School Board Papers relating to the Inspection, and Examination of the School.



1900.

May 11<sup>th</sup>

With the approach of the Whitsunday Term, the pupils, who are leaving the district, are less regular in their attendance at school.

Made out list of irregular, and absent scholars for the use of the School Board Officer.

Admitted Mary Inglis, a new pupil, to the Infant Department.

Miss Beaton obtained leave this afternoon, to visit her home, which is at Dundee.

All the Staff have been attentive to their duties.

Drill, and Physical Exercises have been given as usual.

" 18<sup>th</sup>

Received the following from Clerk to School Board.

School Board of Ayrton.

Ayrton, 18<sup>th</sup> May, 1900.

Dear Sir,

Regarding the children of Robert Winter and James Cummins, I find that they have not yet left the district. The Officer will inform you when they do leave, when according to 13 (3) of Regulations their names can be removed from the Admission Register. This I think is the correct procedure in such cases.

Your truly,  
G. McPaddes,  
Clerk.

1900.

May 18<sup>th</sup>

Made out the weekly list of irregular, and absent scholars for the use of School Board Officer, and referred him to letter on opposite page, received from Clerk to School Board.

Regarding the work of the school, there is nothing special to note.

Drill, and Singing were given as usual.

The Infants received a Special Lesson in Natural History, in which they were much interested.

" 25<sup>th</sup>

The attendance of scholars during the past week, has not been so good, as during the preceding week.

Rev. Mr. Cairns, Member of the School Board visited the school, and heard the Senior classes (Boys) receive their lesson in Nature Knowledge.

The School Board Officer received a list of absent, and irregular pupils; and reported that a number of pupils were leaving the district.

The Special Lesson to the Infants, and the Singing Lessons were given as usual, and as Colour Sergeant Cummins was leaving the district today, there was no military drill.



1900.  
June 1<sup>st</sup>

Received the following intimation from Clerk to School Board:-

School Board Office.  
Aytton, 26<sup>th</sup> May, 1900.

Dear Sir,

As Sergt. Cummins has left the Parish, having sent in his resignation as Drill Instructor of the School children, an interval of a week or two will occur before his place is filled up by the Board, probably two weeks.

Yours truly,  
G. M. Geddes.  
Clerk.

Wm Cook, Esq.,  
Headmaster,  
Aytton Public School.

School was visited by Dr. Taylor, Member of the School Board, to whom intimation was sent that the Water closets at the foot of the Boys' Playground would be freshened up by receiving a coat of paint. Mr. Geddes, Clerk to School Board, and tradesmen called to-day to inspect the closets, and arranged to have them put right shortly.

Admitted six new pupils this week, and entered names in New Registers. Infants received their usual lesson.

1900.

June 8<sup>th</sup>

During the past week four new pupils have been entered on the Registers - three boys and one girl.

On Tuesday afternoon it was announced, that Pretoria had been taken by British troops, and according to arrangement, the next day was a holiday.

On Wednesday morning the children assembled in the playground, and being formed in processional order, they marched along the streets of the village, after which they were arranged in front of the School House, when they sang The National Anthem, and gave three cheers for Her Majesty Queen Victoria, three cheers for Lord Roberts &c, and three cheers for our brave soldiers.

Made out a list of irregular, and absent and absent scholars for the use of the School Board Officer.

The Infants received a Lesson to develop their general intelligence, and the Singing Lessons were as usual given.

Examined Registers found correct.

David R. Taylor  
June 11<sup>th</sup> 1900.



1900.

June 15<sup>th</sup>

Received the following from Clerk to School Board:-  
School Board Office,  
Ayton. 9<sup>th</sup> June, 1900.

Dear Sir,

I have to intimate to you that the Board at their meeting held yesterday appointed Sergt. W. Wright to be Drill Instructor for Ayton School, in place of Sergt. Lummins resigned, the conditions as to times and duration of drill to be the same as in the case of Sergt. Lummins, the salary to be at the rate of five pounds (£5) per annum, and duty to be commenced at once.

I have also to intimate that the Board have fixed the Summer Holidays for Ayton School to run this year from 26<sup>th</sup> July to 11<sup>th</sup> September, both dates inclusive.

Yours truly,

Wm Cook, Esq.,  
Headmaster,

Ayton Public School.

Received information from Clerk to School Board, that H. M. Inspector would visit Ayton Public School on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June at 9.15 a.m. Intimated the same to the Staff. Admitted two new pupils during this week; Sergt. Wright entered upon his duties on Monday last, and the Rev. Mr. Aiken, Member of the School Board visited the school this afternoon.

20<sup>th</sup> June

School Inspected,

W. Y. King. H. G. J.

(Summary of Inspector's Report p. 200)

Staff.

William Cook, certificated 1<sup>st</sup> class. Elizabeth St. Dunne, certificated 3<sup>rd</sup> class.  
Rose Wood, Ec. P. J. Mary Jane Albiston, Ec. P. J.

L. M. Geddes, Clerk &amp; Correspondent.

22<sup>nd</sup> June.

During the past week the attendance has on the whole been very good, but towards the end of the week it diminished.

The school was visited on Wednesday, the day of H. M. Inspector's visit, by Mr. Middleton, Chairman of the School Board, Rev. Mr. Aiken, and D. Taylor, Members of the School Board.

Received the following from Clerk to School Board:-

School Board Office,

Ayton, 21<sup>st</sup> June, 1900.

Dear Sir,

As it is customary for the scholars to have a holiday after the Annual Inspection, the Chairman has sanctioned Monday next (25<sup>th</sup> inst) being allowed as such holiday, the following day (Tuesday) being the usual Midsummer Holiday.

I am,

Wm. Cook, Esq.,  
Headmaster,  
Public School,  
Ayton.

Yours truly,  
G. M. Geddes,  
Clerk.



1900.

29<sup>th</sup> June.

Received the following from Clerk to School Board:-

School Board Office.

Ayton 29<sup>th</sup> June 1900.

School Prizes.

Dear Sir,

The Board has agreed to allocate from their Prize Fund the sum of £3-6-8 to Ayton Public School, one half to be given to the Section of the School under the charge of Miss Dunne, and the other half to the rest of the classes.

The money will be handed to you for that purpose, and meantime you can arrange with Miss Dunne for the Prize Books being procured.

Please let me have a list of the subjects you have selected for Prizes and the names of the Prize winners, at your early convenience, and oblige,

Yours truly,

E. M. Geddes,  
Clerk.

Wm. Cook Esq.,  
Schoolmaster,  
Ayton.

P.S. Annie McAnany, a pupil of Ayton Public School has been examined at Chirnside for the Labour Certificate, by Mr. King, who has notified me of her having passed, and I have duly granted her a Labour Certificate.

Gmly.

1900.

School Board Office.

Ayton 28<sup>th</sup> June, 1900.

School Prizes.

Dear Sir,

In reference to the presentation of Prizes to the scholars of Ayton Public School as mentioned in my letter of yesterday's date, the members of the Board will meet at the School on 25<sup>th</sup> July next at 2 o'clock p.m. to see the presentation.

Subscribers to the Prize Fund will be invited by the Board also to attend, and the Board request that you will invite parents, guardians, and friends of the scholars to be present.

Yours truly,  
E. M. Geddes,  
Clerk.

Wm. Cook Esq.,  
Schoolmaster,  
Ayton.

Commenced a new scheme of lessons in Nature Knowledge and in order that the girls might get the full benefit of the same they are given on Fridays from 2 to 2.50 p.m.; map-drawing being practised from 2.40 to 2 p.m. On the other afternoons from 3 to 3.30 p.m. Composition or Dictation Exercises or Extra Lessons in Drawing. Made out a list of absent and irregular scholars for the use of the School Board Officer. Maggie Welch has left the district. Admitted a number of new scholars.



July 3<sup>rd</sup> 1900 Visited School, examined registers and found correct.

David R. Taylor.

1900.  
5<sup>th</sup> July.

Miss Wood was at Edinburgh F. C. Training College from 2<sup>nd</sup> July till Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July attending the Certificate Examination. Her classes have been under the care of Miss Dunne. School Board Officers informed me that Catherine Foster, who was entitled to a Labour Certificate, and Robert Shearlaw who was above fourteen years of age, had left school. As Sergeant Wright has gone to Camp there has been no Military Drill, and during the time allotted for such there has been additional drill in Dictation, Composition, or Singing. Miss Wood returned to her school duties to-day. List of absent and irregular scholars made out for School Board Officers. Received the following intimation from Clerk to School Board:-

Ayton, 5<sup>th</sup> July, 1900.

Dear Sir,

The Committee of Ladies will meet at Ayton School on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> inst at 3 o'clock, to inspect Sewing & Work, prior to the fixing of Prizes.

W. Cook.

Yours truly,  
G. M. Geddes,  
Clerk.

14a  
4496.

Ayton Public School.

(6.4.00)

(Berwick.)

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

"The efficiency of this school has been creditably maintained. The results in the Junior School are quite satisfactory, with the exceptions that Mental Arithmetic is still slightly weak and that more attention should be paid to the explanation of the Reading lessons.

"In the intermediate section very fair progress has been made in the elementary subjects, and in the senior classes, while Reading has improved, and Composition deserves special praise, Arithmetic continues to be a weak point.

English and History have received adequate attention, but Geography is not satisfactory, and more instruction should be given in Nature Knowledge.

"In Drawing a good beginning has been made, and the special grant may, as the subject is new, be recommended this year.

"Military Drill is successfully taught; Singing is good, and Needlework is very good in all the classes."

A Merit Certificate is enclosed for S. H. Cook.

I am to point out that Miss Dunne's Certificate will not be ripe for revision until next year.

Parchment.

G. T.  
G. M. Geddes,  
Clerk & Correspondent.



1900.

13<sup>th</sup> July.

Mrs Taylor, and Miss Bowe visited the school on Monday afternoon, and examined the Industrial Work. Received from Clerk to School Board Circular 290, which referred to Needlework. This was given to Miss Dunne for her perusal.

The following telegram was received by Miss Beaton.  
Aberdeen.

To { Beaton, Public School Ayton, Berwickshire.  
Your admission to College all right.  
Simpson.

Made out weekly list of absent, and irregular pupils for the use of School Board Officer.

Made special inquiry regarding pupils, who are frequently absent.

20<sup>th</sup> July.

The ladies appointed to examine the Industrial Work, again visited the school to award prizes for the same.

Made out a list of irregular and absent children for the use of the School Board Officer. Annie Greig, and her brother William Greig (c) have left.

Gave an invitation to parents, guardians, and friends of pupils to visit the school on Wednesday afternoon 25<sup>th</sup> inst, at 2 pm. Singing Lessons given as usual. Nature Knowledge subjects were "A Handful of Earth" and "Roses."

1900.

25<sup>th</sup> July.

To-day, the school closed for the Autumn Holidays, and as previously arranged the Members of the School Board, and a good number of parents, guardians, and friends met in the different class-rooms to see, and hear the children perform various exercises - mental and physical.

When these exercises were finished, Prizes were awarded to those scholars, who during the session had made most progress in General Scholarship, Attendance, &c.

Prizes were also awarded for Sewing, Bible Knowledge, Mental Arithmetic, and Spelling.

After the Rev. Mr. Cairns, at the call of the Chairman, had made a few remarks, votes of thanks were given to the donors of the Prizes, to Mrs. D. Taylor, who had presented them to the winners, and to Mr. Middleton, Chairman of the School Board, who had presided on the occasion.

It was then announced, that the school would be re-opened on Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> September, 1900; after which the National Anthem was sung.

The company then adjourned to the playground, where the Senior Boys and Girls, under the charge of Sergt. Wright, performed a variety of physical exercises.



1900.  
14<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup>

The school was re-opened on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> after the Autumn holidays.

D<sup>r</sup>. Taylor, Member of the School Board, and Mr. Geddes, Clerk to School Board visited the school on Wednesday morning when Miss C. Horburgh was introduced.

Received the following letter from Clerk to School Board:  
School Board Office,  
Ayton 11<sup>th</sup> August, 1900.

Dear Sir,

I have to intimate to you that Miss C. Horburgh, Edinburgh has been appointed a certificated Female Assistant in Ayton Public School at a salary of Seventy Pounds (£70) per annum, and that she will commence her duties on 12<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> next, when she will undertake the entire teaching of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Standards, including all the subjects they are taught, with the singing of the higher standards added.

Yours truly,

G. M. Geddes,  
Clerk.

W. Cook Esq<sup>r</sup>,  
Schoolmaster  
Ayton.

The School Board Officers received list of Irregular and Absent scholars, which was unusually heavy.

1900.  
21<sup>st</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup>

The attendance during the past week has greatly improved, a good number of those who were reported last week have returned.

Was informed that three pupils had left school, and I have admitted three new pupils this week.

Rev W<sup>r</sup>. Aiken, Member of School Board visited the school to-day during the singing Lesson, and Physical Drill

Made out list of irregular and absent scholars for School Board Officers.

Received the following from School Board Clerk viz, A list of children of school age residing within the district of Ayton Public School, regarding whose education the School Board have not sufficient information.

Ayton 20<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> 1900.

Guardian or Parent's name	Child's Name	Age.	Remarks.
Arch <sup>d</sup> . Shearlaw.	John.	10.	At School.
J. M. Mason.	Eva.	5.	No.
David Berwick.	Helen.	6.	At School.
James Affleck.	Jane	5.	At School.
Thomas Ferguson (Millburn)	George	5.	No.
C. E. Annandale Ayton Castle	John	5.	At School.



21<sup>st</sup> Sept.

Guardian or Parent's Name.	Child's Name	Age	Remarks.
Adam Lothian, Penderquest.	Thomas.	6.	No.
"	Mary.	6.	No.
"	Maegie	5.	No.
Ralph Henderson, Penderquest.	Robert.	6.	At School.
Helen Darliff, Penderquest.	George.	5.	No.
Alexander Learmonth, Penderquest, Redhall.	Alice	5.	No.

Completed the foregoing list and sent to Clerk of School Board.

25<sup>th</sup>

The attendance for the past week has been very good, and the various classes are now into good working order. Dr. Taylor, member of the School Board, visited the school on Tuesday morning, and made inquiries regarding apparatus required.

Sent a list of articles required for the Senior Division, to the Clerk of the School Board, and was informed verbally by him, on Thursday morning that some of the articles would be got immediately, and that the remainder on the list would be considered at the next meeting of the Board. Singing and Physical Drill were given, and a list of absent, and irregular pupils handed to the School Board Officer.

1900.  
5<sup>th</sup> October.

Four new pupils have been admitted this week, and although several of the Senior pupils have been engaged at the potato lifting, yet the attendance, for the whole School, has been good.

Was informed by Clerk to School Board, that the School would be used on 11<sup>th</sup> October, 1900, for general election purposes, and that preparations might require to be made, on the afternoon of Wednesday the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Received the following Wall Maps viz, Scotland, and England, also a Globe for Geographical Purposes. As the Drill-Instructor had gone to Edinburgh to-day, the Senior Pupils did not receive their ordinary Physical Drill Exercises.

In the Senior Division the Singing Lesson was given this morning from 9.30 to 10.30. minus ten minutes for making and closing the School Registers. The change was an improvement; also the last hour of the School Day - from 3 to 4 pm has been given to the following subjects: (Monday) Composition and Arithmetic (Tuesday) do, (Wednesday) Drawing and Arithmetic (Thursday) do, and Arithmetic and Military Drill will be given on Friday. The Rev. Mr. Cairns, Member of the School Board visited the School this afternoon. A list of absent, and irregular pupils for the week, was given to the School Board Officer.



1900.

10<sup>th</sup> October.

On Monday, the Rev. W. Aiken visited the Junior Division, and agreed that the scheme of Religious Instruction for that Division, and also for the Infants should have a trial.

On Wednesday afternoon, the school was closed to enable the joiners to complete preparations for the Parliamentary Election, which takes place on Thursday. As it was found, that the school could not be in readiness to begin work on Friday morning, it was deemed advisable to close it, till Monday the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Examined registers found correct

David R. Taylor  
Oct. 17. 1900

19<sup>th</sup> "

At the beginning of the week, several pupils were absent, gathering potatoes.

Stormy weather tells upon the attendance of pupils at school, but on the whole, the numbers for the past week have been good.

List of irregular, and absent children given to School Board Officer. Lessons in Singing, Physical Drill, and Military Exercises were given as usual.

1900.

26<sup>th</sup> October.

Several pupils of the Senior Division have been absent during the past week, the excuse being, that they were engaged gathering potatoes.

A list of irregular, and absent scholars was made out for the School Board Officer.

Owing to the stormy weather this afternoon there was no military drill for the Senior Pupils; and the lesson from 3pm to 3.30pm, was extended till the time of Dismissal.

The usual lessons in Singing, and Nature Knowledge were given and much enjoyed by the scholars.

2<sup>nd</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup>.

The attendance for the past week has been very good. The School Board Officer reported that William Young, who is now above fourteen years of age has left school. The following letter was received from Clerk to School Board:-

School Board Office,  
Ayton, 1<sup>st</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1900.

Dear Sir,

I have had a communication from the Clerk to Boldingham School Board, stating that Isabella Hingle, East Recton, has been kept from attendance at school, owing to the illness of her mother, but



1900.

but intends returning to School the week after next.

I have also to state that the Board have instructed me to procure a supply of Absence Enquiry Forms for the use of the teachers, as the Board believes that the use of the same will tend towards a more regular attendance of the scholars.

I will send you a list very shortly of the school materials agreed to be granted by the Board.

W. M. Cook Esq.,  
Schoolmaster,  
Aytou.

I am,  
Yours truly,  
L. M. Geddes,  
Clerk.

The weekly list of absent and irregular pupils was made up for School Board Officer.

The work of the school has been carried on satisfactorily.

1900.

9<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup>

The attendance at school for the past week has on the whole been good; although some of the senior boys have been absent, being employed as beaters of the coverts for the shooters in pursuit of game.

They (the boys) were engaged for a couple of days. Was informed that Thomas Lothian (a) and Janet Spence were unwell.

Made out list of irregular and absent scholars for School Board Officer.

Miss Dunne received two sets of pictures, which were used in the Senior Division, for Nature Knowledge Lessons. The work of the school has been performed in the usual manner.

16<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup>

The stormy weather has told on the attendance for the past week especially in the Infant Department. On Monday morning Miss Horburgh informed me that she had got an offer of a situation as Assistant in Armadale Public School, and that she had accepted the same. Dr. Taylor, visiting member of the School Board called on Monday afternoon to inquire regarding the appointment.

List of absent and irregular scholars made out for the use of the School Board Officer.

Received a letter from Clerk to School Board. (over)



1900.

School Board Office.

Apton. 14<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup>. 1900.

Dear Sir,

I am able to intimate to you that the school materials asked by you for Apton Public School and granted by the Board, and not already supplied are as follows viz.

1. Tape Measure.

4 Models for Model Drawing.

1 Educational Music Chart.

Rulers and squares for the use of Teachers.

Maps to illustrate Physical Geography.

The above will at once be ordered, and supplied to you as soon as to hand.

I have also to intimate to you that Miss Horsburgh has placed into the hands of the Board, her resignation of the post of certificated teacher in Apton School.

The Board having accepted of the resignation which takes effect in one month from 10<sup>th</sup> current, I am instructed to advertise for a certificated female teacher to fill the post vacated by Miss Horsburgh, and I will notify you of the appointment when made.

W. Cook Esq.,

Headmaster,  
Public School,  
Apton.

Yours truly,

G. M. Geddes, Clerk.

1900.

23<sup>rd</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup>.

With a continuance of wet weather, the attendance of pupils has somewhat decreased. Several scholars are reported as being unwell, and I was also informed that William Lothian had left Apton Public School, and gone to Burnmouth Public School. The said William Lothian was punished on the Thursday previous to his leaving, for wilful disobedience, and impertinence.

Made out a list of absent scholars for the use of the School Board Officer. Informed the senior pupils that no one was allowed to be absent from school without a valid reason.

There was no Singing Lesson to-day as Miss Horsburgh had a cold, but the Physical Exercises were given as usual.

30<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup>.

Received from Clerk to School Board a number of Absence Enquiry Forms, some of which have been used this week. The attendance for the past week has on the whole been good, although there are several cases of illness. Made out the weekly list of irregular and absent scholars for School Board Officer.

Yesterday, on account of the Home-Coming of the local volunteers from South Africa, it was deemed advisable - children dismissed in good time to witness the return <sup>over</sup> of the volunteers from South Africa, and also to have their names



to give the children, a half-holiday. Received the following communication from Clerk to School Board:  
 School Board Office,  
 Aytou. 30<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1900.

Wm Book Esq.,  
 Headmaster,  
 Public School, Aytou.

Dear Sir,

I have to intimate to you that the School Board have agreed to increase the salary of Miss <sup>Wood</sup> Wood by five pounds, making it forty pounds per annum.

I have also to state, that as instructed by the Board, I have written to David Swanston, Aytou, calling his attention to the irregular attendance at School of his son, David Swanston, and have intimated to him, that he must see to the more regular attendance of the boy, as otherwise the boy's name will be struck off the roll of scholars.

I have asked the parent to let you know, whether he intends keeping his son further at School, or not.

Yours truly,  
 G. M. Geddes,  
 Clerk.

1900.  
 4<sup>th</sup> Dec.

Received the following intimation from Clerk to School Board:  
 School Board Office,  
 Aytou 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec. 1900.

Wm Book Esq.,  
 Headmaster,  
 Public School, Aytou.

Dear Sir,

I have to intimate to you that Miss Agnes Stratton, Glenluce, has been appointed to the post of female certificated teacher in Aytou Public School, about to be vacated by Miss Horsburgh, who has resigned.

Miss Stratton's duties will be similar to those of Miss Horsburgh, and her salary (£40) will be the same. Miss Stratton will commence duties on 10<sup>th</sup> inst.

Yours truly,

G. M. Geddes,

Clerk.

During the past week a good number of Absence Inquiry Forms, has been sent to parents, and guardians, and the result has been, that some have returned the next day, whilst others are unwell. Thomas Redpath, who is about fourteen years of age, has left the School. I made out list of absent, and irregular scholars for School Board Officers. Informed the pupils, that they must be orderly in their habits, and polite in their conduct, both in and out of school. The senior pupils bade Miss Horsburgh good-bye.



1900.

14<sup>th</sup> Decr.

Received the following from Clerk to School Board:-  
 School Board Office,  
 Ayton, 4<sup>th</sup> Decr. 1900.

Mr. Cook Esq.,  
 Headmaster,  
 Public School, Ayton.

Dear Sir,

I herewith beg to send to you a copy of Circular (No 298) received from Scotch Education Department, and containing a revised copy of Schedule III of the Code, relating to needlework, which Circular need not be returned to me.

I have also to intimate to you that the Board have granted leave to Serjt. Wright to postpone the Drill of the scholars during a few weeks, until his return home, when he will make up the drills missed.

Serjt. Wright will inform you of the date of his absence.

I may also mention that the Christmas Holidays for Ayton School will this year run from the usual time for dismissing the School on 21<sup>st</sup> inst, until 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1901, work to be resumed on the latter date.

Yours truly,  
 G. M. Geddes,  
 Clerk.

1900.

14<sup>th</sup> Decr.

The attendance for the past week, has on the whole been good. The issuing of "Enquiry Forms," has reduced the number of absent, and irregular scholars given to the School Board Officer, at the end of the week. It was intimated by one that no pupil should be absent from School, unless there was a sufficient reason such as illness.

Miss Stradon entered upon her duties, on Monday morning, and I informed her, that she would get all necessary information, regarding her duties, and support in their discharge.

Made it the occasion, of impressing upon the children, the duty of being obedient, and polite to their teachers, the Members of the School Board, and to all.

As Miss Wood has been much distressed, with toothache, she was absent from her duties to-day, having gone to Berwick-on-Tweed, to a dentist, to have a tooth extracted.

The work of the school has been diligently performed. Singing lessons, and physical exercises were given as usual.

The Senior Division received an extra lesson in Arithmetic, as Serjt. Wright only wished, this afternoon, to exercise classes IV and V.



1900.

21<sup>st</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>.

Issued a number of "Enquiry Forms," for absent scholars, who were absent one day, during the past week. Found from replies, that some pupils were unwell, and others returned the next day. Held an examination (Christmas) for classes I, II and III, in English (including Geography and History) Arithmetic, and Drawing, with the object of ascertaining progress, and having proper classification.

The work of the School has been discharged in a conscientious manner, all the teachers taking a thorough interest, in their work, and acting honestly, towards their pupils.

The pupils were dismissed this afternoon, at the usual time, for their Christmas Holidays, which are to extend until the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January, 1901.

1901.

4<sup>th</sup> January.

Resumed school duties on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>. 1901, after the Christmas Holidays. All the staff were at their posts. Required to issue a good number of "Enquiry Forms" owing to pupils being absent.

Some were unwell, others were from home, and some were on the list for School Board Officers.

1901.

4<sup>th</sup> January.

Was informed that Sarah Spratt and her brother John had left school, as they were going to reside in the neighbourhood of Duns.

As Sergeant Wright had not yet returned to Aytou there was no Physical Drill this afternoon, but a Drawing Lesson was given in place of it. The singing Lesson was given as usual.

The subject for Nature Study, was "The Ivy Plant." After examination, and descriptions, the pupils drew on their plates an ivy leaf, and gave a description of the same; after that, they formed on their plates designs having for subject the ivy leaf.

11<sup>th</sup>

"

The School Board Officer informed me, that Janet Spence, and James Anderson, who are both above 14 years of age, had left school. "Enquiry Forms" were issued as usual. On Thursday afternoon, the attendance of country children was reduced, owing to an entertainment given in the Volunteer Hall, Aytou, to the children attending the established Church Sabbath School. As Ser<sup>g</sup>t. Wright had not yet returned from his holidays there was no Physical Drill for the senior classes, but suitable lessons were given instead.