

proved to be particularly uncomfortable during the summer months. For teachers at the school, better pupil accommodation became a pressing necessity.

Jessie Patison wrote to inform the Education Department that desks promised earlier had still not arrived. Five additional desks were needed: "I applied for the desks previously... Today, forty-seven children, in nine different grades had to be accommodated in twenty dual desks."<sup>16</sup> The desks had still not arrived by 18 December 1925 when Jessie again wrote to the Department. By this date there were 51 children on the roll. She advised that after the vacation there would be additional students enrolling. There was provision for forty children to be accommodated "and in a school of this type the work is considerably retarded owing to the crowding of the grades."<sup>17</sup> The overcrowding problem remained a constant source of frustration for a long period of time. The school's 1929 correspondent, H.J. Evans wrote in March of that year, "There are 55 scholars attending at present; there are three pupils in some seats and the desks are so close that the teacher is unable to get down between them, also the shelter shed is inadequate, as only half the scholars are able to get in."<sup>18</sup>

Similar time-consuming delays were encountered in having the school buildings re-coated with oil. By mid-March 1926, some two and a half years after the school opened, the original coating on the timbers of the school room had worn, leaving the school in a very shabby state. The school committee requested the Department to provide funds for the re-oiling to be carried out.<sup>19</sup> An amount of £42.0.0 to complete the oiling of the school room was recommended on 29 July 1926. The work was completed on 21 March 1927.<sup>20</sup>

Correspondent Evans' letter of 25 March 1929 also indicated that the shelter erected on the western side of the building was now inadequate "as only half the scholars are able to get in." In reply, the Department indicated that it was prepared to pay half the cost of enlarging the pavilion. Also, should a plan of the proposal and an estimate of costs to carry out the work be presented, then a subsidy to complete the work would be favourably considered.

Head Teacher, Mr P.E.Smyth, in supporting the request for increased teaching space, indicated that over a period of five weeks, the average attendance had been 51.9. In making a case for the extension, Mr Smyth stressed that the working conditions for three teachers and 35 students "cannot do justice to their grades or to themselves. The pavilion could also serve the purpose of a luncheon room on wet days."<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> School Building Files, (VPRS: 795, Box 2970), J.E.Patison to the secretary, Education Department: 27 August 1925.

<sup>17</sup> School Building Files, (VPRS: 795, Box 2970), J.E.Patison to the secretary, Education Department: 18 December 1925.

<sup>18</sup> School Building Files, (VPRS: 795, Box 2970), H.J.Evans to the secretary, Education Department: 25 March 1929.

<sup>19</sup> School Building Files, (VPRS: 795, Box 2970), A.J.Guest to the secretary, Education Department: 19 March 1926.

<sup>20</sup> School Building Files, (VPRS:795, Box 2970), Public Works Department report, correspondence number: I/7850, 31 March 1927.

<sup>21</sup> School Building Files, (VPRS: 795, Box 2970) P.E.Smyth to the secretary, Education Department: 11 April 1929.