

ANNUAL REPORT

47

1919  
WALTER MOSHER, ESQ.,  
Chairman of School Board

Sir—It will be five years on Jan. 28th since the burning of Old Greenvale School, and since that time, the fates seem to have conspired against the Dartmouth Schools.

We had just recovered from the inconveniences brought about by the above mentioned disaster, when the explosion destroyed Central, Park and Victoria Schools, leaving us in a worse plight educationally than before the building of Greenvale and Hawthorne.

Scarcely were we again readjusted in these latter buildings with double sessions when the Influenza epidemic closed us down for six weeks. But that was not all. The attendance at the re-opening after the "Flu" was not half the normal, while many pupils in the more advanced grades have left school permanently.

The disastrous effects of the "Explosion" and "Influenza" on our schools are much greater than appears on the surface. Many of the cleverer pupils became discouraged, lost their grip of work and either left school or became quite second rate pupils, which is a calamity for any school, as these brighter scholars serve as guiding stars to the others. Again many of the smaller children from the North End denied a school near home have attended very little, and in several instances none at all. These children are in a very backward state educationally.

With the opening of New Park and Victoria Schools at the beginning of next school year, all these inconveniences will be removed, and we shall have one of the best school plants in the province with an accomodation for

thirty one teachers including Manual Training and Domestic Science.

Though seriously handicapped by the Explosion last year causing the schools to be closed from Dec. 6th to Feb. 10th still 22 pupils out of 30 who wrote for High School Certificates were successful. Six of these made an aggregate over 500, while one led the province.