

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA
A HISTORY OF THE ORIGIN AND GROWTH
OF SCHOOLS IN THE CITY
OF ST. BONIFACE

BEING A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE COMMITTEE
ON POST-GRADUATE STUDIES IN PARTIAL
FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER
OF EDUCATION

BY

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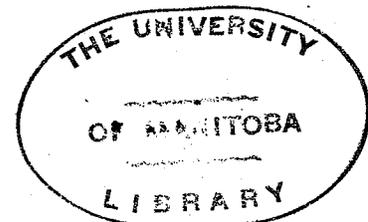


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A HISTORY OF THE ORIGIN AND GROWTH OF
SCHOOLS IN THE CITY OF ST. BONIFACE

ABSTRACT

PURPOSE

The purpose of this study was to present a historical record of the origin and growth of schools in a Manitoba locality which had not previously been dealt with by students of the Faculty of Education of the University of Manitoba. The fact that St. Boniface was one of the earliest settlements in the province and that it might be considered to be the French capital of Manitoba made the study of particular interest. No effort was made to interpret events neither was there any intention to present a particular viewpoint. The sole purpose of the thesis was to tell the story of what happened and of how the present came to be.

SOURCES OF DATA

Since histories of Manitoba dealt with education in a very general manner information was sought, as far as possible, from original sources in the city. Three principal sources of data were made available for research. These were, the Archiepiscopal archives connected with the Basilica in St. Boniface, the records of the School District of St. Boniface,

and the records of the School District of Norwood. Supplementary data were secured through the Real Estate Department of the Hudson's Bay Company, from the Legislative library in Winnipeg, and from transcripts of material to be found in the Selkirk papers.

METHOD OF PROCEDURE

The story deals with the administration of the various schools. It was felt that the subject was too great to include narrative concerning pupils or teachers unless these were connected with administrative problems. A chronological treatment was chosen in preference to a topical treatment because the latter method did not seem to lend itself to the presentation of a connected story.

FINDINGS

The story begins by tracing the manner in which a system of French denominational schools was instituted in Manitoba on the east side of the Red River. Then follows the relation of how this system grew until at the time of the formation of the province the Mission schools seemed to be firmly established and they formed the basis upon which the system of Catholic schools was erected.

Another section deals with the manner in which the schools passed from the control of the Church into the hands of an elected Board of Trustees. The effect of the Manitoba School Question on the district is described and also the period of unsettlement which followed the passage of the Public Schools Act in 1890. The section concludes with the

story of how St. Boniface School District at last became a part of the Public Schools System and carried on two first rank bi-lingual schools.

The Chapter following deals with the change which came over the city with the influx of a large settlement of English speaking citizens. The immediate effect was that two schools had to be built in the south part of the city to accommodate these new residents. A second effect was the growth of differences of opinion between the north and the south sections of the city which resulted finally in the division of the old district into St. Boniface and Norwood Districts.

The story of these two School Districts is then traced separately as far as midsummer 1958. The process of readjustment is dealt with as well as the struggles each district had during the years of depression in order to keep the schools in operation. In each case, the increase in population following the war made necessary a great building programme in order to provide classroom space for the additional children who required accommodation. The Chapter on Norwood also touches on the various efforts which have been made to solve the religious problem which exists in that district.

The final division of the thesis contains a short account of seven schools which are, or have been, serving special interests in the city. These have all been Church operated or Church controlled and have not been part of the organized systems of schools to be found in St. Boniface.

— CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to present a historical record of the development of the schools of St. Boniface. It was felt that such a record might serve a useful purpose in presenting a small segment of the greater whole which makes up the history of Manitoba and of Canada. No effort to interpret or to draw conclusions had been made; neither was any attempt made to prove a case nor to illustrate a particular viewpoint. All that was attempted was to set down as far as possible the story of what has been and how the present came to be.

As yet no writer, as far as could be learned, has undertaken to write a full description of the story of education in Manitoba. Valuable work has been done by various students of the Faculty of Education at the University of Manitoba in setting down the history of schools in some particular locality and at least two theses deal with the story of education in Manitoba within a limited period. Since the story of the province is a composite of the stories of its many parts, it would seem worth while that a thorough study and report be made on some section of the province which has not hitherto been the subject of inquiry.

While there was abundant material for the present study it was dotted here and there with discrepancies. All of the pioneers of the district have long ago passed to their last rest so that first-hand information of more than fifty years ago was available only from the records which have been left behind. These written records did not always agree and the same was true of the memories of events which had occurred through the years since the start of the century. Different individuals remembered events in different ways and the written records varied just as widely. Worse yet, in some cases the records were lost or destroyed. There was great loss in such fires as that which destroyed the Bishop's Palace in 1860, that of St. Boniface College in 1922, or that of Provencher School in 1923. Under such conditions it was difficult to include all that ought to be included or to eliminate all inaccuracies. The writer has however, endeavored to include only what may be considered to be authentic, and, if some errors have crept in, it has been in spite of a conscientious effort to eliminate them.

Sources of Data

A general survey of available literature was first undertaken. Histories of Canada were of little value since the principal reference they made was to the Manitoba School Question only. A number of histories of Manitoba were scanned quickly but although several of these contained quite good accounts of education in Manitoba the discussion was too general to yield much useful material.

The field of search was next broadened to include books about the Red River Colony, papers presented at meetings of the Manitoba and St. Boniface Historical Societies, original material to be found in the files of the former society, pamphlets, articles and newspaper files.

The history of the Catholic schools of Red River has been written very carefully by George M. Newfield in Chapter III of his unpublished thesis for the University of Manitoba. The work shows evidence of painstaking care and is carefully documented. It was particularly valuable because it indicated a number of sources where information might be found even though it includes other Catholic schools of the colony while omitting discussion of the years from 1870 to 1883.

The work of Bishop Provencher in St. Boniface schools is dealt with in many places throughout his book by the Rev. G. Dugas in his book, Monseigneur Provencher et les Missions de la Riviere-Rouge. He quotes extensively from the letters of the Bishop which were written to different fellow bishops. Copies of these letters had been gathered by Archbishop Taché at great trouble and expense from the archives of the different dioceses and archdioceses in Eastern Canada.

Another Catholic writer who deals in considerable detail with the history of the mission schools of the Catholic Church is the Rev. A. G. Morice in his History of the Catholic Church in Western Canada or in the French version, l'Eglise Catholique dans l'Ouest Canadien. Father Morice was very thorough in his research with the result that

his work is thoroughly documented, his references being to original documents, possibly the same ones that were available to Father Dugas, and which are still preserved in the Archiepiscopal Archives in St. Boniface. The work of these two reverend gentlemen was found to be of great assistance, although their statements did not always agree.

Information with regard to several private schools in the city was obtained through interviews with individuals connected with these schools who were in a position to know something of the story of the institutions which they serve. These schools were not treated with the detail that was given to the Public Schools. The reason was, that although each fulfills its own purpose, its story does not greatly influence the orderly development of the school systems of the city.

Much of the greater part of the story has been obtained directly from primary sources, the material of which has not hitherto been made public. The School Board of St. Boniface District and the School Board of the Norwood District both permitted the study of their minute books and the material thus obtained forms the basis of the chapters dealing with these two organized school districts. The Archdiocese of St. Boniface also was generous in making available copies of many of the letters written by Bishop Provencher to his confreres, as well as in furnishing answers to several definite questions which were put to the office in written form.

Certain material was obtained from the records kept by members or servants of the Hudson's Bay Company. Since these records are taken from original documents they may be considered to be authentic and of true historical worth. Minutes of both the Council of Assiniboia and of the Council of Rupertsland are to be found in a publication of the Canadian Archives edited by E. H. Oliver, The Canadian North West. Its Early Development and Legislative Records. In addition, two short transcripts were obtained which dealt with unpublished material. These were: an excerpt from the Journal of Miles Macdonnell, and an excerpt from the title deed given by Lord Selkirk to the then Father Provencher just before the latter set out on his journey to the West.

A valuable and reliable source of information was the Legislative Library in Winnipeg. A number of copies of the Annual Report of the Department of Education gave information on the organized school districts from 1884 hence. The file of volumes of the Statutes of Manitoba contained the various Acts which were connected with the development of the city and of the schools. These Acts provided information which might otherwise have been difficult to secure.

The basic map used to prepare the maps which have been included with this report, was one which was prepared in 1935 by the Public Works Office of the City of St. Boniface. This map was valuable because it indicated the legal designation of many of the blocks into which the city was surveyed and it also showed the majority of the streets.

Certain supplementary data were secured from a map issued by the Assessment Office of the City of Winnipeg in 1885 and from the original map drawn by the party which surveyed Norwood in 1894. Other supplementary data for maps were secured from legal descriptions such as occur in the Act which added the St. Vital Annex to the city in 1914, or in Judge Mathers' award in 1924 which defined the boundaries of the St. Boniface and Norwood Districts. A reproduction of a contemporary drawing which is to be found on the second floor of the Archbishopal headquarters served to help locate the site of some of the early schools. Personal exploration by the writer established the location of most of the buildings which exist today.

Much material is to be found in the old files of the different newspapers but little was used because of the fact that it was not considered to be sufficiently reliable. Only once was information based on such material. That reference was made to the resolutions adopted by the Norwood Ratepayers' Association at a meeting held about a year before the old district was divided into two. Because identical accounts were found in four different newspapers, it was considered that the writers must have had access to a true copy of the original text.

Method of Procedure

The field of study required to be limited. The story of a school has several aspects. It could include an account of outstanding pupils. It might outline the contributions made by some of the most notable of the teachers.

It might include the story of some of the outstanding officials who have been connected with the school. Because of the large number of pupils who have passed through St. Boniface schools it seemed fair not to single out a few for special mention and for the same reason it seemed better not to single out individual teachers. Thus the story is restricted to the organization and growth of the schools from the administrative standpoint. Individuals are mentioned only when they are connected with business in which the school boards were involved. An exception is made in the case of Bishop Provencher because he was so much a part of the schools of his time.

The course of the story fell into several natural divisions. Until 1883, the story of the schools is closely connected with the work of the Church. One chapter is devoted to the founding and growth of the various mission schools which existed during that period. Another chapter tells the story of the Catholic School District as organized and conducted during the period when Manitoba had two school systems. This chapter concludes with an account of the way in which the district became absorbed into the re-organized Public School System. Another chapter deals with the story of St. Boniface during the period when the whole city formed a single school district and continues the story to the time when two separate districts were formed.

The story of each district during the years following the division is treated separately in two chapters and the final chapter deals with a short account of several private schools which are to be found within the city's territory.

—CHAPTER II
PRE SCHOOL DAYS

It is a good thing for any community to know of its beginnings and the manner in which it has evolved to its present state. The course of its history is determined by many factors such as its soil, its physical features and its geographic location with respect to other settled communities, its climate, and the character and the cultural inheritance of its people. The character of the people may be modified by the other factors but they, in turn, may be modified by humanity so that all factors are inextricably intermingled.

Before the beginning of the nineteenth century, the land opposite the mouth of the Assiniboine River was open prairie dotted with park-like groves and known only to wandering bands of Indians and by the stray trader who passed on his way in search of the furs which at the time constituted the "Cash crop" and was the main source of wealth which might be gleaned from the great western land.

Today this area is occupied by a thriving city of over thirty thousand people and within its confines are found the usual institutions which are necessary to modern civilization. Not the least of these is the school.

The story of the schools is closely interwoven with the story of the growth of the city, perhaps more than is usual since the school question has affected the fortunes of both the national and the provincial governments and has, in turn, been effected by events in corners of the world far remote from this locality.

As of June, 1958, there are two School Districts within the limits of St. Boniface City. Much the greater area is included in the School District of St. Boniface # 1188. This district is roughly U-shaped and extends along the Northern, Eastern, and Southern boundaries of the city. Within the U lies the School District of Norwood No. 2113. By its position, it divides the populated parts of the larger district into two separate areas. How this situation arose is part of the story.

In the hundred and fifty years since the first settlers appeared, the population has grown until it approximates thirty two thousand people. Until the beginning of the present century the population was almost entirely French and the lives of the people were largely centred around the block of land (given to Father Provencher by Lord Selkirk) which was first occupied by the Mission, later by the buildings of the Sisters of Charity and by the College and, lastly, by the magnificent Basilica which is located on that land to day. It was the "Little Quebec" of Manitoba and the religious and cultural centre of that area to the east of the Red River which has been so largely settled by French speaking people.

Around the turn of the century, however, a change came. The industrial development of Winnipeg somewhat affected its smaller neighbour and settlement southward from the Cathedral area was made largely by people speaking the English language. Such settlement continued until the character of the city was altered completely and St. Boniface became a bi-lingual city. In addition, there were settlements by a group of Belgians near the Seine River, and the gradual infiltration of people of many races who settled, not in groups, but here and there, intermingled with other elements of the population. Thus the character of the schools and their story to the beginning of the present century will reflect almost entirely the social customs, the traditions and the philosophy of the French Canadian, modified to suit pioneer conditions and strongly influenced by the Roman Catholic Church. With the introduction of a second strong element in population there came about marked differences of opinion due to the differences in social custom, philosophy and tradition. The resolution of the difficulties which arose from these differences was not as easy task.

Generally speaking, the City has been able to support its schools in adequate measure from a financial standpoint. There have been lean years, it is true, but it is a matter of pride among St. Boniface citizens that they have always given their schools the best support of which they have been capable and, in both organized districts, have sought to maintain a standard of education which has been recognized elsewhere as being high.

As elsewhere in the West, the trader preceded the settler. French settlement in the St. Lawrence Valley was prevented from expanding very far westward by the many miles of wilderness created by the downward thrust of the Canadian Shield from the Hudson Bay region. The trader and the explorer, on the other hand, were not thus hindered. After struggling through a wilderness studded with lakes and interwoven with streams the early explorer and trader came out upon a vast plain extending hundreds of miles westward. The eastern part of this vast plain was drained by a great river coming from the South, into which flowed another river coming from the West. This latter stream drained vast areas stretching toward the setting sun. The first white men known to have appeared at the confluence of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers were members of the La Verendrye party who built a post known as Fort Rouge. The whole surrounding territory at that time formed part of the hunting grounds of the Assiniboine Indians although there were also occasional bands of Cree who had previously been lords of the whole area.

No permanent post seems to have been established at The Forks at that time though there are several records of trading parties which passed that way or which even made a temporary halt near the place where La Verendrye's fort had been. Among the servants of the trading groups were a number of men who, becoming freed of their service, chose to remain in this western land and who settled here.

As has been the fashion of men from the dawn of time, when they could not get wives of their own kind, they took wives from among the women who were available. This mingling of Whites and Indian provided the basic stock for the numerous Metis who, until their migration westward many years later, played a very important part in Red River history.

The real history of settlement in the valley begins with the coming of the first Selkirk settlers. Though many parties of traders had followed the path first travelled by La Verendrye there appears to have been no attempt at permanent settlement. Even the Assiniboine, who had formerly roamed the area, had moved westward and their places had been taken by the Salteaux. Now there was a new people arriving by a new route and their intention was to make a permanent home centred at The Forks. It is significant to the people of St. Boniface that the ceremony of taking possession, carried out by Miles Macdonnell, took place at a point opposite that at which the rivers mingle and which spot is now occupied by St. Boniface Hospital.

There is evidence that even among the earliest settlers there was a desire for the provision of education in the new colony. In a letter from Lord Selkirk to Macdonnell, is a statement that the Scottish colonists were expressing much anxiety that the means of education should be provided and Selkirk stressed the importance of seeing that a school should be established.¹ With the first party there

1. E.H.Oliver: ed. The Canadian North West. Its Early Development and Legislative Records, Ottawa: Publication No. 9 of the Canadian Archives, 1915. pp 52-3.

was included a priest, the Reverend Charles Bourke, who, it was intended, should care for the spiritual needs of the colonists and in addition, it was expected, would care for the educational needs of the community.² Father Bourke however, seems not to have been suited to the life of the projected colony, for he asked permission to return home after having come only as far as the shores of Hudson Bay. Macdonell was seemingly quite satisfied to have him go and recommended that he be given the necessary permission. Thus failed the first opportunity to set up schools after the practice of the British system.

A second evidence of Selkirk's concern for education in the new colony is found in a letter to Macdonell written in 1811:-

"M. McRae is well acquainted with the improved methods which have been invented or introduced with such wonderful effect by Jos. Lancaster, and he could in a few weeks organize a school system on his plan. If you can pick out from among the settlers a steady young man of a cool temper to be employed as a schoolmaster. Arithmetic with Reading and Writing in their native tongue are the branches to be first attended to and I care naught how little the children are taught of the language of the Yankees.

If McRae remains at the settlement, he can examine the school from time to time to see that it is properly conducted: or at any rate he can give the schoolmaster the necessary instructions for carrying it on and give you the information as to the method and principles of the system so you can be at no loss to judge whether this plan is properly pursued and check any neglect."³

From this extract it may be seen that Selkirk had a full scheme of education in mind. McRae, or someone to

2 Rev. George Bryce, "Lord Selkirk", The Makers of Canada, Toronto: Morang and Co., Ltd., 1911, Vol. VII, p. 152.

3 E.H.Oliver, op cit, pp 52-3.

whom he would give the necessary coaching, would act as a sort of supervisor or inspector for a system of schools; the schoolmaster would be chosen locally by some person or persons of authority in the community to be served; since he cared naught for the children learning the language of the "Yankees", he seemingly intended that the language of instruction should be Gaelic; he indicates what the basic curriculum should be and also the type of discipline he desires. In short, this scheme again indicates his intention that a system similar to that of the British Parish Schools should be inaugurated. But McRae was no more to be counted on than Father Bourke. He came to the colony, it is true, and served as a member of the Council of Assiniboia but the school system he was to have established, failed to appear. There seems to have been some small attempt to found a school by someone. On January 24, 1813, a man by the name of Swords was engaged to teach both Protestant and Catholic children in the Red River Settlement. This school would seem to have claim to being the first school in the Canadian West but it was short lived. It closed March 23, in the same year.⁴

The third attempt to establish a school was a little more successful. With the fifth contingent of settlers to arrive from the old land by way of Hudson Bay was a young schoolmaster, eighteen year old John Matheson, accompanied by his wife. Among members of the party were a number of boys and girls who were his prospective pupils. There is no

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Macdonell's Journal, Selkirk Papers, pp 16789-16809, Provincial Archives, Manitoba.

doubt that John Matheson actually taught school in the colony although writers of early Manitoba history have given the credit for establishing the first school variously to Provencher,⁵ or to Burbridge.⁶ Macdonnel wrote to Lork Selkirk from Montreal, whence he had been taken by the North West Company agents, telling of the desire of the settlers for a clergyman as well as for a school. Although he had not been able to satisfy their desire for the former, he had arranged for the latter. He states that he had secured a teacher; arranged for quarters and for the charges of the school before he had been taken from the colony and that "The people in general sent their children and appeared well satisfied in this respect."⁷ An extract from his journal adds further evidence:

"Jan. 10, 1815 Engaged John Matheson Junior for the school and for the present kept at the "Old Huts", which are to be immediately in repair.
Jan. 14, John Matheson, the schoolmaster, came up with his wife to the school house
Jan. 16, The School began today."⁸

But this third effort to found a school was, like the two previous efforts, doomed to failure. The hostile agents of the North-West Company were determined to destroy the colony and, by dint of coercion, the settlers were driven out. Thus ended another attempt to found a school.

⁵ L. A. Glinz, The Development of Public Secondary Education in Manitoba, Unpublished Doctor's Dissertation, Leland Stanford Junior University, 1931, p. 21.

⁶ Sir George Simpson to A. Colville, May 31, 1824, Selkirk Papers p. 8221, Dominion Archives as quoted in E.H. Oliver, Op Cit p. 259.

⁷ Macdonnel to Selkirk, Sept. 15, 1815. Selkirk Papers, pp 16946-7, Provincial Archives, Manitoba.

⁸ Unpublished transcript, Miles Macdonnel's Journal for 1815, Dominion Archives, Ottawa. No Paging.

CHAPTER III
THE SCHOOLS OF ST. BONIFACE
THE MISSION SCHOOLS

The first three attempts to establish schools in Red River met with failure. With the first party of Selkirk settlers came Father Bourke who, it was expected, would care for the spiritual welfare of the colonists, and also for the education of their children.¹ But Father Bourke turned back from the shores of Hudson Bay and there was no school.² The second attempt to set up a school came from the suggestion by Lord Selkirk to have Mr. K. McRae set up a system of schools. But, although McRae became a councillor, no schools were started.³ The third attempt was partly successful and John Matheson did conduct school in the "Old Huts" for a time.⁴ But the dispersal of the colonists ended this attempt since the young schoolmaster did not return to the colony.⁵ Thus matters rested until after Lord Selkirk visited the colony and had taken his departure for the East.

Macdonell had for some time been importuning Lord Selkirk to provide someone who would care for matters

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- 1 Rev.G.Bryce. "Lord Selkirk" The Makers of Canada, Toronto: Morang and Co., Ltd., 1911. Vol.VII, p.152.
 - 2 Unpublished Transcripts from Selkirk Papers in the Dominion Archives.
 - 3 E.H.Oliver: ed.The Canadian North West. Its Early Development and Legislative Records Ottawa: Publication of the Canadian Archives, No.9, 1915. pp.52-3.
 - 4 J.W.Chalmers, Red River Adventure, Tor.MacMillan, 1956, p.143.
 - 5 Unpublished transcripts Selkirk Papers in Dominion Archives.

spiritual in the colony. He was concerned not only for the settlers but, as well, for the moral welfare of the Freedmen and the Half Breeds who were present in the territory. He was a Catholic himself and had spent most of his adult life on his farm at Osnabruck on the banks of the St. Lawrence.⁶ What could be more natural then than for him to appeal to the spiritual leader he had long known?⁷ He directed his appeal to Bishop Plessis in Quebec. In so doing he had both the approval and the support of Lord Selkirk who, not only wrote in support of Macdonell's request,⁸ but also took the pains to have a petition circulated among the Catholics of the territory in support of the request and delivered it personally to the bishop. In order to secure the financial stability of the proposed mission, Selkirk endowed it with a seigneurie, four miles wide and five miles in depth, eastward from the Seine River, with an additional block of land, fifteen chains square, situated on the East bank of the Red River.⁹

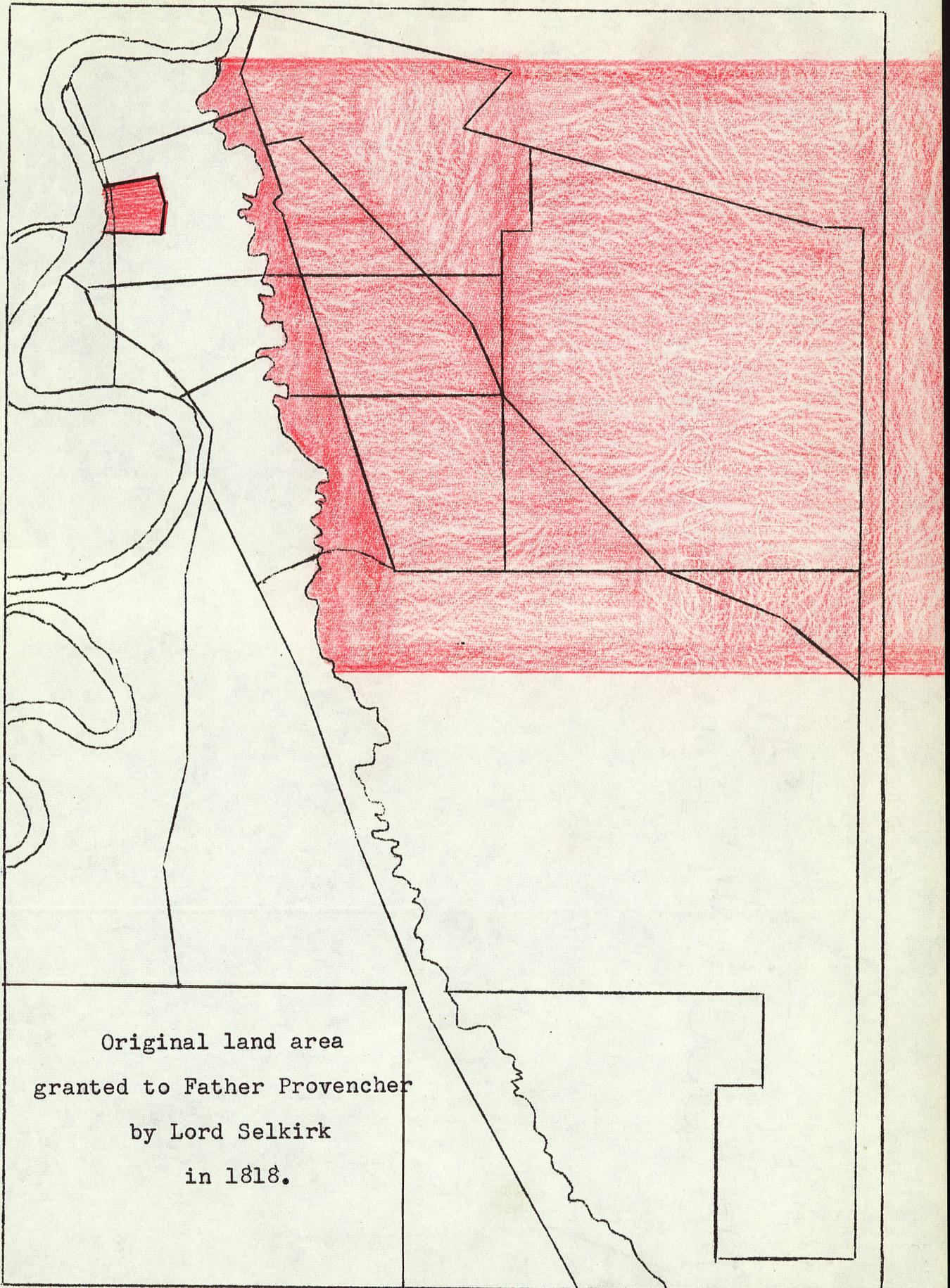
Bishop Plessis responded to these appeals most generously. Two priests, Reverends Joseph Norbert Provencher and Severe Joseph Nicholas Dumoulin, and an ecclesiastic, Guillaume Etienne Edge, were appointed to proceed to the Red River and establish a mission. They soon set out and arrived at Red River July 16, 1818, a year memorable to the young colony but even more so to the people of St. Boniface.

⁶ J.W.Chalmers, op cit., p. 11.

⁷ Archiepiscopal Archives, Macdonnell to Plessis, April 4, 1814.

⁸ A.G.Morice, History of the Roman Catholic Church in Western Canada. Toronto: The Musson Book Co., 1910, pp 90-91.

⁹ Transcript from the Title held in Bishop's Palace, Quebec.



Original land area
granted to Father Provencher
by Lord Selkirk
in 1818.

Immediately upon their arrival the priests went to work. For a time they were quite busy solemnizing marriages for those who had been forced to dispense with the formality of such a ceremony due to the lack of any qualified person to perform it. Equally important to the good fathers was the task of seeing that all those needing it were baptized and placed in good spiritual condition according to the requirements of the church. Their chief concern was to spread the Gospel and to obtain converts to the faith, even as missionaries have done through all ages. To the missionary, education is a secondary aim in which they are concerned only in so far as it is a means to achievement of the more important religious end.

It was not long, however, before Father Provencher found that some measure of instruction was going to be necessary. There was the need of altar boys to aid in the services of worship and there was the need to instruct the new converts in the principles of the Catholic faith. This idea of the purpose of education was not the same as that of the settlers since the missionaries felt that the instruction should be wholly in harmony with the teachings of the Church and as such it was not possible to provide it in a public school such as the colonists had had in view. Secondly, through the mere fact that these teachers were French, it was not possible to give the instruction in either Gaelic or English so Lord Selkirk's plans were not possible of attainment. Thus we find a characteristically French system beginning to take hold in the colony with a curriculum consisting of the study of the Catechism and some reading and writing in

the French language. The result of this chance happening was eventual division in the colony along racial and religious lines which was to lead in the long run to the Manitoba School Question. This successful establishment of a Church controlled the French school, the first permanent school to be established in the Canadian West, was taken as a precedent upon which the claim was later based to the right to separate schools and to the equality of the French tongue with English as an official language.¹⁰

Father Provencher and his co-workers had not come unattended into the West. A number of Canadien settlers had either come with them or followed shortly afterward. Conditions at Red River were unsuitable the first autumn since shelter was lacking and the chief source of food, the buffalo, was far distant. As a result, the majority of the Canadiens removed to Pembina, Father Dumoulin and Mr. Edge accompanying them. Here Father Dumoulin soon established a school under the direction of Mr. Edge. Meanwhile Father Provencher had begun his own school in his own quarters at St. Boniface assisted by an Ecclesiastic named Legace. Newfield assumes that this school was held irregularly because of the fact that Father Provencher was absent from the colony for several extended periods;¹¹ but Bernier gives an account of the conduct of the school through the aid of eager helpers, even

¹⁰ W.R.Richmond, The Life of Lord Strathcona, London: Collins clear Type Press, pp. 84-5.

¹¹ Geo.M.Newfield, The Development of Manitoba Schools Prior to 1870, Unpublished Master's Thesis, University of Manitoba, p.19.

though the good Father did not take part in giving instruction himself.¹²

One result of the many missionary visits made by both Provencher and Dumoulin was the impression they gained for the need of extending the services of both teacher and priest. As a result of this conviction, Legace was sent to one of the larger camps of the buffalo hunters where he soon established a school which was even larger than that of Mr. Edge.¹³ The fact that these pioneer missionaries had established three schools within such a short period is evidence of the enthusiasm and the capacity for hard work which they possessed. Nor were they satisfied with what had been done. Already Father Provencher was looking forward to having a school for the girls "Déjà si nous avons des soeurs pour l'instruction des filles, elles trouveraient de l'occupation."¹⁴ But such was not to come for many years.

By 1820, Bishop Plessis seems to have decided that the work at St. Boniface was to become permanent. Father Provencher was called to Quebec where he made report of his work and where he was consecrated titular Bishop of Juliopolis.

¹² T.A. Bernier, Memoire prepare par la Section Catholique du Bureau D'Education de la Province de Manitoba en Vue de L'Exposition Coloniale e Londres 1886. Winnipeg; Queens Printer, 1886, p.53

¹³ Archiepiscopal Archives, Provencher to Plessis, Feb., 14 1919.

¹⁴ Archiepiscopal Archives, Provencher to Plessis, Jan., 15, 1819.

The school at St. Boniface was carried on during Provencher's absence by Father Thomas Destroismaisons, who remained in charge until sometime in 1822 when he, in turn, was succeeded by M. Jean Harper who had been persuaded to join in the great work by the new Bishop during the latter's visit to the East. The Bishop himself was still occupied part of the time in bearing some of the teaching load.

Progress was, however, very slow. Several factors contributed to this condition. One such factor was the nomadic character of the people who were prone to follow the buffalo in their hunting, in order to remain close to their main food supply. Another factor was the occurrence of floods and the presence of plagues of grasshoppers. Still another factor was the character of the Freedmen and the Half Breeds who, accustomed to the free and easy life which it had long been theirs to enjoy, appreciated little the efforts of the hard-working missionaries to enrich the lives of their followers with literary accomplishments which, to the latter, seemed to have no practical value. Possibly the greatest of these contributing factors was the lack of financial support for educational purposes. At that time the only support for education came from private contributions made in response to earnest pleas on the part of the hard-working missionaries.

A sudden shift in the situation occurred at about the time Bishop Provencher returned from Canada. The principal settlement of the Canadiens had been at Pembina which was close to the territory where the main buffalo hunts were held.

Settlement of the boundary question had, however, determined that Pembina lay in United States territory. Some few of the settlers decided to remain there and become American citizens but the majority clung to their former allegiance and sought new homes in the region near The Forks. Many of these settled around the St. Boniface Mission while others settled at what is now St. Francois Xavier. This shift of settlement had two results. St. Boniface was now populated principally by Canadiens who were much more energetic and industrious, much more peace loving and much more permanent as settlers than the Metis who had previously formed the bulk of Provencher's flock. The second result was the need of establishing a school at St. Francois Xavier, and here Father Destroismaisons took charge.

Beginning in 1823 and lasting for many years, one of the greatest difficulties facing Provencher in carrying on his schools was that of retaining his men. The withdrawal of capable men from a field where their services were so badly needed had the effect of hampering greatly the progress of the schools. Father Dumoulin applied for and secured his own recall in 1823. Shortly after returning to Canada he wrote to a friend and included in his letter some account of the progress of the school at St. Boniface. "Plusieurs des enfants étaient déjà avancés dans leurs humanités. De ce premier cours, quatre élèves de bons talents firent la plus grande partie de leurs études classiques."¹⁵ The teacher shortage difficulty was further aggravated by the fact that the colony was gaining in population. The amalgamation of the two fur trading companies

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T.A. Bernier, op.cit. p.57.

had brought about a re-organization with the result that many of the former clerks of the North-West Company had been placed in retirement. In August of 1821, according to Church records there were eight hundred Catholics in the colony of whom three hundred and fifty lived in the little settlement which was growing up on the north side of the Mission.¹⁶

The school population had now increased to the point where a division had to be made. Bishop Provencher undertook the instruction of the senior boys and taught more advanced work. Some of the boys had progressed to the point where they were studying at the High School or Junior College level.¹⁷

Two boys at least are recorded as taking this advanced work and thus may be considered as being the first two students of St. Boniface College which grew out of this senior division.¹⁸

There were at first few scholars and the College failed to achieve its chief purpose which was to provide a priest for the ministry.¹⁹ The junior school was placed in charge of M. Jean Harper and, from this junior room, an unbroken line of continuous instruction has led to the work that is being carried on in the Provencher Collegiate today.

It may thus be seen that, after ten years in the colony, Bishop Provencher found himself at the head of, not one school, but of a system of schools. This result does not seem to have come about through conscious intent but rather

¹⁶ Archiepiscopal Archives. Church Register.

¹⁷ Rev. A. G. Morice, Op. cit. p. 124

¹⁸ Ibid, p. 162.

¹⁹ Archiepiscopal Archive. No. 406, Taché to Bourget, July 22, 1852.

through accident. There was work needing to be done and the busy Prelate had done his best to meet the need wherever he was able. It is true that the English settlement on the West side of the river was not in full sympathy with his efforts and have indeed claimed that there were no schools.²⁰ This claim, no doubt, stems from a difference in terminology. Certainly the schools were not organized or conducted according to what English or Scottish custom prescribed. Nevertheless they had been organized for the instruction of the young and there is no doubt but that the Bishop considered them to be schools. Because they were organized for instructional purposes and because they were accepted as such by those whom they served, they are considered as being schools for the purpose of this study.

Provencher next became determined to satisfy a long felt need. The girls had, during these years, been neglected, mainly because there was no one available to teach them. It simply did not occur to the missionaries to attempt to have men teaching the girls. None the less, the Bishop had made attempts to provide schooling for them. There was an old trader at Pembina with five half breed daughters, some of whom had been sent to Canada to be educated. Provencher had written to this man in 1824 with the suggestion that at least one of these girls take into consideration the possibility of becoming a nun, or, at least, a schoolmistress.²¹ M. Nolin was

²⁰ Plessis to Provencher, April 6, 1823, as quoted by William Douglass, The Forks Becomes a City, Paper read before Manitoba Historical Society, Winnipeg: Advocate Printers, 1945, p.61.

²¹ Rev. A. G. Morice, op.cit. p.126.

not favourable to this suggestion at the time. Provencher was not, however, discouraged by one rebuff and at intervals repeated his request that one of the girls would come to St. Boniface and take charge of a school for girls.

Finally his requests prevailed and in 1829 Angélique Nolin came to the settlement accompanied by one of her sisters for companionship, and the first Catholic girls' school in the colony came into being. This school supplemented arrangements which had already been made to teach the girls some useful arts. In an attempt to improve the moral condition of the community Bishop Provencher had already made arrangements for the teaching of some of the household industries both to the girls and to some of the older women. Hemp was cultivated on the mission grounds and cards were obtained in order that the process of spinning and weaving the hemp and wool might be taught. Progress was so satisfactory that in 1838 he arranged for two women to come from Canada with the idea of teaching the art of weaving to the colonists. To this end an industrial school was opened for the purpose and, for a time, great progress was made to the satisfaction not only of the Bishop, but also of the Hudson's Bay Company officials.²² This school was short lived however, as it was completely destroyed by fire, March 26, 1839. "Tous les instruments pour faire la toile, métiers, cardes, laine, filasse, fil, tout a brûlé.....La compagnie m'a donné 250 piastres pour

²² E.H.Oliver, op.cit. p.653.

remonter mon école d'industrie."²³ The Council of Rupertsland, which happened to hold its sessions at Red River that year, evidently felt that the work was well worth re-establishing because they made a definite grant toward re-establishment according to minute No. 85 of that year. "It is hereby resolved that the sum of fifty pounds be given in aid of the School of Industry unfortunately burned down this season and the same to be placed at the disposal of the Right Reverend the Bishop of Juliopolis."²⁴

Provencher began to find that with his many other obligations he was unable to spend the time needed for teaching. Fortunately, in 1832, he was able to secure the aid of a M. Poire, a newly ordained sub-deacon. Mr. Poire devoted himself to teaching and took over the duties of the senior school in the autumn of that year. There were at that time between twenty-five and thirty boys in the College. This College was located in a building which had been especially constructed for the purpose by the order of Mgr. Provencher. Date of construction of this building has not been ascertained exactly but it is known that it suffered greatly during the flood of 1826 and, shortly after the arrival of M. Poire, it suffered from the same cause so much that it had to be abandoned and a new location sought. The result was, that in the spring of 1833, Mgr. Provencher caused a new building to be erected for his boys. This building measured 18 feet by 15 feet.

²³ Archiepiscopal Archives, Provencher to Signay, March 1859.

²⁴ E.H.Oliver, op.cit. p. 653.

It was built of logs with a sodded or thatched roof shingled after a fashion with strips of elm bark. It was lighted by four small windows each containing six little panes of glass.²⁵ For a short time that year Mgr. Provencher resumed his teaching but the arrival of M. Thibault from Canada and of M. Louis Morin from Paris via the Hudson Bay increased the number of his helpers to the point where he could safely leave the instruction to them.

The girls' school was still giving the Bishop cause for concern. Mlle. Nolin had not remained long with teaching and several efforts to secure replacement had been unsatisfactory. Monseigneur now decided that in order to secure permanency he would have to secure the aid of some of the Sisterhoods who devoted themselves to such work. He visited several American cities in search of an Order of Nuns who would give ear to his call, but he met with no success whatever. In Canada he fared no better until he visited a fairly recently established Order in Montreal when success crowned his efforts. The Ladies of the Sisters of Charity, more commonly known as the Grey Nuns, were responsive to the offer of opportunity for service, so ably presented by the hard working prelate, and decided to send four of their number to St. Boniface. They were at that time a small order but it is related that the majority of their membership offered their services.²⁶

²⁵ T.A. Bernier, op.cit. p.53

²⁶ Sister Mary Murphy, The Grey Nuns Travel West, Paper delivered before the Manitoba Historical Society, 11 Dec. 1944.

The ones chosen were Sisters Valade, Lagrave, Coutlee and La France. According to the Bishop's wish all of those who were chosen for the adventure were able to speak English but, since they were not too confident of their ability to teach in that tongue, they spent some time putting the finishing touches to their education in that language.²⁷ They made the journey westward by way of the United States, arriving at St. Boniface about one o'clock in the morning of June 21, 1844. They were welcomed by the tall Bishop, then by all classes in the settlement, in a very warm and heartfelt manner. Their principal work was to be instruction to the young, but Provencher also counted on them to take care of the sick and homeless as well as for instructing in several branches of industry and domestic arts which, he felt were not only very useful but very necessary for the young, pioneer community. The school opened in August with sixty pupils and by the time that the end of the school year was reached there were eighty girls receiving their education at the hands of these capable sisters.²⁸

Shortly following their arrival the Sisters received an application from a young girl who wished to enter their Order. She became their first boarding student and during the following winters she was joined by several other young ladies whose parents wished them to receive an education according to the requirements of the day. In addition to these pension-

²⁷ Archiepiscopal Archives, Provencher to Turgeon, 9, November 1843.

²⁸ Archiepiscopal Archives. Parish Register.

naires there were the externes who did not live in residence with the Nuns. However, the care of the young by the Sisters was not confined to the girls alone. Almost from the time of their arrival the Sisters had charge of the instruction of the little boys in a separate establishment. This they continued until the arrival of Les Frères des Ecoles Chrétienues in 1854. The Nuns' first class of boys is recorded to have enrolled forty-five of the little lads.²⁹

The population of the colony just previous to the arrival of the Nuns is given as 5143 of whom, according to Church records, 2798 were Catholics.³⁰ Provencher strove mightily to provide for the varied and numerous needs of his flock but was plagued by the constantly recurring difficulty of having to renew his quota of helpers. The Canadian clergy, who were continually coming to the colony, did not appear to be sufficiently imbued with the missionary outlook to guarantee him any permanency of staff. Finally he began to look elsewhere because he felt that the zeal of the secular clergy was lacking. "S'il est vrai qu'il doive venir des Oblats l'année prochaine, il sera bon que j'en sache quelque chose cet hiverS'il y a des vocations, favorisez-les, car nous ferons rien avec un clergé séculier."³¹ Since the most zealous of the early missionaries to Canada had been the Jesuits,

²⁹ T.A.Bernier, op.cit. p.57

³⁰ Archiepiscopal Archives. Parish Register.

³¹ Archiepiscopal Archives, Provencher to Signay, 26 June, 1844.

Provencher's thoughts turned toward that Order and he appealed to both Bishop Bourget and Bishop Turgeon to do all they could to see if they could not secure some of the members of that Order, which was flourishing especially in Europe about that time, to come to Red River.

The Jesuits, however, did not come. Provencher expressed his great disappointment in a letter written to Bishop Signay of Quebec from Pembina June 26, 1844.³² Fresh hope came to him within a few days, and on July 6 he again wrote to Signay concerning a rumour that had come to him that there was the prospect of receiving help from a newer, junior Order which had established itself with considerable strength along the banks of the St. Lawrence and which devoted itself to the work of missions among the poor. In addition to the desires of the Bishop of Juliopolis, a new reason had arisen for the establishment of some Order on a firm basis in the not too distant future. The British authorities had modified their attitude with regard to the titles borne by Roman Catholic prelates in Canada so that it had become possible for a Bishop to use a title signifying the geographic area over which he presided. As a result serious consideration was being given to the prospect of transferring spiritual jurisdiction of the whole great western area from Bishop Signay to Provencher and conferring on the latter a see bearing the name of the territory in which he was engaged in his labours. That the presence

³² Archiepiscopal Archives, Provencher to Signay, June 26, 1844.

of the Oblates would be welcome indeed is indicated by a further reference in his letter to Signay of June 26;

Des Religieux, des religieux, des religieux! Nous ferons peu de bien et beaucoup de dépenses comme nous sommes-là. Il n'y point d'ensemble; chacun fait et voit à son façon.....des révérendes pères Oblats! Que Dieu bénisse leurs travaux et ferme par là bouche à ceux qui parlent at ne voudraient pas faire.³³

Meantime, in 1844, while he was waiting, we find Bishop Provencher once again acting as the head of his little College, assisted by Father Lafleche who later was to become Bishop of Three Rivers in Quebec.

The year 1845 is, in its way, as significant to the Catholic Church and to the schools of St. Boniface as was 1818, the year of Mgr. Provencher's arrival. Provencher had been sadly disappointed at the lack of response from the Jesuits and for long remained doubtful of the truth of the rumours concerning the coming of the Oblates. On August 25, 1845, his doubts were at last set at rest for on that day there landed at St. Boniface two members of the Oblate Order, Father Aubert and a young Deacon who in time was to prove a worthy successor to the new aging Bishop. The young Deacon, shortly afterward ordained to the full priesthood, was Brother Alexander Taché.

The coming of the Oblates was important in two ways. In the first place the problem of securing financial assistance for religious and educational work was solved for the time being. In the second place the coming of these brethren, and those who came after them in increasing numbers, marked the beginning of a great wave of missionary effort which spread

³³ Archiepiscopal Archives, Provencher to Signay, July 6, 1844.

throughout the whole West. The Bishop was at last satisfied with the class of men who were to labour under his guidance. Records on file in the Archiepiscopal archives of St. Boniface indicate that in this year Provencher had under his control five schools with an attendance, taking into consideration the customs of the time, which may be considered quite good. Beside these he had several irregular institutions and he was preparing to establish two more under the care of the Grey Nuns. Meanwhile he was lodging the sisters in his own palace until such time as the material which he had caused to be gathered might be used in the construction of a house which should be the Sister's own. Construction began in 1846 and as soon as two rooms were completed the Sisters moved in. Two years later there were four rooms habitable though by modern standards they were not what would be called luxurious.

The Grey Nuns proved to be the answer to the Bishop's desire to provide care for the girls. The number of sisters was several times augmented from the mother house in the East so that they were able to extend their work, not only in undertaking the additional duties which came about through expanding growth in population, but also through beginning to establish outlying stations in other settlements. The St. Boniface school was growing and was patronized not only by the French, but also by a number of English speaking families whose daughters were sent as "Pensionnaires" or boarders to the school. Difficulties of

communication and of transportation hindered the acquisition of supplies and of furnishings for the classrooms. Nevertheless, neither the heavy work nor the poverty of a newly founded institution prevented the Sisters from devoting their full ardour to the education of the jeunesse of St. Boniface. Their programme of studies was such as might have been found in many of the schools of Canada at that time but the Sisters added to the fundamentals instruction in music, drawing, painting and embroidery, while at the same time making sure that they were not neglecting the development of skills in domestic arts which was always part of the instruction at that school.³⁴

Provencher's work as the father of a rapidly growing spiritual family now underwent a great change. The problem of securing assistance for missionary and educational work was largely solved by the coming of the Sisters of Charity and the Oblate Fathers and the Bishop was grateful. "Deo Gratias! Voilà au moins de la graine de religieux; c'est sur cette espèce d'hommes que je compte depuis longtemps pour travailler efficacement aux missions sauvages."³⁵

A further change resulted from a very marked increase in missionary activity which grew until it covered almost the whole of what is now the Canadian West and the northern part of what is the western United States. Wherever the Fathers went they concerned themselves with the education

³⁴ T.A. Bernier, op.cit. p. 60.

³⁵ Archiepiscopal Archives, Provencher to Sidyme Aug. 29, 1845.

of the young although, due to the fewness of their numbers, regular schools could not exist. And, as St. Boniface was the centre from which mission activity derived, so too was it the centre for the education of the Catholic element of such settlement as there was. The aging Bishop was also able to secure some relief from his labours due to the zeal of the youthful Father Taché who took on more and more of the work in the outlying stations until the time when he was designated Co-adjutor Bishop with right of succession to the full title.

It was well that Mgr. Provencher was relieved of some of his more wearying duties because of the pastoral work of St. Boniface became very heavy during 1846 through the outbreak of an epidemic. His work of visitation and of caring for the sick increased enormously. He had as many as nine funerals during the course of a single day and, in all, a hundred and fifty died with perhaps an equal number at St. Francois Xavier and the nearby appointments.³⁶ In addition to this, the Council of Assiniboia, of which he was a regular member, had, in the previous year, appointed him to the chairmanship of a committee which had for its chief duty the searching out of various methods "for the improvement of manufacture and such branches of Agriculture as may bear on such improvements."³⁷ The committee studied the question for two years and then made a very comprehensive

³⁶ Rev. A. G. Morice, L'Eglise Catholique dans L'Ouest Canadien, Winnipeg: West Canada Pub. Co., 1912, Vol. 1, p. 301

³⁷ Oliver, op.cit. p. 230.

report. Such activity, as well as the success of the new Industrial school, illustrates the fact that the Bishop recognized and promoted the practical side of education from an early period in the development of the colony.

Independent sources establish the fact that the Catholic school of that period enjoyed a first class reputation. Speaking of the work of the Sisters of Charity, S.J.Dawson, a Protestant in charge of a party of surveyors, writes; "The ladies devote themselves chiefly to the instruction of mixed Canadian and Indian origin, and the effects of their zeal, piety, and unflinching industry are manifest in the social improvement of the race."³⁸ Another Protestant visitor to the colony made similar complimentary records in his journal:

On Monday a very agreeable hour was spent..... in visiting the Catholic Nunnery.....It was chiefly an educational establishment, managed by the nuns who, I believe were Sisters of Charity.....these excellent nuns educated about forty children, mostly from among the French population.....We had the pleasure of seeing a few of the pupils.....the institution was universally well spoken of as most useful and popular, and as being in all respects remarkably well conducted."³⁹

Two other travellers of the time have also left a record of praise:

"They (the priests) have established stations... in the wilds, undeterred by danger or hardship, and gathering the Indians around them have taught them considerably successfully the elements of civilization as well as religion."⁴⁰

38 S.J.Dawson, Report on Exploration of the Country between Lake Superior and Red River, Toronto: 1815, p.24

39 Archiepiscopal Archives, Unpublished Journal of the Earl of Southesk.

40 V.Milton and W.B.Chaedle, The North-West Passage by Land, London: Cassell, Potter and Galpin, 1866, pp. 184-5-6.

There is much to be found of historical interest in the records of 1845 to 1853. A contingent of several Religious had arrived in the colony in 1850 to reinforce the efforts of those already at work. A number of Hudson's Bay Company bourgeois had sent their children from the west bank to be educated and there had been requests on the part of a number of families to have their children taught in English. This had become possible and it was thus that the schools became bilingual. The change contemplated in the Bishop's status was made in 1847 when Mgr. Provencher was given the new title of "Bishop of the North West."⁴¹ With the change of title came a change in jurisdiction because the diocese had now become independent and the schools thus came completely under the control and guidance of the headquarters at St. Boniface. But the Bishop was beginning to feel the strain of his long and arduous service and his health began to fail. He contemplated making Laflèche his assistant but when the latter demurred the choice fell upon the twenty-seven year old Taché. While Taché ranged far afield his superior was still working at home. He was once again in need of teachers and in 1851 he sought urgently to persuade the Brotherhood of St. Viatur to supply qualified men to take charge of St. Boniface College. Not being able to meet the expense from his slender resources he had to forgo their services and continue as before. At last, worn from his toil and full of years, he went to his last rest June 7, 1853.

⁴¹ G. Dugas, op.cit. p.250.

Monseigneur had laboured well and the fruits of his toil were many. Where there had been nothing but open prairie or park land there appeared cultivated land and farm buildings. The bank of the Red River opposite The Forks was now the site of a thriving mission at the spot where, at the arrival of the first Fathers, not a building was to be seen. In addition to his church, the Bishop had been responsible for the erection of a palace for himself, a Convent for the Grey Nuns, an orphanage for homeless children, a school and a college. Where had roamed Indian and Freedmen, unfettered in their ways and unsanctioned in marriage, there was now the compact little settlement, the majority of its settlers stable and sober in their way of life. Where there had been lawlessness and irresponsibility there was now the example and teaching of the Church, and, lastly, where there had been ignorance there was now established, not a school, but a system of schools under the guidance and control of the Church; a system which was firmly rooted.

New times brought with them new ways. The tasks of the Bishop were becoming so numerous that Mgr. Taché was not able to give as much of his personal attention to the schools as Mgr. Provencher had done. It was fortunate indeed that the groundwork had been so thoroughly established that Bishop Taché, though no less interested in the schools than his predecessor, was able to rely on his subordinates for a large part of the supervision and all of the instruction. One of the first changes, which was really a result of the labours

of the first Bishop, was the step by which the Frères des Ecoles Chrétiennes assumed the direction of the elementary classes while the Oblates remained in charge of the Classic Course of the College proper. The latter group at this time was lodged in the Bishop's "Palace" in which they likewise held their classes. However, since the number of students was increasing, it was found necessary to open classrooms in a lean-to at the back of the "Palace".

Such a state of affairs could not, of course, continue indefinitely so Bishop Taché began the construction of a building which would comfortably house the college. Began in 1855, the new building was completed in two years. It was sixty feet long by thirty four feet in width; it was two stories high, with an attic.⁴² For a long time it was the most extensive building of its kind in the whole of the North-West. Originally intended for an Industrial School, it became the first College. Later it was used as "Town Hall" by the town of St. Boniface; then it became Provencher Academy and finally the Convent of the Carmelite Nuns. In 1857, the two groups of Brothers moved into their new quarters with their fifty pupils. They continued thus for ten years at which time the College passed for a time under secular control. By 1870, there were 40 boarding pupils and 30 day students.

⁴² T.A. Bernier, op.cit. p.54.

Nor was the expansion confined to the boys' school alone. The girls' school was carried on to the great satisfaction of its supporters by four teachers. By 1868 the number of pupils had increased to the point where it became necessary to provide them also with enlarged quarters. A new building was erected north of the home of the Community for the housing of the boarding pupils. Until that time both boarders and day pupils had been accommodated in the community itself. At that time there were forty young women receiving their education in the convent, nineteen of whom belonged to St. Boniface district and twenty-one of whom were boarding pupils. In addition to this establishment there was also an orphanage where the Grey Nuns took care of forty younger girls and children.

Before proceeding with the story of the changes brought about by the formation of the Province of Manitoba it would be well to consider one phase of school development which has so far not been discussed at any length. In addition to the obstacles to progress provided by the forces of nature there were the obstacles due to human attitude. First there was the indifference shown by the general populace who did not value the efforts of those who struggled to provide the schools. But there was also the greater obstacle produced by the lack of dependable and sufficient financial support. The Council for the Northern Department of Rupertsland made an annual grant of £ 50 to "The Catholic



Mission at Red River" during the years from 1825 to 1830 inclusive then doubled the amount during the remainder of the time during which Mgr. Provencher occupied the episcopal seat. The grant was extended for at least seven years to Bishop Taché.⁴³ The terms of the resolution do not specify that the money was for schools but when it is noted that a parallel grant was always for the Protestant schools of the district it seems reasonable to assume that education was the purpose the Council had in mind. There was also a second Council, the Council of Assiniboia, which occupied much the same position that a municipal council does today. This council has been held by Oliver⁴⁴ and by Newfield⁴⁵ to have been rather negligent in not supplying financial support for the schools. Indeed, on one occasion, in 1851, the Council did make a grant of £100 to be divided equally between the Catholic and Anglican Bishops.⁴⁶ The following October the Presbyterians received £15 due to having not been considered in the first grant and Provencher received an equal amount on the principal of keeping an equal balance between English and French citizens. In March 1852, a despatch was received from the superior authority pointing out that, as a municipal council, it was not within their jurisdiction to provide funds for education. In February of 1866 this smaller council refused a request for funds even though at the same time

⁴³ E.H.Oliver, op.cit. pp. 638-862.

⁴⁴ E.H.Oliver, op.cit. p. 100

⁴⁵ G.M.Newfield, op.cit. p. 47.

⁴⁶ E.H.Oliver, op.cit. p. 365.

they were making large grants for other purposes. While admitting the importance of education for all classes of the community, they claimed that the funds at their disposal were not large enough to enable them to make systematic grants.

Newfield's complaint that they spent large sums for roads at the same time that they were ignoring education⁴⁷ may be explained though not justified by two means. First, education was not within the jurisdiction of that council, and, secondly it should be remembered that at that time the Red River was governed mostly by people who drew their practices from the Old Country. Not until 1870 was the Public Education Act passed by the British Parliament and it was not British practice at that time to provide public funds for school support. The Mission schools thus had to depend on what could be raised by private solicitation. The clergy were able to secure small amounts in the colony and, in addition, various friends of the Bishop sent money from time to time. Perhaps the largest support of this kind came from "La Propagation de la Foi" with headquarters in Lyons, Franch. This source failed almost completely after the revolution in Franch of 1849. The Roman clergy used the money received according to their judgement and as a consequence the schools became and remained a close appendage of the Church, without public support. This fact was to be decisive in later days when the Manitoba School Question came be-

⁴⁷ G.M.Newfield, op.cit. p. 47.

fore the Privy Council for judgement. At the time of the formation of the Province then, the schools conducted by the Catholic section of the community were denominational schools and, for the most part, they were French.

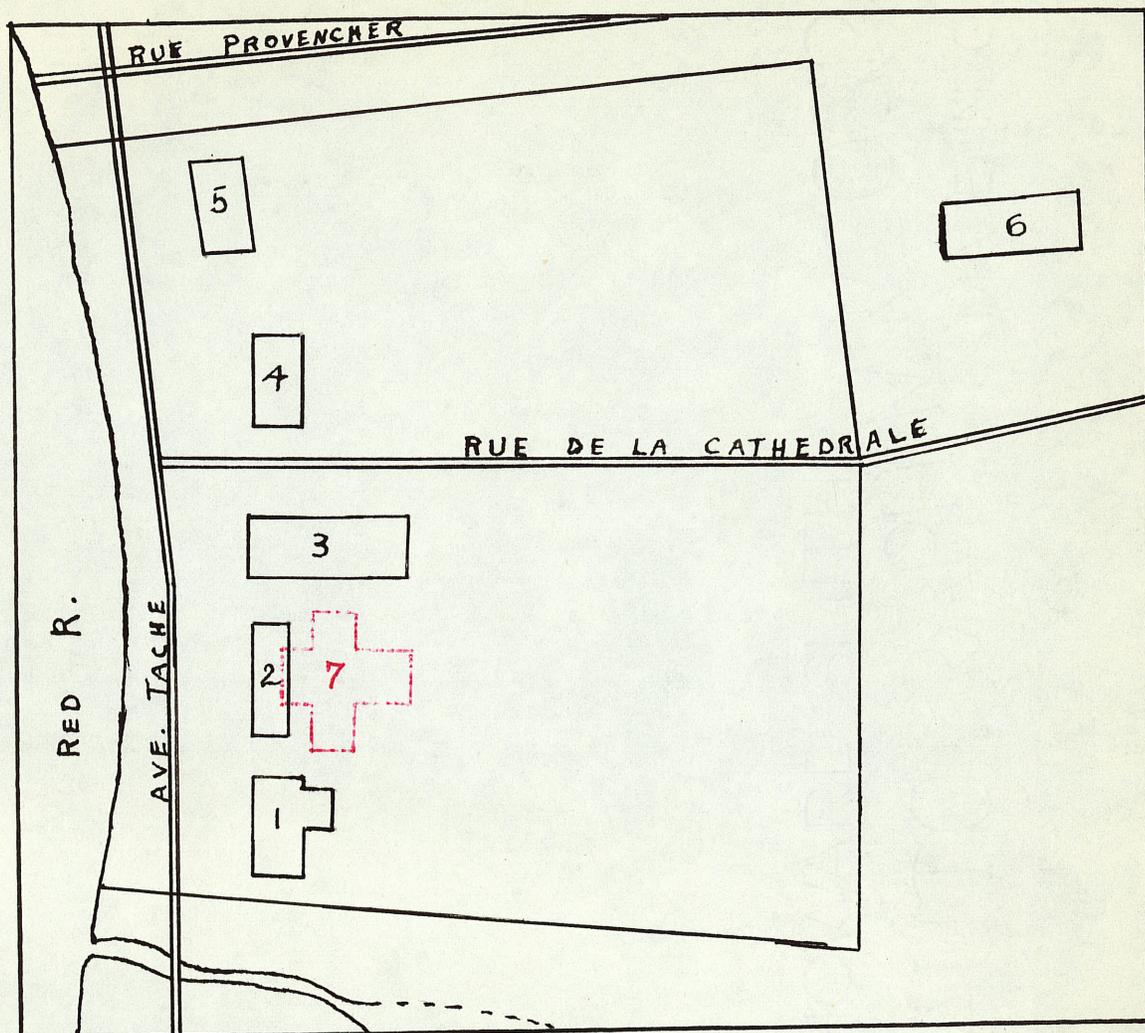
Political events connected with the formation of the new province, though not directly pertaining to St. Boniface, did have an indirect effect in later years. In the "List of Rights" which was drawn up at the instance of the Provisional Government were two clauses which were of particular interest to St. Boniface people. Clause five provided for the respecting of all properties, rights, and privileges enjoyed to date by the citizens. Clause sixteen provided that the English and French languages be common in the Legislature, the Courts, and in public documents.⁴⁸ It was thought that these recommendations had been provided for in THE MANITOBA ACT of 1870, in which section twenty-two reads:-

In and for the Province, the said Legislature may exclusively make laws in relation to Education, subject and according to the following provisions:-
(1) Nothing in any such law shall prejudicially effect any right or privilege with respect to Denominational schools which any class of persons have by law or practice in the Province at the union.

Two further sections provide for appeal by aggrieved parties to the Governor-General and for the passage of remedial acts by the Dominion Parliament, if deemed advisable. Furthermore section twenty-three provided for the common use of both languages very much as had been requested by clauses sixteen of the "List of Rights".⁴⁹

⁴⁸ List of Rights forwarded by emissary to the Dominion Government, during negotiations for formation of the province.

⁴⁹ The Manitoba Act, statutes of Canada, 1870, Ottawa: Queen's printer.



Map II Location of some of the Principal Buildings
Mentioned in this Thesis.

1. Community house of the Grey Nuns (still standing and in use.)
2. Pensionnat of the Grey Nuns. Replaced later by No. 7.
3. The Cathedral (With Whittiers "Turrets Twain.")
4. Bishop's Palace (Still there.)
5. The "Ancien Collège." (later "l'Academie Provencher," etc.)
6. The "Nouvel Collège" (Burned in 1922.)
7. Later Pensionnat, now the "Hospice Taché")

There was little immediate change in the manner of conducting the schools of St. Boniface for some years after the formation of the province. It was not until the settlement was incorporated as a town in 1883 that a school district was established. Meanwhile the two schools continued very much as they were, although it may be inferred, from a reference in the St. Boniface School Board Minutes of Aug. 23, 1883, that both schools received grants from the Catholic section of the Board of Education on account of such students as belonged to the settlement. L'Acte Pour Etablir un Systeme d'Education dans la Province de Manitoba had been passed in 1873 under the sponsorship of a prominent St. Boniface citizen. This Act provided for the establishment of a Board of Education of twelve members divided equally between Catholics and Protestants.⁵⁰ Each section of the Board seems to have proceeded according to the practice it understood best. The Protestant section seems to have proceeded at once with the organization of school districts and by the time the Catholic section began such organization there were already 195 Protestant School Districts organized.⁵¹ On the other hand St. Boniface, which was organized in 1883, was given the number

⁵⁰ L'Acte Pour Etablir un Systeme d'Education dans la Province de Manitoba, Statutes of Manitoba, 1873, Winnipeg: Queen's Printer.

⁵¹ A.A. Herriott, School Inspectors of the Early Days in Manitoba Paper delivered before the Manitoba Historical Society, Series III, No. 4, Advocate Printers Ltd., p.31.

two. Meanwhile the original statute, the primary purpose of which was to establish schools, was replaced by the Loi D'Education of 1879. That the quality of education given in St. Boniface schools was high and the support given by the people whom they served was firm is admitted by a leading Protestant clergyman who was at that time prominent in Winnipeg:- "We hear a good deal of dissatisfaction with it (The Protestant School) and that the children are not advancing. A number of children are being sent to the Catholic Schools in both Winnipeg and St. Boniface."⁵²

In 1870 the Rev. Father Lavoie arrived from Ottawa to take over the direction of the boys' school. The next year was an important one for the College in two ways. The number of boys who were in attendance had increased to the point where the College could not contain them all so it was necessary to build an annex to the building and in this were placed the preparatory classes. In the same year the College was incorporated by act of the Provincial Legislature and it was this act which paved the way, seven years later, for St. Boniface College to co-operate with St. John's College and Manitoba College in founding the University of Manitoba. The following year, 1879, marked another step in the history of the College as construction was begun on the New College which was to last until its destruction by fire in 1922. Classes were opened in the new building following the summer vacation of 1881 and continued there until two years after

52 Rev. Geo. Young, Manitoba Memories, Toronto: Wm. Briggs, 1897, p.270 (From the private Library of Wm. Nairn, Norwood.)

the formation of the School District in 1883. In 1885 Archbishop Taché entrusted the College to the keeping of the Jesuit Fathers and the separation of school and College took place.

The building which had been erected for the Pensionnat soon proved to be too small for the purpose for which it had been built. Archbishop Taché, who always had the care of the young very close to his heart, not only encouraged putting up a new building but also contributed generously to its erection. It was large enough to accommodate a hundred pensionnaires and provided classroom space for two hundred and fifty girls. This new building was put into service in September 1879. The following year, the Pensionnat was honoured by the Governor-General, Lord Dufferin, for the excellence of the work which was being carried on by the establishment. He granted a bronze medal award which was to be given each year to the student who showed the greatest proficiency in the English language. Later Governors-General continued the award and this mark of distinction was very effective in encouraging the students to perfect themselves in the English language. In 1883, in competition open to all schools in the province, the Pensionnat was successful in winning nine prizes and the school as a whole received a first class diploma "For the general excellence of the pupils' exhibits."⁵³ The programme of instruction of that day

⁵³ T.A. Bernier, Memoire Prepare par la Section Catholique du Bureau d'Education de la Province de Manitoba En Vue de L'Exposition Coloniale de Londres 1886, Winnipeg: Imprimerie par ordre du Bureau d'Education. p.59.

has been given by the Superintendent of Catholic Schools:

Matieres enseignées dans les écoles Catholiques de la Province de Manitoba; -Instruction religieuse, connaissance utiles, Bienveillance, Musique vocale, Epellation et définition, Lecture, Ecriture, Grammaire, Composition, Dessin, Calcul, Histoire, Géographie, Agriculture, Anglais.⁵⁴

It seems fitting to conclude this part of the study with a quotation from Mr. Bernier's report which refers directly to the girls' school of St. Boniface. "Le programme des études se partage en sept divisions. Dix Religieuses y sont constamment occupées. Les Régistres de l'année donnent 266 élèves en classe dont 60 pensionnaires."⁵⁵

54 T.A. Bernier, Rapport-Surintendant des Ecoles Catholiques, Province de Manitoba pour l'Annee 1881. St. Boniface: Compagnie Canadienne Imprimerie, 1882, p.5.

55 T.A. Bernier, Memoire Prepare par la section Catholique du Bureau d'Education de la Province de Manitoba En Vue de l'Exposition Coloniale de Londres 1886, Winnipeg: Imprimie par ordre du Bureau d'Education, p.59.

CHAPTER IV

(Extra Page to be placed before Page 1 of Chapter IV)

Before 1883, schools in St. Boniface were established and controlled by the Mission. Father Provencher has established a boys' school as one of his first acts when he came to Red River. This school had continued to grow until it became the nucleus of both a school for boys and for St. Boniface College. In 1844 he had secured the help of the Sisters of Charity, or, as they are more commonly known, the Grey Nuns. These worthy ladies had established a school for girls which served the community well. Both of these schools were supported entirely by the efforts of the Roman Catholic Church up to the time that the Province of Manitoba was established in 1870.

For a few years after the formation of the province there was little or no change in the method of supporting the two schools which educated the children of the settlement. It is true that they received a measure of assistance in the form of grants from the Catholic section of the Board of Education, but there was no apparent effort made to establish a local governing body which might be said to resemble what is called today a School Board. In 1880 the settlement was organized as a Rural Municipality and three years later it attained the status of a Town. With the organization of the Town the settlement became a School District and a local governing authority came into being.

—CHAPTER IV

THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ST. BONIFACE No. 2

On the evening of August 30, 1883, a group of men gathered around the table of the municipal clerk's office in the newly organized town of St. Boniface and proceeded to organize the school board for the equally newly created school district. Ten men had been elected to the position of trustee and, of these, five were present. The clerk of the town acted as chairman protem. The minutes of that first meeting are reproduced in full:-

Commissaires d'Ecoles----Minutes 1883.

Ville de St. Boniface.

Première séance Lundi, Aout 20, 1883.

Presents:

M.M les Commissaires Royal, Marcoux, Marion, Couture et Degagne.

La séance s'ouvre à 7:30 p.m. sous la présidence de

M. James Prendergast, secretaire pro tempore.

Proposé par M. Marion, secondé par M. Couture, que l'hon.

M. Royal soit élu président du Bureau des Commissaires. adopté

Proposé par l'hon M. Royal, secondé par M. Marion que

M. James Prendergast soit élu secrétaire-tresorier. adopté

Proposé par M. le Commissaire Couture, secondé par M. le

Commissaire Marion, que le président et M. le Commissaire Mar.

çoux soient chargés de s'entendre avec les RR. SS. de la Charité

classes aux enfants de l'arrondissement. adopté

Proposé par M. le Commissaire Couture, secondé par M.

le Commissaire Marion, que la séance s'ajourne.

et la séance s'ajourna à Jeudi, le 23 Aout courant.

(Signé) James E.P. Prendergast
Sec-Tresorier

(Signé) J. Royal, President

(Seal reading Commission
des Ecoles De la Ville de
St. Boniface!)

Three days later the Board met again and the chairman duly reported the result of his interviews with the Sisters of Charity and the Christian Brothers from the College. Of the two hundred and ten boys attending the College during the school year which had terminated on July 1, 1883, two hundred were the responsibility of the Board. Grants had been received by the College from the Catholic section of the Board of Education for a hundred and fifty four of these. Pupils up to and including Grade VI were admitted without payment of fee. From Grade VII upward fees were collected. The amount of \$62.10 was still due to the College. There were nine teachers in charge. Total budget for the year was nine hundred piastres.

During the same term the Sisters of Charity had had two hundred pupils. Students were permitted to take complete course without any fee whatever so that there was no indebtedness by the Board to the "Dames de la Charité." Seven mistresses were in charge.

Following this report the Board proceeded to further business. One thousand dollars was allocated to each school for operating expenses and a further \$30.00 was voted to each school for the purchase of prizes. Each school was also given the amount of five dollars to buy books and scribblers for needy children. Salaries of \$100 for the Secretary and of \$15 for incidental expenses. The Chairman and Trustee Marcoux were appointed "Visitors" for the first term and the meeting closed after decision was made to petition the Town Council to provide a room for the use of School Board meetings.

A year passed before another recorded meeting was held. There does not appear to have been any new election as the Board consisted of the same members and had the same officers. In truth there was little to be done. They had no schools to build or to maintain. There were no teachers to engage. The trustees merely financed the existing services which were provided by the Church and they paid both the Grey Nuns and the Christian Brothers for their work.

There came a change in the situation in 1884. In September of that year a communication was received from St. Boniface College to the effect that the Jesuits, who had assumed direction of that institution, felt unable to continue the engagement between the School Board and the College. They wished to centre their efforts on teaching boys who were preparing for college and young men who were actually at College level. It was suggested that the Board either take over complete control of the elementary classes or else provide the teachers to handle such work in the College.

Now the Board had new responsibilities. A committee consisting of Messers Royal and Marcoux was appointed to look around for teachers and also for quarters for the school. A tentative agreement was made for the care of Grades I and II with Mm. Francois Jean and some hope was at first felt that the College would undertake the rest. However, the College Director found it impossible to alter the decision previously made and the Board again approached Mmme. Jean.

The lady agreed to undertake the instruction of all boys who were the responsibility of the Board, to furnish a staff of four ladies, and to provide the quarters, all for the price of \$ 950, payable in three equal installments. The Board accepted these terms and ordered a contract to be drawn up.

In January, 1885, a letter was received from Mr. T.A. Bernier asking the views of the Board as to the most suitable number of trustees to be elected. It is not clear whether Mr. Bernier was acting in his capacity of Superintendent of Catholic Schools or as Reeve of the Town of St. Boniface. The Board gave it as its opinion that four members would be sufficient and in the elections which followed shortly afterward two members were chosen from each of two wards. A peculiar feature of the minute book is that although the meetings of the first two years are numbered consecutively from one to six, the Board of 1885 is referred to as the Third board and the numbering proceeds regularly from that time until the present.

Instructional arrangements were much the same in 1885 as they had been in the previous years. In January, the fee to the Sisters of Charity was raised to \$ 1000 and in May, agreement was made with Archbishop Taché to follow the then existing plan which provided for the education of the senior boys at the College. The Nuns agreed to extend the arrangement concerning the girls' school but Mme. Jean asked for \$ 1200. This the Board was reluctant to grant and the August meeting was adjourned for a half hour so that

the Trustees might visit the Archbishop to see if it could not be arranged for the College to re-assume the care of the boys or, alternatively, to secure the services of some other religious order. His Grace replied that any such arrangement would not be possible for that year so the Board was constrained to grant M^{me}. Jean's request. It was also agreed in Board session that, if it were at all possible, the Nuns were to be given a two hundred dollar bonus.

Early in 1886, a letter was received from the Superintendent inviting the Board to take some part in preparing an exhibit for the International Exposition which was to take place shortly in London. There is nothing in the minute books to indicate that any action was taken at the time but, in a letter received from the Superintendent a year later, Mr. Bernier was very complimentary in his remarks concerning the St. Boniface school exhibit and he listed various honours won by the Nuns at the exhibition.

That year again found the Board having to make new arrangements for instruction. There are indications in the February minutes that the Trustees were not too satisfied with the arrangements concerning the boys' school and in July they approached Archbishop Taché anew in an effort to have the Sisters of Charity take charge of the boys as well as the girls. The Sisters agreed to do so provided the Board would furnish a "local" and heat it. Cost of instruction for the two schools was to be \$ 2000.

Chairman Royal sought the co-operation of the Town Council in finding accomodation. After consultation with the Sister Superior it was agreed that the upper floor of the Town Hall would be placed at the Board's disposal and permission was granted to install the necessary partitions and make the other changes which had been suggested by the Reverend Sister Superior. The building was very suitable for school purposes since it was the "Ancien Colléage" which had been built by order of Archbishop Taché in 1857 and enlarged in 1871. It had been used as a school up until 1881. The offer of the building was accepted and the school was to be known as "l'Academie Provencher". At the same time it was decided that the girls' school should hence-forth be known as "l'Academie Taché."

In 1887, for the first time, an indication of how the necessary funds were secured for school purposes is given. At the September meeting it was decided that the Town be asked to levy for the sum of \$ 2100 to be used for school purposes. Since the Board was by then definitely in the business of providing education, meetings became more frequent and subjects for discussion became more numerous.

Accounts passed at the May meeting were as shown hereunder:

"G.Marcoux	rent of house for election	\$	4.00
L.Leinault	Draying of furniture-Provencher	\$	4.00
G.Desgagnes	sawing wood-Provencher	\$	6.00
Guilebault et Lanthier	metal eavestroughs	\$	3.00
Joseph Tees	Harmonium organ-Provencher	\$	150.00

In addition, other items had to be provided for such as a fence and a sidewalk, the cost of sweeping, the purchase of barrels and of drinking water to keep them filled.

The year 1888 saw changes in the principal officers of the Board, Mr. Royal having become Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West Territories and Mr. Prendergast having become a member in the Greenway government of Manitoba. At the March meeting occurred one of a number of incidents which are found from time to time and which indicate that political affiliation as "Bleue" or "Rouge" influenced members of the Board. Mr. Prendergast was asked to explain certain expenditures. These were readily explained and the authority under which he had acted was easily demonstrated.

In this year, the levy, which had been set at \$1800 the year before, was reduced by a further amount to \$1400. This may have been a result of the general condition of depression which was to be found throughout the country at about that time.

Two important pieces of business came before the Trustees during the year 1889. The first was the decision to try to secure the property surrounding the building known to them as the "Ancien Collège" in order to build a school to house the increasing student body. The second piece of business was in connection with the initial stage of the "Manitoba School Question".

The Board in general felt that the Old College, in which l'Academie Provencher was housed, would need enlargement or, at least, extensive alteration in order to make it more suitable for the school use. Archbishop Taché was approached and gave such assurances that the Board proceeded with a programme of alteration. The contract was awarded to Louis La Franchise in July. When the work was completed, however, it was felt that certain items were defective and a dispute arose which led to arbitration. The arbitrators awarded some additional payments to the contractor because changes had been made in the specifications after the work had commenced which had increased the cost of the work. The Board paid.

The second piece of business illustrates the fact that events in far distant places may influence local happenings. D'Alton McCarthy's anti-Catholic crusade in Ontario found supporters in Manitoba and the Hon. Joseph Martin, "Stormy Petrel" of Manitoba politics of the day and later in British Columbia and in Parliament at Westminster, spearheaded the movement in this province. In November, the St. Boniface School Board received a letter from a provincial committee, which had been formed for the defence of Catholic and French rights, asking for Support. The Board at that time took the only steps in active participation in the controversy, (which are referred to in the minutes). This consisted of the passage of six resolutions:-

1. A resolution protesting the cessation of the printing of the Manitoba Gazette as being an arbitrary act.

2. A resolution protesting the cessation of the keeping of the official publications of the Legislature in French, as being contrary to Article XXIII of the Manitoba Act.¹
3. A resolution protesting the elimination of French from all legal proceedings on the ground that French is not a foreign language in the same way as other languages, due to the fact that the French were original settlers. A copy to be sent to the Manitoba Legislature.
4. A resolution stating the irrefutable right of Roman Catholics to separate schools.
5. A resolution containing a statement of right guaranteed by section 93 of the British North America Act² with regard to the continuance of separate schools in existence at the time of the formation of the province of Manitoba.
6. Resolution affirming the right to separate schools since these had been accepted and continued after the entry of Manitoba into Confederation. Copies of all resolutions to be sent to the Manitoba Legislature.

In January 1889 a contract was received from "La Corporation Archeviseopale Catholique Romaine de Saint Boniface" transferring the "Old College" property to "La Commission des Ecoles Catholiques de la Ville de Saint-Boniface".

¹ Statutes of Canada, Queens Printer, Ottawa. 1870.

² Imperial Statutes, Queens Printer, London. 1866.

The Board was not happy about the terms of clause three and a committee was appointed to interview the Archbishop to see if the clause might not be deleted. The Archbishop, however, insisted on retention of the clause as an act of prudence in view of possible changes which might be made in the schools later on. He added that if he could have always been sure of dealing with the then constituted Board he would have made no conditions. The contract was accepted as originally presented as the Board realized the desire of the Church to prevent any part of the original grant from Lord Selkirk from falling into unsuitable hands.

There was little of historic interest in the following three years. The teaching contract with the Grey Nuns was continued each year. The Board levied for \$2300 in each of these years but seemed to have difficulty in collecting very much of it. Letters were ordered sent to the Town Clerk on several occasions asking for payment on account. The Imperial Bank was at that time the institution which handled the school business but toward the end of 1892 the account was transferred to the Bank of Hochelaga. Reference is made to the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America by the fact that the sum of \$10.00 was voted to provide suitable illumination of l'Academie Provencher to mark the occasion.

Meanwhile the Public School Act of 1890 had been challenged in the courts by one Gregory, of Winnipeg, and the case had finally dragged its tortuous way through all stages of litigation. The Privy Council had finally given its decision to the effect that the law was Intra Vires of

the Provincial Legislature. The question then for St. Boniface, as it was for many other districts, was what course was next to be pursued. Suggestions were made in a letter received by the chairman:-

Winnipeg, 10 December

Dr. J.H.O. Lambert
Chairman of St. Boniface School Board
St. Boniface

Dear Sir:-

The committee named by the executive of the National Congress with the duty of examining what attitude the Catholics of the Province ought to take concerning the school law now that it has been declared "intra vires" by the Privy Council, has considered the question carefully and has come to the conclusion that it would be better under the circumstances to abstain from any act that might be interpreted as acquiescence in the law. Because this concerns the election of trustees in particular which, according to the law, should take place in December the committee is of the opinion that this should be omitted and that the present trustees should be left in charge, until a further order, that there could not be any serious inconvenience from this passive attitude and that there will always be time according to the law itself to hold such elections if it should be judged necessary. This opinion of the committee having been submitted to His Grace, the Archbishop, Honorary President of the Congress, he has approved it and it was agreed that communication should be made to those persons most directly interested in the question. That is why I send you this present, asking you at the same time to believe me, with consideration

Your very humble servant

(Signature) Theo. Bertrand

It would appear that this advice was followed since the customary entries concerning the election of trustees, the election of chairman, the appointment of a secretary-treasurer and of an auditor, and the statutory organization of the Board are not recorded. From the record of attendance at meetings, however, it seems clear that the Board of 1892

carried on into 1893 with the same membership and having the same officials in charge.

July 1893 saw the end of the period of comparative calm and peace. Suspicions had been aroused in the minds of some of the trustees over the difficulty of obtaining funds from the town for which the Board had levied. Numerous requests for payment had been ordered to be made by the Secretary-Treasurer but there always seemed to be delay. The Secretary having been ordered to turn over his books to one of the trustees tried to evade the issue by offering his resignation. The resignation was not immediately accepted and further demand was made of him for all papers and records connected with school business. The papers not being forthcoming within a reasonable time it was decided to proceed against him and an independent audit by some person not connected with the schools was ordered. The next reference to the matter is made in February of the following year when it was once more agreed that the district should proceed to court action against the former secretary. In June the notation is made that Judge Walker had given the delinquent an adjournment in order that he might attempt to satisfy the demands of the Board. The new Secretary-Treasurer was unable to secure payment by August so the decision was taken to approach the defaulter's employer to see whether a monthly deduction from his pay could be made until the debt was extinguished. There was no settlement by October and Judge Walker was appealed to, not only with regard to a settlement,

but also in order to see if the return of certain documents belonging to the Board could not be arranged. The matter was finally brought to a successful close, as far as the School Board was concerned, in November, when the judge issued an order that the employer should pay to the District each month the sum of \$12.50. There is no further reference to the matter in the minute books.

Meanwhile a peculiar situation existed with regard to the legal position of the School District. It has already been noted that the provisions of the Public School Act, as far as the election of trustees is concerned, were ignored in 1892. Apparently this was not the case in 1893 since three facts indicate that elections must have been held. In the first place, there were now eight trustees - two from each of four wards. In the second place, there is reference to trustees taking a declaration of office which had not been previously required but was demanded by the Act of 1890. The third item of evidence is contained in a resolution sent by the Board to the Town Council:-

that the Municipal Council of this town has no right to ask the School Board of this town to conform to the terms of clause 117 of the school act and that the Board reiterates its demand for immediate payment of the balance of moneys collected by the commission to the balance of the Board.

St. Boniface had not, as had many districts, withdrawn from the Public School system. This might perhaps have been due to the efforts of the School Inspector, A.L. Young, a French speaking native of Quebec, who was given the task of re-establishing confidence among the French speaking Catholics

and trying to bring them within provisions of the Provincial system. To quote one of his successors on the same field:-
"He was a man of great tact and worked hard in his field."³
At any rate the St. Boniface Board seems to have accepted the Act sufficiently to enable it to carry on.

Organization of the Board seems to have presented some difficulty. In the first place there is no statement of any election having been held to select a chairman and yet all through the year Dr. Lambert acted in that capacity and is referred to on a number of occasions as being such. In addition, the January meeting was protested by some Trustees as being not in accordance with the School Act since none of the Trustees had filed a declaration of office. The protest was upheld. Moreover there seems to have been quite a difference of opinion among board members and it required four meetings before agreement could be reached as to who should fill the position of Secretary-Treasurer. The choice finally fell on Mr. Roger Goulet who thus began a long connection with the district. There also seemed to be difficulty in securing reports from the principals in charge of the two schools. The information sought was in connection with the enrollment of each school, the number in each grade, and the number of teachers in each school. The reports were received from the schools in the first instance without signature and were returned to the principals from which they came.

³ A.A. Herriott, School Inspectors of the Early Days in Manitoba Paper delivered before the Manitoba Historical Society, Series III, No. 4, Winnipeg: Advocate Printers Ltd., p. 31

The reports came back properly signed at the next meeting but unfortunately the minutes gave no indication of the contents beyond the names of the principals, Sister McDougall of l'Academie Taché and Sister Couture of l'Academie Provencher. At the same meeting Mr. Goulet was instructed to provide "un etat de la caisse" for each meeting. The Board was taking precautions. In August an offer was made to the Grey Nuns of \$400 for each school to carry on instruction until December. There were to be four teachers for each school and they were required to be competent to teach in both languages. Apparently the Board was not acquiescing in the School Act to the extent of having all instruction in English. They did however provide that it should be taught.

The August meeting saw the first evidence of a question which was to be raised many times over the years. The Sister Superior was asked to furnish a list of the names of the teachers of each school, indicating the grades which were being taught by each. She was further asked to furnish a copy of the curriculum which was being used in each school and a copy of each text book which was being used. Finally she was asked to separate the boarders from the day pupils in such way that teachers of the day students would be employed at that duty only. The sisters' answer created a division of opinion. The reply giving the names of the teachers and their duties was acceptable. With regard to the curriculum, the Board was referred to the Programme of Studies but since the Board did not have a copy of this document the

request for curricula was repeated. It is worth noting that the schools were using the programme authorized by the Department of Education even though the administrative organization of the district was not entirely regular. The item which caused long and bitter argument was the reluctance of the sisters to separate the boarders from the day students. Some members held out for insisting that the wish of the Board be met but eventually an amendment, which accepted the sisters' reply, was adopted. At a later meeting, when the two curricula had been received, a thorough discussion of these took place as well as consideration of the text books in both languages which the sisters had furnished. Further information was then sought as to which books and which curriculum was used in which school. A later letter from Reverend Mère Hamel was accepted as satisfying the inquiries of the Board and a committee was then appointed to study the curricula and the texts and then to report back to the full body. In this year was also started the custom, followed for many years, of holding formal examinations by Board members just prior to close of school in each term and extending over a period of two or three days in each school.

As had been the case in the previous year, 1895 started out with a certain amount of wrangling. The statutory meeting for organization was declared to be irregular "Faute d'un quorum" and the next meeting was also irregular due to the fact that only two of the trustees had filed a declaration of office. An appeal to Judge Dubuc, as to the

proper procedure to be followed next, failed since the Judge declared that he was unable to make a ruling. Two members then joined to summon a special meeting but there was still no action for lack of a quorum. The fourth attempt produced a gathering which was accepted by a sufficient number of members present as being within the bounds of legality. For the first time in the history of the district the chairman's position was a matter of competition and there is clear evidence that two factions existed not only over the election of a chairman but also over other matters. Horsmidas Bellevau, the new chairman, was to hold that position for a number of years. The one point of agreement at this meeting was that the sisters should be asked to continue in charge of the schools as they had been in years gone by.

There was no further excitement until the May meeting. As a matter of record, several of the meetings were not held for lack of a quorum. In May however, the question of separating the boarders from the day students again produced friction among the members. The Board had voted \$100 to each school for prizes and the decision to restrict awards to day students was reached only after much argument. Due to a complaint that classes at l'Academie Provencher had been held on Arbour Day a decision was reached and the Provencher principal was to be notified that henceforth all public holidays were to be observed by the pupils. The Board having heard from the Sister Superior, at a subsequent meeting again agreed to not distinguish between boarders and day pupils and consented to allow the prizes to be distributed

without discriminating between the two groups. On the other hand they would not consent to having part of the prize allowance used for the purchase of medals and in this matter the sisters yielded. But the question was to arise again.

There seems to have been a second matter over which a difference of opinion existed. It would appear that classes had again been held on a statutory holiday and some of the Board members sought the reason. At the same time attention was drawn to the fact that two extra holidays had been granted to the schools by the Board. One of these holidays had been at Easter time and the second had been given to allow the children to take part in the fiftieth anniversary celebrations for the Curé of the parish. The inquiry having risen in May and no answer having been received from the Nuns by August, the Board sent a second letter to which a reply came in November. The final action was a formal resolution by the Board to the effect that all legal holidays must be observed in the schools.

A third difference concerned some repair work at L'Academie Provencher. The Board ruling was that requisition for such work must first be made and Board approval obtained before the work might be undertaken. In several instances the Sisters had been saving time by themselves ordering the work to be done and sending the account to the Board afterward.

Minor events of the year included the departure of Sister Couture from the principalship of l'Academie Provencher;

the transfer of the district accounts from the National Bank to the Imperial Bank; the holding of "examens" at l'Academie Provencher on December 16 and 17, and the "examens" at L'Academie Taché of December 18, 19 and 20.

A change in organization was made at the beginning of 1896 when, for the first time, a committee of the Board was set up to deal with matters which required action between meetings. This committee was designated the "Committee d'Urgence". The budget for that year is given in full in the minute books:-

"Salaires	\$2100.00
Billet en Souffrance	500.00
Chauffage, etc.	200.00
Prix	100.00
Imprevu	100.00
	<u>\$3000.00"</u>

The "examens" for June had originally been set for the 25 and 26 at l'Academie Provencher and for June 27, 28 and 29 at Taché. At the request however, of Archbishop Langevin, who had succeeded Archbishop Taché in 1884, the examinations were advanced a full week and the schools were dismissed for the summer vacations on June 23.

A further indication of growing adherence to the Public School Act is noted in the June minutes. In the first instance a demand was made of the Town Clerk reminding him that, by section 113 of the Act, a census ought to have been taken and forwarded by him to the Secretary of the School Board. They recognized that it was too late for him to carry out such a task for that year but they did wish to make it

clear that owing to the importance of the information to them they would insist that the duty be carried out in future. A second instance is that by which the Board requested the two principals to furnish records of attendance as required by subsections B, E and F, section 176 of the Public School Act of 1894.

At the same time a further attempt was made to restrict prizes bought from Board funds "Pour les élèves qui tombent sous le contrôle de la commission." Each school seems to have been allotted \$40.00 although the budget had allowed for a total of \$100.00. Sister MacDougall met Board wishes by sending requisitions for repairs to the Board for approval. A peculiar item of expense from today's viewpoint was the cost of a water barrel and for three enamelled cups on chains each of which was to be fastened to a water pail. A later requisition was sent back to the Reverend Sister since she had neglected to sign it.

At the final meeting of the year, Mr. Goulet received a formal vote of congratulation from the Board on his appointment to "a very important position." Apparently Mr. Goulet had secured a position with the Federal Civil Service and had joined the staff of the Winnipeg Post Office in an administrative capacity.

School Board business got off to a poor start in January of 1897 since the first two attempts to hold an organization meeting failed "faute d'un quorum." When the Board did get organized it was discovered that changes had been

made in the teaching staffs on both schools. Sister St. Julien was in charge of l'Academie Provencher and Sister O'Brien was the new principal at Taché.

In April of that year a delegation appeared before the Board with a request which was repeated at intervals but which was not finally granted until 1952. At this meeting the request was for a school to be built on the east side of the Seine River. The result of the plea at that time was the appointment of three man committee composed of Mm. Bellevau, Prendergast and Jean, who were to investigate the matter and report back to the Board.

There appears to have been a difference with the Town Council stemming from a request by the town in the early part of 1894 for the Board to comply with section 117 of the Public Schools Act. The town appears to have been trying to protect itself in the matter of paying tax funds to the district which still was not conforming fully with the terms of the Act. The Board felt that much of the delay which they had met with was due to the reluctance of the Town to pay over the funds which had been raised. Now in April, three years later, the Board desired a show down and the Secretary-Treasurer was instructed to ask pointblank whether the town was going to make the requested levy or not. If the Town intended to make the levy, he was instructed to ask for \$1200 for immediate needs.

Other items from 1897, the Board had not been invited by the Lieutenant-Governor or by the Winnipeg School Board

to take a part in the Diamond Jubilee celebrations in honour of Queen Victoria's long reign; L'Abbe Cherrier presented a petition strongly supporting the request of certain rate-payers for a school to be built on the east bank of the Seine; In the later months of the year the Board was under strong pressure from Archbishop Langevin to pay the teachers' salaries; the Board in turn exerted strong pressure on the Town Clerk for money, which they got and which they used to pay the salaries; Mr. Prendergast resigned as Trustee to become a Judge.

The first item of business in the next year was the re-affirmation of a matter of policy. The pupils of the Provencher Academy had collected the sum of \$8.40 to be given to the teacher of "Solfege" and they presented a request to the Board to add to the amount. The Board granted the request but determined that in the future, as it had been in the past, there would be no payment for the singing class. At the same time attention of the students was drawn to the fact that it was against Board policy to have collections made among the students, whether for the purpose of making presentations to teachers or for any other cause, without first securing authorization from the School Board.

The month of March brought to the St. Boniface District the first indication that an era was rapidly drawing to a close. Ever since they had arrived at "Red River" the Grey Nuns had carried out the duty of teaching the girls of the settlement. Prior to the arrival of Les Frères des Ecoles Chrétiennes in 1854 they had also taught the boys of the

elementary grades and, as already stated, this duty had been resumed when l'Academie Provencher was established in 1886. Now the Board was notified that the Grey Nuns would cease this branch of their work. No reason is stated in the Minutes and the records of the Grey Nuns are not much more informative. "Son Excellence Mgr. Adélarde Langevin avertit verbalement la Communauté de St-Boniface que le Conseil Général ne veut plus continuer l'oeuvre."⁴ The Sisters would carry on the work at l'Academie Taché until the midsummer vacation, at which time the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary were prepared to take up the work of instructing the girls. L'Academie Provencher would be cared for for an additional time in order to permit the district authorities to have the opportunity to make arrangements for securing the services of alternative instructors. It should be noted here that there was no other thought but that arrangements would be made with some religious order. It just did not occur to any of those who were in positions of authority that there was any other way to get teachers.

The Board agreed to accept a recommendation from Archbishop Langevin and entered into a contract with the Sisters of the Holy Names. The latter were to receive \$1000 for a ten month year and were to erect their own building. As a measure of support for the Sisters, the Board forwarded a resolution to the Town Council recommending that, as a

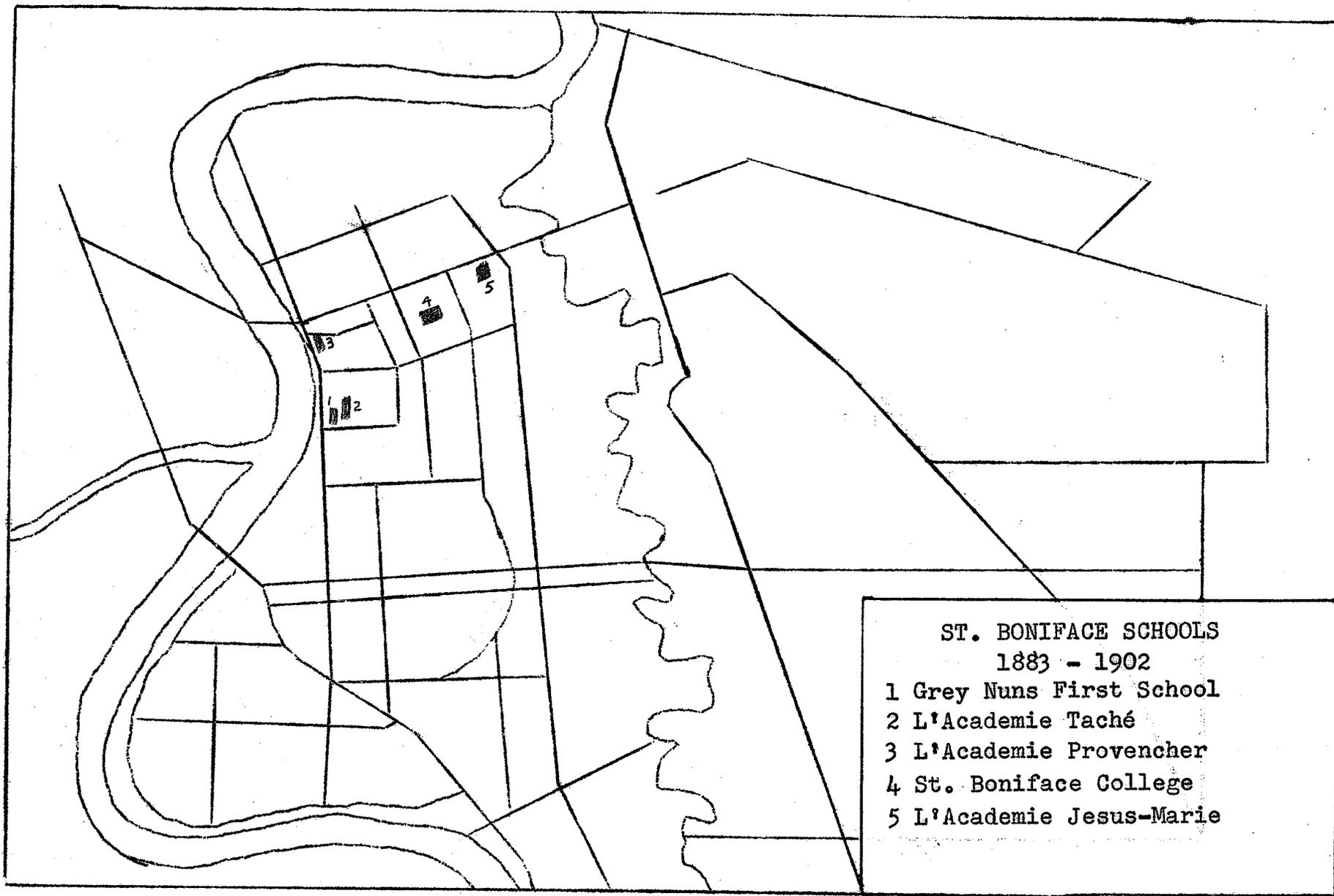
⁴ Chroniques des Soeurs de la Charité de l'Hopital de St. Boniface, furnished by courtesy of Soeur Cecile Rioux, s.g.m. Dec. 1958.

teaching order, the Sisters' property should be exempted from taxation and, further, in order to encourage said Sisters to settle in the Town, that they be granted a bonus by the Town to assist them in the erection of their convent. The Board also agreed to provide the furnishings for the new school, which then, and as long as the building was in use, is referred to in the Minute Books as l'Academie Jesus-Marie. Thus the first Taché School passed from the scene.

It was a busy summer for the Trustees and many meetings were held because, in addition to the provision of the furnishings for a ten room school, an extensive programme of re-modelling and re-decoration was carried out at l'Academie Provencher. There is every indication from the minutes that the Trustees took a much closer personal part in school operations than is possible today.

The chief concern of the seventeenth Board which was in charge in 1899 was instruction. The Grey Nuns had intended to sever their connection with l'Academie Provencher with the New Year but replacements had not yet been arranged for and the Nuns were persuaded by the Trustees to continue their services until the midsummer holidays. Meantime negotiations were under way with the Frères de Marie de Paris with reasonable prospects of being brought to a mutually satisfactory conclusion provided the Board could make arrangements for a suitable residence for the occupancy of the Brothers.

A further approach to complete acceptance of the School Act is indicated from two pieces of evidence.



ST. BONIFACE SCHOOLS

1883 - 1902

- 1 Grey Nuns First School
- 2 L'Academie Taché
- 3 L'Academie Provencher
- 4 St. Boniface College
- 5 L'Academie Jesus-Marie

First, the chairman had made an investigation of the new bi-lingual texts which had been authorized by the Department of Education following the Laurier-Greenway compromise and in the early part of the year he made his report to the Board. The rest of the members accepted his report and adopted his recommendations that the necessary text books be purchased for use in the schools. The second detail concerns a further concession on the part of the Department under which they agreed to establish a Normal School in St. Boniface for the purpose of training teachers who would be able to carry out the bi-lingual programme. The School authorities were co-operating to the extent that they were prepared to provide furniture for the classrooms where instruction would be carried on.

By June the agreement with the Frères de Marie was ready and Sister Marcotte, the principal at l'Academie Provencher, prepared to transfer with her Sisters to other fields of endeavour. The Brothers were to teach at l'Academie Provencher and were providing three teachers for a hundred and fifty boys. The Trustees felt that three teachers were not enough even though they were to receive supplementary assistance from certain Fathers from the College. The Board assumed all expenses of upkeep and repair as had been the arrangement with the Grey Nuns. They were also to provide a "logement" or living quarters for the Teachers and they were to pay a bulk sum of \$1200 for teaching services in four quarterly installments of \$300. On the other

hand the Brothers were obligated to see that their teachers were properly qualified according to the requirements of the Department of Education for Manitoba and they were also to make sure that all texts used would be those which were provided by the school authorities.

At this point Minute Book 1 which was hand written in French was completely filled. Mr. Goulet, who still acted as Secretary-Treasurer in addition to his work in Winnipeg Post Office, began a new book which has been numbered Volume II. Like the first book it also is handwritten in French.

The minute Books are not very informative with regard to financial matters. They refer frequently to efforts to secure from the Town Council payments on account of the "octroi"; they usually mention payments in bulk on account of salary to the different religious orders with whom the Board had teaching contracts; there are references to change of Bank from time to time; there is the annual motion that the town be asked to levy for an amount which the Board had determined as necessary to carry on the work of the schools; and twice there is reference to a government grant. The trustees had also borrowed from time to time from the different Banks with whom they had been keeping accounts but in September of 1899 they encountered a new situation. The Bank with which the District was dealing at the time decided that it was no longer willing to lend solely on the signatures of the Chairman and the Secretary-Treasurer and it demanded that a formal by-law be passed to cover each loan. Such a by-law was passed in

September of that year and was designated as Number 1, apparently ignorant of, or ignoring the fact that a bylaw requiring the purchase and use of a seal was passed and also numbered "one" at the October meeting of 1885.

September of that year found the Board faced with the need of clarifying policy with regard to school attendance. The Directrice of "Le Jardin de l'Enfance", having requested the information, was told that "little boys of the Parish, from the ages of six to sixteen, may attend l'Academie Provencher free. Non-residents will be required to pay a non-resident fee of fifty cents a month." This kindergarten had been established in the building where l'Academie Taché had formerly been housed and the name of the institution changed to that which it bears to this day, Hospice Taché. In continuation of the statement of policy concerning attendance, the Sisters of the Academie Jesus-Marie were instructed that, as far as day students were concerned, they would be required to conform with section 191 of the Public Schools Act which defined school age as "from six to sixteen years."

The first month of 1900 brought an end to the services of Mr. Goulet who had received an appointment as Inspector of Public Schools for the province. Along with his inspectoral duties Mr. Goulet would combine the duties of principal of the Normal School which the Government had established in St. Boniface. Mr. Goulet served his people long and well, and, after many years of service, enjoyed for

a short time a well deserved retirement. Then he went to his last rest, full of years and of honours.

The new Secretary, Joseph Desourdis, had to deal almost immediately with an old question. The question of the difference in status between residents and non-residents had long been a touchy point with some Board members and was long to continue to be so. It was the cause of much discussion during the early months of 1900. Lists of the names of non-resident students had been obtained from Brother Antoine, the principal at Provencher, and from the Sister Superior at Jesus-Marie and the money collected from non-resident students by the two principals had been paid in to the Secretary-Treasurer. Demand for payment was ordered to be presented to those who had not paid including a number of students from "Le Jardin de l'Enfance." During this period the Board also adopted the policy of having regular reports sent home to the parents indicating the quality of work being done by their children.

No items of particular interest appear again until November. At that time the Department of Education asked that the Sister Superior make certain that all of her teachers were properly qualified to teach in Manitoba. In reply Sister Angelica of Mary, requested the backing of the Board in an application to the Department for a permit for one of her teachers. Sister St. Germaine of the Jardin de l'Enfance at Hospice Taché was requested to furnish the names of non-residents who were attending l'Academie Provencher and she was pointedly reminded that these owed fifty cents a

month for the time that they had already attended. Certain parents were notified that if they did not pay the required non-resident fee their children would not be permitted to return to a St. Boniface School in January.

The first business arising in 1901 was that of revision of the contract between the District and the Sisters of the Holy Names. L'Academie Jesus-Marie was growing and more teachers were going to be needed. The revised contract provided that the Board should pay, at the rate of \$300 per teacher, five qualified teachers to be supplied by the Nuns. It was also agreed that six months notice should be given thereafter before any further revisions of the contract should be requested. The question of non-residents also had to be dealt with as well as the collection of their fees. Other routine matters required attention such as the giving of prizes, holding of "examens", securing funds from the Town, payments to the two Religious Orders, and, the purchase of equipment.

All had not been going well at l'Academie Provencher and the Board received so many complaints from the citizenry that it was decided to make a change. In July 1901 the Secretary was instructed to write to the Reverend Father Superior of the Frères de Marie at St. Louis, stating that the staff which had been provided was not satisfactory to the Board and requesting that all but one of the teachers be replaced. Reverend Father Meyer wrote in some perturbation to the Board in reply to such a request but, when the

Trustees assured him that the request had been made by the general public long before it had been made by themselves, he reluctantly agreed to their wishes. Brother Georges was the new principal.

Due to the outbreak of epidemics among the school children it was decided to close the schools in November until such time as the Health Officer gave permission for them to be re-opened. When Mr. Argue of the Department of Education queried the closing he was supplied with a certificate from the Health Officer which he accepted.

Twice in the first half of 1901 the agreements with the teaching orders were varied. In the first case the salaries were adjusted so that the Board would pay \$333.33 for each teaching Brother or Sister. Secondly the Board agreed to pay the amount of \$150 a year toward the cost of heating the Academy of Jesus-Mary and had the old contract replaced by a new one which included this new provision.

Brother Georges submitted Report Cards of his own design to the Board for approval but the Board requested him to use those which they had previously approved. At a later date they also instructed him that the Brothers were to send out the reports each month because the information they contained was very valuable to the parents. It would seem that he had been making his communications to the Board in English because he was instructed to make his future reports in French.

Budget for 1901

L'Academie Jesus-Marie	\$1600.00 (\$1500 being for salaries)
Ave. Att. 144	11.12 per pupil
L'Academie Provencher	\$1457.61 (\$1333.33 as salaries)
Ave. Att. 99.07	14.72 per pupil
Building and Upkeep on Provencher	\$1013.93 additional

Then, unperceived at the time, events began to occur which heralded the passing of the old order and the coming of a new one. The first intimation of change took place when a petition was presented by Thomas Berry for the building of a new school in Norwood. The principal settled part of St. Boniface was located northerly from the area which represented the heart of the Roman Catholic Church in Western Canada. South of the Mission Area and beyond a swampy stretch and the Norwood Grove, a few English speaking settlers had established themselves gradually. There were enough of them by the first year of the new century so that they wanted a school of their own. The Board appointed a committee to investigate.

The question was brought up again at the April meeting and was supported by a further petition. The committee which had been appointed brought in its report:

1. The committee found that there were enough children available for attendance at a school in the area.
2. The committee found that the Ratepayers were to all intents unanimous in the desire for a school.
3. The committee was of the opinion that Provencher School was too small to accommodate the number of children available.
4. The committee recommended that a school be provided for the Norwood children as soon as possible.

The Board received the report of its special committee and referred the matter to a committee of the whole. The result of study by the full committee was a resolution to establish

a school in Norwood to be ready for the first of September. The site chosen for the location of the school is described as "Lots 3, 4 and 5 of Block 13", in the Town of St. Boniface.

To finance the building of the new school the Board decided to issue debentures. For this purpose a by-law had to be passed. In several ways this was a most important by-law. To begin with it is entered in the Minute Book in English, the first time that the language was made use of in the School Board Records. In the second place the by-law contains the only reference which was found to the name and number under which the School District had been operating. The by-law is headed:- "By-Law of the School Trustees for the School District of Saint Boniface Number Two." That sentence led to the final reconciliation in toto between the School District and the provisions of the Public School Act.

The Town Council passed the necessary supplementary by-law without any hesitation, then a committee of the Board proceeded to interview the Department of Education and the banks to arrange for the sale of the debentures. The matter was delayed and as a consequence it was not possible to proceed with erection of the desired school. In October Mr. Royal, son of the first chairman and at that time a trustee in his own right, reported that he had met the Government and that a difficulty had arisen which concerned the name of the School District. Since the difficulty had not been overcome he asked permission to delay his report until the next

meeting. But the report was not ready for the next meeting and Mr. Royal seems to have been reluctant to meet his fellow Trustees since he was not attending the meetings. However, he had made some remarks to fellow trustees "off the record" concerning the Norwood School and had intimated that the School District affairs were "not legal" so the Board sought legal advice from Mr. Joseph Bernier (later a member of the Government and a Judge of the County Court), Mr. Bernier's reply is given in full in the minute Book:-

Dear Sir:-

I have the honour to inform you that, at your request I have interviewed both the Department of Education and the Department of the Attorney-General. We have come to the conclusion that your board must make application to the Department for a Corporation name and then a new by-law should be submitted to the vote of the ratepayers.

Best wishes

(Signed) Joseph Bernier

In view of the urgency of the matter the committee which had interviewed Mr. Bernier did not wait for official sanction of the Board. Application was made to the Department of Education in the name of the District for a corporate name and number and a reply was received:-

Winnipeg, Man.,
June 26, 1902.

(No Heading
Given)

Dear Sir:-

I have the honour to inform you that by resolution passed by the Department of Education on the 26th. instant, the corporate name of your school district has been changed to "The School District of Saint Boniface No. 1188."

I have the honour to be sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Signed) W.P. Argue,
Chief Clerk.

Thus ended an era; thus was the position of St. Boniface School District regularized again; thus passed the old district; and thus, rising like a Phoenix from the ashes, was a new district created though it was yet the same.

CHAPTER V

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ST. BONIFACE NO. 1188

When Miles Macdonnel established his colony on the banks of the Red River he chose land on the west bank in that section which lay to the North of the Assiniboine River. Around the Hudson's Bay Posts which were established there grew up, first a village, later a town and finally a city, which was to become the industrial, cultural and political centre of the Province of Manitoba. But there was a second and almost parallel settlement which for long years grew up distinct and separate from the English speaking settlement on the Western bank. Newfield, in his discussion, concludes that such growth was more or less accidental¹ and due largely to co-incidence. Ready, on the other hand, in his discussion of the political implications of the Manitoba School Question argues that the placing of such a settlement was deliberate action on the part of an influential group in Lower Canada in order to perpetuate the racial duality which was present in both Canada and the Maritime Provinces.² The procession of events on the Red River would seem to favour Mr. Newfield's conclusion. Indeed, if it had not been for the geographical fact that Pembina was declared to be in United

¹ George M. Newfield, The Development of Manitoba Schools Prior to 1870, Unpublished Masters Thesis, University of Manitoba, p.23.

² William Bernard Ready, Political Implications of the Manitoba School Question, Unpub. Master's Thesis, U. of M. 1948, p.II.

States territory, it is quite possible that Pembina and not St. Boniface would have assumed the position that was assumed by the latter city as the focal point of interest and the centre of French influence in the West. Around the Mission French settlement slowly grew and even today such settlement in Manitoba is concentrated near to the focal point:-

En jetant un coup d'oeil sur une carte ethnographique du Manitoba, on constate que la population d'origine française...est surtout groupée dans un rayon d'une centaine de milles autour de St-Boniface: au sud, dans la plaine de la rivière Rouge, au sud-ouest, dans la région ondulée de Pembina; à l'ouest dans la bas de la rivière Assiniboine; au nord sur la rivière Winnipeg.³

The city of St. Boniface in turn, had as its focal point the cathedral area. Father Provencher had received a block of land, fifteen chains square, fronting the Red River at a point almost directly opposite the mouth of the Assiniboine and extending northward from a small stream which at that time entered the Red at a point near to where the Nurses Home of the St. Boniface Hospital now stands. Near the southern boundary of the Mission land stood the convent of the Sisters of Charity. North of the Convent stood the school for girls and further north yet, the Cathedral and the Archbishopal palace. Nearest to the northern boundary stood "l'Ancien College" and Eastward; back boundary was "le Nouveau College". The early settlement, which later became village, town, and city, lay mostly to the north of

³ Mgr. Emile Yelle, La Situation des Manitobains de langue française, Memoire au Congrès de la Langue Française à Québec, Juin 1937.

the Cathedral area, between the said area and the mouth of the Seine River. It was a quiet little city with its population made up mostly of the descendents of the French Canadians who had arrived with, or shortly after, Father Provencher. They had brought with them the sobre industry and steady morals of Old Quebec and maintained in the new settlement, as far as they were able, the civilized manners and social gaiety of their ancestral way of life.

Until the closing years of the nineteenth century the City of St. Boniface was more or less uninfluenced by the rapid development that was taking place in other parts of the West and in Manitoba in particular. Even the coming of the C.P.R. had influenced the community little since it came in from the North and barely skirted the northern outskirts of the town. Winnipeg, the gateway to the West, was, on the other hand, growing by leaps and bounds. It was the great shipping point through which all traffic, whether eastbound or westbound had to make its way. One railway was not enough and others were either under construction or in the planning stage. Add to this the fact that a great stream of immigration was overflowing on to the western plains. All these factors led to great development and growth in Winnipeg. The city spread out in all directions and in the end, St. Boniface was affected:

The cathedral city of St. Boniface, a separate municipality in law and population, was beginning to be made an industrial suburb of its great neighbour. The convergence of railway lines on its northern and eastern limits drew to the city the processing plants of an agricultural economy, and the old missionary city of Provencher and Taché was slowly being engulfed in an arc of flour mills and abbatoirs.⁴

⁴ W.L.Morton, Manitoba-A History, Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1957, p.301.

The territory southward from the Cathedral area had for the most part remained unsettled. Indeed it is reported that as late as 1889 there were three Indian encampments in the town. One of these was where Whittier Park was later established, a second was on the banks of the Seine River and the third just south of the creek which ran near to the southern boundary of the cathedral area.⁵ What is now the Norwood district was, in the nineties, almost all bush with a few clearings. Here and there a market gardener eked out a living along the frontage of the Red River and a few hardy souls from Winnipeg maintained residence in the area just east of where the bridge was later erected. The triangle between St. Mary's Road and the bend in the river was known as the Norwood Common and was the site of the headquarters of the Norwood Cricket Club as well as of the first establishment of the Winnipeg Canoe Club. It later was the location of a golf course. At the turn of the century a few more English speaking citizens settled in the southern part of the city and the growth of the district began. In a few years Norwood developed into an important residential district with its homes, its businesses and the presence of a culture which was very different from that which had prevailed for so long on the east bank. There was further settlement in the eastern part of the city by a large group of Belgians while to the south and east, various groups from Central Europe occupied the area between the city

⁵ Soeur May Guichon, s.g.m., Development des Oeuvres Des Soeurs Grises Au Manitoba Depuis Leur Fondation a St. Boniface, Winnipeg: Canadian Publishers Limited, p.27.

proper and the Dawson Road. Thus in a few swift years the city ceased to possess its uniform characteristic and became a cosmopolitan community with citizens of many diverse origins.

One of the first results of this change in the composition of the population was a request from the Norwood people for a school in that area. There were two reasons underlying such a request. One was that there was an unsettled belt lying between Norwood and the schools largely due to the presence of a long, horseshoe shaped stretch of swampy land which is today fairly well marked out by the position of Enfield Crescent. The other reason was that St. Boniface schools still retained in large measure the characteristics of denominational schools which fact was not pleasing to a people who were used to the national type of school. The School Board investigated the situation in Norwood with respect to the number of pupils available and, after satisfying itself that there was almost complete unanimity in the desire for a school, agreed to grant the request. One unforeseen result of this step was a change in the status of the School District. The School District had never been completely reconciled to the changes instituted under the Provincial School Act of 1890 and when an attempt was made to issue debentures the Board ran afoul of the fact that it was attempting to use a corporation number which had been assigned to St. Andrew's School District No. 2. In order to regularize the position of the District, application was made to the

Department of Education for a new corporation number. Thus St. Boniface, though having the oldest school in the Canadian West, bears the relatively high number 1188.

Meanwhile, even though the financing of the Norwood school had been much delayed while the School Board was going through the procedure of regularizing its position in the eyes of the Government, there had been progress made in connection with drawing up satisfactory plans. The first set of plans, provided by an unnamed person, were not satisfactory to the Board, so the Chairman, J.A. Senecal, who was a contractor by profession, undertook to prepare plans of his own. His plans were accepted in due course and the Board then settled itself to wait until the legal difficulties in connection with its status should be resolved.

Events moved swiftly once the legal position of the District was established. By-law nine, which was for the purpose of replacing the defective by-law numbered seven, was passed through all stages at one meeting and was forwarded to the Town Council and to the Department of Education for further approval. The Board met four times in August of 1901 as well as three times in September and by that time had made much progress. One committee had secured a site -- lots 1 to 6 inclusive of block 11, situate between Eugenie and Horace Streets on the east side of St. Josephs St., (Now known as Kenny Street). Mr. J.A. Cusson had been selected to be the architect of the new school and was furnished with Mr. Senecal's plans as a guide to be followed. After advertising

for tenders the Board accepted that of Simon Beaubien for a four room building, two rooms of which were to be finished at the time and the other two to be finished when they would be required. The target date for opening of the new school was set for January 15, 1902. The name of a former school, was revived and for the second time there was to be "Ecole Taché." Then the Board took, what was for the members, the unprecedented step of advertising for a teacher. Having decided to comply fully with the requirements of the school act, they would comply. The Act stated that they might operate a bi-lingual school. Very well! They would have a bi-lingual school. In view of this decision, their advertisement was for a fully bi-lingual teacher. Their choice fell upon Miss Margaret Erwin who accepted the appointment.

There was growth in other schools as well as in Norwood. In August, 1902, the Sisters of l'Academie Jesus-Marie had requested the board's help in finding out whether there was a grant from the Government to cover chemical equipment and supplies. The reply was negative but the Department of Education pointed out in its reply that there was a grant from the Government to all schools with a sufficient enrolment to qualify as "Intermediate." The Sisters quickly assured the board that they could meet the requirements but there was a delay due to the fact that Inspector Goulet was absent in connection with his duties in other parts of the Province. When he returned he visited the school and the necessary certificate was soon issued which qualified l'Academie Jesus-Marie as an Intermediate School. To accommodate

increased enrollment, two new classrooms were equipped in the convent and a like number at l'Academie Provencher during the autumn term of 1902. Under the easy going policy of earlier days these classrooms would not have sufficed but the trustees had adopted a tougher attitude toward non-residents by which they insisted on the payment of fees. This insistence had the effect of reducing non-resident attendance in St. Boniface schools thereby reducing the number of extra classrooms which would be required.

One other school should be mentioned at this point although it was not under the jurisdiction of the district. In 1899, Roger Goulet, former Secretary of the District, had been drafted from his position with the Post Office department of the federal civil service and appointed a Public School Inspector by the Provincial Government. His special field was the inspection of all bi-lingual schools in the province and he was also placed in charge of a bi-lingual normal school which was set up in St. Boniface. The School District co-operated with the Government by providing part of the furnishings and by exercising certain functions in connection with the care and maintenance of the institution.

The year 1903 was scarcely under way when revisions had to be made in all schools with reference to the teachers. Both the Sisters of the Convent and the Brothers of Mary had made representations to the Board with regard to matters of salary and, as a result of the discussions which followed, adjustments were made but at the same time a special allowance, which the board had been making to assist the Sisters

with the cost of heating, was cancelled. As for Ecole Taché, within one month of the opening it became very evident that there was too large an enrollment for one teacher so a second instructor was engaged to assist Miss Erwin.

Hardly had the district recovered from the exertion of building one school when the prospect of further building loomed ahead. In March, Sister Angelica of Mary approached the board with a project. The Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary were prepared to expend the amount of \$30,000 on enlarging the Convent if the District would undertake to pay an annual rental of \$1200 over a term of years. The board consulted the Attorney General's department and, finding that there was no legal bar to such an arrangement, accepted the project and proceeded to draw up a formal contract to cover the agreement. Decision to agree however, was much more promptly accomplished than was the process of negotiation which followed before a mutually satisfactory contract was drawn up. When finally signed in May it contained the following clauses:

1. The Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary were to spend at least \$30,000 for enlarging their premises, or whatever amount was necessary to provide accommodation for 300 day students in addition to boarders.
2. When the number of day students exceeded 300, the rental of \$1200 was to increase in the following proportion;- \$25 additional for each twenty five students or fraction thereof above 300, provided that no fraction of less than two fifths of twenty five be taken into account.
3. All classroom furniture was to be provided by the school board.
4. Care of the building, heating, etc., was to be in the hands of the Reverend Sisters.
5. The Nuns were to furnish teachers qualified under the School Act, at reasonable salaries, to be determined each year between both parties.

Trustee Marcoux raised objections to the agreement because of the fact that, under the terms, the District of St. Boniface would be paying for the instruction of non-residents. His objection was overruled.

In the midst of the negotiations with the Sisters a difference arose with the contractor over payment for the building of Ecole Taché. A committee of the board was appointed to examine the building, look over the contractor's accounts and to report back to the full board. The committee visited the school but because the members had not been furnished with the specifications for the building they could not form any definite conclusion so they asked for more time to investigate. At a later meeting the members of the committee reported that, in their opinion, the expense had been a little high and that some few details seemed not as specified. However they had straightened the matter out and their report was accepted. In general the Trustees must have been satisfied with Mr. Cusson's work because on August 4 of the same year they gave him the contract to complete the unfinished rooms. Since the building was being completed they decided that they would open a third classroom in the school.

A further advance toward modern practice was made due to discussions arising out of the building of the Convent. The Nuns had requested a long term contract in the matter of salary. Such a long term arrangement was ruled irregular by the Department of Education so the Trustees considered the matter from another angle. Since the Sisters

were so concerned over the building which they were planning, it was determined to ascertain whether the Board had the power to set up a minimum and maximum scale to control salaries over a period of years. The committee which investigated the question reported that while the Act did not contain any terms which would permit of such an arrangement it, at the same time, did not forbid such action. No specific decision was taken in connection with the report at the time but the salary lists for the next few years seem to indicate that such a scale was adopted.

Re-opening of the schools in the fall brought new problems. The building programme had not been kept up to the planned schedule. The Taché school was ready but the new building which was being erected for the girls' school was not. The chairman of the Board had taken emergency measures which were ratified by his fellow trustees at the September meeting. Opening day for the Convent School was deferred until September 14 and even then space had to be rented for three classrooms at le Bloc Royal.

In comparison with 1903 the year which followed was uneventful. There were however, some items of interest. For one thing the Board decided to have the sign at the Norwood school changed so that it read in English instead of in French. Hard upon the heels of this action came the election of the first English speaking citizen to membership on the school board. There were also increases in salary in all three of the schools of the district as well as an increase

in the number of teachers in the two older schools due to increasing enrollment. There was also a repetition of the request by settlers from the east side of the Seine River for a school in that area. After investigation by a committee the request was again denied on the ground that there was sufficient room for the girls at l'Academie Jesus-Marie and that there would also be sufficient room for the boys in an enlarged Provencher which, it was already realized, would have to be built. One more reason for the refusal was the fact that the new schools would be much closer to the Seine than were the schools which occupied the old location. At the close of the year decision was taken to open the last remaining available room at Taché school and to secure a male principal if possible. One other step was taken which brought an end to a practice which had a long tradition behind it. From the time when the first St. Boniface board had been formed it had been the custom for board members to participate actively in visiting the schools, examining the work of the pupils, and distributing prizes. Almost the last act of the board of 1904 was to endorse a motion to discontinue this long established custom.

Judging from the number of meetings, 1905 must have been a busy year for the trustees but there seems little of historic interest or value. The male principal did not materialize at Taché School until September and the choice was a subject of much disagreement. In fact Mr. Donnelly and a second non-French trustee walked out of one of the meetings thus forcing an adjournment "faute d'un quorum." Mr. E.A.

H emsworth was finally chosen and Miss Erwin was asked to remain with the school as second in command. Lack of a quorum prevented the conduct of business on several occasions although a meeting was actually held once in a sick room as that was the only way in which a quorum might be secured on that evening.

First indication of a building programme which was to dwarf all previous achievement appeared at the July meeting in 1906. It was realized that the Old College had once again become too cramped for the purpose for which it was being used and the Trustees came to the conclusion that a new building would be required at a new site. A by-law to provide for this new need was introduced in July and, before the close of the year, it had passed all its stages and received the approval of the Town Council.

These steps were but a beginning. The board had just nicely started to search for a suitable site for a new Provencher and to plan for compensation for the old one when they were faced with the realization that they would have to provide new and larger quarters for the Taché school. The site for the new Provencher was somewhat east of the old one and lay "South of Rue Cathedrale and between Avenue St. Jean Baptiste and Rue Grandin (now De La Morenie)." The purchase price was \$10,900 less an allowance of \$1500 for the old Provencher grounds which were to be returned to the Corporation of the Archdiocese of St. Boniface. Taché school would also require more space if enlarged so the board set about securing five more lots east of the property which they already owned.

By-laws were passed with great frequency during the summer months but some of them did not get as far as the Town Council since the Board members found that the amounts of money to be required were greater than at first anticipated and furthermore, they raised their requirements as the scheme of building developed. For this reason, some of the by-laws were adopted in order to replace earlier ones which had been passed for lesser amounts. It was finally decided to build two identical schools according to plans submitted by the architectural firm of Hooper and Walker. By May the tender of J.H. Tremblay and Co. had been accepted for the construction of Provencher. It was not until October that Mr. Tremblay's tender for building Taché was accepted but after that work on both schools went on apace.

In June a petition was received which might have resulted in St. Boniface schools becoming tri-lingual instead of bi-lingual. The Belgian settlers living near the Seine River requested that, if it might be arranged, instruction in Flemish be provided within the terms of the Public School Act. Because the petition had the support of the required number of parents of Belgian children the Board set up a committee to see what might be done. The Marian brotherhood was sounded out to see if it would be possible for them to furnish a teacher capable of providing such instruction. This was not possible, so the committee reported back and the result was that the Board was compelled to inform the petitioners of its inability to grant the request.

Business connected with this double building programme was of chief concern in 1907. The debentures had to be sold to finance the cost. Arrangements had to be made for the insurance of the new buildings and for the transfer of insurance from the old ones. There was the business of conveying the title of the old Provencher back to the Archdiocese of St. Boniface and for the sale and removal of the wooden building first erected for the Taché school. Finally there were the arrangements for furnishing and equipment for the new schools and for the disposal of such equipment from the former buildings as could not be used.

Less important matters dominated the business of the school district during 1908. In January there was a small misunderstanding with the Department of Education concerning one of the teachers at Taché. Apparently the Department were not satisfied with the qualifications of a Miss Berube and the board understood it was because of her being French. They informed the Department that they had always understood that Taché was a bi-lingual school and that they still thought so. They then asked for further instructions. They soon learned that the lady's nationality was not in question but her qualifications. As a consequence arrangements were made for her to attend the Normal School and secure her professional standing.

Other small matters arose during the year. In June, for example, the changed status of the municipality is indicated when the minutes refer to the "cite" instead of the "Vill".

Also, at the May meeting, a new committee was added to the permanent sub-divisions of the board when it was decided that a permanent finance committee was required. In September a change was made in the principalship of Provencher school as Brother Joseph Fink replaced Brother Georges. Brother Joseph remained for many years with St. Boniface School District, his career at Provencher being terminated only by his death. In conclusion, let it be added, the board began in that year a policy of providing skating rinks at Provencher and Taché, a custom that extended over many years.

A new director at Provencher meant new fields of endeavour. Under the impetus lent by the principal, tree planting and gardening became a feature of Provencher school during 1909. Some work along this line had been carried out at the former grounds but not to the extent that it was carried out by Brother Joseph. This work was especially commented on by Inspector Goulet in his annual report to the Department of Education for the year 1909.⁶ Mr. Goulet also commented on a remarkable achievement of the newly recognized intermediate school at the Convent.

The ladies' school (intermediate) has been doing certificate work with great success. For the non-professional examinations of last July, this school had prepared thirty candidates, all of whom passed successfully, twenty nine being on the honour list.⁷

Mr. Goulet then continued by commenting on a museum which had been originated at Provencher by Brother Joseph and on the formation of night schools for adult classes at Provencher.

⁶ Annual Report of the Department of Education, Winnipeg: King's Printer, 1909. Report of Inspector Goulet.

⁷ Ibid

He mentions that Manual Training is being taught at Provencher as well as Domestic Science at l'Academie Jesus-Marie.⁸ In a report of a later year he mentions that St. Boniface is the only one of his schools where these subjects are being taught.⁹

On the whole, the year 1909 was a peaceful one in the Saint Boniface schools. Mr. Hemsworth was replaced by J.L. Thompson as the principal of Taché and Reverend Sister Mechtilde by Reverend Sister Mary Clementine at l'Academie Jesus-Marie. A delegation of medical men approached the board shortly after the fall opening of the schools with the proposition for the hiring of a full time medical director but the board was not prepared, at that time, to consider taking such a step. Furthermore, in response to requests from the ratepayers, the board sent a delegation to interview the Department of Education in November and, after a favourable reception, it was decided to hold night schools at Provencher in French and at Taché in English. This arrangement was continued for several years and will not receive mention again.

If it had been peaceful during the previous year it was not so during 1910. In the first place there had been a new ward added to the electoral system, the result of which was that for the next fourteen years the board seems to have always consisted of six French members and four who were not French. This fact of itself did not make for division but there was a tendency for the two groups to

⁸ Ibid

⁹ Annual Report of the Department of Education, Winnipeg: King's Printer, 1911, Report of Inspector Goulet.

see differently on some occasions. Next, the board found itself faced with the first of a number of judicial proceedings which it was to encounter in the next few years. The principal had expelled a student from Taché school. When the girl's father appealed to the board the expulsion was confirmed as far as the Taché school was concerned but an offer was made to the father to permit her to enroll at the Convent. The father then applied to the Courts for an order but the board maintained its stand. Following a Court decision she was enrolled at l'Academie Jesus-Marie but she did not attend long before transferring to St. Mary's Academy in Winnipeg. One curious motion made at the May meeting was that each student in all St. Boniface schools should be taxed five cents on May 21. Could the purpose have been to buy black ribbon to be worn at a memorial service for King Edward VII?

The twenty ninth board which controlled the schools during 1911 had a peaceful term but there was one noteworthy event during the year. The rising tide of immigration which had been flowing into the West was affecting St. Boniface which was getting its share of the increase in population. The good Sisters had once increased the size of their Convent school to meet the swelling demand for space. Now they decided that a new school was the only solution to the continued demand for more space. In March the Sisters approached the board for assurance of continued support. In April the board offered a guarantee of \$7000 annual rent to cover the requirements of rent, heat, light and caretaking.

A rider was added to the effect that the new building must meet the specifications of the of the Department of Education and that it must be fireproof. The sisters were shrewd bargainers however because when the lease was formally signed the rental was stated as being \$7500. During the same summer additional land was obtained for the grounds at Taché and, further, a committee was established to search out sites for other possible new schools which might have to be built in future years.

Having arranged for enlarged quarters for the girls' school the new board was at once faced with a building programme of its own. J.A. Hudon was engaged to prepare plans for the enlargement of both Provencher and Taché schools. Mr. Hudon's plans for Taché were accepted but new ones were requested for Provencher. The new plans were accepted when presented and tenders asked for to enlarge both schools. But they were to be twins no longer since A.C. Van Horenbeck was to add to the rear of the Taché school while Irene Benoit had taken the contract of adding a wing to each side of Provencher.

There is no clarity in the minutes as to the name by which the girls' school should be known. The Grey Nuns' school had definitely been known as l'Academie Taché, The school attached to the Convent of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Marie is referred to in several ways. Sometimes the minutes simply call it "The Convent", on other occasions it is referred to as "l'Academie Jesus-Marie" and at least twice it is referred to as "l'Academie St-Boniface".

But with the opening of the new building in September 1912 there is definite reference to the name "St. Joseph's Collegiate" which is the name by which it is still called.

Here ended Volume three of the minutes, on September 19. Like its two predecessors it was handwritten in the French language. Volumes IV, V and VI which cover the years until June 1924 are type-written although still kept in the French language. The last entry in Volume III gives a list of the schools and the number of teachers in charge of them.

<u>School</u>	<u>No. of Teachers</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Cost</u>
St. Joseph's	15	Sr. Mary Clementine (M.L. Bernier)	\$ 14,425
Taché	16	Geo. H. Ruttan	14,275
Provencher	13	Bro. Joseph	12,275

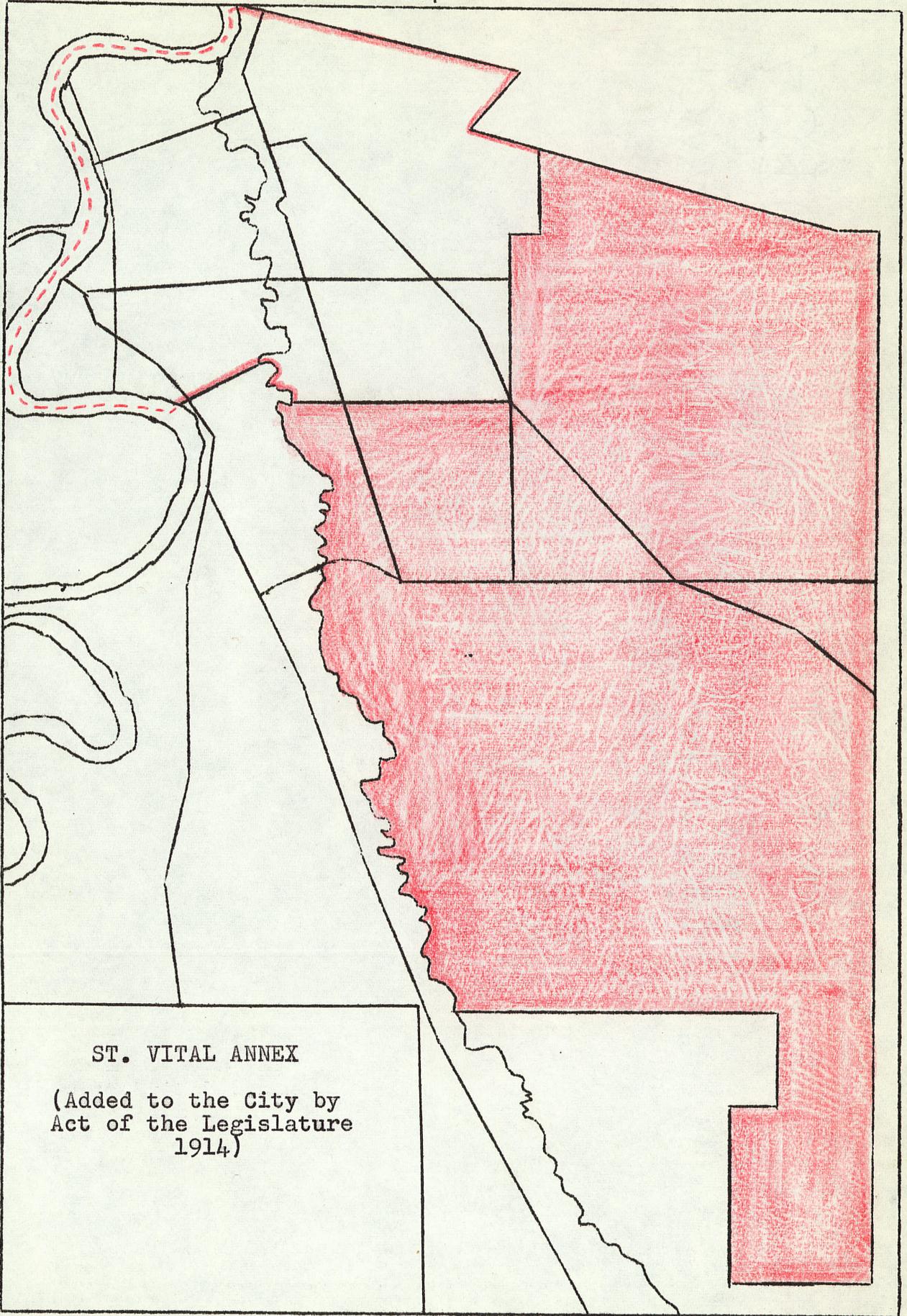
The trustees were busy men during 1913. The expansion programme was still under way and from the nature of committee reports it seems certain that these men not only knew their job but also performed it since a close scrutiny was certainly kept on the progress of the buildings as well as on the manner in which the work was performed. Meanwhile the committee which had been appointed two years earlier to prospect for suitable sites had been quietly doing its work. In April it recommended to the board that lots 18 to 28 and 29 to 39 of Block 5 in the city of St. Boniface be secured for the location of a school which, the situation indicated already, would soon be needed. This site was on Youville between Horace and Eugenie Streets. Negotiations were then

begun. Meanwhile another committee had been trying industriously to sell the debentures by which it was desired to raise the money to pay for the very large programme which was being carried on. The committee found that the money situation was indeed "tight" and the sales had to be completed on not too advantageous terms. Space does not permit the mention of the names of many teachers but at least one exception should be noted. In September 1913 Miss Hazel McFee was engaged to teach in the Taché school. She must have set some sort of record because she is still teaching in the same building and is about to enter her forty-sixth year at the old stand.

It must have seemed to board members in those days that there was no limit to the programme they were compelled to follow in order to keep up with the never ending demand for more classroom space. Nineteen fourteen was barely under way when the board completed negotiations for the site which had been recommended by Mr. Donnelly's committee. Although the sale price is not stated in the minutes there is an indication that board members felt that they had made a very fair deal with the Grey Nuns who had been the owners of the property.

There now arose a matter which illustrates how the action of one party may affect the affairs of another party who is not directly concerned. By action of the Provincial Legislature, the area commonly referred to as "The St. Vital Annex" had been added to the city of St. Boniface.¹⁰

¹⁰ Statutes of Manitoba, 1914, Winnipeg: King's Printer, Chapter 99.



ST. VITAL ANNEX

(Added to the City by
Act of the Legislature
1914)

Such action affected the St. Boniface school board in this manner. The annexed territory included the School District of St. Isidore and parts of the district of Glenlawn and La Valee. Apparently according to the revised city charter this area was now to become part of the St. Boniface district. In the case of the two partial districts there was a simple adjustment of assets and liabilities between the districts. In the case of St. Isidore it was a different situation altogether. It was finally decided after discussion with ratepayers of the former district to have children from that region transported to the nearest available school in the city. From that time until now there has always been the necessity of providing such service to the children of the far eastern part of the city.

Other important matters which were dealt with during the year were, the renewal of the contract with the Marian Brotherhood for the supply of teachers, the consideration of plans for the new school which would soon have to be built, the provision of night schools and provision of a toboggan slide for the girls at St. Joseph's in lieu of a rink.

An important change occurred in 1915. In March, Cleophas Marcoux died after many years as chairman of the board. The new chairman was J. A. Marion who held the position during a term of years which constitutes a record which will be very hard to surpass. He is known far and wide for his contribution to education, not only in St. Boniface, not only among Canadiens, but for all citizens of whatever race in the province as a whole.

Progress was rather slow in carrying out plans to build the new school. At first it had been decided to copy closely the style of King Edward No. 2 school in Winnipeg but it would seem that the ratepayers who would be served by the new school were not too pleased with the type of building which the board had in mind. Then a firm of architects was asked to prepare plans but with no better success so new architects were approached. W.H. Green was able to produce acceptable plans so the balance of the cost of the site was paid and the name of the school settled on as being "King George Fifth". The contract for construction was awarded to Progress Construction Company and the work began. In the meantime, while the board was acting in the matter of building one school, it was also looking to the future as is demonstrated by the fact that a committee was designated to try to locate a site in Ward V which is the area forming a triangle between the bend of Red River and St. Mary's Road.

Then once again an unrelated act brought sorrow, bitterness and contention to the hitherto peaceful little city. To know what happened in St. Boniface a short review of events in a much wider field must be given. The bullet of a madman at Sarajevo had set the nations of the earth at one another's throats. Canadian participation in the war that followed brought about two situations both of which affected St. Boniface and its schools. In the first place there came a wave of sentiment which forced the French Canadians, not only in Quebec, but elsewhere, into a position of defense, and developed among them a sense of injustice.

The second situation arose as a reaction to the policy which had poured a million settlers from continental Europe on to our Canadian plains in the decade just preceeding the war. A widespread feeling which has variously been described as a "wave of patriotism" or as "une vague de fanatisme"¹² spread outward from Ontario against not only those who were nationals of enemy countries, but also against all those who spoke any tongue other than English.

To see what happened in St. Boniface one must first see what happened in Manitoba. It was twenty years since the "Manitoba School Question" had apparently been settled by the Laurier-Greenway compromise. The compromise had not been too well accepted by the Roman Catholic hierarchy; "la loi qu'on faite, dans le but de reparation, est defecteuse, imparfaite, et insuffisante."¹³ Nonetheless His Holiness in the same letter, advised Roman Catholics of Manitoba to collaborate with the civil authorities. It was the language part of the compromise which led to new moves in this province in 1916. There can be no doubt that when the compromise was arranged providing for bi-lingual schools that there was no thought that the language provisions would cover any other language but French in addition to English. It was not thus stated in the act however and the friends of the French in fact did them an evil turn by not so specifying.¹⁴

¹² Pere Mignault, Le Pere Henri Bourque, S.J., Montreal: Les Editions Bellarmin, 1957, p.vingt.

¹³ Affari Vos du Pape Leon XIII, 8 Decembre, 1897, Archives of the Archdiocese of St. Boniface.

¹⁴ Robert Fletcher, The Language Problem in Manitoba Schools, Manitoba Historical Society Report, Series III, No.6. p.56.

The coming of the Sifton migrations had however presented an entirely different picture. Manitoba's educational system was faced with a situation where not two, but several languages were not only being asked for but were being taught. St. Boniface had established bi-lingual schools which were doing exceptionally fine work. No less a person than Doctor Robert Fletcher, who was for many years Deputy-Minister of Education, has declared that St. Boniface provided a model of what bi-lingual schools ought to be.¹⁵ Almost immediately upon taking office, the Norris Government ordered the school inspectoral staff to make a thorough survey into conditions which were, according to Dr. Fletcher, appalling. As a result of what was disclosed, the administration decided to abolish bi-lingual schools entirely. In vain did the French plead for special consideration because of the fact that they had been partners in pioneering the Red River Valley. Sentiment of the day was such that the government turned a deaf ear to all pleas. As a result, St. Boniface equally with schools which had no comparable efficiency had to turn to teaching all work in the English tongue. As may be imagined, with a settled organization and with a staff which had been used to other ways for years, the transformation was neither easy nor, possibly, immediate.

So much for external pressures. But 1916 also marked the first signs as far as is indicated by the minute books of disunion and friction within the school district itself. No attempt is here made to analyse or explain the reason

¹⁵ Ibid p.56.

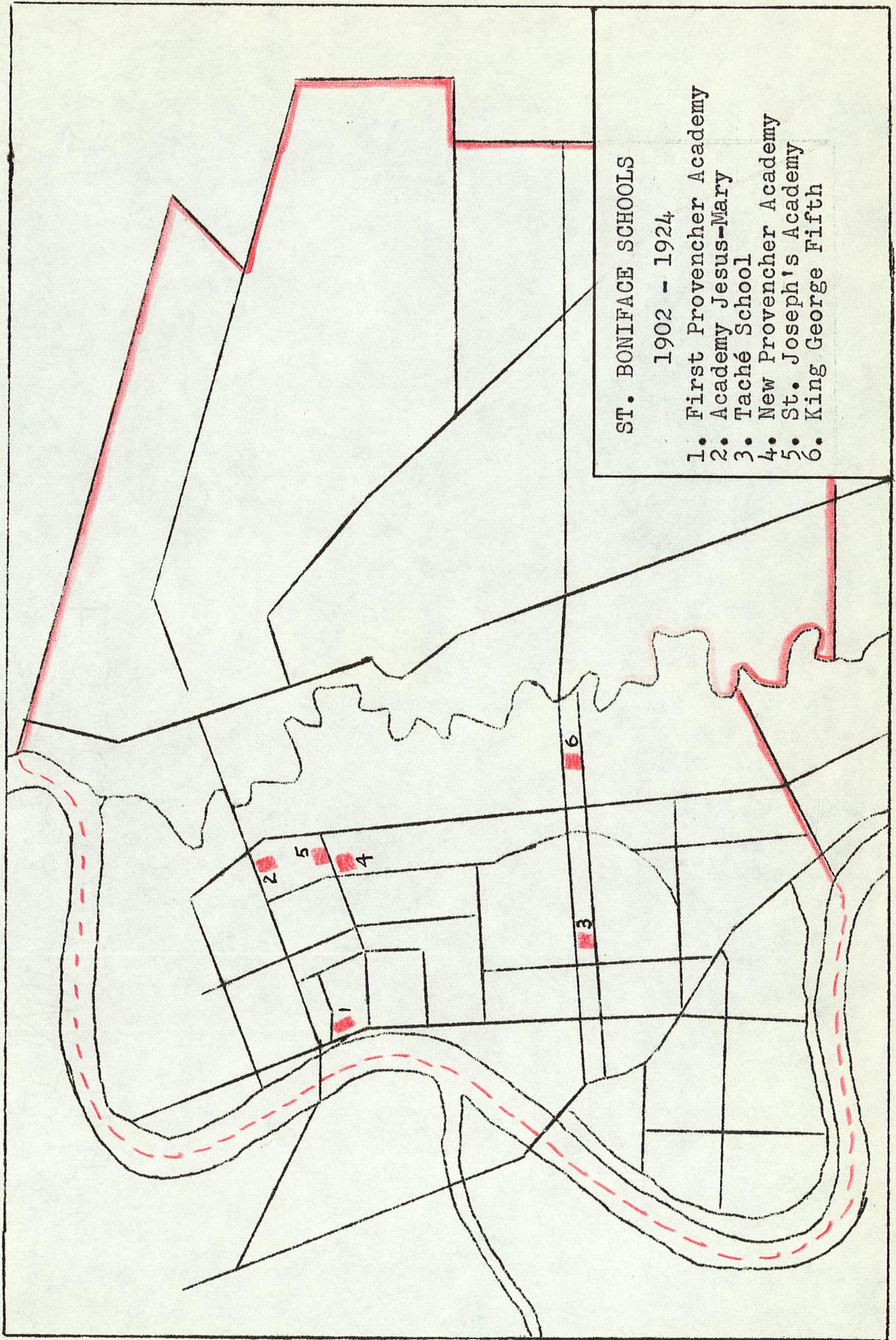
for such dissension. The causes were complex and many factors had a bearing on the matter. Possibly a difference in the basic approach to the manner of school government contributed as much to disharmony as anything. This friction seemed to affect the Board from two sources -- from the teaching personnel, and from the ratepayers from the southern part of the district. On the other hand it is difficult at times to separate the two sources as they become intermingled and effect one another. That the story may be presented as a whole and in order to avoid confusion it is here proposed to trace the story from 1916 to 1925 concerning non-contentious matters and then retrace the same period to include the story of discord.

The records show little material worth relating during the years 1916 and 1917. Additional duties fell to the Secretary due to the fact that the Norris government had established a compulsory attendance act. Residents of the Bleauville district on the Dawson Road petitioned the board for van service and the board agreed to provide it if the government would give a grant toward such service. No grant was forthcoming and as a result the petition was denied. One other fact seems worthy of mention and that is that the board sent a representative to a provincial committee which was in charge of the observance of Canada's fiftieth birthday.

In February of 1918, Dr. Stewart Fraser of the Provincial Health Department approached the board with the suggestion that a Public Health Nurse be established in St. Boniface and asked that the Board co-operate with the City in such

action. This the Board agreed to do and representatives were appointed to meet with those of the City. In May the Board adopted a new salary scale for teachers which paralleled the one in use by Winnipeg as far as the eighth year. A side light on the war which was then in progress is referred to by the fact that all teachers were required to produce their National Registration Certificates as a condition of continued employment. Consideration was given in August to the reopening of St. Isidore school as a means of relieving the pressure of enrollment in the other schools but the idea was abandoned.

Nineteen nineteen opened on a happy note when it was learned that pupils of the Taché school had won a valuable award as a class for proficiency in history. In February a group of Norwood citizens was granted the use of the Taché school for the purpose of holding religious services on Sunday on behalf of English speaking Roman Catholics. In June the Board settled the St. Isidore question for all time by selling the buildings and property which had been held by the former district. The first Wednesday in September was a day long to be remembered by the children because they were given a holiday to go to see the Prince of Wales who was at the time on a tour through the country. The anti-militaristic sentiment which was so widespread in Canada for some years after the close of the war showed itself when a delegation approached the trustees to request that the cadet corps be disbanded in order to prevent the distilling of a military



spirit among the boys. It was suggested by the delegation that a course in gymnastics be established instead. At the close of the year the services of the Public Health Department were requested at district expense to vaccinate all children because of an outbreak of chicken-pox, principally in the King George district.

One of the first actions of the thirty eighth board when it took office in 1920 was to re-organize the administrative set-up. Standing committees were struck for finance, construction, administration of schools, and a committee for printing and supply. The oldest of all committees, the "Comite d'Urgence" was eliminated. Much of the business was thenceforth carried out in committee and only the report of the committee was presented for adoption. A practice which was of long standing was made mandatory. Committee reports might be made in either French or English and they were entered in the minutes in the language in which they had been presented. Later in the year the Board agreed to contribute toward the expenses of all teachers who enrolled at the Manitoba Summer School. This practice was continued up to and including 1924. In November a new organization presented itself before the Board. The Norwood Local of the Manitoba Teachers' Federation presented a suggested salary schedule as a basis for negotiation. The Board accepted the schedule as presented but made two requests of the local. One was to change its name to "St. Boniface Local", and the other was that future discussion concerning changes in salary

be held earlier in the year in order that the estimates might take any changes agreed to into consideration.

There is little to note in the next two year period. Business engaging the thirty ninth board will be discussed later since it pertains to the question of the friction which was increasing in the district. The tendency toward a national depression which had appeared in the early twenties had its effect in St. Boniface and certain measures of economy were taken. Suggestions for reduction in salary were made to the Teachers' Federation during May 1922, and were met by counter-suggestions from the teachers. Agreement was reached after the close of the term. As a second measure of economy it was decided to dispense with the services of a drill instructor who had been supplied by the army to instruct part time at the Provencher, King George and Taché schools. The army felt that the work was so important that they were willing to continue to supply the service at no cost to the board. In the end the sergeant was retained. In August a search was made for extra accommodation for boys as Provencher was once again overcrowded. Arrangements were made for the lease of four rooms at Le Petit Seminaire under terms which were very favourable to the board. It did seem as if the accomodation problem was solved for some time to come but Providence ruled otherwise. Le Nouveau College went up in flames on a bitter winter's night and the Church officials needed the whole of Le Petit Seminaire for themselves as a replacement for the College.

The Board was fortunate in obtaining alternative accommodation at the Juniorat of Oblates which had succeeded to the former Convent of the Sisters of the Holy Names. The terms of rental were similar to what had been offered by the Seminary.

It was late in 1923 before anything non-contentious appears in the records of that year. Metropolitan Bursa approached the trustees and were able to secure an arrangement whereby pupils of that institution would be admitted to St. Boniface schools on terms more favourable than usual for non-residents. In the same month Brooklands District was informed that there was no room for any additional pupils at the time. In October a decision was reached to introduce a conversational French course in the Taché and King George schools on an experimental basis and steps were taken to secure a competent teacher. In December teachers' salaries were again revised downward in line with a trend that was general all over Canada.

The dissatisfaction of the Norwood area found expression on the board itself during 1924 since two members of the dissentients had secured election as trustees. As a result minor matters were few. The conversational classes were started although there was some opposition from the parents. In March, Mr. Marion, the chairman of the board was honoured by being elected to the Presidency of the Manitoba School Trustees Association, a position which he filled

very capably indeed. In June a real difficulty had to be met. The company in whose hands the insurance on the Prov- encher school had been placed was declared bankrupt and its affairs were placed in the hands of a liquidator. This meant that funds upon which the Board had been relying either were lost or at the least would be heavily reduced and it was a serious blow when added to the other troubles which were engaging the attention of the trustees at the time. The close of the year brought the end of one more era be- cause re-organization of the school system had to take place.

In July, 1916 the first reference is made to the Norwood Citizens Association when it is noted that a com- plaint was received from that body with regard to the poor results of the examinations written by a class of boys at King George school.. A full and seemingly reasonable reply was made by the board at the August meeting. The same meet- ing however had to deal with charges against one of the prin- cipals by one of his subordinates. After due investigation by the Board the charges were dismissed and in an effort to restore harmony Mr. Shannon, who had laid the charges, was transferred to King George school as Principal. Mr. Gilles- pie was sent to Taché as vice-principal without any diminu- tion in salary.

Before the next meeting of the board a public meeting of Norwood ratepayers was held in the Taché school. The feeling of the meeting was to the effect that the north part of the district was getting preferential treatment in

its schools. Trustee Leslie is recorded as admitting that the Norwood Press report of the meeting is a fair one and when requested to do so he outlined in writing three ways in which he considered the south schools were being treated unfairly. (1) The appointment of Mr. Gillespie to the principalship of King George School. (2) The alleged fact that the Nuns and the Brothers spent their money earned as salaries away from the city. (3) Alleged excessive cost of education per pupil on the north part of the district as compared with cost in the southern part. At this same meeting the first petition asking for the division of the city into two school districts was presented. The petition bore ninety three signatures. Further evidence of a feeling of grievance may be noted in the account of the October meeting. Trustee Wilson questioned the manner of awarding the Governor-General's medal as between students of St. Joseph's and Taché schools and requested verification of points awarded by referring the subject to the Department of Education. In order to avoid unpleasantness in 1917, the Board asked the Department to make the choice as between the Taché candidate and the one from St. Joseph's.

The next problem to be dealt with arose in February of 1919. The two years before that time had been comparatively calm as far as the records show. At that time though, a committee was set up to study recent amendments to the School Act and the manner in which they might affect the district.

This step was taken because of a feeling among some of the Norwood Citizens that there were irregularities in the manner of conducting the two north schools.

In April of the same year another matter was brought to the attention of the board by Norwood ratepayers. Because of information gained from a publication known as Tit-Bits, the impression had got around that it might be permitted to substitute Music for Arithmetic on the course of studies up to and including Grade VIII. A delegation appeared before the Board to ask for support of a petition to the Department asking to have such substitution made at Taché and King George. The Board felt unable to support such a petition and indeed adopted a resolution in opposition to having any music at all in the schools. This resolution was later withdrawn at the request of a number of Norwood ladies.

Staff trouble arose again in July. Mr. Ruttan had been given a years leave of absence the year previous and in the interval Mr. Gillespie had been acting principal. When his year was up Mr. Ruttan submitted his resignation. The board decided that Mr. Gillespie's appointment be made permanent provided he would be able to secure the necessary qualifications within a short period. This appointment did not please Mr. Shannon who urged his own claim to the position so emphatically that the board re-acted by deciding to seek a new principal for King George school. A delegation appeared at the June meeting asking that the dismissal be rescinded. The Board complied but the affair was not yet over.

A ratepayers meeting was held at Taché late in August which resulted in a further delegation appearing at the board meeting of that month. There was a great deal of heated discussion involving both trustees and delegates and the upshot of the matter was that Mr. Shannon resigned. He was replaced as principal of King George School by W. D. Bayley. But the affair was still not quite settled. When school opened some of the parents flatly refused to send their children to King George while others insisted on sending their children to Taché rather than to one of the two north end schools. These parents were advised that in order to make the most efficient use of school accomodation their children would have to attend the school to which they had been assigned. Mr. Shannon later interviewed the Board to see if the teaching of instrumental music would be continued and in November a delegation appeared to ask definitely that such teaching be provided. The request was not granted.

More friction appeared during 1920. At the January meeting two trustees again brought up the old question of St. Boniface bearing the cost of educating a large number of non-resident children. At a later meeting in the same month Mr. Shannon appeared in the picture once again. A number of Musical instruments had been bought out of the proceeds of school concerts and a difference of opinion arose concerning their possession. The Board insisted that they be left at King George until the question should be settled

whether Music would be continued or not. Then in June an innocent appearing by-law was passed providing for a small indemnity to board members for their attendance at meetings. This by-law later was a source of trouble.

For a few months the thirty ninth board which was in control during 1921 seemed to operate under less disharmonious conditions than those which had been prevailing. In January the city council had forwarded to the board a resolution which suggested that the number of non-resident students who attended St. Boniface schools should be drastically reduced. The Board somewhat resented what they felt was an attempt on the part of the council to interfere in a matter which lay outside of city jurisdiction and in the reply to the council it asserted its right to full independence in school matters. A return letter from the council explaining its interest in the matter due to it being the taxing authority was more kindly received. The board sent a fully explanatory letter in reply in which it detailed the rules governing admission of non-residents and also stated that there had already been a considerable reduction in the number of such in attendance. During the same period an attempt to mollify Norwood ratepayers was made by assigning full control of all minor matters concerning King George and Taché schools to the trustees from the south.

A storm struck unexpectedly. Mr. Bayley was a member of the Legislature and as such was very interested in political matters and frequently addressed various public

and semi-public gatherings. By the same token he was a person in whom the public was interested. Press reports of an address which appeared on August 8 caused the Board a great deal of concern. Although a resolution was passed stating that the Board could not tolerate the opinions he was alleged to have expressed, the majority of the members felt that there must be some doubt in the matter and Mr. Bayley was asked to appear at a special meeting. In order to be absolutely fair to all parties it was arranged that a reporter should be present so that there might be a verbatim record of every word that was said. From this record of the meeting it seems clear that Mr. Bayley based his defence on two points. First he claimed that as the address had been given during vacation and not within the district it was not a matter for the Board's jurisdiction. Secondly he complained of misrepresentation in the public press due to a difference in political outlook. However he was unwilling to deny that the report of his address was according to fact and the Board with what appears to be reluctance, came to the conclusion that his statements had been irreligious and a motion for his dismissal was adopted. Once again Miss Erwin became acting principal as had happened more than once in the past.

The affair was not thus easily concluded. Mr. Bayley secured a Board of Reference and appealed the School Board's decision. The district chairman and three of the English speaking trustees represented the School District at

the hearing which was held in the city hall on October 1. As the result of evidence given at the appeal hearing the board reconsidered Mr. Bayley's case when it met three days later and replaced the motion for dismissal with a motion granting him leave of absence for September and up to October 21. At a special meeting on October 21 a number of delegates appeared on behalf of Mr. Bayley. The meeting was not harmonious and Mr. Bayley tendered his resignation which the Board decided to hold over for a month. On the other hand the resignations of the three English speaking members who had attended the Board of Reference on behalf of the district were accepted. From there the matter went to the electors and in the campaign which ensued the three trustees who had resigned were returned to office. The decision about Mr. Bayley's resignation had been held up pending the result of the election and when the matter again came before the board at the December meeting there were further delegations from the King George area affirming confidence in Mr. Bayley and asking for his retention. Mr. Bayley himself reviewed the whole situation, gave the result of a survey he had conducted among parents of his pupils and criticized certain of the trustees. Result - the resignation was accepted and Mr. H.B. Donnelly became the new principal in Mr. Bayley's stead.

Nineteen twenty two had hardly started when the storm clouds began threatening. Early in February a letter was received from the Norwood citizens' Association outlining certain matters with which the association was dissatisfied

and asking for remedial action. A committee of the board, appointed for the purpose, drew up a reply which was adopted at the March meeting and forwarded to the Association. The tenor of the reply was thus:- (1) The board was satisfied that all of its members were legally qualified to hold their positions. (2) The board was satisfied that it was properly fulfilling its duties and was proud of its existence. (3) The enrollment of non-residents had already been considered by the board. (4) The board had no intention of closing its schools due to any suggestion that they were being operated illegally. (5) Reports sent to the Department of Education were official and accurate.

Then came a lull. The records for the rest of the year show no further discord although it may be judged from the result that the ferment must have been stirring in the community in the southern part of the city.

An accident was the cause of the final struggle. On the evening of January 3, 1923, the board held its inaugural meeting for the year in the board office in the Provencher school. By next morning the building was a blackened, smoking ruin. As an immediate measure an arrangement was made with the Sisters to hold classes at St. Joseph Academy so that by staggering the hours both boys and girls might be taught in the one building. Then followed two months of planning and on March 3 a by-law was passed in the amount of \$240,000 to provide for the rebuilding of Provencher school

and also for the building of a new school in Ward 5. Two weeks later the by-law had to be set aside and replacement by-laws passed in its stead since legal procedure required a separate by-law for each purpose. In April still another by-law had to be passed to supplement the one dealing with the Provencher replacement. The by-laws ran into stiff opposition and there would appear to have been some irregularity because the board found it necessary to secure legal assistance in an effort to have the latest of these legalized. The attempt failed and yet another by-law was passed which revoked the previous efforts to deal with the subject and calling for a reduced amount under new provisions,

In the meantime plans presented by the firm of Northwood and Carey had been found to be satisfactory and the contract for the re-building had been awarded to Chas. D. Kirk and Company. While waiting for the new building to be ready new arrangements had to be made to accommodate the boys. Before the fall term opened the Sisters notified the board that they did not feel able to continue the arrangement whereby the boys shared St. Joseph's with the girls. As a consequence a number of rooms scattered throughout various buildings were rented during the fall term. On January 1, 1924 the restored Provencher building was ready and its doors were once again opened to the boys classes.

As if the problem of construction and the difficulties being raised by the Citizens Association were not enough, staff trouble had again to be dealt with. Complaints

had been received from various quarters with regard to Taché school. Mr. Gillespie was questioned concerning poor examination results, about charges that conditions generally in the school were poor, and about charges that discipline in the school was lax. The following day two of the senior teachers were asked to appear before the board and the day after that two more were summoned to give their opinion as to conditions. The result of the investigation was that Mr. Gillespie was asked for his resignation. One of the teachers resigned at the same time. Mr. Shannon was offered the principalship but for some unstated reason the school, when it opened in September, was in charge of Alfred T. White.

Meantime agitation against operation of the schools had been increasing in Norwood. A crucial point was reached at a mass meeting held at Taché school Thursday, October 25, at which a series of charges were made concerning operation of St. Boniface schools and three resolutions were adopted asking for specific action. The charges are listed without comment:-

1. North end schools were enrolling children both above and below statutory school age.
2. North end schools were enrolling too many non-residents
3. North end schools were not collecting non-resident fees.
4. North end schools were being conducted extravagantly.
5. Large economies could be practiced by having all High School students taught at Taché.
6. Cost per pupil at North end schools was higher.
7. Group employment of Nuns and Brothers was illegal.
8. North end schools were sectarian.

9. Norwood was paying a proportionally larger share of the taxes but North end schools were receiving a proportionally larger share of the expenditures.
10. Discrimination was being practised against Protestants.
11. Trustees were refusing to provide legitimate information.
12. North end schools were not flying the Union Jack. ¹⁶

The substance of the three resolutions passed at the meeting was:-

1. That Norwood Ratepayers take steps to secure a division of the St. Boniface School District into two parts.
2. That the City of St. Boniface be asked to withhold taxes raised for the support of Provencher and St. Joseph's schools on the ground that they do not qualify by law as Public Schools.
3. That the four English speaking members of the St. Boniface school board resign. ¹⁷

The charges were so serious that the city had to take some action. A letter was sent to the School Board asking for a reply to answer furnished by the board was that the schools had always been operated according to law. The Board offered in substantiation of this claim the fact that the schools were subject to government inspection after which they had always received the statutory grant.

Meantime the Citizens Association had been active. One step taken had been to set in motion the action required to introduce a bill into the Legislature which would divide the city into two school districts. A second step had been to secure an investigation by an official of the Department of Education. Major C.K. Newcombe acted for the Department but the matter contained in his report being confidential it

¹⁶ Winnipeg Free Press, October 26, 1923.

¹⁷ Ibid.

is not possible to state what his findings were. A third action had been to enter two candidates, who would represent the feelings of the Association, for election to the Board. The two candidates, Mrs. Alma McArthur and Hugh Martin, were elected.

Membership on the Board of 1924 was anything but pleasant. It was definitely a case of the two new trustees against the other eight. Immediately in the new year there was an attempt to make sure that all schools were being operated according to law. This was followed at a special meeting in January by introduction of a resolution to have the board disqualified because of the fact that members had been accepting an indemnity which practice was not at that time legal. Other actions attempted were those of having all non-resident fees paid directly to the Secretary-Treasurer instead of to the principals, and of having an independent audit of the books. All of these attempts were overruled. When a special committee was designated to report on administration of St. Boniface schools, Mrs. McArthur, supported by Mr. Martin, submitted a minority report which did not accept the administration as satisfactory. The two trustees also opposed by-law No. 70 which set forth the powers and duties of trustees. They even left the meeting rather than be present when it was adopted. The next step was when Mrs. McArthur instituted proceedings against the Board. This was followed up by renewal of previous charges on the part of l'Association des Citoyens de Norwood. As a member of the Board, Mrs. McArthur objected to the reply which was prepared

in answer to the Association as being not according to fact. Meantime attempt after attempt was being made by the two trustees to secure the right to examine all books and records. The attempts were just as persistently being voted down.

Commencing with the meeting of July 17, 1924, Mrs McArthur and her ally began to achieve a few small measures of success. From that date on the minute books, which had always been kept in French, were kept in English although for a years a duplicate copy was kept in French. On that date also the Board accepted the demand for an independent audit. Nothing of a contentious nature came before the Board again until September. Then a vote of censure was passed against a trustee (not named) who had provided information about school business to an outsider. A motion opposing union with any other district or districts was passed over the opposition of the McArthur-Martin team and in return there was a refusal to give Mrs. McArthur permission to visit the schools. In October trustees Martin and Maycock resigned and Mrs. McArthur gave notice that unless all trustees who had accepted payment for their services resigned within three days she would take legal proceedings against them. She also tried to secure passage of a resolution to the City Council requesting that all future communications by them to the Board be in English.

The last act of the story of the city school district was almost played out. By action of the Provincial Legislature the School District of Norwood No. 2113 had been

created. Then had followed the division of territory made by Mr. Justice Mathers who had been designated by the Act to perform that service. The award of the Chief Justice had been voted on and accepted by the citizens of the City at large and was to come into effect on January 1, 1925. In November Trustee Toupin resigned his seat and the board resolved that, in view of the pending division of the district, any trustee should be permitted to examine the books and documents of the school district. Three irregularities were then removed from practice. By-law No. 62 which provided for the payment of indemnities to the trustees was repealed; the donation account was discontinued and the funds in that account were transferred to the general account; lastly the custom which had been followed for many years of having the Secretary-Treasurer buy "something useful" for the trustees after the final meeting of each year was discontinued. Thus closes the curtain on an unhappy act in the story of the schools of St. Boniface.

CHAPTER VI

THE NEW ST. BONIFACE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1188

Beginning very humbly in the residence of Father Provencher, the Mission school system had grown, by the time the Province of Manitoba was formed, into a system of well conducted schools. With the establishment of the Town of St. Boniface in 1883, two of these schools came under the control of the St. Boniface School District and were carried on until the turn of the century in a manner not much different to what they had been formerly. Settlement of many English speaking people in the south part of the city led to the building of schools of a different nature in that area. This in turn led to the growth of a spirit of rivalry between the two sections of the district. Ratepayers of the south part of the city were more accustomed to taking a personal interest in the conduct of the schools and there were a number of occasions in which there were vexatious quarrels over the operation of the two schools in that area.

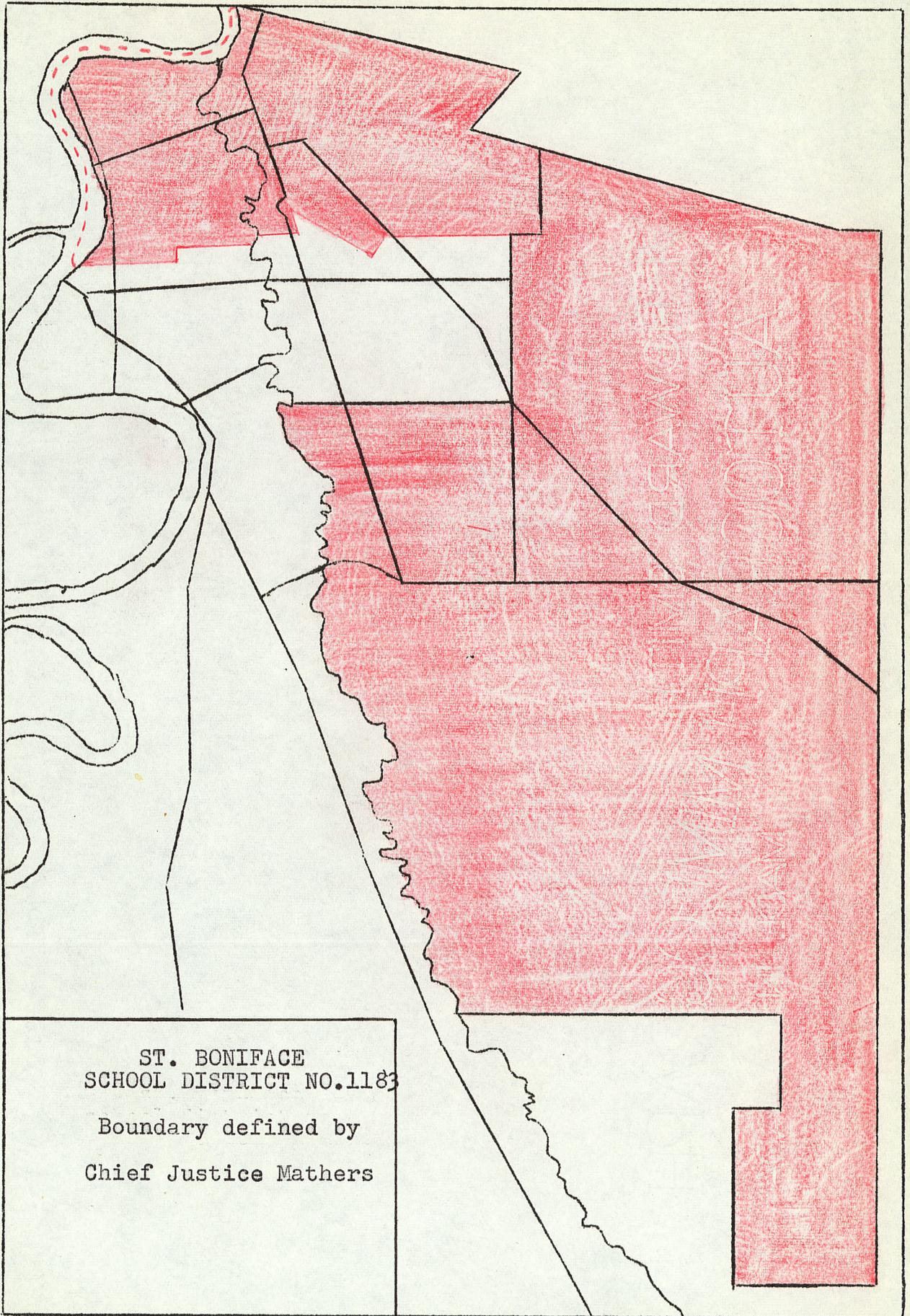
All schools were conducted as bi-lingual schools until 1916. In that year, as a result of a wave of nationalistic feeling, which was felt also in other provinces and which was one result of the war which was then in progress, the Manitoba School Act was amended to do away with all bi-lingual schools. French citizens had claimed special consideration due to the fact that they had been partners in pioneer-

ing the Red River valley but their claim was not given favourable consideration.

Tension in St. Boniface increased in the years which followed the war of 1914-18. Claims were made that the schools in the northern part of the city were not being operated as National schools, that they were not properly observing the statute in connection with religious instruction, and that the schools in that area were being operated at the expense of the ratepayers of the south part of the city. The final result was that the city was divided into two school districts by act of the Provincial Legislature.

The first duty of the new and smaller board after division of the city into two districts was to adapt itself to the new situation. The trustees were to be elected from the whole area instead of from wards and were to be five in number. The residents of the district showed their confidence in the men who had been serving them by returning all five available members of the former board by acclamation. An immediate change was made in the manner of conducting the business of the board. The standing committees were all abolished and all business was considered in committee of the whole. The minute books show the difference in procedure since only the decisions arrived at are recorded and no clue is given as to occasions when there may have been differences of opinion.

Certain matters required to be settled with the Norwood district. There was first the minor matter of pupils who had formerly attended the north schools but who,



ST. BONIFACE
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1183

Boundary defined by
Chief Justice Mathers

through virtue of the line of division had become non-residents of the St. Boniface district. These were informed that they would be required to pay fees for attendance. A major adjustment concerned the division of the physical assets of the old district between the new Norwood School District and the continuing St. Boniface School District. The statute which established the new district provided that the two boards should attempt to divide the assets by negotiation and in case of the failure of the two to agree they were to resort to arbitration. Two joint meetings were held by St. Boniface trustees with the Norwood board and as they were unsuccessful in reaching an agreement arbitrators were chosen. St. Boniface designated Geo. W. Northrup while Norwood's choice was John P. McArthur. The two appointed arbitrators agreed on the selection of P. A. Macdonald as chairman. Both boards engaged the services of expert evaluators and the matter was gone into very thoroughly by the arbitration court. The award, when it was finally made, was in the nature of a compromise between the valuations claimed by the two districts. Since Norwood had gained the major portion of the physical assets and further since the assessment of that district was greater than that of St. Boniface, it came about that the new district owed the older one no small amount.

The non-resident question assumed a greater importance than it had for some time. There was this difference though in that it had ceased to become a contentious issue and became a mere matter of what was the best way to deal with it.

The policy advocated by a former trustee was adopted and it was decided that fees should be paid to the Secretary-Treasurer rather than to the principals and that no non-resident student should be admitted to classes unless able to produce a receipt to show that such fees had been paid. The policy was not applicable to students who were boarders at the Convent. It was further decided that no student who was in arrears would be permitted to return to school until all indebtedness had been discharged and current fees paid in advance. In addition to the matter of collection there was much time spent during meeting after meeting in considering requests from parents who wished to send their children to St. Joseph's or Provencher and who were quite willing to pay the necessary charges.

All members of the Board were returned to office in 1926. The first business of the year was to complete the division of property and assets according to the award that had been made by the board of arbitrators. The Trustees were of the opinion that the cost of the arbitration court, which was set at \$2,856.25, was excessive and paid the amount under protest. The auditor was requested to prepare a statement according to the terms of the award and a claim for the amount of \$20,270 was forwarded to Norwood. The Board was very active during the first six months of the year although the records are not very informative as to what business was discussed. However any group of men who hold eighteen meetings in six months, as these men did, has many problems in mind. Perhaps that is why the estimates had to be revised

upward in April since it had been forgotten to include the amount necessary to cover the rental for St. Joseph's Collegiate.

Another step which was indirectly due to the partition of the city wide district, was taken in April. Payment of teachers had been governed by a schedule negotiated between the School Board and the Teachers' Federation. The teachers' local which had acted as negotiator was designated the Norwood Local of the Teachers' Federation and nowhere in the records is there any indication that any of the teaching staff of Provencher or St. Joseph's had assisted in the negotiations or even that they had been members of the local. Since the Norwood local no longer was located in the jurisdiction of the St. Boniface School District it could not be held that an agreement made with it should bind the district. After very careful consideration it was decided to annul the agreement and to discard the schedule.

The forty fifth Board was able to operate throughout the whole of 1927 in almost perfect harmony. At the request of the city the estimates were reduced but by a small amount only. Two representatives were appointed to the Provincial Committee which was preparing to celebrate the sixtieth year of Confederation during the summer. The problem of non-residents was still a source of annoyance, the board going so far as to exclude 24 students at the close of the spring term. It was further decided that, with the exception of boarders at St. Joseph's, no more elementary students would be accepted. Secondary students would be accepted as long as

there was room for them but under the already established procedure of paying the fee to the Secretary-Treasurer in advance.

Nineteen twenty eight, like the year which preceded it, was a year in which there seemed to be little worthy of permanent record and few special meetings were held. In February inquiries were made of the Department of Education as to the requirements for setting up a Junior High School. The project was not proceeded with as the board felt that the scheme of school operation being pursued in St. Boniface at the time was not such as to make creation of a Junior High School feasible. There also occurred one of the few cases where the Board used its authority in the internal administration of one of the schools. The principal of St. Joseph's was asked to cease the practice of detaining girls for "domestic economy". The Nuns were also asked not to make a practice of selling books and other supplies to the pupils since there had been objections on the part of some of the parents. At the beginning of the fall term St. Joseph's introduced a commercial course, a step which proved to be both popular and successful. This course still forms part of the curriculum offered in this institution. With the opening of school for the fall term Brother Joseph Bruns joined the Provencher staff as a Grade VIII teacher. This is the man who was eventually to succeed Brother Fink as principal at Provencher and who was ultimately to become superintendent of a greatly expanded system of St. Boniface schools. At the closing meeting of the year the Board decided,

as a measure of economy and because his other work had been reduced by the division of the district, to have the Secretary-Treasurer take the annual census of school children instead of hiring special enumerators for the purpose.

The period of re-organization appeared to be over by New Year of 1929. An advance in modern science, at that time new, now common-place, is referred to when the matter of buying radios for the schools was considered in order to take advantage of the radio lessons which were being offered. Dr. Andrew Moore, High School Inspector, interviewed the Board in February. He reviewed the accomplishments of both schools and complimented the Board on the high standard being maintained by both. He discussed with the Trustees the possibility of having the district as a whole ranked as a Collegiate Institute due to the fact that Departmental regulations at that time permitted only one Collegiate Institute to each district. The step was, however, not taken and for this reason Departmental Annual Reports for many years class St. Joseph's as a collegiate while Provencher was forced to be content with being classed as a High School.

Then once again the Board found itself faced with a building programme. The rebuilt Provencher was no longer able to accommodate all of the boys who were in need of education. The firm of Northwood and Chivers was retained to prepare plans for further enlargement. Eleven separate meetings were held during the summer months and the board seems to have gone most carefully into the whole scheme of building.

The contract was eventually awarded to Theodore Bockstael and in order to make sure that the terms of the contract were properly observed a building inspector was engaged to act on the Board's behalf. The addition was to be made at the east end of the building and the plans included a good sized auditorium on the third floor.

Just before school opened for the fall term a thorough overhaul of the by-law governing administration of the schools and of the powers and duties of the Trustees was made. The previous by-law had been drawn up in the last months before the partition of the district took place and, because many of its terms had become inapplicable after the partition, it had been suspended. At the same meeting policy with regard to teachers and applications was revised. No salaries were to be reduced; teacher applications were to be discarded after one year unless renewed; teachers would no longer be notified if their applications were not accepted. Once again the board found it necessary to prod the principals about the collection of non-resident fees. In fact the matter was taken so seriously that the threat was made that fees would be deducted from the principal's salary if the matter was neglected. The close of the year saw the retirement of Mr. Rocan as Secretary-Treasurer of the district after a period of service of twenty five years. The last business act of the board for the year was to appoint Mr. Louis Betournay to fill the vacancy.

The depression was under way by 1930 and brought its own problems. On previous occasions when the services of a caretaker had been required there had been no large number

of applications. But a request for applications in March brought a response from no less than thirty five would-be candidates for the position, a reflection of the fact that times were beginning to be hard. That spring the Grey Nuns were granted the use of the assembly hall at Provencher for their graduation and for a number of years it was a regular function in the school until it became necessary to convert the auditorium into classrooms at which time the Sisters had to seek a place of assembly elsewhere. In July the District took part in the celebration of the Provinces' Diamond jubilee. As a result of examinations congratulations were extended to St. Joseph's with brickbats to Provencher.

St. Joseph's in its turn was suffering from growing pains. When school opened in September the Sisters were compelled to hold classes at staggered hours. Quite naturally the Nuns were not satisfied to consider such an arrangement on a permanent basis and they decided to expand their institution. The Board was notified of the intention of the sisters and was requested to indicate any special requirements that it might have in mind so that if at all possible these requirements might be incorporated in the building.

The full weight of the depression was felt in 1931 and all facts worthy of record are in connection with it. A new lease of St. Joseph's was needed and since Mr. Bournay was a lawyer there was no need of additional expense in drawing it up. The lease was for a term of thirty years and has proved very advantageous to the District during the years since it went into effect. In August the Trustees

decided that as a service to their constituents they would purchase a supply of text books for resale at the prices charged by the Text Book Bureau of the Department of Education. At the same meeting the Board was presented with a petition from "Le Ligue des Proprietaires" asking for a reduction in all salaries paid by the board. It was decided that consideration of such a request ought to be by joint action of the board and the city council so a letter was forwarded to the city council asking for a conference. When the matter came up again in September discussion was postponed. As a conservation measure four classrooms in St. Joseph's were consolidated so that they would be handled by three teachers so there was some small saving there. As a Christmas gesture the members of both teaching staffs contributed four per cent of their salaries for a period of five months to the Special Relief Fund of St. Boniface.

For four months in 1932 the policy of the Board seems to have been one of struggling anxiously to keep going. In April the Unemployed Association was granted the regular use of Provencher school for meetings but it was stipulated that the school was not to be used as a base for demonstrations. The next month a conference was called with the teachers and, as a result, all salaries were reduced by ten per cent. Norwood was also having financial difficulties and had not met its share of the indebtedness of the former large district. St. Boniface presented Norwood with a demand for payment with the statement that if there were no reply St. Boniface would be forced to take legal action.

Norwood replied by furnishing collateral which St. Boniface decided to use for a loan on the understanding that it would not be sold. As an additional measure of economy it was decided to ask Norwood to join in paying the debentures, which were owed jointly, in Canadian rather than American funds and the Bank was instructed to pay after that fashion. By the end of the year it was further found necessary to cancel all contracts with teachers and van drivers due to the serious financial position the city found itself in.

The legal action threatened against Norwood was begun but at Norwood's request a conference was held to agree upon terms under which the proceedings would be dropped. Apparently the conference was not successful because at the February 16 meeting a motion was passed asking the Provincial Government to appoint a trustee to manage the debt because of the fact that Norwood was in default while St. Boniface was willing and able to pay its share of what was owed. Meanwhile several minor measures were adopted in an attempt to economize. "Le Cercle Local de l'Association d'Education" aided the district by taking upon itself the responsibility of providing necessary books for children who were unable to procure their own. Classes at Provencher were re-arranged so as to reduce the number of teachers by one and the Nuns were offered promissory notes and post dated cheques for the amounts which were due to them from the district.

Some manner of relief for the harrassed members of the board appeared in July when W.C. McKinnel was appointed interim supervisor of the finances of the city of St. Boniface

as well as the school districts of Norwood and St. Boniface. As representative of the Public Utility Board Mr. McKinnel was able to assure the Trustees that they would be able to carry on and that they would be protected from the district's creditors.

As an additional trial the Board was next faced with a Board of Reference which had been asked for by the teacher who had been released by reduction of staff at Provencher. She had been the teacher with the shortest tenure and had been offered all the substituting which it would be possible to give her as well as the first chance for engagement if and when a position became open. As a result of the recommendation of the Board of Reference it became necessary to pay the lady in full as well as pay an additional month's salary in lieu of notice. Under these circumstances the Trustees felt that she had forfeited the rights which had been promised her. She then appealed to the Inspector who queried the Board concerning the incident and was given a full explanation of the Board's angle of the case. Finally a lawyer entered the lists on her behalf and explanations had to be made all over again. The Board however did offer to renew the lady's priority for substitute work and re-engagement and it was thus that the matter was at last settled in January of the new year.

The matter of securing sufficient funds with which to operate was a very trying one during the opening months of 1934. By-law Number 70 which for years had governed

salaries and engagements was repealed and under the new policy teachers were to be engaged on a year to year basis, the salaries also to be set on a yearly basis. The separate position of Attendance Officer was dispensed with at Mr. McKinnel's request and the custom of many years standing of awarding prizes in the schools had to be discontinued since money for that purpose had not been included in the estimates. The first levy on the City was for \$115,000. This levy was returned with a request that the Board try to reduce the amount. A reduction was then made to \$86,000 and the new estimates submitted to the supervisor by whom they were raised to \$86,714.04.

In July an effort was made to secure a larger space for the playtime activities of Provencher students since the grounds around the school, which had been considered large enough at the time that the first building was erected, were not large enough for the much expanded establishment. The grounds, which had belonged to the College which burned, had reverted to the city and the Board made a request for title to four acres of this land. The request was not granted so a second effort was made. The Board sought exclusive use of a vacant piece of land at Rue Cathedrale and De La Morenie and this time there was a favourable response. The extent to which debentures had gone down in value is indicated by the fact that a small lot of \$2000 was placed on the market at an asking price of \$700. The board wished to buy up the offering as a measure of financial advantage but could not obtain the approval of the supervisor.

Necessary but dull routine occupied the 1935 board until May. A worthy citizen was not pleased with the fact that the playground had been established near his home and sought to know by what authority it was being used. The Board assured him it was being used with permission of its owner, the city. Economy was still needed so by re-arrangement of classes at Provencher it was possible once again to reduce the staff, this time by two teachers. When St. Joseph's was asked to attempt a similar proceeding it was found that it would be possible to reduce the number of classes by one. In order to avoid the need of displacing a lay teacher the Sisters offered to reduce their quota of staff members by one. In both schools the Religious agreed to accept salary for one teacher less than there was actually occupied. In this way no one was left without occupation. The district was saddened by the death of Brother Joseph Fink which occurred in October. A whole generation of students had grown up and passed through the school during his occupancy of the principal's position and the impress of his character and personality had been left on many hundreds of boys. He was succeeded by another Joseph, Brother Bruns, who still serves St. Boniface in an important capacity. A request by the teachers for a raise in salary was not considered because approval by the Utility Board could not be obtained. At the final meeting of the year it was decided to give no support to a proposal to establish a Metropolitan School Area.

Financial adjustments and relations with the Utility Board were the main occupations of the 1936 Trustees.

At the commencement of the year there was a request from the City seeking to write off the unpaid balances of levies from the previous years. The School Board declined to agree to such a procedure and continued to carry the accounts as assets on the district books. Various directives from Mr. McKinnel followed. In April he laid down the policy that no teacher might take students in a group to a public function without first securing the approval of the School Board. Apparently he was taking precautions against liability arising from possible accident. On June 18 the District was notified that the supervisor "did not look with favour" on the policy of supplying free text books to high school pupils. In August the Winnipeg Electric Railway Company was asked to present terms under which it would consider transporting pupils to school as it was felt that the horse drawn vans were expensive and out of date. The terms presented were not financially advantageous to the Board so contracts for vans were decided on, partly for horse drawn and partly for motor transport. The supervisor granted the extra money which was needed for the contracts. He also agreed to the appointment of an additional teacher at Provencher. In September the City asked the district to concur in the passage of a resolution favouring the exemption from taxes of the property held by the Sisters of the Holy Names. In reply the Board quoted section 240 of the Public School Act which seemed to hinder their giving such support. It was suggested that the Council of itself had the authority to act in such a matter. However the Board offered its blessing.

The February meeting of the 1937 Board struck a happy note but there was a hint of mounting world tension as well. The Trustees agreed to join with the teachers and other interested groups in celebrating the twenty fifth anniversary of the appointment of Mr. A. A. Herriott as Inspector of Public Schools. Mr. Herriott had come to St. Boniface when Roger Goulet retired and had filled the position honourably and capably for many years. On the other hand there was a request from the Unemployed Association for support of a resolution condemning re-armament. The Board felt that this was a subject of political import and as such was outside of its field of action. In the same month a ghost from out of the past arose to plague the Board. Back in the spring of 1931 there had been an accident to one of the Provencher pupils which had not caused much concern to the board at the time as it had appeared to have happened outside of school supervision. Now a claim was presented against the District and the young man was asked to appear in person to present his claim. After he had done so all responsibility was disclaimed on the part of the District. The matter must have been laid to rest at that point since no further reference to the case was found.

There were several smaller items of interest at the time. Efforts of the Federal Government to ease unemployment are reflected in the granting of permission to St. Boniface merchants to hold a display at Provencher school. The display was to include building materials and information on how to secure loans for the government housing improvement

scheme. Miss Gabrielle Roy was granted leave of absence from her duties for a year. Miss Roy did not return but went on to the achievement of some fame in the literary field. In September all pupils were asked to contribute five pounds of vegetables for shipment to the dried out areas of Saskatchewan.

Further connection with federal plans developed in September. A request came from the Minister of Education for use of school buildings on a part time basis for an urban Youth Training Centre. The Minister agreed to contribute on an equal basis toward equipping St. Joseph's fully for the purpose of teaching Home Economics. The offer was gladly accepted by the trustees and inquiry was made as to whether Provencher might be equipped for manual on the same terms.

With the variety of fuel available today it seems strange that, as late as the autumn of 1937, the Provencher school was still being heated with cord-wood at a price very little different to what had been paid fifty years before. It was thought that time for a change had come. The possibility of installing stokers was investigated and although the district seemed to be willing it did not seem possible to find a dealer who was willing to install stokers on terms which were acceptable to the administration. Then there was a variation of policy and the Trustees decided to experiment with the use of coal, hand fed.

A problem of twenty three years duration was finally brought to a successful conclusion in the early months of 1938. The indebtedness of the old district which had been

assumed by the Norwood district had been gradually reduced as the years passed. The final payment to St. Boniface was made in January 1938. The St. Boniface Board ordered the return to Norwood of all debentures and other collateral and accompanied the documents with a letter of gratification that the account was at last closed.

There are also indications of a slight lessening of the financial strain. With Mr. McKinnel's blessing, all teachers were given a bonus of \$30 for the previous year's work. On the other hand, a request from the Unemployed Association that the board budget \$500 to provide text books as a relief measure was denied as it was not authorized by the supervisor. A new grant established by the provincial authorities for library-laboratory supply was also a help. In June the Board was able to redeem a number of its own debentures at 43¢ on the dollar. This time Mr. McKinnel was agreeable. In September, Mr. McKinnel suggested that the Grade XII fees be raised but the Board made a very strong effort to maintain the amount at the fifty dollar level which had been in vogue. In September honour was paid to a teacher who had given long years of faithful and devoted service to St. Joseph's Academy in the person of Sister Luke who had served for forty years. In September all interest which was owed by the district was paid off at twenty cents on the dollar and Norwood was asked to forward its share of the amount which was due. At the same meeting it was decided to ask for a conference with the City before the tax rate for 1938 should be struck.

The unemployed were still a factor in 1939. At the January meeting a delegation from that body appeared before the Board to request that hot meals be provided for children who remained at the school during the noon hour. As an alternative it was requested that hot drinks, at least, should be supplied. The request was taken under advisement but a month later the Association was informed that due to lack of facilities and to lack of approval by the supervisor it would not be possible to meet the request.

In March the board again requested a meeting with the city. The Trustees wished to know why certain properties were exempt from taxation. They also wished to know what plans the City had in mind for the payment of arrears owed by the City to the District. The meeting appears to have been held, since there was a report on the subject at the April meeting by the chairman. The City had agreed to share the proceeds of certain tax sales with the School Board but claimed that all arrears of taxes had been written off by the auditors. It was decided to interview Mr. Mellish of the Utility Board to see why this action had been taken. At the June meeting Mr. Marion reported that he had seen Mr. McKinnel and the City Council. He recommended to the Board that the District should relinquish its claim to all unpaid levies.

On the twenty fourth of May all school children of the St. Boniface district were given the opportunity to see the King and Queen who were touring Canada and were in

Winnipeg and St. Boniface for the day. In order to really impress the event on the minds of the children they were then given the next two days as a holiday.

Financial arrangements were the chief matters of importance for the remainder of the year. The Minister of Education finally replied to a request which had been made to him two years earlier and he offered to provide \$700 toward equipping Provencher for Manual if the Board would provide the balance which amounted to about \$900. The offer was gladly accepted. Another grant was announced by Dr. Fletcher, Deputy-Minister of Education. This grant of \$100 for each and every High School Teacher on the staff would be paid to the district on condition that it would be passed on as an increase of salary to the teachers. The Board agreed to pay the extra amount as long as the grant should be received. In November a debenture was bought at 37c on the dollar and in December two more were secured at the same price.

As a final act for the year a strongly worded resolution was passed condemning Russia for her "wanton attack on Finland".

A general upswing in economic conditions in 1940 is reflected in the activities of the school. A bonus of fifty dollars was given to the teachers besides which the budget contained an item of \$2700 for salary increases. The amount was to be apportioned by the Board. A good stroke of business was also effected when \$19,000 worth of debentures

was bought up for \$7,695. As a result of the easing of the financial strain the Board felt it might now turn to a matter which had been threatening to require attention for two years past. The foundation of the Provencher school was settling and it was time for something to be done about it. In September a committee was appointed to investigate the situation. An expert was consulted who reported that the foundation on the west side was in good condition but that the part underlying the east part of the building was in poor shape. Piles did not seem to be possible so at first it was decided to place concrete mats under the east foundation where the base was poor. Later it was decided to use friction piles instead. The contract for the work was awarded to Despatis and Co.

Reference to the fact that a war was in progress occurs in the records of the year. In September permission was granted for a concert to be given by the schools, the proceeds of which were to be used in aid of war refugees. At the same meeting a request from the Home Defense Unit for the use of the rifle range in the basement of Provencher school was agreed to providing the Department of National Defense would permit the use of the rifles which belonged to the cadet corps. Later in the year a resolution was adopted which encouraged the school children to give more concerts to aid the war effort.

Relations with other school districts seem to have been harmonious. In September an invitation was accepted from Norwood to attend the opening of a new Collegiate.

In November the Board joined with other urban and suburban boards in an effort to persuade the Provincial Government to place them on the same footing with regard to grants as that enjoyed by rural schools. Rural schools were receiving a government grant of \$1.00 per day per classroom while urban and suburban districts were allowed only 75c.

Depression conditions were passing rapidly away when the Board of 1941 took office. In an interview with the City Council Mr. Marion learned that there had been a large increase in assessment throughout the City due to a heavy building programme which was being carried out. This increase had the effect of reducing the mill rate somewhat. A slight easing of control by the Utility Board is also noted as a result of which cheques issued by the district no longer had to be countersigned by the supervisor. Debenture interest had increased and the 1940 interest was paid on the basis of 40% of its stated rate.

Other items of interest during the year include the institution of a war savings campaign, acceptance of a scholarship donated by the City to be used to send a boy from Provencher to the College to take his Grade XII, granting of a years leave of absence to Brother Bruns, and the retirement of Sister Luke from the principalship of St. Joseph's Collegiate.

The war continued to have minor effects during 1942. For one thing it was decided to enroll any students who were refugees without asking them for non-resident fees.

Another factor was a directive from the War Time prices and Trade Board detailing how price controls and rationing would effect the schools. Schools were opened two weeks later than usual in September at request of provincial authorities who had the idea in mind that the older boys would be available for helping in the harvest fields.

Finances also were examined carefully. Mr. Marion attended the Council meeting in January in connection with a long standing piece of business. When the St. Vital Annex had been added to the city in 1914 it had been given a reduced rate of taxation for a fixed number of years. The period should have ended in 1929 but the tax rate of the Annex had never been brought up to the level of taxation which prevailed over the rest of the City. It was felt by the Trustees that the amount collected from the Annex did not even cover the cost of transporting the children to school so they requested an adjustment. Since no Annex territory had been given to Norwood that district was not concerned. It had been discovered that St. Boniface had a higher mill rate for school taxation purposes than Norwood so every effort was made to find a means of balancing the rates of the two districts. As a financial investment the Board bought up \$2000 worth of its own debentures at 59. This investment points to the fact that financial stability was being restored since the cost of buying debentures was going up.

The old problem of how to deal with increased enrollment again arose. In addition to accepting refugees without fee it had been decided to make a temporary arrangement

with the Parish of St. Boniface under which up to sixty children would be accepted at a reduced non-resident fee. The reason for this action was that a serious housing shortage was beginning to develop. On the other hand it was decided, in order to make sure that no under age children were admitted, that all parents when registering beginners be required to produce a birth certificate as a proof of age.

Nineteen forty three was a quiet year, so much so that no meetings were held during July and August. Aside from purely routine matters there seems to be only one item worthy of mention. Brother Beaulieu of the Provencher staff had constructed a very handsome desk of metal which was presented to the Board for the use of the Secretary-Treasurer. It has withstood the test of time magnificantly and the present Secretary-Treasurer makes excellent use of it.

By nineteen forty four officials were looking forward to the termination of the war. In reply to a request from the city for suggestions for post-war projects the Board developed a programme for modernization of the school plant. This included a general enlargement of Provencher and the provision of a greater supply of equipment. Provision of a better van service was also suggested, as well as the installation of improved heating equipment and the provision of both a room and equipment so that noon lunches might be provided.

In January a delegation of lay teachers from both schools made a request to the Board for increases in salary.

The matter was carefully considered by the Trustees and approval was sought from Mr. Cottingham of the Utility Board. The approval was obtained with the result that the teachers received an immediate annual raise of \$50 with the promise of an equal increase in each of the following two years.

Although the Oblate Fathers were no longer directly connected with St. Boniface schools there was no hesitation on the part of the Board in granting them the use of Prov- encher facilities for three days so that they might celebrate the centenary of their arrival in the colony in 1845. Per- mission was granted in March but the records do not indicate at what time the observance was celebrated.

The only other significant item in the 1945 re- cords concerns the agreement with the Sisters of the Holy Names. The Board offered a new contract to replace the one under which the two parties were operating at the time. The Nuns accepted the contract which is still operating and has seven more years to run. Under its terms:-

1. Rental of the Convent was raised from \$8500 to \$9540 a year.
2. Boarders were to pay non-resident fees.
3. Residents up to the number of 750 were to have prior claim to attendance at the school.
4. Boarders were to be limited to 100 girls.
5. The Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary were to supply twenty four teachers.

Nineteen hundred and forty six was another of the years when there was little beside routine to deal with. The Board did vote \$600 in June for play equipment. Such equipment had been sadly lacking during the lean years.

During December the lay teachers once again approached the board requesting higher salaries. After a lengthy discussion the teachers withdrew from the meeting and the trustees decided to levy for \$100 extra for each teacher. It was also decided to adopt a new schedule under which all minimums would be increased by \$100 and all maximums by \$200.

It was not until the end of April that the 1947 Board dealt with any but routine matters. Then two rather interesting pieces of business were dealt with. Mr. Marion had attended a meeting where the question of establishing a Metropolitan Technical Vocational School was discussed. The St. Boniface trustees were interested in the project but decided that they were not able to proceed until the consent of Mr. Cottingham of the Public Utility Board was secured. In addition a report was received on a matter which had been puzzling the Board members. For many years the city had been collecting \$4000 a year from St. Boniface district citizens as a group and the board was at a loss to understand why. It now appeared that prior to the partition of the old district a sum amounting to \$208,000 had been owed by the district to the city. This had been funded at a yearly cost of \$9000 and charged against the two districts so that Norwood had to pay \$2500 annually and St. Boniface \$6500. During the depression years the city had reduced each district's indebtedness by \$2500 so that Norwood owed nothing and St. Boniface district owed the \$4000.

Two administrative changes occurred at the commencement of the fall term. Mr. C.J. Muller who had been acting as Public School Inspector took charge of all schools, the

separate position of High School Inspector having been discontinued. The other change involved the return of Brother Bruns to the principalship of Provencher School. The latter change was made at the request of board members because they had not been pleased with examination results.

A holiday was granted to all students on November 20 in honour of the wedding of Her Royal Highness the Princess Elizabeth, now Her Majesty the Queen.

The first business of the Board of 1948 was the completion of a project which had been started six months earlier when a teachers' delegation had requested that consideration be given to the feasibility of adopting the Suburban Trustees Association Salary Schedule. Mr. Betournay had made a detailed study of the increases which would be necessary to reach the suggested schedule by 1950 in even steps. The result of this study was made available to Board members. At the January meeting it was agreed to adopt a new schedule which would provide a basic salary with allowance for qualifications, experience and marital status. There was also provision for a cost of living bonus. The last provision was disallowed by the Utility Board in April, the delayed action having been occasioned by the death of Mr. Cottingham.

There was also evidence of provision for the future when By-law 99 was passed in May to authorize the setting up of a reserve building fund and By-law 100 was adopted in order to provide the money which would be needed to establish

such a fund. For the time being provision had to be made for a once again increased enrollment. The method adopted was that of partitioning the Provencher auditorium in such a way as to create three additional classrooms. This action was rather a blow to organizations of many kinds who, ever since the auditorium had been built, had made good use of its facilities.

Several small problems and one larger one faced the Trustees who composed the Board of 1949. Reference is made in the minutes of the previous June to a shortage of teachers and the shortage affected relations between board and teachers in that salaries were no longer stabilized. Negotiations for increased salaries became an annual occurrence and will not be referred to again. An old piece of business was resurrected in January. Thirty five years earlier the district of St. Isidore and part of Lavalee had been merged with St. Boniface and the St. Boniface district had for most of the intervening time been providing transportation for children of that area. Several attempts had been made to secure government aid in covering the cost of the transportation but without success. However the Board resolved to make another attempt and drew up, a comprehensive brief by way of argument. In this brief the details of the amalgamation were reviewed. In May the Board joined with the Brothers of the Society of Mary in observing the fiftieth anniversary of Brother Eugene Paulin, Inspector of the society, and also the fiftieth anniversary of the arrival of the Brothers in St. Boniface. There is also a reference in

the October minutes to the fact that the Provincial Government had established a new method of paying the grants. Like many another school board throughout the province the St. Boniface Board found difficulty at first in understanding how the basic grant was to be computed.

The big problem of the year was not altogether new. Earlier Boards had been faced with a similar task. The truth was that the post war years had brought another surge in the growth of population and the schools were no longer able to accomodate the numbers who wished to attend. First recorded discussions were held in May when the trustees decided to start inquiries as to where a possible school might be located. By August it had been decided to build on the same grounds as those upon which St. Joseph's stood so the chairman was instructed to approach the Sisters with an offer to buy. A change in the city charter which provided that elections would be held a month earlier than heretofore was the reason for an emergency meeting being held on August 30 at which all rules were suspended and a by-law to build a new school was rushed through all readings in one evening. There was another meeting the following evening at which plans were discussed with Mr. E. Fitz Munn who had been designated as the architect.

But plans miscarried. In the first place the Sisters did not wish to sell part of their land for a school which would belong to the District. On reference to the Department of Education it was discovered by the Board that the land might be expropriated if necessary but in the meantime it was decided to make a formal offer to purchase.

Then, a by-law was rushed through in one evening to authorize a debenture loan for the purpose of raising the funds with which to build the school. Within a week the by-law had to be rescinded because it was illegal, although a new by-law covering the same terms was given first reading. Then the by-law was referred to the Utility Board which had to give its consent before a borrowing by-law might be given second reading. Consent was given. Next the by-law was given second reading after which it must go before the ratepayers to be voted upon. It was only after the ratepayers in turn had signified agreement that the by-law was finally given third reading. This time the by-law was legal in every respect. Shortly afterward the problem of the site was settled peaceably when the Nuns agreed to the terms of purchase which had been offered earlier in the year.

The building project was the principal interest of the Board during the whole of 1950. The plans were presented early in January and the fact that six meetings were held between January 27 and March 10 is indicative of the care with which members of the Board considered the task with which they were faced. Construction was awarded to Gerald Baert at a tendered price of \$203,807.00. The development of a new system of heating interested the Board and the possibility of heating the new school with oil was carefully considered and finally decided on. Other details in connection with the new school were agreed on. The new school was to be for girls, it was to be under the jurisdiction of the Sisters of the Holy Names, and it must have a name. In honour of the grand old gentleman who had served his district so

long and so faithfully the name chosen was "Ecole Marion". The school was officially opened on January 6, 1951.

Brief reference is made in the June minutes of 1950 to the fact that there was a great flood throughout the Red River Valley. The City had not been flooded due to the heroic efforts of all classes of citizens but the schools were affected none the less. Notice had been sent to all schools by Dr. McFarlane, Deputy-Minister of Education concerning special regulations governing examinations for that year only. As a result it was agreed to close all schools in St. Boniface district on June 16, because Winnipeg was closing its schools and the Norwood schools, which had already been closed, were not going to re-open.

If the years 1951 and 1952 were eventful the records do not show the fact. In the spring of the latter year the Board considered the advisability of trying to secure more play space for the little girls by buying additional land from the Sisters but little was done about it. Then in the autumn of the same year it was decided, on the suggestion of Brother Bruns to place a memorial tablet on the grounds in front of Provencher school. This tablet commemorating the one hundredth anniversary of the death of the first bishop reads:

Monseigneur Joseph-Norbert Provencher
Premier Eveque de l'ouest
1822-1853
Fondateur de la premiere école del'ouest
1818
Monument érigé par les chevaliers de
Columb, assemblée Taché, quatrième degré
le 6 juin 1953

Before the tablet had been placed the Board was again engaged in an effort to keep pace with the growing number of children who would soon be seeking entrance to the schools. In May an offer was made to the Nuns for an additional twenty five foot strip of land to enlarge the Marion school grounds. A counter proposal by the Nuns was agreed to by which the district received a twenty five foot strip in length in exchange for a twenty five foot strip in the width of the school land. The necessary by-law for a debenture issue was put through the required stages and this time great care was taken to see that each step was taken legally.

A new era in school district history had begun and was to proceed even more rapidly but a last link was also to be severed. When the Trustees met on February 4, 1954 it was with a feeling of great sadness and sense of great loss. A resolution of deep regret on the death of "our dear chairman" was passed and arrangements were made for student participation at the funeral and at a requiem mass to be held at the Cathedral.

J. A. Marion had first served the schools of St. Boniface as auditor of the district accounts in the year 1905. In the following year he was elected to the School Board of the city-wide district and continued to serve without a break until his death in 1954. At a board meeting held on March 26, 1916 due to the death of M. Cleophas Marcoux who had been chairman for a number of years, Mr. Marion was

chosen to preside over the sittings of the Board and continued to occupy the position of chairman past the year when the city was separated into two districts and continued without a break until the time of his death. During these years he became well known, not only in St. Boniface, not only among the Canadiens, but over the whole of Manitoba and beyond. He served as a director of the Manitoba Trustees Association for many years and ultimately received the highest honour that the association could bestow when he was elected president. For his services as a citizen of worth and esteem he was made a Doctor of Law (Honoris Causa) by the University of Manitoba and many lesser honours were his. Full justice cannot be done to his memory here. His work merits an independent study of its own.

Even at the time of Mr. Marion's death a heavy expansion of school facilities was in prospect. Before much business could be dealt with however two new trustees were required as in addition to a replacement for Mr. Marion one was needed for Mr. Pelletier who had resigned. With the election of B. Leveille and A. P. Monnin as trustees and the appointment of Pierre Rimbault as chairman it was possible to proceed. A new housing development was beginning to take form in Niakawa Park and rumours of a much larger development in Windsor Park were in the air. There would be special problems to deal with since these two sections of the school district were separated from the old section by a part of Norwood which lay between. The matter of a school for Niakawa Park was deferred until it would be seen how the

other housing plan developed. Windsor Park was another matter because the project was so large. Approval was obtained from the Utility Board for the Trustees to begin a search for possible sites and it got busy at once. One parcel of land containing four acres was purchased before the year was out. The exchange of land which had been arranged with the Sisters of the Holy Names was also completed. The completion of the latter transaction had permitted the Board to enlarge Marion School.

It may have been some forethought for the future which led the Board in February, 1955 to pass a bylaw governing religious instruction in St. Boniface schools. This bylaw is in strict conformity with new regulations which had been issued by the Department of Education very shortly before. At the same time an official statement was entered in the minutes covering the policy which was henceforth to be followed in St. Boniface schools with regard to Religious Teaching, attendance at Religious Education classes, the giving of prizes, and other related matters.

In order to conform with the requirements of section 241 of "The Public Schools Act" that religious instruction be given in all the schools of this board from 3.30 in the afternoon until 4.00 in the afternoon except that of the hour of closing be changed to 3.30 P.M. and the hour of opening after noon from 1.30 to 1 P.M. then religious instruction shall be given from 3 P.M. to 3.30 P.M. This resolution is passed to replace a former one.

That the following be adopted as a statement of the views of this board in respect to what should be the proper way of conducting a class:

1. PRINCIPLES

A. The consciences and the religious convictions of our pupils should not be tampered with.

B. When values are in question, the essential values should be preserved before secondary values.

C. In maintaining one's own rights, one must be careful not to violate the rights of others.

2. APPLICATIONS

A. Display in classrooms only those religious pictures that can be considered to be works of art and whose display can be defended on that ground.

B. In Classrooms the pictures displayed should not be limited solely to religious pictures.

C. No statues should be displayed in classrooms; most of the statues cannot be defended on artistic grounds, and the burning of vigil lights is definitely a religious practice which could be offensive to non-Catholics.

D. Great care must be exercised that non-Catholic pupils be not present for religious instruction without the express permission of parents, even in those cases where pupils have to remain in classes for punishment, as protection against inclement weather, etc. The hour of religious instruction cannot be changed without the instructions of the School Board.

E. The mottoes which are used to impart moral or patriotic lessons should not be drawn solely from the Bible or the New Testament, nor should they be written solely in French: both French and English speaking children should receive the benefit of these moral, and patriotic lessons.

F. In those cases where pupils are accompanied to the Church by the teacher, the teacher must see to it that any non-Catholic pupil who accompanies the class does so of his own free will, and preferable with the express consent of his parents.

G. Rewards and recompenses to pupils should be of such a nature as not to offend the religious sensibility of the child and his parents.

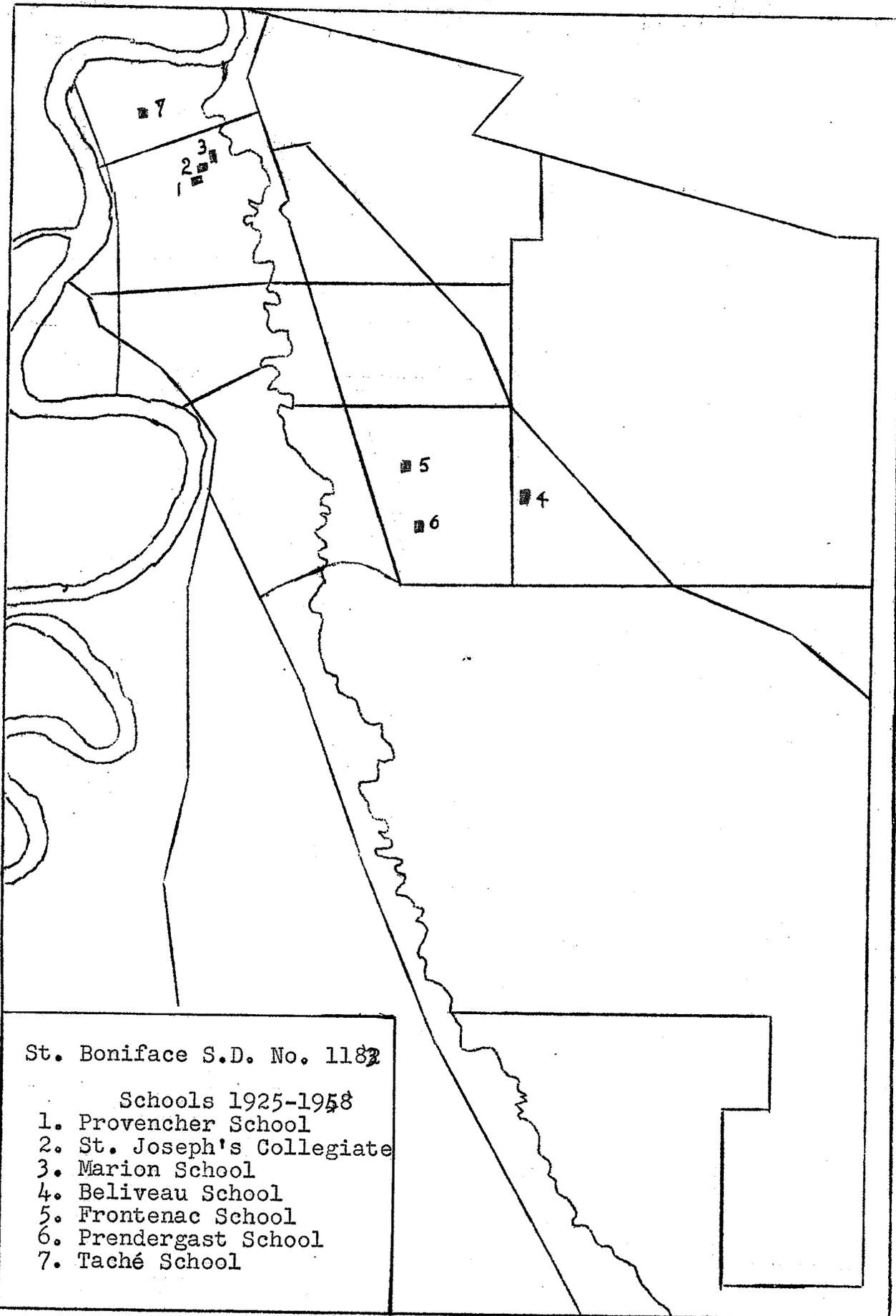
H. No lecturer or speaker should be invited to a classroom except with the express consent of the School Board.

NOTE: This statement of principle and policy is prompted by the virtue of prudence. Nothing in it should be taken to indicate a lack of zeal for the teaching of either religion or patriotism

In July 1955, representatives of the Ladco development group met with the Trustees and outlined the provision which was being made for location of schools in the Windsor

Park section. These provisions were carefully considered by the members of the Board and they came to the conclusion that such provision seemed quite adequate for the requirements which could be expected. In September, three by-laws were given their initial passage and forwarded to the Utility Board for approval. One was for a school in the western part of the Ladco development; one for a school in the east end of the same development; and the third was for a gymnasium to be built in the south-east corner of the former college grounds. While the Board was waiting for the vote on these by-laws the firm of Zunic and Sobkowick was instructed to proceed with preliminary plans. As soon as the by-laws had passed all stages work commenced on the eastern school to which the name "Beliveau" was given.

Then there began a swift development and expansion in a short time. During the autumn of 1955, pupils were transported across Norwood to Marion School which was operated on staggered hours to accommodate those who regularly belonged there as well as the newcomers from the south end. Beliveau school was ready for opening in January of 1956. The slack was taken up but not for long and the second of the two schools was started. This school, to be known as Frontenac, has fourteen rooms as does Beliveau. It was completed and ready for opening by September 1957 and even at that time by-laws were being considered for a further fourteen room school in the Windsor Park area to be known as the Frendergast school as well as a six room school for primary



St. Boniface S.D. No. 1182

Schools 1925-1958

1. Provencher School
2. St. Joseph's Collegiate
3. Marion School
4. Beliveau School
5. Frontenac School
6. Prendergast School
7. Taché School

children which was to be built somewhat north of Provencher Avenue in order that small children need not be exposed to the hazards which increased traffic on that thoroughfare provided. An old name was for the second time resurrected and this little school becomes Taché number three. These latter two buildings are almost completed as of July 1958 as well, as a Gymnasium-Auditorium near the two Collegiates. To complete the present construction programme a by-law is to be submitted to the electors during October 1958 to provide for a large Collegiate at a central point in the Windsor Park area.

Brief reference should be made to the passing of yet another faithful servant of the St. Boniface District. Louis Betournay had acted as Secretary of the district through some of the most trying years it had seen. His health had been poor for some time and he passed away during summer vacation in 1957. The board turned in its need to Mme. Betournay to carry on her husband's work for the balance of the year after which she became Secretary-Treasurer in her own right.

With the greatly extended educational facilities which were to be under the jurisdiction of the St. Boniface school board it was felt that a centralized supervision would increase efficiency. Consequently Brother Joseph Bruns, principal of Provencher Collegiate for many years and a man who had held high office in the Manitoba Teachers' Society, a man who had headed the Manitoba Educational Association,

and a man who was professionally well qualified, was named as Superintendent of Schools for the district. Before he could assume the position however, he was called on to serve as a member of a Royal Commission established by the Provincial Government to investigate every angle of the educational system in the province. The Commission's labours extended over many months and are not at the time of writing quite complete. They are however finished to the point where Brother Bruns assumes his new position and the course of events within the district lies largely in his hands.

CHAPTER VII

NORWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2113

That part of St. Boniface which is commonly referred to as Norwood is one of the most recently settled districts in the Greater Winnipeg area. Even in the late nineties, by which time Winnipeg had grown to respectable proportions and the French Canadian settlement to the north of the Mission was well established, there were only a few houses. The only way to get to Norwood was by ferry boat. Later Norwood Bridge was built although people had to pay toll before being allowed to cross. A tract of land extending from the bridge to the present stockyards was owned by the Marion family, early pioneers of the district. The only stores were two butcher shops. Here people went at killing time to buy their meat. They bought other food and necessities in Barrels or cases from the Hudson's Bay Company in Winnipeg or in St. Boniface. Later there were a few stores. Sometimes children walked to St. Boniface through the woods to buy a penny's worth of candy. Most of Norwood was bush although the flats were open prairie. There were no churches. People went either to Winnipeg or to St. Boniface to church.¹

Then came a period of extensive change. Winnipeg spread out swiftly in every direction under the impetus of a

¹ Brucelle Anderson, "Former Days in Norwood" as told by Sister Adelard, Queen Days, Norwood Press, Norwood, 1948.p.41.

rapidly expanding economy and a swelling stream of immigration which flowed into the sparsely populated prairie region. The growth of population affected the suburbs and many of those who had business in Winnipeg built homes in Norwood. A few of the families sent their children north through the woods and across the creek to l'Academie Provencher but the majority of the children crossed the Red River to attend the Fort Rouge School in Winnipeg. In 1902 a school was opened in the Norwood area only to be replaced in 1906 by a much larger building which was named after Archbishop Taché. In 1915 a second school was built four blocks farther east and christened King George Fifth. Both of these schools were under the jurisdiction of the St. Boniface School Board which also administered two older schools in the north part of the city.

With the settling of Norwood the character of the city became changed. There were now two districts settled by peoples of different racial origin, language, religion and educational philosophy. For many years the two parts of the city were actually separated by a sort of no man's land of undeveloped territory. The citizens of Norwood, the majority of whom were Protestant and English speaking, found themselves in a situation in relation to the whole city very similar to that in which the French speaking citizens of St. Boniface found themselves in relation to the province. That is, they were a minority which found itself included in a system to which they could not, in large part, subscribe.

Then, as the district became more fully occupied, the minority became proportionally larger and began to advocate policies which were different to those which had long been in practice.

During the second decade of the present century disagreement developed in the city over the administration of the schools. Such disagreement was in part born of the war as a by-product of divided opinions as to war policy. It was also a part of the movement to integrate all non-English speaking peoples into a Canadian way of life. It was due partly to a difference in religions and it was partly the general struggle of politics. That is, it was the "outs" versus the "ins." By the mid-twenties the disagreement had become so serious that it was found advisable to divide the city into two separate school districts. The School District of Norwood was created by Provincial Statute. The Act also provided that the physical line of demarcation between the two districts should be drawn by the Chief Justice of the Court of King's Bench and that the division of assets should be made by agreement between the two school boards if possible, or, failing agreement, by arbitration.

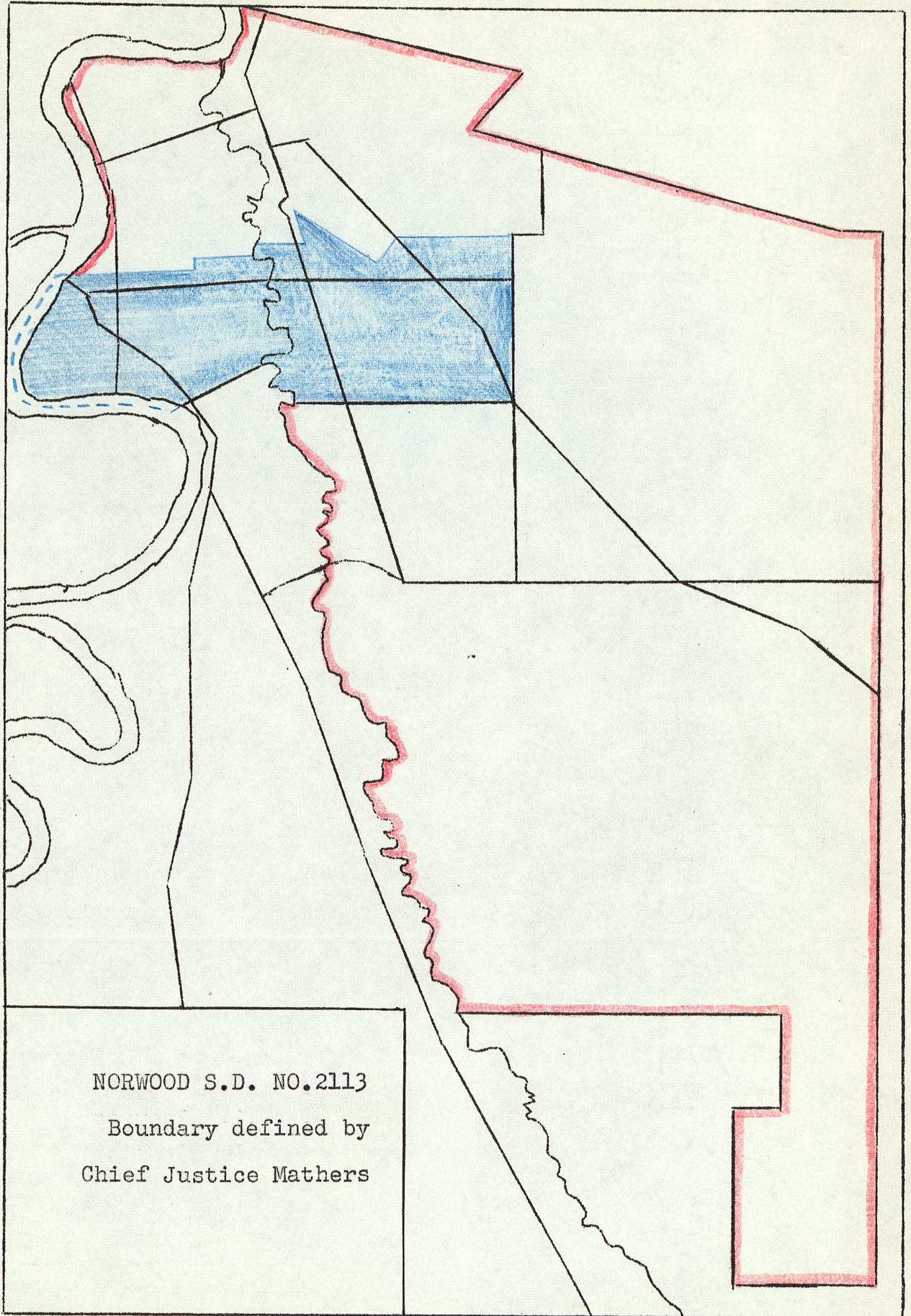
Chief Justice Mathers did not delay long. Having heard the arguments of the various parties concerned, he issued his award on July 5, 1924, exactly three months from the day upon which the act had been passed by the Legislature. After detailing in legal language the bounds of the Norwood

district the award states:- The School District of St. Boniface shall be all that portion of the city of St. Boniface not included in the School District of Norwood No. 2113 as above described.²

More legal formalities followed. The citizens of the city had to confirm the steps which had been taken. On October 30, 1924, a referendum of the ratepayers of St. Boniface accepted the boundaries as laid down by the Chief Justice by a vote of 1547 in favour to 284 opposed. Elections had also to be held for the two boards of trustees. In St. Boniface the five available members of the former board were returned by acclamation. In Norwood there was a contest for the five available seats, those elected being, Mrs. Alma McArthur, G.P. Morse, Robt. Guthrie, A.K. Horn and Arthur Mason. Letters from the City Clerk certifying to the results of both referendums and election are preserved in the Norwood minutes.

For the Norwood District the situation was one of perplexities. It was a new district which yet was not new since its schools had been in operation for many years and these same schools were to be continued with the same students and with the same teachers. At the time that the new Board assumed direction of school business it did not even own the property in which the schools would be carried on because title still rested in the name of the former district until such time as agreement might be reached on the actual division of the assets and liabilities. Strictly speaking there were no teachers since the staff had been engaged by

² T.G. Mathers, Award Separating the School District of Norwood from the School District of St. Boniface. Unpub.



another authority. Worst of all there was no money available and this situation was much worse than it would have been in a new district which was starting from the beginning.

The new Board did what it could to ameliorate its troubles. A month before the old district passed from existence the new trustees met informally. A number of matters were settled by agreement in order that there should be no interregnum. It was agreed that Mrs. McArthur should be the chairman of the Board and it was also agreed that an advertisement should be placed in the daily papers asking for applications for the combined positions of Secretary-Treasurer and Attendance Officer. It was also agreed there should be a thorough revision of the by-laws of the former district. These were the by-laws which concerned procedure, rules of order, and the duties of officials and employees. At a later meeting the teachers were asked to re-apply for the positions which they had been holding and it was intimated to them, unofficially, that they were to continue to carry out the duties to which they had been accustomed.

The inaugural meeting of the Norwood School Board took place on January 7, 1925. After Mrs. McArthur had been confirmed in the position of chairman Mr. Guthrie was designated to serve as Secretary pro-tem. A number of legal documents were then read and carefully entered in the minutes. These were:-

1. The Act which created the district.³
2. The Award of Chief Justice Mathers.⁴
3. Certificate of result of Referendum, Oct.30,1924.⁵
4. Certificate of election of Trustees.⁶
5. Proclamation of the Lieutenant-Governor putting the Act into operation.⁷

The action taken at the preliminary meetings was then confirmed and four standing committees were established so that the machinery of administration might commence to operate. The committees which are those still operating were, management, finance, building, and supplies. It has been customary for each Trustee other than the chairman to head one of the committees with all members of the Board being members of all committees.

In all, there were six meetings during the month of January. Four of these were concerned chiefly with revision of by-laws which had been in force in the former district in order to adapt them to new conditions. The result of the labours of the board members was By-law No. 1 which was adopted on January 26. Having adopted this by-law, which had much the nature of a constitution, the Board then proceeded to pass a second by-law which authorized financial arrangements with the Sterling Bank.

³ An Act to Create the School District of Norwood, statutes of Manitoba, Winnipeg: King's Printer, Cap.103, 1924.

⁴ T.G.Mathers, Award, July 5, 1924. Unpublished.

⁵ Certificate of City Clerk, City of St. Boniface, Nov. 1924.

⁶ Certificate of City Clerk, City of St. Boniface, Nov. 1924.

⁷ Theodore A.Burroughs, Lieutenant-Governor, Proclamation, November, 1924.

But the road was not yet clear, The Finance Committee was not able to satisfy the Sterling Bank or any other Bank which was approached that Norwood School District was a good financial risk. The result was that no money was obtainable with which to carry on the schools. On February 19, notice of motion was given at a regular meeting to declare the schools closed as of March 31. Four days later a special meeting decided that the Provincial Legislature should be asked to pass a special Act guaranteeing the credit of the District. The request could not have received much sympathy from the Provincial authorities because three days later a resolution was passed by the Board in favour of closing the schools on March 31. Four reasons were cited for this action. The first was that due to the previous non-existence of Norwood School District there was no levy being currently made by the city to Norwood's account; secondly, the city was unable to provide the needed financial aid because it had little money of its own; thirdly, the banks were not prepared to lend money with which to carry on operations; lastly, the Government would not provide any help.

Three weeks later the strain had eased. Whether the threat of the resolution to close the schools had had the desired effect or whether other approaches had succeeded is not revealed by the minutes but for some reason the Government reversed its stand and a guarantee of sufficient size to assure minimum requirements was furnished by the Province. By the end of the month the Board was able to establish a line of credit with the Bank of Commerce and the teachers were notified that the schools would not be closed.

Although the first problem was that of establishing a means by which to finance the schools the Board has also dealt with other matters. Miss M. Ethel Thornton had been selected as the first Secretary-Treasurer of the District with the added duties of attendance officer. The Norwood Women's Institute was given permission for the use of Taché school one evening a month and thus began a long association with the school and the School Board which still continues. A new seal was ordered for the District and a committee was established to investigate teacher efficiency and to establish a salary scale. The old scale had been drawn up by agreement between the Norwood Local of the Manitoba Teachers' Federation and the St. Boniface School Board and, because the contracting parties were now in separate districts the Norwood Board, as was true also of the St. Boniface Board, no longer felt that the agreement was in good standing.

Having surmounted the first hurdle Norwood then turned to the second. An agent was engaged to evaluate the physical assets of the old district preparatory to dividing them between the two successor districts. Joint meetings were held with the St. Boniface Board during the latter part of March for the purpose of trying to come to an agreement but there was a difference of opinion, not only over the value of property but also concerning money due from the Continental Fire Insurance Company re the burning of the Provencher School and also money due from the La Valee District since the time of the Union of the St. Vital Annex to

the City. Since the two Boards did not seem to be able to reach agreement St. Boniface suggested that the two Districts resort to arbitration and Norwood assented. The Norwood arbitrator was J.P. McArthur and the St. Boniface representative was Geo. W. Northrup. These two agreed on the appointment of P.A. Macdonald as chairman of the Arbitration Board. The proceedings were prolonged over several months and were finally concluded in the following January. The award was in the nature of a compromise between the rival claims of the districts involved. Since Norwood was to receive the Taché and King George schools while St. Boniface retained only Provencher and since Norwood's assessment was greater than the assessment of territory remaining in St. Boniface the result was that Norwood owed St. Boniface \$20,271.25. This was in addition to Norwood's share of the old debt which, according to the proportional assessment of the territorial division made by Judge Mathers, amounted to \$21,271.93. The share of the debt which the continuing District of St. Boniface assumed was \$14,728.07.

Some re-organization of the teaching staffs took place at the end of the spring term. By the re-arrangement of classes it was found possible to reduce the staff of each school by two teachers and this action was taken as an economy measure. In June the W.I. appeared before the Board to request that "Manual" and "Domestic Science" be re-instituted in the schools. The Board agreed to do so as soon as the financial situation would permit. Within the month it was found possible to take this step so the W.I. was notified and

a letter of thanks was sent to the Institute for the interest it had shown. In August serious consideration was given to changing the name of Taché school but no action was taken.

Additional steps were taken to improve the financial status. In April the Board met with the City Council to discuss estimates for the Norwood District. An agreement was made and it is stated that by August \$32,397.03 had been paid to the Bank of Commerce by the City to the account of the Norwood District. In June the decision was taken to apply to the Department of Education for recognition of the Taché School as a Collegiate Institute in order that the district might benefit from the increased grant such a status would bring. By the end of June the Board felt that the prospect of financial stability was so good that a schedule of teachers' salaries might be established. This action was taken.

Two principal pieces of business occupied the Board in 1926. The first of these was a re-organization of the administrative make up of the school system. When the District was first formed Alfred E. White was principal of Taché School which had classes in all grades from beginners to High School and H.B. Donnelly was principal of the King George school where there were only elementary grades. In May, 1926, the Trustees decided to consolidate the elementary grades of the two schools under the supervision of Mr. White. The High School grades at Taché were to be administered separately in an effort to meet Departmental requirements for Collegiate status. Mr. W.G. Smith became principal

of this department of the work. Mr. Donnelly's position as principal at King George having been discontinued, he was offered, and he accepted, a position on the High School staff. There he remained during the remainder of a long teaching career, attaining the Collegiate principalship for several years before his retirement.

The other principal item of business to be dealt with by the Board in that year concerned the balancing of accounts with the St. Boniface District. Not only was the award of the arbitrators accepted but a resolution was adopted expressing agreement with the decision. Immediate steps were taken to set apart the lump sum which was owed to the other district and an order was drawn up on the city to pay the said sum as soon as the certificates of title should be received by Norwood. In May assurances were given to St. Boniface District that Norwood would pay its share of the indebtedness whenever it should fall due. Payments were made in May and August but new plans had to be made to provide for payment of the lump sum. The plan of issuing an order on the city proved to be unworkable so it was decided in December to issue debentures in order to secure funds.

The Board of 1927 still had the problem of setting its financial house in order. Debentures had been prepared but had proved to be well high unmarketable. Except for the capital sum still owed to St. Boniface, interest and debentures payments were met as they fell due. The levy for the year was set at \$85,000 but the city requested that this

amount be reduced. This the Board agreed to do if on its part the City would arrange to secure better terms for the sale of the Norwood debenture.

As the Taché School had not yet been granted the standing of a Collegiate a committee was appointed to take up the matter with the Department of Education. The Department replied that Taché would be recognized as a Collegiate as soon as Inspector Knapp was satisfied that the requirements for laboratory and library had been met. These terms were soon met and it was decided to remove the old name from the building and to replace it with a new one, "Norwood Collegiate Institute." At the same time it was decided to change the name of the elementary division of the school to Norwood Public School. The latter change was not made however, as it did not seem reasonable that one building should bear two names.

In 1928, for the first time, mention is made of a body which through the succeeding years had a great influence over the affairs of not only Norwood but also many other school districts. This was the Municipal and Public Utility Board. When the District levied on the city for \$91,000 a request was made by the latter corporation that a reduction of \$5800 be made. As an inducement to the Board to secure agreement the City offered to cancel a debenture for \$5000 and replace it with five new ones of \$1,000. When the Board applied to the Department for permission to take such a step it was learned that such matters had been placed under the control of the Utility Board. That body when applied to demurred over making the suggested change.

At the end of June Mr. White severed his connection with the schools of the District and in his place the Trustees chose F.E. Tinkler to be supervisor of schools. In the same month the Norwood Local of the M.T.F. was informed that it was impossible to raise salaries. However a two and a half per cent reduction, which had been in effect, was removed and hope was held out that it would be possible to adopt a new and improved schedule before long. It was in June also that the discovery was made that the City had reserved lots numbered from five to ten inclusive in Block 32 for school purposes and the Board decided to ask the City for title to this property. The transaction was completed in October and the Board then possessed a school site on Lawndale Avenue in expectation of the time when the growth of settlement in that area would make a school there necessary.

Apparently the 1929 Board felt that it was in a position to meet the request of the teachers for the re-institution of a salary schedule. Advice was sought from Mr. McCann who at that time was Chief Clerk of the Department. Then there were meetings with representatives of the staff and a great deal of progress was made although final agreement was not reached that year.

In that year also the Board initiated a project which caused much worry to succeeding Boards during the next ten or so years. With an eye to future requirements for a Collegiate it was agreed at a meeting on May 23, to investigate

the possibility of securing a new site which could be held in reserve until needed. At the October meeting it was decided to take an option on a parcel of land comprised of lots from 8 to 36 inclusive in the block of land bounded by St. Mary's Road, Taché Avenue, and Highfield Street. On Nov. 11, it was decided to offer to buy the parcel for the amount of \$15,000, payments to be spread over a period of three years. The intention was that by selling the Lawndale site, which the District already owned, part of the purchase price would be realized.

This proposal was unpopular with many Norwood citizens and a strong delegation appeared before the Board on Dec. 12 to protest. Some felt that the Lawndale site would answer the purpose while others wanted the enlargement of one or both of the two existing schools. A third faction suggested an alternative site south and east of the St. Mary's property. This latter site would take in the whole of Block 8. As a result of the protests the Board decided to explore the possibilities of the last named alternative. Negotiations were carried on with the City until May but finally any further consideration was discarded because there were neither water nor sewer connections and it was felt that the cost of local improvements would be excessive. In May it was decided to renew the offer to purchase the St. Mary's Road property which the Board had previously favoured.

Having concluded the most time consuming business of 1930 the Board then dealt with a number of miscellaneous items of business. Mr. W.G. Rathwell became Principal of

the Collegiate in place of Mr. Smith and re-organization took place among the elementary grades in order to make Mr. Tinkler's work more effective. There was a small disagreement with the City over the payment of the levy. The disagreement was owing to the fact that the District was having to borrow to meet current expenses and this was costing interest. There also appear in the minutes several references to something which was not the Board's problem but which would affect it nevertheless. This was the rising tide of unemployment. The first reference was one where the Board supported a plea to the Province from the City for aid in caring for the unemployed. There is also reference to a delegation which approached the Board to ask that text books be supplied to the pupils as a relief measure. As had St. Boniface, the Norwood Board had to tell the petitioners that it was beyond the powers of a school board to supply relief. The Board also felt that it had made a good suggestion when it made the first of several repeated proposals that a Collegiate be built on the St. Mary's site as a relief measure. In this proposal the Board was disappointed since the Federal Government would never seriously consider any such proposal.

Growing financial difficulties were the principal concern in 1931. Because the City was not paying over the levy monthly the District was being put to extra expense for interest. Norwood insisted that according to the "Norwood Act" the City was required to make monthly payments but the City claimed that such provision had been for one year only.

The District referred to the Government which, in order to dispel all doubts, amended the Act to make the provisions continuous. The Board also attempted to have the City assume a portion of the charges for interest which had come about from the delay in paying the levy but this the City refused to accept. There was, in addition, a difference of opinion over the taxes which should be paid on the Lawndale site. The taxes were finally paid under protest by the District.

Relations with St. Boniface District finally began to cause worry to Norwood in this year. In the first place Norwood was being billed for certain bank charges which the Board members did not seem to understand. When the matter was investigated it was learned that the charges were just and it was agreed that, in future, Norwood would be supplied with duplicate lists of charges as a matter of information. Throughout the year Norwood met its obligations to the St. Boniface District as they came due but in December a new difficulty appeared. A large indebtedness would fall due in March which Norwood felt it would be unable to pay so St. Boniface was asked to consider the refinancing of the larger part of the debt. St. Boniface was reluctant since it was able and willing to meet its share of the combined indebtedness. The result was that the first of several conferences was held to discuss what should be done.

There were other events during the year of course. The first offer to purchase the St. Mary's site had apparently not been accepted so it was decided in January to make

a new offer for a larger amount. In February a by-law was passed authorizing the purchase. In June, Dr. Jackson of the Department of Public Health discussed with the Board the possibility of placing a full time nurse in Norwood but the Board felt unable to afford a nurse at that time. In September a number of Catholic ratepayers petitioned the Board to have Religious Education included in the curriculum at King George School. The question was deferred for the time being but was brought up again in November when Father D'Eschambault appeared to further the request. The petition was then denied on the grounds that the curriculum was already full. However an offer was made of the use of the school for such teaching if it could be arranged for after school hours. In December Mrs. McArthur resigned both as Chairman of the Board and as Trustee because she had become a resident of Winnipeg. Robert Guthrie was elected Chairman for the balance of the year but his term of office was short since he ceased to be a Trustee at the end of the month.

Nineteen thirty two was a year of stress and trial. The amount of \$23,000 was due to St. Boniface in March besides which the District was also heavily in debt to the bank. Debentures for \$18,000 had been authorized and every effort was made to sell them in order to satisfy the claim of the St. Boniface District. The Norwood Board also put pressure on the City to pay over the back taxes which were owed to the District in order that the obligation to the bank might be cleared up. The City itself was in difficulties

but promised to settle at once when it should have succeeded in establishing a line of credit. At the suggestion of Mr. Marion, Chairman of the St. Boniface Board, Norwood had debentures printed and \$14,000 worth were placed with St. Boniface to be used as collateral for borrowing purposes. When the bank failed to accept the collateral Norwood paid to St. Boniface \$2,000 in the early part of May and a second \$2,000 at the end of the month. The amount regularly due to St. Boniface was paid in August and that was all for the year.

Other measures of economy were adopted. A motion to cancel the offer to purchase for the St. Mary's Road site was defeated in February and again in March but finally achieved passage in April. But the contract could not be voided by unilateral action and the Vendor appealed to the Debt. Adjustment Board. When Norwood advised the latter Board that it was the intention to return the site to the vendor the latter threatened to enter suit. After some hesitation the Board decided to defend the suit whereupon the vendor secured an order of garnishment which was served on the Board in October and which effectively tied up all funds. He also secured a court order to the City which was intended to impound all moneys collected to the credit of the Norwood District. However all moneys collected for Norwood had been hypothecated to the bank by the amendment to the "Norwood Act"⁸ so the City had to release all money to Norwood's credit

⁸ Statutes of Manitoba, 1931, King's Printer, Winnipeg, Chapter 84.

to the bank. The City however attempted to secure an indemnity bond from the Trustees which would protect it. The bond was refused by the Board on the ground that the City was already protected.

There was one other way in which reduction in expenditure might be made. This was in connection with instructional costs. This was attempted in two ways. The first was by the reduction of salaries and the second was by reducing the number of teachers. Naturally the teachers protested at the proposed reductions but the situation had grown so desperate that the revision downward had to be made. Next, amalgamation of the Junior High Grades with the Collegiate was considered but the idea was discarded as impracticable. There was a re-organization of administration however whereby Mr. Rathwell assumed the supervision of all grades at Taché School while Mr. Tinkler became principal of King George. In the shuffle one teacher was eliminated. She appealed to the Board of Reference and her appeal was sustained. In order to restore her to a position it was decided that Mr. Tinkler should spend his full time as supervising principal.

In the same year the Board was presented with two requests which meant increasing expenditures at a time when economy was in order. In March a number of residents from the north-east part of the district appeared to ask for van service to take their children to King George School. As the distance was approximately two miles it was agreed that some

consideration ought to be shown. The Trustees promised to investigate. As a temporary measure it was decided to provide the students with bus tickets so that they would be transported most of the way. The other request was from a committee representing the Holy Cross Parochial School asking to be brought under the control of the Norwood School Board. When the possibility of such an arrangement was referred to the Department of Education it was pointed out that the School Act forbade the segregation of pupils except during the hours of Religious Instruction. And so the Board replied to the Holy Cross Committee that "there is no legal authority that will allow us legally to take over the Holy Cross School as a public school."

The struggle to keep afloat lasted well into 1933. An idea of the efforts being put forth by the Trustees may be gained from the fact that there were forty one meetings of the Board in 1932 and forty nine more in 1933. On January 5, Norwood found itself confronted with a third garnishing order, this time through action of the St. Boniface District. If Norwood could have collected what was due to it from the City it might have kept afloat but the City was applying to the Public Utility Board for a supervisor so Norwood felt that its only possible course was to make application for similar supervision. Meanwhile St. Boniface was threatening to sue, so a special meeting of the two Boards was held on January 13. As a result of that meeting St. Boniface agreed to withhold action for a short time partly because

the Provincial Treasurer, who was then in Eastern Canada, had good hopes of being able to sell the Norwood debentures, A month later that official forwarded the information that he had not been successful and he added that the Government had no funds available with which to purchase the debentures on its own account. Money was then obtained for Norwood for immediate necessities through the intervention of Mr. Cottingham of the Public Utility Board.

On February 7, the Board met in conference with the Utility Board and the City Council and from that date onward it was expected that control of city and school finances would pass to the Utility Board at any time. Meantime the schools were instructed to continue to operate with the least possible expenditure. Regular payment of salaries ceased. From time to time during the first six months of the year small amounts of money were received from the City and these were shared out among the teachers. The City had suggested certain salary reductions but the Board opposed these because they were greater than reductions being made in other departments by the City.

In July Mr. McKinnell Became supervisor not only of the City but also of the two School Districts contained within the City. He at once met with the Norwood Board and outlined his plans. He explained that he would protect the District from undue pressure on the part of creditors but that by strict economy the Districts would be able to carry on. His first step, which was a further reduction of salaries,

aroused the wrath of the teachers who claimed that they had already suffered one more reduction than had other civic employees. Mr. McKinnell explained the desperate straits which the City and the District were in and finally a compromise was reached by which the threatened reductions were postponed until November.

At the December meeting a link with the long past was severed. Miss Margaret Erwin had come to Norwood in January 1903 when the Taché School consisted of a single room. She was its first teacher. She remained on the staff as the school grew larger. Later she transferred to the King George School. On different occasions she had been the acting principal of either Taché or King George and she was well liked and much respected throughout the District. But she had come to the end of a long road at last. After thirty one years of service with the St. Boniface and Norwood School systems she was retiring to a well deserved rest. The good wishes of the District went with her.

The burden of office for the 1934 members of Norwood School Board was distinctly lighter. In January, estimates were prepared and levies asked for to cover \$61,660.00 controllable expenditures and \$55,476.58 in uncontrollable expenditure. The estimates were drastically slashed by the supervisor and the Board protested. At the February meeting a delegation of ratepayers appeared before the Board to protest but they were forced to admit that the School Board would not be able to secure any extensive increase. The levy

was finally made for \$55,800.67 and provided for controllable expenditures only. In September Mr. McKinnell was asked to vary the estimates because of the very large increase in enrollment which necessitated the addition of one more teacher to the staff. In November, mention is made of the Norwood Scholarship Foundation. This was a fund which was to be raised by the people of Norwood for the purpose of providing assistance to worthy students of the District schools. The Board wished to make an annual grant to the Foundation over a period of years and sought the supervisors permission. He approved.

The first task of the 1935 Board was to deal with items which had been carried over from the previous year. The first of these was a request from the Springfield Road and the Bleauville areas for better transportation arrangements for their children as the buses went only part of the way. In February an arrangement was concluded with Nash Taxis which continued for several years. The second matter found the Trustees aligned with the teaching staff in trying to change the attitude of Mr. McKinnell with regard to the salary cuts which he had ordered shortly after he had assumed the supervision of the District. The matter was finally settled by paying the teachers the amount which they had given up in the two months preceding his appointment. He would not agree to a School Board request for a partial restoration of salaries.

The opening of school for the fall term found the schools re-organized administratively. Mr. McKinnel had agreed to the restoration of a full time supervisor for the schools. It had been decided that all schools should be under a single supervisor and the position was given to Mr. Rathwell. Then, since it was intended to operate without having principals in each school, a position was found for Mr. Tinkler on the staff of the Collegiate.

The budget for 1936 was prepared and accepted before the end of January. The Trustees were disappointed however as they had hoped to be able to provide some increase for the teachers. The St. Mary's site question again came up for discussion. At first it had been thought that the property would revert to the city for unpaid taxes and that this action would release the order for garnishment which was still effective. However since there was a strong likelihood that the property would still be needed, it was decided to try to arrange a settlement with the vendor. Mr. McKinnell offered his services as negotiator and was able to secure more favourable terms for the Board. These were very gladly accepted. An indication of a very slight upturn in the general economic situation is shown by the fact that the Board was able, in October, to borrow a small amount from the Bank for the purpose of meeting temporary needs.

Nineteen thirty seven was a quiet year administratively although several matters of business were finally completed. For one thing the St. Mary's site was finally paid

for and the title deeds were received. It was not as easy as had been hoped to dispose of the Lawndale property. At first the Board offered the City a quit claim as a means of closing the business. For some reason not stated the City preferred another method so the City returned the quit claim and accompanied it with the suggestion that the City proceed to recover title to the property by taking tax sale proceedings. In matters other than finance an important re-arrangement was made in the schools in September when, on Mr. Rathwell's advice, a Junior High School was set up at both the Taché and King George Schools. There is also reference to a project which grew out of depression needs and with which the Board co-operated. That was the organization of the Dominion Youth Training Programme.

A problem of twenty three years duration was finally brought to a successful conclusion in January 1938. The indebtedness of the combined district which had been assumed by the Norwood District had been gradually reduced as the years passed. The final payment to St. Boniface was made in January 1938. The St. Boniface Board ordered the return of all debentures and other collateral to Norwood and accompanied the documents with a letter of gratification that the account was at last closed.

There were also indications of a slight lessening of the financial strain. With Mr. McKinnell's blessing, all teachers were given a small bonus for the previous year's work. It would seem also that the City was at last able to

pay some of the balance owed to the District from previous years but which at the time had not been collectable. There then began a complicated series of investments which were carried on over a number of years. Where it could, the Board bought up some of its own debentures at costs of less than fifty cents on the dollar. These would be held to maturity at which time they could be written off at full value. In some cases City bonds were purchased and in some cases bonds which were owed in common by the two districts. In one case a debenture was purchased which was owed by the new St. Boniface District and which was turned over to that district for what it had cost Norwood. By interchange among the three corporations, so that each received its own bonds, a considerable saving was eventually made.

Instructional changes took place also. The name Superintendent was applied to Mr. Rathwell to distinguish his position from that of the financial supervisor. For a time it seemed that the Collegiate might lose the privilege of recommending students for Matriculation standing due to the fact that the Inspector was not satisfied with library and laboratory facilities. However following promises on the part of the Board to try to make improvement the accrediting privilege was again granted. In November Mr. Rathwell requested six months leave of absence so that he might serve on the Provincial Curriculum Revision Committee. Three acting principals were designated to carry on while he should be absent and it was decided to try to carry on without an acting superintendent.

Conditions generally were definitely on the upturn by 1939. Mr. McKinnell at last gave his consent to provision being made in the budget for an increase in teachers' salaries. Some provision was made for the payment of interest to bondholders who had received little or nothing for the previous six years. The possibility of building a Collegiate was again being considered although the Board still hoped that it might be carried out as a relief project. In June Mr. Rathwell offered his resignation so that he might accept the position of Registrar of the Department of Education. Mr. W.G. Booth, a former member of the Collegiate staff who had been superintendent of Schools at the Pas, was chosen to succeed him. From the standpoint of the children the highlight of the year, no doubt, was the visit of their Majesties the King and Queen to St. Boniface on May 24. It was rather a shock to the Board however when, in October, the City billed them for over \$10,000, claiming that the District as well as St. Boniface had been overpaid during 1937 and 1938. Both Boards protested but by order of the Utility Board the amount had to be paid.

The building of a Collegiate was the principal business of the Board of 1940. With the outbreak of war in Europe there was no longer any need for unemployed projects. Because there seemed to be no other way the Board decided that Norwood would have to undertake the construction by itself. A proposal which contained terms which the Board considered it would be able to meet was made by the Waterman-Waterbury Company and in spite of objections to the type

of construction on the part of many of the ratepayers the project was proceeded with. Mention of the war serves as a reminder that it was becoming more difficult to secure staffs for the schools since some of the young men began to join the various services. One solution adopted by the Board was to employ married women who, it was felt, could be released when the service men returned from active service. In July a step was taken which had often been discussed. With Collegiate pupils being transferred to the new building a new name might be given to the Taché school. Thus for the second time the name Taché passed from the picture, the building being known thereafter as the Queen Elizabeth School.

There are relatively few items worthy of mention in 1941. Mr. Booth became an Inspector in June and was replaced by Erwin Knapp, on an acting basis, as Superintendent of Norwood. In March the Kiwanis requested that Religious Teaching be instituted in Norwood Schools and in April representatives from various churches presented the same request. The Board felt however that due to the nature of the district it would not be conducive to harmony in the schools to institute such teaching. As a step toward partially meeting the request of the petitioners it was decided that henceforth Religious Exercises should be held in all Norwood Schools every day. In October the board accepted a proposal which had been made on several occasions in previous years. The Trustees had previously been hesitant about creating a schoolboy patrol system but since it seemed to be

working successfully in Winnipeg it was agreed to give the system a trial in Norwood. The trial is still going on.

In 1942 there was little happened out of the ordinary. Mr. Knapp reverted to the position of teacher at the end of June and his place was taken by a former School Inspector, A.J. Hatcher. In April the Norwood Ministerial Association again approached the Board on the question of Religious Education but apparently became satisfied that it was not then the time to introduce such work in the schools. In December the representatives of the Norwood Local of the Manitoba Teachers' Federation approached the Board and suggested negotiation with the possibility of establishing a regular schedule once again. The Board agreed to negotiate, subject to the approval of the Utility Board.

Several meetings during the first months of 1943 were taken up with discussions with the teachers concerning a schedule but the efforts came to nothing because the Utility Board would not permit such a schedule to be established. The Teachers achieved their object the following year however as the Suburban Boards had co-operated and had produced a schedule which met with the supervisor's approval. In the meantime a corps of Air Cadets had been organized in Norwood and had become quite strong. There appears to have been an Army Cadet Corps too because it is stated in the minutes that the Board contributed a share toward the purchase of Army Cadet uniforms.

An indirect effect of the war now began to make itself felt. St. Boniface had already felt the pressure of increased enrollment due to the building of many homes in the city. Norwood was effected too. Rumours that the golf course along the east bank of the Red River was to be subdivided for residential purposes led the Board as early as January 1945 to appoint a committee to look over the area to see if a suitable site for an elementary school could be located. The committee lost no time with the result that in March the City was asked to reserve Block 14 for school purposes. It was not too early because the actual work of surveying the land into residential lots was under way by the end of April. Meantime both Mr. Hatcher and Mr. Donnelly who had become principal of the Collegiate, begged for additional teachers to relieve the overcrowding which had taken place in all schools. Mr. Cottingham surveyed the situation and consented to the engagement of additional teachers. In December a committee from the United Church approached the Board with the first of several offers to sell the old church building, which stood across Kenny Street from the Queen Elizabeth School, for school purposes. At that time and later the Board was of the opinion that the expense of re-modelling and repair was so great that such a purchase would not be good policy.

There was discussion but little progress during 1946. The teachers presented a strong recommendation to have principals appointed at each school but no decision was

reached. A large group of ratepayers presented a petition to have a kindergarten established in Norwood but this question too had to be deferred since at that time there was not sufficient room in the schools for all the children. The Army made several attempts to secure an alternate sponsor for the Cadet Corps but in the meantime Cadet property remained in the schools. The Springfield Road citizens sought improved van service. One of the Trustees made a great effort to secure better service but had not been successful by the time that the year closed.

Throughout 1947 the question of the new school was discussed although there was little progress toward obtaining it. In June a strong delegation appeared before the Board to inquire as to what progress was being made. Reasons for the delay were explained by the members. Not the least of the reasons was the delay in completing the survey of the undeveloped land and the lack of desire on the part of the Utility Board to consider a new school until such time as it should be certain that it was going to be needed in that particular area. However by November the Board decided that some action must be taken so the firm of Green, Blankstein and Russell was retained to draft preliminary plans for a school even although the site had not yet become District property.

There was an administrative re-organization of the teaching staff in June. It was agreed that a school as large as Queen Elizabeth needed a full time administrative principal

so H.L. Softley was engaged for the position. At the same time M. Spack was made part time supervisor of Physical Education and Mrs. M. Bartholomew became part time supervisor of Music for all of the Norwood schools. In both of the latter two cases the remainder of the time was occupied in teaching.

By the time 1948 had arrived it had become apparent that the area west of Taché Avenue was going to be completely built over with dwellings. Plans to proceed with a school were somewhat delayed by the death of Mr. Cottingham in April and also by the fact that the City was slow in providing the exact detail of the survey. Arrangements for the purchase of the site were finally completed on May 27 and the Board felt it was then prepared to call for tenders for construction. On August 17 the tender of Gerhard A. Baert was accepted although the making of a contract must await the Supervisors approval as well as the passage of a by-law to permit the issue of debentures. A by-law for the amount of \$250,000 was approved by the electors at the time of the civic elections in the fall. In the meantime the Board had decided to proceed as far as possible with construction using funds which had been accumulated as a building reserve. Incidentally it was brought to the Trustees attention at the December meeting that a school on the east side of the Seine River would have to be considered in the course of another year or two.

The matter of the by-law carried over into 1949. The validity of the vote taken in the previous November had been challenged and any implementation of its terms had been

held up for the time being. Two meetings during February failed to rescue the Board from its dilemma. The Board seems to have found a solution to its problem when on March 2 a resolution was passed to join with the City in an effort to have the by-law validated by action of the Legislature. The Legislature passed the necessary bill with the result that the contract with the Baert Company was immediately signed.

Meantime the Board had asked the City to reserve a site bounded by Braemar, Niverville, Caton and Hillcrest streets for school purposes. It was discovered however that the City did not wish to set this land aside for such purposes but preferred to develop it as a residential area. Then a search was made for a site on the east side of the Seine River. Since the Board was late in the field it was found that the most suitable property had already been reserved. It was agreed that a request should be made to the City for reservation of some land for school purposes and a meeting was held with city representatives in September to ascertain what land was available. It was finally decided to ask the City to reserve the south half of Block 9 and all of Block 10 for the District. It turned out that part of the site was available but that the north part had already been reserved by a church group.

Another question occupied the time of the Board for several months. The Holy Cross representatives, accompanied by the representatives of a newer Parochial School,

Precious Blood, renewed a previous request to be absorbed into the Norwood system. The request was first made in February and after considering the matter on several occasions the Board decided that it was not in a position to accede to the request under the terms proposed. The Parochial Committee appeared again in June with new proposals:

1. Catholic children to attend the two Catholic schools.
2. Teachers in the two schools to be engaged upon the recommendation of the Committee.
3. The Religious atmosphere to be retained in the schools.
4. The Committee would make up to the Board the difference in pay that the proposed arrangement would necessitate.

The final reply of the Board for that time was that it was felt that such an adjustment ought to be on a Province wide basis and not at the local level.

Meantime progress was being made with the new school to which the name Nordale had been given. Even though construction was not complete classes began occupying the new building from September 12. Beside occupation of the new school certain re-arrangements were made at the other two schools. Some classes were transferred to Nordale from Queen Elizabeth School and this left room at the latter. It was decided to combine the Junior High Schools of Queen Elizabeth and King George and the whole group was located at Queen Elizabeth under the name Norwood Junior High School.

Mr. Baert finally turned Nordale over to the Trustees' control at the new year. Not only was the new school a means of relieving pressure of enrollment at the other schools but it also became the administrative centre of the District because the offices of both School Board and Superintendent were transferred there.

The great flood of 1950 had its effect on the schools. Teachers, students and Board Members all joined in the struggle to man the dikes and to hold the flood waters at bay. The school buildings were turned into administrative headquarters, sleeping quarters for workers and refugees, and modified field kitchens. The schools of course were closed and by the time that the threat had dissipated itself it was so late in the term that it was decided not to attempt to re-open them before the fall.

In settlement of other business the Board again declined an offer of the Old Church property, abandoned the request for the Braemar site and asked the City for a five year option on Block 10. Meantime, Mr. Hatcher having reached the age of retirement, H.L. Softley was appointed to the Superintendent's position. R. V. Shearer of the Collegiate staff was made principal at Queen Elizabeth to fill the vacancy thus created.

For six months in 1951 there was little other than routine business. Then came new activity. Vice-principals were appointed in the older schools and a teaching principal

was chosen for Nordale in the person of R.J. Alley. In September a new system of individual insurance for the pupils was instituted. In June a delegation from east of the Seine protested the site chosen for a school in that area. When the difficulties which the Board had encountered in trying to secure a site were explained to the delegation it was agreed that it was no doubt a poor location for a school but in all probability the best available. For the balance of the year much effort was required of the Trustees. Not only was it necessary to plan and prepare for a new school across the Seine but it soon became evident that Nordale would have to be enlarged. First plans for the new school were not acceptable to the Department which insisted that the total cost should not amount to more than \$15,000 per classroom. In November the Board called for tenders for a four room addition to Nordale.

Two main subjects occupied the time of the 1952 Board. The first was the proposed new school. Before plans were finally agreed to three different architects were consulted in order to make certain that costs were kept within Departmental limitations. There was also much delay in securing passage of a money by-law. The question was finally settled by submitting separate by-laws, one for the new school and the other for the Nordale extension. Both by-laws received the ratepayers approval. The second item of business had begun in November 1951 when two representatives of the Parochial Schools requested consideration of an arrangement whereby their schools would be administered by the Norwood

School Board. Little was done about the matter until the following July at which time the Committee again appeared before the Board with a proposal which would involve no change in the organization of any of the schools but which would place the two Parochial schools under District administration. There then developed a cleavage of opinion both in the community and among Board members as to whether such an arrangement would be acceptable to the Provincial authorities. The majority of the Board was of the opinion that the arrangement would be regular so an agreement was made.

A request for a ruling on the legality of the agreement was made to the Provincial authorities. A reply was received from the Department of Education in October which stated that the amalgamation was legal if the schools were operated as Public Schools.⁹ Enclosed with the reply was a copy of a letter from the Attorney-General's Department which expressed the opinion that the Education Department might not interfere in a district until there had been an infringement of the School Act.¹⁰ These rulings did little to answer the specific question concerning the status of the two schools so the problem was laid over until the new year. Change in membership of the Board resulted in a change of majority opinion concerning the regularity of the arrangement but the matter rested until April. Then C.K. Rogers

⁹ Dept. of Education to Norwood S.D., Oct., 1952.

¹⁰ Attorney General's Department to Dept. of Education, Oct., 1952. (copy).

Chief Inspector of the Department of Education, met the Board as the result of a brief which had been submitted by the Winnipeg Council of Churches asking the Department to withhold its grants from Norwood. Feeling that the existing arrangement would not be permitted another year, the Board cancelled all teachers' contracts for the two schools as at the end of June in order to avoid the necessity of paying the teachers for four months during which time their services would not be required by the District. The Board's feeling was confirmed in May by an interpretation from the Department that grants would not in future be paid under conditions then existing because pupils were being segregated at times other than during Religious Education.¹¹ The amalgamation was dissolved.

A general re-arrangement of staff took place at midterm of 1953. After thirty five years of service with the St. Boniface and Norwood districts, Mr. Donnelly had reached the age of retirement. He had worked in three schools and had seen thousands of children pass through their halls and was held in much honour and esteem throughout the district. R.V. Shearer was transferred from the Junior High School to succeed Mr. Donnelly and G.S. Belton assumed the principalship of Queen Elizabeth. At the same time Miss Mae Somerville became teaching principal at Archwood School and Mr. Alley became a full time supervising principal at Nordale.

¹¹ W.C. Miller to Norwood School District, May 25, 1953.

Items of interest in 1954 may be mentioned briefly. Early in the year a pension plan was adopted on behalf of the operating employees of the District. In June, Miss Thornton, who had served as Secretary-Treasurer of the District from its inception, retired and was replaced by Miss J.L. George. Miss Thornton had been very active and faithful to the District and still remains secretary of the Norwood Scholarship Foundation in which she is deeply interested. In September, Religious Instruction for those who desire it was introduced at Archwood school. The Board also began to consider the possibility of building a new Collegiate to replace the small crowded building which was in use. In addition there was the need to consider the enlargement of Archwood which was already crowded.

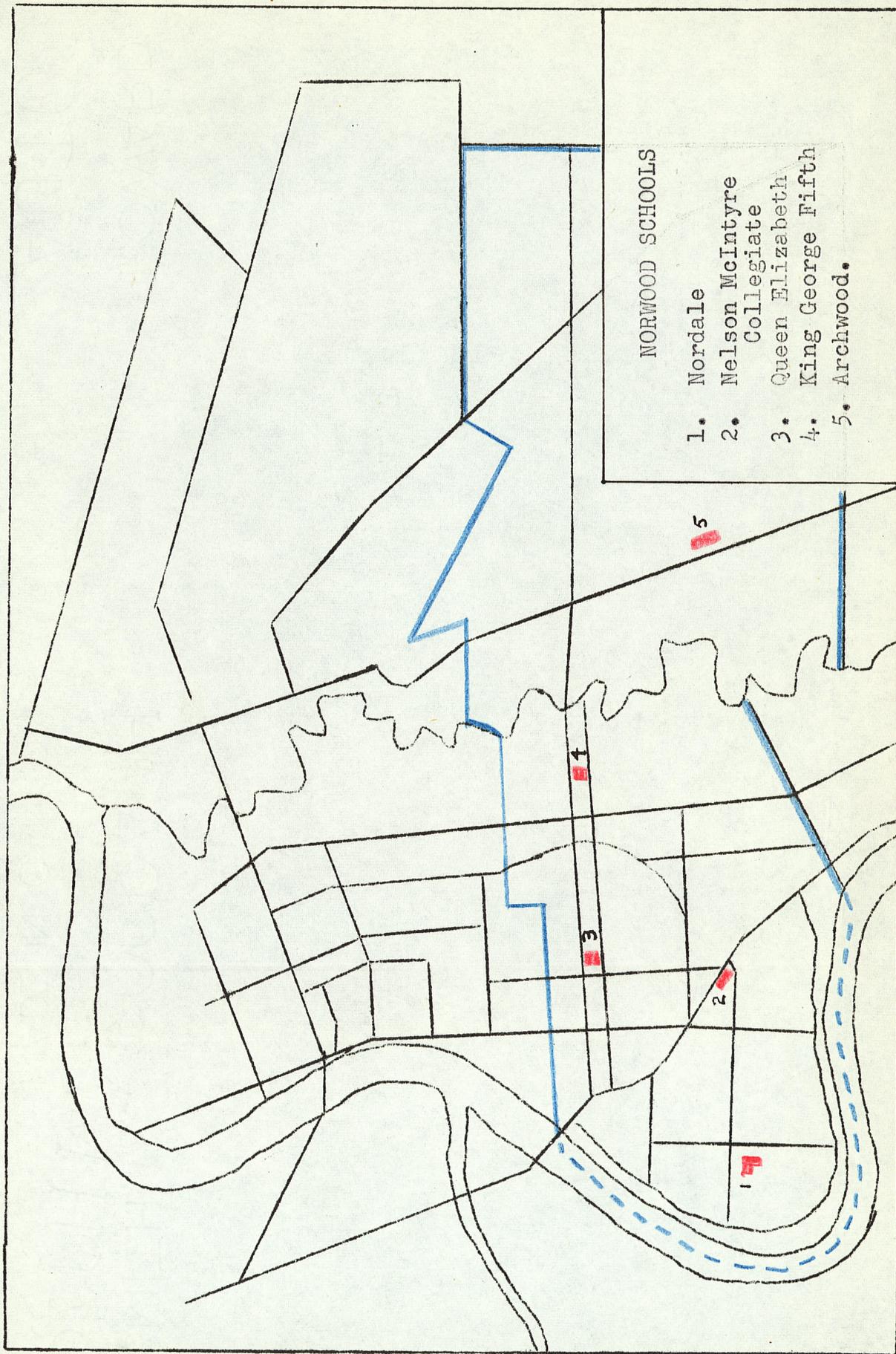
The building of a new Collegiate occupied a great deal of the time of the 1955 Board. Preliminary conversations with an architect took place in January and from time to time during the spring months the possibility of building was considered further. In September the first steps toward passing a money by-law were taken. After Ratification by the electors in October the by-law received third reading in November.

Negotiations with the teaching staff were not carried out that year as easily as had been the case in former years. The difference between the two parties reached the stage where a conciliator was appointed by the Department of Labour. With the aid of this gentleman an agreement was finally achieved in June.

An innovation, as far as Norwood was concerned, was introduced in September of the same year. As a service to the ratepayers, the Board furnished all text books for children in Grades I to VI on a rental basis. This service has gradually been extended until by the fall of 1957 all grades were able to secure texts on a rental basis.

All through the winter of 1955-6 work went on at the new collegiate. During the midsummer vacation the old building was taken down. With the opening of the fall term the students were welcomed to the fine new building. A re-organization of the school system was made at the same time in order to relieve crowded conditions at the other schools. Queen Elizabeth ceased to be a Junior High School because Grade IX was transferred to the new Collegiate. The Home Economics Department, which had been conducted that King George School for years was also transferred to the Collegiate. Both the Home Economics Department and the Industrial Arts Department for the boys were doubled in size. Official opening of the building took place on November 16. The Board Chairman had laboured diligently to see the Collegiate completed and when he died suddenly a week before the opening was to take place it was decided to give the Collegiate his name. It is thus known as "Nelson McIntyre Collegiate."

In April a delegation from the east end of the district asked the Board to try to arrange that children from that area be sent to the St. Boniface schools of the new development. These schools were much closer to where the petitioners lived. The Board investigated but found that the St.



Boniface enrollment was so great that there was no room for any Norwood Children.

Mindful of the differences which existed in the District, Norwood School Board made recommendations to the Royal Commission on Education which was surveying the whole educational situation in the Province. In the brief which was presented, the suggestion was made that the clause in the School Act, which prohibits segregation of students except during periods of Religious Instruction, be repealed. As yet the Royal Commission has not made its report so that it is not known whether this suggestion will be recommended by that body. At least the Norwood Board has offered a possible solution to a question which has created much discord.

CHAPTER VIII

SUPPLEMENTARY SCHOOLS OF ST. BONIFACE

No story of the schools of the city of St. Boniface would be complete without some account of several schools which were founded in order to serve a special purpose. Short accounts of these schools are included. The material included in this chapter was obtained in most cases through interviews with responsible persons connected with the school concerned. Additional material has been included in connection with St. Boniface College and the Industrial School from short histories which have been written by members of the Orders in whose charge they were.

Collegiate Department, St. Boniface College¹

St. Boniface College may share with Provencher School the claim to have descended from the little school which was founded by Mgr. Provencher in 1818. From this school grew two divisions, a College and a preparatory school. After 1854 the institution assumed the care of the small boys who had been under the care of the Grey Nuns. The three divisions continued until 1885. In that year Archbishop Taché confided the care of the College to the Jesuit Fathers. The Jesuits did not continue the work of the junior school but they did continue with the work of preparing the older boys

¹ Le R.P. Oscar Boily, S.J., Recteur du College de St. Boniface. (Interview.)

for their entrance into College.

The course of studies was influenced by the purpose which the school serves. The College is not a seminary for the training of clergymen but is an Arts College. Thus the school prepares the boys for matriculation into the Latin Philosophy course leading to an Arts degree. For many years the curriculum presented by the school was accepted by the University as leading to matriculation but was not accepted by the Department of Education as equivalent to any of the High School grades. This state of affairs was changed in 1942 when the College authorities, in consultation with the Department's Inspector, revised the courses. The boys may still matriculate but the courses from Grade VIII up to and including Grade X are now recognized for Departmental standing. The ensuing year does not qualify them for Grade XI standing but it does meet University requirements for matriculation. Grade VII was discontinued in 1958.

In many ways it is almost impossible to separate the story of the school from that of the College. This is true as well of the functions of the institution. One of the departments which it is hard to separate is that of finance. Most of the facilities of the building serve a double purpose and are used by both school and College. The boys pay fees for their tuition and those who live in pay for board and lodging. Other income is common to the College as a whole and includes a share of the grant from the Federal and Provincial Governments and of contributions from the Public at large.

Enrollment has varied from time to time but has, for the most part, shown a fair increase. At the time of writing there are one hundred and fifty nine boys in residence from many districts outside the city. In addition, one hundred and twenty day students are enrolled and the school provides instruction to twenty-two boys from the Juniorate of the Oblates. To provide instruction there are eleven Fathers of the Jesuit Order who serve full time and one who serves on a part time basis.

For many years the College stood in the midst of beautiful park-like grounds on the south side of Provencher Avenue. The Provencher Park is now located at that spot. The central part of the building was erected in 1881 when Mgr. Taché was Archbishop. In 1902 a new wing was added on the west side to accomodate the greater number of pupils who were enrolled. The economic expansion which followed the coming of thousands of immigrants to the western plains was indirectly responsible for a further increase in enrollment so a second wing was added on the east side of the original building. The enlarged edifice served the needs of College and school from 1915 until the building was burned down in 1922.²

Due to lack of resources it was decided not to attempt to replace the burned building. Instead a union was formed with Le Petit Seminaire. School and College have been have been conducted in that building from that time to the

² Le R.P. Alfred Bernier, Les Dates Memorables du College de St-Boniface. St. Boniface, 1945 pp. 1-78.

present. This newest College, like its predecessors, had to be enlarged. A new wing was added in 1924 and in 1956 a fine, up-to-date Gymnasium-Auditorium was added to the east side of the main building for the benefit of school-boys and collegians alike.

For many years another department was allied to the school. The Church has been a pioneer in the teaching of practical courses since the day of Bishop Provencher. In the late nineties a Commercial Course was organized at the College with the purpose of preparing young men for a business career. Special training was given in English so that these students might be bi-lingual. This school was carried on for many years but in the end it had to be discontinued for two main reasons. It was difficult to secure satisfactory teachers, and economic depression precluded the attendance of many young men who might have benefited from the training which was provided.

For many years St. Boniface College and its preparatory school was the chief Catholic educational institution on the prairies. In order to accommodate the English speaking Catholics of the Province the Classics Course was divided into an English and French section. The English section continued until 1925. Two events contributed to the termination of this course. The first was the fire of 1922, the second was the founding of St. Paul's College in Winnipeg. Since the latter College provided for the needs of English speaking Catholics, St. Boniface College restricted its efforts to the instruction of the French.

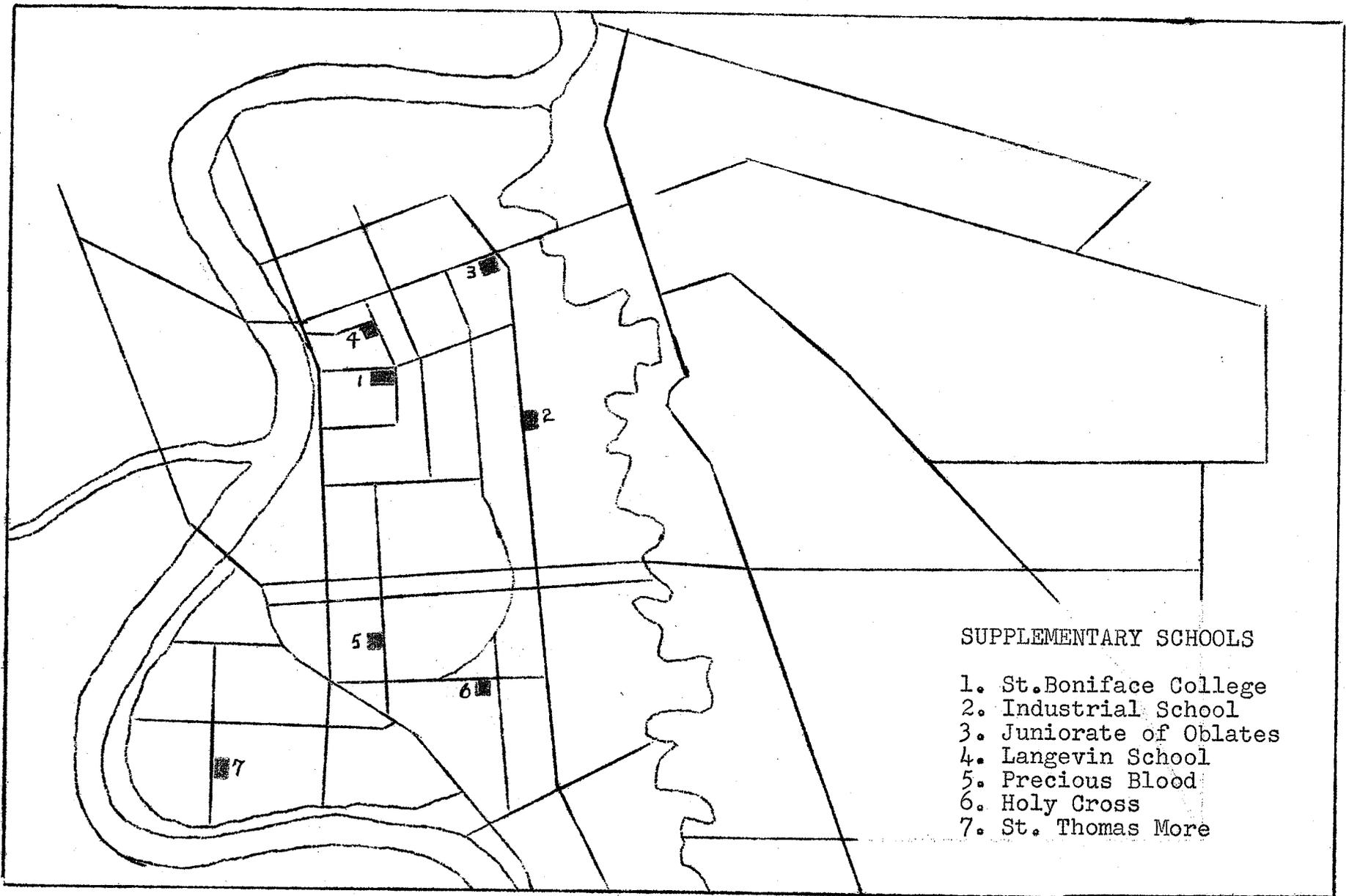
The Collegiate Department opened its doors to brethren in distress in 1911. The building being used by the Oblate Fathers to house their Juniorate was destroyed by fire that year. For two years the boys of the Juniorate received their education along with the boys of the College. When the Oblates secured their present quarters they once again took charge of their own students. The College still provides instruction for boys from the Juniorate in Grades XI and XII as well as in Second Year Arts.

The Industrial School³

From the inception of their school in 1845 the Grey Nuns had always had a number of boarding pupils in their charge. However, in 1887 l'Academie Taché closed its doors to pensionnaires and continued the school with students of the St. Boniface District only. There was one group however which needed to be cared for and since the Nuns had residence accomodation it was not long before a use for it was found.

Following the passing of the Indian Act the Indians were first of all confined to encampments. As late as 1889 there were three of these camps within the area of the Cathedral City. The first of these was located at the spot where Whittier Park was later to be found, the second was along the banks of the Seine River and the third was north of the Basilica at almost the exact location where the Hospital now stands.

³ Sister May Guichon, s.g.m., Address to St. Boniface Historical Society, 27 Feb. 1944 (Printed Report.)



SUPPLEMENTARY SCHOOLS

- 1. St. Boniface College
- 2. Industrial School
- 3. Juniorate of Oblates
- 4. Langevin School
- 5. Precious Blood
- 6. Holy Cross
- 7. St. Thomas More

Archbishop Taché was very much interested in the welfare of these dusky citizens and on many occasions he sought from the Federal Government the financial means wherewith to establish a school which would be for their benefit. At last after many delays and disappointments he was successful in his efforts. However due to lack of accomodation for the Indian Children the girls only were assigned to the Gray Nuns who received them and cared for them in the same building in which orphan children were sheltered. Classes were held in a separate place. At first a room adjoining the infirmary of the Provincial House was used in that part of the building where today are found what are referred to as the two north rooms.

By the first of July 1889 there were 35 of the young Indian girls in attendance and it soon became evident that accommodation separate from all other groups was a necessity. The little white house of the Grey Nuns was made ready once again to receive occupants and for the first time the institution was given a name of its own and it became "The Industrial School".

Eighteen months later the boys from the encampments were provided with a school of their own. The building which was to be used had been erected expressly for the purpose and was situated at some distance from any other part of the settlement although today the spot on which it stood is well within the city limits on Des Meurons Street. Two of the Sisters, S. Marie-Louise Lassiseraye and S. Josephine D'Eschambault were the first teachers of these little Indian

lads of St. Boniface. The initial enrollment of the boys' school was sixteen. The first director of the school was the Rev. Father Lavigne who shortly after the opening of the school was succeeded by Rev. Father Dorais, O.M.I.

For two more years, until 1897, the Indian girls continued to live at the Convent and to receive their training in the cramped quarters which the Sisters were able to provide for them. Then the two branches of the school were united at the Des Meurons location to form a single institution.

As the tide of settlement rolled westward the Indians gradually drifted from the St. Boniface neighbourhood to more distant reserves. It was more convenient for them to send their children to schools which were close to their new homes and as a result the number of students who attended the Industrial School diminished until it was no longer desirable to keep the school open. The students were transferred to the mission at Fort Alexander.

The building did not long remain closed. The very factors which operated toward its closing created a new need, that of providing missionaries to the newcomers. To meet this need the Oblate Fathers opened a Juniorate in 1905 with the avowed purpose of preparing young boys for a future life in the Priesthood of their Church.

The Juniorate of the Oblate Fathers⁴

The Oblate Fathers were the first Religious Order

⁴ Le R.P. Laurent Godbout, O.M.I., B.A., M.Ed. (Interview.)

of men whom Mgr. Provencher was able to secure to assist him in the Mission work he was trying to carry out in Western Canada. Among other duties undertaken by the Order was that of instructing in the College and the preparatory school which the Bishop had founded. This work the Oblates carried on until the preparatory work was assumed by the Frères des Ecoles Chretiennes in 1854. From that year until 1867 the Oblate Fathers continued to administer the College after which time the whole institution, senior and junior, passed for a time into the hands of the secular clergy.

There is no record that the Oblates took any further part in teaching in the schools of St. Boniface for many long years after they relinquished the work of the College. Teaching was carried on by such Orders as the Sisters of Charity, the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, the Jesuits, the Frères Maristes and the Brothers of Mary. Meantime the Oblates devoted their energies to other work.

The next connection the Oblates seem to have had with schools in St. Boniface was when, in co-operation with the Grey Nuns they took upon themselves the operation of the Industrial School for Indian boys which had been established on Des Meurons Street. This school continued until 1905 at which time it was closed due to the fewness of the Indians to be found within reasonable distance from the city. Shortly afterward Le Juniorat de la Sainte-Famille was opened in the abandoned building by the Oblate Fathers.

With the great flood of immigration which streamed to the western plains during the early years of the present century there appeared a great need for men who would go among the new colonists and bring them the comforts of their religion. With the encouragement and the blessing of his Grace Archbishop Adelard Langevin, the Oblate Fathers established the Juniorate with the avowed purpose of preparing missionaries who would go out among these newcomers.

In the first few years the students of the Juniorate were of many languages since the newcomers to the prairies came from divers countries in Central Europe. Since most of these were already grown to adult stage when they arrived it was unlikely that they would become proficient in either of the two languages which were up to that time to be found in the West. Hence the Missionaries would need to be able to serve the newcomers in their native tongues. Since about 1930, however, the use of languages other than French or English has been discontinued as the need for using them has passed.

Students of the Juniorate are selected rather carefully. They may come from anywhere in Manitoba. At one time there were a number of students from Minnesota and North Dakota but with the opening of a school south of the border American students no longer came here. In recruiting candidates the Order first secures a report on the boy's school record. If that is satisfactory the Parish Priest is consulted as to the suitability of the lad for work as a cleric. Then the family is approached to see if the parents are willing to see

their son enter the work of the Church. Boys who are interested in other branches of work are not accepted.

Since 1913 there has been a studied effort on the part of the officials of the school to improve the courses and to increase the enrollment. Until 1957 the work began with the equivalent of Grade VII but since then the entrance class is Grade VIII. The school itself teaches the work of Grades VIII, IX and X. When that work is completed the boys attend St. Boniface College where they proceed as far as second year in University. Following that they continue their studies at the seminary in Lebret in Saskatchewan. The courses offered are those laid down by the Department of Education. Instruction is offered the English language in the subjects of English, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies, although the basic courses are French and Latin. The chief highlight in the struggle to improve courses came in 1954 when the Department of Education accepted the courses offered by the school as meeting the required standards. The school is regularly inspected by the Departmental Public School Inspector for the area.

Due to the fact that the school does not come under the provisions of the Public Schools Act it does not receive financial assistance from Provincial or Municipal authorities. A large part of the money needed to finance the school comes from fees paid by the boys. There is a small endowment which provides a few scholarships. The remainder of the money required to operate the school is provided by the Order and constitutes a goodly share.

A few of the highlights of the progress of the school may be given. The school began in 1905 with an enrollment of fifteen boys. For several years it remained at about the same strength. In 1911 the former Technical School burned down and new arrangements for accommodation had to be made. For two years the students were housed at St. Mary's in Winnipeg near the Cathedral and they came daily to St. Boniface College for their schooling. Then in 1913 the Order was able to secure the building which had been vacated by the Sisters of the Holy Names upon their moving to their present quarters in St. Joseph's. Since occupying this new home there has been a fairly satisfying growth until in 1958 there are ninety boys all told in attendance with a staff consisting of eight Fathers and three Brothers. In 1955 the school celebrated its fiftieth anniversary with appropriate ceremonies and thanksgivings. Two years later a departure was made from the practice established over the years when a few day students were admitted to the classes which had hitherto been restricted to boarders.

Langevin School⁵

Among the various activities engaged in by the Grey Nuns in St. Boniface was that of carrying on a school for small boys. These boys came mostly from the rural areas where, because of living at distances remote from a school, or for other reasons, they were not able to secure an education while living at home. This school was closed in 1907.

⁵ Sister Marie des Oliviers, M.O., Superior (Interview.)

Meanwhile, during the years in which there was a bi-lingual Normal School in St. Boniface, a small building was erected in which young ladies who were in attendance at the Normal School were lodged. It was from this little house that the influence came that resulted in the foundation of a new order of Nuns, The Missionary Oblate Sisters of St. Boniface.

The Order was incorporated in 1909 and in the same year, with the advice and consent of His Grace, Archbishop Lengevin, a school for boys was opened to take the place of the school which the Grey Nuns had formerly operated. Archbishop Lengevin had been anxious that these little fellows from all parts of Manitoba and even from Saskatchewan, who might otherwise have lacked for an education, should be provided for. Thus the school had its beginning with twenty three boys and a small staff in the little building at 621 Aulneau St.,

By 1916 some re-organization of the school became necessary. There were at that time over sixty boarders and the programme was expanded to take in day students. In addition, a kindergarten had been opened for small boys who would be ready to enter school the following year. The kindergarten catered to day pupils only since it was felt that boys of that age were too small to take away from their homes as boarders.

Further changes were made in 1923. The former Normal School had been standing unoccupied for several years.

It suited the purposes of the Sisters admirably so they bought it in order to secure the extra accommodations which by that time they so badly needed. The school was then moved around the corner into new quarters at 210 Masson St.

The school continued to grow. In 1927 the Sisters undertook a building programme by which an addition was made to provide added dormitory space for the boys. There was also a larger dining room and, in the basement, gymnasium and play space was provided. The composition of the school gradually changed so that to-day there are more day students than there are boarders. The Nuns provide extra services for the day boys if they require it since many of them come from a distance. One such service is the provision of a hot meal at noon if it is desired. Another provision is that the boys may remain at the school for the study hour which is at five o'clock. At the time of writing there is an enrollment of 230 and a staff of seven regular teachers, all Sisters. Another Nun acts as Music teacher.

In general, any boy for whom application is made may be admitted to the school. Few if any of these are orphans. There is, however, some selection made by the Sisters, Boys who show evidence of becoming discipline problems are not kept as the school is not in any sense a corrective institution. Usually by the time a boy is twelve years old he has gone as far as he may in this school and it is very rarely that a boy who is over this age is admitted.

Because of lack of outside support the school must finance itself. All students are required to pay for the

tuition which they receive. Due to these circumstances it requires very careful and economic management on the part of the Sisters to keep the school financially solvent, but they have managed to make their way.

The work undertaken is confined to the first six years of ordinary schooling. The programme of studies is bi-lingual since the school is not subject to regulation by the Department of Education. The Department does, however, insist that certain standards must be attained and for this reason the school is visited regularly by its Inspector. In addition to the usual studies there is a class of over twenty boys who receive regular instruction in piano playing and another which is taught singing.

Separate from the boys' school but operated by the same Order is a Home Training School for Girls. This other school grew out of a Catholic Action Movement which was organized by Archbishop Beliveau. In 1939 the Movement took the form of a school in which young women are trained with the idea of giving them an enlightened and practical love for their future calling as wives and mothers and as Christian educators of their children. The course includes training in the culinary and domestic arts, home management, family pedagogy, and religious training and teaching.

L'Ecole du Precieux Sang⁶

At the time that the city of St. Boniface was partitioned into two school districts the number of French speaking residents of Norwood was relatively small. As the years

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The Rev. A. Lemoine, P.P., Rector of Precious Blood Parish,
(Interview.)

passed, more and more French families established homes in the area which lay to the south of the dividing line until by 1945 there were well over two hundred such families, almost all of them being of the Roman Catholic faith. These people were in a unique situation. They desired education for their children which differed in emphasis from that offered in the Public Schools of Norwood and yet the existing Parish school at Holy Cross did not meet their needs either since its culture was English and they were French.

To meet the desires of the French speaking Roman Catholics the new parish of Precious Blood was created, the first Mass being performed for the Christmas season in 1945. Then, since Church and school so often go hand in hand, a school was shortly opened to serve the children of the parishioners. Since they lacked a separate building, folding partitions were placed in the church, which thus served double duty. Two Sisters of Les Chanoinesses de Cinq Plaies and one lay teacher received the first group of scholars which numbered seventy.

It was not long before the school was afflicted with growing pains. In 1947 an addition had to be made to the Church. In this way, four additional classrooms became available for the reception of students. This additional space accommodated the school for a short time even though quarters were at times badly overcrowded. In 1951 the demands of the school were such that it was found necessary for the Church to yield place. A new Church was built across the street from the old one.

In 1952 an arrangement was made with the Norwood School Board by which the district took over control and operation of the Precious Blood School. This arrangement lasted only until June 1953 at which time the school reverted to its former independent status. From that time until the present the administration of the school has been by a Board of Trustees which is elected by the Parishioners.

The school continued to grow. Makeshift quarters were found in various nearby buildings, even within the cloisters of the neighbouring convent of the Sisters of the Precious Blood. To alleviate the situation Goulet Council of the Knights of Columbus undertook and carried out the construction of a fine twelve room school. Architects were Zunic and Sobkowich, construction by Louis Ducharme. Contract price of the building was \$133,000. The new school was first occupied by teachers and pupils in September 1956 and for a short time there was room enough.

The curriculum offered by Precious Blood School is the regular course of studies prescribed by the Department of Education. In addition a complete French course is offered in all grades from I to XI as approved by L'Association de Canadiens Français de Manitoba. Regular Inspectors of the Department of Education include this school in their rounds and reports go to the Department concerning the standing of the school and the quality of the work being accomplished. During the school year 1956-7 Grade XI was offered by the school but due to the competition of the other classes for space this work had to be discontinued the following year.

Students wishing to proceed farther after leaving Precious Blood now go either to Holy Cross or to Nelson McIntyre Collegiate. An exception to this practice is found in the teaching of Grade XI French to students of the near by Holy Cross school. This work is carried on as an extra duty.

The matter of financing the school has always been a problem since there is no support from public funds either from the Province or from the City. Parents of the children pay a small fee if they are able to do so although no child is turned away for lack of the fee. There is also some interchange of pupils with the neighbouring parishes which must then share in the cost of teaching the children. The parish as a whole provides the balance of the funds required to maintain the school.

From the small beginning of three teachers and seventy pupils the school has grown and expanded. The present instructional staff consists of eight teaching sisters together with seven lay teachers and a secretary. There are five hundred and ten students enrolled with prospects of more to come.

Holy Cross School⁷

In February 1919 a group of English speaking Catholics secured permission from the St. Boniface School Board to hold Sunday services in the Taché School. As soon as the number of supporters of this group became large enough a church was built at the corner of Dubuc and Traverse. This church was ready for occupation in 1921.

⁷ Rev. Chas. Empson, P.P., Rector Holy Cross Parish (Interview.)

The division of the city into two school districts presented a problem to the Holy Cross congregation. The Public School system did not operate according to the philosophy of education in which the parishioners believed. Though at first there were not many of them their numbers steadily increased and Catholic education for their children became a matter of much concern. As a solution to the problem it was agreed to establish a school where a definite religious atmosphere would be provided. Under the direction of the Church Committee the Parish Hall was partitioned into two classrooms and the school was started in these with two lay teachers in charge.

The curriculum offered by the school is the regular course of studies prescribed by the Department of Education. In the first year of operation work was confined to the first four Grades. From 1929 until 1944 all work up to the end of Grade VIII was undertaken. In the latter year Grade IX was included in the course. During the next two years the courses were further extended to take in all work up to Grade XII. By arrangement with Precious Blood School the Holy Cross students are taught Grade XI French before the regular school hours in the morning. Department of Education Inspectors visit the school regularly.

Due to the nature of its organization Holy Cross does not receive financial support either from municipal taxation or from Government grants. Parents of the children who attend the school are not obligated to pay fees but they

do join with other parishioners in making voluntary contributions and it is from this support that the school is operated.

On different occasions an attempt has been made to have the Norwood School District assume the responsibility for the support of Holy Cross School. In April 1922 a delegation composed of Mayor Campbell, W.J. McKeand, Chairman of the Norwood School Board, and Father Brodeur, interviewed the Department of Education to see if there were any means whereby the district might assume the responsibility for Holy Cross. The response from the Department was discouraging. Since the depression was in full course at the time the parishioners were very disappointed. In 1945 an arrangement was made with Norwood by which eight boys from the school were admitted to the Industrial Arts classes at the Collegiate for half a day a week. The next effort to have Norwood take over the school was in 1949 when a definite arrangement was proposed to the district by a committee from the Parochial Schools. Once again the attempt did not succeed. The third time the matter was introduced there was better success. The two Parochial Schools were administered by the Norwood District for the better part of the year 1952-3. However complications arose and the experiment was brought to an end.

The present school was built in several stages. In 1928 the first part containing five rooms was erected at 300 Dubuc Street. Since only four rooms were needed at the time it was possible to restore the Parish Hall to its intended

use. In the spring of 1936 the fifth room was brought into use, then accommodation thus provided serving the school until 1942. In the latter year the Parish Hall, which had served as the cradle of the school, was once more brought into use to provide space for an additional class. Four years later, in 1946, the last available reserve space was taken for the use of High School grades. The number of pupils was still increasing but it was evident that no more could be accommodated under the conditions which then existed. Three rooms were added in 1947 and, in 1953, the latest addition consisting of five rooms and an auditorium brought the building to its present state.

When first opened the school had an enrollment of about seventy pupils under two lay teachers. The following year the Sisters of the Holy Names agreed to staff the new school. For the first year the Sisters lodged at St. Joseph's Academy in St. Boniface, then for thirteen years they resided at St. Mary's Academy in Winnipeg from where they travelled daily across the river to school. At the time of writing the total registration of the school is five hundred and twenty six students. The staff which again includes two teachers at the Parish Hall is made up of nine Sisters and Five lay teachers.

St. Thomas More School

This school was established in 1955 when the growth of the Parish of Holy Cross led to its division and the formation of a new parish. The new parish established its own

school. When first opened the building had two rooms. The Sisters of the Holy Names undertook the task of instruction of the pupils of the new school who numbered about seventy. The following year two rooms were added to the building of which three are presently in use. At the time of writing the enrollment is seventy five. Two sisters and one lay teacher are in charge.

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Mgr. Charles Désocrcy, Chancelier, Archevêché de St-Boniface.

Rev. Chas. Empson, P.P., Rector of Holy Cross Parish

Le R.P. Laurent Godbout, O.M.I., B.A., M.Ed., Juniorate des Oblats.

Rev. A. Lemoine, P.P., Rector of Precious Blood Parish.

APPENDIX I

EXCEPT OF TITLE OF LAND GRANT TO FATHER PROVENCHER

"..... and also that certain other piece or parcel of land, situate lying and being on the right bank of Red River aforesaid and nearly opposite to the mouth of Assiniboine River, bounded on the westward by the said river and extending in front along the same for the space of three hundred and thirty yards or fifteen English Statute chains northward from the boundary of a lot of land assigned to Frederick Damien Huerter, bounded on the southward and northward by lines running at right angles to the shore of the said river and extending for the space of fifteen statute chains and bounded on the eastward by a line parallel to the course of the river....."

(The original of this document is apparently in the Archiepiscopal Archives in Quebec City.)

APPENDIX II

St. Boniface School Trustees

1883

Hon. Joseph Royal, Chairman	Francois Carriere
Roger Marion	A.F. DeGagne
Edmond Marcoux	Georges Couture
Lazare Ferland	Thomas Cassin

1884

Hon. Joseph Royal, Chairman	Francois Carriere
Roger Marion	A.F. DeGagne
Edmond Marcoux	Georges Couture
Lazare Ferland	Thomas Cassin

1885

Hon. Joseph Royal, Chairman	Edmond Marcoux
Roger Marion	Lazare Ferland

1886

Hon. Joseph Royal, Chairman	Edmond Marcoux
Roger Marion	Lazare Ferland

1887

Hon. Joseph Royal, Chairman	Edmond Marcoux
Roger Marion	Lazare Ferland

1888

Roger Marion, Chairman	Edmond Marcoux
Dr. J.H.O. Lambert	Lazare Ferlane

1889

Dr. J.H.O. Lambert, Chairman	Edmond Marcoux
Roger Marion	Lazare Ferland

1890

Dr. J.H.O. Lambert, Chairman	Edmond Marcoux
Roger Marion	Horace Despars

1891

Dr. J.H.O. Lambert, Chairman	Horace Despars
Edmond Trudel	Cleophas Marcoux

1892

Dr. J.H.O. Lambert, Chairman	Horace Despars
Edmond Trudel	Cleophas Marcoux

1893

In this year there was no legally elected Board. The members and officers of 1892 continued to transact business.

1894

Dr. J.H.O. Lambert, Chairman	Horsmidas Beliveau
Roger Marion	L. Napoleon Betournay
P. Fabian Soucy	Sutherland Gaudaur
Cleophas Marcoux	Edmond Trudel

1895

Horsmidas Beliveau, Chairman
Cleophas Marcoux
J.P.O. Allaire
P. Fabian Soucy

Dr. J.H.O. Lambert
L. Napoleon Betournay
Sutherland Gaudaur
Edmond Trudel

1896

Horsmidas Beliveau, Chairman
Cleophas Marcoux
J.E. D'Amour
Edmond Trudel

Jas. A.P. Prendergast
P. Fabian Soucy
L. Napoleon Betournay
L.J.A. Leveque

1897

Horsmidas Beliveau, Chairman
Jas. A.P. Prendergast
J.E. D'Amour
L.J.A. Leveque

Cleophas Marcoux
L. Napoleon Betournay
Francois Jean
Edmont Trudel

1898

Horsmidas Beliveau, Chairman
J.P. Allaire
J.D'Amour
Edmont Trudel

Cleophas Marcoux
Joseph Senez
Francois Jean
Edmond Collin

1899

Horsmidas Beliveau, Chairman
J.P.O. Allaire
J. D'Amour
L.J. Collin

Cleophas Marcoux
Joseph Senez
Francois Jean
Gideon Cinq-Mars

1900

Francois Jean, Chairman
Joseph Senez
Cleophas Marcoux
Gideon Cinq-Mars

C.H. Royal
J.P.O. Allaire
J.A. Senecal
L.J. Collin

1901

J.A. Senecal, Chairman
J.P.O. Allaire
C.H. Royal
L.J. Collin

Cleophas Marcoux
Joseph Senez
Francois Jean
J.B. Le Clerc

1902

J.A. Senecal, Chairman
Cleophas Marcoux
Francois Jean
J.B. Le Clerc

J. E. D'Amour
J.N. Senez
C.H. Royal
L.J. Collin

1903

C.H. Royal, Chairman
Cleophas Marcoux
Francois Jean
J.B. Le Clerc

J.E. D'Amour
J.N. Senez
J.A. Senecal
L.J. Collin

1904

C.H. Royal, Chairman
J.E. D'Amour
Cleophas Marcoux
Gideon Cinq-Mars

Francois Jean
J.N. Senez
J.A. Senecal
J.B. Donnelly

1905

Cleophas Marcoux, Chairman
J.N. Senez
Jos. T. Dumouchel
J.B. Donnelly

J.A. Senecal
J.E. D'Amour
---- Bleau
T.J. Unkauff

1906

Cleophas Marcoux, Chairman
Joseph Senez
Jos. T. Dumouchel
John Donnelly

J.A. Senecal
J.E. D'Amour
J. A. Marion
Thos. J. Unkauff

1907

Cleophas Marcoux, Chairman
Joseph Senez
Gideon Cinq-Mars
W.H. Edgar

J. A. Senecal
J.E. D'Amour
F.D. Pambrun
T.J. Unkauff

1908

Cleophas Marcoux, Chairman
Joseph Senez
Gideon Cinq-Mars
W.H. Edgar

J.A. Senecal
J.A. Marion
F.D. Pambrun
T.J. Unkauff

1909

Cleophas Marcoux, Chairman
J.A. Marion
T.D. Pambrun
E.V. Battley

Paul Gagnon
Prosper Gevaert
Dr. G.A. Dubuc
W.H. Edgar

1910

Cleophas Marcoux, Chairman
J.A. Marion
Dr. G.A. Dubuc
W.H. Edgar
Thomas Knudsen

Paul Gagnon
Prosper Gevaert
F.D. Pambrun
F.R. Blaney
John Donnelly

1911

Cleophas Marcoux, Chairman
J.A. Marion
F.D. Pabrun
W.H. Edgar
John Donnelly

Paul Gagnon
S.J. Dussault
G.A. Dubuc
F.R. Blaney
C.W. Carson

1912

Cleophas Marcoux, Chairman
J.A. Marion
Dr. G.A. Dubuc
W.H. Edgar
John Donnelly

Paul Gagnon
S.J. Dussault
Arthur Jaques
F.R. Blaney
C.W. Carson

1913

Cleophas Marcoux, Chairman	Paul Gagnon
J.A. Marion	S.J. Dussault
Dr. G.A. Dubuc	Arthur Jaques
W.H. Edgar	F.R. Blaney
John Donnelly	C.D. Carson

1914

Cleophas Marcoux, Chairman	Paul Gagnon
J.A. Marion	S.J. Dussault
Dr. G.A. Dubuc	E.A. Poulsin
W.H. Edgar	W.A. Leslie
C.D. Carson	W.J. McDonald

Cleophas Marcoux, Chairman (2)	Paul Gagnon
J.A. Marion, Chairman (10)	S.J. Dussault
Adrien Potvin	A.C. LaRiviere
W.A. Leslie	W.J. Wilson
W.J. McDonald	C.D. Carson

(S.M. Jean elected to replace Cleophas Marcoux who dies in March.)

1916

J.A. Marion, Chairman	S.J. Dussault
J.B. LeClerc	S.M. Jean
A.C. LaRiviere	Adrien Potvin
W.A. Leslie	W.J. Wilson
J.M. Bannerman	C.D. Carson

1917

J.A. Marion, Chairman	S.J. Dussault
J.C. Turenne	J.B. LeClerc
N.A. Laurendeau	Adrien Potvin
James Magee	W.A. Leslie
C.D. Carson	J.M. Bannerman

1918

J.A. Marion, Chairman	S.J. Dussault
L. Langlamen	J.A. Chabot
Adrien Potvin	Dr. N.A. Laurendeau
W.A. Leslie	James Magee
J.M. Bannerman	C.D. Carson

1919

J.A. Marion, Chairman	S.J. Dussault
L. Langlamet	J.A. Chabot
Adrien Potvin	Dr. N.A. Laurendeau
W.A. Leslie	James Magee
J.M. Bannerman	V.E. Hunt

1920

J.A. Marion, Chairman	S.J. Dussault
L. Langlamet	J.A. Chabot
G.R. Brunet	Dr. N.A. Laurendeau
George Loos	James Magee
Allan B. Bell	V.E. Hunt

1921

J.A. Marion, Chairman
L. Langlamet
G.R. Brunet
George Loos
Allan B. Bell

Noel Bernier
J.A. Chabot
Dr. N.A. Laurendeau
C.T. Fisher
V.E. Hunt

1922

J.A. Marion, Chairman
J.C. Turenne
G.R. Brunet
George Loos
Frank Eastwood

Noel Bernier
J.A. Chabot
Dr. N.A. Laurendeau
C.T. Fisher
V.E. Hunt

1923

J.A. Marion, Chairman
J.C. Turenne
G.R. Brunet
George Loos
Frank Eastwood

Amable Toupin
A.J. Doucet
J.C. Fournier
C.T. Fisher
L.H. Maycock

1924

J.A. Marion, Chairman
S.J. Dussault
J.A. Prenovault
Alma G. McArthur
Hugh Martin

Amable Toupin
A.J. Doucet
F.X. Lavoie
C.T. Fisher
L.H. Maycock

1925

J.A. Marion, Chairman
A.J. Doucet
F.X. Lavoie

S.J. Dussault
J.A. Prenovault

1926

J.A. Marion, Chairman
A.J. Doucet
F.X. Lavoie

S.J. Dussault
J.A. Prenovault

1927

J.A. Marion, Chairman
Paul Emile Berube
Henri D'Eschambault

S.J. Dussault
J.A. Prenovault

1928

J.A. Marion, Chairman
Paul E. Berube
Charles Gaudette

S.J. Dussault
J.A. Prenovault

1929

J.A. Marion, Chairman
J. Armand Pambrun
Charles Gaudette

S.J. Dussault
J. A. Prenovault

1930

J. A. Marion, Chairman
J. Armand Pambrun
Charles Gaudette

S.J. Dussault
J.A. Prenovault

1931

J.A. Marion, Chairman
J. Armand Pambrun
Charles Gaudette

S.J. Dussault
J.A. Prenovault

1932

J.A. Marion, Chairman
J. Armand Pambrun
Charles Gaudette

S.J. Dussault
J.A. Prenovault

1933

J.A. Marion, Chairman
J. Armand Pambrun
Charles Gaudette

S.J. Dussault
J.A. Prenovault

1934

J.A. Marion, Chairman
J. Armand Pambrun
Charles Gaudette

S.J. Dussault
J.A. Prenovault

1935

J.A. Marion, Chairman
J. Armand Pambrun
Henri Lacerte

S.J. Dussault
J.A. Prenovault

1936

J.A. Marion, Chairman
J. Armand Pambrun
Henri Lacerte

S.J. Dussault
J.A. Prenovault

1937

J.A. Marion, Chairman
J. Armand Pambrun
Henri Lacerte

James Mondor
Joseph Wynant

1938

J.A. Marion, Chairman
J. Armand Pambrun
Alexandre Bernier

James Mondor
Joseph Wynant

1939

J.A. Marion, Chairman
Pierre Raimbault
Alexandre Bernier

James Mondor
Joseph Wynant

1940

J.A. Marion, Chairman
Pierre Raimbault
Alexandre Bernier

James Mondor
Joseph Wynant

1941

J.

1941

J.A. Marion, Chairman
Pierre Raimbault
Alexandre Bernier

Omer Pelletier
Joseph Wynant

1942

J.A. Marion, Chairman
Pierre Raimbault
Alexandre Bernier

Omer Pelletier
Joseph Wynant

1943

J.A. Marion, Chairman
Pierre Raimbault
Ulric Lambert

Omer Pelletier
Joseph Wynant

1944

J.A. Marion, Chairman
Pierre Raimbault
Ulric Lambert

Omer Pelletier
Joseph Wynant

1945

J.A. Marion, Chairman
Pierre Raimbault
Ulric Lambert

Omer Pelletier
Camille de Buck

1946

J.A. Marion, Chairman
Pierre Raimbault
Edouard Lambert

Omer Pelletier
Camille de Buck

1947

J.A. Marion, Chairman
Pierre Raimbault
Edouard Lambert

Omer Pelletier
Camille de Buck

1948

J.A. Marion, Chairman
Pierre Raimbault
Edouard Lambert

Omer Pelletier
Camille de Buck

1949

J.A. Marion, Chairman
Pierre Raimbault
Edouard Lambert

Omer Pelletier
Camille de Buck

1950

J.A. Marion, Chairman
Pierre Raimbault
Edouard Lambert

Omer Pelletier
Camille de Buck

1951

J.A. Marion, Chairman
Pierre Raimbault
Edouard Lambert

Omer Pelletier
Camille de Buck

1952

J.A. Marion, Chairman
Pierre Raimbault
Edouard Lambert

Omer Pelletier
R.T. Bockstael

1953

J.A. Marion, Chairman
Pierre Raimbault
Edouard Lambert

Omer Pelletier
R.T. Bockstael

1954

J.A. Marion, Chairman (1)
Pierre Raimbault, Chairman (2)
Edouard Lambert

Omer Pelletier
R.T. Bockstael

(Alfred Monnin and Brunelle Leveille elected in March to replace J.A. Marion, dies, and Omer Pelletier, resigned)

1955

Pierre Raimbault, Chairman
Alfred P. Monnin
Edouard Lambert

Brunelle Leveille
R.T. Bockstael

1956

Alfred P. Monnin, Chairman
Mrs. John Gordon
Edouard Lambert

Brunelle Leveille
R.T. Bockstael

1957

Alfred P. Monnin, Chairman (6)
Mrs. John Gordon
Edouard Lambert

Brunelle Leveille
R.T. Bockstael, Chairman (6)

1958

R.T. Bockstael, Chairman
Mrs. John Gordon
L. Marcoux

Brunelle Leveille
George De Cruyenaere

APPENDIX III

Boards of Trustees of the School District of Norwood No. 2113

1925

Mrs. Alma G. McArthur, Chairman
Mr. Graham P. Morse
Mr. Robert Guthrie
Mr. Alexander K. Horn
Mr. Arthur Mason

1926

Mrs. Alma G. McArthur, Chairman
Mr. Graham P. Morse
Mr. Robert Guthrie
Mr. Alexander K. Horn
Mr. Arthur Mason

1927

Mrs. Alma G. McArthur, Chairman
Mr. Robert Guthrie
Mr. Arthur Mason
Mr. Alexander K. Horn
Mr. John T. McIntyre

1928

Mrs. Alma G. McArthur, Chairman
Mr. Robert Guthrie
Mr. Arthur Mason
Mr. Alexander K. Horn (reigned April 1928)
Mr. John T. McIntyre
Mr. William J. McKeand (elected May 1928)

1930

Mrs. Alma G. McArthur, Chairman
Mr. Robert Guthrie
Mr. William J. McKeand
Mr. William Alexander Reid
Mr. Thomas Henry Wilson

1931

Mrs. Alma G. McArthur (Chairman until Nov.)
Mr. Robert Guthrie, Chairman
Mr. William J. McKeand
Mr. William Alexander Reid
Mr. Reginald H. Walton

1932

Mr. William J. McKeand, Chairman
Mr. William Alexander Reid
Mr. Reginald H. Walton
Mr. Herbert H. Davison
Mr. George Wright

1933

Mr. Herbert H. Davison, Chairman
Mr. William J. McKeand
Mr. George Wright
Mr. Charles James Long
Mr. William Allen

1934

Mr. Charles James Long, Chairman
Mr. William J. McKeand
Mr. William Allen
Mr. Samuel Best
Mr. Edward Richard Moorhouse

1935

Mr. Charles James Long, Chairman
Mr. William J. McKeand
Mr. Samuel Best
Mr. Edward Richard Moorhouse
Mr. Archibald McFarlane

1936

Mr. Charles James Long, Chairman
Mr. William J. McKeand
Mr. Samuel Best
Mr. Edward Richard Moorhouse
Mr. William Charles Leitke

1937

Mr. William J. McKeand, Chairman
Mr. Samuel Best
Mr. Edward Richard Moorhouse
Mr. Carl Edgar Brown
Dr. John Alexander Cormie

1938

Mr. William J. McKeand, Chairman
Mr. Edward Richard Moorhouse
Mr. Carl Edgar Brown
Dr. John Alexander Cormie
Mr. William Charles Leitke

1939

Mr. William J. McKeand, Chairman
Mr. Edward Richard Moorhouse
Mr. Carl Edgar Brown
Dr. John Alexander Cormie
Mr. William Charles Leitke

1940

Mr. William J. McKeand, Chairman
Mr. Carl Edgar Brown
Dr. John Alexander Cormie
Mr. William Charles Leitke
Mr. Harold Edward Jackson

1941

Mr. William J. McKeand, Chairman
Mr. Carl Edgar Brown
Dr. John Alexander Cormie
Mr. William Charles Leitke
Mr. Harold Edward Jackson

1942

Mr. William J. McKeand, Chairman
Mr. Carl Edgar Brown
Dr. John Alexander Cormie
Mr. William Charles Leitke
Mr. Harold Edward Jackson

1943

Mr. William J. McKeand, Chairman
Mr. Carl Edgar Brown
Dr. John Alexander Cormie
Mr. William Charles Leitke
Mr. Harold Edward Jackson

1944

Mr. William J. McKeand, Chairman
Mr. Edgar Carl Brown
Dr. John Alexander Cormie
Mr. William Charles Leitke
Mr. Harold Edward Jackson

1945

Mr. William Charles Leitke, Chairman
Mr. Edgar Carl Brown
Mr. Lawrence Ellis Ostrander
Mr. Gladstone P. Shearer
Mr. Harold Richard Parker

1946

Mr. William Charles Leitke, Chairman
Mr. Lawrence E. Ostrander
Mr. Gladstone P. Shearer
Mr. Harold R. Parker
Mr. William Tomlinson

1947

Mr. William Charles Leitke, Chairman
Mr. Lawrence E. Ostrander
Mr. Gladstone P. Shearer
Mr. Harold R. Parker
Mr. William Tomlinson

1948

Mr. William Charles Leitkie, Chairman
Mr. Lawrence E. Ostrander
Mr. Harold R. Parker
Mr. Robert L. Kergan
Mr. James O. Seath

1949

Mr. William Charles Leitkie, Chairman
Mr. Lawrence E. Ostrander
Mr. Harold R. Parker
Mr. Robert L. Kergan
Mr. Cameron O. Turnbull

1950

Mr. Lawrence E. Ostrander, Chairman
Mr. Harold R. Parker
Mr. Robert L. Kergan
Mr. Cameron O. Turnbull
Mr. Charles Ursel

1951

Mr. Lawrence E. Ostrander, Chairman
Mr. Robert L. Kergan
Mr. William Charles Leitkie
Mr. Nelson McIntyre
Mr. James L. Wilson

1952

Mr. Lawrence E. Ostrander, Chairman
Mr. Nelson K. McIntyre
Mr. James L. Wilson
Mr. John Wilfred McGurran
Mr. George V. Hague

1953

Mr. Nelson K. McIntyre, Chairman
Mr. John W. McGurran
Mr. George V. Hague
Mr. James Keith Dryborough
Mr. Gordon Alexander Hill

1954

Mr. Nelson K. McIntyre, Chairman
Mr. James K. Dryborough
Mr. Gordon A. Hill
Mr. John F. Wilson
Mr. Randolph M. Friesen

1955

Mr. Nelson K. McIntyre, Chairman
Mr. James K. Dryborough
Mr. Gordon A. Hill
Mr. John F. Wilson
Mr. Randolph M. Friesen

1956

Mr. Nelson K. McIntyre, Chairman
Mr. James K. Dryborough
Mr. Gordon A. Hill
Mr. John F. Wilson
Mr. Frank P. Kennedy

1957

Mr. James K. Dryborough, Chairman
Mr. John F. Wilson
Mr. Frank P. Kennedy
Mr. John William Nairn
Mr. Leo Hervo

1958

Mr. James K. Dryborough, Chairman
Mr. Frank P. Kennedy
Mr. John William Nairn
Mr. Leo Hervo
Mr. Randolph Friesen