

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION

IN

SWAN RIVER VALLEY

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Purpose of the Study

It is the purpose of this thesis to make a study of all the available primary and secondary sources in the field of the educational history of Swan River Valley; to assemble and interpret these data; and to construct a comprehensive account of the origin, character and development of the schools of the Valley to the present time.

Within recent years studies have been made on the educational development in a number of localities of rural Manitoba. Included among these are theses dealing with the growth of education in the Village of Teulon, the Rural Municipality of Hamiota, and other rural areas. Books have also been published and the authors have included chapters dealing with early education in the localities about which the books are written. The writer of this thesis aims to do for Swan River Valley what has been done elsewhere in the Province of Manitoba.

Although the story of development of education in any given area is not without interest, it has significance as an aid in the evaluation of progress made. The present study will endeavor to estimate the status of educational facilities provided by the schools in the Swan River Valley at the present time as well as to trace the development of education within the area. As social conditions change educational provisions

should be examined and revised accordingly. Changes in school administration and methods of teaching are often necessary as the result of the changing needs of the localities in which the schools function. Accordingly an effort is made in the study to discover what changes are needed in Swan River Valley to make the teaching effort more effective and to provide a greater degree of educational opportunity for all the children and young people within the Swan Valley area. The thesis is concerned with a brief history, the present status of education, and projected plans for improvement.

Sources of Data

The story of the fur trade and exploration is based upon source material found some years ago on the site of Fort Pelly as well as upon published documents. The story of early settlement is based upon a variety of sources. Available records were examined and information offered by pioneers checked as to authenticity.

Information relating to the organization of the Rural Municipality of Minitonas was secured from a study of the first bylaws of that municipality. For those interested in a more detailed study of the period several of the early bylaws are reproduced in the appendices. Information relating to the organization of school districts was obtained from the minutes of rate-payers' meetings and of boards of trustees as well as from the annual reports issued by the Provincial Department of Education.

Information relating to the economic background and population trends was obtained from reports of the Federal and Provincial Governments, from the records of the Dominion Bureau of

Statistics and from school registers and reports. Information concerning the costs of education within the bounds of Swan River Valley was obtained from municipal and school board records.

Information relating to the school population, the position of the teacher, and extra-curricular activities in the schools was obtained by questionnaires. Copies of questionnaires sent to teachers and principals are reproduced in the appendices.

Many other sources were used in the compilation of data, among these, the Annual Reports of the Department of Education.

Method of Procedure

Wherever Anglo-Saxon settlements are begun, the organization of an educational system follows as a natural development. A study of the educational advancement of a given area, therefore, begins with the story of the first settlers in the area. Accordingly data were sought pertaining to population changes and areas settled. In time, consolidation became an issue and the history of this movement is incorporated in the study of school district expansion.

The story of educational development in a rural area is related to teacher effort and service. No attempt is made to treat this changing personnel in detail but data are made available as to present status and conditions favorable or unfavorable to success.

The school population was examined with reference to

enrolment by grade, age and sex. The extent of retardation was noted and an attempt was made to discover causes. Some effort was made to determine the holding power of the High School and to discover ways in which holding power may be improved.

An indication of the extent of educational development in a given area may be noted from the effort of students to organize and manage school clubs and student activities. A study of the extra-curricular activities of the students of Swan River Valley was undertaken and information regarding school clubs, field days, and student councils was obtained by questionnaire, interview, and the examination of record and minute books.

Finally, reference is made to the work of leaders in education and the part played by the Public School Inspectors, the Principals of long tenure, and municipal and school officials in the development of education in Swan River Valley.

CHAPTER II

HISTORICAL AND ECONOMIC BACKGROUND; POPULATION TRENDS

Location of Swan River Valley

Swan River Valley is situated between latitude 51 degrees 50 minutes, longitude 101 degrees 40 minutes, and latitude 52 degrees 40 minutes and longitude 100 degrees 46 minutes west from Greenwich. The Town of Swan River in the center of the valley is about half way between Winnipeg and Flin Flon on the Winnipeg to Prince Albert line of the Canadian National Railway. Swan River Valley is a natural basin seventy miles long and varying in width to a maximum of thirty-five miles. Bordered on the north by the Porcupine Hills and on the south by Duck Mountains it is well drained by numerous rivers and creeks flowing into Swan Lake and, since settlement, has not known drought. Extending into the Province of Saskatchewan the whole valley is a rolling succession of cleared and cultivated land, beautifully dotted with bluff and interspersed with small lakes.

The valley includes the rural municipalities of Swan River and Minitonas, unorganized territory to the north, the incorporated village of Benito one mile from the Saskatchewan border, and the town of Swan River. Several unincorporated villages among which are Minitonas, Bowman, Durban, Kenville and Birch River serve as local centers for the rural population.

MAP of MANITOBA showing SWAN RIVER VALLEY

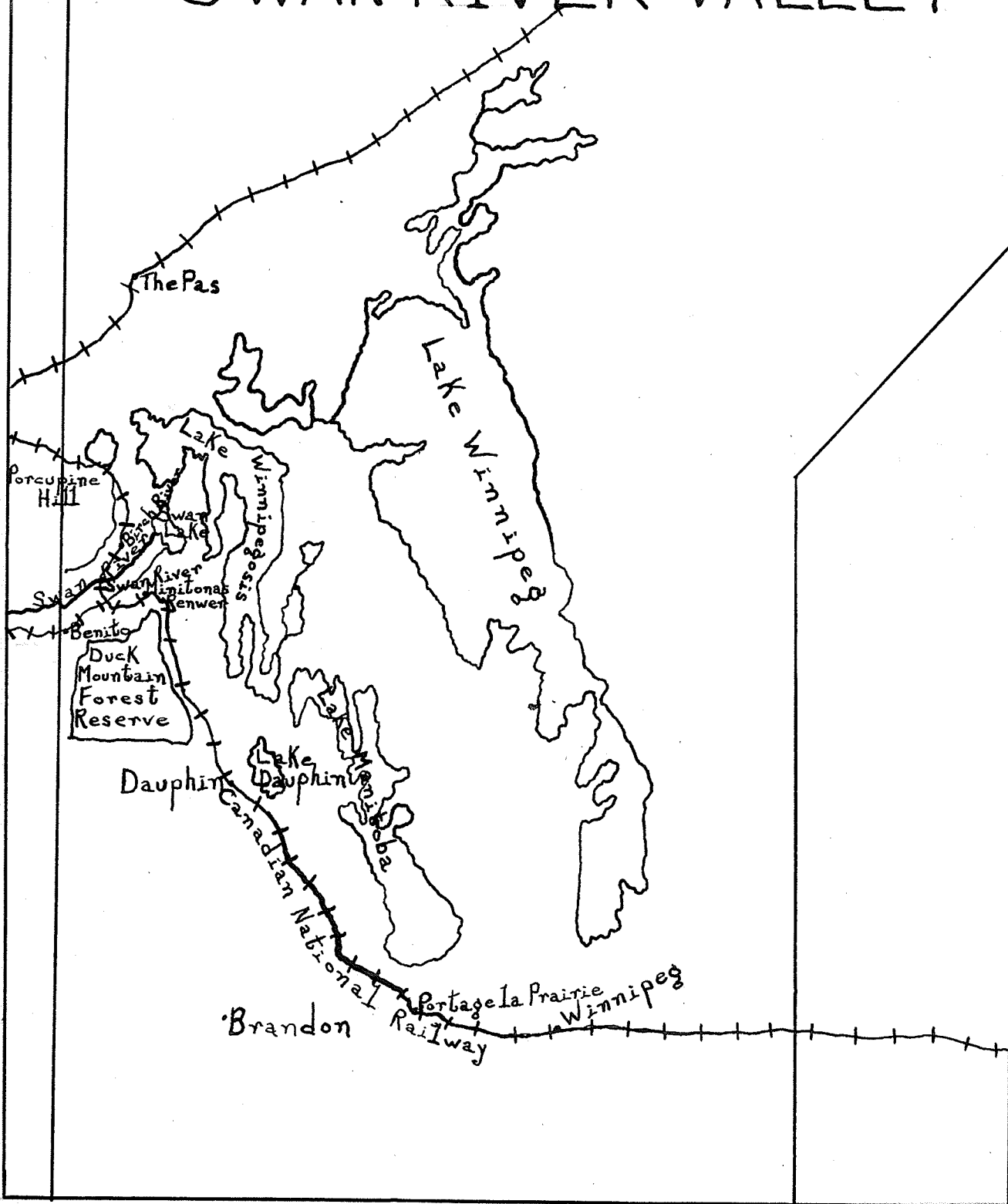
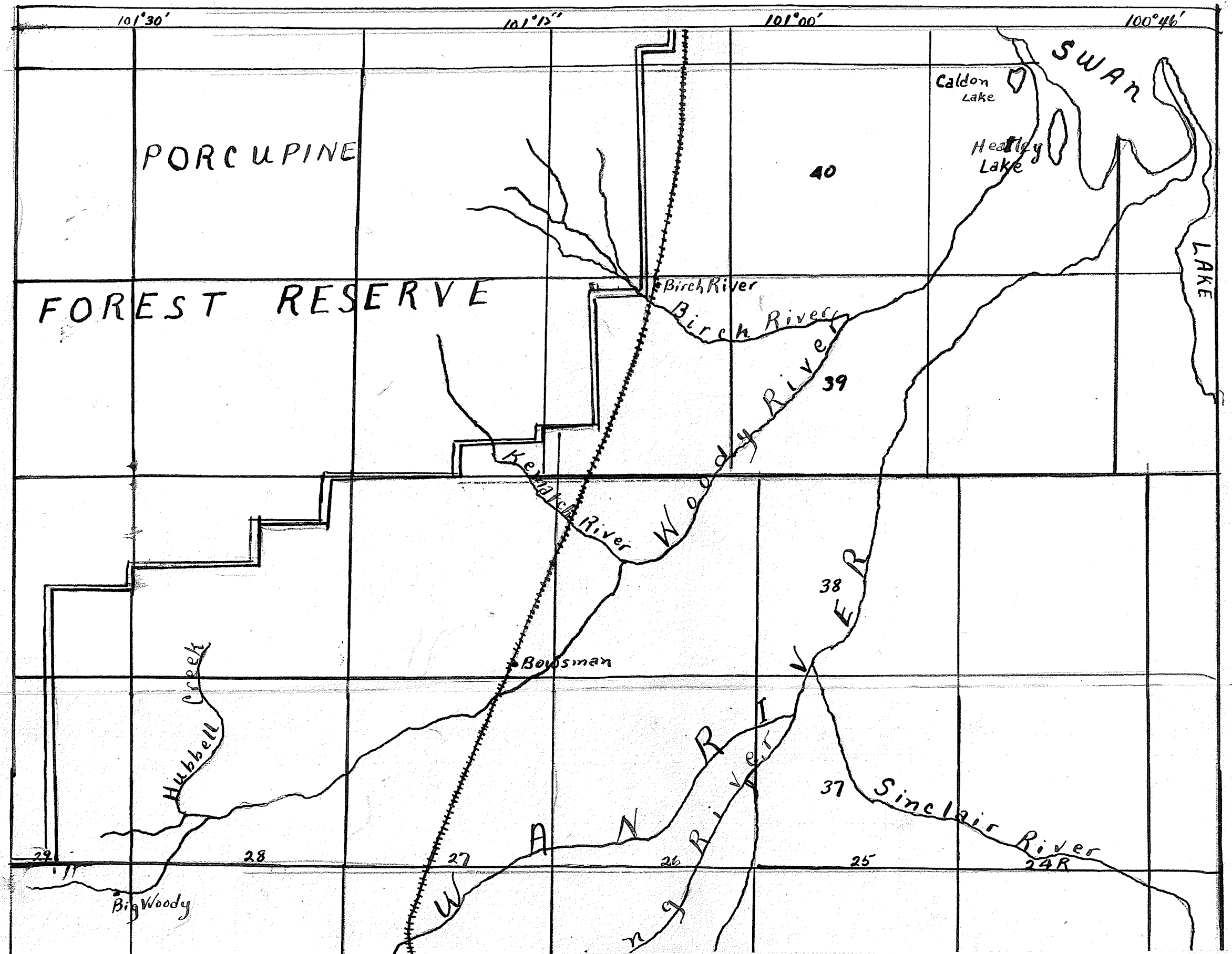


Figure 1

-7-
SWAN RIVER



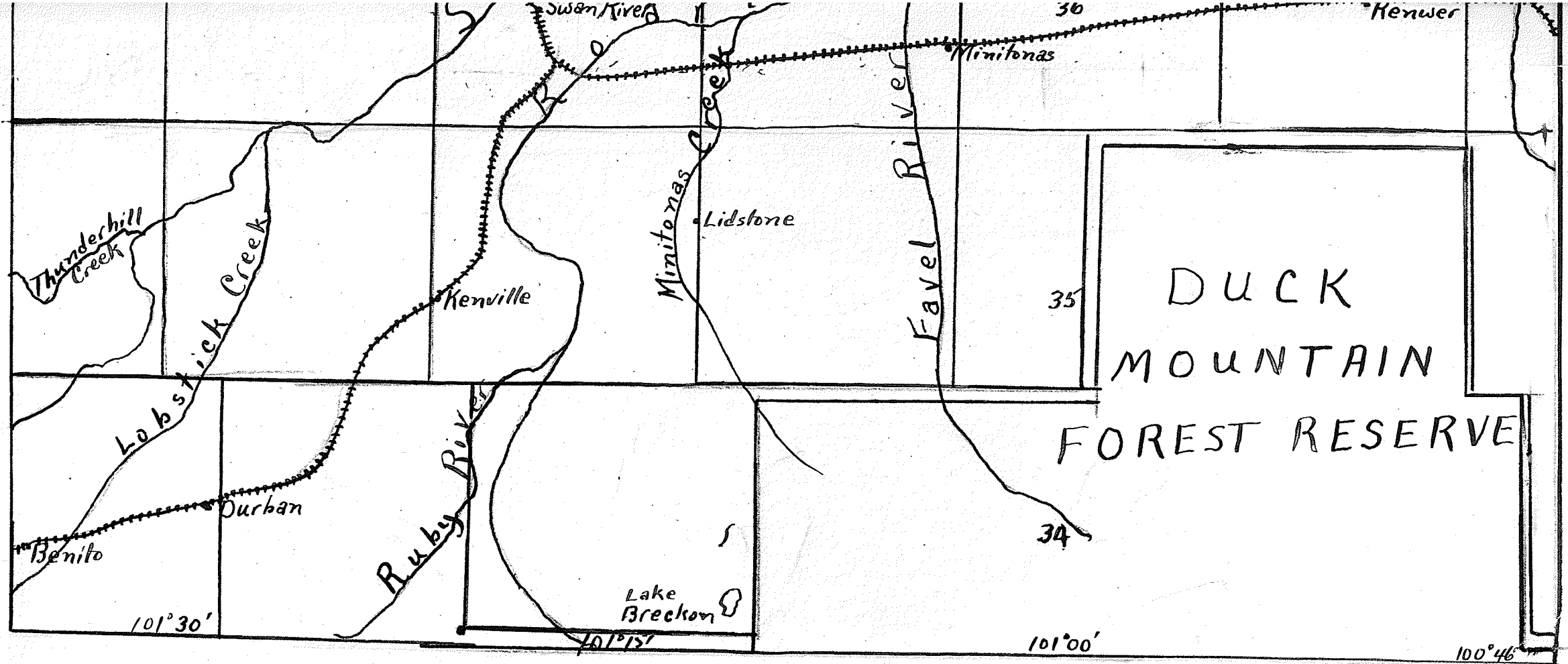


Figure 2

Exploration and Fur Trade

The earliest reference to Swan Lake is found on a map attributed to La Verendrye and showing some of the discoveries made by the French-Canadian explorer. Judging by our present knowledge, this map is rather crude and inaccurate in details. Lac des Cignes (Swan Lake) is marked on a map dated 1733.¹ The name Lac des Cignes implies that La Verendrye or members of his party named the lake which in turn provided a name for the river and entire valley. Pioneers recall seeing large swans around the lake and it is possible that this species of birds was plentiful when La Verendrye explored the area. A document² found among the ruins of Fort Pelly reveals that the factor of the fort purchased thirty-two prime swans in 1861 at a total of £4.

The glamour and rivalry of the fur trade in the days of the Hudson's Bay Company and the North West Company were played out in the valley during the early years of the last century. Up to 1790 the North West Company had little opposition but after that date Peter and David Grant started out as "Independents" and the Hudson's Bay Company also decided to take a more aggressive part in the fight for fur.

Cuthbert Grant, representing the North West Company, opened the contest by building Swan River House on the left bank of Swan River about twelve miles above Swan Lake. Three years later, in 1790, Charles Price Isham of the Hudson's Bay

¹ Kavanagh, Martin, The Assiniboine Basin, p.12. Winnipeg: The Public Press, 1946.

² Comparative Statement and Valuation of Returns, 1861 and 1862, Fort Pelly; Courtesy of Mrs. Perry, Benito, Manitoba.

Company built a Swan River House on the right bank about one-eighth of a mile above Grant's house. The following quotation indicates the rivalry that followed,-

"In 1793 Grant built upstream near Thunder or Bird (strictly Thunderbird) Mountain to cut the furs off from the English Swan River House. In the following year Isham replied by building Somerset House two miles above it and near the confluence of Thunder Creek and the Swan River. Thus there were four forts in this river valley. Not content with this, Isham took goods in by pack-horse from Swan River to the Elbow of the Assiniboine, and built Marlboro House there, very near the later Fort Pelly. Add to these the posts of the North West Company and those of the South Company which, according to Peter Fidler, built over against the Hudson's Bay Company's Swan River House and their Somerset House."³

During this period several traders who later became famous as explorers passed through the valley. In 1797 David Thompson was given the commission to survey the area west of the Lake of the Woods.⁴ Setting out he made his way down Winnipeg river to Lake Winnipeg, through the Dauphin river to Lake Manitoba and Lake Winnipegosis, then up Swan river⁵ to Swan River House, which he reached in September. As he rode through the region, "the ground was wet from the many ponds kept full by Beaver Dams;...these sagacious animals were in full possession, but their destruction had already begun and was now in full operation."⁶ In April 1800 Daniel William Harmon, a partner in the North West Company, left Montreal for the far west crossing Swan Lake on October 10 and ascending Swan river as far as Swan River House.

3. Morton, Arthur S., A History of the Canadian West to 1870-71, p.435. London: Thomas Nelson & Sons, n.d.

4. Cochrane, Charles Norris, David Thompson, p.61 ff. Toronto: The MacMillan Co., 1923.

5. Bryce, the Reverend George, D.D., p.111, the Makers of Canada, Vol. IX. London and Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1926.

6. Morton, Arthur S., Canadian West, p.432.

COPY OF DAVID THOMPSON'S
MAP OF THE
ASSINIBOINE AND SWAN RIVER
VALLEYS

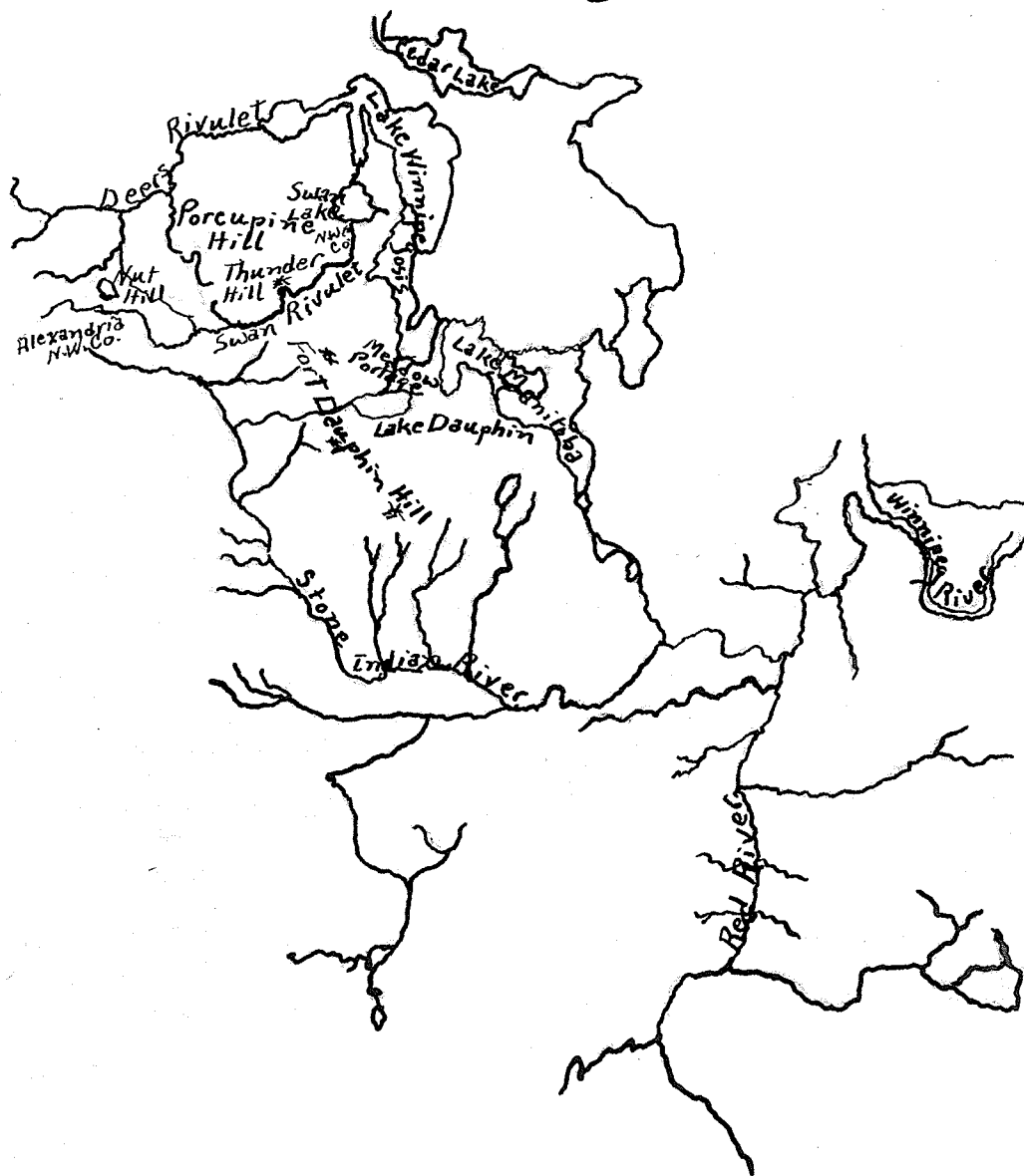


FIGURE 3

Copied from Kavanagh, M., *The Assiniboine Basin*, frontispiece

A study of a statement of purchases at Fort Pelly for the years 1861 and 1862 reveals the variety of fur bearing animals that made their habitat in the valley. Mink, otter, skunk and wolverines were plentiful. A prime mink pelt brought five shillings; otter, seventeen shillings; and wolverine, eight shillings. Almost 1800 prime buffalo robes were purchased for ten shillings each. The company paid out £6299 in 1861 and £5166 during the following year.⁷ The considerable decrease in the output on fur in 1862 over 1861 indicates that the importance of fur trade in Swan River Valley was beginning to decline.

The Coming of the Settlers

In the 1870's a telegraph system was built across the valley. Disaster soon struck in the form of bush fires and the wire was cut in many places by the Indians who feared the coming of the settlers. As a result of this disaster further plans were halted for a time.

During the 1890's a ranch was operated near the present village of Bowman by a Frenchman but in 1897 the owner drove his cattle across the border to the North West Territories.⁸

In the year 1897 the Colonization Road was built from Dauphin to Tent Town near where Minitonas now stands. William Sifton was in charge of the construction and William Garrioch, still living in Swan River Valley, was a member of the construction gang. The road followed the gravel ridge from Dauphin to a point near the present village of Cowan at the eastern extremity

7. Comparative Statement and Valuation of Returns, 1861 and 1862, Fort Pelly.

8. Pioneers recall having seen cattle tracks early in 1898. There was evidence that a large herd had passed along the North Pelly Trail.

of the valley, and from here a trail was made through Duck Mountains to Tent Town.

The Federal Government pitched tents and later built large wooden buildings for the settlers to use until they could reach their land. This was the beginning of Tent Town. Mr. Hugh Harley, the land agent, reached Tent Town early in May 1898 and established a land office one mile south and one mile west of the present village of Minitonas, on section 11, township 36, range 26. For two years Tent Town was a busy community with its transient population. Dr. Lineham was in Tent Town for a short time before he located in Swan River as resident physician for a time. As early as June 1898 Peter McKay operated a store in the pioneer community and Livingstone arrived a short time later to provide some competition for McKay. Arthur Hemming was a druggist in Tent Town before moving to Swan River.

The Reverend E. W. Johnson was the first missionary in the valley. His experiences are described in his journal. The pioneer missionary left Dauphin for Swan River Valley in June 1898. After three days travelling by pony over an old Indian trail "as hard as a street and almost as smooth", he reached the valley and on June 26 conducted the first service held in the valley. The Reverend Johnson gives the following picture of life in Tent Town, -

"The little pioneer town at that time consisted of three government tents, and a little hybrid store seven feet square and built with logs five feet high, with a tent tacked on top of it for a roof. Customers did not enter the store but were served through the upper half of the door which had been severed at the middle for this purpose. Peter McKay from Collingwood, Ontario, was the merchant. I found out from the land office that there were only six families in the whole valley, so preached in a tent to congregations of from 15 to 25.

"The people enjoyed good health. One of the first accidents occurred when Neil Henry was hitching his

oxen to the breaker. The mosquitoes being bad one of the oxen tossed his head and slit the tip of Henry's nose apart. He borrowed my saddle to go to Dauphin and was soon back fixed up.

"Peter McKay took a trip to Dauphin and left me in charge of his store. I was unwilling to sell on Sunday and a Yankee was so put out that he said he would go to Dauphin for his groceries (which he did but had a tough trip)."9

More and more settlers reached Swan River Valley in 1898 and '99. These land-hungry men and women moved over-land along the Colonization Road. They came from various parts of Southern Manitoba, from Eastern Canada, and from as far south as the State of Kansas. They travelled in ox-carts, on pony-back, or walked. Mr. Charles Goodman of Thunderhill District tells the following story of his experiences:

"My brother and I came from the State of Kansas with a team of horses in 1898. Another man and his son started out with us but before we had gone very far, this man became discouraged and turned back. My brother and I kept on and crossed the boundary into Manitoba twelve miles south of Killarney.

"When we crossed the line we were asked where we were going and said we were going north. We were advised to go to the Swan River country but were warned that horse thieves were active along the border and that we had better watch our horses.

"We came over the Colonization Road in 1898 and settled in township 35, range 29 near Thunderhill. Father came out in 1900 and started a store on the homestead. Later he moved to Durban District and still later to Benito where he kept store for several years."10

The settlers soon spread north to what is now Bowman and Birch^{River} country and west to the area of which Benito is the largest center. In the spring of 1899 township 34 was not on

9

Johnson, Rev. E.W., extract from Private Journal; Courtesy of the Reverend Zwicker, Swan River, Manitoba.

10

Narrated to the writer by Mr. Charles Goodman, Benito, Manitoba.

"PELTY" TRAIL

Settlers of 1898

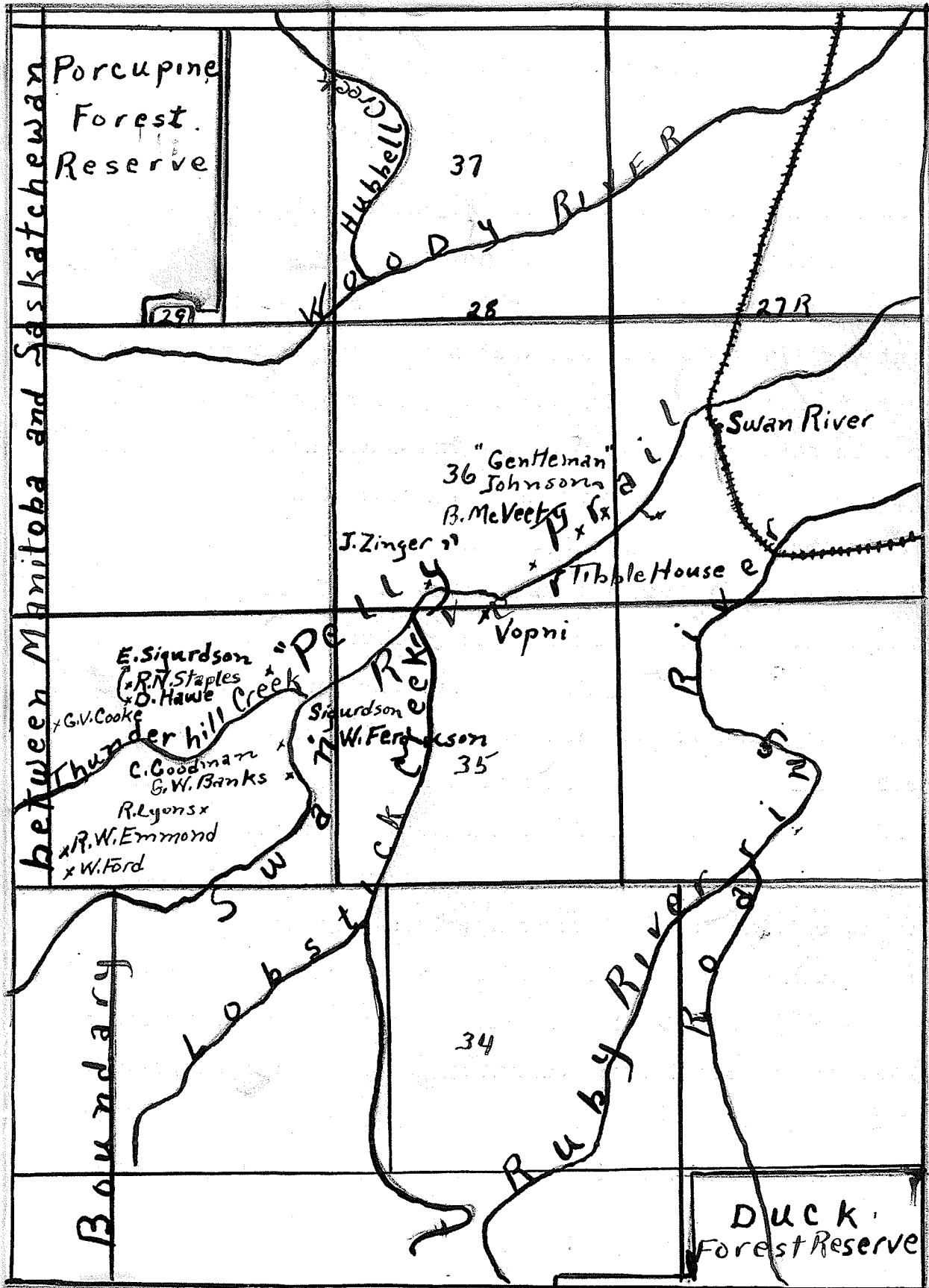


Figure 4

the market but a number of squatters improved land in this township. In August of the same year the land came onto the market and the land agent requested the squatters to list the improvements they had made after which they were given three months to make official entry. Thomas Black was the first homesteader in township 34, the township in which the village of Benito is located.

In October 1899 lots were sold in Swan River and Minitonas and the two villages grew rapidly. The Canadian Northern Railway entered the valley in 1899 and reached Swan River later in the year. Mail came to Swan River with the railway and Mr. Harley, the land agent, became the first post-master in that village. Previously settlers had received their mail at Tent Town. In 1900 R. Lyons handled the mail for the settlers in the Thunderhill area and David Hancock was the first postmaster in Durban. For the settlers of township 34 A. C. Dykeman looked after the mail on his farm from 1902 to 1905.

The first religious services to be held in Minitonas were conducted in the parlor of Hotel de Minitonas, owned by the late E. L. Gauden. These were held during the winter of 1899-1900 and were conducted by the Presbyterian student, Mr. Kirkpatrick, and the Methodist student, Mr. Petch, taking the services on alternate Sundays. A union Sunday School was organized with Robert Knox in charge.

In 1900 the Methodist and Presbyterian churches were built in Minitonas. The Methodist Church was opened on the last Sunday in October with a student, Mr. Wilkinson, preaching the inaugural sermon. Mr. Saunders, a student also, officiated at the opening of the new Presbyterian Church on the following

Sunday. The only ordained minister in the valley, the Reverend E.W. Johnson, was stationed in the growing village of Swan River. Minitonas claims credit for organizing in 1904 the first Ladies' Aid in Swan River Valley.

In the year 1901 three young medical doctors, Bruce, Hill and Proctor, reached the valley and located in Swan River. Dr. Bruce still resides in the Town of Swan River and recalls many of his experiences as a pioneer doctor.

Recreation of the Pioneers

While pioneer life was often hard and devoid of many comforts that modern people regard as necessities, it had many compensations. Football was a favorite sport and the Minitonas Thistles became famous far beyond the bounds of the valley. In 1904 the Thistle Club was organized and three years later entered the Intermediate League. Messrs. J.G. Campbell, D.S. Woods, and J. Buchanan were President, Secretary-Treasurer and trainer respectively.

In 1907 and 1908 several games were played. Minnedosa defeated Minitonas at Gladstone, Minitonas defeated Foxwarren at Neepawa and then the Civic Wanderers, a Winnipeg Club. The victory over the Civic Wanderers gave Minitonas the Intermediate Football Championship of the Province of Manitoba. The Winnipeg Club protested the game but the protest was disallowed and the Minitonas Club retained the Championship. In 1910 the Minitonas Thistles advanced to Senior Football and defeated Brandon and Shoal Lake but lost the finals to the Britannica's of the City of Winnipeg.

Rivalry in baseball and football between towns and villages

often became very marked during the pioneer period and played no less a part in the life of Swan River Valley than in other areas of Manitoba. Parties and dances were held occasionally and served to meet the social needs of the settlers in the days before the automobile, motion picture and radio.

The Suffragist Movement

Various clubs were organized to serve the specific purposes as well as to afford opportunity for social intercourse. Roaring River District, five miles west of Minitonas, claims the distinction of having the first organized Equal Suffrage Association in the province. The first meeting was held in the spring of 1912. It was by no means exclusively a women's organization as a number of husbands and sons were members. The following extract from the association's minute book reminds us of a bygone era:-

"Moved by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Miss Shaw that the Secretary write to the Political Equality Leagues at Winnipeg to ask whether they have taken steps towards organizing a Provincial association and if so what the terms are for other societies affiliating. Carried.

"Moved by Miss Shaw, seconded by Mrs. Cox that we advertise for Anti-Suffragists to meet for discussion at our next meeting. Carried.

"Moved by Mrs. Martin, seconded by Miss Shaw that the Secretary write to the Grain Growers' Guide, the Winnipeg Free Press, Telegram and the Tribune stating what our society is doing and offering information to any wishing to organize. Carried."11

It is interesting to note that Miss Shaw mentioned in the foregoing extracts was the local teacher. Although only sixteen years of age at the time, she played a leading role in fostering interest in the movement.

The Minitonas "Gold" Rush

In 1911 a rather startling event took place around Minitonas. Some turkeys picked up copper wire that had been melted and when they fulfilled their destinies, the bright nuggets in their crops were mistaken for gold. The news of the discovery of gold started a rush from various parts of the province and within a few days the village of Minitonas had acquired the appearance of a thriving frontier town. Clerks from city departmental stores left their positions to hasten to Minitonas to stake their claim; farmers came from all parts of the province and from neighboring provinces; townsmen, too, had no desire to be among the last to make a bid for wealth. Tradesmen of Minitonas, the proprietress of the boarding house and the livery driver profitted from the business.

12

Finally Professor Wallace of the department of geology, University of Manitoba, came to Minitonas and made tests which showed that gold did not exist in the valley. Within a few days the "gold" rush was over and Minitonas once more returned to her accustomed manner of living.

The new settlement reproduced the institutions of the older districts whence the settlers had come. Within six years after the first settler had arrived, thirty-two schools were established, churches had been built and ministers and students of several religious denominations installed.

13

12

Now Principal Wallace, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario.

13

Rural Survey, Swan River Valley, Departments of Social Service and Evangelism of the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches, 1914, p.8.

Occupations of the People

With the first settlers came the first lumbermen. Mills were established and the Woody and Swan Rivers were the scenes of log drives every spring. In 1943 the last mill in Bowsman closed down. Minitonas still has a small mill operating but lumbering has practically ceased as an industry.

The chief reason for the influx of settlers in 1898 was land. Agriculture continues to be the foundation of the economic life of the people. Many of the residents of the villages within the valley and of the Town of Swan River are retired farmers. Those who are not actively engaged in farming or who are not retired are engaged in the usual occupations of small towns. All are wholly dependent upon the surrounding agricultural district.

There has never been a crop failure in Swan River Valley and the rich soil has made farming a very prosperous business. Table I shows the number of acres of wheat sown, the yield per acre and the total bushels for each of the fourteen crop districts reporting for the year 1945. The yield per acre sown to oats for the crop district of Swan River was 38.6 for 1945. This exceeded that of all other crop reporting districts. The yields for barley and flaxseed also surpassed those of the other areas. Table II compares the crop yield at Kenville with provincial averages for 1948. In the year 1948 the Bowsman River Pool Elevator shipped the second largest quantity of grain of any Pool Elevator in the province. Tractor farming has replaced the horse-drawn implement and combining the grain is growing steadily in popularity. Livestock in constantly growing numbers is shipped from the valley.

TABLE I

SHOWING THE WHEAT YIELD OF THE FOURTEEN CROP DISTRICTS
OF THE PROVINCE OF MANITOBA FOR THE YEAR 1945

District	Acres Sown	Yield Per Acre Bus.	Total Bushels
1 Melita	201,900	16.1	3,249,000
2 Killarney	318,400	16.8	5,331,000
3 Red River	529,600	16.7	8,868,000
4 Winnipeg	29,800	18.0	535,000
5 Springfield	94,400	21.4	2,020,000
6 Eastern	23,000	17.7	407,000
7 Virden	246,000	20.5	5,047,000
8 Carberry	170,100	18.9	3,212,000
9 Neepawa	105,400	23.3	2,451,000
10 Russell	176,400	23.3	4,102,000
11 Dauphin	108,000	17.7	1,909,000
12 Mid-Lake	51,200	22.3	1,143,000
13 Swan River	39,500	26.0	1,025,000
14 West Shore	37,700	18.6	701,000
Totals	2,132,000	18.8	40,000,000



Figure 5

TABLE II

SHOWING A COMPARISON OF AVERAGE GRAIN YIELD AT KENVILLE
WITH AVERAGE YIELD OF THE PROVINCE OF MANITOBA FOR 1948

Wheat			Oats			Barley		
Variety	Ken-ville	Mani-toba	Variety	Ken-ville	Mani-toba	Variety	Ken-ville	Mani-toba
Thatcher	48.4	39.5	Vanguard	103.5	84.8	Titan	58.1	52.1
Redman	47.6	38.0	Garry	108.3	74.5	OAC21	56.7	52.9
Regent	43.9	35.3	Fortune	111.6	84.5	Sanalta	75.1	58.4
Apex	46.4	32.4	Clinton	66.3	58.0	Plush	68.9	57.3
Saunders	43.3	34.4	Exeter	113.3	94.3	Vantage	66.5	59.2
			Ajax	88.5	81.2	Montcalm	73.1	56.5

Within recent years several new areas have been opened for farming. Birch River, five miles north of the Municipality of Minitonas, is the centre of an area that is being cleared rapidly for agriculture. Tracts of land south of Durban were considered to be too swampy for producing grain. During comparatively dry years the land lost much of its surplus moisture. The area is now being cleared and crops second to none in the valley are being grown.

The Boom Years

The first two decades of the present century showed a steady increase in population for the two municipalities of Swan River and Minitonas. The population figure for both rose from 1726 in 1901 to 7929 in 1921, a normal growth for a new agricultural area.

Table IV shows that in the five year period from 1921 to 1926 there was a slight decline in population. This should not be regarded as significant. The movement of people into the valley had ceased for the time being, however, and would need an added incentive if some measure of the former increase was to be recovered.

The European Influx

During the first quarter of the twentieth century the population of the Municipality of Minitonas was almost entirely Anglo-Saxon. In the year 1900 Russian immigrants arrived and settled west of the Manitoba boundary. As years passed many of them drifted across the border and purchased land in the Benito area where they still reside.

Germans and Czechs came in 1927 and '28, purchased farms and settled principally in Minitonas Municipality. The character of the population was changed thereby from an almost total Anglo-Saxon to an area in which people of various racial origins are almost equal in numbers. These new settlers brought their traditions of frugality and industry and added color to the human tapestry being woven in the valley.

Table IV shows the population of Minitonas and Swan River Municipalities for each census year from 1921 to 1946. The census division of which the two municipalities are a part included considerable unorganized territory but, since the boundaries of the division have changed, the population of the unorganized territory is not included. A study of Table IV shows that the greatest increase of population in the two municipalities

TABLE III

POPULATION OF SWAN RIVER AND MINITONAS MUNICIPALITIES
AND OF THE TOWN OF SWAN RIVER AT TEN YEAR INTERVALS
1901-1921

	1901	1911	1921
Minitonas	362	1098	2438
Swan River	1364	2712	4588
Swan River (town)		574	903
Total	1726	4384	7929

TABLE IV

POPULATION OF SWAN RIVER AND MINITONAS MUNICIPALITIES
AND OF THE TOWN OF SWAN RIVER AT FIVE YEAR INTERVALS
1921-1946

	1921	1926	1931	1936 ¹⁶	1941 ¹⁷	1946 ¹⁸
Minitonas	2438	2248	3085	3711	3984	3568
Swan River	4588	4673	4976	5713	5728	5591
Swan River (town)	903	900	968	1016	1129	1191
Total	7929	7821	9029	10440	10841	10350

16

Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Census of Prairie Provinces 1936, p.9. Ottawa, 1938.

17

This figure includes 294 for the village of Benito, incorporated in 1941

18

This figure includes 329 for the village of Benito.

occurred during the decade 1926-1936 with the first half of the ten year period showing the greatest gain.

Recent Shifts in Population

Table IV shows a decline in population in both municipalities for the five year period, 1941-'46. The decline in Swan River Municipality totals 137 persons when the incorporated village of Benito is included. The greatest shift in population has taken place in Minitonas Municipality which lost 416. The population of the town of Swan River increased by 62 but this increase may be regarded as negligible in a town of over 1100 population.

The recent decline in population in Minitonas Municipality may be partially accounted for by the fact that there has been a fairly large exodus of retired farmers to the West Coast. Modern methods of farming and the advent of power machinery permit farmers to operate on an increasingly large scale. Farmers who once owned 160 acres of land are increasing their holdings. Another trend that must be noted is that within the last five years fifteen Czech families moved from the valley to the industrial centres of Ontario. By and large, however, the exodus from the valley has been of the Anglo-Saxon group. In the face of this decline the unincorporated village of Minitonas has increased considerably within recent years. Plans are now being made to have Minitonas incorporated. According to a recent count the population of the village is 560.

Population changes are further reflected in the increasing number of pupils in schools, of school teachers employed, and in expanding high school provisions.

CHAPTER III

ORGANIZATION OF THE MUNICIPALITIES OF MINITONAS AND SWAN RIVER; DEVELOPMENT OF THE SCHOOL SYSTEM

The Rural Municipality of Minitonas

A study of the bylaws of the councils of the Municipality of Minitonas shows that the municipality was organized in the spring of 1901. The minute book of the first meetings of the council was not available and was probably destroyed in a fire some years ago. The first bylaw was enacted for the purpose of appointing a secretary-treasurer for the newly organized municipality. Wm.C.North received the appointment and remained in office until 1903. The first reeve of the municipality was D.Dunn. He was succeeded by W.B.Sifton in 1902. An election was held on December 2, 1902, and E.Widmeyer was elected reeve. In 1904 J.G.A.Campbell was reeve and E.Widmeyer secretary-treasurer. S.Dunn became reeve in 1907.

In the foregoing paragraph ~~also~~^{was} listed the names of the reeves and secretary-treasurers for the first five years after the municipality was organized. The work of the councils during this period was important because it determined to a large extent the nature of the early provision.

Much of the work of the first council of the municipality of Minitonas was concerned with appointing municipal officials. On July 25, 1901, Dr. Lineham of Swan River was appointed health officer. Other work involved preparing an assessment and itemizing the sums to be levied for various purposes. Appendix G includes

a copy of the first assessment bylaw passed October 7, 1901. The Municipal tax was set at 6 mills, the General School tax at $1\frac{1}{2}$ mills. Special school rates were set for the districts named hereafter, -Minitonas, 7 mills; Oakhurst, 4 mills; West Favel, $4\frac{1}{2}$ mills; and for Lidstone, $1\frac{1}{2}$ mills. Less than one year later, in August 1902, BY Law XXI fixed the rate and authorized the sums to be levied for educational purposes. Both the general school tax and the special school taxes were increased, the General School Tax from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{4}$ mills. The special school taxes were set as follows, -for Minitonas, $6\frac{1}{4}$ mills; West Favel, 7 mills; Oakhurst, $10\frac{1}{2}$ mills; Lidstone, 8 mills; Floradale, $4\frac{1}{2}$ mills; and Egremont, 3 mills. Egremont School District is now within the bounds of Swan River Municipality.

The Municipality of Swan River

The rural municipality of Swan River was organized in 1901. J.W. Robson was the first reeve and Messrs Frank Myers, Alex Keilor, J.K. Shaw, Murphy, D. Hawe, and T.C. Silverthorne were councillors. The election was held by show of hand.

The first council meeting was held in the office of H.E. Glendenning, editor of "The Swan River Star". Mr. Glendenning received the appointment of secretary-treasurer.

Much of the work of the first council was concerned with appointing municipal officials, with organizing school districts and defining boundaries, and with forming a drainage district. Each councillor prepared an assessment for his own ward but the council was instructed to form a valuation on wild land.

The rural municipality of Swan River is one of the

largest municipalities in the Province of Manitoba. Figure 6 shows that it is more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ times as large as its adjacent municipality. The town of Swan River, the incorporated village of Benito, and the unincorporated villages of Durban and Kenville are within its bounds. The population of the municipality exclusive of the Town of Swan River and the Village of Benito is almost 1700 more than the population of the Municipality of Minnetonas according to the census for 1946.

The First Schools and Teaching Staff

Instruction was first given in Swan River Valley in Tent Town as early as 1899 by Mrs. W. C. North. A short time after classes were held in the Village of Swan River in a room above Arthur Hemming's drug store. Norman Ingham was the first teacher. A one-roomed school was built in 1900 and A. C. Dorrance was the first teacher of this school. Within a short time a second room was added to the school, and Mr. R. G. Taylor became the first Principal with Miss Waddell as his assistant. Inspector Maquire's first report for Swan River Valley refers to this school as follows, -
"the town school is a well built, two-story building, with two rooms, both of which are now occupied."¹

The first school district to be organized in Swan River Valley was West Favel. This district was organized in 1900 and Inspector Maquire performed the opening ceremony. The school house was erected in 1901 and Douglas Durkin, son of one of the pioneer farmers, became the first teacher. Durkin later became

¹ Report of the Department of Education for the Year ending December 31, 1900, p. 31. Winnipeg: King's Printer for the Province of Manitoba.

a Canadian writer. Swan Valley, in Swan River Rural Municipality, was the second school district organized in Swan River Valley. Square Plains, about five miles south-west of Swan River, was organized a short time later. In July 1900 Inspector Maquire visited Swan River to hold courts of Revision and to look into the organization of several school districts. He found two schools, Swan Valley and Square Plains, in operation.

Inspector A.W. Hooper, in his report for the year ending December, 1901, listed the following school districts as being organized during that year, -Cowan, Oakhurst, Minitonas, Shaw, Thunder Hill, Fishing River, Egremont, Pretoria, Robson and Victoria. Victoria School District is now called Floradale S.D. Inspector Hooper noted that the formation of the ten school districts during the year 1901 "gives some idea of the advancement" of Swan River Valley. New school buildings were erected during the year in the Minitonas, Oakhurst, West Favelle, Lidstone, Shaw, Ruby, Durban, Pretoria, Egremont and Bowsman districts.

While the school building was being erected in Minitonas, the church was used as a classroom and a young man named Grant served as teacher. The first trustees of Minitonas School District were Robert Knox, John Durkin and Thomas McLauchlin. Those teaching in the Minitonas School in succession were Norman Ingham, D. Mackenzie, Miss Jennie McGaw, Don Ross, R.G. Taylor and D.S. Woods. In 1907 it was found necessary to open a primary room. D.S. Woods was principal of the two-room school with Miss Wilson as his assistant.

A short time later the trustees of the district began to make plans for the erection of a four-room building. Inspector E.H. Walker reported to the Department of Education in 1908 that "Minitonas has purchased a fine new site consisting of about four

acres of beautifully situated grounds. On this the trustees have erected a substantial four-room building which will be completed early in the new year.² This school was finished in August 1909. W.J.Henderson followed D.S.Woods as principal of the school. A third teacher was added to the staff in August 1916. A few years later a fourth teacher was added. In August, 1946, Minitonas School became a two-room high school and a fifth teacher was added. Provision was made for the primary class in an unused church. Finally, in August 1948, a sixth teacher was added and provision made for another room in an unused building. At the present time four classes are being held in the school, one class in an unused church, and one class in a remodelled garage. Surely a building programme is now in order in Minitonas.

On August 31, 1903, a bylaw was passed in Minitonas Council forming Bowsman Union School District. In October 1902 a bylaw was passed forming a school district to be known as Woody River School District. No trustees were elected and no school house built so the bylaw was rescinded. Bowsman Union School District was formed from sections originally intended to comprise Woody River district as well as sections which were given to form the new union district. A school was built in 1904. The school population quickly increased and it was necessary to add more accommodation. In 1926 an eight-room school was built. Bowsman Union is staffed

by six teachers. There is plenty of room in the school and two rooms may be used as assembly halls or work shops. Bowsman Union School is at present one of the two village schools in Swan River Valley that have sufficient room for the school population without making use of basement rooms or vacant buildings.

In 1904, only four years after the school was built, the village of Swan River doubled the size of its school, thus providing four classrooms. Swan River School received Intermediate standing in 1905 and James W. McNab became principal. Fifteen pupils were enrolled in secondary work. There were three teachers on the staff in 1905 and the total student enrollment was 167. The following year the staff was increased to four teachers.

In 1907 J. S. Peach became principal and remained in that position until 1913 when he was appointed Inspector of Schools with headquarters at Swan River. In 1913 Swan River School became a two-roomed high school. The status of the school was raised to a Collegiate Department in 1934 when a third teacher was added to the high school staff. The school became a Collegiate Institute in 1938. For the year ending June 1947, the enrollment in the high school was 112. The following are among the principals who were in charge of Swan River School, J. M. Wallace, J. S. Duncan, S. S. Harvey, W. B. Book, H. H. Guest and A. J. Wilson. The teaching staff increased, fourteen now being required. Even with fourteen teachers, many of the classrooms are crowded.

The congested situation in Swan River School has made necessary a further building programme. Plans are at present being formulated to erect a new building which will probably be used as a high school, leaving the present building for elementary purposes.

At a time when plans are being made to build new schools in Swan River, Minnetonka, Kenville, Birch River and Mafeking and in addition to Durban Consolidated School a long range view should be taken and the advisability of having a Composite High School should be carefully considered.

Figure 6 shows the location of the first schools built in Swan River Valley and Figure 7 shows the location of the schools in existence at present. A complete list of school districts showing dates of organization and building of school is reported in Table V. School districts organized in the municipality of Swan River and in unorganized territory are reported in Tables VI and VII.

Benito School District was organized on May 18, 1907. At the organization meeting Messrs. C. Goodman, John Dykeman and Norman West were elected trustees. Norman West was appointed Chairman and C. Goodman secretary-treasurer. Plans were immediately initiated to erect a school-house of concrete blocks made of one part Portland cement, three parts sand and six parts gravel. Among the first teachers of Benito School were John F. Scribner, Miss Jessie Corbett, Miss Eva Smith, Miss Elsie Payne and W. Meldrum. In 1911 W. Meldrum was principal of the school which had been enlarged to two rooms with Miss Payne as his assistant. Misses Florence Henry and E. Emmond succeeded Miss Payne as Mr. Meldrum's assistants. Principals succeeding Mr. Meldrum were A. G. Fulford, A. J. Elliot and G. Garrett. Mr. Garrett served as principal of Benito Consolidated School from September 1916 until June 1922. Principals following Mr. Garrett were A. L. Mills, J. W. Beer, W. J. Dalgat, H. L. Stein, J. C. Stewart, J. E. Morrison, R. Buck, A. J. Moran, W. H. Lucow and J. N. Clark.

LOCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS
ORGANIZED IN 1900-1902
IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF MINITONAS
AND SWAN RIVER

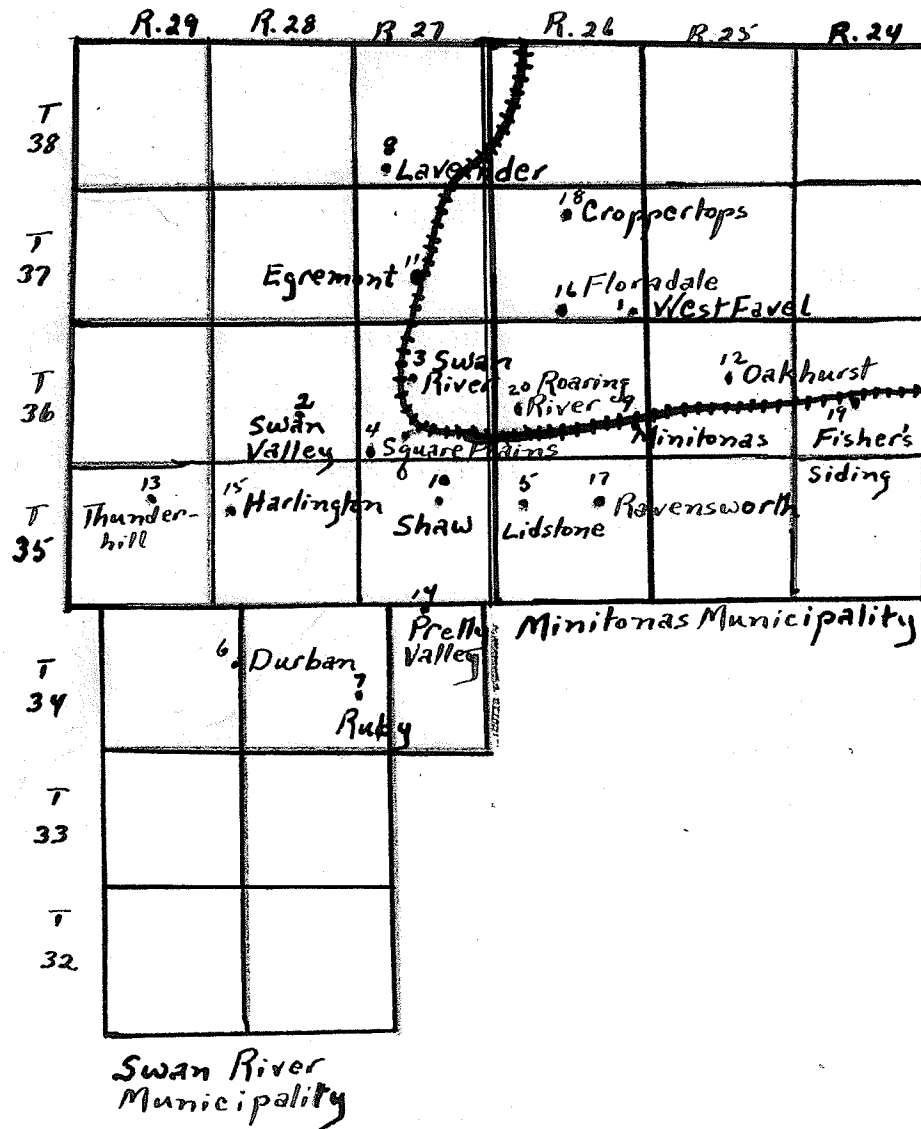


Figure 6

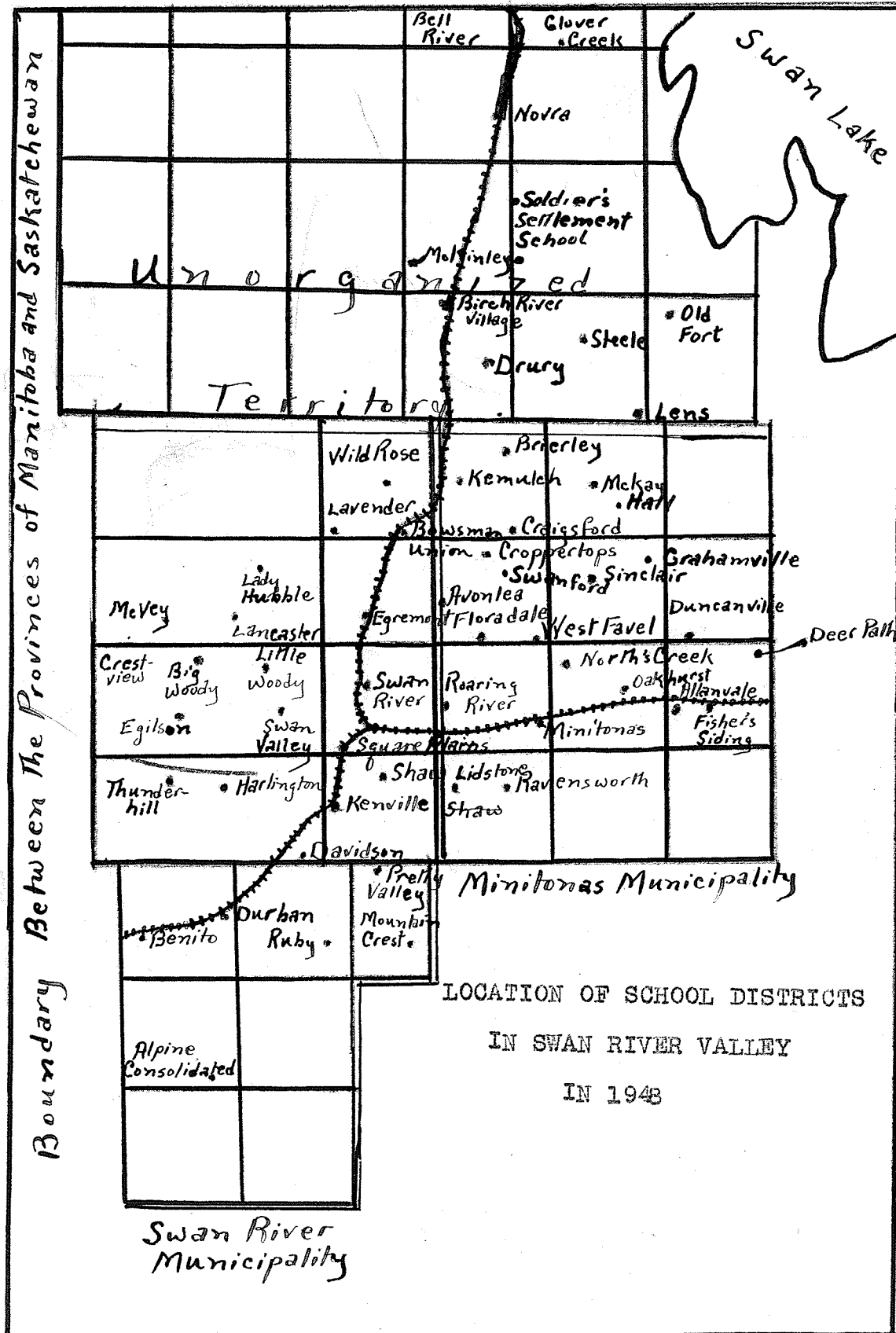


Figure 7

While the period of tenure for most of the teachers who served within Swan River Valley has been short especially in the rural schools, three principals served for many years in the valley. W.J. Rodgers has served as principal of Durban Consolidated School for 31 years, the late J.S. Duncan served as principal of Swan River School for 20 years, and A.E. Scrase was principal of Kenville School for 18 years. These men played a prominent part in the development of education in their districts and Mr. Rodgers continues to serve with efficiency in Durban.

TABLE V

THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITHIN THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF MINITONAS SHOWING THE YEAR EACH WAS ORGANIZED AND THE YEAR OF THE ERECTION OF THE SCHOOL HOUSE

School District	Number	Year of Organization	Year of Erection of School House
West Favel	1037	1900	1901
Lidstone	1064	1900	1901
Minitonas	1102	1901	1901
Oakhurst	1114	1901	1901
Floradale	1173	1901	1902
Ravensworth	1185	1902	1903
Croppertops	1186	1902	1902
Fisher's Siding	1200	1902	1903
Rearing River	1215	1902	1904
Bowsman Union	1273	1903	1904
Kemulch	1323	1904	1905
Avonlea	1606	1912-'13	1913
Brierley	1613	1912-'13	1913
Craigsford	1764	1914-'15	1916
McKay	1884	1916-'17	1917
Sinclair	1895	1917-'18	1918
Lens	2023	1919-'20	1920
Duncanville	2122	1925	
Grahamville	2213	1930	
Allanvale	2224	1931	1931
Swanford	2268	1936	
North's Creek	2284	1938	1939
Hall	2295	1940	1940
Deer Path	2300	1941	

Note,--Where a blank space has been left in Table V, exact information was not available.

TABLE VI

SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITHIN THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY
OF SWAN RIVER SHOWING THE YEAR EACH WAS ORGANIZED

School District	Number	Year of Organization	Year of Erection of First School House
Swan Valley	1038	1900	1900
Swan River	1047	1900	1900
Square Plains	1053	1900	1900
Durban	1080	1900	1901
Ruby	1081	1901	1901
Lavender	1082	1901	1901
Shaw	1107	1901	1901
Egremont	1110	1901	1901-' 02
Thunder Hill	1156	1901	1902
Pretty Valley	1162	1901	1906
Harlington	1164	1901	1902
Davidson	1250	1903	1904
Little Woody	1271	1904	
Kenville	1404	1906	1907
Wild Rose	1405	1907	
Benito	1408	1907	1907-' 08
Egilson	1476		
Lancaster	1542		
Big Woody	1621		
Alpine Cons.	1738	1917	
Crestview	2068	1920-' 21	1921
Mountain Crest	2079	1921-' 22	1922
Lady Hubble	2098	1922	
McVey	2303	1942-' 43	

First Steps Toward Consolidation

As early as 1904 the centralization of school districts was a live topic throughout a large part of the province of Manitoba. The matter of consolidation was discussed in the

Note.-The following schools not listed above,-Pretoria, Central Valley, Bennyview, Corbett, Parsonville and Robson,-entered into consolidation a few years after the districts were organized and are now part of Durban and Benito Consolidated School Districts. Where a blank space has been left in Table VI, exact information was not available.

TABLE VII

SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN UNORGANIZED TERRITORY SHOWING
THE YEAR EACH WAS ORGANIZED

School District	Number	Year of Organization	Year of Erection of School House
Drury	1671	1913	1915-'16
Steele	1800	1915	
Old Fort	1868	1916	
Birch River Village	2053	1920	
Bell River	2157	1928	
Novra	2172	1929	1945
McKinley	2235	1936	
Glover Creek	2304	1943	
Little Creek	2306	1946-'47	
Swan-Woody	2307	1946-'47	

North-Western Inspectoral Division but the general attitude was one of waiting for some authoritative report from a district within the Province where the experiment would be tried. A few months later in 1905 Virden and Shane School Districts united forming the first consolidated school in Manitoba. Holland followed close upon Virden as a centre of consolidation. Trustees within the bounds of the North-Western Inspectoral Division were now afforded ample opportunity to study consolidation as seen operating in Virden and Holland.

During the ten year period from 1901 to 1911 the population of Swan River Rural Municipality increased from 1364 to 2712 and the population of Minitonas Municipality increased from 362 to 1098. School districts were organized and there was considerable dissatisfaction over boundaries and unequalized

Note, -School houses have not been erected as yet in Little-Creek and Swan-Woody School Districts. Where a blank space has been left in Table VII exact information was not available.

taxation. Petitions requesting boundary changes were considered frequently by the Municipal Council. Even although many difficulties arose in organizing school districts, no steps were taken in Swan River Valley toward consolidation until 1912. Inspector E.H. Walker played a prominent part in the movement toward consolidation.

On December 12, 1912, a special meeting of Benito School Board was held at the close of the Annual Ratepayers' Meeting. At this special meeting a motion was introduced by E. Smith that the board petition the Council of Swan River Rural Municipality to consolidate Benito School District No. 1408 with the districts of Bonnyview, Corbett, Robson and Parsonville. This motion was³ carried.

The first reference to consolidation of school districts by the Council of the Rural Municipality of Swan River is found in the Council Minutes of the meeting of December 20, 1912.

"Hawe-Goldsmith, -That the resolution from the Trustees of Bonnyview and Corbett Districts be received and laid on the table and that no further action be taken by council until similar resolutions are received from the trustees of all other schools interested in the proposed consolidation 4 and that the clerk notify all parties concerned. Carried"

On January 2, 1913, Benito School Board elected Dr. Baldwin chairman for the year 1913 and James H. Best secretary-treasurer. On January 22 a motion was carried that the board petition the council to consolidate Benito School District No. 1408 with Corbett,

3

Minute Book of Benito School District

4

Minutes of The Council Meeting of the Municipality of Swan River, December 20, 1912.

Bonnyview and Parsonville districts. A short time later the council received the petition and on February 5 at the Council Meeting Councillor Sims moved and Councillor Dawson seconded that a bylaw consolidating the rural school districts of Benito, Bonnyview, Corbett and Parsonville be introduced and read a first time. This motion was carried. A second motion was then carried that a bylaw consolidating the foregoing named school districts be taken as read a second and third time, signed, sealed and numbered.

An editorial written by A.S. Weir entitled "Consolidated Schools" appeared in the February 21, 1913, issue of The Star and Times. This editorial is reproduced as follows,-

"It is apparent that the people surrounding Benito are looking forward to consolidating their schools. This is in line with the popular educational movement in Manitoba today, as well as in many other parts of Canada. The system has been tried in the East for some years.

Whether or not the system will work well depends more or less upon the moral support it will be given by the communities. There seems to be no room for doubt that a consolidated school should be able to secure the services of more efficient teachers than the isolated small schools can. It seems reasonable, moreover, that the scholars should profit from association with a larger number of pupils. In a little school where perhaps only one or two families, frequently closely related, come together, the pupils become extremely Provincial in their ways and views- perhaps Local is the better word. The old-fashioned idea that keeping children isolated keeps them from harm, does not hold together well. Evil is frequently found in solitary places and frequently a change to see what others are doing impresses pupils, as well as older ones, to become more ambitious and to have higher moral ideals.

The condition of the roads is one feature which will materially affect the success of the movement. Let us hope that the new school system will make it evident to road commissioners that good roads are imperative. There is no good reason why the consolidated school should not be a great blessing to the life of the Valley. The progress of the Benito District will be watched with interest. We hope that they may teach us a great lesson."5

A public notice was issued by Joseph Armstrong that by Bylaw No.199 the Rural Municipality of Swan River united the school districts of Benito,Bonnyview,Corbett and Parsonville into one district. Notice was also given that a meeting of ratepayers of the above named school districts be held in Benito School House on March 25,1913,for the purpose of electing trustees for the newly organized consolidated School District.

On March 25 the ratepayers' meeting was held as scheduled and after the poll closed at 1.p.m.the following trustees were declared elected,-E.Holden and A.E.Corbett to hold office for three years;Dr.Baldwin and Ole Parson to hold office for two years;and James H.Best to hold office for one year. At the organizing meeting of the newly elected trustees held on March 27,Dr.Baldwin was elected Chairman and James H.Best was appointed Secretary-treasurer and the first Board of Trustees of the first consolidated school district to be organized in Swan River Valley began to function.

In March the trustees of the School Districts of Central Valley,Durban and Pretoria,undoubtedly influenced by the consolidation movement in Benito,petitioned the Council to consolidate the three districts. On April 30,1913,Councillor Sims moved and Councillor Young seconded a motion that a Bylaw providing for consolidation of the three districts be introduced and read a first time. The motion was carried. A motion was,then,carried that the bylaw be taken as read a second and third time,signed,sealed and numbered. The Consolidated School District of Durban became the second consolidated school district in Swan River Valley.

In August a Bylaw to unite a portion of the Robson

School District to the Consolidated School District of Benito was introduced, read three times, signed, sealed and numbered. Part of the district was united with Durban Consolidated School District and the remaining portion with Benito Consolidated District in 1920.

The only other consolidation to take place in Swan River Valley came in 1917 when Alpine Consolidated School District was organized. This unit is small, however, as Alpine School has only two class-rooms.

There was some support for consolidation in the Municipality of Minitonas and letters written by parents were published in The Star and Times, the Swan River weekly newspaper, but no positive action followed.

The Building Programme resulting from Consolidation

As soon as the School Districts of Bonnyview, Corbett, Parsonville and Benito were consolidated, several problems immediately arose. It became necessary to choose a school site, to provide temporary accommodation for the pupils, to provide a means of transportation for the children, and finally to build a new school.

At the ratepayers' meeting of March 25, when the first trustees of the new consolidated district were elected, Mr. J. T. Douglas moved and Mr. C. B. Keighley seconded that the first choice of a school site be the grounds west of the village of Benito known as the Sports' Grounds. These grounds contained eight acres. On April 10, 1913, the School Board authorized the secretary-treasurer to purchase this land from the Canadian National Railway and in a short time the business transaction

was completed.

Arrangement was made to bring the children from the three districts to Benito School. A room in "Dykeman's shack" was prepared to accommodate the extra children.

On April 22, 1913, Trustee A.E. Corbett moved and Trustee E. Holden seconded that J.H. Bossons be employed as architect for the new consolidated school "the same to be a four-room school, brick veneer, heated by steam, estimated cost about \$14,000 or \$15,000." Subsequent history of Benito Consolidated School shows that the board of trustees erred in judgment and that plans should have included the building of at least a six-room school instead of a four-room building. Within a few years it became necessary either to build an addition to the school or to convert the basement into two classrooms. The second method of accommodating the increased school population was adopted. The result has been that many children have suffered from the defective lighting.

The plans as prepared by J.H. Bossons were not used and E.D. Tuttel was engaged to prepare plans for the new school. The building was to be similar to Starbuck School. It was to be brick veneer with cement trimmings and was to be heated by hot air. The building was to face the east. In June John S. Free was engaged to take charge of the construction work.

Ten years later when the school had become overcrowded plans for a one story four-room building were examined and studied. One of the trustees, however, suggested delay to see



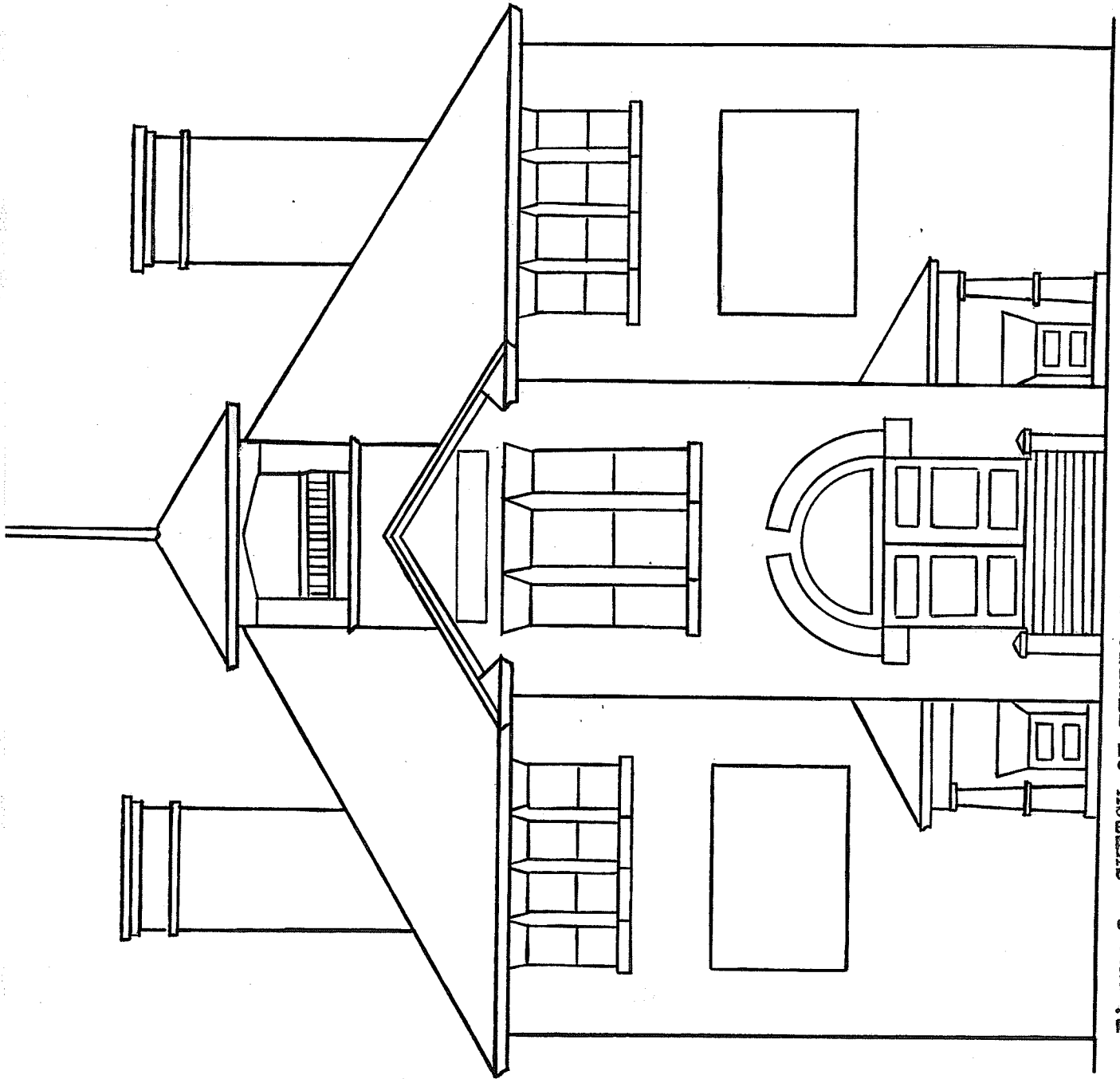


Figure 8. SKETCH OF BENITO CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL ERECTED IN 1913. 14

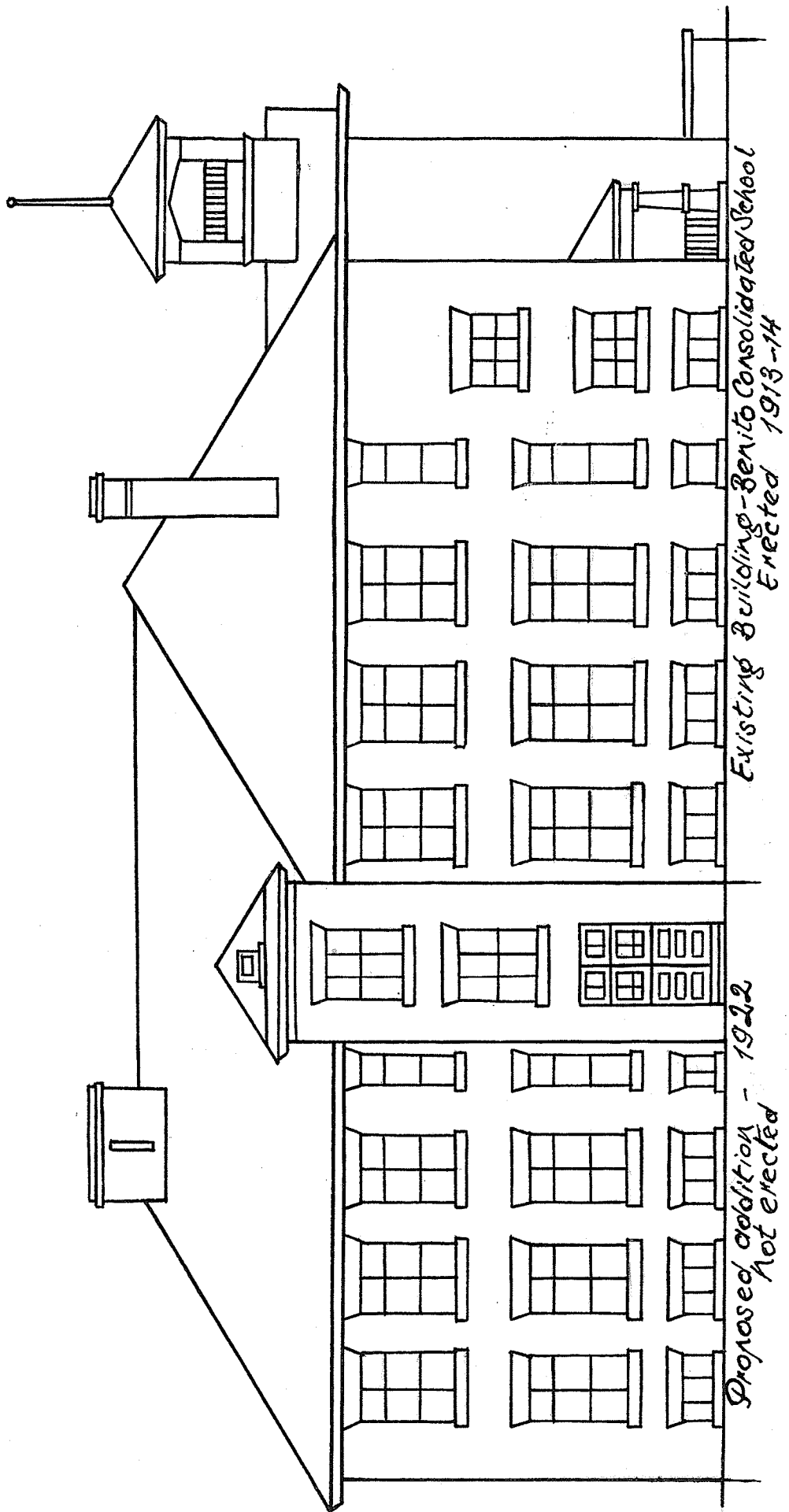


Figure 9

whether portions of the district to the north and south would be taken off. The other members of the board rejected this suggestion and a motion was carried that the board proceed with a building programme. In January 1923 a motion was carried that a ratepayers' meeting be called to ask permission to borrow \$20000.00 for the building programme. Nothing was done until the annual meeting held on July 16, At this meeting the following motion was carried,-

"Smith-Dykeman,-That the ratepayers recommend to the trustee board to provide as accurate an estimate as possible of the cost of building a three or four room addition to our school and submit it to the ratepayers in public meeting and if accepted to take necessary steps for selling debentures to cover cost of same. Carried"7

Although subsequent motions to begin a building programme were passed, nothing more concrete was done and the use of basement rooms was continued. Three years later in 1926 the question of starting a building programme arose once more and the trustees were instructed by the ratepayers "to find out the exact amount of room needed to accommodate the pupils and to build an addition large enough to do away with the basement school rooms." A building programme was not started, however.

Consolidation of the School Districts of Central Valley, Durban and Pretoria in 1913 made necessary a building programme in Durban. In 1913-'14 a two-roomed school was built. It shortly became necessary to use a portion of the basement for a classroom. In 1921 an addition was built on the south end of the school providing two more classrooms. It was then unnecessary to make use of the basement room until 1947 when a fifth teacher

was added to the staff. Plans are under way at present to begin a further building programme.

Transportation Problems resulting from Consolidation

As soon as Benito Consolidated School District was organized, plans were made by the newly elected board to have the children conveyed to and from school in Benito. Trustee Ole Parson was authorized to hire a conveyance to bring the children from Parsonville District to the Benito School and take them back again. The remuneration for conveying these children was not to exceed \$3.00 per day. Arrangements were also made to convey the children from the other consolidated districts.

In August 1913 the Benito Consolidated School Board asked for tenders for van drivers and the following tenders were accepted,--

Nils Roos at \$3.00 per day, the Parson Route
Charles Feere at \$4.00 per day, the Corbett Route
R. Johnstone at \$3.50 per day, the East Route

The first school van was purchased from the Sorey Wagon Company, Winnipeg, at the cost of approximately \$260.00. The cost of the van and freight on the van amounted to \$272.80. School vans were also purchased from Perry Bros. Three years later in 1916 Sandy Keillor was employed to build a van and to have it ready to hitch at a cost of \$225.00

The number of van routes has increased from three in 1913 to seven at the present time. The cost of transportation has risen accordingly and for a number of years was greater than the salaries paid to the teaching staff. Table VIII presents a comparison of the cost of transportation with that of salaries

TABLE VIII

A COMPARISON OF THE COST OF TRANSPORTATION WITH THAT OF
SALARIES PAID TEACHERS FOR BENITO CONSOLIDATED
SCHOOL DISTRICT, 1913 TO 1945

Year	Cost of Transportation	Teachers' Salaries
1913-'14	\$ 1335.00	\$ 2025.00
1914-'15	1970.00	2200.00
1915-'16	1866.00	2337.00
1916-'17	2572.00	3050.00
1917-'18	3242.00	3250.00
1918-'19	5132.00	3940.00
1919-'20	6915.00	4800.00
1920-'21	10255.00	8540.00
1921-'22	9013.00	8625.00
1922-'23	6813.00	8134.00
1923-'24	6770.00	8793.00
1924-'25	4493.00	5717.00
1925-'26	6462.00	8544.00
1926-'27	6054.00	8340.00
1927-'28	6004.00	7686.00
1928-'29	5333.00	7715.00
1929-'30	5761.00	7511.00
1930-'31	5747.00	7825.00
1931-'32	3779.00	6064.00
1932-'33	4221.00	4431.00
1933-'34	4405.00	5410.00
1934-'35	4303.00	4360.00
1935-'36	4270.00	4388.00
1936-'37	4356.00	4330.00
1937-'38	4132.00	4694.00
1938-'39	3232.00	4693.00
1939-'40	5487.00	4478.00
July 1, 1940-		
Dec. 31, 1940	4436.00	1812.00
1941	1842.00	4884.00
1942	4226.00	5055.00
1943	4756.00	6243.00
1944	6760.00	6335.00
1945	5542.00	7190.00

paid to teachers of Benito School and Table IX gives a similar comparison for Durban Consolidated School.

It will be noted from Table VIII that the amount spent on teachers' salaries in Benito was less than the amount spent

TABLE IX

A COMPARISON OF THE COST OF TRANSPORTATION WITH THAT OF SALARIES PAID TEACHERS FOR DURBAN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT, 1924 TO 1945

Year	Cost of Transportation	Teachers' Salaries
1924-' 25	\$38 41.00	\$4700.00
1925-' 26	3999.00	4643.00
1926-' 27	4292.00	4557.00
1927-' 28	4290.00	4690.00
1928-' 29	4172.00	4491.00
1929-' 30	38 74.00	458 9.00
1930-' 31	3257.00	4351.00
1931-' 32	2234.00	3455.00
1932-' 33	2549.00	308 7.00
1933-' 34	2650.00	3019.00
1934-' 35	2791.00	2915.00
1935-' 36	328 0.00	3195.00
1936-' 37	3162.00	3136.00
1937-' 38	3318.00	308 7.00
1940	2317.00	3230.00
1941	1752.00	3143.00
1942	3461.00	3260.00
1943	4400.00	3624.00
1944	5237.00	4300.00
1945	5768.00	4750.00

on transportation during the post war years 1919 to 1922. During a number of other years the cost of transportation almost equalled the amount spent on teachers' salaries. Table IX shows that until 1936 the cost of transportation to Durban Consolidated School was less than the amount spent on teachers' salaries. For the year ending December 31, 1948, the cost of transportation in Durban District exceeded the cost of tuition by almost \$500.00.

A study of the financial reports of Benito Consolidated School District shows that the salary of a van driver compared

very favorably with that of an elementary school teacher. A study of Table X clearly illustrates this fact. It is impossible to compare the average salary of teachers with that of van drivers after 1931 because ratepayers were permitted to work out some of their taxes by driving vans. In 1932-'33 the cost of transportation as per teacher employed was \$603.00 and the average salary per teacher was \$633.00. In 1936-'37 the cost of transportation as per teacher employed was \$622.29 while the average salary per teacher was \$618.57.

TABLE X

A COMPARISON OF SALARIES OF VAN DRIVERS WITH THOSE OF
TEACHERS FOR BENITO CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL
DISTRICT AT FIVE YEAR PERIODS 1917-1927

Month	Year	Van Driver	Salary	Teacher	Salary	Average Salary Drivers	Average Salary Teachers
September	1917	A	@ \$4.00	\$88.00	A	\$120.00	\$90.75 \$80.50
		B	@ 4.00	88.00	B	72.00	
		C	@ 4.00	88.00	C	65.00	
		D	@ 4.50	99.00	D	65.00	
September	1922	A	@ 5.00	100.00	A	190.00	87.00 120.00
		B	@ 5.50	110.00	B	130.00	
		C	@ 3.90	78.00	C	100.00	
		D	@ 5.50	110.00	D	90.00	
		E	@ 4.50	90.00	E	90.00	
		F	@ 3.75	75.00	F	120.00	
		G	@ 3.75	75.00			
		H	@ 2.90	58.00			
September	1927	A	@ 4.20	100.80	A	190.00	92.82 108.57
		B	@ 5.00	120.00	B	140.00	
		C	@ 3.50	84.00	C	90.00	
		D	@ 5.00	120.00	D	90.00	
		E	@ 4.50	108.00	E	85.00	
		F	@ 3.25	78.00	F	85.00	
		G	@ 3.00	72.00	G	80.00	
		H	@ 2.50	60.00			

Although the cost of transportation seems to be high in comparison with the cost of teachers' salaries in the Benito Consolidated School District, it is difficult to estimate what the cost of education would have been had not consolidation taken place. The larger school is usually more efficient than the one-room rural school and a study of the qualifications of the teachers of Swan River Valley shows that the Consolidated School Districts of Benito and Durban have not had much difficulty in attracting qualified teachers while the majority of the one-room rural schools have been staffed by permit teachers, some of them for the last nine years. Benito has had greater difficulty in retaining teachers than Durban.

CHAPTER IV

SCHOOL POPULATION

Introduction

The extent to which people make use of school facilities is reflected in the percentage of the potential school population regularly enrolled in the schools. The extent to which schools retain their pupils after they reach fourteen years of age offers some indication of the ability of the school system to meet the needs and to hold the interests of the school population.

If the teachers are well trained and do their work effectively and the course of study is well adapted to community needs it is probable that a high percentage of the enrollment will be in regular attendance and that the degree of retardation will be slight. If, on the other hand, "the people for whom the schools are established fail to make full use of them or lack interest in the work as shown by irregular attendance it is reasonable to assume¹ that the schools are not well adapted to popular needs."

Shifts in School Population

Population changes are reflected in the increasing number of pupils in schools and in the racial origin of the pupils. Table XI shows the racial origin of the Benito school population at five year intervals since 1922 while Table XII shows the racial origin

¹ Foght, Harold W., A Survey of Education in the Province of Saskatchewan, p.40. Regina: King's Printer, 1913.

of secondary school students for the year ending June 1947. Tables are provided in Appendix F for study of shifts in school population of Durban, Kenville and Minitonas schools.

TABLE XI
RACIAL ORIGIN OF BENITO CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL PUPILS
AT FIVE YEAR INTERVALS 1922-

Race	1922	1927	1932	1937	1942	1947	1949
British	142	159	113	85	73	75	59
Slavic	36	42	68	70	84	84	71
Scandinavian	11	26	27	10	16	12	15
Other racial Origins	8	--	--	5	9	12	11
Total	197	227	208	170	182	183	156

Percentage

British	72.08	70.04	54.32	50.00	40.11	40.98	37.82
Slavic	18.27	18.50	32.70	41.18	46.15	45.90	45.51
Scandinavian	5.58	11.46	12.98	5.88	8.79	6.56	9.61
Other racial Origins	4.07	---	---	2.94	4.95	6.56	7.06
	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>

Slavic, - Ukrainian, Russian, Polish; Scandinavian, - Swedish, Icelandic;
Other racial origins, - German, French, Hebrew.

Table XI indicates a decline in the British element in the school population and the corresponding increase of Slavic pupils in the Benito Consolidated School. A study of the tables in the appendices shows a similar trend in the Durban Consolidated School and that a similar change is occurring in Kenville. The racial origin of the total Minitonas School population was not studied. Tables in the appendix indicate that there has been a rapid decline of high school pupils of British origin since 1941 and

BRITISH SCHOOL POPULATION OF BENITO, DUREAN AND KENVILLE SCHOOLS
AT FIVE YEAR INTERVALS, 1922-1947

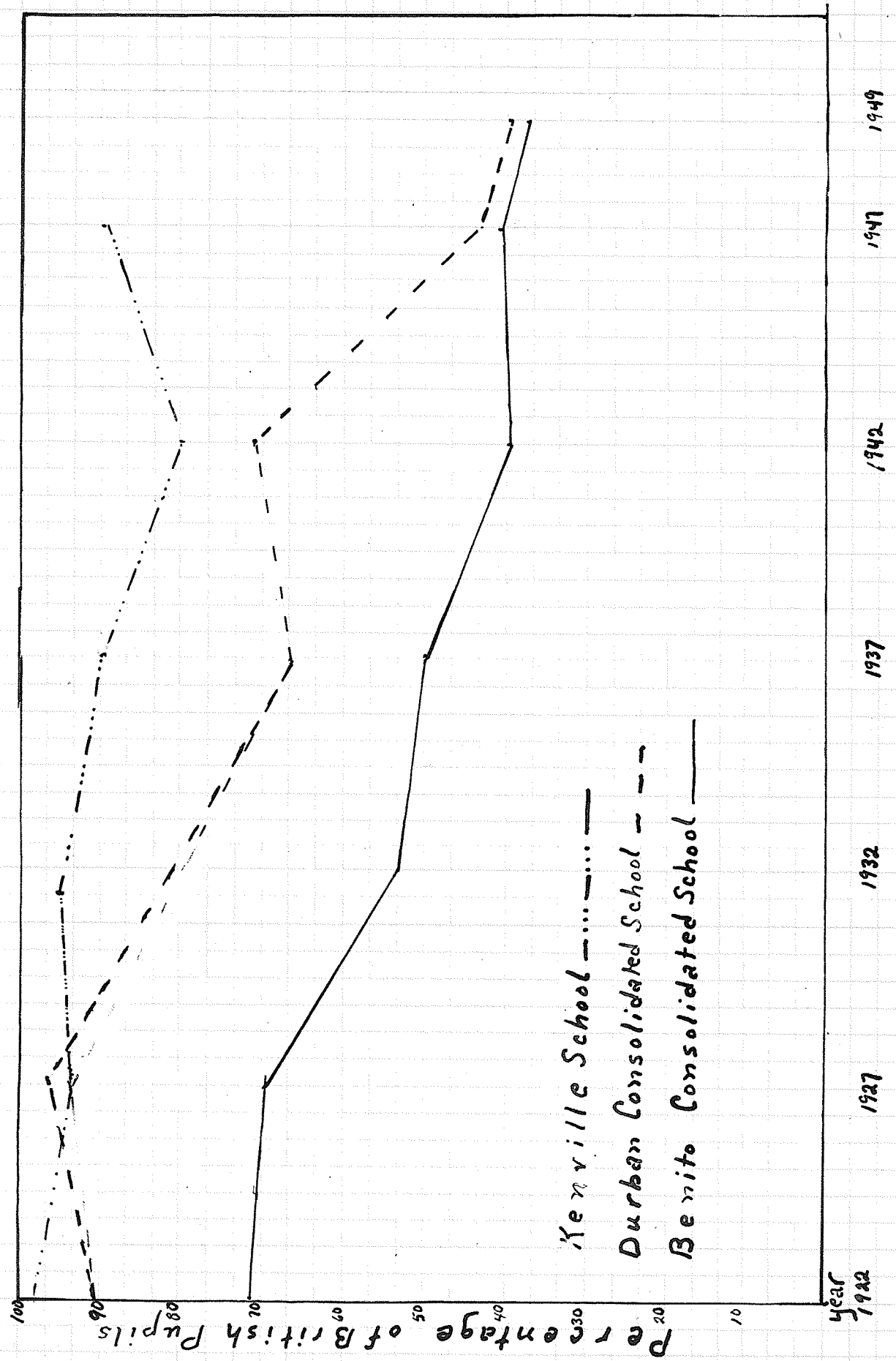


Figure 10

an increase of pupils of German origin. A study of Table XII shows that the percentage of pupils of British origin in Bowsman High School is still comparatively high. A study of school enrollment indicates that school population is increasing in the Swan River, Minitonas and Durban schools but declining in Benito Consolidated School.

TABLE XII

RACIAL ORIGIN OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS OF THE SIX SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN SWAN RIVER VALLEY FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 1947

Race	Benito	Bowsman	Durban	Kenville	Minitonas	Swan River
British	19	46	11	26	27	84
Ukrainian	19	2	10	--	6	17
Polish	4	3	--	2	2	--
Russian	2	--	2	--	--	--
German	4	--	1	--	21	6
French	3	--	--	--	1	--
Swedish	2	--	1	--	--	4
Czech	--	--	--	--	4	1
Others	--	1	--	--	2	1
Total	53	52	25	28	63	112

Percentage

British	35.85	88.46	44.0	92.86	42.86	75.00
Ukrainian	35.85	3.85	40.0	-----	9.52	15.18
Polish	7.55	5.77	-----	7.14	3.17	-----
Russian	3.78	-----	8.0	-----	-----	-----
German	7.55	-----	4.0	-----	33.33	5.35
French	5.66	-----	-----	-----	1.59	-----
Swedish	3.76	-----	4.0	-----	-----	3.57
Czech	-----	-----	-----	-----	6.35	-----
Others	-----	1.92	-----	-----	3.18	.90
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Present Enrollment of School Population

The people of Swan River Valley make use of their schools so far as the enrollment of pupils between the age limits of compulsory attendance is concerned. Beginning pupils are enrolled at the opening of the Fall Term or at Easter. During the school year all the children six years old enroll and it is exceptional to find a pupil of this age not enrolled.

Table XIII shows the enrollment in six graded schools in Swan River Valley. More than 1200 pupils are enrolled in six of the seven graded schools in Swan Valley, 468 of whom attend Swan River School.

TABLE XIII

ENROLLMENT OF PUPILS IN SWAN RIVER VALLEY GRADED SCHOOLS

School	Boys	Girls	Total
Benito	76	80	156
Bowsman Union	77	85	162
Durban	84	78	162
Kenville	30	44	74
Minitonas	97	110	207
Swan River	227	241	468
Total	591	638	1229

In the forty-eight one-room rural schools the enrollment varies from 8 to 43. The exact enrollment of the forty-eight schools was not available but a total of 450 boys and 432 girls are enrolled in thirty-five rural schools. Less than one-half of Swan River Valley pupils are enrolled in

TABLE XIV

SHOWING ENROLLMENT BY SEX AND GRADE IN SIX GRADED AND THIRTY-FIVE RURAL SCHOOLS TO GRADE VIII FOR 1948-'49

School	Gr. I		II		III		IV		V		VI		VII		VIII		Total	Total
	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G
Swan River	30	45	33	22	31	23	22	18	17	22	23	14	22	17	10	22	188	183
Minitonas	10	10	10	8	14	18	5	9	10	14	8	6	7	9	6	10	70	84
Bowsman	10	5	6	11	9	6	7	11	8	10	3	5	3	5	8	8	53	61
Benito	9	13	4	8	8	7	7	7	12	5	7	4	5	8	5	7	56	59
Durban	13	11	11	7	14	7	4	6	7	10	5	10	2	10	5	5	72	66
Kenville	3	2	2	5	4	8	4	3	3	3	1	6	2	2	1	2	24	31
Lidstone	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	9	11
Roaring River	4	1	1	1	4	2	1	2	2	1	4	1	3	1	3	2	20	12
Hall	2	1	1	1	3	4	4	1	4	1	3	2	1	4	1	4	9	15
Ravensworth	3	1	3	3	1	2	2	1	1	4	1	1	1	2	1	2	21	22
Cropper tops	2	1	1	1	4	4	2	3	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	4	6	6
Kemulch	-	1	1	1	2	2	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9	10
Brierley	-	4	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	3	1	1	3	11	7
McKay	1	2	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	15
Craigsford	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	10
Lens	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	14	15
Duncanville	2	1	2	3	1	5	2	3	3	3	1	1	2	4	2	1	19	15
Allanvale	1	1	3	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	9	7
North's Creek	1	1	2	3	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	5	10
Deer Path	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	11	3
McKinley	2	3	1	1	1	3	1	3	2	5	3	3	2	2	1	1	12	21
Total	97	106	86	79	100	100	74	76	84	90	78	65	66	77	46	70	631	663
	203		165		200		150		174		143		143		116		1294	1294

TABLE XIV (CONTINUED)
SHOWING ENROLLMENT BY SEX AND GRADE IN SIX GRADED AND THIRTY-FIVE RURAL SCHOOLS
TO GRADE VIII FOR 1948-'49

School	I		II		III		IV		V		VI		VII		VIII		Total		Total
	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	
Brought Forward	97		86		100		74		84		78		66		46		631		1294
Fisher's Siding	3		3		3		3		3		3		4		1		19		31
Old Fort	-		5		1		2		2		-		-		-		15		27
Bell River	3		4		6		5		1		-		-		-		19		35
Glover Creek	7		3		2		4		1		2		-		-		14		23
Swan Valley	-		1		1		3		-		-		-		-		12		29
Square Plains	-		1		-		1		-		-		-		-		4		9
Ruby	-		1		-		1		-		-		-		-		5		17
Lavender	-		1		1		3		2		1		6		-		15		32
Egilson	2		1		3		2		4		1		1		3		16		24
Lady Hubble	4		2		2		1		1		1		1		-		12		22
Pretty Valley	2		1		1		1		1		1		1		1		7		17
Davidson	2		-		-		-		1		-		-		-		14		19
Little Woody	1		3		-		3		2		3		1		-		16		37
Egremont	-		1		4		2		2		1		1		4		8		14
Wild Rose	4		2		3		3		4		3		1		1		19		35
Big Woody	5		1		4		2		1		2		1		1		14		43
Harlington	3		1		1		1		2		1		1		-		4		24
Mountain Crest	1		-		-		1		-		1		-		-		4		8
Drury	5		5		2		4		5		2		3		1		23		35
Floradale	3		-		2		-		4		1		-		1		18		30
Total	143	139	125	109	148	134	112	114	124	116	104	98	88	100	62	85	906	895	1801
	282		234		282		226		226	240	202		188		147		1801		

one-room rural schools. The total enrollment in Swan Valley schools is between 2500 and 2600. The high school enrollment in the secondary schools is 287. In addition, about 40 students are enrolled in Grade IX or X with the Correspondence Branch of the Department of Education.

The enrollment by sex and grade in thirty-five rural and six graded schools is shown in Table XIV. Table XIV indicates that there is a gradual decline in enrollment from Grade V to Grade VIII in most of the rural and graded schools. This decline is greater for boys than for girls indicating that more girls attend school for a longer period than do boys.

Age-Grade Distribution of Pupils

"A pupil is said to be retarded when he has arrived at a point in the school course he should have reached at an earlier age."²

The normal rate of progress of a pupil in school is generally taken to be one grade per year. A pupil should require four years to cover four grades. If he requires five years, he is retarded one year. If he requires three years, he is accelerated one year. Table XV indicates that the degree of retardation is not so great in Kenville School as in the other graded schools of Swan River Valley. A greater percentage of pupils are accelerated in Kenville School than in the other graded schools with the exception of Minitonas. Of 1229 graded pupils 276 are accelerated and 427 retarded.

Acceleration is greater in the primary grades than in

Grades V to VIII. Of the 80 pupils accelerated in Minitonas School, 40 are enrolled in the first three grades.

TABLE XV

SHOWING ACCELERATION-RETARDATION OF PUPILS IN SIX GRADED SCHOOLS IN SWAN RIVER VALLEY FOR THE YEAR 1948-'49

School	Enrollment No.	Acceleration		Normal		Retardation	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Benito	156	31	19.9	69	44.2	56	35.9
Bowsman Union	162	15	9.3	90	55.6	57	35.1
Durban	162	21	12.9	80	49.4	61	37.7
Kenville	74	23	31.1	40	54.1	11	14.8
Minitonas	207	80	38.6	77	37.2	50	24.2
Swan River	468	106	22.7	170	36.3	192	41.0
Total	1229	276	22.5	526	42.8	427	34.7

Table XVI indicates that the extent of retardation is high in many schools where permit teachers have been employed in successive years. Heavy enrollment also contributed toward pupil retardation as shown in the case of Ravensworth School. In the Lady Hubble School where there is no retardation, five qualified and three permit teachers were employed since 1940. The Lens School has a high acceleration but the majority of those accelerated are enrolled in the first four grades. Table XVI shows that the percentage of retardation in fifteen schools where permit teachers are employed at present is 49.4%. Those retarded two or more years constitute 25.6% of the 375 enrolled while 12% are retarded three years or more. Table XVII shows the extent of retardation in 10 rural schools at present served by qualified teachers. Teacher tenure has been longer in most of these schools than in the schools listed in Table XVI and a

TABLE XVI

SHOWING ACCELERATION-RETARDATION OF PUPILS IN FIFTEEN RURAL SCHOOLS IN SWAN RIVER VALLEY
FOR 1948-'49 AND TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS AND TENURE SINCE 1940

School	Qualification of Present Teacher	No. of Teachers since 1940	No. of Permit Teachers	No. of Years since Qualified Teacher	Enrollment	Acceleration		Normal		Retardation		Retardation 2 Years or more	
						No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Bell River	Permit	8	8	8	35	--	--	3	8.6	32	91.4	22	62.8
McKinley	Permit	10	6	4	33	4	12.1	6	18.2	23	69.7	9	27.3
Old Fort	Permit	10	9	8	27	2	7.3	8	28.8	17	62.9	15	55.6
Glover Creek	Permit	5 (in 4 years)	5		23	11	47.8	5	21.7	7	30.5	4	17.4
McKay	Permit	9	8	8	21	--	--	8	38.1	13	61.9	4	19.0
Hall	Permit	8	6	5	25	1	4.0	9	36.0	15	60.0	2	8.0
Brienley	Permit	10	6	2½	19	3	15.8	5	26.3	11	57.9	4	21.0
Ravensworth	Permit	7	2	2	43	3	6.9	12	27.9	28	65.2	17	39.5
Allanvale	Permit	10	9	7	17	2	11.8	13	76.4	2	11.8	--	--
Lidstone	Permit	?	?	?	22	2	9.1	12	54.5	8	36.4	4	18.2
Craigisford	Permit	?	?	?	17	4	23.5	9	53.0	4	23.5	--	--
Lens	Permit	8	7	6	32	18	56.2	8	25.0	6	18.8	3	9.4
Lady Hubble	Permit	8	3	1	18	5	27.8	13	72.2	--	--	--	--
Pretty Valley	Permit	?	?	?	21	1	4.8	10	47.6	10	47.6	9	42.9
Egilson	Permit	?	?	?	22	--	--	13	59.1	9	40.9	3	13.6
Total					375	56	14.9	134	35.7	185	49.4	96	25.6

Note.-Glover Creek School has been operating for 4 years and has never had a qualified teacher.

greater number of qualified teachers have been employed. In these schools with a total enrollment of 239, 30.9% are retarded.

TABLE XVII

SHOWING ACCELERATION-RETARDATION OF PUPILS IN TEN RURAL SCHOOLS IN SWAN RIVER VALLEY FOR 1948-49 AND QUALIFICATIONS AND LENGTH OF TENURE OF PRESENT TEACHERS

School	Qualification of Present Teacher	Tenure of Present Teacher	Enrollment	Acceleration		Normal		Retardation	
				No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Egremont Square	Second	1 yr.	15	--	--	14	93.5	1	6.5
Plains	First B	1 yr.	9	4	44.4	2	22.2	3	33.4
Lavender	First B	2 yrs.	24	2	8.3	13	54.2	9	37.5
Davidson	Second	2 yrs.	14	1	7.2	9	64.2	4	28.6
Little									
Woody	First B	3 yrs.	38	--	--	36	94.8	2	5.2
Croppertops	Second	6 yrs.	13	7	53.8	4	30.8	2	15.4
Swan Valley	Special Perm.	1 yr.	33	6	18.2	17	51.5	10	30.3
Ruby	Second	1 yr.	33	2	6.1	18	54.5	13	39.4
Harlington	First B	2 yrs.	25	2	8.0	11	44.0	12	48.0
Wild Rose	First B	1 yr.	35	3	8.5	14	40.0	18	51.5
Total			239	27	11.3	138	57.8	74	30.9

TABLE XVIII

SHOWING ACCELERATION-RETARDATION OF 1995 PUPILS IN SWAN RIVER VALLEY FOR THE YEAR 1948-49

Grading	Number	Percentage
Accelerated	361	18.1
Normal	872	43.7
Retarded	762	38.2
Total	1995	100%

Note: The total figure in Table XVIII represents approximately 80% of the enrollment in the schools of Swan River Valley.

Holding Power of the School

The holding power of Benito, Durban, Kenville and Minitonas High Schools was traced over the ten year period, 1936-'46. In September 1947 fifteen students enrolled in Grade IX in Minitonas School. Three failed to take Grade X the following year and six of those who did return withdrew from school before the end of the year. During the nine year period, 1936-'44, 102 pupils enrolled in Grade IX in the Minitonas School, 52 reaching Grade XI two years later.

During the ten year period the holding power from Grade IX to Grade XI for four secondary schools in Swan River Valley was as follows, -Benito, 56.2% ; Durban, 50.0% ; Kenville, 55.1%; and Minitonas, 50.9%. Table XIX shows that the holding power of the four schools studied was 53.1%. Benito and Kenville showed slightly better holding power than did Durban and Minitonas Schools. However, only 23.1% of the students who entered Grade IX in Benito High School reached Grade XII in the same school.

TABLE XIX

SHOWING THE HOLDING POWER OF FOUR SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN SWAN RIVER VALLEY FOR THE YEARS 1936-1946

School	Entered Gr. IX	Finished Gr. IX		Entered Gr. X		Entered Gr. XI	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Benito	121	109	90.03	80	66.1	63	56.2
Durban	73	73	93.59	50	64.1	39	50.0
Kenville	93	86	87.76	69	70.4	54	55.1
Minitonas	102	96	94.12	69	67.6	52	50.9
Total	399	364	91.23	263	67.2	213	53.1

No attempt was made to determine the reasons for the

unsatisfactory holding power of the schools during the ten year period but some effort was made to discover factors existing at present that might contribute toward low holding power.

At present out of 106 Grade IX pupils enrolled in six secondary schools in Swan River Valley, 40 are retarded one or more years. Twenty-four of 86 Grade X students and 25 of 73 Grade XI students are retarded. The percentage of retardation is greatest in Grade IX, being 37.7%. More than 33% of 265 secondary school students are retarded.

The School Programme

Minitonas, Swan River and Bowman High School students were restricted almost entirely to the Matriculation Course. Any variation from the Matriculation Programme occurred when students entering Grade X or XI after having taken one or more grades by Correspondence lacked a second language. These students were restricted to the Normal Entrance Course and selected Geography and Business Arithmetic. A language other than English has not been offered in Durban High School and only recently has become a part of the Secondary School Programme of Kenville School. During the years 1941 to 1945 a Commercial Course was offered in Benito High School under the direction of the principal, A.J. Moran. This was the only departure from the usual secondary school programme offered in the schools of Swan River Valley. At present all secondary school students in Swan River Valley take the General Course.

During the ten year period, 1936-'46, sixty-eight students took Grade XI in Minitonas High School, two of whom entered

University. Twenty-six students proceeded to Grade XII or to a partial course but did not enter University. Nine of the 26 entered Normal School and later obtained teaching positions.

School Fairs and Clubs

Boys' and Girls' Clubs were organized in Benito, Kenville and Minitonas as early as 1915 and in Swan River and Bowsman in the spring of 1916. The first fair and field day combined in Swan River Valley was organized by D.S. Woods who was acting-Inspector from March to August, 1915. This fair was held at Minitonas but Bowsman, under the leadership of the principal, Bert Pearce, and rural schools cooperated. Fairs were held in a number of schools in Swan River Valley in 1916 and each succeeding year for several years. School work, as well as the results of the club work, was exhibited. In 1926 Inspector Peach reported concerning a fair held at Minitonas, -"The work exhibited was of a high order and a credit to the pupils and teachers."³

The children and young people took an active interest in sport. Minitonas had a Girls' Baseball Club whose members helped to make the field day of 1915 a success. A picture in the Annual Report of the Department of Education for the year ending June 1915 shows these girls in action.

These and many other activities in which the young people of several decades ago engaged were considered to be important in school life even though they were extra-curricular. They taught citizenship and helped to prepare boys and girls to assume responsibilities in community and national life.

Minitonas Field Day

A study of the inspector's annual reports shows that field days were held at various places in the valley as well as at other places in the division year by year. In 1926 a field day was held in Benito and took in several surrounding school districts. In 1935 field days were held at Big Woody, Ethelbert, Fork River, Garland and The Pas, the latter named places being in the inspectoral division but outside the valley. Inspector Peach summed up the value of field days in the following words,--

"Field days mean much extra work for the teachers but the effort and time spent are well invested. Besides having other merits, they bring pupils, teachers and parents a little closer together, and thus foster the spirit of good will and fellowship."4

The first Minitonas Municipal field day was held during the Coronation Year, 1937. For some years a field day had not been held in Minitonas and several citizens began to feel that physical training of school children was being neglected. Feeling that they should assume some responsibility, they called a meeting and the Minitonas Field Day Organization was formed with James S. Maltman as President and Gordon Henderson, Secretary-treasurer. Most of the schools within the municipality were fully represented at the field day held that year. Mr. Maltman served as President until April 1942 and on his resignation was tendered a vote of thanks for his faithful and untiring service.

The Minitonas Municipal Field Day is financed by the

schools taking part. A fee of \$5.00 per room is charged and this money is used for prizes, entertainment and for general expenses.

The Field Day programme begins each year with a parade led by the Czechoslovakian Baptist Church brass band. The band of First Baptist (German) Church has also taken part in the parade within recent years.

Each year after the addresses and announcements of prize winners for the banner and marching, the children were formed into age groups and those in charge of the different groups were responsible for the sports' events. In the spring of 1947, a departure was taken when a definite programme of exercises was arranged for each age group. A study of Appendix H will indicate the scope of the field day.

High School Student Councils

During recent years High School Student Councils have been organized in every secondary school in Swan River Valley and the students are taking an active part in extra-curricular activities. The growth of the student council idea is especially noted in Benito High School.

The minutes for Benito High School Council meetings are available for the years following 1940. Those dated September 29, 1941, are quoted in part as follows,-

"We opened this meeting by appointing one day of the month on which the Council will meet and discuss any matter delivered to the secretary. Lyle moved and Fred seconded that we set the first Friday in every month apart for our meetings.

"Lyle moved and Marion seconded that the secretary be appointed to look after any funds or matters brought to the Council.

"Edna moved and Mary seconded it that at any time the Council may be in doubt in any matter it should apply to the teachers for advice."3

A study of the present council minutes reveals the growth that has taken place during the past eight years not only in the scope of the activities but also in the method of conducting meetings and taking minutes.

During the school year, 1947-'48, student councils were organized in Benito, Bowsman, Kenville, Minitonas, Durban High Schools and Swan River Collegiate Institute. Minitonas, Kenville and Swan River councils carried on an active sports' programme and an Inter-High Track and Field Meet was organized by the Swan River Collegiate Student Council. In the field of journalism a Year Book was prepared by Swan River students and Benito students used the High School printing press for the first time to publish a school paper.

In 1946 the Benito High School Council adopted a constitution which proved to be valuable to succeeding councils. A copy of the Constitution is given in Appendix H. In September 1948 student councils were organized in each of the six secondary schools in Swan River Valley. Executives and conveners of committees were elected by the students of Minitonas, Bowsman, Benito and Swan River schools and executives only in the Kenville and Durban High Schools. Constitutions have been adopted by the Minitonas and Bowsman students as well as by the students of Benito High School.

Ten committees have been formed in Benito High School and each student is a member of one of the committees. Each committee



Benito High School Radio Group singing Christmas Carols
over CJCX Yorkton, December 21, 1948
Five races are represented in the above group

Figure 11

has a chairman, secretary and about three other members. The following committees were formed in September 1947, -Library, Literary, Museum, Red Cross, School and Grounds, Social and Sports. During the year two new committees were formed and proved to be valuable. These were the Laboratory and Press Committees. In September 1948 a Music Committee was organized thus making a total of ten committees, each with special functions.

Three committees, Library, School and Grounds, and Laboratory, - are entrusted with the care and maintenance of school property. The Laboratory Committee keeps the laboratory clean and tidy and the supplies checked. Stands for Florence flasks and a holder for glass tubing were built, thus adding to the convenience and value of the laboratory.

Music, Spoken Poetry, and Drama Festivals

Each year a Music and Spoken Poetry Festival is held in Swan River. Children of various classes compete individually and in groups. Choral poetry, folk dancing and choir singing, as well as vocal solos, are adjudicated.

The rural schools as yet do not take an active part in the Swan Valley Festival but the graded schools, Benito, Kenville, Bowsman Union, Minitonas and Swan River, - usually take part in the festival. The training received in voice culture and in facing audiences is valuable to the students and compensates for the time taken to prepare for the festival.

The Swan River Valley Drama League is associated with the Music Festival. In the spring of 1948 it was decided by the executive to hold an inter-collegiate festival. This decision

did not meet with support from many schools and Swan River Collegiate is the only secondary school in the valley that has taken an active part.

Swan River Inter-High Track and Field Meet

Sports' activities are stressed by the Kenville, Minitonas and Swan River Student Councils. The students of the other high schools also engage in a programme of organized sports but not to the degree followed by the foregoing schools. The culmination of the athletic activities in Swan River Valley is the inter-high school track and field meet. This meet is sponsored by Swan River Collegiate Students' Council and is held annually on the Fair Grounds, Swan River, usually on May 24.

On May 24, 1948, about 200 students from Benito, Bowsman, Kenville, Minitonas and Swan River Schools competed in the various events. The Ethelbert Boys' Softball Team competed also and defeated the Bowsman team in the final game. The results of the competition among the schools were as follows, -Swan River, 62 points; Kenville, 57 points; Minitonas, 53 points; Benito, 40 points; and Bowsman, 25 points. The Boys' Individual Championship was won by Morley McPherson, Swan River, with Mel Henderson, Minitonas, second. The Girl's Championship was won by Pat Barker, Kenville, with Laura Carmichael, also of Kenville, runner-up. Swan River won the shield for the senior relay race.

Such an occasion as the Swan Valley Inter-High Track and Field Meet offers has educational and social value and there is an opportunity to develop good sportsmanship and to form friendships.



Benito High School Grades IX and X. Five racial origins are represented in the above group.

Figure 12



Minitonas High School Group

Figure 13

Discovering Talent

One valuable feature in student organizations is the opportunity that may be provided to discover talent among the members. Student extra-curricular activities often bring out leadership qualities that may long have remained dormant. Hidden talent may also be discovered and exercised as a result of extra-curricular activities.

Possibly the most unusual and most fruitful discovery of talent in Swan River Valley was that made by the Benito High School students. In December, 1947, a young Ukrainian Displaced Person arrived in Canada from Germany and came to Benito District. Within a month he had enrolled in Benito School although he did not understand any English. In due time the Department of Education assessed the certificates he had brought with him from Europe and required him to pass Grade XI and XII English and Grade XI History in order to obtain Senior Matriculation. Until the end of June he studied elementary English and History, thus securing a foundation, but since September he has been studying Grade XI History and English with considerable success and can speak English fluently.

A few months after he had enrolled in Benito High School, members of the Student Council discovered that he had musical talent. He was given an opportunity to study a sacred solo for the Swan River Valley Music Festival. A short time after competing at the festival, he appeared over an amateur hour broadcast by Radio Station CJGX and won second prize. Since September, 1948, he has sung at numerous functions including Teachers' Conventions

at Swan River and Kamsack. He won first prize at a second amateur and on December 11 at the Grand Finale held in Yorkton won a \$50.00 prize and was recognized as the amateur who had made the greatest progress during the year and who had the best chance of success in a musical career.

In October he began to sing each week over the Yorkton broadcasting station. His broadcasts are prepared in Benito School and care is taken with the choice of songs. On December 21 his guests were the Benito Girls' Sextette, who broadcast a half hour programme of Christmas carols. Plans are now being made for an Easter broadcast by the same group. So far as can be learned Benito High School is the only secondary school in Swan River Valley that has ventured into radio broadcasting.

The alertness of the Benito High School students bore greater fruit than might have been expected. The students are still helping the young displaced person to find a way of life in a new country and in so doing they too are finding for themselves a way of life in the land of their birth.

CHAPTER V

SCHOOL PROVISIONS AND COSTS

The present chapter is a general survey of the physical provisions and costs of education in Swan River Valley. The school system in Swan River Valley consists of seven graded, one two-room and forty-nine one-room schools. Three consolidated school districts are included among the fifty-seven districts. The local school boards vary in membership from three in most rural districts to seven in Benito. One or two rural districts are in charge of official trustees. Responsibility rests with the local school boards for providing adequate accommodation for pupils, furnishing and maintaining school buildings, collecting fees from pupils, employing and discharging teachers, and the general financial administration of the school district. In addition, the boards of consolidated districts are responsible for transporting children to and from school.

The School Plant

A survey of the school buildings shows that there are seventy-seven classrooms available, of which seventy-five are in daily use as such. Swan River has the largest building, eleven rooms being used as classrooms as well as two other small buildings on the grounds. Swan River S.D. and Benito and Durban Consolidated School Districts make

use of basement rooms as classrooms. Pupils in Minitonas School are housed in three buildings,-the four-room schoolhouse for Grade V to XII,an unused church for Grades III and IV and a remodelled garage for Grades I and II. The latter buildings are some distance from the four-room school. Pupils in Birch River Village School District are housed in two buildings at considerable distance from one another. Bowsman Union School has eight classrooms,six of which are in use,leaving two to be used as assembly halls.

Bowsman Union is the only graded school in Swan River Valley that at present provides satisfactory accommodation for the school population. Minitonas,Swan River and Birch River Schools are congested,most of the rooms housing 35 or more pupils. Kenville School,erected in 1907,and Minitonas School,built two years later,have become unsatisfactory as school houses.

There is considerable variation among rural schools,some being congested and others having low enrolment. The two extremes are shown in the enrolment of Ravensworth School with 43 and Mountain Crest with 8 pupils. Some schools are in need of repair or rebuilding while others have been remodelled completely. Several rural schools have basements which are used as playrooms in winter and for community functions.

Benito,Bowsman Union,Durban and Swan River Schools are equipped with suitable laboratory rooms. Science equipment in Minitonas School is kept in built-in closets and experiments are performed in a small room under the belfry.Benito,Swan River and Bowsman High Schools have separate library rooms.Swan River,Bowsman

and Durban Schools have principal's offices, Swan River also being equipped with a teachers' common room.

Heating and Lighting

Swan River School is heated with hot air and hot water while Benito, Durban, Bowsman Union, Minitonas, Alpine and about 20% of the one-room schools are heated with hot air. The Minitonas school supplements the heat from the furnace with stoves in each classroom. Kenville School and about 80% of the rural schools are equipped with stoves.

Swan River, Bowsman Union, Benito and Durban Schools are equipped with electric lights in some rooms. Fluorescent lights are provided in the basement classrooms of Benito and Durban Consolidated Schools. Some trouble has been caused in Benito School by lights flickering repeatedly. Faulty illumination in the basement rooms of Benito School has had serious effect upon the health and progress of several pupils.

The regulation of the Department of Education for the Province of Manitoba states that "windows should face in order of preference; east, west or south, never north, and must be fitted with adjustable blinds."¹ More than 75% of the classroom window space of Durban School is on the west side of the building but 50% of that of Benito and Minitonas Schools is on the north side and 50% south. Other schools, both graded and one-room rural, have considerable window space on the north side.

¹

Regulations of the Department of Education, p.9.
Winnipeg: King's Printer, 1934.

Playground Area and Equipment

Table XX shows the total playground area, area per pupil and total enrollment in four graded and twelve rural schools.

TABLE XX
SHOWING PLAYGROUND AREA AND ENROLLMENT

School	Area of Playground	Area per Pupil	Enrollment
Minitonas (a)	4 acres	1417 sq.ft.	123
(b)	$\frac{1}{4}$ acre	237 sq.ft.	46
(c)	large sports' ground	?	38
Swan River	6 acres	568 sq.ft.	460
Benito	8 acres	2234 sq.ft.	156
Durban	8 acres	2151 sq.ft.	162
Duncanville	3 acres	3532 sq.ft.	37
Deer Path	2 acres	6233 sq.ft.	14
Rearing River	2 acres	2640 sq.ft.	33
Kemulch	2 acres	4585 sq.ft.	19
Lidstone	1 acre	1980 sq.ft.	22
Allanvale	$\frac{1}{4}$ acre	1922 sq.ft.	17
Lens	3 acres	4034 sq.ft.	32
Croppertops	3 acres	10053 sq.ft.	13
Egilson	2 acres	3960 sq.ft.	22
Old Fort	$1\frac{1}{2}$ acres	2420 sq.ft.	27
Ravensworth	3 acres	3039 sq.ft.	43
Brierley	2 acres	4585 sq.ft.	19
Minimum		100 sq.ft.	

It will be seen from Table XX that the schools have sufficient playground for present enrollments.

Equipment for sports in most schools consists of footballs, softballs and bats. Playground equipment consists of swings and teeters. High school pupils have access to skating rinks in the villages.

Most teachers reported that they supervised play activities during the spring and autumn but during the winter months there is very little supervision of the playground.

Equipment for Science Instruction

Benito, Durban and Swan River schools are equipped with suitable apparatus for instruction in Physics and Chemistry. Considerable care has been shown in the selection of useful materials. A microscope is available in Benito School for instruction in Biology.

Less than 25% of the rural schools have adequate equipment for instruction in Grade VII and VIII Science. There is no science equipment in several schools.

Equipment for Music Instruction

Swan River and Benito schools have a piano, radio and phonograph; Bowsman Union School has a phonograph and a radio; Durban School has a piano; Minitonas School, a phonograph and an organ; and Kenville School, an organ.

Twenty percent of the rural schools are equipped with pianos while most have either a phonograph or an organ or both. Several phonographs are unusable at present.

Few teachers are sufficiently trained to teach music and little use is made of either the piano or organ in music instruction. The Annual Swan River Music Festival has provided some incentive in the graded schools and an effort is made to prepare pupils for the Spring competitions.

Recent Building Projects

During the years 1947 and '48 considerable building and repairing projects were carried out by some school boards in Swan River Valley. The School Board of Big Woody district made

a number of valuable improvements including laying a concrete floor in the barn and digging a seven foot well in the school basement to serve as drainage. Many projects were under the direction of the teacher, Mr. L. E. Grace.

During the year 1948 teachers' residences were built in the Ruby and Benito School Districts. The Benito School Board made an unusual departure when a two-room teacherage was constructed for use by two elementary teachers.

Projected Building Plans

Plans are being made to erect new schools in Minitonas, Kenville, Swan River, Birch River, and Mafeking and in a number of rural school districts and to build an addition to Durban School. The following extracts taken from The Star and Times, Swan River, issue for January 21, 1949, indicates some of the preliminary steps being taken,-

Oakhurst,-"At the annual meeting it was decided to call a general ratepayers' meeting, date to be settled by the trustees, at which it will be decided if, where, when, and how to build a new school and after contacting other districts, what kind also."

Roaring River,-"Plans for building a new school were discussed and the secretary asked to obtain some definite information on the subject."

Minitonas,-"Consolidated School Area

All interested in the formation of a Consolidated School Area comprising,-

Minitonas	S.D. 1102
North's Creek	S.D. 2284
Oakhurst	S.D. 1114
West Favel	S.D. 1037
Ravensworth	S.D. 1185
Roaring River	S.D. 1215

Are hereby notified of a public meeting to be held in the Town Hall on Thursday the 10th day of February, at 8 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the possibility of a Consolidated School Area.

Charles Till, secretary-treasurer,
Minitonas S.D. 1102

The nature of the building programme in the foregoing named school districts will doubtless be determined by the decisions made regarding the proposed Consolidated School Area.

Plans are being made to commence a building programme at Kenville in the spring of 1949 and a fund of almost \$3000 has been set aside for that purpose. Although three classrooms are in operation in Mafeking, plans are being projected to build a three-room school. If the present annual increase in population in the district is maintained, such a school will not be adequate within a few years.

In Durban plans are being projected to build a two-room addition to the present building. There is some desire on the part of many ratepayers of the district to provide opportunity for students to take Grade XII in Durban School, thus making necessary an additional room in the High School. Reference has been made elsewhere in the present report to building plans being projected in Swan River.

Cost of Education in Swan River Valley

Following closely upon the discussion of educational provisions it is logical to proceed to a brief survey of the cost of the services provided. No attempt has been made to discover the cost of education in every school district in Swan River Valley but expenditures for the year ending December 31, 1948, of the three consolidated school districts and of Kenville, Minitonas and Swan River School Districts have been examined. A comparison of salaries paid indicates somewhat the cost of services provided in the various school districts and, to some extent, the character of the services. An attempt

has been made to show differences in school district ability.

Salaries Paid School Principals

Table XXI shows the salaries paid secondary school principals for the years 1927 to 1948. A study of Table XXI shows that during the years of economic depression the salaries of the principals of Swan River, Durban and Kenville Schools were less affected than were those at Benito, Minitonas and Bowsman River. Of the six secondary schools the lowest average salary was paid by Minitonas School District. The average salary paid at Benito was higher than those of several of the other districts but salaries decreased rapidly during the depression years. During these years there was a tendency to reduce salaries still lower, with changes of principals, while during the recovery years the principal's salary increased substantially whenever there was a change of principal. The comparatively low principal's salary paid at Minitonas and the policy followed by Benito Consolidated School Boards undoubtedly contributed toward short periods of principal tenure. Conversely, the greater salary stability in Durban, Kenville and Swan River Districts contributed toward long periods of principal tenure.

Salaries Paid Teachers

The present salaries paid elementary teachers are largely determined by teacher qualification. In accordance with departmental regulation fourteen school districts in Swan River Valley each pay \$1000 salary while fourteen

TABLE XXI²

SHOWING SALARIES PAID THE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPALS OF SWAN RIVER VALLEY FOR THE YEARS
1927 TO 1948

School District	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
Benito	\$1900	1900	1900	1950	2000	1800	1200	1200	1000	1000	1000	1100	1100	1235	1250
Bowsman U	2000	1800	1800	1800	1900	1700	1400	1100	1100	1100	1150	1300	1300	1500	1500
Durban	2000	2000	2000	2000	1800	1350	1200	1200	1200	1200	1200	1200	1200	1300	1300
Kenville	1750	1800	1600	1700	1650	1200	1100	1200	1200	1200	1200	1200	1200	1300	1300
Minitonas	1800	1600	1600	1600	1800	1500	950	950	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1100	1100
Swan River	2000	2000	2000	2300	2400	1950	1500	1400	1400	1400	1400	1400	1400	1500	1500
School District	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	Average	Lowest Salary Paid	Highest Salary Paid				
Benito	1400	1550	1750	1890	2000	2000	2200	2420	1554	1000				2420	
Bowsman U	1500	1500	1650	1800	1800	1900	2000	2300	1604	1100				2300	
Durban	1300	1400	1500	1650	1700	1750	1900	2000	1537	1200				2000	
Kenville	1300	1400	1500	1550	1700	1850	2000	2200	1483	1100				2200	
Minitonas	1150	1400	1400	1600	1600	1800	2000	2200	1393	950				2200	
Swan River	1600	1750	1900	2000	2100	2200	2400	2600	1831	1400				2600	

districts employing permit teachers with Grade XII and six weeks of professional instruction pay \$1100. Salaries paid qualified rural teachers vary from \$1400 to \$1600, most being \$1500. Salaries for graded school teachers average \$1500. In most schools Grade VII and VIII teachers are paid \$50 more than other elementary teachers. In Benito the primary teacher receives as much as the Grade VII-VIII teacher.

During the year ending December 31, 1948, the following expenditures were made on teachers' salaries, - Swan River S.D., \$20,500; Benito Consolidated S.D., \$10,034; Minitonas, \$8549; Durban Consolidated, \$7653; Kenville S.D., \$4258; Alpine Consolidated S.D., \$1942. During the year Swan River S.D. employed 13 teachers, Benito S.D., 6; Minitonas, 5 until June 30, 6 in the Fall; Durban, 5; Kenville, 3; and Alpine Consolidated S.D., 2 teachers. The following grants from the Provincial Government were received, - Swan River, \$14,600; Benito S.D., \$8,400; Durban S.D., \$6740; Minitonas S.D., \$5315; Kenville S.D., \$2889; and Alpine Consolidated S.D., \$2300. During the year Alpine Consolidated School District received as a general grant \$360 more than was paid the teachers. Until June 30 permit teachers were employed.

Cost of Transportation

The cost of transportation of pupils for Benito, Durban and Alpine Consolidated School Districts totalled \$17,865. During 1948 transportation cost Durban Consolidated School District \$8128; Benito, \$6141; and Alpine, \$3595. The transportation costs were greater than the total teachers' salaries

in Durban and Alpine districts. Table XXII shows the transportation, tuition, maintenance, and total cost per pupil enrolled in the consolidated schools for 1949.

TABLE XXII

SHOWING THE COST PER PUPIL IN THE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICTS FOR 1948

School	Teachers' Salaries	Cost per Pupil	Transportation	Cost per Pupil	Maintenance and Repair	Cost per Pupil
Alpine	\$ 1942	\$25.90	\$3595	\$47.93	\$1543	\$20.57
Benito	10034	62.71	6141	3.3	3197	19.93
Durban	7653	47.83	8123	50.62	4049	25.30
School	New Building	Cost per Pupil	Other Expense	Cost per Pupil	Total Expenditure	Cost per Pupil
Alpine	----	----	----	----	\$ 7080	\$ 94.40
Benito	\$1030	\$6.44	\$1710	\$10.68	22112	133.19
Durban	----	----	200	1.25	20030	125.00

Table XXII shows that Durban School District paid in transportation costs more per pupil than did Alpine and Benito districts. A study of school enrollment shows that a greater percentage of pupils are transported to and from school in Durban and Alpine districts than are transported to and from Benito School. Durban and Alpine pay more per pupil for transportation than for tuition. This may be accounted for by the fact that there are more vandrivers employed than teachers in these districts.

Cost of Tuition

A study of Table XXIII shows that Benito School District paid more per pupil for tuition than did Durban, Kenville, Minitonas and Swan River school districts. In schools where enrollment per teacher was heavy the cost per pupil tended to be less than in schools with smaller enrollments. This was true of Minitonas, Durban and Swan River districts.

TABLE XXIII

TUITION COST PER PUPIL FOR FIVE GRADED SCHOOLS FOR THE YEAR 1948

School	Teachers' Salaries	Cost per Pupil	Total Cost	Cost per Pupil
Benito	\$10,034	\$62.71	\$22,112	\$138.19
Durban	7,653	47.83	20,030	125.00
Kenville	4,258	56.77	10,151	135.34
Minitonas	8,549	42.75	17,114	85.57
Swan River	20,500	44.56	30,063	65.35

The total cost per pupil for the first four named school districts was increased considerably because of the building and repair programme that was carried on.

Sources of Revenue

Provincial grants and taxes are the two main sources of revenue for education. Rural school districts are required to pay a mill rate that would come to 6 mills on the balanced assessment. Since some land within a municipality is not taxed, the general levy is usually more than 6 mills. In Minitonas Rural Municipality the general levy was 7 mills in 1948. The general levy of incorporated villages in Swan River Valley is

6 mills. The provincial grant per school district is the difference collected through the general levy and \$1400 per classroom which is in operation at least 200 school days per year and in charge of a teacher drawing a salary of at least \$1200. For high schools an additional \$500 per secondary classroom is granted. Where teachers receiving salaries under \$1200 are employed, the difference between the salary received and \$1200 is subtracted from \$1400. The grant is then calculated by subtracting the amount raised through the general levy from the figure reached after calculations are made as described above.

Revenue derived from grants is somewhat higher in consolidated districts in view of the transportation factor. In 1948, \$103,168 was received by six school districts in Swan River Valley through taxes and grants for educational purposes. Of this amount \$43,503 was provided by grant and \$59,665, or slightly over 57%, was provided by taxation. Table XXIV shows the sources of revenue for the school districts.

A study of Table XXIV shows that, exclusive of balance, Benito and Minitonas school districts received more revenue from provincial grants, student fees and other sources than from municipal levies and Alpine almost as much. Durban and Kenville districts received twice as much from municipal levies as from grants or other sources.

Table XXV contains statistical information for twenty-one school districts in the Municipality of Minitonas. The contribution to the Municipal Levy was calculated from the tax rate and assessment. An attempt to calculate the pro-

vincial grant was made but difficulty arose from the fact that the total salaries paid permit teachers was not known for every district. Some districts employed qualified teachers from January to June 1948 and permit teachers from September to the end of the year. The figures listed for provincial grants are approximate and subject to error for the reasons given above.

TABLE XXIV

SOURCES OF REVENUE OF SIX SCHOOL DISTRICTS FOR THE YEAR 1948

School District	Balance	Grants	Promissory notes Discounted	Revenue from Pupils	Revenue from other Sources
Alpine	\$ 636.38	\$ 3156.76	\$-----	\$ ----	\$ 9.78
Benito	8 000.00	108 00.00	-----	----	500.00
Durban	-----	6740.82	-----	85.00	7.00
Kenville	-----	2889.38	-----	177.10	236.94
Minitonas	533.04	5315.60	4000.00	541.12	304.10
Swan River	-----	14600.00	-----	-----	-----

School District	Municipal Levy	Total Revenue	Revenue Exclusive of Balance and Promissory notes discounted	Percent Grants were of Revenue excl. of Bal. and Prom. N. Disc.
Alpine	\$ 3550.00	\$ 7353	\$ 6716.54	46.9
Benito	10600.00	29900	21900.00	49.3
Durban	15000.00	21833	21833.00	30.6
Kenville	7459.08	10763	10763.00	26.8
Minitonas	5496.06	16190	11656.88	45.6
Swan River	17560.00	32160	32160.00	45.4

Table XXV shows that the school districts with the highest assessments are Minitonas, Roaring River, Lidstone and Oakhurst while low assessment school districts are Allanvale, Hall, Brierley and Grahamville. Lens S.D. not included among the districts listed is partially in unorganized territory. The

contribution of the provincial government varied from district to district, in several districts exceeding that raised through the municipal levy.

Sixty-eight resident landowners in Kenville were assessed \$77140. In addition 62 $\frac{1}{2}$ sections were assessed \$173730, making a total assessment of \$250870. The general levy for school purposes was 7 mills and the special levy was 27 mills. Miniconas with a larger assessment levied at total of 20 mills.

TABLE XXV

SCHOOL DISTRICT PAYMENTS TOWARD THE COST OF EDUCATION AND RECEIPTS FROM PROVINCIAL GRANTS FOR TWENTY-ONE SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF MINITONAS FOR 1948

School District	No. of Teachers	Assessment per S.D.	General Levy	Special Mill Rate	Special Levy	Total Contribution	Prov. Grant
Allanvale	1	\$26510	\$ 186	17	\$ 451	\$ 637	\$ 924
Avonlea	1	7130	500	7	500	1000	670
Brierley	1	42700	299	12.3	525	824	871
Craigsford	1	59070	203	28	1654	1857	963
Croppertops	1	50740	355	13	660	1015	1045
Duncanville	1	83500	584	3.2	267	851	626
Fisher's Siding	1	51290	359	19	975	1334	811
Floradale	1	84160	589	6.8	572	1161	743
Grahamville	1	42290	296	1	42	338	814
Hall	1	38140	267	8.5	324	591	903
Kemulch	1	83680	586	9.5	795	1381	524
Lidstone	1	104960	735	13	1364	2099	665
McKay	1	48220	338	6	289	627	832
North's Creek	1	50770	355	0	000	355	975
Oakhurst	1	87130	610	6.5	566	1176	790
Ravensworth	1	75800	531	7	531	1062	679
Roaring River	1	116550	816	4.5	524	1340	354
Sinclair	1	64640	452	0	000	452	718
Swanford	1	43450	304	10	434	738	866
West Favelle	1	78720	551	1.4	110	651	659
Minitonas	5	279510	1957	13	3634	5591	5316

Differences in Financial Ability

A study made some years ago indicated that in 1929-1930 municipalities with a low income and small effort, measured in dollars, paid the highest rates on income per census pupil. The marginal municipality of Rossburn made an effort 1.68 times that of the Miniota Municipal School District, while the sub-marginal municipality of Chatfield made an effort 2.4 times as great as Swan River Municipality and Town. Table XXVI indicates the effort per census made by rural and urban municipalities to support public schools in 1929-1930.

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TABLE XXVI

EFFORT PER CENSUS PUPIL MADE BY RURAL AND URBAN MUNICIPALITIES
TO SUPPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS, 1929-1930

Municipality	Local Effort per Census Pupil	Tax Rate on \$100 of Total Cash Farm and Current Vill- age Income per Census Pupil	Tax Rates on \$100 of Curr- ent Income per Census Pupil
Strathcona	\$48.75	3.24	4.46
Dufferin and Carman Town	63.45	3.76	4.85
Thompson	64.36	3.43	4.80
Miniota Municipal School District	89.09	4.06	5.67
Dauphin(rural)	42.39	4.29	6.02
Chatfield	20.06	11.08	----
Rossburn	36.36	6.81	8.98
Ethelbert	21.81	8.69	----
Swan River and Town	56.52	4.47	6.13
Winnipeg	67.86	----	2.68
St. James	42.46	----	3.56
Transcona	32.76	----	3.65
Dauphin(town)	55.86	----	5.26

There is some difference in the ability of school districts within Swan River Valley to pay education costs. In the eastern part of Minitonas Municipality and in some unorganized areas the land is not so productive as in other parts of the valley. Considerable marsh land exists in these parts thus lessening the productive capacity of the area. School districts here are not able to pay educational costs as are districts in more favorable areas. At present permit teachers are employed in most of these districts and the cost of tuition is thus substantially reduced often to the detriment of the pupils.

TABLE XXVII

THE RANKING OF TWENTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN MINITONAS MUNICIPALITY ACCORDING TO ASSESSMENT, DISTRICT CONTRIBUTION TOWARD COSTS, AND PROVINCIAL GRANT

School District	Rank according to Assessment	Rank according to District Contribution	Rank according to Provincial Grant Receipts
Roaring River	1 (largest)	4	1 (least)
Lidstone	2	1 (greatest)	5
Oakhurst	3	6	10
Floradale	4	7	9
Kemulch	5	3	2
Duncanville	6	11	3
West Favelle	7	14	4
Ravensworth	8	8	7
Avonlea	9	10	6
Sinclair	10	18	8
Craigsford	11	2	18
Fisher's Siding	12	5	11
North's Creek	13	19	19
Croppertops	14	9	20
McKay	15	16	13
Swanford	16	13	14
Brierley	17	12	15
Grahamville	18	20	12
Hall	19	15	16
Allanvale	20	17	17

In view of the wealth of the area, good crops, and government assistance much of the Swan River area has not been providing according to local ability. In rural school districts the special mill rate varied from 0 to 28 mills in the Rural Municipality of Minitonas. Throughout the Valley many schools are in need of repair and several of rebuilding. With greater effort on the part of ratepayers, improvement could be made and a step forward in the educational development of Swan River Valley taken.

CHAPTER VI

THE POSITION OF THE TEACHER

Introduction

Among important questions fundamental to the progress of education is that which concerns the position of the teacher. If her position in society is to be clearly understood, an attempt must be made to discover the answers to a number of pertinent questions. These questions include teacher preparation, security of tenure and the effect of financial provisions on the teaching personnel.

"The administrative, financial, supervisory and most other services of the school system revolve around the activities of the teacher and of the children in his charge. Expenditures for salaries of professional workers in a typical school system are much larger than all other school expenditures combined. Even slight improvements in personnel policies of teachers in a given system may increase materially the returned from school expenditures"¹

Possibly the most important factor which influences the effectiveness of the teaching situation is the personality of the teacher. The teacher serves as an example to her pupils and molds child character and personality to a greater extent than she may realize. Her activities within and without the classroom are subjected to close scrutiny. Small children especially are influenced by their teacher's mannerisms and personality.

¹ Survey Report of the Cincinnati Schools, p.202.
Cincinnati, Ohio: Bureau of Government Research, 1935.

The present chapter comprises a survey of the teaching staff in the schools of Swan River Valley. Data were obtained by means of a questionnaire addressed to all teachers. The response was very satisfactory as ninety percent of the teachers replied. Names are omitted from the tables and discussions which follow. All information refers to the teaching staff as constituted at December 31st, 1948. Four teachers were replaced at the beginning of January, 1949, and one more classroom has been opened at Swan River.

The teaching personnel of Swan River and Minitonas Rural Municipalities were studied separately and a comparison made of the two staffs from the standpoint of preparation, qualification and tenure. The personnel of the incorporated Town of Swan River and the villages of Benito and Bowsman, as well as of the unorganized territory, was considered separately from that of the two rural municipalities.

Racial Origin, Marital Status, Age and Sex of Teachers

Racial origin, marital status, age, sex, training and qualifications of the teachers of Minitonas and Swan River Rural Municipalities, of the Town of Swan River and the incorporated village of Benito and of the unorganized territory to the north are shown in Tables XXVIII, XXIX, XXX and XXXI.

Twenty-eight teachers comprise the teaching staff within the municipality of Minitonas. Of these six are

employed by Minitonas School Board and twenty-two serve in one-room rural schools. Forty-six percent are of British racial origin and the remaining 54% of Ukrainian, Polish, German and Scandinavian origin. Nineteen of twenty-nine teachers within Swan River Rural Municipality are British. Only six of twenty-five teachers of Swan River, Benito and Bowsman Union Schools are non-Anglo-Saxon. Of the eleven teachers in the unorganized territory, four are British. Of ninety-three teachers within Swan River Valley, 59.2% are of British racial origin; 18.2%, Slavic; 9.7%, German; 9.7%, Scandinavian; and 3.2%, other racial origin.

The average age of teachers in Minitonas Municipality is 21 years. More than 64% are under 20 years old. The average age of teachers elsewhere in Swan River Valley is 31 years; 15.4% being less than 20 years.

Twenty-six percent of the teachers in Swan River Valley are male. Forty-six percent of male teachers and 80% of female teachers are single. Most of the married female teachers are employed in Swan River Municipality and the unorganized territory.

Academic Preparation of Teachers

The academic preparation of all but one of the teachers of Minitonas Municipality was acquired in Manitoba. Several teachers in Swan River Municipality received their elementary and part or all of their secondary education in Saskatchewan or in Ontario. One teacher attended school in North Dakotah and one in Australia. The academic prep-

TABLE XXVIII

SHOWING RACIAL ORIGIN, AGE, SEX, MARITAL STATUS, AND PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION
OF TEACHERS OF MINITONAS MUNICIPALITY

Teacher	Race	Age	Sex	Marital Status	Teacher Training School Attended	Year of Attendance	Length of Term, Months	Certificate or Permit
1	Danish	42	Male	Married	Regina	1924-25	10 months	First A Perm.
2	Icelandic	32	Male	Married	U. of Manitoba	1943-44	9 months	Coll. Int.
3	Ukrainian	23	Male	Single	Prov. Normal (Wpg.)	1947-48	5 months	First B. Int.
4	German	25	Female	Single	Prov. Normal (Wpg.)	1944-45	10 months	First B. Perm.
5	Ukrainian	22	Female	Single	Prov. Normal (Wpg.)	1945-46	10 months	First B. Comd.
6	British	21	Female	Single	-----	-----	-----	Permit
7	Swedish	20	Female	Single	Prov. Normal (Wpg.)	1947-48	10 months	First B. Int.
8	British	25	Female	Single	Prov. Normal (Wpg.)	1943-44	10 months	First B. Perm.
9	British	38	Female	Single	?	?	?	Second Class
10	British	45	Female	Married	Dauphin Normal	1925-26	10 months	Second Class
11	Ukrainian	17	Female	Single	Prov. Normal, Tuxedo	1948	11 months	Permit
12	British	17	Female	Single	Prov. Normal, Tuxedo	1948	11 months	Permit
13	British	18	Female	Single	Prov. Normal, Tuxedo	1948	11 months	Permit
14	British	19	Female	Single	Prov. Normal, Tuxedo	1948	11 months	Permit
15	British	17	Female	Single	Prov. Normal, Tuxedo	1948	11 months	Permit
16	Ukrainian	18	Male	Single	Prov. Normal, Tuxedo	1948	11 months	Permit
17	Polish	17	Male	Single	Prov. Normal, Tuxedo	1948	11 months	Permit
18	British	18	Male	Single	Prov. Normal, Tuxedo	1948	11 months	Permit
19	Polish	19	Male	Single	Prov. Normal, Tuxedo	1948	11 months	Permit
20	German	18	Female	Single	Prov. Normal, Tuxedo	1948	11 months	Permit
21	Ukrainian	18	Female	Single	Prov. Normal, Tuxedo	1948	11 months	Permit
22	British	18	Female	Single	Prov. Normal, Tuxedo	1948	11 months	Permit
23	Ukrainian	18	Female	Single	Prov. Normal, Tuxedo	1948	11 months	Permit
24	German	17	Female	Single	Prov. Normal, Tuxedo	1948	11 months	Permit
25	British	17	Female	Single	Prov. Normal, Tuxedo	1948	11 months	Permit
26	British	16	Female	Single	Prov. Normal, Tuxedo	1948	11 months	Permit
27	British	16	Female	Single	Prov. Normal, Tuxedo	1948	11 months	Permit
28	Ukrainian	16	Female	Single	Prov. Normal, Tuxedo	1948	11 months	Permit

TABLE XXIX

SHOWING RACIAL ORIGIN, AGE, SEX, MARITAL STATUS, AND PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION
OF TEACHERS OF SWAN RIVER MUNICIPALITY

Teacher	Race	Age	Sex	Marital Status	Teacher Training School Attended	Year of Attendance	Length of Term, Mths.	Certificate or Permit
1	British	57	Male	Married	Dauphin, Regina	?	?	First
2	Russian	28	Male	Married	Brandon Normal	1938-39	10	First A
3	German	21	Female	Single	Prov. Normal, Wpg.	1946-47	10	First B Perm.
4	Dutch	23	Female	Single	Prov. Normal, Wpg.	1945-46	10	First B Perm.
5	British	25	Female	Single	Prov. Normal, Wpg.	1945-46	10	First B ?
6	British	20	Female	Single	Prov. Normal, Wpg.	1947-48	10	First B Int.
7	British	21	Female	Single	Prov. Normal, Wpg.	1947-48	10	First B Int.
8	British	21	Female	Single	Prov. Normal, Wpg.	1947-48	10	First B Int.
9	German	25	Female	Single	Prov. Normal, Wpg.	?	10	First B Int.
10	British	22	Female	Single	Prov. Normal, Wpg.	1946-47	10	First B Cond.
11	British	20	Female	Single	Prov. Normal, Wpg.	1947-48	10	First B Cond.
12	British	45	Female	Married	Prov. Normal, Wpg.	?	10	First B Cond.
13	Swedish	26	Female	Single	Prov. Normal, Wpg.	1945-46	10	First B Perm.
14	British	22	Female	Single	Prov. Normal, Wpg.	1946-47	10	First B Int.
15	British	60	Male	Married	?	?	?	First B Int.
16	Swedish	41	Male	Married	?	?	?	Second Class
17	British	40	Male	Married	Prov. Normal, Wpg.	1924-25	?	Second Class
18	British	41	Female	Widow	Dauphin, Wpg. Normal	?	10	Second Class
19	British	38	Female	Single	Prov. Normal, Wpg.	?	?	Second Class
20	British	57	Female	Married	?	1931-32	10	Second Class
21	British	49	Female	Married	Portage la Prairie, Wpg.	?	?	Second Class
22	British	63	Female	Married	Teacher's College, N.D.	'21	?	Second Class
23	German	18	Female	Married	Prov. Normal, Tuxedo	1915	?	Special Permit
24	Ukrainian	24	Male	Single	Prov. Normal, Tuxedo	1948	1 1/2	Permit
25	British	18	Female	Single	Prov. Normal, Tuxedo	1948	1 1/2	Permit
26	British	18	Female	Single	Prov. Normal, Tuxedo	1948	1 1/2	Permit
27	British	17	Female	Single	Prov. Normal, Tuxedo	1948	1 1/2	Permit
28	German	17	Female	Single	Prov. Normal, Tuxedo	1948	1 1/2	Permit
29	Ukrainian	18	Female	Single	Prov. Normal, Tuxedo	1948	1 1/2	Permit

TABLE XXX

SHOWING RACIAL ORIGIN, AGE, SEX, MARITAL STATUS, AND PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION
OF TEACHERS OF SWAN RIVER, BENITO, AND BOWSMAN UNION SCHOOLS

Teacher	Race	Age	Sex	Marital Status	Teacher Training School Attended	Year of Attendance	Length of Term, Mths	Certificate or Permit
1	British	36	Male	Married	Prov. Normal, Wpg.	1931-32	10	Collegiate Perm
2	Icelandic	34	Male	Married	Faculty of Education	1932-33	several	First A. Perm.
3	British	27	Male	Single	Prov. Normal, Wpg.	1945-46	10	First B. Int.
4	Czech	21	Male	Single	Prov. Normal, Wpg.	1947-48	10	First B. Int.
5	British	24	Female	Single	Prov. Normal, Tuxedo	1943-44	10	First B. Perm.
6	British	24	Female	Single	Prov. Normal, Wpg.	1943-44	10	First B. Perm.
7	British	35	Female	Single	Prov. Normal, Wpg.	1935-36	10	First B. Perm.
8	British	38	Female	Married	Faculty of Education	1927-28	several	Collegiate
9	British	48	Female	Single	Normal School, Wpg.	1921-	10	First B. Perm.
10	British	19	Female	Single	Normal School, Wpg.	1921-	6	Second Class
11	British	60	Female	Single	Prov. Normal, Tuxedo	1946-47	10	First B. Int.
12	British	51	Female	Single	Normal School, Wpg.	?	?	Second Class
13	British	34	Male	Married	Normal School, Wpg.	1919	?	Collegiate Perm
14	British	23	Female	Single	Normal School, Wpg.	1932-33	10	Collegiate Int.
15	British	20	Female	Single	Faculty of Education	1947-48	9	Collegiate Int.
16	French	35	Male	Married	Faculty of Education	1947-48	9	Collegiate Perm
17	Ukrainian	28	Male	Single	Faculty of Education	?	?	First B. Int.
18	Danish	33	Female	Single	Prov. Normal, Tuxedo	1945-46	10	Second Class
19	British	28	Female	Married	Dauphin Normal School	1932-33	10	First B. Perm.
20	British	50	Female	Married	Normal School, Wpg.	1939-40	10	Second Class
21	British	23	Female	Single	?	?	?	First B. Int.
22	British	23	Female	Single	Prov. Normal, Tuxedo	?	10	First B. Int.
23	British	23	Female	Single	Prov. Normal, Tuxedo	?	10	First B. Int.
24	Swedish	23	Female	Single	Prov. Normal, Tuxedo	?	10	First B. ?
25	British	21	Female	Single	Prov. Normal, Tuxedo	?	10	First B. ?

Note.-Some ages given above are approximate.

TABLE XXXI

SHOWING RACIAL ORIGIN, AGE, SEX, MARITAL STATUS, AND PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION
OF TEACHERS IN UNORGANIZED TERRITORY OF SWAN RIVER VALLEY

Teacher	Race	Age	Sex	Marital Status	Teacher Training School Attended	Year of Attendance	Length of Term, Mths.	Certificate, or Permit
1	German	?	Male	Widower	?	?	?	Second Class
2	German	?	Female	Married	?	1931-32	10	Second Class
3	British	?	Female	Married	?	?	10	Second Class
4	British	21	Female	Single	Prov. Normal, Tuxedo	1947-48	10	First B. Int.
5	British	?	Male	Married	?	?	?	Second Class
6	Ukrainian	34	Female	Married	Normal School, WPG.	?	10	First B. Perm.
7	British	?	Female	Married	?	?	?	First B.
8	Icelandic	18	Male	Single	-----	-----	0	Permit
9	Ukrainian	20	Female	Single	Prov. Normal, Tuxedo	1948	1½	Permit
10	Ukrainian	18	Female	Single	Prov. Normal, Tuxedo	1948	1½	Permit
11	Polish	18	Female	Single	Prov. Normal, Tuxedo	1948	1½	Permit

TABLE XXXII

SHOWING RACIAL ORIGIN OF TEACHERS IN SWAN RIVER VALLEY

Racial Origin	Minitonas Municipality No.	Swan River Municipality No.	Towns: Benito Bowsman, Swan R. No.	Unorganized No.	Swan River Valley No.
British	13	19	19	4	55
Slav	9	3	1	4	17
German	3	4	0	2	9
Scandinavian	3	2	3	1	9
Others	3	1	2	0	3
TOTAL	28	29	25	11	93
	46.43	65.52	76.00	36.36	59.14
	32.14	10.34	4.00	36.36	18.28
	10.71	13.79	0.00	18.18	9.68
	10.72	6.89	12.00	9.10	9.68
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

aration of 40% of the teachers of Swan River Valley was acquired within the valley. Seventy-three percent of these are employed in the school districts of Minitonas Municipality. Many are permit teachers who attended secondary schools located in Swan River Valley.

No attempt is made to summarize the academic preparation of the ninety-three teachers who serve in the schools of Swan River Valley. A summary of academic preparation of secondary school teachers is given in Table XXXIII. Twelve teachers give instruction in six secondary schools within the valley. Three of the six principals have a university degree. Seven of the twelve teachers, including the principals, each hold a university degree. Besides the secondary school teachers only one teacher at present employed in Swan River Valley holds a university degree. Junior Matriculation is the highest academic standing of over 40% of the teachers. Twenty-five percent of the qualified attained no higher academic standing than Junior Matriculation.

Eleven of the twelve secondary school teachers answered the questionnaire that was forwarded to them. Table XXXIII shows that nine of the eleven received their high school training in Manitoba, six attending Winnipeg schools.

Professional Preparation of Teachers

Teaching efficiency depends to a large extent upon professional preparation before and after beginning to teach. For sixty-eight percent of the teachers in Minitonas Municipality the only professional preparation has been the six

weeks' short course taken at the Provincial Normal School. Six teachers possess interim or permanent first class certificates; two hold second class certificates; and one, an Interim Collegiate certificate and a Diploma of the Faculty of Education, University of Manitoba. All but one received their professional training in Manitoba.

Teacher qualifications for the twenty-nine teachers of Swan River Rural Municipality are as follows: first class, 14; second class, 7; permit, 8. Of the twenty-five teachers employed by Benito, Bowsman and Swan River School Districts, 6 hold Collegiate certificates; 14, first class and 5, second class certificates. Three of the eleven teachers in unorganized territory hold first class; four, second class certificates and four permits.

TABLE XXXIII

SHOWING ACADEMIC PREPARATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS OF SWAN RIVER VALLEY

Teacher	School Attended	Grades	Diploma	University or College	Major Years	Degree
A	St. John's	X-XII	S.M.	Manitoba	Physics	3 B.Sc.
B	Selkirk	IX-XI	J.M.	United	English	4 B.A.
C	St. Mary's	IX-XII	S.M.	St. Mary's	?	3 B.A.
D	Tweed (Ont.)	X-XII	S.M.	Manitoba	History	3 B.A.
E	Jon Bjarnason	IX-XII	S.M.	-----	-----	- ----
F	Moose Jaw	X-XII	S.M.	-----	-----	- ----
G	Lundar	IX-XI				
	Jon Bjarnason	XII	S.M.	United	?	4 B.A.
H	St. Mary's	IX-XII	S.M.	St. Mary's	Psychology	3 B.A.
I	Minnedosa	IX-XII	S.M.	-----	-----	- ----
J	Central	XI-XII	S.M.	-----	-----	- ----
K	Benito	XI				
	Swan River	XII	S.M.	-----	-----	- ----
L	?	?	?	?	French	? B.A.

Table XXXIV shows the qualifications of the ninety-three teachers concerned in the present study and table XXXV compares the qualifications of one-room rural school teachers with those of graded schools.

TABLE XXXIV
SHOWING QUALIFICATIONS OF TEACHERS IN SWAN RIVER VALLEY

Certificate or Diploma	Rural Municipalities				Towns		Unorganized Valley			
	Swan River		Minitonas		Benito Bowsman Swan River					
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Collegiate	00	00.0	1	3.6	6	24.0	0	00.0	7	7.5
First Class	14	48.3	6	21.4	14	56.0	3	27.2	37	39.8
Second Class	7	24.1	2	7.2	5	20.0	4	36.4	18	19.4
Permit	8	27.6	19	67.8	0	00.0	4	36.4	31	33.3
Total	29	100%	28	100%	25	100%	11	100%	93	100%

TABLE XXXV
SHOWING A COMPARISON OF GRADED TEACHERS' QUALIFICATIONS WITH
THOSE OF ONE ROOM RURAL SCHOOL TEACHERS IN SWAN RIVER VALLEY

Certificate or Diploma	Graded		One Room Rural	
	No.	%	No.	%
Collegiate	7	16.3	0	00.0
First Class	24	55.8	13	26.0
Second Class	10	23.2	8	16.0
Permit	2	4.7	29	58.0
Total	43	100%	50	100%

Table XXXV shows that 72.1% of the graded school teachers possess first class or collegiate certificates, while only 26% of the rural school teachers possess first class certificates. Teachers holding first class or collegiate certificates comprise 47.3% of the Swan River Valley staff.

Professional Growth of Teachers

In Swan River Valley where one-third of the teachers hold permits and where ten qualified teachers completed their Normal training in the spring of 1948, there is little evidence that many of the rural school teachers have endeavoured to improve themselves professionally through extension or summer school courses. Very few one-room rural school teachers in Swan River Valley have attended summer school and most of these are married women teaching in schools near their home. In the graded schools, less than half the teachers have taken summer courses to improve their standing.

The greatest evidence of the desire to improve professional standing as well as simply to make a certificate permanent is found among the secondary school teachers. The extent to which eleven Swan River Valley high school teachers have endeavoured to improve themselves through summer courses is shown in Table XXXVI.

Only one teacher has written articles on education for publication. The assistant principal of Benito Consolidated School, Mr. G. B. A. Isfeld, wrote the following articles: "Composition Standards", "Revision of Curriculum or Method?", "Certification by Merit". The first two articles were published in Manitoba School Journal and the third in The Manitoba Teacher. One rural school teacher contributed a Christmas play to Modern Instructor.

Fifteen of the ninety-three teachers have attended the Manitoba Education Association Convention. Besides

these seven permit teachers reported that they had attended this convention. Further investigation revealed that the seven teachers had confused the Manitoba Education Association Convention with the annual Fall Convention which all teachers are required to attend.

TABLE XXXVI
SHOWING PROFESSIONAL GROWTH OF SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Teacher	Courses	Extension or Summer School	Year	Diploma received
A	Six Elementary School Professional Courses	S.S., Ext.	1935, 1937	First Permanent
	Two Education Courses	S.S.	1947	Collegiate
B	-----	-----	-----	-----
C	-----	-----	-----	-----
D	Elementary School Professional Courses	S.S.	1935-40	Second Perm., IB
	Arts Courses	S.S.	1937	First A
	Education Courses	S.S.	1945-47	B.Ed.
	Education Courses	S.S.	1947-48	
E	Elementary School Professional Courses	S.S.	1937	First B
	English II	Correspond.	1942-43	First A
	Shop Work	S.S.	1946	
	Economics II	Correspond.	1947-48	
F	Maths., Hist., Eng. Philosophy, French	S.S.	?	Superior(Sask.)
G	-----	-----	-----	-----
H	Maths.II, French II	S.S.	?	First A
	Professional Courses	S.S., Ext.	?	
	Education Courses	S.S.	1946, 1948	
I	-----	-----	-----	-----
J	-----	-----	-----	-----
K	Elementary School Professional Courses	S.S.	1940-42	First B
	English II	S.S.	1942	First A
L	?	?	?	?

Note:

Teachers B, C, and G received Diplomas in Education after attending Faculty of Education, University of Manitoba, during winter sessions.

Very few teachers have had training in the technique of educational and intelligence testing. Four principals of secondary schools have taken courses in testing methods and three are using educational tests at present. Three other teachers have taken some testing at the Faculty of Education, University of Manitoba. Several reported that they had received partial training in testing at Normal School. Six permit teachers thought that they were trained. The questionnaire replies would seem to indicate that most teachers misunderstood the meaning of educational and intelligence testing.

Nine teachers reported that they are doing some experimental work at present. Much of this work, however, may be classed as project rather than experimental work. No teacher has carried on experimental work with controlled groups.

About twenty-five percent of the teachers reported musical ability. One rural teacher has one examination to write in order to obtain a diploma. Six teachers have some vocational training; one having considerable ability in taxidermy, wood turning, bench work and oil painting. Two teachers reported special physical education training; two have taken homemaking courses and three, courses in public speaking. None are qualified to teach typing or shorthand.

Teacher Tenure in Swan River Valley

The tenure of teachers in Swan River Valley was found to be short, especially in the Rural Municipality of

Minitonas where only four of the present staff have taught in the same school prior to September, 1948. The tenure of one rural teacher has been six years. Two teachers have served Minitonas School District for three years or more.

In Swan River Rural Municipality eight teachers continue to serve in the same schools they served during 1947-48. One of them has been principal of Durban Consolidated School for 31 years. In the unorganized territory one teacher has taught in Birch River Village School for 25 years and one in a rural school for 26 years. Such long periods of tenure are exceptions in Swan River Valley.

More than 66% of Swan River Valley teachers are serving in their present schools for the first year. Sixty-eight percent of teachers whose tenure has been more than one year are employed in graded schools.

The period of tenure of the seven graded schools within the valley is shown in Table XXXVII. Twenty-two out of forty-three teachers are employed in their present school districts for the first year. Fourteen teachers, including four principals have served their present districts for more than two years.

Except in Durban, Kenville and Birch River there has been a constant change of principals for the past five years at least. Kenville School Board retained their principal for eighteen years until June, 1947. After this lengthy period of tenure the principal resigned and was succeeded by four principals; three of them within one school year.

TABLE XXXVII

SHOWING TENURE OF PRESENT STAFF OF GRADED SCHOOLS IN
SWAN RIVER VALLEY

Swan River		Bowsman Union		Benito		Minitonas		Durban		Kenville		Birch River	
No.	Yrs	No.	Y	T	Y	T	Y	T	Y	T	Y	T	
Service teachers													
1	8	1	2		1	1	1	4	1	3	1	2	
2	2	2	1		2	4	2	-	2	-	2	-	
3	1	3	1		3	-	3	1	3	1	3	-	
4	-	4	-		4	-	4	1	4	-	4	1	
5	-	5	-		5	-	5	-	5	-	5	-	
6	1	6	-		6	-	6	-	6	-	6	-	
7	-	7	1		7	-	7	-	7	-	7	-	
9	-	9	-		9	1	9	-	9	-	9	-	
12	-	12	1		12	-	12	-	12	-	12	-	
24	1	24	-		24	-	24	-	24	-	24	-	
25	-	25	-		25	-	25	-	25	-	25	1	
31	-	31	-		31	-	31	-	31	-	31	-	
	<u>13</u>		<u>6</u>			<u>6</u>		<u>5</u>		<u>3</u>		<u>4</u>	

Tenure for secondary school principals has differed considerably from school to school throughout Swan River Valley. In Benito and Minitonas the average period of tenure has been low, being less than three years in Benito and less than four years in Minitonas. In Swan River and Kenville the late Mr. J. S. Duncan and Mr. A. E. Scrase served twenty and eighteen years respectively. The average tenure has been short since, being two years in Swan River and four months in Kenville. Four principals have been employed in each school since the engagements of Messrs. Duncan and Scrase were terminated.

Short tenure has been the practice in most rural

schools. One school opened in 1931 has had sixteen teachers, nine of them permit. Several schools have been in operation since 1940 without a qualified teacher. Many of the permit teachers who staffed these schools had taken Grade XI but had failed three or more subjects. Teacher tenure in thirteen rural schools is shown in Table XXXVIII.

TABLE XXXVIII
SHOWING TEACHER TENURE IN THIRTEEN ONE-ROOM RURAL SCHOOLS
IN SWAN RIVER VALLEY

School	No. of Teachers since 1940	No. of Permit Teachers	Location of School District
McKay	9	8	Minitonas Munic.
Allanvale	10	9	Minitonas Munic.
Bell River	8	8	Unorganized
Drury	1	0	Unorganized
Old Fort	10	9	Unorganized
Lens	8	7	Minitonas Munic.
Lady Hubble	8	3	Swan River Munic.
Thunderhill	6	2	Swan River Munic.
Ravensworth	7	2	Minitonas Munic.
McKinley	10	6	Unorganized
Hall	8	6	Minitonas Munic.
Brierley	10	6	Minitonas Munic.
Big Woody	9	3	Swan River Munic.

Exact information was not available for all the one-room rural schools of Swan River Valley but a study of the foregoing table gives some indication of what has taken place in our rural areas since 1940.

No attempt to determine the causes of low tenure in many rural schools and some graded schools has been made but a study of financial provisions, working conditions and community life would seem to provide factors which largely determine the issues. The fact that Swan River Valley is so far from the

larger centres of Manitoba has been blamed locally for the difficulty of schools within the Valley to secure and hold qualified teachers.

CHAPTER VII

EDUCATIONAL LEADERS

The part played by the educational leaders of Swan River Valley in the development of education, in organizing the school system, and in providing educational facilities has been considerable. Many of these leaders played their role during the early years of the twentieth century while others offered leadership for a quarter of a century or more. Since the first school district in Swan River Valley was organized, five school inspectors and one acting school inspector have provided educational leadership for varying periods of time. Three secondary school principals served in the valley for a total of almost seventy years and a number of elementary teachers had long periods of tenure. All contributed to the development of education in Swan River Valley. Many teachers and principals who served in Swan River Valley for a time have since contributed important educational leadership elsewhere in the Province of Manitoba. Several principals became inspectors of schools or joined university staffs. Others became principals of schools in large towns or cities.

The educational leadership provided in Swan River Valley has not been confined wholly to inspectors of schools and to members of the teaching staff. Men of vision have served on school boards and on municipal councils and have had the welfare of pupils and teachers at heart. Their influence has been considerable and they have made their

contribution toward the development of education in Swan River Valley.

The First School Inspectors

The first inspector of schools to visit the newly organized school districts of Swan River Valley was Inspector T. M. Maquire of Portage la Prairie. Inspector Maquire performed the opening ceremony of West Favel S.D., the first school district to be organized in Swan Valley.

The first inspectoral report to the Department of Education of work done in Swan River Valley was Inspector Maquire's report for the year ending December 31st, 1900. In this report the inspector referred to the difficulty experienced in organizing school districts as well as to the work that had been accomplished. His report is quoted in part as follows:

"Away to the north of the Dauphin District, about 100 miles, is the Swan River Valley, into which settlers have been pouring ever since the advent of the railroad, about two years ago. This district, with it's numerous streams and belts of timber and much hilly and broken country, is much more difficult to divide up into school districts than the level open prairie of the south and central parts of the province. I found it necessary during July to go up to Swan River to hold Courts of Revision and incidently to look into the organization of several school districts that had been petitioned for. I found the work of organization exceedingly difficult owing to conflicting interests resulting from the nature of the country. The settlers are an intelligent, progressive class of people and exceedingly anxious to get schools in operation. There were two schools open at the time of my visit. I was only able to reach one of them, Square Plane, about nine miles south-west of the town. The Square Plane school is a neat frame building, a tribute to the intelligence and enterprise of the settlers. I was not able to get to the Swan Valley school, about five miles north-west of the town. The town school is a well built, two-story building, with two rooms, both of which are now occupied.

At Minitonas, a village on the line of railway east of Swan River, there is a great need of a school, while the country south and north is all well settled. From Minitonas south there appear to be no settlements requiring schools until Ethelbert is reached."¹

During the first school year in the Valley, the area was part of the North Central Inspectoral Division. The following year, 1901, Swan River Valley became part of the North-Western Inspectoral Division and Inspector A. W. Hooper with headquarters in Dauphin took over the duties of Inspector Maquire in the Valley. During the year ending December 31st, 1901, ten school districts in the Swan Valley were organized and about ten school houses erected.

Inspector Hooper, in his first inspectoral report of the area, noted the difficulty experienced in securing qualified teachers. The following quotation is taken from Inspector Hooper's report:

"Great difficulty has been experienced during the year in securing qualified teachers. This has been particularly felt in the cases of new districts and summer schools. I have no doubt that in outlying districts such as the Swan River Valley this state of affairs will continue until a sufficient number of local students attain the necessary standing to fill the positions. At present there are twelve students doing certificate work in Swan River School and no doubt with the advent of these and a local normal school, there will be an improvement in this particular."²

In each of Inspector Hooper's subsequent reports the lack of qualified teachers in Swan River Valley is

¹
Report of the Department of Education for the Year ending December 31st, 1900, p.31. Winnipeg: King's Printer for the Province of Manitoba.

²
Report of the Department of Education for the Year ending December 31st, 1901, p.41. Winnipeg: King's Printer for the Province of Manitoba.

especially noted. The supply of teachers was inadequate to the needs and teacher tenure was short. Many teachers possessing interim certificates showed a strong inclination to drift onward to the North-West Territories.³

Inspector E. H. Walker

Inspector E. H. Walker was appointed to succeed Inspector Hooper in 1905. During the eight years he served the North-Western Inspectoral Division, many school districts were organized and school houses erected. School grounds were improved and the Council of the Rural Municipality of Minitonas granted liberal prizes for the districts making the greatest progress in general improvements. Ravensworth School District received first prize, Minitonas second and Oakhurst third prize.

In 1911, North-Western Inspectoral Division became Inspectoral Division Number 1. In the same year, a Teacher's Association was formed in Swan River Valley.

The movement toward consolidation of school districts which began in 1912 found Inspector Walker a staunch leader and supporter. Out of this movement, eight school districts were organized into two consolidated school districts in 1913.

Inspector J. S. Peach

No one made himself a part of Swan River Valley to a greater extent than Inspector J. S. Peach, who served the area for thirty-four years until his retirement in 1947. Mr. Peach taught in Addington, Centre and Good Hope rural

3. 5

Report of the Department of Education for the year ending December 31st, 1904, p.39. Winnipeg: King's Printer for the Province of Manitoba.

schools and in Cypress River High School before going to Swan River as principal in 1907 where he remained in this position until he was appointed Inspector of Schools in August, 1913.

For many years Inspector Peach had the most extended division in Manitoba, covering as it did the area between the Duck Mountains and Lake Winnipegosis, the Swan River Valley, the Birch River country, The Pas, Flin Flon, and the schools along the Hudson's Bay railway. Later his field was made smaller in area as population increased and more school districts were organized. For some years prior to his retirement, his field extended from Winnipegosis to Barrows on the Manitoba-Saskatchewan border.

The writer of the column "Who's Who in the Department" indicated the respect felt for Inspector Peach and his work by the officials of the Department of Education. "Through all the busy years, Mr. Peach has been conscientious in the performance of his work and faithful in his obligations to the schools on the one hand and to the Department on the other. His attitude toward teachers is one of sympathetic understanding and helpfulness."⁴

In June, 1947, Inspector Peach made his last visit to schools in Swan River Valley. Many tokens of appreciation were shown him by the teachers, pupils and school boards. In August, 1947, he wrote a farewell message for the "Benito High

School Review". The following quotation is taken from the Benito High School Paper.

"My farewell advice would be to get all you can out of your school year; enter into all the various activities, -intellectual, physical and social,- of your school with interest and zeal; also be sure to give your teachers all the possible assistance.

I trust you will give my successor, Inspector W. C. Rhind, the same co-operation and good will you gave me.

I sincerely wish every girl and boy, as well as their teachers, a very successful year in the many school activities, as well as all good wishes and success and the best of health in the year to be."5

Mr. R. G. Taylor

Mr. R. G. Taylor was the first principal of the two-roomed school that was erected in Swan River about 1901. He served as principal of this school until 1905 when he accepted the principalship of Minitonas School.

While at Minitonas, Mr. Taylor suggested that the council of the Rural Municipality of Minitonas grant prizes for districts making the greatest progress in general improvements, the competition to extend over a period of three years. Considerable interest was aroused and the majority of the schools entered the competition. Ravensworth secured first prize and Minitonas second.

In 1906, Mr. Taylor established a business in Swan River where he continues to operate as realtor. During the years he has taken an active interest in the schools of Swan River Valley and in educational projects. Within recent

years he has judged the Minitonas Municipal Field Day parade and the school banners on several occasions.

Mr. D. S. Woods

D. S. Woods succeeded R. G. Taylor as principal of Minitonas School in 1906. During the three years D. S. Woods remained in Minitonas, he saw the school provisions expanded from a one-room to a four-room school. In 1909 he became the first principal of the new four-room school.

Mr. Woods took an active part in community affairs and was secretary-treasurer of the Minitonas Thistles, a football club that became famous throughout the province.

In 1915, Mr. Woods returned to Swan River Valley as acting-Inspector. In June under the direction of Mr. Woods, who was assisted by principals and teachers in Minitonas Municipality, the first field day and fair combined to be held in Swan River Valley was held in Minitonas School. The following years saw field days and fairs held in various places throughout Swan Valley.

Mr. J. S. Duncan

The late John S. Duncan came to Swan River from Portage la Prairie in 1918 when he became principal of the Union School there. During the twenty years he served as principal of Swan River School, the enrolment increased from 20 to 98 in the high school and there was a corresponding increase in the elementary school. During his principalship a building programme became necessary and the present

school was erected.

The late Mr. Duncan took a keen interest in the welfare of his pupils and regarded them as his pupils even after they were grown up and had established homes of their own. A teacher who had served on his staff for several years wrote that he was "outstanding for his sympathetic understanding of boys and girls."

In 1936 the school trustees urged Mr. Duncan to take a six months vacation with half pay. He refused to leave his work, however, and carried on until a few weeks before his death in 1938.

A bronze plaque was secured by his former pupils and placed in the hallway of the school. The following is the inscription on the plaque:

Sacred to the memory of our
"Beloved Teacher"
John S. Duncan
who served as principal in the
Swan River Public and High School
1917-1938
"A life well spent" -- "A work well done"
This token of esteem has been erected
by his grateful pupils and many friends

Mr. W. J. Rodgers

Mr. W. J. Rodgers holds the record of having the longest period of teacher tenure in Swan River Valley and one of the longest in the Province of Manitoba. Mr. Rodgers attended Central Collegiate, Winnipeg, and later attended Dauphin and Winnipeg Normal Schools. He taught in Silverwood and Sunny Slope Schools near Deepdale, at Lauder and then at Durban where he has served as principal since 1917.

His teaching instruction has been marked by its

efficiency and thoroughness and he has never sacrificed standard for record. At the same time the results of his students on departmental examinations have been very satisfactory.

The regard shown by Durban Consolidated School Board for Mr. Rodgers' work was indicated during the economic depression of the '30's when the principal's salary did not sink as low as those of the principals of some other secondary schools in Swan River Valley. The long range view of the Durban School Board has paid dividends not received in school districts where the teachers and principals were repeatedly given salary cuts.

Mr. Rodgers has always taken an active interest in the work of teachers' organizations. He has served as president of the Benito-Durban-Kenville-Alpine Teachers' Local and has also held various offices, including the presidency, of the Teachers' Association of Division No.1.

During his long principalship of Durban Consolidated School, Mr. Rodgers has taken an active part in community life and has become a part of the community in which he continues to reside.

J. W. Robson

Among the first pioneers in Swan River Valley was J. W. Robson, a graduate of Guelph Agricultural College. Mr. Robson homesteaded in township 34 near where the Village of Benito now stands. When the Municipality of Swan River was organized in 1901, Mr. Robson was elected reeve and served in that capacity for a number of years. His train-

ing in college helped him in municipal affairs and he rendered valuable assistance to the councillors.

During the years Mr. Robson served as reeve, a number of school districts were organized throughout the municipality of Swan River. Mr. Robson showed judgement on more than one occasion in this connection and his advice was sought after continually. Robson School District was named in his honour but became consolidated some years later.

Mr. Robson became the first member of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly to represent Swan River constituency and in this capacity continued to serve the best interests of his constituents. He opposed the plan of the provincial government to establish a line of government owned elevators and lost the support of many farmers. His defeat followed and a short time later he moved away from the Valley the interests of which he had served faithfully for years. Subsequent events proved that he had been correct in his judgement concerning the government owned grain elevators.

Dr. Baldwin

Dr. Baldwin took his normal training in Brandon and later taught in Kelloe, Woodlands, Dominion City, and was principal of Cypress River School. He attended medical college and, upon graduating, went to Swan River Valley in 1907. He located in Benito where he continues to serve the medical needs of many people.

The training and experience Dr. Baldwin had gained as a teacher gave him a live interest in school administration

and teacher welfare. In January, 1913, he became Chairman of Benito School Board and less than a month later the board petitioned the council to consolidate Benito School District with three adjacent school districts. When consolidation came into effect, Dr. Baldwin was elected chairman and served in that capacity for a number of years.

The first years of consolidation called for initiative and problems were constantly arising which demanded speedy settlement. Largely through the initiative of Dr. Baldwin an eight ~~acre~~ site was chosen for school grounds and after the business transaction had been completed a building programme was begun. Trees and shrubs were planted and grass sown.

Although Dr. Baldwin does not now take an active part in school affairs, his interest remains and occasionally he has enriched the school museum by donations of birds and other species.

Dr. Baldwin has taken an active interest in community and municipal affairs and was prominent in the movement to have Benito incorporated. When the village became incorporated in 1943, he served on the ~~municipal~~ council for a time.

Attainment of Former Principals

With the exception of a few cases principal tenure has been quite low in Swan River Valley and in many cases does not exceed three years. Many principals left Swan River Valley to take further training or to accept positions elsewhere which they considered to be promotions financially or otherwise. Within a few years they had become leaders in their respective

fields. Several former principals of secondary schools in Swan River Valley later became Inspectors of Schools. The late Inspector W. J. Henderson of Dauphin was principal of Minitonas School in 1909 and Inspectors Norman Robson and Robert Dalton were principals of Minitonas and Bowsman Union Schools respectively. D. S. Woods was Inspector of Schools with headquarters in Miami for a number of years and later joined the staff of the University of Manitoba where he founded the Faculty of Education which he still administers as dean. Another member of the staff of the Faculty of Education is Dr. H. L. Stein, a former principal of Benito Consolidated School.

At least three former principals proceeded to the doctorate in education. Dr. D. S. Woods received his doctor of philosophy degree from the University of Chicago and Dr. H. L. Stein and Dr. Dudley received theirs from the University of Minnesota. Several others have received their Bachelor of Education degree and one or two their Master of Education degree.

Elementary School Teachers

Several elementary teachers have had long periods of tenure in school of Swan River Valley. Miss Armistead, one of the first teachers in Roaring River School, later was teacher of the primary grade in Swan River School for almost twenty years. She helped organize, in 1911, the first Teachers' Association to be formed in Swan River Valley. Other teachers who have had lengthy periods of tenure are Misses Hayes and Latimer of Swan River, Mr. Hooke of Drury

School and Mr.H.Koons,principal of Birch River Village School.

Other School Leaders

The list of those who have played some part in determining the development of education in Swan River Valley is too long to include in the present study. Every member of every school board in Swan River Valley has played some part whether for good or ill in the development of education in the Valley. While the policies of many school boards in the past have been influenced at times by the effort to keep the cost of education as low as possible with too little regard to the effect such policies would have on the children,some members have endeavoured to secure the best service possible without regard to cost.Often these men have been opposed by other members of the board.

Among the men who served as chairmen on school boards in Swan River Valley are included Messrs.Neil Wright and H.Corbett of Benito and George Russenholt of Minitonas. These men endeavoured to execute their duties efficiently and with fairness to teachers and ratepayers.

George Renouf M.L.A. takes an interest in the work of the schools in Swan River Valley. His advice and assistance are freely given at any time. As a member of the Select Committee of the Manitoba Legislature,he assisted in preparing a report a few years ago relative to the larger unit of school administration.

Inspector W.C.Rhind,successor to Inspector J.S.Peach is giving a good leadership and he desires that education will continue to develop within the Swan River Valley and that all pupils will have equality of educational opportunity.

CHAPTER VIII

CONCLUSION

Concluding Statements

The early pioneers took a vital interest in establishing an educational foundation in Swan River Valley and in providing their children with an education. Within recent years there has been too great a tendency toward laissez faire and the result has been detrimental to educational progress.

Various factors contributing toward pupil retardation have been noted. These include short periods of teacher tenure with the corresponding change of teacher personnel and instructional methods, lack of academic and professional preparation of many teachers, and irregular attendance of pupils at school. For the purpose of this report no attempt was made to initiate a programme of testing. Had this been done, the results undoubtedly would have indicated that many pupils had been promoted when they were not prepared. The retardation would be greater than that shown by the study of the age-grade distribution. The tendency for some teachers to adhere to the expressed wishes of parents in the matter of promotion does not have a satisfactory effect upon educational development and may greatly retard the progress of the child. Teachers should be influenced by the ability of the child and not by the social, economic or political prominence of the parents nor by the fact that parents may be members of the school board.

The low holding power of the secondary schools in Swan River Valley indicates that there is need for greater

differentiation of the secondary school programme. At present no provision is made in the secondary schools of Swan River Valley for any course other than the General Course. In an agricultural district it would seem appropriate that provision should be made for instruction in Agriculture, General Shop, and Home Economics.

The academic and professional standing of a high percentage of teachers at present employed in school districts within Swan River Valley is low. This is true especially in rural areas where 74% of the staff possess permits or second class certificates.

There is not a close correlation between the economic ability of the ratepayers and the effort to make adequate educational provisions in many districts. Several districts with high assessments make smaller contributions toward the cost of education than do some districts with much lower assessments. In view of the wealth of the area some districts have not been contributing according to local ability.

Lack of interest in, and understanding of, the problems of education on the part of many ratepayers have prevented greater educational development than there has been. The economic prosperity in portions of the Valley has not always been an advantage toward the development of education and at times there has been a tendency to evaluate education simply in terms of dollars and cents. There is need to help ratepayers to understand some of the factors retarding educational development. An attempt to promote greater understanding between parents and teachers should be made. Parent-teacher associations should be organized and might go some distance

to foster greater interest. Care should be taken to prevent such an association from becoming simply a medium for voicing destructive criticism.

Recommendations

At the thirty-seventh annual convention of the Teachers' Association, Division No. 1, held in Swan River in October, 1948, a resolution was passed urging the Provincial Government to implement plans toward establishing a larger unit of school administration in Swan River Valley.

The establishment of such an area unit would be an important step forward in the educational development of Swan River Valley and would give greater security to teachers and decrease pupil retardation.

At a time when building programmes are being initiated throughout Swan River Valley the advisability of having a Composite High School should be carefully considered. The low holding power of the secondary schools in Swan River Valley may be attributed partially to the fact that high school students feel that many subjects they must study will be of little value to them. Provision should be made to satisfy the needs and interests of a greater number of secondary school students.

There is need of improvements in heating, lighting, and toilet facilities in several schools. More suitable library facilities and the addition of new books are needed in many schools. Equipment sufficient for instruction in Grade VII and VIII Science should be provided in all rural schools where supplies are inadequate.

There should be greater equality of financial provisions. Existing inequalities contribute toward short periods of tenure and constant shifting of teacher personnel. The result has been detrimental to the pupils, teachers and to the school districts. A suitable salary schedule would do much to overcome existing grievances.

Care should be taken to elect members to school boards who will have progressive ideas and who will not be governed by expediency or the desire to reduce taxes by securing services as cheaply as possible.

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1905-1943. Winnipeg: King's Printer.
- Census of Prairie Provinces, 1936. Ottawa: King's Printer, 1938.
- Comparative Statement and Valuation of Returns, 1861 and 1862,
Fort Pelly, in possession of Mrs. Perry, Benito, Manitoba.
- Crop Bulletin of the Department of Agriculture and Immigration,
Manitoba, No. 124. Winnipeg: King's Printer, 1945.
- Regulations of the Department of Education. Winnipeg: King's
Printer, 1934.
- Rural Survey, Swan River Valley. Departments of Social Service and
Evangelism of the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches, 1914.
- The Star and Times, Swan River. Editorials and news extracts,
1913, 1949, on file in the Provincial Library, Legislative
Building, Winnipeg.

Unpublished Material

Benito High School Student Council Association. Minute Book, 1940.

Minute Books of Municipal Council, Minnetonka.

Minute Books of School Boards.

Roaring River Woman's Suffrage Association. Minute Book, 1913.

School Registers

APPENDICES

APPENDIX "A"

COPY OF DOCUMENT RELATING TO FUR TRADE IN SWAN RIVER DISTRICT

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT AND VALUATION OF SWAN RIVER DISTRICT RETURNS
OUTS 1861 and 1862

	Value	OUT 1861				OUT 1862			
		No.	£	s.	p.	No.	£	s.	p.
Badgers prime	1/7	302	23	18	2	318	25	3	6
common	9 ⁰ / ₂	65	2	11	6	15	--	11	11
Bears black prime	32/6	88	143	--	--	105	170	12	6
common	16/3	17	13	16	3	16	13	--	--
brown prime	32/6	60	97	10	--	70	113	15	--
common	16/3	6	4	17	6	6	4	17	6
grey prime	32/6	11	17	17	6	74	120	5	--
common	16/3	2	1	12	6	1	---	16	3
Beavers large prime	7/.	832	291	4	--	789	276	3	--
common	3/6	3	---	10	6	56	9	16	--
small prime	7/.	647	226	9	--	888	310	16	--
common	3/6	38	6	13	--	128	22	8	--
Castor un	25/.	41	57	5	--	126	157	10	--
Ermings prime	3 ^c	145	1	16	3	---	---	--	--
Fishers prime	18/.	704	633	12	--	478	430	4	--
common	9/.	17	7	13	--	2	---	18	--
Foxes silver prime	220/.	5	55	--	--	2	22	--	--
cross common	21/.	1	1	1	--	1	1	1	--
prime	42/.	91	191	2	--	26	54	12	--
red prime	6/.	1211	363	6	--	392	117	12	--
common	3/.	5	---	15	--	2	---	6	--
white	7/.	---	---	--	--	2	---	14	--
Hares Arctic	3 ^c	6	---	1	6	36	---	9	--
Foxes Kite prime	6/.	1639	491	14	--	641	192	6	--
Lynxes prime	9/6	318	151	1	--	156	74	2	--
common	4/9	6	1	8	6	---	---	--	--
Martens prime	15/.	1261	945	15	--	882	661	10	--
common	7/6	13	4	17	6	5	1	17	6
Minks prime	5/.	890	222	10	--	2246	561	10	--
common	2/6	102	12	15	--	159	19	17	6
Musquash prime	6 ^c	38480	712	--	--	21926	523	3	--
common	3 ^c	600	7	10	--	5780	64	15	--
Otters prime	17/.	433	368	1	--	518	440	6	--
common	8/6	25	10	12	6	---	---	--	--
Skunks prime	4/.	298	59	12	--	220	44	--	--
Swans prime	2 ^c /6	32	4	--	--	8	1	--	--
Weenuskes	6 ^c	2	---	1	--	---	---	--	--

continued on the following page

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT AND VALUATION OF RETURNS, 1861 & 1862 CONT'D

	OUT 1861					OUT 1862				
	Value	No.	£	s.	p.	No.	£	s.	p.	
Wolves prime	5/6	734	201	17	--	739	203	4	6	
Wolverines prime	8/.	78	31	4	--	47	18	16	--	
common	4/.	1	--	4	--	1	--	4	--	
Tongues Buffalo	2/8	390	45	10	--	--	--	--	--	
Robes prime	10/.	1786	893	--	--	990	495	--	--	
Mooseskins large	6/.	--	--	--	--	21	6	6	--	
small	4/.	--	--	--	--	3	--	12	--	
Red deerskins large	5/.	--	--	--	--	5	1	5	--	
small	4/.	--	--	--	--	1	--	4	--	
Buffalo skins	3/.	--	--	--	--	18	2	14	--	
			6299	4	2		5166	5	8	

Note.-The foregoing is a copy of a document which was found among the ruins of old Fort Pelly a few years ago. This document is in the possession of Mrs. Perry, Benito, Man. English money was used in the transactions. The first column gives the value in shillings and two pence per pelt. The second column lists the number of pelts. The third, fourth and fifth columns list the output in pounds, shillings and two pence. The next column is the number of pelts for the year 1862 and the last three columns give the cost.

Musquash is the Cree word for muskrat while Weenuske probably may be a misspelling of the Cree name Wenusk meaning ground-hog.

The water mark of the document is T H Saunders 1860.

APPENDIX "B"

Reminiscences of a Pioneer

By Dan Hawe

"In the month of June 1898 accompanied by a neighbor and equipped with a team of small ponies, a buckboard, a sack of oats, a few loaves of bread, a side of bacon, a frying pan, a teapot and tea, a bar of soap and towel (the latter articles used the least), we started the long trek from Southern Manitoba to the country that we fully expected would be the means of increasing our worldly possessions; determined that no obstacle, great or small, would be allowed to turn us aside from our objective.

The greater part of our journey was accomplished over roads that were in air condition, considering the condition of roads generally at the above date, but passing the town of Dauphin and steering a course in a north-westerly direction, crossing the Wilson and Valley rivers, we struck a gravel ridge that for several miles afforded comfortable driving and pleasant scenery. Finally we reached the end of the ridge and struck the trail that took us over the North-East end of the Duck Mountains and at long last landed us at the Favel River, situated in the Eastern end of the Valley, and was instrumental in assisting the late H. Harley in erecting the tents that did duty for receiving and recording Homestead entries as well as imparting information as to lands that were yet available for entry.

Before passing on to other phases of a Pioneer's experience let me say that the trail over the mountains was quite frequently intersected by mud holes, water holes, streams and rivers, over which there had not been constructed either corduroy or bridge and to judge by the remarks carved on the trees by the wayside by some of the pioneers who had preceded us, the overseer of the work of cutting out the trail as well as those who did the work were plainly told to go to that place where the carvers thought they should be.

The first night in the valley was spent at the tents which at that time were the headquarters for all who came. Supper over and the ponies attended to, there being considerable sunlight left us, we decided to walk to the top of a large hill in the distance where we expected to have a better view of the country to the westward, but before reaching the hill we stumbled on a strand of telegraph wire much of which was buried under several years growth of rank grass and only at great distances was there a pole standing.

Leaving the tents the following morning and armed with plans showing the lands available for homesteading, we followed a trail marked out by teams and wagons carrying supplies to the surveyors the year previous. We came to the holding of the late Wm. Sifton who was one of the first settlers to plow and seed a small acreage, using an old long handled plow to turn the sod, sowing by hand and covering the seed by means of trailing dead trees chained together in place of a harrow.

Leaving the Sifton farmstead, we continued our way, crossing the Rolling and Swan Rivers, we attempted to make our way north.

having been informed that good land was to be had in the Bowman River district, but after wending our way, twisting about to shun sloughs and hay meadows, the trail proved too much for our ponies and we reluctantly turned back and picked up the old north Pelly trail leading westward, searching the country for land that suited as we proceeded. Halting for the night and tethering our ponies, our next care was supper.

My travelling companion and fellow homestead seeker was the late Richard Staples of whom I shall give more particulars later. The shadow caused by the sinking sun behind Thunder Hill rested on the ground we had selected for our future home that comprised the North-West and North-East of Section 23, in Township 35 and Range 29. Some thirty miles intervened between our selection and the land office and our chief concern was to reach the Office as quickly as possible lest some earlier bird had gobbled the worm. Therefore, early in the morning we coupled the ponies to the buckboard in which, standing up holding the lines, the ponies champing their bits, we gave three rousing cheers for old Thunder Hill and were off in a flash for an interview with the land agent at headquarters who, when we arrived, informed us that the claims we had selected were still open for entry, and with hands a little shaky from anxiety, we subscribed our names to the forms that made us masters of the land already described, and then began preparations for our return journey to our homes.

To sustain our bodies for the trip, we were fortunate in securing three small loaves of bread, paying 75 cents for each loaf....."



Note,-The foregoing account was copied from a clipping taken from "The Benito Review", a weekly paper not now published. The clipping was kindly loaned the writer by Mr. Howe who was one of the first councillors of Swan River Rural Municipality.

"Swan River Valley: Its Past, Present and Future"

By A.J. Cotton, Swan River

.....

"Its Present. After seven years of settlement and prosperity, we again stand on the summit of Duck Mountains and take another look over the Valley. How changed. How well settled. What evidences of prosperity. We have the line of the C.N.R. railway winding through the Valley, the growing town of Minitonas, the prosperous town of Swan River, the rising young town of Bowsman. We see the new Swan River-Thunder Hill branch graded out 22 miles and the steel being laid on it. This will make the farmers of the Valley prosperous; and the site of the first town, Square Plains, nine miles south-west of Swan River, is surveyed.

This will be the most important town on this new branch line, surrounded by the finest wheat districts where, inside of six years, a million bushels of wheat will be marketed. This new town is already in need of new stores, hardware, livery stables, bank, druggist, doctor, blacksmith, and boarding houses. There is a first-class opening for all enterprises for a good-sized town. This town is backed by a well-settled and wealthy farming district. There will be two more sidings and a good site for another town near the home of J.W. Robson, M.P.P.

There are now 32 schools up in the Valley and 9 post offices, called Minitonas, Swan River, Bowsman, Lidstone, Harlington, Thunder Hill, Durban, Benito, Pretoria. There are two municipalities, a Dominion and a provincial constituency.

We shall export this fall fully 500,000 bushels of wheat of high grade. The crops have been enormous. The fact is that scarcely a poor crop is to be seen, the wheat yielding all the way from 25 up to 60 bushels per acre, and other grains have been exceptionally heavy. Oats on Robert Edmond's farm (section 6, township 35, range 29w., in the Thunder Hill district) averaged 150 bushels per acre. Threshing will not be finished until Christmas.

The land in the Valley is a high-class grain land, mostly scrub land but easily brought under cultivation. It is rolling, well watered with spring creeks, has firewood in plenty, cheap lumber, is well sheltered, and adapted to the growth of fall wheat. A large acreage of this cereal has been sowed this fall and has gone into winter quarters in excellent condition. Timothy and clover do well; small fruits also can be grown in abundance, and apples as well. Mr. Monsees of Bowsman sold \$1,400 of straw-berries from his patch during the past season. We are favored with calm winters and scarcely any drift."

The foregoing extract was published in The Nor'-West Farmer, December 20, 1905.

APPENDIX "C"

BYLAWS OF THE COUNCILS OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF MINITONAS

The following are copies of bylaws taken from records kept in the files of the Municipal Office, Minitonas. They give considerable information relating to the organization and financing of school districts.

BYLAW I

By law of Minitonas Municipality for the purpose of appointing a Secretary-Treasurer.

Whereas it is expedient and necessary to have a clerk who will keep a record of the business transaction of the council And whereas it is also necessary to have a treasurer who will receive and disburse the moneys of the municipality The Council enacts that these two offices shall be combined and filled by one and the same person who shall be known as Secretary Treasurer of the municipality who shall furnish satisfactory bonds to the council. The Council further enacts that this bylaw shall come into force by electing William C. North to that office at a salary of seventy-five dollars for the remainder of this year this 2nd day of July 1901.

Wm. C. North
Clerk

D. Dunn
Reeve

BYLAW X

Respecting health officer

Whereas it is expedient and necessary to have a health officer appointed for the rural municipality of Minitonas

The Reeve and Council now in session assembled enacts as follows

That Dr. Lineham of Swan River be the health officer of this municipality

This bylaw comes into effect on day and date of passing. Done and passed this 25 day of July 1901.

Wm. North
Secty.-Treas.

D. Dunn
Reeve

ASSESSMENT BYLAW XII

Whereas it is necessary to have a bylaw to fix the rate and itemize the sum to be levied for the various purposes in the Municipality of Minitonas

The Council legally organized and in session hereby enacts that the following shall be the amounts for the purposes named for the year 1901 viz

Municipal Tax	6 mills on the \$
General School Tax	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ mills on the \$
Commissioner Tax	$\frac{3}{4}$ mills on the \$
Special School Tax	
for Minitonas	7 mills on the \$
for West Favel	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ mills on the \$
for Oakhurst	4 mills on the \$
for Lidstone	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ mills on the \$
Statute Laborers	\$1.50

This law shall come into force on day and date of passing. Done and passed this 7 day of October 1901.

Wm.C.North
Secy.Treas.

D.Dunn
Reeve

BYLAW XX

A petition having been signed by I. Fraser and others praying the formation of the above district and the council having accepted passed the same at a former meeting the following bylaw was passed.

Be it enacted that a school district be formed of the following sections 31,32,33,34,35,30,29,28,27,26,20,21,22, N $\frac{1}{2}$ 23,SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 23,15,16,17,8,9,NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 10,Tp.37,R.26 to be known as the Belmont School District.

This bylaw to come into operation on the day and date of its passing.

Done and passed this 6 day of May 1902.

Wm.North
Clerk

R.A.Watson
Chairman

Note,-Belmont School District is now called Cropper Tops School District.

BYLAW XXXV

Forming a Union School to be known as Bowsman Union School District No. _____

Whereas a bylaw was passed by this Minitonas Municipal Council on the 7th day of October 1902 forming a school district to be known as the Woody River School District

And whereas the following sections were detached by resolution of the Council on July 11th 1903 from the said Woody River School District for the purpose of forming a union school district to be known as the Bowsman Union District that is sections 25 and 36 in Tp.37 R.27 and sections 1 and 12 in Tp.38 R.27, also sections 5,6,7,8 in Tp.38 R.26.

And whereas Bylaw 24 had never been acted on, no trustees having been elected and no school house built, be it enacted and it is hereby enacted 1st that bylaw 24 be rescinded, 2nd that the following sections of land be given to form a Union School District to be known as Bowsman Union School District No. _____ viz sections 25 and 36 in Tp.37 R.27, sections 1 and 12 Tp.38 R.27, also sections 5,6,7,8 in Tp.38 R.26.

Done and passed in Minitonas Council this 31st day of August 1903.

Wm.C.North
Clerk.

BYLAW LXXI

Note,- This bylaw is not reproduced here. It was enacted on July 24, 1906 and made provision for an assessment of 3 mills on the dollar for municipal purposes and 4 mills for General School Tax.

Special School Tax

Lidstone	5½	mills	on	the	\$
Egremont	4½	mills	on	the	\$
Bowsman	7	mills	on	the	\$
Ravensworth	10	mills	on	the	\$
Roaring River	6½	mills	on	the	\$
Minitonas	6	mills	on	the	\$
Oakhurst	6½	mills	on	the	\$
West Favel	7½	mills	on	the	\$
Floradale	8	mills	on	the	\$
Croppertops	18	mills	on	the	\$
Kemulch	18	mills	on	the	\$

APPENDIX "D"

CONSOLIDATION OF SCHOOLS IN SWAN RIVER VALLEY

The following data were taken from the official minutes of the council of the Rural Municipality of Swan River, from the minutes of Benito School Board, and from reports of council meetings published in The Star and Times, Swan River.

"December 20, 1912: Moved by Councillor Hawe, seconded by Councillor Goldsmith, that the resolution from the Trustees of Bonnyview and Corbett Districts be received and laid on the table and that no further action be taken by council until similar resolutions are received from the trustees of all other schools interested in the proposed consolidation and that the clerk notify all parties concerned."1

"February 5, 1913: Moved by Councillor Sims, seconded by Councillor Dawson, that a bylaw consolidating the Rural School Districts of Benito, Bonny View, Corbett and Parsonville be now introduced and read a first time."2

"February 5, 1913: Moved by Councillor Sims, seconded by Councillor Dawson, that a bylaw consolidating the Rural School Districts of Benito, Bonnyview, Corbett, and Parsonville be taken as read a second and third time, signed, sealed and numbered."3

"April 2, 1913: Moved by Councillor Dawson, seconded by Councillor Goldsmith, that the petition of the trustees of Central Valley, Durban, and Pretoria School Districts asking for consolidation be taken up at the next regular meeting of the council and that the clerk notify the Trustees of Robson School District of the above."4

"April 30, 1913: Moved by Councillor Sims, seconded by Councillor Young, that a bylaw consolidating the School Districts of Durban, Pretoria, and Central Valley be now introduced and read a first time."5

"April 30, 1913: Moved by Councillor Sims, seconded by Councillor Young, that a bylaw consolidating the School Districts of Durban, Pretoria, and Central Valley be taken as read a second and third time, signed, sealed and numbered."6

1 Joseph Armstrong, Clerk: Minutes of Council Meeting of Municipality of Swan River

2 Ibid

3 Ibid

4 Ibid

5 Ibid

6 Ibid

"December 2, 1912: Moved by E. Smith, seconded by James H. Best that the board petition the council to consolidate Benito District No. 1408 with the following districts, Bonny View, Robson, Parsonville, Corbett. Carried." 7

"January 22, 1913: Moved by E. Smith, seconded by Dr. Baldwin that the board petition the council to consolidate Benito School District with the following districts, -Bonny View, Corbett, Parsonville. Carried." 8

"April 10, 1913: Moved by A. E. Corbett, seconded by E. S. Holden that the board authorize the secretary-treasurer, James H. Best to purchase from the C. N. R. the piece of land west of the town known as the sports ground for the new school site. Carried." 9

"October 25, 1913: Moved by E. Holden, seconded by A. E. Corbett that the tenders for the purchase of the Bonny View and Corbett school property be opened. Carried." 10

"June 26, 1913: Moved by James H. Best, seconded by E. Holden that the trustees pass a bylaw to borrow \$15,000 by the issuing of debentures to run over a term of 20 years, to pay \$500 principal and interest each year for the first 10 years and \$1000 principal and interest for the remaining 10 years, the above named debentures to bear interest at 5%. Carried." 11

"March 19, 1914: Moved by A. E. Corbett, seconded by Dr. Baldwin that the board accept the offer of H. O' Hara & Co. of Toronto of \$13570.00 for their \$15,000.00 5% debentures. Carried." 12

"July 31, 1920: Moved by N. Wright, seconded by E. Smith that we accept the addition of the following lands to our district from the Robson district providing the Municipal Council grant same, viz. s.w. $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 2, tp. 35, rge. 29; east half of sections 21, 29, and 32; all of sections 28 and 33; west $\frac{1}{2}$ of 34 and 27; and n.w. $\frac{1}{4}$ of 22 in tp. 34, rge. 29. Carried." 13

"July 7, 1921: Moved by R. Hammond, seconded by O. Parsons that the chairman and secretary be authorized to sign a bylaw to give title of Robson property to M. Harris. Carried." 14

7 Minutes of School Board of Benito School District.
Minute Book.

8 Ibid p.

9 Minutes of School Board Meeting, Benito Consolidated School District No. 1408, p. 5, Bk. 1.

10 Ibid p. 13

11 Ibid p. 9

12 Ibid p. 21

13 Ibid p. 69

14 Ibid p. 87

APPENDIX "E"

COPY OF QUESTIONNAIRE AND ACCOMPANYING LETTER SENT
TO THE TEACHERS OF SWAN RIVER VALLEY

Benito, Manitoba,

November 2, 1948.

Teacher,

_____ School,

_____, Manitoba.

Dear Teacher,-

I am making a study of the Development of Education within Swan River Valley and am devoting one chapter to the Position of the Teacher. As it is necessary for me to obtain data concerning the preparation, qualification, and experience of the teachers I am forwarding you a questionnaire form.

Would you be so kind as to fill in this form and return it to me at your earliest convenience? The data will be treated as confidential and no name will be published in the report I am making. I am sending a copy of this form to every teacher in Swan River Valley.

I am enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope for your convenience.

Yours sincerely,

John N. Clark,

Benito Consolidated School.

PREPARATION, QUALIFICATIONS, AND EXPERIENCE OF TEACHERS
IN SWAN RIVER VALLEY

Name _____ Age _____ Certificate _____

Number of Years in present school _____

1. ACADEMIC PREPARATION-----HIGH SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITY OR COLLEGE

High Schools Attended	Address	What Years?	Grades	Diplomas	
University or College Attended	Years	Majors	Minors	Degree	Year

2. PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION

Training Institution	Year Y	Term in Months	Certificate received

3. SUMMER SCHOOL COURSES AND CORRESPONDENCE WORK

Courses	How and where taken	Year	For what diploma?	Diploma received

4. TEACHING EXPERIENCE

School	Address	Years	Grades	Salary

Questionnaire continued

5. Have you ever contributed to teachers' magazines? Please give particulars. _____

6. Do you take an active part in teachers' meetings? _____
7. Have you ever attended the M.E.A. Convention? _____
8. Have you ever carried on experimental work of an educational nature in the classroom? Give particulars. _____

9. Are you carrying on experimental work at present? Give particulars. _____

10. Are you trained to give standardized tests? _____
11. Are you trained to give mental tests? _____
12. Do you take part in, and guide, the play activities of the pupils? _____
13. What subjects do you prefer to teach? List in order of choice.
(1) _____ (2) _____ (3) _____
14. What grades do you prefer to teach? _____
15. Were you trained to teach music in your school? _____
16. What musical instrument do you play? _____
17. List any teaching abilities you may possess that are not included in the questionnaire. _____

Benito, Manitoba,

November 15, 1948.

Teacher,

_____ School,
_____, Manitoba.

Dear ///-----:

I am making a study of the Development of Education within Swan River Valley and it is necessary for me to obtain some data on the administration of your school. I am enclosing a questionnaire and would be grateful if you would fill out the form at your earliest convenience and forward it to me. I am enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope for your convenience.

I sincerely appreciate the co-operation you have shown me in answering the questionnaire dealing with the Position of the Teacher and trust that you will find it possible to continue this co-operation.

Yours sincerely,

John N. Clark,

Benito Consolidated School.

ADMINISTRATION OF SCHOOLS IN SWAN RIVER VALLEY

1. Name of School _____ 2. Number of School District _____
3. Name of Principal or Teacher _____
4. Is the school (a) Frame (b) brick (c) stone ? Please underline the correct answer.
5. Number of classrooms in school _____
6. Kind of Heating System (a) stove (b) hot air (c) steam (d) hot water. Please underline the correct answer.
7. Is there a fire escape in the school? _____ a rear exit? _____
8. What is the approximate area of the playground? _____
9. Have any trees been planted on the grounds? _____
About how many? _____
10. Is there a phonograph _____ piano _____ organ _____ radio _____
in the school? Please put a check mark in the proper blank.
11. Number of maps in the school _____. Is there a globe? _____
12. What is the approximate number of books in your library? _____
13. Are the books catalogued ? _____ classified? _____
14. Have you a student librarian? _____ Is the teacher librarian? _____
15. Do the pupils use the books frequently? _____
16. Is there adequate science equipment ? _____
17. List the playground equipment _____
18. Have you any students with extreme hearing _____, sight _____,
speech _____ defects?
19. How often do you give or plan to give examinations in your school? _____
20. What system of markind do you use? Percentages _____, Letters
eg. A,B,C,D,E _____, Other System _____.
21. Do you use long answer _____, short answer _____ tests extensively
22. Do you keep a record of pupils' results? _____ Is such a
record of previous years' results at your disposal? _____
23. What extra-classroom activities are carried on in your school?
eg. parties, concerts, hikes.

Questionnaire continued

24. Number of Pupils in each grade

Grade	Boys	Girls	Grade	Boys	Girls
I	_____	_____	VII	_____	_____
II	_____	_____	VIII	_____	_____
III	_____	_____	IX	_____	_____
IV	_____	_____	X	_____	_____
V	_____	_____	XI	_____	_____
VI	_____	_____	XII	_____	_____

25. Number of Pupils according to Ages

Age	Boys	Girls	Age	Boys	Girls
5	_____	_____	14	_____	_____
6	_____	_____	15	_____	_____
7	_____	_____	16	_____	_____
9	_____	_____	17	_____	_____
10	_____	_____	18	_____	_____
11	_____	_____	19	_____	_____
12	_____	_____	20 & over	_____	_____
13	_____	_____	Total	_____	_____

Benito, Man.,

February 4, 1949.

Secretary-Treasurer,

_____ School District,

_____, Manitoba.

Dear Sir,-

I am working on my thesis for the degree of Master of Education and am preparing a study on The Development of Education in Swan River Valley. One chapter deals with the cost of education and it is necessary for me to obtain some information concerning your school district.

Would you be kind enough to fill out the enclosed forms at your earliest convenience? Any information relating to the early organization of the district will also be appreciated.

I am anxious to obtain accurate information and your co-operation in this matter will be greatly appreciated. I am enclosing a self-addressed stamped envelope for your convenience.

Thanking you in advance, I am

Yours sincerely,

John N. Clark, Principal,

Benito Consolidated School,

Benito, Man.

RELATING TO THE COST OF EDUCATION IN SWAN RIVER VALLEY
COST OF EDUCATION IN _____

Receipts

Balance \$ _____
Grants Teachers \$ _____
Transport. _____
General Munic. Levy _____
Special District
Tax _____
Proceeds from sale
of Debentures _____
Promissory notes
discounted _____
Fees from Pupils _____
Present overdraft _____
From other Sources _____

Expenditures

Salaries Teachers _____
Secretary _____
Buildings (new) _____
Equipment _____
Repairs _____
Caretaking _____
Fuel, light _____
Library _____
Stationery
supplies _____
Transportation _____
Debentures: Princ. _____
Int. _____
Promissory notes paid _____
Overdraft, last year _____
Other Expenses _____
Total Expenditures _____
Balance _____
Total _____

Information for year ending December 31, 1948.

Secretary-Treasurer _____

School District of _____

APPENDIX "F"

TABLE I

PERCENTAGE INCREASE OVER THE PRECEDING DECADE, 1901-1921

	1901	1911	1921
Minitonas Municipality		203.32	122.04
Swan River Municipality		98.82	68.57
Swan River (town)			57.32
Percentage for Total		153.99	80.93

TABLE II

PERCENTAGE INCREASE OVER PREVIOUS CENSUS, 1921-1946

	1921	1926	1931	1936	1941	1946
Minitonas		-7.79 ¹	37.23	20.29	7.32	-10.44
Swan River		1.85	6.48	14.81	.26	- 2.22
Swan River (town)		-.33	7.55	4.96	11.12	5.49
Percentage for Total	-1.36		15.44	.5.63	.38	-4.53

¹
The sign (-) denotes a decrease in population.

[illegible]

[illegible]

APPENDIX "G"

The First Teachers

The following is a partial list of the first teachers
in school districts in Swan River Valley.

<u>School</u>	<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Year</u>
West Favelle	Douglas Durkin	1901
Swan River	A.C. Dorrance	1901
Minitonas	Norman Ingham	1901
Egremont	W. Gable	1902
Ravensworth	S.J. Shuttleworth	1903
Croppertops	Ambrose Leper	1903
Harlington	Miss Louisa Gregg	1903
Roaring River	C. Spicer	1905 (spring)
Robson	Miss K.M. Anderson	?
Lavender	Miss Edith Sterns	1906
Pretty Valley	Miss Margaret Elliot	1906
Wild Rose	Miss M. Ross	1907 ?
Benito	John F. Scribner	1908
Brierley	Mr. McGowan	1913
Big Woody	Miss Annie Lattimer	1913
Drury	Miss Addie Thomas	1914
McKay	Miss Robinson	1917
Lens	Mrs. A. Peckham	1920
Duncanville	Miss M. Thurley	1926
Allanvale	Miss Vera Fraser	1931
Bell River	Miss I. Thompson	1928
McKinley	Miss Lindsey	1937
North's Creek	Miss Anne Strong	1939
Deer Path	Mrs. V.E. Bonham	1940
Glover Creek	D.B. Cowan	1945

Teaching Experience of Miss Eva Armistead in Swan River Valley

Roaring River	1905-1907
Davidson	1908
Roaring River	1909-1911
Swan River	1911-1929

APPENDIX "H"

INFORMATION RELATING TO EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

THE CONSTITUTION OF

BENITO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS' COUNCIL

PREAMBLE: WE, THE STUDENTS OF BENITO HIGH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT, IN ORDER TO PREPARE OURSELVES FOR CITIZENSHIP; TO PROMOTE THE WELFARE AND ENHANCE THE HAPPINESS OF THE STUDENTS OF BENITO SCHOOL, TO PROMOTE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE STUDENT BODY AND FACULTY, TO INCREASE THE USEFULNESS OF THE SCHOOL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT BY PROPER CARE AND SUPERVISION, DO ORDAIN AND ESTABLISH THIS CONSTITUTION FOR BENITO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS' COUNCIL.

ARTICLE ONE

OFFICERS

(a) There shall be a President elected by and from among the Student Body.

(b) There shall be a Vice-President elected freely by and from among the Student Body.

(c) There shall be a Secretary elected freely by and from among the Student Body.

(d) The Principal shall act as Honorary Treasurer and shall head the Financial Committee consisting of himself, the President and the Vice-President. No financial transactions may be entered upon by the Financial Committee except as directed by a majority of Students in session at a meeting of the Student Body.

ARTICLE TWO

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business to be followed at regular meetings of the Student Body shall be as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| (a) Reading of Minutes | (e) Reports of Committees |
| (b) Correspondence | (f) Unfinished Business |
| (c) Treasurer's Report | (g) New Business |
| (d) Constitutional Changes | (h) Adjournment |

ARTICLE THREE

AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

This Constitution may be amended, changed and enlarged by a three-fourths vote of the Students at a regular meeting of the Student Body. Proposed changes must be prepared in triplicate, one copy to be submitted to the Principal, one to the President, at least twenty-four hours before the meeting at which it is to be considered, and the third copy to be retained by the petitioner.

On all matters, other than proposed changes of the Constitution, decisions shall be made by a simple majority vote of the Students.

LETTER RELATING TO MINITONAS MUNICIPAL FIELD DAY

Minitonas, Man.,
May 9th, 1947.

To the Teachers of the Municipality :

Dear Sir or Madam:

At last I can give you some definite information relating to the annual Field Day. At the Directors' meeting recently the following was decided:

- Date: the date of the field day shall be June 13th (Friday).
Place: the place shall be the same as usual, here in Minitonas.
Fee: The fee shall be the same as usual; \$5.00 per school (one room) with more than twenty pupils; \$2.50 per school with twenty pupils or less; \$5.00 per room (two or more). All fees are payable immediately. Please do not delay. It makes it very difficult for the Treasurer to carry on unless all fees are paid before field day.
Assembly: all schools shall gather on the school grounds in town, not later than 12.00 o'clock noon.
Parade: from the school grounds the parade shall proceed to the local sports' grounds where the programme of the day shall begin.
Marching Order: the marching order of the schools shall be drawn by lot. However, the marching order in each school group shall be left up to the teacher (i.e. whether by two's or three's and whether the small children shall march at the front, etc.)
Banners: Each school will carry a banner in the parade. The banners will be judged for originality as well as for craftsmanship. All banners must be the work of the school (teachers may assist in the construction, but no outside help is permissible). Last year's banner may be used, but it will be judged as such in the competition.
Prizes: There will be a first, second, and third prize for marching and the same for the first, second, and third best banner. For other prizes, see below.
Sports' Events: An entirely new system has been arranged for this year. This is to be a field day in the real sense of the word. A shield is being put up for competition, and the point system will be used to ascertain the best school at the meet, - the school that will carry home the shield. That school will be the one which has the highest number of winners in the individual events of the day, Per Pupil. That is, a school with ten first prize winners amongst its twenty pupils will have a fifty percent standing in the shield competition. Of course, that will mean that the more pupils that a school trains and has compete in the events the better chance it will have to win. Now, under the following system we hope to have every pupil take part in each event. As was decided at the public meeting to organize the field day in March, it was decided to group the pupils according to age and not according to grade. The following groups were decided on:

- Group A: all pupils under nine years of age
- Group B: all pupils nine and ten years of age
- Group C: all pupils eleven and twelve years
- Group D: all pupils thirteen and fourteen years
- Group E: all pupils fifteen and sixteen years
- Group F: all pupils over sixteen years

(age as at June 13th, 1947, the date of the Field Day)

With the groups drawn up and divided as outlined, the events will be run as follows. -Each teacher is asked to submit to the Secretary a list of all the pupils in his or her school or grade with the ages of each pupil given with the Name. The Field Day committee will then group all the pupils according to age and sex, taking them from all the schools and mixing them together. These groups, of say ten or twenty pupils, will on Field Day be taken by an appointed leader through a series of events. All pupils will try each event. Records of what each child does will be kept by the leader. In that way the school with the most winners will be readily known. Now the success of the plan depends on the teachers, -first, submitting an accurate list of all their pupils, and also giving their support to the plan by giving their pupils some coaching in all the events.

Events: Group A. (girls)

25 yd. dash

dodge ball: teams will compete; the last three of each team to be put out will be the winners.

skipping contest: skipping frontwards, backwards, and on one foot (either foot), -the pupils skipping the longest will be the winners.

(boys)

25 yd. dash

high jump: jumping over a rope

soft ball throw: for distance.

Group B. (girls and boys) same as for the above group excepting that the distance for the dash shall be 35 yds. for both boys and girls in this group.

Group C (girls)

(boys)

50 yd. dash

same as for the girls in this group.

high jump

running broad jump

soft-ball throw

Group D (girls) same as in the above group C except that in this group the distance for the dash shall be 75 yds.

(boys) same events as in the above group C except that in this group the distance for the dash shall be 100 yds.

Group E (girls)

(boys)

100 yd. dash

100 yd. dash

running broad jump

running broad jump

high jump

high jump

soft ball throw

running hop step and jump
soft-ball throw

Group F,- same as Group E for both girls and boys.

There will be an "open event" for boys in Groups D.E.F. It will be a half mile race with handicaps to be given for contestants from groups D and E.

Prizes: Individual ribbons will be given to the first, second and third winners in each event and in each group. Then, of course, there will be the shield given to the winning school.

Soft-ball Tournament: as usual there will be a soft-ball tournament.

Contestants: Only Grades I to VIII can complete. This move was taken to overcome the difficulty of having Grade IX Correspondence students from the outside schools competing while the Grade IX students from the town were barred.

Prizes: A new system of prizes has been decided upon. Instead of there being just three prizes, a first, second, and a third, as in past years, a prize of one dollar will be given for each win. In that way each team has a chance of winning some prize money.

Schools Doubling up for Competition: Two schools having less than twenty students each may double up but Only Two. The teachers must be able and willing to vouch for their students. Any team found guilty of a violation of this ruling will be disqualified.

Except for a few incidental instructions I think that is all I have to report to you just now. As you can see, this will be quite a big day IF we all work together. There is a lot of work entailed I know, but it will be worth it to have a real field day. I think the pupils will enter whole-heartedly into it all IF the teacher do themselves.

If there are any questions you wish to ask about any part of the plan, don't hesitate to phone me at 199-13.

Each school entering the ball tournament must bring a ball and a bat clearly marked in indelible ink with the name of the school.

Each girl entering the skipping contest must bring her own rope.

Each school is asked to bring along a dodge ball (foot balls will do) clearly marked.

I think that is all for now,

Yours very truly,

W.A. Harvey,

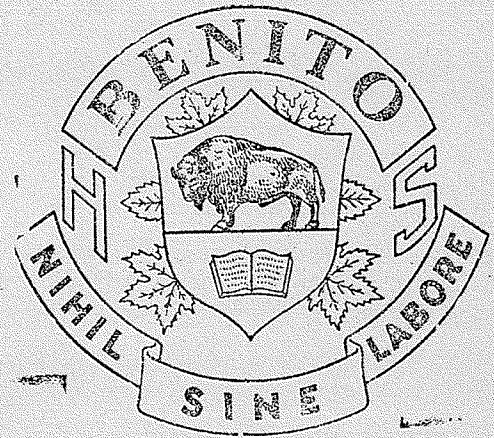
Sec. Treas.

Minitonas Field Day Committee.

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B-E-N-I-T-O we are proud to
Boast of our old high,
Sing her praise!
She has taught us never to say die
Voices raise!
And always we'll cheer her,
And we'll hold nothing nearer
To our hearts ,
Than good old B.H.S.!

R
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The Cover Page of the Benito High School Paper

APPENDIX "I"

PUBLIC NOTICE CONCERNING SCHOOL BYLAW RELATING TO KENVILLE SCHOOL
1
RE VOTING ON SCHOOL BYLAW

"Public Notice is hereby given that Bylaw 11 of the trustees of the School District of Kenville No.1404, which has had its first and second reading by the trustees, will be submitted to the vote of the ratepayers of the said School District entitled to vote thereon at the time and place hereinafter mentioned, the object of the said bylaw is to authorize the said School District to borrow upon the credit of the said School District the sum of Thirty-five Thousand (\$35,000,000) Dollars for the purpose of erecting and equipping a four roomed school and to issue debentures for the said sum bearing interest of 4% per annum payable in twenty equal annual instalments of \$2,575.36 each, including principal and interest at the rate aforesaid. The first of said instalments may be increased or decreased by the amount of interest necessary to cover the case where the time between the date of issue and date of the first payment exceeds or is less than one year, the amount of the first instalment being \$1,992.03 and to become due and payable on the First day of December, A.D.1949. The time for taking the vote of the ratepayers for and against the said bylaw will be on Wednesday, the 13th day of April, A.D.1949, between the hours of nine o'clock in the forenoon and five o'clock in the afternoon at the Community Hall in the Village of Kenville, Manitoba. The Reeve of the Rural Municipality of Swan River will on Friday, the 25th day of March A.D.1949, attend at the office of the Secretary Treasurer at eleven o'clock in the forenoon for the purpose of appointing in writing persons interested in the bylaw, either for or against, to attend at the polling place and the final summing up of the ballots. The Secretary Treasurer of the Rural Municipality of Swan River will on Thursday, the 14th day of April, A.D.1949, at the hour of eleven o'clock in the forenoon at his office sum up the votes given for or against the said bylaw.

Dated at Swan River, Manitoba, this 1st day of March, A.D.1949.

J.B.Hutcheson,

Secretary Treasurer."