

Chapter VIII

FALL RIVER SCHOOLS — 1863 - 1941

The municipal committee of "public instruction" recommended that the district school system be abolished and on April 6, 1863 the Board of Aldermen ordered the system discontinued. By the abolishment of the districts, the duties of the Prudential Committees, namely the construction and maintenance of school property, devolved upon the Public Property Committee of the city government. Thus the division of authority was continued for many years.

This marks the end of a definite period in our school system and closely precedes a period of growth and expansion. A list of school buildings and their principals or head teachers follows:

The High School was on the southeast corner of June and Locust Streets. Charles B. Goff was principal.

There were four schools classed as grammar schools: Anawan Street, George W. Locke, Principal; High Street, William R. Gordon, Principal; Maple Street, Albion K. Slade, Principal and Osborn Street, William Nichols, Jr., Principal.

The names of the five intermediate schools and their principals were Bedford Street, M. Elizabeth Gardner; Columbia Street, Elizabeth C. Vickery; Fourth Street, Sara Gardner; Mt. Hope Village, Ariadne J. Borden; and June Street, Francis C. Vickery.

There were ten primary schools; Town Avenue, Helen M. B. Davol; Prospect Street, Nancy Cole; Canal Street, Lucy Corey; Third Street, Annie M. Carr; Globe Village, Angeretta Schermerhorn; Head of Pond, Ann W. Brawley; North District, Elizabeth B. Winslow; Steep Brook, Mary E. Morton; Dartmouth District, Harriet E. Elsbree; East of Pond, Hannah C. Miller.

Three were classed as mixed schools; Turnpike, Thomas A. Francis; Main Road, Lydia M. Brightman; New Boston, Elizabeth H. Simmons.

Mr. Nichols resigned before the end of the school year and George W. Bronson was elected principal of the Osborn Street School. Mr. Bronson

served the city many years as a teacher in the district schools, principal of several grammar schools and as a high school teacher. He was a member of the School Committee in 1879. He wrote poetry which he published in the local press under the name of Whitefield.

The Globe Village School was on the lot opposite St. Patrick's Church on South Main Street, where the old Slade School stood. Head of Pond School was near "Fighting Rock", at the junction of Wilson, Blossom and Bell Rock Roads. The name Turnpike School has in the past been applied to three different buildings by residents of the east end. The old Turnpike School, mentioned in the 1863 list was a one room building situated on Watuppa Turnpike (Pleasant Street), near where Carr's Lane (Eastern Avenue) crossed the "Pike". Mrs. Charles M. Ballard, who lived as a child at the Jencks farm nearby and attended the school said there was a stretch of woodland from the school to the store of Peter Bogle, at the foot of Bogle Hill, where the children purchased their sweetmeats.

When the pupils were transferred from this building to one on Flint Street, the name erroneously became attached to that building. Later when the Pleasant Street School was built on the same, but enlarged lot on which stood the old Turnpike School, the people from force of habit called the new school by its old name and continued to do so for sixty years.

The suggestion was made by the School Committee of 1853 and several times afterwards, that the position of Superintendent of Schools be created. Early in 1865 the City Council passed an ordinance establishing the office and a few months later Rev. Daniel W. Stevens was chosen by the School Committee. Under a state law the members of the committee thereby ceased to receive pay for their services.

Mr. Stevens was a graduate of Harvard College and came to the city highly recommended by the President of Harvard and by the Secretary of the State Board of Education. In his first report, he said that he "had not come as a scholastic spy or task master". He emphasized the need for trained teachers. He deplored the poor attendance of pupils and recommended a truant school and the appointment of a truant officer. His term of service was short but of much value.

In September, 1867, M. C. Tewksbury was elected Superintendent of Schools and Secretary of the School Committee. Meetings were held in the Aldermanic chamber but soon after this, school headquarters were established on the second floor of the small wooden building on the northwest corner of Rock and Franklin Streets, formerly occupied by the Cataract Fire Company and later by Post 46 Grand Army of the Republic.



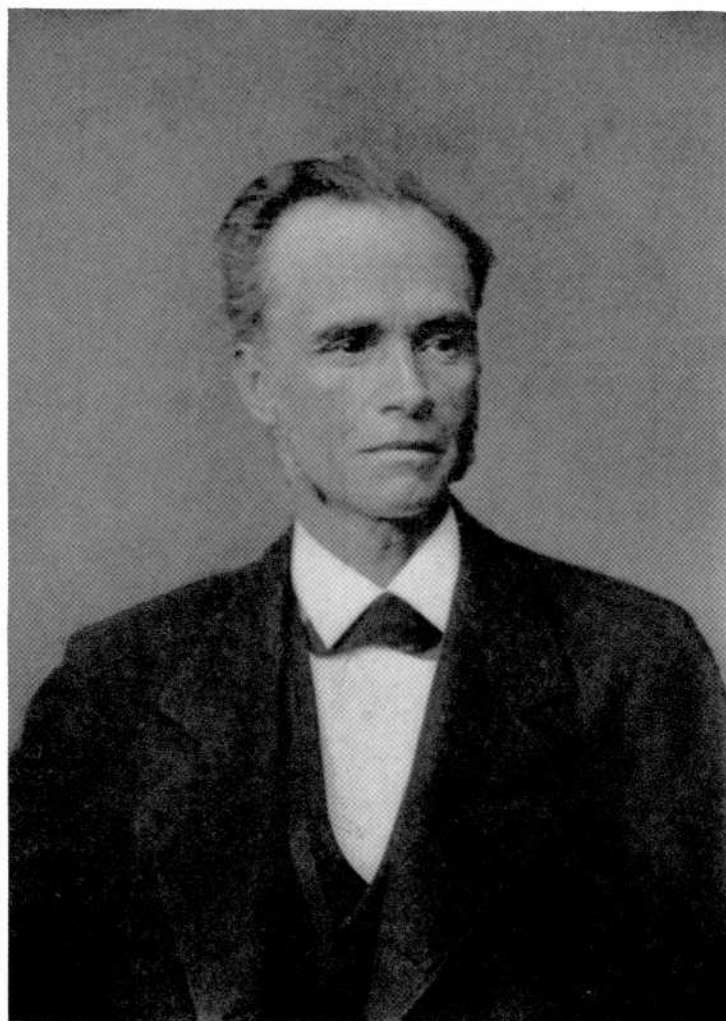
OLD SLADE GRAMMAR SCHOOL



MORGAN STREET GRAMMAR SCHOOL



DAVIS GRAMMAR SCHOOL



William Connell

Superintendent of Schools — 1872-1894

Superintendent Tewksbury showed marked ability, especially in the attempt to enforce the child labor laws and the management of "Factory" schools, to be alluded to later. During his administration, a truant officer was on duty for the first time. A grade teachers' association was formed, which met weekly, to discuss educational problems. The subjects of music and drawing received more attention.

Parker Borden was the first supervisor of music. He gave his services free of charge for a short time. After his regular appointment, he served the schools for many years. He conducted private singing schools in the vestry of the Franklin Street Church and later in the west wing of old Music Hall.

After several years of depression, the city began to prosper. New mills were erected. Villages on the outskirts sprang up like magic. The population increased rapidly. Fifteen new school buildings were erected between 1868 and 1879 in an attempt to meet the demand. The Morgan Street School (N. B. Borden) was occupied in 1868, the Robeson, Brown, Bedford Street, and Borden in 1871. In 1873, a school was provided on Flint Street, to relieve the crowded condition of the one room Turnpike School. In October, 1874, rooms were opened in the Davis and Slade Schools. The Davenport School was also partially occupied by intermediate and primary grades in 1874. When the grammar school on Osborn Street was destroyed by fire in 1873, the National Hall building on South Main Street was moved to replace it. In 1876 the Border City School, since replaced by a new building and then abandoned was completed. At about the same time a new school was erected on Tucker Street.

Superintendent Connell, elected in 1872, in his annual report expressed himself rather forcibly concerning the then new Border City School. He wrote: "Indeed the finish is so elaborate and conveniences so ample, especially, for the grade of school for which the building was intended, that I hesitate not to say, an error of considerable magnitude was committed in its construction. We need additional rooms more than we need useless conveniences and expensive decorations."

The Pine Street School was opened in September 1876. This school and the three four room wooden buildings on Pleasant Street, Danforth Street and Lindsey Street completed during 1878 and 1879, were considered at the time to be the most economical and the best for school purposes in the city.

Superintendent Connell in his report for 1880 said, "Perhaps no city in the Commonwealth of equal size, has within the last ten years expended more money in the erection of school-houses than Fall River". Even with

all this generous provision, the assembly halls in the Brown, Davis, Slade and Morgan Street Schools had to be divided into school rooms. For a time, rooms in the old City Hospital building on Brownell Street, the Cataract Engine House on Rock Street and Armory Hall on Bedford Street were utilized.

In the midst of this period of expansion, Superintendent Tewksbury resigned. Throughout his term of office he did everything in his power to increase the percentage of school attendance. As late as 1870 only one-third of the primary children entered the intermediate grades. The cost of books and supplies was one of the reasons given for non-attendance and for leaving school. Superintendent Tewksbury went so far as to suggest that "paper and lead pencils should not be used instead of slates, and all superfluous expense to the scholars should be avoided, so that our schools may offer as few obstacles to the poor as possible".

William Connell, Jr., a citizen of Fall River, succeeded Mr. Tewksbury as Superintendent in 1872. The following quotation from Superintendent Connell's first annual report (1872-1873) shows plainly his stand in relation to free text books and supplies.

"It seems to me that the term, 'Free Schools', means something more than the furnishing rooms and instructors. To be worthy of the appellation, they should furnish text-books and stationery, — teachers and rooms, — furniture and apparatus, and all appliances needful in the education of the children." *Fall River provided free text-books for public schools in the year 1874 and was the first city to make this provision.* It was ten years before the law compelled such free text-books.

The same year that free text-books were introduced by ordinance of the City Council, fresh water, for the first time was piped to the schools in the center from North Pond. The neighbors from whose wells the water for the schools was obtained must have been pleased.

Parker Borden was made a full time supervisor of music at this time. A principal's assistant (not named) was appointed as an experiment, to give the principal more time for supervision. The following year (1875) W. S. Perry, a graduate of the State Normal Art School was appointed a supervisor of drawing. Sewing was introduced in the primary and intermediate grades with Mrs. Mary Dingwell as teacher. Two truant officers were employed, Mr. William Read and Mr. John Brady. The first suggestion for manual training in the schools came in 1877.

In 1875 there was not enough money appropriated by the city government to pay the teachers' salaries, already below the State average. It was

decided to shorten the school year. Teachers were then paid by the week. Again in 1878, salaries were reduced fifteen percent and evening schools were closed. The next year there was a further reduction of the higher salaries and the services of the special teachers were dispensed with for a time.

Dr. A. M. Jackson, while chairman of the School Committee in the early eighties wrote lengthy reports on school conditions and their relations with the general public. His recommendations for conserving the health of the pupils were pointed and practical. From a political angle, he refers in a rather sarcastic manner, to the efforts of certain politicians to gain control of the school systems of the State. He concludes this part of his report with the statement: — "It is hardly possible, however, that the time will come when the Municipal Government shall either appoint or control the School Committee."

The Cambridge Street School was in use in November 1881 and the Linden Street School in February 1882; each having four rooms.

During the same period additional authority was given to principals of schools to supervise the teachers and unify the instruction in the different grades. Each grammar principal was allowed an assistant who was called thereafter a Principal's Assistant or Assistant to the Principal.

At this time (1883) there were thirteen grades in the school system, three primary, two intermediate, four grammar and four high schools.

The Bowen Street School is listed in the report for 1883. It was originally the Mt. Hope Village School in Fall River, Rhode Island. Later it was known as the Lincoln Street School. When the name of the street was changed about 1883, there was a consequent change in the name of the school. The Mount Hope Avenue, Covell Street and Brownell Street Schools each having four rooms were first opened during the school year of 1884-85. Both the Chace School and the Buffinton Street were in operation during the school year 1885-1886.

The Superintendent reported, "our schools were never in a more prosperous condition than now". It was in March, 1886, that all school records on file at headquarters were destroyed in the City Hall fire. These records contained a history of our schools dating back to the time when the city was a small village. Two thousand dollars worth of text-books and supplies were lost. The Mayor found temporary quarters for the department in the Custom House.

Plans were adopted in 1887 to place more emphasis on the teaching of temperance. A State law had recently been adopted requiring that "the

effect of alcohol, stimulants and narcotics on the human system should be taught in the schools". The appointment of two supervisors, Miss S. H. Morse in music and Miss Kate E. Shattuck in drawing gave added impetus to the teaching of these subjects.

In 1889 the city had forty-two school-houses with one hundred eighty-two study rooms and thirty recitation rooms. Some schools like the old High Street, Maple Street and Anawan Street Schools were so constructed that several grades were assembled in one large room and the pupils were sent by divisions to small rooms for the recitation periods.

The name Westall School was given to the Maple Street School in honor of John Westall and the name Foster Hooper School was given to the old High School building on June Street, which had been remodelled to accommodate the grammar grades of the Borden and Westall Schools. George W. Locke was the principal.

Miss Lizzie O. Stearns replaced Miss S. H. Morse as supervisor of music. Miss Margaret T. Hurley began her long, valuable career as supervisor of reading.

The first public kindergarten schools were established at this time; one at the Westall School and one at the Davis School.

Dr. Robert T. Davis presented to the city a block of mill stock to establish the "Davis Prize Fund". The purpose is expressed in the deed of gift as follows: — "The School Committee shall annually, in the month of June select from the graduating classes in the High School and eight grammar schools the scholar who has the best general school record, to receive a prize." The deed of gift has since been revised so that only one medal is given; this, on the same terms, to pupils in the Davis School.

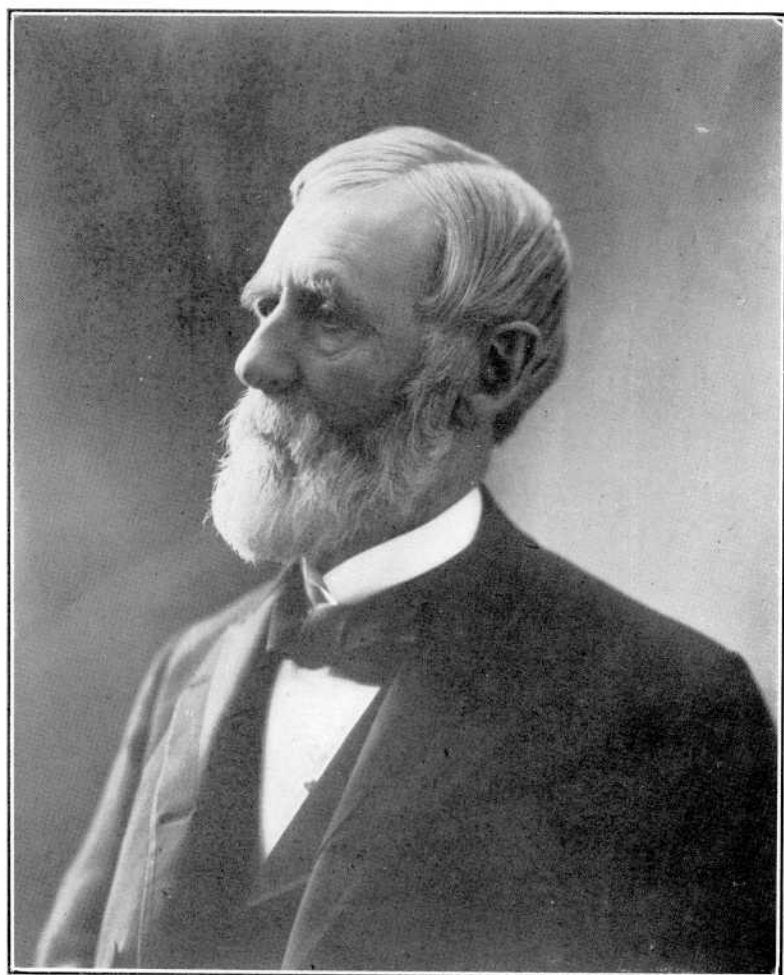
There was again a change of supervisors in 1890. Miss L. A. Kimball was appointed for drawing and Mr. Walter T. Titcomb began his long and faithful round of duties as music supervisor.

The custom of displaying the "Stars and Stripes" on school premises began in 1890 when several citizens donated flags to schools in which they were particularly interested.

Diplomas were awarded for the first time in 1890, to graduates of grammar schools, as an inducement for pupils to remain in school.

The Fall River Teachers Association as it now exists was first organized in 1892.

Superintendent of Schools William Connell died June 23, 1894. During the school year 1862-63, Mr. Connell was the teacher of the Mt. Hope School in Fall River, R. I. In 1866 he was elected a member of the



HON. ROBERT T. DAVIS

School Committee and from 1869 to 1872 served as chairman. He conscientiously, with marked ability, performed his duties as Superintendent, holding the confidence of the teachers and the public. The William Connell School on Plymouth Avenue, opened in 1895, was named in his honor.

In the years following, there were many changes in educational methods and practices. William C. Bates who succeeded William Connell as superintendent, with the support of a co-operative and wise School Committee was able to adopt those of value and discard those of little or no value to this community. The health of school children was given more consideration and medical inspectors, in charge of the Board of Health, were appointed.

Mr. Bates became superintendent during a period when many transfers and promotions in the teaching staff became necessary. The proper placement of teachers and principals is one of the most important and perhaps, at the same time, the most onerous of duties. The appointments and transfers were made with a minimum of friction.

Between 1894 and 1902, the Flint Street, Bedford Street and Town Avenue schools were abandoned as were also overflow schools in St. John's Hall, and the Westminster and Dwelly Street churches.

Sixty-four new school rooms were provided by the enlargement of several school-houses and the erection of new buildings. The Davol School, on Flint Street opened in January 1894. The Osborn School, with eight rooms, was constructed to replace the old Osborn Street School. The William Connell School, previously mentioned, was one of the new buildings. The Coughlin School on Pleasant Street, quite different structurally from any other building, was opened in February, 1895. The George B. Stone School on Globe Street, The James M. Aldrich School on Harrison Street and the Fowler School on Sprague Street, all eight room buildings were completed during the school year 1898-'99. The next school year, the Samuel Longfellow on William Street and the Highland School on Robeson Street, were in operation.

Sewing was again introduced in 1896; this time in the fourth and fifth grades with Miss Annie L. Hoyt assisted by Miss Alice M. Russell as teachers. Later Miss Russell was appointed supervisor and more teachers were engaged.

After twelve years of faithful service, Miss Kimball, supervisor of drawing, died and was replaced by William E. Braley a local artist.

Superintendent Bates held office until July 5, 1905, when he resigned to become superintendent of the Cambridge schools.

Everett B. Durfee, vice-principal of the High School, was elected to succeed Mr. Bates.

A state law was enacted under which no child under sixteen years of age was allowed to work, who could not read at sight and write legibly sentences in the English language. To provide adequate instruction for the increased enrollment this law engendered, special rooms were opened in some sections of the city and a number of class-rooms became overcrowded.

The Lincoln School, long known as the High Street School, built in 1846 was so badly damaged by fire on the night of Dec. 22, 1905, it was found necessary to replace it with a new building.

In September, 1906, the Samuel Watson School on Eastern Avenue was completed and opened for all grades below the High School. The Westall (Maple Street) School was condemned as unsanitary and sold at auction. The building was cut in two. One half was demolished and the other half was moved and is now used as a dwelling house on lower Prospect Street.

The new Lincoln School, to replace the old building destroyed by fire, was completed in June 1907. It was considered one of the finest grade school-houses in New England. The new Westall School was opened September 14, 1908. It was occupied by Principal Locke and the teachers and pupils of the grammar grades, who for several years had quarters in the old High School (Foster Hooper) building on June Street, together with the primary and intermediate children of the district. The Foster Hooper School was no longer used for day school purposes.

The William S. Greene School on Cambridge Street was transferred to the School Department on September 7, 1909. Congressman Greene attended the dedicatory exercises and raised the flag for the first time.

Buildings erected during 1910 and 1911 were the John J. McDonough on William Street, the William J. Wiley on North Main Street, and the Hugo A. Dubuque on Oak Grove Avenue. The first cooking school, sponsored by the Civic Club was started in the "McDonough School".

By 1912, health aids in the schools included seven medical inspectors, on part time, a school nurse supported by the S.P.C.C., an annual sight and hearing test (started in 1906) and a free clinic at the Union Hospital.

The School Committee voted in 1912 that all pupils both public and parochial must pass an examination to enter the High School but this vote

was rescinded a few years later. The elementary school course was reduced from nine to eight years.

Everett B. Durfee failed of re-election and his term of office as superintendent ended July 1, 1913. As a high school teacher, his personal interest in each one of his pupils had gained him a host of friends throughout the city. He was to be soon after appointed the Principal of the Bradford Durfee Textile School.

Hector L. Belisle, a Harvard graduate who had been a high school teacher and a grammar master in Lawrence, became Superintendent. Soon after Mr. Belisle's election, Miss Mary A. S. Mugan was appointed Assistant Superintendent, Miss Margaret Lynch, Supervisor of Primary Schools and John R. Ferguson of Evening Schools; thus there were four officials performing the work so long demanded of one. It can be imagined that Mr. Belisle's position was not an enviable one. He very soon demonstrated that his object was to conduct the affairs of the department in a non-political and a non-sectarian manner, that he would be fair and unbiased in his relations with his associates, that his chief concern was the welfare of the children in the schools.

The first new school to be opened under Mr. Belisle's supervision was the Susan H. Wixon School on Hamlet Street, in 1913.

Miss Alice Russell, supervisor of sewing, retired July 1, 1914. Miss Russell retired on the day that the Massachusetts teachers' retirement system went into effect under the general laws. Much credit is due Mr. Harry Smalley, for the establishment of this, one of the best contributory teachers' retirement systems in the country. Mr. Smalley was elected one of the two directors to represent the teachers on the state board and has always been re-elected by the teachers of the state whenever his terms expired.

The Henry Lord School on Tucker Street was opened in 1915. This large building was constructed with small class rooms and a number of other innovations.

It had been the policy of past administrations to so place school accommodations that children of a given district would not have long distances to walk to school. This policy resulted in the erection of a number of small school-houses. The present administration has contended that large schools can be more efficiently managed both educationally and financially. A comprehensive plan for the closing of some small schools and the enlargement of some of the schools with eight or more rooms, together with the

erection of junior high schools, was presented by the Superintendent in his annual report for 1916-'17.

The educational committee of the local Chamber of Commerce, after surveying the school situation from a taxpayer's point of view, met with representatives of the school department and the Mayor, with Prof. E. C. Moore of Harvard University present, and as a result of this conference, funds were provided by the aldermen to conduct a survey of the school system by a staff of educational experts. The report of these experts, presented in 1917, is too long and specific to be given here. It has and continues to be of value, although many of the recommendations have thus far not been consummated, chiefly because of the financial problems involved.

The years of the first World War were a time of activity, advances, interruptions and changes in the school department. A physical education department and part time classes, for the correction of speech defects were inaugurated. A supervisor for cooking in elementary schools was appointed and Miss Ruth Negus, who had been a valued teacher, normal instructor and principal, was appointed a primary supervisor.

The schools were active in many ways in war work. The Junior Red Cross was organized with Harry Smalley as president. The parochial schools, the schools of Somerset, Swansea and Westport joined with the Fall River public schools to raise money and provide articles for service and relief. During this period, twenty schools had enforced vacations, varying from a few days to five weeks on account of a fuel shortage. All schools were closed from September 27th to October 28th, 1918, on account of the influenza epidemic, when scores of teachers served in hospitals, canteens and Red Cross stations.

Before the war there was apparent an increased interest in the value of an education on the part of the public, and the war emphasized these values. This attitude was reflected in legislative enactments and the larger enrollments in the upper grades. On account of an abnormal increase in the school population, lack of accommodations for proper schooling became very critical. In March, 1920, the legislature granted the city permission to borrow \$1,500,000 for school building purposes. This was in addition to \$300,000 previously borrowed but not used. The Superintendent of Schools, supported by recommendations of the educational survey, advised the erection of junior high schools in different sections of the city and the adoption of the 6-3-3 plan, eg. six years in the elementary schools, three in the junior high school and three in the high school.

The school year 1922-'23 witnessed the closing of two (district) schools which were started before the Civil War. The Lower New Boston school-house was moved to the High School Athletic Field for temporary use. The Upper New Boston school-house, in which a number of our teachers and principals obtained their first teaching experience is in its old location, used as a dwelling house. The primary and intermediate pupils attending these schools were transferred to Spencer Borden School. This school and the Jerome Dwelly School, built to replace the old Bowen Street School, were so constructed that all rooms were on the ground floor.

The comparatively new Henry Lord Grammar School was badly damaged by fire in December 1920 and when rebuilt, it was so constructed that a junior high school could be established. It became the first junior high school in the city and although conditions were far from ideal, a good start was made under the able supervision of Principal Henry Miller.

In 1923 the elementary schools became so crowded that fifty-nine rooms were on double shift, to accommodate over four thousand pupils. In some sections first grade children were attending only one session each day. This same year Miss Ruth Negus died and Miss Mabel Stuart was elected to her place as a primary supervisor. A department of research was established with Miss Mary Alcock as assistant director. She subsequently had charge of intelligence tests and standard tests for the grades.

In 1924, the Board of Health created the position of Director of School Hygiene, under whose direction, eight part time medical inspectors and nine full time nurses worked.

Three new elementary schools were opened in the fall of 1925: — the John J. Doran School on Fountain Street, the Alfred S. Letourneau on Anthony Street, and the Laurel Lake on Laurel Street. These three buildings relieved materially the crowded schools in their neighborhoods. In 1925 the elementary pupils in the Henry Lord School were transferred to elementary buildings, which enabled this school to conduct all remaining classes as a junior high school.

The James Madison Morton Junior High School, the first and thus far the only properly equipped building for junior high school work, was opened in the fall of 1926. Miss Katherine C. V. Sullivan was elected principal. The opening of this large school resulted in the transfer of many teachers and the re-arrangement of the grades in the northern part of the city, to conform with the 6-3-3 plan. The Wiley, Lincoln, Highland and Westall schools were no longer rated as grammar schools.

The old Slade School building was closed in 1928. The teachers and pupils occupied the new Slade School, a modern school, built on Lewis Street in the same neighborhood. At this time all elementary school children, for the first time in thirteen years, were given a full time schooling. Double shifts were abolished but a number of the unsatisfactory portable school-houses remained in use.

The schools lost two of their valued supervisors in 1928. William E. Braley, the director of fine arts died. No supervisor was ever more welcomed in the class rooms. Walter J. Titcomb resigned. He had been at the head of the music department since 1889. The city could never have had a more faithful employee. There was a constant demand for his services and whenever possible, he gave, without stint, the extra time required. Robert M. Howard was appointed his successor.

Beginning January 1, 1929, the organization of the School Committee was changed. Instead of a membership of nine elected in groups of three, for a three year term, there are now seven members with the Mayor as chairman ex-officio. The other six members are elected biennially, in groups of three, for four years.

From district school times, school committees had periodically protested against the arrangement by which school buildings and their care had been placed in the hands of another governing body. The buildings, grounds and their custodians are now in the hands of a superintendent of school buildings; responsible to the school committee. His first report was for the year ending December 21, 1929.

By 1930, the great industrial depression had reduced the school population to such an extent that the North Fall River, Steep Brook, Fulton Street, Buffinton Street, Cambridge Street and Broadway Schools were closed. At this time Miss Alcock resigned and Miss Anna L. Beckett was elected to her place as assistant director of research.

Miss Mary A. S. Mogan, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, died August 30, 1930. No successor was appointed.

Home rule ceased in Fall River in 1931 and for several years a Board of Finance created by the General Court controlled all appropriations. A strict limitation was imposed on the expenditures of the School Department. Their estimated budget for the year was cut \$400,000. Salaries were reduced twenty per cent. A number of teachers and principals were discharged, demoted or forced to retire. Schools were combined. A full statement of the economies practiced may be found in the Superintendent's report for 1932. The following school buildings were closed: Lindsey

Street, Linden Street, Border City, Chace, Columbia Street, Covell Street and the Old Laurel Lake.

Robert M. Howard resigned his position as supervisor of music in June 1931. Miss Helen L. Ladd, his very efficient assistant was elected to the position.

Henry Miller died May 24, 1932. Wilfred A. Barlow, then principal of the Samuel Watson School was transferred to Mr. Miller's position as principal of the Henry Lord Junior High School.

Charles J. McCreery, the dean of the grammar masters, died suddenly, July 27, 1933. A graduate of Brown University, he had been a school principal in Fall River since 1887. He was a leader in the affairs of the Fall River and the Bristol County Teachers' Associations, having served as president of both organizations.

The first step in the return to normalcy was the allowance of funds to open pre-primary classes, to replace the kindergartens.

The Davenport School was destroyed by fire in 1935. No attempt was made to rebuild. Room was found for the pupils and teachers in neighboring buildings.

Newly enacted child labor laws, less opportunity for the employment of youth, the opportunities for a more varied type of education, all had an influence in increasing the size of upper grade classes. There was a time when only one child in five ever finished the grammar grades. In 1935, Superintendent Belisle reported, that while there were only 665 more pupils in school than in 1911, there were 3,130 fewer pupils in the primary grades, only 107 more in intermediate grades, 2,815 more in the upper grades and 1,718 more in the high school.

The Superintendent's plans for the discontinuance of smaller buildings and the segregation of children in larger buildings had, by 1935 been largely accomplished. Since 1913, twenty-four buildings had been closed. With the exception of the Davenport, Slade and Border City schools, these were all small wooden buildings. A junior high school and seven elementary schools were built during the period. The general result was a decrease in number and an increase in size.

That the city was on the road to financial recovery was made evident when in 1937, one-quarter of the twenty per cent cut in salaries was returned to the teaching staff.

The report of the Superintendent for 1938-'39 contains a pictorial supplement of the work of our schools. A copy was sent to the home of every pupil.

By 1940, the enrollment in the public schools was the lowest in forty years. The city-owned permanent buildings included two high schools, two junior high schools, one girls' continuation school (N. B. Borden School) and thirty-four elementary schools. The headquarters of the boys' continuation school was in the Giesow building on Third Street; the Diman Vocational School was in the Kennedy building on Bank Street. The Osborn and Ruggles Schools were occupied by sub-normal and ungraded classes.

There is hope that in years to come our schools will be placed on a sound financial basis; that the required junior high schools will be established to complete the 6-3-3 plan; that a full time, well equipped vocational school will be in operation.

In 1941 there were thirty-nine permanent buildings in use, with ninety recitation rooms in the two high schools, seventy-eight in the two junior high schools and two hundred seventy-five in the elementary buildings.