

1896.

12<sup>th</sup> June

Received intimation from Clerk to School Board, that H. M. Inspector would visit the school on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> inst at 9.15 o'clock. The staff were made aware of the above.

The work during the past week has been mainly a revision of the work overtaken. Examined Standard IV, in English.

Physical Drill, and Singing have been given as usual, and the Infants had a special lesson in Writing on Slates.

Registers examined, and found correct.

Henson as Chairman  
Donaldson Junior Clerk.

June 17

Schol Inspected,

W. G. King, H. L. J.

Staff.

Williambook, certificated 2<sup>nd</sup> class.

Elizabeth H. Dunne, 3<sup>rd</sup> "

Agnes Stratton, Ex P. T.

Rose Wood, Pupil-Teacher of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year.

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4496.Ayton Public School.  
(1:4:96) Berwick.

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

"In this school the results in the junior division, including Infants and the first and second standards, are in all respects good, and the written exercises and class subjects are very good. In the third and fourth a good appearance is made with the exception that Mental Arithmetic still calls for more attention. In the fifth and sixth, while Reading and Geography are on the whole good, Grammar, Composition and Arithmetic continue to be distinctly weak.

The grant for the elementary subjects in the higher division is accordingly still paid at the lowest rate, and the grant for the class subjects may next year be reduced, if the older pupils do not show more knowledge of Grammar and Analysis.

The instruction in Elementary Science and Agriculture is satisfactory. Singing by ear is very fair, needlework is very good. The grant for Discipline has been raised although after some hesitation.

No grant can be allowed for the passes in Specific Subjects as article 21(c) is not satisfied.

A grant under Article 19 & is paid in respect of R. Wood.

H. J.

1896.

19<sup>th</sup> June.

The School Board kindly gave yesterday, and to-day as holidays, thus affording a breathing time after the Annual Inspection. Duplicate Examination Schedules received from Clerk to School Board.

26<sup>th</sup> "

As Miss Straiton, who is preparing for her Certificate Examination, has obtained leave of absence for three weeks, all the Standards the Third inclusive, and upwards, have been under my care. The work has been of a general nature, as the School Books for the upper classes have not yet arrived. The Senior Division has benefited from a revision of the Simple and Compound Rules.

3<sup>rd</sup> July

The School Books having come most of the children have got them. The time during the past week, owing to the continued absence of Miss Straiton, has been devoted to Arithmetic, Slate and Mental, writing, and Composition; also Reading, Spelling, Parsing and Word-Building. In the afternoon Map-Drawing, Geography, and Botany have engaged our attention, Tuesday being the annual Summer Holiday. The School was vacant.

1896.

10<sup>th</sup> July.

As Miss Straiton has gone to Edinburgh to attend the Certificate Examination I have for the third week had in charge all the Standards from Standard III and upwards.

Was informed by Clerk to School Board, that the holidays were to extend from 31<sup>st</sup> July to 14<sup>th</sup> September. Sent a list of irregulars, and absentees to School Board Officer.

14<sup>th</sup> "

All the Staff being present, the work of the School is now properly arranged. The Boys of Standard IV have been taught Arithmetic by me. A Pic-nic took place yesterday, and the number of children, who went to it, was so great, that the School Board agreed to close the school for the day. Found the Infants in good order. The Senior Pupils received their ordinary lesson in Singing and Drill.

24<sup>th</sup> "

Yesterday being the Summer Fast Day the school was closed, and to-day the attendance has decreased. Gave Standard V extra drill in Arithmetic and Geography. The Infants received a special lesson. Singing and Drill were given.

1896.

31<sup>st</sup> July.

The attendance during the past week has gradually decreased. To-day we dismissed for the Autumn Holidays which are to extend till 14<sup>th</sup> September 1896.

18<sup>th</sup> Sept.

The School was re-opened last Monday after the Autumn Holidays. There was a very good turn out of pupils and the average for the week has been good. A number of the Senior Pupils are still absent, and some parents have the notion that when a child passes Standard V its education is complete - it is a pity that the notion becomes action. Made out a list of Absentees for School Board Officer.

Examined Standard IV in Arithmetic (Slate and Mental) and gave the Infants a lesson the subject - "A Horse".

Registers examined and found correct.

25<sup>th</sup>

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The attendance during the past week has been good with the exception of to-day which has been very wet, and country children have been absent. Examined Standard III in Arithmetic (Slate and Mental). The weekly list of absentees made up.

1896.

2<sup>nd</sup> October.

Potato lifting, which has commenced, has been the means of taking children from school.

The weekly list of irregular attenders was drawn up, and handed to the School Board Officer. Examined Standard V in Arithmetic <sup>and</sup> Geography.

Registers examined and found correct.

9<sup>th</sup>

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Potato lifting continues to occupy the time of a number of country children.

Weekly "looking after" is gradually reducing the number of defaulters.

Examined Standard III in Arithmetic and Geography, and gave Miss Straiton hints regarding the teaching of the latter subject. Infants received a general information lesson the subject being

"The Carrot." All the Registers found correct.

16<sup>th</sup>

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Owing to severe domestic affliction the pupil teacher was unable to attend to duty and her place was partially filled by a monitor. Examined Standard IV in Spelling and Grammar. Weekly list of defaulters made up.

1896.

Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> "

Owing to the death of her grandfather (Mr. Joseph Wood) the pupil-teacher obtained leave to remain at home this week. The attendance has during the past week been good. Examined Standard III in Writing and Spelling. Tom Black an Exe VI<sup>th</sup> pupil returned, after having been absent for a considerable time.

Mr. Joseph Wood, who has been a Member of the School Board for a number of years was buried in Aytou Churchyard on Wednesday of this week.

" 30<sup>th</sup> "

The weather being favourable, the attendance has been good. The weekly list of defaulters was made up, some children have been absent on account of illness.

Examined Standards IV, V, VI, and Exe VI, in Arithmetic, Composition and Dictation (written) also had an oral examination in English and Geography.

The Infants received an Object Lesson the subject being "The Elephant", which interested them very much. All the Registers examined and found correct.

1896.

6<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> "

With favourable weather, the attendance is good. The weekly list of defaulters sent to School Board Officer has had a salutary effect. The short interval - half an hour - which will last for a few months was begun Monday, which enables the scholars to get home before darkness sets in.

Examined Standard III in Arithmetic and Dictation and mentioned to Miss Straiton the weak points. The Infants received a special Lesson - the subject being "Irow".

13<sup>th</sup> "

The work of the past week has on the whole been satisfactory. Extra attention has been bestowed upon the weak ones, but notwithstanding all the special attention in some parts they are behind the rest of the class. Examined Standard IV in Geography - Map Drawing from memory, and oral examination. The Infants received an Object Lesson this afternoon - subject "The Camel", in which they were very much interested. All the Registers were examined and found correct. Plumber attended to Water - closet and basins.

1896.

November 20<sup>th</sup> During the past week there have been several cases of sickness which have reduced the attendance. Prepared list of Defaulters for School Board Officer. Examined Standard III in Geography including Map-Drawing from memory. Infants received special lesson the subject being "The Apple". All the Registers found to be correct.

" 27<sup>th</sup> The list of Defaulters for the week has been above the average, owing to a number of pupils being unwell, and some of the older boys being employed as "beaters" for sportsmen. Standard V was examined in Arithmetic, Recitation, and Grammar. Standards V, VI and VII had a written examination in Arithmetic, and composition. Received intimation from clerk to School Board, that the Christmas, and New Year Holidays would extend from Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December till Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 1897. Intimated the same to Staff.

1896.

December 4<sup>th</sup> The attendance during the past week has improved. Several children are still unwell. Examined Standard III in English - consisting of Repetition and Grammar. The Infants received a special lesson - the subject being "Copper" - which fixed their attention. The Registers were examined, and found to be correct.

" 11<sup>th</sup> The attendance during the past week has been good. The list of Defaulters for week ending 11<sup>th</sup> December was made up. The names of Christina Sherlaw and Alexander Young have been repeatedly given and no satisfactory reason for their absence has been recorded. Informed Mrs. Allan, the School cleaner, that due attention must be paid to the cleaning of the Water closets. Examined Standard IV in Spelling, Grammar, and Mental Arithmetic. Special Lesson was given to Infants, subject "The Cat". All the Registers examined and found correct.

1896.

December 18<sup>th</sup>

During a great part of this week the weather has been wet and stormy which has prevented a number of the pupils from attending. There are also several cases of illness.

Directed the attention of the Chairman of the School Board to the flooding of the Boys' closets which was caused by the stoppage of a drain, which has since been put into working order. Examined Standard III in English viz. Spelling, Meanings, Analysis and Parsing. Liberty was given to Miss Dunne to leave (to-day) an hour before the usual time. Singing and Physical Drill as usual.

" 24<sup>th</sup>

To-day the school was closed for the Christmas, and New Year Holidays, which are to extend till Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 1897. The attendance to-day has been reduced, owing partly to the morning being wet, and also owing to a Christmas Treat, which is to be given to-night to the children attending the Established Church Sabbath School. Several of the children are laid up with colds.

1897.

January 8<sup>th</sup>

Resumed work after the New Year Holidays. All the Staff were present, and the attendance of pupils was good. This morning being stormy the attendance has been a good deal reduced. Examined Standard IV in Arithmetic and Geography - informed Miss Stratton regarding the low answering of the girls, and also the tardy answering of some of them. Infants received a special lesson - the subject being "Silver" which was interesting to the children. The lessons for the Pupil-Teacher this morning were - School Management, English Language and Literature, and Latin.

" 15<sup>th</sup>

The attendance for the past week has on the whole been good. Several have been laid up with cold, and some have very unsatisfactory reasons for their absence. Examined Standard III in Arithmetic and Geography, and explained a method by which the Geography lesson might be very interesting. Reexamined the Registers of all the Departments and found them correct.

1894.

January 22<sup>nd</sup> Received from Clerk to School Board the following communication.  
 Melrose.

Copy.

Jan. 1897.

To the Clerk of the School Board of Ayton.  
 Dear Sir,

Pupil Teachers.

Please give the following information to the pupil-teachers employed by your Board.

The date of the collective examination at Duns has been changed from the last Saturday of March, to the last Saturday of April.

Pupil-teachers of the first year do not require to attend. All those of the second year must attend unless they hold Leaving Certificates as specified in Article 40 (d) 5 of the Code.

Those of the third year, if they have not had their indentures changed, must also attend the examination.

I am,

Yours faithfully,  
 W. G. King.

1894.

January 22<sup>nd</sup> Researched Standard ~~IV~~ in Geography, consisting of Map-Drawing from Memory, and oral examination upon England. Informed Miss Straton to attend to the commercial aspects of the subject. Made inquiry regarding absentees, and prepared list of Defaulters for week ending 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1894. The Infants received a special lesson the subject being "The Sheep". Researched all the Registers and found them correct.

" 29<sup>th</sup> " The beginning of this week was very stormy, which kept a great number of pupils from attending school. On Monday and Tuesday especially, the attendance was very thin, but it improved towards the close of the week. Researched Standard ~~III~~ in Geography including Map-Drawing from memory, as well as Grammar. The Infants received a special lesson the subject being "Cork and the Cork Tree". The weekly list of Defaulters was made up and sent to School Board Officers.

1894.

February 5<sup>th</sup>

The attendance during the past week has been better than that of last week, although the list of defaulters is of considerable length.

Examined all the Registers and found them correct. Standard IV was examined in Reading, Intelligence and Spelling.

The Infants received a special lesson - the subject being "Lemon" - its qualities, uses, and where found. The other pupils have received a singing lesson and Drill, which has been given daily.

" 12<sup>th</sup>

With an improvement in the weather, there has been an improved attendance. Was informed that Janet Seton, who has been unwell for some time would not return to school till the wintry weather was past. Received intimation, that Andrew Swinton had died from the effects of inflammation of the brain. As a mark of respect some of his school-mates, and companions along with myself attended his funeral yesterday afternoon.

Examined Standard III in Intelligence, Spelling, and Dictation. Singing and Drill as usual. Examined all the Registers and found them correct.

1894.

February 19<sup>th</sup>

Made special inquiry regarding absentees in the Senior Division, and made out list of Defaulters for School Board Officer. Drill and Singing have been given as usual. The Infants received their weekly lesson the subject being "The Lemon". The following heads were explained and illustrated, viz (a) The difference between lemons and oranges - (b) Uses of the Lemon. (c) The Lemon Tree. Examined and checked all the Registers.

February 26<sup>th</sup>

Yesterday being the Spring Fast Day the school was closed. To-day several pupils have absented themselves. Was asked by Miss Dunne to administer punishment, in a case where the discipline of her department was infringed. Examined Standard III in Spelling, Dictation, and Geography. Informed Miss Straiton that it was a good plan to revise the Geographical Definitions. Drill, and Singing have been given as usual. All the Registers examined and checked. Made out weekly list of Defaulters for School Board Officer.



1894.

March 5<sup>th</sup>

The list of defaulters for this week is above the average. The Hiring Day on Tuesday partly accounts for non-attendance, as several of the older children are kept at home that day.

Received a Parcel of Prize Books from Edinburgh Border Counties' Association which has been duly acknowledged.

Examined Standard III in Arithmetic and Geography and informed Miss Straiton regarding the results. Drill and Singing were given as usual.

Registers examined and found correct.

Mar: 8<sup>th</sup>

Visited School today, examined Registers and found same marked up to date and correct.

Abner Henderson Chairman

" 12<sup>th</sup>

This morning being wet, several pupils from the Country were absent.

Examined Standard IV in Spelling, Dictation, and Mental Arithmetic.

The Infants received their weekly lesson - subject being "Rain and Snow".

Singing and Drill as usual.

1894.

March 19<sup>th</sup>

During the past week the work of the school has progressed in the usual manner. Examined Standard III in Writing and English. List of Defaulters for Week made up. Singing and Physical Drill given as usual. The Infants received their Object Lesson, the subject was "The Elephant." Gave the Senior classes extra drill in Vulgar and Decimal Fractions, also in the Metric System.

" 26<sup>th</sup>

List of Defaulters for week made up, and sent to School Board Officers. Made inquiry regarding absentees, and found their excuses very satisfactory. Examined Standard IV in English, and Geography, and mentioned to Miss Straiton points where improvement was needed. Drill, and Singing, given as usual. The Infants received a Special lesson Subject "The Potato".

Quarterly returns for Sergt. Cummins' children made up, and returned.

1894.

April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

School work has been performed in the usual manner. In some cases the severity of the weather has told on the attendance, in others no satisfactory reason has been given.

List of defaulters for week made up and given to School Board Officer.

Examined by writing Standard IV in Arithmetic and Dictation, also the upper classes were examined in Arithmetic, and composition.

The Infants received a Special Lesson, the subject being "Gold".

" 9<sup>th</sup>.

During the past week, there have been many cases of illness. Colds have been prevalent, and more serious symptoms have accompanied them. Examined Standards IV (Boys) V and VI in Arithmetic, Composition and Dictation.

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

Standard IV was also examined in Geography (Map Drawing and oral work.)

Weekly list of Defaulters made up for School Board Officer.

1894.

April 15<sup>th</sup>.

The School Board thought it right to close the school on Monday owing to the death of my father. Yesterday (Wednesday) a number of his schoolmates and myself attended the funeral of James Paterson, who had been unwell for a considerable time.

Received intimation from Clerk of School Board that to-morrow being Good Friday the school would be closed, to resume on Monday.

" 23<sup>rd</sup>.

All the staff resumed work on Monday, after the holidays. The work during the past week has been performed in a steady, thoroughgoing fashion. Examined Standard IV in Geography (including Map-Drawing) and English - Repetition and Grammar, and held the weekly examinations for Standards IV, V and VI, which embraced Arithmetic, Composition, English, and Geography.

The Infants received their usual special lesson, the subject being "The Sea Plant".

Made up a list of Defaulters for the week, and sent the same to School Board Officer.

1894.

April 30<sup>th</sup>

The attendance has on the whole been good. Made up list of absentees and irregular attenders for week which is sent to School Board Officer. In order that the Pupil-Teacher might complete her Sewing the ordinary lessons have been suspended during the past week; they will be resumed on Monday first at the usual hour. All the standards from IV to IX examined in Arithmetic, Composition or Dictation, and Standard IV had also Geography. Yesterday standards V, VI and IX were examined in Geography - Map Drawing from memory included. Singing and Physical Drill given as usual.

May 7<sup>th</sup>

The attendance during the past week has been good. Was informed that Isabella Swanson had left school. Examined the upper standards IV, V and VI, in Arithmetic, Composition or Dictation, English and Geography. Infants received their usual weekly lesson Subject - "Birds." Singing and Physical Drill given as usual. Examined and checked all the Registers, and found them correct.

1894.

May 14<sup>th</sup>

Supplied clerk to School Board with information for the filling up of Form 8. Made up list of absentees for School Board Officer, and was informed, that Alexander Young was ill. The weekly examination of the upper standards (IV, V, VI & IX) was held to-day. The Infants received a special lesson the subject was "Books." Physical Drill, and Singing were given as usual.

" 21<sup>st</sup>

The past week has been mainly taken up with a revision of work. The attendance during the past week has been very good, so much so that there is no pupil absent without a reasonable excuse, so that this week there is no list of defaulters. Physical Drill, Singing, and Special Lessons to Infants have been given as usual.

" 28<sup>th</sup>

The work during the past week has been similar to that of the preceding week. A number of children having left the district their names have been deleted from the Registers. Received intimation from clerk to School Board that 22<sup>nd</sup> June was to be a holiday.

1894.

June 4<sup>th</sup>

Made out list of defaulters for the week just closed. A few new pupils have been enrolled this week. Informed the scholars that a lady had kindly given money to provide an entertainment on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June. The School Board, Teachers and other Ladies and Gentlemen were appointed a Managing Committee.

The Infants received a Special Lesson this afternoon the subject being "Railways and Railway Travelling".

Examined all the Registers and found them correct.

" 11<sup>th</sup>

Received intimation from Clerk to School Board, that the Annual Inspection of the school would take place on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June at 9.15. Due intimation was given to the staff. The attendance during the past week has been very good.

Registers examined, and found correct.

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

Informed the children, that a Lady had kindly engaged to give them an entertainment on 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

1894

June 12 Mr Nisbet, Chairman of the Board, and the Correspondent examined all the Registers and found same regularly and carefully marked.

William Nisbet Chairman  
J. Donaldson J. Correspondent.

June 16<sup>th</sup>

School Inspected,

W. G. King, M. B. 2.

Staff

William Cook, certificated 1<sup>st</sup> class.  
Elizabeth St. Dunne, " 3<sup>rd</sup> " "  
Agnes Straiton, Hex P. T.  
Rose Wood, P. T. of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Year.

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4496.

6/4/94.

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

"In this school the results generally in the junior division are of average quality. The younger infants have not made much progress, and more attention should be paid to explanation of meanings in the first and second standards.

The class subjects are very good in the intermediate standards, and the elementary subjects are on the whole good. Arithmetic is weak in the fourth standard.

"In the senior division there is considerable improvement both in the written exercises and in Grammar, and the appearance made is in other respects quite satisfactory.

"Singing by ear is very fair and Needlework is very good."

A Grant under Article 19E is paid in respect of Miss R. Wood.

1894.

18<sup>th</sup> June.

This being Inspection week the attendance is very good. Received Duplicate Examination Schedule from Clerk to School Board, and arranged classes accordingly. The Infants received a special lesson in Mental Arithmetic.

25<sup>th</sup> "

The school was closed on Tuesday and Wednesday in honour of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee. On Tuesday the weather was good, and the children enjoyed themselves in the grounds of Ayton Castle, and received a splendid entertainment provided by Mrs. Liddell Grainger. Miss Dume being desirous of going to Edinburgh, arrangements were made, whereby she got away earlier this afternoon, and Monday first; as Tuesday of next week is Midsummer Holiday.

July 2<sup>nd</sup>

Tuesday being Midsummer Holiday the school was closed. As Miss Straiton has to go to Edinburgh on Monday first for her Certificate Examination, she was allowed this week (except Monday) to revise her work. Received a letter from Mrs. Liddell Grainger, thanking the teachers, and expressing pleasure at the conduct of the children at their Jubilee Festival.

1894.

July 9<sup>th</sup>

Standards III, IV, V, VI and ~~IX~~ VI have all been under my care this week as Miss Straiton has been in Edinburgh attending the Certificate Examination. Received the following communication from the School Board:-  
 "The School Board have resolved that the school be closed on 30<sup>th</sup> July for the Summer Holidays, and re-opened on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September."

The Mr. Inspector's Report on the school for the past year was also handed for perusal.

" 16<sup>th</sup>

Received a letter from Lady Simpson of Ballabraes, requesting a list showing the number of Prize Books required.

The attendance has on the whole been good during the past week.

Made up a list for School Board Officer of Defaulters for week ending 16<sup>th</sup> July.

The Infants received a special lesson - the subject being "The Orange and Orange Tree". During the past week all the staff have been at their posts, and discharged their duties faithfully.

1894.

July 23<sup>rd</sup>

In several cases, the attendance during the past week has been irregular, arising in a great measure from wet weather. Tuesday, and Wednesday were very wet days, which kept country children from attending school. The school was closed yesterday, it being the Summer Sacramental Fast Day.

To-day the Infants received a special lesson the subject being "Paper".

Sent a list of Subjects for Prizes, to Lady Simpson of Ballabraes, who has kindly offered to give a number of Books.

" 30<sup>th</sup>

This afternoon the children were dismissed for their Autumn Holidays, which were to last for six weeks. There was a distribution of Prizes, which were kindly given by Lady Simpson of Ballabraes; and supplemented by a donation of books, given by the Border Counties Association. Messrs Nisbet and Taylor, members of the school were present also the Rev. Mr. Cairns besides a large number of parents and friends. Lady Simpson - accompanied by Sir Walter Simpson kindly presented the Prizes to the children.

1894.

September 12<sup>th</sup>

The school resumed work after the autumn holidays. There was a good attendance of pupils and all the staff were at their posts.

The appearance of the school-rooms, has been greatly improved, having been painted, and thoroughly cleaned. Received from Dr. Jeffrey the following.

Aston.

September 13<sup>th</sup> 94.

Dear Mr. Cook,

In my opinion you may safely allow James Mughars's children to return to school now, without fear of infection.

Faithfully Yours,  
James Duncan Jeffrey.

The above refers to a family, certain members of whom had enteric fever. They have however been removed to the Fever Hospital, and the house has been fumigated.

1894.

September 24<sup>th</sup>

The School Board Officer received the weekly list of Irregular and Absent children. On Monday last the attendance of pupils was good. The various classes are in good working order. Commenced singing by Note in the Upper Standards, also. Drawing was begun. Examined Standard IV in Geography including Map-Drawing. The Infants received their weekly lesson the subject being "A Lead Pencil". The work of the week was finished by an exercise in Physical Drill.

October 1<sup>st</sup>

The attendance during the past week has been good, and the number of absentees and irregular attenders has been reduced.

Examined Standard III in Geography including Map-Drawing from Memory.

The Infants received their usual weekly lesson the subject being "A Needle," which interested them. Singing and Physical Drill were given as usual. Was informed by School Board Officer that Alexander Dalgetty had left the school. Made out the weekly list of irregular attenders and absentees. All the Registers were checked.

10<sup>1</sup>  
1894.

8<sup>th</sup> October.

Was informed by School Board Officer, that Fred. Jones and his brother Robert were unwell, also that Barbara Craig and Janet Mennon were ill. Examined Standard ~~IV~~ in Geography. The Infants received their weekly lesson the subject being a "Straw Bonnet". Examined and checked all the Registers, and found them correct.

15<sup>th</sup> "

The attendance on the part of a good number of pupils has been irregular owing to illness, potato-lifting, and wet weather. Lady Simpson of Ballabraes, who takes an interest in the school visited on Wednesday afternoon and expressed herself as highly gratified with the appearance of the pupils. Shown letter from Education Department intimating that Miss Straiton had passed in the Second Year's Papers, and was placed in the Third Division. The Infants received their Special Lesson the subject being "A Candle"; also singing by note and Physical Drill were given. Registers checked and found correct.

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1897.

Oct 21.

School visited W. N.  
Everything in due order.  
W. Pennycook.

" 22.

The weather being good, several children have been absent this week gathering potatoes. Examined Standard ~~IV~~ in Geography. The Lesson consisted of a tour through England and Wales, which the children enjoyed very much; they also drew a map of England and Wales from Memory. Admitted five new pupils this week, three of whom are far behind in their education, considering their ages. Singing lesson, and lesson to the Infants were given as usual.

" 24<sup>th</sup>.

Gave to School Board Officer the list of absentees and irregular attenders. During this week the attendance has improved. Drawing is now taught in conformity with the rules of the S. & A. Dept. The Infants received their usual lesson. Singing from note, also given.



1894.

5<sup>th</sup> Nov.

The attendance during the past week has been very good, one important cause being that the weather has been fine.

Revised the Arithmetic of Standards IV-VI.  
Examined Standard V in Geography including Map Drawing from Memory.  
The Infants received a special lesson the subject being "Glass".

Gave instructions to pupils regarding conduct in the playground, and to take special care when playing with Marbles.

12<sup>th</sup> "

With a continuance of good weather, the attendance has been good.

Revised the Arithmetic of Standards IV-VI, and find that the Senior Pupils are greatly the better for practice in former work.  
Standard III was examined in Geography including Map Drawing from Memory.

Gave Infants a special lesson the subject being "The Elephant". Find the following suitable times for giving the Drawing Lessons -  
Junior Dept. on Tuesday and Friday 11.45 to 12.30  
Inter <sup>mediate</sup> Senior Dept. Tues, Wed, and Thursday 1.40 to 2.10.  
during Winter and Spring and from 2.10-2.40. Summer and Autumn

1894.

19<sup>th</sup> Nov.

The beginning of the week being stormy, the attendance was broken. Made inquiry regarding absentees, and found that some of them were ill. Examined Standard IV in Geography (Map of England and Wales), and exercised them in Map Drawing from Memory. The Infants received a special lesson the subject being "The Potato".  
Singing from notes and Physical Drill were also given. All the Registers were checked and found correct.

26<sup>th</sup> Nov.

The attendance during the past week has on the whole been good. Some have been absent owing to illness. Standard III was examined in Geography combined with History.  
A good number drew good maps on their slates from memory. Registers examined and found correct. Singing lesson given as usual. The children are fond of Drawing and a good number are making very satisfactory progress. All the staff at their posts, and taking an intelligent interest in their work.

1894.  
3rd Dec.

Received the following communication from the Clerk to the School Board.

W. Book Esq.

4/12/94.

Headmaster  
Aytoun Public School, Aytoun.

Dear Sir,

I have to intimate to you, that the Board at their meeting last night fixed the School's Christmas Holidays to commence on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> inst, at the usual hour for dispersing, work to be resumed again on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1895.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours truly,

G. M. Geddes.

Clerk to School Board.

The beginning of this week being stormy, the attendance was not so good as at the close. Made inquiry regarding absentees and found that they had a reasonable excuse.

Miss Dunne, having gone to Edinburgh to assist in the purchasing of fabrics for the school, her classes were taken by Miss Straiton, and I had Standard III and upward.

1894.

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

Entered two new pupils, and Alexander Bugglass returned after a lengthened absence.

The attendance has on the whole been good. Informed the School Board, that effective measures should be taken to prevent the periodical floodings of the School Water closets. As Miss Wood is going to Edinburgh on Monday first to sit for her Provisional Certificate Examination, the School Board agreed that she should get next week, and as she might be the better for a revision of her work, she obtained leave of absence to-day. A re-arrangement of staff has been made to suit the temporary arrangements. A new piano has been obtained for the Infant and Junior Departments.

Dec 15

Examined all the Registers and found correct and marked up to date

William Nisbet  
Chairman

1897.  
17<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>.

Miss Wood has been in Edinburgh during the past week, attending the Examination for a Provisional Certificate. The attendance of pupils during the week has been on the whole good. Made inquiry regarding absentees, and prepared a list of the same for the School Board Officer. The Clerk to School Board called to inform me, that a new stove would be put in the Senior Class Room.

24<sup>th</sup> "

The attendance for the past week has been good. Dismissed at the usual hour for a week's holidays. Informed the pupils that work would be resumed on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1898. Had a general revision of Geography this afternoon. The standards examined were Standards V - VI. They also drew maps from memory. Standards V and VI were examined in English (including Grammar and Repetition). Singing and Drill were given as usual. Made inquiry regarding absentees and found that several were unwell.

1898.  
4<sup>th</sup> January.

Resumed work after the Christmas Holidays. All the staff were at their posts and the attendance of pupils was on the whole good. Yesterday afternoon a number of pupils were absent owing to a Sabbath School treat which was given in the afternoon. A History Book has been introduced, which is used as an additional Reading Book, also imparting a knowledge of Historical Facts. Singing and Drill given as usual. Examined the Higher classes (Standards IV - VI) in Arithmetic, and Dictation or Composition. List of absentees and irregular attenders made up for School Board Officer.

14<sup>th</sup> "

The work of the school has been performed in the usual manner. The weather continues good and the attendance of scholars is also good. List of absentees made up for School Board Officer. Examined the Higher Standards in Arithmetic, Composition, and Spelling. Singing and Physical Drill were given as usual.

1898.

21<sup>st</sup> January. The attendance has on the whole been good, and absentees have been enquired for, some have been away owing to sickness, others have not had satisfactory reasons. List of absentees and irregulars made up for School Board Officer. Singing and Physical Drill given as usual. This afternoon Mr. Tennant, wife of Mr. Tennant, M.P. for the county along with Miss Simpson of Ballabraes visited the school. They expressed themselves as highly pleased with what work they saw.

28<sup>th</sup>

" Some pupils have during the past week been absent owing to illness, others have given very unsatisfactory reasons for their absence. Some of the irregulars are now attending better. Mr. Davidson, member of the School Board visited the school, and expressed his pleasure at seeing the Senior Pupils perform their exercises. He also mentioned that he would give a handsome book as a prize for the best essay upon a subject to be arranged between himself and the headmaster. Singing and Physical Drill were given as usual.

1898.

4<sup>th</sup> February. Today the weather has been stormy, which has prevented several of the country children from attending school. Revised the Geography and History of Standards V and VI, also the Arithmetic and Composition of Standards V, V and VI. The Infants received a general lesson in Mental Arithmetic. Physical Exercises and Singing given as usual. List of Irregulars and Absentees made up for School Board Officer.

11<sup>th</sup>

" The list of irregulars and absentees has been unusually heavy this week owing partly to personal and relative illness. Was informed that Robert Swinton had left this school. Revised the English including Repetition and Grammar of Standards V and VI; also the Arithmetic, and Composition of the same. Standard V, was examined in Arithmetic and Dictation and they also along with the higher standards received a lesson in Physical Geography the subject being "Lakes." Singing and Physical Drill were given as usual. Examined all the Registers and found them all correct. Received some apparatus for Physical Drill.

1898.

18<sup>th</sup> February. The attendance has on the whole been good during the past week with the exception of to-day when several of the older pupils were absent. As the days are now of considerable length, the interval at mid-day has extended for one hour. Sent former lists of Irregulars and absent children to School Board Officer who has appeared for a fortnight, owing to ill-health. The usual weekly revision of work was held to-day, Physical Drill and Singing have also been given.

25<sup>th</sup>

Yesterday the school was closed, it being the Winter Fast Day. To-day several pupils are absent. The weekly list of Absentees, and Irregulars is made up for School Board Officer. Required to go to the Junior Department, and administer punishment to a boy, who would not obey Miss Dunne; and to-day during the singing lesson four boys interfered very much with the conduct of the class under Miss Stratton, and they required to be chastised. The usual Physical Drill exercises were given, and an examination in Arithmetic, Composition, Dictation and English was held.

1898.

4<sup>th</sup> March.

Last Tuesday being the Hiring Market at Duns, some of the Country children were kept at home, "to mind the house". Glad to report that Robert Swinton is attending school a great deal better, than he formerly did. List of Irregular and absent children made up for the week. Singing and Physical Drill given as usual, also revised the History of Standards V and VI. All the Registers checked and found correct.

11<sup>th</sup>

Made inquiry regarding absentees, and found that some were ill with cold, others would return to school, when the fine weather set in. The Victoria Bridge at the Stormwater was opened yesterday, and it was considered advisable to close the school, during the afternoon, as the attendance would have been greatly reduced. The work of the school has been performed in the usual manner, nothing of extra importance to record.

" 18<sup>th</sup>

The attendance for the past week, has on the whole been good. Some of those who have been absent for a considerable time have attended, although there are some who cannot give a satisfactory reason for their absence. Regular school duties performed.

113 1898.  
25<sup>th</sup> March

Through the kindness of Mr Davidson, member of the School Board, a prize was awarded this afternoon for the best essay. Members of the School Board, parents and friends visited the School. Musical Drill, Military Gun Drill, and Singing constituted the programme. At the close there was an unanimous expression of pleasure at what the audience had seen and heard. Thanks were accorded to all those who had taken an interest in the welfare of the school, including the School Board, the parents, and visitors.

1<sup>st</sup> April.

Informed the School Board, that Robert Swinton was very irregular in his attendance. Received notice, that Good Friday was to be a school holiday. School Board Officer reported that Maggie Allan had left school. It was also reported, that Lawrence Tergie, who had passed Standard V had gone to work. The weekly list of Irregular and Absent children was made out for School Board Officer. The work of the School has been performed in the usual manner, special attention being paid to subjects, which were weak. Singing, and Drill given as usual.

1898.

7<sup>th</sup> April.

To-morrow being Good Friday, the School Board agreed that the School should be closed on that day. The work of the School has been performed in the usual manner, where weakness has been discovered, special attention has been bestowed. Made inquiry regarding absentees, and the general excuse of children above Standard IV is that they are needed at "home" or "going messages".

15<sup>th</sup> "

Received information, that our P. J. has passed 3<sup>rd</sup> class, in the Scholarship Examination. Was informed by Archibald Shearlaw, that he purposed sending his blind boy to Aytow Public School; informed the School Board of the same, and the matter was left for their consideration, and decision. The weather during the past week, has been very wet in the mornings, when country children start for school, the consequence being, that they have not attended school. Drew up the weekly list of absent, and irregular children for School Board Officer. There are several cases of illness. Held an examination for the upper Standard (V—VI) in Arithmetic, Composition, English, and Geography, including *Map Drawing*.

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1898.

April 22<sup>nd</sup> The attendance during the past week has been good, which is partly accounted for from the fact that the weather has been good. Mr. Ness, an agent from a Society whose object is the oversight of the out-door Blind called on Monday regarding the education of a blind boy named Shearlaw. Informed him that the School Board had the case under their consideration, and it was with to decide what was to be done. The work of the school during the past week has gone on satisfactorily.

" 29<sup>th</sup> With a continuance of wet weather, there has been a gradual decline, in the attendance of pupils during the past week. List of absentees, and irregular scholars, made up for week. The weekly examination of the higher standards was held to-day. The subjects were Arithmetic, Composition, English, and Geography. Received from Clerk to School Board, the schedules relating to the Examination of the school, by H. Majesty's Inspector. Gave information for Form 8 etc.

1898.

May 6<sup>th</sup> The attendance of pupils during the past week has been very good. Having previously received a number, of unsatisfactory reasons, for absence from school, by several pupils, impressed upon them, the imperative duty of close attention to their work, and the great evil of being absent without sufficient reason. The work during the past week has mainly consisted of Revision, and giving due weight to subjects demanding extra attention. Made out weekly list of irregular and absent children, the list was short but Robert Swinton was included. Examined the Senior Division Standards and set upon the Historical Period from 1603 - 1689. All the Registers were checked and examined and found correct.

" 13<sup>th</sup> The attendance during the past week has been good, the weather tells very much upon the attendance. The greater part of the work for the past week, has consisted of revision of subjects studied. Nothing has occurred, demanding special attention. The Senior Division is greatly interested in their History Lessons. The weekly examination in Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Geography and English was held.

1898.

May 20<sup>th</sup>

Having special business in Edinburgh on Wednesday I received liberty from the School Board to close the school on that day. The weekly revision of work was held to-day; and the list of irregular, and absent children made out for School Board Officer. The attendance during the past week has on the whole been good. There are however in the Senior Department pupils whose excuses for absence are far from satisfactory such as "my mother needed me" - "I was going messages" - these and such like answers are of frequent occurrence the tendency of which is to prevent the progress of the class.

" 27<sup>th</sup>

To-morrow being the Whitsunday Term, several pupils, who are leaving the district, left during the week. Made out a list of Irregular, and Absent children for the week closed. The work of the school, during the past week, has been revision of former work, and strengthening weak points. Examined Standard V in Geography, and Standards V, VI and CVI in Geography, and History. All the Registers were examined, checked, and found correct.

1898

May 31<sup>st</sup>

Mr Nesbet, Chairman of the Board and the Correspondent examined all the Registers, and found same carefully, and regularly marked.

William Nesbet, Chairman.  
C. W. Geddes, Correspondent.

June 3<sup>rd</sup>

During the past week, on account of the Whitsunday Term, there has been a number of fresh pupils admitted to the school. I found, that the Schools, they had previously attended, had been examined in the Spring. Robert Swinton has again been very irregular in his attendance, and his case has been repeatedly before the School Board. The work of the school has been similar to that of the preceding week.

" 10<sup>th</sup>

Received intimation from Clerk to School Board that Mr. King, H. M. Inspector of School would visit Ayrton Public School on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June at 9.15 a.m. Informed the staff and also the pupils. Several new pupils have been admitted this week. Made out list of absent and irregular pupils for School Board Officer. All the classes from Standard III and upward have been examined in work gone over.



June 17<sup>th</sup>

School Inspected,

W. G. King. H. 2. 2

Summary of H. M. Inspector's Report  
on page 121.

Staff.

William Cook, certificated	1 <sup>st</sup> class.
Elizabeth H. Dunne	" 3 <sup>rd</sup> "
Agnes Stratton	Prob.
Rose Wood	Ex. P. J.

" 17<sup>th</sup> This school has been inspected to-day by  
H. M. Inspectors W. G. King, and W. Pennycook.

1898.

June 24<sup>th</sup>

Received the Duplicate Examination Schedule, and re-arranged the classes. Several new Pupils have been admitted this week, and several of the Advanced Pupils have left school for Service. Made out list of Irregular, and Absent children for School Board Officer. A New Time-Table for each division of the school, has been drawn up, and they will be sent to H. M. Inspector (W. G. King) for approval. Singing Lessons, and Physical Exercises were given as usual. Checked all the Registers, and found them correct.

July 1<sup>st</sup>

Tuesday being Midsummer Holiday, the school was closed for that day. Made out a list of Irregular, and Absent children for the past week.

There has been nothing of special interest to record during the past week. All the Registers were examined, checked, and found correct.

Singing, and Physical Exercises have been given as usual, and the Infants received a special lesson this afternoon the subject being "The Elephant". Mental Arithmetic has been well attended to, particularly in the Higher Standards, and it has consisted of questions fitted to ground them in Arithmetic.

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4496.

Ayton Public School.

Berwick.

(5. 4. 98.)

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

"On this school the younger infants are much better prepared than they were last year, and the work of the higher infant class, and of the first and second standards is quite satisfactory with the exception that Reading is rather careless in the first, and that Mental Arithmetic should be better in this Department.

"The fourth and fifth are weak in Arithmetic, but in other respects a good appearance was made by the higher standards. Singing and Drill are very good in the lower, and good in the Senior section".

"Needlework is very well taught."

J. T.

1898.

July 8<sup>th</sup>.

Received intimation from D. M. Dougall, and also from the Sanitary Inspector, that Annie Fairbairn was laid with scarlet fever, and to prevent infection her brother was not attending school. The clerk to the School Board called with H. M. Inspector's Report on the School, a copy of which is engrossed on the opposite page. Received from H. M. Inspector the Time Tables (four) which were sent for approval, also copies of the same have been sent to Mr. King. With fine weather, the attendance for the past week has been good. Prepared a list of absent, and irregular pupils for School Board Officer. The school has been wrought in accordance with the New Time-Tables.

" 15<sup>th</sup>.

The attendance during the past week has been very good. During the past week three pupils have left, viz, William Allan, James Allan, and Catherine Christie. The first and second are leaving the district, and the third is at home performing domestic duties.

The work of the school has been carried out in accordance with the New Time-Tables.

All the Registers have been examined and checked. Infants received a special lesson subject "The Tiger".

1898.

July 22<sup>nd</sup>

Received the following intimations from Mr. Geddes  
Clerk, to School Board.

Ayton 20<sup>th</sup> July 1898.

W. Cook, Esq.

Headmaster,

Public School, Ayton.

Dear Sir,

The Board at a meeting held last  
night fixed the Summer Holidays to date from  
Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> inst (at usual hours for dispersing), to  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> Sept: on which date, work will be  
resumed.

I am Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

J. M. Geddes,

Clerk to the Board.

Also that the School Board had agreed to  
continue the services of Miss Rose Wood, as  
Fox. P. T. and that her salary would be £35  
per annum, dating from 15<sup>th</sup> August 1898.

Also received from Clerk to School Board  
Papers (3) for Miss Wood regarding the  
Certificate Examination for 1899.

School work performed in the usual manner.

1898.

July 24<sup>th</sup>

To-day the School was closed for the Summer  
Holidays. Mr. Nisbet, Chairman of School Board,  
and Mr. Geddes, Clerk to School Board visited  
the School this afternoon. The children were  
informed, that work would be resumed  
on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September.

19<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup>.

Received from Clerk to School Board Ayton.

School Board of Ayton.

Copy of Certificate received from Medical Officer of Health,  
and forwarded to Scotch Education Department, re'  
epidemic of Whooping Cough.

Summerhill, Ayton 19<sup>th</sup> Sept: 1898.

I hereby certify, that Ayton Public School is closed,  
owing to an epidemic of Whooping-Cough in the Village,  
and that the re-opening cannot take place for at  
least a month, from this date.

(Signed) James Duncan Jeffrey,

M. O. H.

Parish of Ayton.

1898.

Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The school was re-opened on Monday last, having been closed for eleven weeks. A good number of pupils have still whooping-cough or are affected by it. Received the following certificate from  
Medical Officer of Health

(Copy.)

Summerhill, Aytow  
November 26<sup>th</sup> 1898.

With reference to the recent epidemic of Whooping-cough in the village of Aytow and neighbourhood, I hereby certify that all scholars may now be allowed to attend school, except the following viz, the children of - John Christie, William Hume, Robert Dalgetty, Robert Winter, Thomas Darril, J. K. Livingston, Arch. Shearlaw, Alex. Shearlaw, William Greig, George White, Thomas Kurvis, & Mrs. Robert Sait, all residing in Aytow, and John Wilkinson, residing at Aytow Mains, also the nephew of James Greig residing in Aytow. These must be excluded until further notice

James Duncan Jeffrey,  
M. O. H.

W. William Cook,  
Headmaster,  
Aytow Public School.

1898.

Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The Medical Officer's Order has been strictly carried out. The School Board Officer called and received a complete list of absentees including the children of parents mentioned in Medical Officer's certificate, and it was found that the number was Sixty-eight. Some of these appeared at school on Tuesday others were to attend next week; the stormy weather and illness prevented some. All the Teachers were at their posts and the work of the School has been performed per Time Tables.

" 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Whilst the attendance during the past week has increased there are still a considerable number of pupils absent. A full list is made out for the School Board Officer, which after he has ascertained the causes of absence is to be returned to the Headmaster, who at the end of each month will report the bad attenders to the School Board.

The work of the School has been strictly in accordance with the Time Tables approved by H. M. Inspector. The following communications have been received, one from the Clerk to School Board

1898.

and the other from the District Medical Officer.

Ayton.

29<sup>th</sup> Novr. 1898.

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

Dear Sir,

I am instructed by the School Board to intimate to you, that owing to the long period during which Ayton Public School has been closed, the usual holidays at the New Year, will this year be limited to one day viz Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1899.

I am,

Yours faithfully,  
G. W. Geddes.  
Clerk.

December 5<sup>th</sup> 1898.

This is to certify that Mrs Robert Sait's children may now be allowed to attend school.

James Duncan Jeffrey.  
M. O. H.  
Parish of Ayton.

1898.

16<sup>th</sup> December. The following Medical certificates have been received during this week.

Decr. 10<sup>th</sup> 1898

This is to certify that the children of Robert Dalgetty, Ayton, may now attend school.

James Duncan Jeffrey.

Decr. 10<sup>th</sup> /98.

This is to certify that the children of Robert Winter Ayton, may now attend school.

James Duncan Jeffrey.

This is to certify that the children of Alexr. Shearlaw, Ayton, may now attend school.

James Duncan Jeffrey.

Decr. 10<sup>th</sup> 1898.

This is to certify that the children of John Christie Ayton, may now attend school.

James Duncan Jeffrey.

Decr. 10<sup>th</sup> 1898.

1898.

This is to certify that William Greig, nephew of James Greig, Aytton, may now attend school.  
James Duncan Jeffrey.

Aytton,  
Dec<sup>r</sup>. 12<sup>th</sup> 1898.

This is to certify that the children of George White, Aytton, may now attend school.  
James Duncan Jeffrey.

Aytton,  
Dec<sup>r</sup>. 12<sup>th</sup> 1898.

Dec<sup>r</sup>. 12<sup>th</sup> 1898.

This is to certify that the children of W. J. M. Livingstone, Aytton, may now attend school -  
James Duncan Jeffrey.

During this week the attendance of pupils at school has much improved, as the foregoing certificates prove. There is still however a good number absent. Two Members of the School Board called, along with the Clerk who made kindly inquiries regarding the children. List of absentees made out for School Board Officer. Singing and Drill given as usual.

1898.

23<sup>rd</sup> December.

From the School Board Officer's Return, a number of children are still prevented from attending school. Young children, who have a good distance to come to school, are also absent. A new case of Whooping Cough was reported viz Mary Ann Burn, and the others, who were attending school had to be excluded. Was informed that Robert Scott, who was leaving the district had left school. The attendance was weakened yesterday afternoon, as a good number of children left to prepare for a Christmas Treat. The work of the school has been steadily performed, and efforts have been put forth to try and balance the long break. Singing, and Drill were given as usual, and the Infants received a special lesson - the subject being "Seeds".

30<sup>th</sup>

"

Colds have been prevalent during the past week, and stormy weather has prevented young children from attending school. School work has been performed in the usual manner, singing and drill included. All the Registers were examined and found correct. The Infants received a Lesson to-day to test their general knowledge. Again informed the children that the school would be closed on Monday 2<sup>d</sup> January 1899, and that all were expected to be at school on next Tuesday. School Board Officer received his weekly list.

1899.

6<sup>th</sup> January. Collective Examination  
of Pupil Teachers.

Circular 230.

Scotch Education Department.

Dover House.

Whitehall, S. W.,

1 January, 1899.

Sir,

For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of Art. 40(d) of the Code, two examinations will be held yearly for pupil-teachers at the end of their 2<sup>nd</sup> year of apprenticeship.

The examination in April is intended for pupil-teachers whose apprenticeship ends on 30<sup>th</sup> June following; the examination in October is for pupil-teachers whose apprenticeship ends on 30<sup>th</sup> November following Art. 40(b).

These examinations need not be attended by pupil-teachers at the end of their 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> year, nor by pupil-teachers at the end of their 2<sup>nd</sup> year, who have obtained the qualifications specified in Art. 40(d) 5.

All pupil-teachers, however, including those at the end of their 4<sup>th</sup> year, will be examined in Reading, Recitation, Teaching, Music, and, as a rule, Needlework (in the case of girls) on the occasion of H. M. Inspector's visit to the School. In the case of candidates about to enter for the Queen's Scholarship and Studentship Examination,

Form 146.

as well as of those candidates exempt from that examination under Art. 40(d) 6, the Reports on Reading, Recitation, and Teaching, will be made on the accompanying form.

Pupil-teachers who claim exemption under Art. 40(d) 5 and 40(d) 6 will be required to show their Leaving Certificates to H. M. Inspector.

You are requested to notify each year to H. M. Inspector for the District in which your schools are situated the names of the candidates from your schools who, in accordance with the foregoing arrangements, will attend the examinations in April and October respectively.

It is important that intimations should be made not later than the 31<sup>st</sup> March for the April examination, and not later than the 30<sup>th</sup> September for the October examination.

The intimation, headed by the full official name of the school, should specify:-

- 1<sup>st</sup> The number of pupil-teachers in the school at the end of their 2<sup>nd</sup> year, who, not being exempt from examination under Art. 40(d) 5, will attend the collective examination.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> The number of candidates for a shortened apprenticeship under Art. 40(b) who will be presented at the collective examination.

The information is required in order to enable H. M. Inspector to procure a sufficient supply of papers. If it is not furnished by the date mentioned, he cannot

Dover

1899.

be responsible for providing for the examination of your pupil-teachers and candidates.

On receiving this statement from you, H.M. Inspector will advise you as to the place, date and hour of the examinations.

The candidates will, on and after April, 1899, be supplied with exercise books and blotting paper, but they must come provided with pens.

This letter should be inscribed in the day-book and acted upon each year until further notice.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

H. Craik

To the Clerk of the School Board or  
The Official Correspondent of the School.

Last Monday the School was closed, it being a Holiday. Several children are still affected by the Whooping Cough. The work of the School has been performed in the usual manner.

Singing and Drill were given, and the Infants received a special lesson in Arithmetic.

1899.

13<sup>th</sup> January.

The attendance during the past week has improved, but several young children are detained at home the reason assigned being the Wintry weather. A list of irregular attenders was given to the School Board Officer. The following certificate was received.

January 9<sup>th</sup> 1899.

This is to certify that the children of Thomas Darric may now attend school.

James Duncan Jeffrey.

Progress has been made in the various classes, singing and Drill have been given as usual, and the Infants received their usual special lesson.

20<sup>th</sup>

"

Received the following Medical Certificate.

January 17<sup>th</sup> 1899.

Thomas Curves's children may now attend school.

James Duncan Jeffrey.

Several children have been absent during the past week, owing to sore throat, and the stormy weather also accounts for a diminution in the attendance.

All the School Registers were examined and found correct. Work of the school performed according to Time-Tables. The Infants received a special lesson this afternoon the Subject being "The Strawberry Plant."



1899.

27<sup>th</sup> January.

There is still a number of pupils absent on account of whooping-cough, although the number is being gradually reduced. The following medical certificate was obtained.

January 24<sup>th</sup>/99

John Burn's children may now attend school.

James Duncan Jeffrey.

Weekly list of absentees and irregular attenders has been made out for School Board Officer.

A common excuse for absence at this time is 'sore throat.'

School Registers examined and found correct. The work of the school has been performed in the usual manner. Impressed upon the pupils the benefit of good manners.

3<sup>rd</sup> February.

The following was presented to the School Board at their meeting held on the 31<sup>st</sup> ult.

Report on the Attendance of Ayrton Public School for two months ending 27<sup>th</sup> January 1899.

Month ending	No on Roll.	Aver. for month.	Aver. last week.
30 <sup>th</sup> Dec. 1898.	184	142.6	139.8
" " 27 <sup>th</sup> Jan. 1899.	185	147.5	154.3

For a fortnight after the school was re-opened, after the long vacation, the attendance was very deficient, since that time there has been a gradual rise.

A wet day, in the week, tells very materially upon the attendance for that week, indeed for the month, and

consequently upon the annual average. The absentees have mainly been those, who have had whooping-cough, or those dwelling in the same house; also young children, who have a long distance to come to school, and whose parents plead as an excuse the wintry weather.

Others cannot give satisfactory excuses, such as Catherine Christie, who has been absent since 18<sup>th</sup> June 1898; the Stobie family at Brenderquest, who have been very irregular, and William Greig, nephew of James Greig, Old Town, Ayrton, whose attendance is also irregular.

William Cook,  
Headmaster.

Colds, and sore throats still prevent pupils from attending school. Miss Dunne obtained leave of absence this afternoon, as she was going to Edinburgh.

All the Registers were checked, and found correct. Singing lessons, and Physical Drill have been given as usual.

10<sup>th</sup> February.

The following Medical certificates have been received:-  
February 14<sup>th</sup>/99.

William Greig's children may now attend school.

James Duncan Jeffrey.

Feb<sup>y</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> / 99.

Mrs Dalgetty's daughter may now attend school.

James Duncan Jeffrey.

Distributed amongst the pupils a circular sent by the Clerk of the school Board, which was headed Notice to Parents and Guardians about New Regulations regarding Labour and Merit Certificates. The distribution was such that each parent would receive a copy, also each Guardian.

Made out the Weekly List of Irregular, and Absent Children for School Board Officers.

School Work has been performed in the usual manner.

17<sup>th</sup> February. Received from the Medical Officer the following certificates

February 15<sup>th</sup> / 99.

John Wilkinson's child, Aytou Hains, may now attend school.

James Duncan Jeffrey.

William Hume's child may now attend school.  
James Duncan Jeffrey.

Ayton

Feb<sup>y</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> / 99.

During the past week the attendance has been better than that of the preceding week. The List of irregular, and absent children was made up for School Board Officers. Certain names are weekly repeated.

The work of the school has been performed in strict accordance with the Time-Tables.

Dr. Taylor, Member of the School Board, visited the school this afternoon, and after staying a few minutes, tendered some advice to the pupils, which showed that he took an interest in their welfare.

24<sup>th</sup> February.

The school was closed on Thursday, it being the Spring Fast Day. An arrangement has been made, by which the senior Pupils can get the benefit of Instrumental Music during their Physical Exercises. This has caused a slight alteration in the Time-Table of the Junior Department. The Infants received a special lesson in Mental Arithmetic. Registers were examined, checked, and found correct.

1899.

3<sup>rd</sup> March.

During the past week, several pupils have been absent for two or three days, and the reasons given were, that the children had sore throat, which has been prevalent for the past month. Received intimation, that John White, Locklaw, and Walter Swanson, Aytou had left school. The reasons were, that the first had now attained the age of fourteen, and the second was nearly fourteen years of age.

There is nothing of special interest to record this week. The Infants received a lesson, the subject being 'The Cow', which proved very interesting to the children. The Physical Exercises of the Senior Pupils are much improved, when accompanied with instrumental music; it also assists the Singing.

10<sup>th</sup> March.

The attendance during the past week has on the whole been good. There are however cases of whooping-cough in the country around, which prevents the attendance of some pupils, also others have been absent owing to sore throat. Made out a list of irregular, and absentee children for School Board Officer. Examined School Registers, and found them correct. Singing, and Physical Drill have been given as usual. Infants instructed.

1899.

14<sup>th</sup> March.

Was pleased to hear from Mr. and Mrs. Liddell-Grainers, <sup>of Aytou Castle.</sup> that the children attending Aytou Public School, were most respectful, and courteous to them.

As an encouragement to the children, I received £1 which was to be given as prizes, at the forthcoming Horticultural Show, for the best exhibits arranged under a Children's Section.

Also sent to Mrs. Liddell-Grainers a Paper regarding the formation of a Branch of the 'National Children's Guild of Courtesy'.

The teachers have endeavoured to quicken the thinking powers of all the pupils, especially those inclined to lag. The Infants received a special Lesson, subject 'The Horse'. Singing, and Drill given as usual.

24<sup>th</sup> "

"

The List of Irregular Attenders, and Absentees for the past week has been exceptionally large, owing in some measure, to the stormy weather of Thursday. To-day the weather has been more favourable, but the absentees have been numerous. Examined all the Registers, and found them correct. The Infants received special drill in Mental Arithmetic. Both Physical Drill, and Singing have been given as usual. All the staff were at their posts.

1899.

31<sup>st</sup> March.

To-morrow being Good Friday, the Board agreed that the school should be closed on that day. Received information, that there were nine cases of whooping-cough in the country, and that these affected the attendance of sixteen children.

The list of absent, and irregular scholars was made up for School Board Officer. The children have been instructed in the ways of Honesty, Consideration for others, and Attention to their Duties.

7<sup>th</sup> April.

Received the following communication from the Clerk to School Board.

School Board Office.

Ayton 4<sup>th</sup> April 1899.

Dear Sir,

The School Board Officer has this week reported to me, that Whooping-Cough exists at present in the families of the following persons viz-

William Chapman,	Whitrig.
James Vetterson	do.
Thomas Learmonth,	do.
Walter Stobie,	Prenderquest.
Jacob Lait,	do.
James Dunse,	Loeklaw.

Arch<sup>d</sup>. Gladstone, Ballabraes.

He also states that it is more than probable, that Archibald Craig, Keelwalls, and Robert Walker, Prenderquest, will have to be included with the above, but he has not yet received positive information in regard to them.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,  
G.M. Geddes.

The foregoing has caused a considerable slackening in the attendance. The work of the school has been performed in the usual manner.

Infants received an Object Lesson the subject being the 'Oak Tree'. Singing and Physical Drill were given in the ordinary course of instruction.

14<sup>th</sup> April.

During the past week five new pupils have been admitted - four boys and one girl. The attendance during the past week has improved - although those affected by the whooping-cough are still absent.

Was informed by Medical Officer that Jacob Lait's children might attend school. The Infants received their usual lesson this afternoon the subject being 'Birds'. Ordinary work including Singing and Physical exercises performed.

1899.

21<sup>st</sup> April.

Received the following communications from  
Clerk to School Board.

School Board Office.

Ayton 15<sup>th</sup> April 1899.

Dear Sir,

I have seen W. Shed, Clerk to the School Board of  
Foulden, and I have since had a formal communication from  
him regarding the boy John Aitchison, Foulden Hill, by which  
it appears that the boy's parents do not intend to send him  
back to Ayton School.

His name may be therefore struck off the School  
Register.

I am,

Yours faithfully  
G. M. Geddes.

McCook Esq.

Headmaster.

Ayton Public School.

John Aitchison is leaving the District at the May Term.

1899.

21<sup>st</sup> April.

School Board of Ayton.

Ayton 17<sup>th</sup> April 1899.

Dear Sir,

The School Board Officer has now reported  
to me that Whooping Cough is the cause of absence from  
school of Archie Craig, Peckwalls, and that he was wrongly  
informed in regard to Whooping Cough existing in the  
family of Jacob Tait, Prenderquest.

He also states that Whooping Cough does not exist  
in the family of Robert Walker, Prenderquest.

I have no doubt but you will already have  
information in regard to the latter two cases.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,  
G. M. Geddes.  
Clerk.

McCook Esq.,  
Ayton Public School.

As usual the weekly list of Absent and Irregular  
Scholars was made out for School Board Officer.  
Two new pupils have been admitted this week.  
The work of the school has been performed according  
to Time-Table. Registers examined and checked.  
The Subject of lesson for Infants was 'Flax'.