

School History 1930

World Leaders in 1930

Russia	Stalin	1922-1953
Republic of China	Chiang Kai-shek	1928-1975
Germany	Paul von Hindenburg	1925-1934
Ethiopia	Emperor Haile Selassie	1930-1974
Iraq	King Faisal bin Hussein	1921-1933
Irish Free State	President William Cosgrave	1922-1932
Italy	King Victor Emmanuel III	1900-1946
Japan	Emperor Hirohito	1926-1989
United States	President Herbert Hoover	1929-1933
Papacy	Pope Pius XI	1922-1939
Australia	Rt Hon James Scullin	1929-1932
Iran	Reza Shah, Shah of Iran	1925-1941
United Kingdom	King George V and Queen Mary	1910-1936
United Kingdom	Rt Hon James Ramsay MacDonald PM	1929-1935

Tenders for the Extensions

No sooner had the New Year of 1930 been rung in than the business of gathering information for the planned new buildings at Hemsworth Secondary School began. The Governors were considering the following tenders for "Phase 3":

Builder	J.W. Waller	South Elmsall	£6,041	15s	8d
Joiner	J.W. Waller		£2,342	11s	5d
Asphalter	J.W. Waller		£ 612	7s	0d
Slater	H. Parker	Leeds	£ 421	18s	0d
Plumber	E. Broley & Son	Barnsley	£1,295	0s	0d
Plasterer	H. Markwell	Barnsley	£ 793	2s	8d
Painter	S.W. Nicholson	Mexborough	£ 252	3s	10d

Total £11,754 18s 7d

Rugby Achievers

[The weight of the Rugby Union ball in 1930 was increased from 13.5 ozs to 15 ozs].

Stanley Smith For England

Chosen to represent his country against the Australians in the next Rugby Test match in 1930 was Stanley Smith, of Fitzwilliam. He was then an old boy of the school, where he had been introduced to the handling code. A School Magazine during his schooldays described him as,

"Smith, a very light but fast and plucky three-quarter. A good tackler when he tries. Has a tendency to run into the middle of the field and to tackle too high on occasions."

By 1930, however, Smith's tackles had become deadly, and he was swift of foot. The Australians had a high opinion of Smith's capabilities, and it was felt that he had achieved his rightful place in the England team, and was likely to remain there for some considerable time.

Frank Rothera - Captain

Another old boy of the school, Frank J. Rothera was appointed captain of the Cheltenham College Rugby XV in 1930. This team was the champion college team of England, and Frank Rothera was described at the time as "very fast, and may reach a higher sphere of the sport."

February Governors' Meeting

Several mundane matters were discussed and settled at this meeting, presided over by Mr. J. Potts.

The school holiday recommended during the Speech Day of the previous November was set for February 25th.

A hard tennis court and a sports pavilion were to be provided at an estimated cost of between £90 and £200, and a footpath was to be provided at an approximate cost of £10 from the Games Fund.

A previous application from the Old Students' Association for the use of the school for a dance on April 8th, which was granted on condition that the premises were vacated not later than 1 a.m. was now followed by another request for a 2 a.m. deadline. This application was not granted, but left open for further discussion. At a later meeting the 1 a.m. deadline was judged to be adequate, much to the disappointment of the old students.

The Governors recommended that the sum of £80 be included in the year's financial estimates to help with renewal of the fencing and re-pointing of the boundary walls each year, until such time as everything was in a good state of repair. Three tenders were subsequently received, and the lowest, that of Mr. C.H. Banks of South Hiendley, at £29 / 7s / 8d, was accepted the following April. This work may have been completed in the following weeks; however, in July later that year, the Governors were accepting a further tender (the cheapest of three) of £109 / 17s / 6d from William Gatrix and Sons of Walkden, Manchester for more boundary wall and fencing repairs.

Mr. J.W. Waller having withdrawn his tenders, the Board of Education had approved the County Authority's proposal for the provision of the additional accommodation for metal work. The tenders were now:

Builder and Joiner	Mr. E. Brown	Wath	£8,800
Asphalter	Messrs. Robson & son		£624 / 10s / 6d

Assembly Hall Lectures

In the Spring of 1930 three lectures were delivered at the school, but there is no indication in the local reports as to whether the general public were openly invited, as in previous years, or whether the pupils and staff of the school formed the majority of the attendees.

The Palestine of Today

On Thursday evening, March 5th, 1930, the Rev. A. Howe gave an interesting lecture in the Assembly Hall entitled 'The Palestine of Today'. Mr. A.G. Jenkinson (Headmaster) presided, and Mr. J.W. Burroughs (Engineering master), who had served in Palestine, moved the vote of thanks. This lecture was given the day after Mohandas Gandhi had informed the British Viceroy of India that civil disobedience there was about to begin. There followed his campaign of passive resistance to British rule, leading to his arrest at the beginning of May.

Norway

There was a good attendance the following Wednesday evening of the 11th March, when Mr. J. A. Storer gave a lantern lecture on 'Norway' in the Assembly Hall which was illustrated with numerous photographs taken by himself, and raised many interesting points about that country. Afterwards he was thanked on the motion of Miss W. Austin, a senior prefect.

Alpine Climbing and Winter Sports

On Wednesday evening April 2nd 1930 Mr. Guy Fothergill gave an interesting talk on the subject at the school, illustrating his remarks with lantern slides created from his own photographs. The Headmaster proposed the vote of thanks.

Teachers' Salaries

The Burnham Committee was a National body which considered the salaries and conditions of employment of teachers in Secondary schools from 1921 until its abolition by the Conservative Government in 1987. Lord Burnham was chairman of the Standing Joint Committee which formulated the scales of pay in all state schools, and which acted as arbitrator in any industrial disputes. In the Spring of 1930 the Headmaster reported to the Governors that all the members of the assistant staff "were eligible for any increments of salary that might be normally due under the Burnham scale." It is difficult to see why these members of staff were not already automatically receiving their due rates of pay, instead of the Headmaster's having to campaign for the increments. The new rates of pay had only recently been announced, and perhaps Mr. Jenkinson was just making sure they were initiated as soon as possible!

General Knowledge

"The results show quite a high standard of intelligence" stated the local newspaper in its report of the annual examination which took place at the school during March. The first ten pupils were:

1. Josephine Read (103)
2. Elizabeth Austin (100)
3. Basil A. Gibbon (95)
4. Fred Williamson and Leslie R. Smith (equal) (97)
6. Lawrence Frazer (92)
7. Richards J. (89)
8. E. John Barker (87)
9. Phyllis Howe (84)
10. Grayson G. (82)

Prizes were awarded to Josephine Read, Gibbon Minor (Form 4A with 79 marks), and Eric S. Whittle (2A, 24th with 62 marks)

Turn That Light Off!

The electricity bill for the quarter ending December 1930 was judged by the Governors to be excessive in comparison with the corresponding quarter of the previous year. Investigations were taking place at that time to find out what had caused the bill of £50 / 4s / 3d as against £27 / 18s / 0d in 1929. A report to the Governors on this matter was made, and they subsequently ordered that notices be made and displayed in the school drawing the attention of everyone to the need for economy with lighting and other uses of electricity.

Staff Entertainment

During the last week in March the staff gave its third annual entertainment and every seat was occupied on the Wednesday and Thursday evenings. The programme included three sketches which were all well-received, and give an idea of who was serving on the staff in 1930.

"Personally or by Letter"

Mr. R.T. Shiells	Timothy
Mr. L.T. Hyde	Bill
Miss E. Hodgson	Mrs. Grice
Mr. J.W. Burroughs	Mr. Grice
Miss G. Lockie	Marjorie

"The Bathroom Door" (an excellent farce)
 Mr. T. Manning the Young Man
 Miss I. Quayle the Young Lady
 Mr. J.W. Burroughs the Elderly Gentleman
 Miss D.L. Prince the Elderly Lady
 Miss E.V. Hinckley the Prima Donna
 Mr. J.A. Storer Boots

"Master Wayfarer"
 Miss P.E.M. Wright Phoebe
 Mr. J.A. Storer Master Beamish
 Mr. A.G. Jenkinson the Wayfarer
 Mr. L.N. Collette Master Smeaton

In this latter piece, Mr. Jenkinson gave a good performance, singing songs "in a pleasing manner". Miss Phyllis Wright sang "The Flower" (Schubert arr. Clutsam) and "Hush-a-bye, Lullaby" and Mr. L.T. Hyde gave an interesting conjuring display. The music included "Melody", "Reapers' Song" and "Soldiers' March" by Schumann, arr. Fletcher, and the incidental music to "A Midsummer Night's Dream" (Mendelssohn).

Far away in Turkey, on March 28th 1930 the Nationalists there changed the Greek name of Constantinople to Istanbul, and on the last day in March John Logie Baird installed a Television receiver in 10 Downing Street. The Prime Minister, Ramsey MacDonald, wrote to Baird the following week, saying, "When I look at the transmissions I feel that the most wonderful miracle is being done under my eye....."

Pontefract Musical Festival

On the same evening of April 2nd when Mr. Guy Fothergill was delivering his talk at the school on "Alpine Climbing" the drama class of the senior pupils were competing in Pontefract with their rendering of "Twelfth Night" Act 1 Scene 5. In awarding Hemsworth Secondary School first place, the judge remarked that the pupils had good pace and good phrasing.

In the choral class for Secondary Schools, Hemsworth secured third place with 174 marks. Ackworth Friends' School came first with 181 marks; Wakefield Girls' High School second with 177, and Wakefield Thorne's House fifth with 147. Commenting on Hemsworth's choir, the judge found its tone to be pure, but the top notes were not quite secure. The second test piece was a bright performance - one of the best he had ever heard.

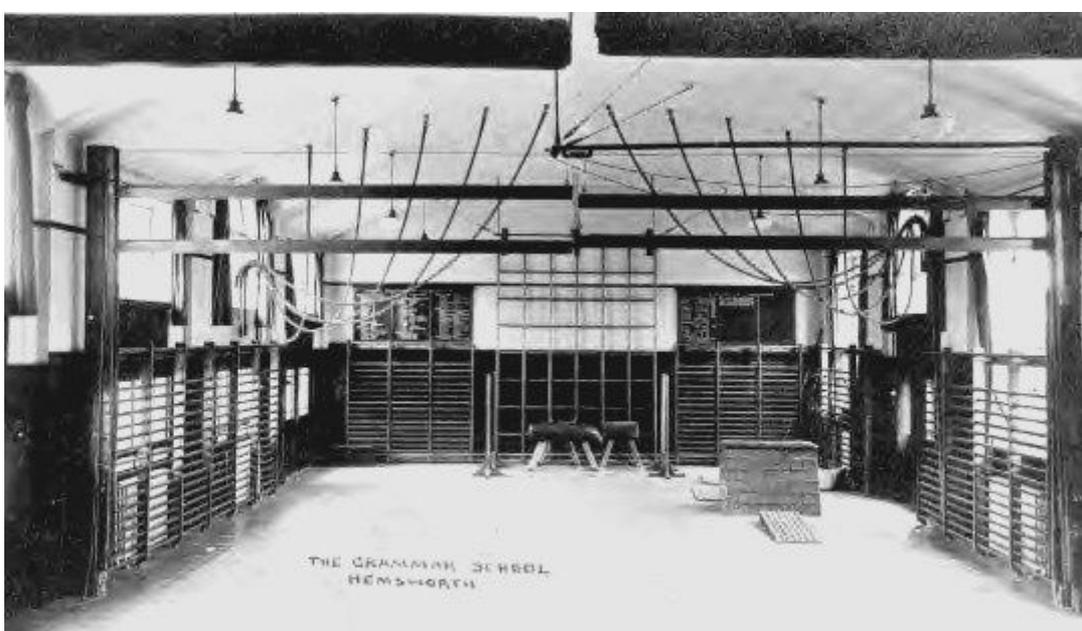


Photo provided by Grace Mills

- Back Row L-R:** 1, Grace Mills, Barbara ?, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
- Third Row L-R:** 1, 2, 3, Lorna Jagger, Estelle Rhodes, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
- Second Row L-R:** 1, 2, 3, 4, Doris Hall, Mrs. Wilks (nee Miss Morgan Jones), 7, 8, Grace White, 10, 11
- Front Row L-R:** 1, 2, 3

Gymnastic Display

The whole school was involved in the display of gymnastics at the school on Monday April 7th 1930. According to the local press, "A display was given by the girls and boys of the junior forms, and was followed by a similar display by the seniors." Doubtless the 'new' Gymnasium equipment of wall bars, ropes, benches and vaulting horse would have been used, which leaves later generations wondering where did the audience sit?



The Governors' AGM

Easter Sunday was on April 20th in 1930, and during the Easter holidays, the Governors met for their usual annual re-elections and new appointments. A cordial welcome was extended to Mr. S. Davis of South Kirkby as one of the newly-appointed representatives of the Hemsworth Rural Council on the Board. The Headmaster, Mr. A.G. Jenkinson, and another member of the Board, Mr. T. Hepworth, were unable to attend, and sent their apologies. Ald. Gabriel Price J.P. (chairman) presided and was re-elected for the following year.

School Extensions

Work had started, said the County Architect, and during the building operations, two forms would be displaced, in addition to the dining room, kitchen, boys' cloakroom and storage room. He recommended that in order to avoid too much disruption, a wooden hut, costing about £120 should be provided as temporary accommodation.

"Mr. Garstang: How long do you expect to have to use it?"

The Chairman: Probably twelve months."

The proposal was adopted.

A New Sports Pavilion

The County Architect's plans for a new hard tennis court costing no more than £265, and a new sports pavilion at an estimated cost of £120 were approved by the Governors, and a few weeks later came Central Local Authority approval for these. The school would then have to seek the approval of the Board of Education. These were the slow and lengthy processes to be undergone before any improvements could be made.

Tennis as a sport was enjoying great popularity at this time, and in June of this year, the Wimbledon Tennis Tournament was inaugurated.

Another project in the pipeline was the provision of a concrete cricket pitch at the lower end of the football field.

Dinner Fund Accounts

For the year ended March 31st 1930, Total receipts £1,260 / 14s / 8d. After meeting expenditure, the profit was £39 / 19s. / 3d. There was a balance in hand of £74 / 17s / 1d. Mr. J. Potts commented that with such a balance in hand, they could hardly think of reducing the price of meals for the pupils. The Clerk replied, "If you did, it would probably mean there would be no profit at the end of next year". Mrs. Garstang asked how the labour costs were met, and the Clerk replied that wages came out of the school maintenance account. The balance sheet was accepted.

Teacher's Salaries

The total sum of £540 / 14s was paid for teachers' salaries in the month of April 1930. Replying to a question from Mr. Isaac Burns, the chairman said there were presently 21 on the teaching staff at the school, with two caretakers and two gardeners.

Resignations

When the resignations of two female members of staff were tendered to the Governors in the Spring of 1930, that of Miss E.V. Hinkley was accepted, but the question of the acceptance of that of Miss G. Lockie was deferred pending the receipt of further information. Miss Lockie stated she was indisposed, and on the suggestion of the Headmaster, if her resignation were to be accepted at a later stage, then the vacancies of Senior English mistress and junior English master should be advertised. The additional need for a French mistress to teach the expected increased numbers of pupils the following September was also mentioned.

A week or so after this meeting, the aviator, Miss Amy Johnson of Kingston upon Hull set off from Croydon on May 5th in a De Havilland Gipsy Moth aircraft, and on May 24th became the first woman to fly from England to Australia, landing in Darwin after flying 11,000 miles.

Summer Cricket

Doncaster Grammar School was put in at Hemsworth Secondary School's ground on the Saturday of June 21st 1930, and their total was passed with only 5 wickets down. Fred Williamson took 6 Doncaster wickets for 24 runs, and Smith took 3 for 18. Williamson capped his bowling feat with a fine innings of 70, carrying his bat through the Hemsworth innings, and hitting a 6 and 12 fours.

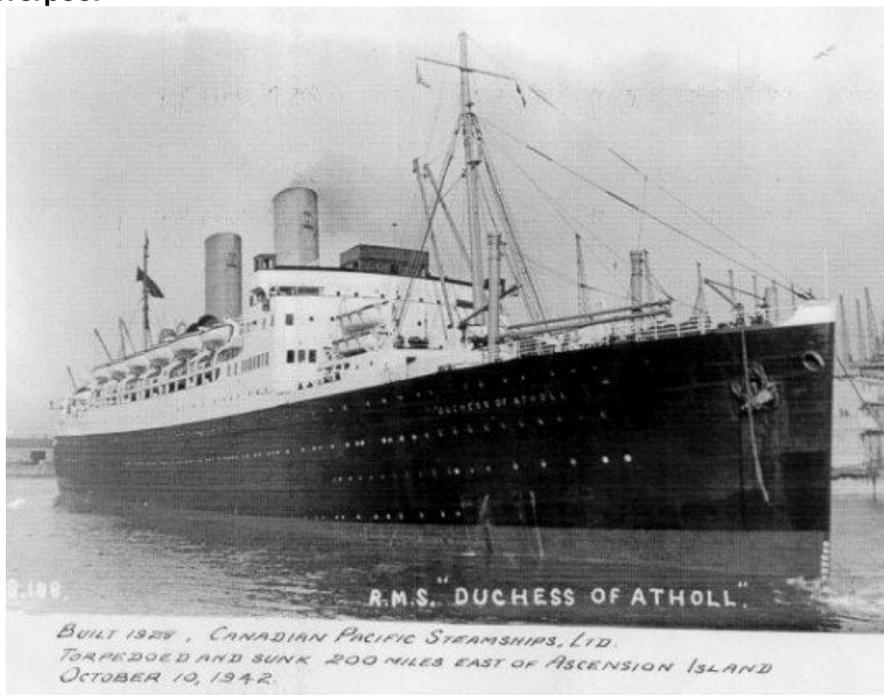
The Hemsworth junior eleven were beaten at Doncaster by 32 runs. The Hemsworth captain won the toss and put the Doncaster side in, and their total was only 10 runs more than their first team score when playing at Hemsworth. However, the Hemsworth batsmen failed to take advantage of this, and so lost the match.

It was during the England v Australia Test series of 1930 that Donald Bradman astounded cricket crowds with an aggregate score of 974 runs, and in a Leeds Test match he hit 334 runs.

Concert

The Old Savilians' Orchestra came to the school to perform on the Wednesday evening of 25th June 1930. The students sang the cantata, "The Lady of Shallot", with the principal parts being taken by Estelle Rhodes and Sabina Weaver. However, the Headmaster expressed his disappointment at the poor attendance.

Mr. Jenkinson's Trip to Liverpool



Built: 1928 by William Beardmore & Co., Dalmuir. Tonnage: 20,119g, 11,872n. Engines: Twin Screw, 2 x 3 Stage Parsons Turbines, single reduction geared, 20,000 S.H.P., 17.5 Knots Passengers: 580 Cabins, 480 Tourist, 510 3rd, 510 Crew. Launched 23rd November 1927 by the Duchess of Atholl, Completed July 1928.

On Monday 2nd June 1930 Mr. Jenkinson organised a trip to Liverpool for 190 pupils. The party, which also included Mr. Storer, proceeded to the cathedral, and from there, via the overhead railway, to the Gladstone Dock, where they inspected the Canadian Pacific Railway liner, "Duchess of Atholl". Afterwards they all proceeded to Seaford for dinner. The boys then visited the factory of Bryant and May, the match manufacturer, and were shown round, and the girls toured Edmondson's Toffee Works. Everyone arrived back in Hemsworth at around 9 p.m. having spent a thoroughly enjoyable day. The Liverpool Organisation Ltd. Company arranged all the details of the excursion.

Governor's meeting Friday, June 20th 1930

In the absence of the chairman, Ald. G. Price, it was Coun. J. Potts, the vice-chairman, who presided at this meeting. Also present were Mesdames Dooley, Garstang and Guest, Messrs. Flavell, Madeley, Pawson and Picken, with Mr. A.G. Jenkinson the headmaster, and Mr. C.L. Crossley the Clerk.

Interviews for Staff

Junior English Mistress - Miss A. B. Brown (Newark), Miss N.M. Muir (Kirby Moorside), and Miss B.K. Wilson (Sedberg)
Miss N.M. Muir was appointed.
Senior English Mistress - Miss F.M. Mann (Warrington), Miss H. Todd (Harrogate), and Miss E.A. Wilson (London)
Miss F.M. Mann was appointed.

The Grounds

The attention of the gardener was to be called to the alleged unsatisfactory condition of the school grounds, and the matter would be discussed at the next meeting.

School Holidays

1930

Half-term 2 days, November 3rd and 4th.

Christmas 16 days, December 22nd to January 12th 1931 inclusive.

Half-term 1 day, February 23rd.

Easter 15 days. April 1st to 21st.

Half-term 3 days, May 22nd, 25th and 26th.

Summer 33 days, July 31st to September 15th inclusive. This was the maximum allowance of 70 days.

A second year for John Henry

The County Authority had sent a letter saying that they would not be prepared to approve the payment of more than £90 per annum for secretarial support to the Headmaster, and so the Governors decided that John Henry Heppenstall should continue for a second year at a remuneration of £60 per annum, commencing the following September, and that another youth be employed to assist, at a remuneration of £30 per annum. This would have meant an increase of £21 per annum for Mr. Heppenstall (he was originally engaged for 15 shillings per week), and he was also to receive extra help. (Perhaps if he had known £90 was available in the budget he may not have been quite so pleased!) One month later, Mary Silvester, a pupil at the school, was appointed Headmaster's secretary for a period of 12 months at £30 per annum.

Dance Festival

Crowds of people were attracted to the grounds of the school on the Wednesday evening of July 2nd 1930. Children of the school, together with those of Hemsworth Roman Catholic, Kinsley Council, Brackenhill, Castleford Secondary, Carleton and Featherstone schools gave an exhibition of folk dancing which was organised in lieu of the annual folk dancing competition at Pontefract. The grounds themselves, together with the colourful costumes of the dancers, were most appealing, and Mr. A.G. Jenkinson, the chief promoter of the display, took part in many of the dances. The Sword Dance performed by the Brackenhill Council School was generally thought the best of the evening. The Glasshoughton Coal and Coke Works Band accompanied. This was the only band in the district which made a speciality of folk dance music.

Temporary Accommodation Wanted

The Governors left it to the Headmaster to make enquiries about suitable accommodation in the locality for the pupils during the extension building period at the school. Perhaps it had been realised that a temporary wooden hut would not be sufficient for the number of pupils affected by the building work, although the task handed to Mr. Jenkinson seemed an unfair avoidance of collective responsibility.

Elections

The annual meeting of the Old Students' Association of the school took place on 19th July, with Mr. W. Leo Dooley presiding. John Henry Heppenstall (known as Harry), who was the secretary to the Headmaster, stated that the membership of the Association, and therefore its income, had increased, and that 1930 had been the most successful of any in the way of social efforts. Members had the use of the school hard tennis courts on Wednesday evenings free of charge. Mr. William Kirk the treasurer reported a credit balance of nearly £8.

The result of the election of officials:

President Miss Freda Swaine

Vice-President Mr. William Kirk

Committee Misses Olga Kirkham, Eunice Addis, and Messrs. E. John Barker and Cyril Teale.

Sports secretaries Girls, Miss Alice Scott, Boys, Mr. Harold Teale

Treasurer Miss Millicent Wootton

Secretary Mr. Harry Heppenstall (re-elected)

Amendments to the rules

All members of the school staff, members of the Governing body, school captains and others specially appointed by the Association were to become honorary members. Mr. E. John Barker suggested that the Association should adopt colours, to be worn on badges, ties and blazers. This matter was left to a sub-committee to examine, discuss and later report.

A Dramatic and Literary Society

The formation of such a society was decided upon, and nearly all those in attendance put forward their names as active members. The Midsummer Dance was planned for Friday July 25th.

Mannequin Parade

Miss M.A. Griffiths presided over a large gathering of parents and friends during one of the closing weeks of the school year. The pupils, under the supervision of Miss D. Mullinder, displayed garments they had made themselves. According to the local newspaper report, "everyone enjoyed this unique opportunity of seeing the girls' beautifully made clothes so charmingly displayed." As added enjoyment to the evening, Miss P.E.M. Wright arranged some musical items, and likewise, dances were presented by Miss Makey.

Sports and Parents' Day - July 23rd 1930

On the Wednesday of the annual Parents' day, the inclement weather caused the postponement of the school Inter-House Sports. Nevertheless, a crowd of parents and friends were present to view a really fine exhibition of needlework, art, photography, woodwork, metal work, cookery and scientific apparatus. The school had placed on display the evidence of its broader educational activities not solely connected with academia. The laboratory, with its array of chemical apparatus and many ingenious appliances invented by the students proved the greatest attraction. The needlework exhibition contained some beautiful examples of dressmaking (some of which no doubt had been modelled during the previous week's Mannequin Parade), millinery, embroidered lingerie, catchets, pochettes and hand-made flowers. A tapestry door curtain representing a cottage garden was much admired. There were some interesting specimens of photography, and the samples of cookery found a ready sale.

The Headmaster announced that the sports would be held the following Saturday, weather permitting, and although there is no report of the overall results of the events, a mention that they did take place is made in a related article printed the following week about a girl athlete.

[A catchet is a design usually made up of pictures and text that has been affixed traditionally to the left side of an envelope. Handcrafted catchets are usually one-of-a-kind designs, made of nearly anything that can be incorporated on to the envelope. Sometimes designers use dried flowers and leaves as part of a catchet. Others add modelling clay or sew fabric on the cover. Handcrafted cachets are often part of handmade envelopes. A silk cachet is a full-colour design printed by the litho process on fabric, usually satin cloth. The catchet gets its name from its silky feel, yet no silk is involved in the manufacturing process. After the design is printed, each individual catchet is applied with a permanent bond to the envelope. "Pochette" is a nineteenth century French term for a woman's "pocket" or purse.]

Girl Athlete

Kathleen Sayles, aged 16 and from Fitzwilliam, established herself as the champion girl athlete of the school and the district by her successes in the events at the 1930 school Sports. In becoming the Victrix Ludorum, Kathleen had obtained the highest aggregate of points, and demonstrated athletic ability above the average. The Cup had been won by Kathleen for three years in succession, and therefore became her own property. Her record over the previous three years was as follows:
1928 - 1st Girls' 100 yards open, time 12.8 secs; 1st 120 yards hurdles open, time 20.2 secs; 1st 220 yards open; 1st long jump.
1929 - 1st 100 yards open, 12.5 secs; 1st 120 hurdles; 1st 220 yards open, 1st long jump
1930 - 1st 100 yards open; 1st 220 yards open.

Flannel Dance

The Midsummer Dance of the Old Students' Association took the form of a Flannel Dance held in the school hall, and with music supplied by Syd Brown's band. The M.S'c were Messrs. Cyril Teale and E. John Barker. During the supper, the Headmaster, Mr. A.G. Jenkinson, M.A., addressed the company, and complimented one "old boy", Mr. Leslie Jago of South Elmsall, upon winning an Arts Scholarship at the Leeds College of Arts. This was a special achievement, as there were only two such awards offered annually. Miss Freda Swaine, the new President of the Association, then welcomed new members, and appealed for more members to join the Dramatic Society.

[According to old manuscripts, the tradition for dancing at the country fairs was to discard the flannel skirts and jackets and dance in the cotton undergarments, adorned with colourful ribbons. This was not the format of the 1930's dances! By that year, a "Flannel Dance" had come to mean one of informal dress, with daywear or casual clothes being worn instead of the heavy expensive ball gowns used by the upper classes].

1930 Examination Results

During the busy month of July the older students had as usual been revising for, and sitting the examinations for the School Certificate and Higher School Certificate. One month later their labours were rewarded with the following results:

Higher School Certificate - Elizabeth Austin, John Lawrence Frazer, Morris S. Gibbon, Josephine M. Read, Leslie R. Smith, Arthur Thorpe, Frank W. White, and Fred Williamson.

George A. Hunt had a distinction in pure and applied mathematics.

School Certificate - principal and subsidiary subjects - E. John Barker, Ethel Gee, Phyllis Howe and Hilda Newton.

County Minors

The usual announcement in the local newspaper of the names of the children who had received a scholarship and were due to start at the school the following September did not appear in 1930.

A New Term, A New School Year 1930-31

As was usually the case, two weeks before the event, Mr. Charles L. Crossley, the Clerk to the Governors, placed the usual advertisement in the local newspaper giving details of the date of commencement of the new term, which was Wednesday, 17th September 1930. Also on this day, at 10 a.m. those pupils desiring admission to the school were invited to take the Entrance Examination. A Prospectus and further details could be obtained from Mr. Crossley at the West Riding Education Offices, 8, St. John's Road North, Wakefield. However, the notice stated that the Clerk would be in attendance at the school on Monday, 15th September in order to collect the fees due from the parents of the existing pupils. The sum of £3 / 3s. / 0d per term was still required. Presumably other payment arrangements were made for the new entrants when the results of their examinations became known - or was there an instantaneous decision made on the day?

Talented Teachers

A large audience was looking forward to a dramatic performance from Mr. Roger Williams and his company on an evening early in October 1930, and when they failed to attend, the staff saved the day by nobly stepping into the breach with their delightfully informal entertainment, which was hugely enjoyed by all. Items were rendered as follows:

Mr. G. Hyde	sleight of hand
Mr. J.A. Storer	musical jokes
Mr. A.G. Jenkinson	schoolboy "howlers" and spoonerisms. (Mr. Jenkinson had collected these for over 20 years.)
Miss E. Hodgson	pianoforte solos
Miss M. Parsons	violin solos.

This impromptu entertainment, which must have been staged with the minimum of notice, speaks volumes about the talents and characters of those who volunteered to save the day.

Everyday Matters

The Autumn meetings of the Governors, presided over by Alderman Gabriel Price, covered many of the mundane tasks associated with the running of a school within a historic building and its grounds.

1. A previous request to the County Education Authority for the purchase of additional land for playing fields had been rejected. The Headmaster was asked to make further enquiries about this decision, and report back to the Governors at a future meeting.
2. The male members of the Governors formed a Grounds Sub-committee, and had become increasingly concerned about the untidy condition of the school grounds. It was announced that they planned to hold a special meeting to deal with this matter, and would report progress at a future meeting.
3. While the building of the new Dining Hall was proceeding, the number of pupils at the school was also increasing, and the existing rooms currently being used for dining had also to be used as classrooms. This led to great difficulties and extra work for the caretakers, Mr. and Mrs. Manning. Assistance for them was engaged in the form of two additional maids; one to be paid for from the maintenance account, and the other from the school dinner fund.
4. An application was received by an independent music teacher for the use of the school premises and piano. The teacher planned to give private tuition outside school hours. The implications of this were discussed at some length, and a final decision was postponed until the Clerk could ascertain the circumstances under which private tuition was given at Mexborough Grammar School.

5. Tenders for the supply of provisions for school dinners were accepted as follows:

Groceries	Mr. E.R. Quinn, South Elmsall
Meat	Mr. W.J. Townend, Hemsworth
Milk	Mr. C.S. Hanley, Hemsworth

The caretakers were authorised to make their own arrangements for the supplies of fish and vegetables.

6. The Headmaster reported that he was in communication with Lord and Lady Middleton concerning their attendance at the school's Speech Day on November 12th.
7. The Headmaster and staff received the congratulations of the Governors on the recent excellent examination results.

Lantern Lectures

A further series of lectures at the school was organised for the Winter and Spring terms, and although they were advertised in the local press, there are no details of an entrance fee for the general public, nor indeed any indication of a starting time. The press comment in a report after the first lecture had been given, stated that

"The lecture was illustrated by slides from photographs taken by Mr. Fothergill whilst on a recent tour of Morocco. Several of the photographs had been taken at great personal risk."

Apparently Mr. Guy Fothergill's Moroccan trip was more dangerous than his earlier travels and winter sports in the Alps, on which he gave a talk at the school earlier in the year!

October 5 th	"Morocco" by Mr. G.S. Fothergill
November 26 th	"Famous Prisoners of the Tower" by Mr. W. O'Donohue
December 10 th	"Pickwick" story telling extraordinary, by the Rev. A. Runnels-Moss
February 4th 1931	"St. Paul's Cathedral" by Mr. E.W.H. Piper
February 18 th	"With the Mounted Police in Canada" by Captain G.H. Mansfield
March 12 th	"Adventures with the Secret Service" by Professor Wilden-Hart, M.A., F.R.G.S., F.R. Hist. S.

Wireless Fund

Since 1924 the school had owned a wireless set, to which Mr. J. Storer had constantly maintained and added components, and the rest of the male staff had encouraged its use in receiving broadcasts from abroad as well as from Home stations. To assist with the improvement of this facility, a Fund had been created, and on Saturday, October 25th, a jumble sale was held at the school, and the sum of £10 15s. was realised.

This may be an apposite occasion to mention that in October 1930 car radios were first introduced in the US. The complete installation weighed 30kg, and could be as large as an adult person. The first owners were taxi drivers, who charged extra for allowing their passengers to listen!

A Degenerate Generation

The first meeting of the newly-formed Debating Society of Hemsworth Secondary School Old Boys' and Girls' Association was held at the school a few days before Bonfire Night in 1930. The debate's subject was, "**That the present generation is degenerate.**" Mr. Cyril Teale supported the motion and Mr. William Kirk spoke against. Not surprisingly, the majority voted against the motion.

On the same evening a general meeting of the Association was also held, with Miss Freda Swaine presiding. Miss Margaret Foster was elected secretary.

Ninth Annual Speech Day, Thursday November 12th 1930

Lord Middleton, of Birdsall Lodge, Malton, was one of the foremost figures in the movement for encouraging emigration to Canada, and who in defending the colossal expenditure on education, made a stirring call to young people to equip themselves for the coming struggle to lift England out of the rut and place it in the front rank of nations again. The prizes should have been distributed by Lady Middleton, but owing to indisposition she was unable to be present, and a close friend, Mrs. Howard Hall, of South Parade, Wakefield, kindly stepped into the breach.

Owing to his being at an important conference in London, Ald. G. Price, J.P., chairman of the Governors, was not present, and Coun. J. Potts (vice-chairman) presided, supported by the Governors, Mr. A. G. Jenkinson M.A. (headmaster), Miss M. A. Griffiths M.A. (headmistress), and Mr. P. Crossland (assistant master), Captain R.J.P. Warde-Aldham, of Frickley Hall, and Mr. C. L. Crossley (clerk to the Governors) were also present.

The School's extensions

Coun. J. Potts, on behalf of the Governors, welcomed the parents and their distinguished visitors. He went on to review the history of the school, and said the erection of a new dining room was well in hand. Additional classrooms were to follow, and the extensions would cost £12,000. The Governors were pleased to see the development of the school, which had grown from 90 pupils to 409 in nine years. That clearly showed that a secondary school was wanted in the district, and the successes achieved since it was opened reflected credit upon those responsible for its administration and offered a complete justification for its existence. The good work of the school affected not only the pupils and staff, but the people who were brought into contact with it, and its many activities. He congratulated the headmaster and staff upon the successful results obtained at the examinations, and thanked the parents for their continued support, remarking that there would be no surplus accommodation even when the extensions were completed.

The prizes and certificates were distributed by Mrs. Howard Hall.

The Headmaster's Annual Report

The Latecomers

The Headmaster's annual report stated that the school now had its highest number of scholars at 409. There were more pupils than previously expected because an unusually large number of fee-paying pupils had enrolled, and there had been seven extra individuals transferred from Central and Elementary schools. He was not convinced of the advisability of transferring children aged 14 or 15 from such schools, as they had learned no Latin nor Science, little or no French, and only elementary Arithmetic. Catching up with their peers in the short time available to them would prove difficult, and the benefits they would derive from a Secondary School education would be open to question. He would be watching the progress of the seven transferred pupils with interest.

The increase in numbers had made the present accommodation uncomfortably, if not dangerously, overcrowded, and it would be a relief to all concerned when the new extension was completed. He was afraid, however, that this would not be for another two years, so that temporary accommodation would have to be provided very soon.

The Satisfactory Examination Results

Last July the results were well up to the usual standard. Higher School Certificate - Nine out of 11 candidates passed. School Certificate - of 54 candidates, 40 obtained School Certificates, and 16 obtained Matriculation. A County Major Scholarship was awarded to George Hunt. Holgate Exhibitions were awarded to Violet Dodds and J. Richards. Arthur Thorpe was awarded one of the ten scholarships given by the Miners' Welfare Committee. J. A. Leslie Jago, a former pupil of the school, had been awarded, as the result of examination, a West Riding Art Scholarship, which enabled him to pursue a four-year course at the Leeds School of Art, with a view to becoming an Art teacher. R. N. Slatcher obtained the R.S.A. silver medal for the first place in all England, in the examination for Advanced Accountancy - a splendid performance. In the R.S.A. examination 9 out of 12 candidates obtained certificates in book-keeping, and two out of three in shorthand. There were 13 former members of the school at the Universities.

A "Splendid Adventure"

During the year ended July 1930, 49 girls and boys left the school, and 102 new pupils were admitted in September. Of those who left in July, four had proceeded to Universities, and 14 were either at training colleges or engaged in teaching, 10 had been transferred to other schools, 12 had become clerks, apprentices or shop assistants, one girl was training as a nursery nurse, five girls were at home, and two boys were definitely seeking employment.

Few of those who left the school in July were without some kind of occupation, but it was increasingly difficult for the average girl or boy to find employment with good prospects in Britain, and that was why the Headmaster was encouraging boys to embark on the splendid adventure of overseas enterprise. He particularly welcomed there that day the presence of Lord Middleton, who, by his personal interest and active co-operation, was doing much to foster and strengthen this great imperial movement. "We have

three boys in Canada at present," he added, "from all of whom I have had cheery and contented letters, and I hope that another one at least will be going next spring." He continued that most people were unaware how seriously the movement of population from this country to the Dominions overseas had been checked by the war and other causes since 1913. Figures recently published had shown that the number of British subjects leaving for overseas countries other than Europe was 242,000 in 1913, compared with 93,000 in 1929. This meant that, after making allowances for war losses, there were in 1930 roughly 1,600,000 more people in this country than there would have been if the regular movement of population had continued. As the unemployment dole increased, the movement overseas diminished, and it was impossible to resist the conclusion that either the increase of unemployment benefit had discouraged migration, or the spirit of adventure was diminishing. The Headmaster wanted to urge boys to get out of the rut, and on to the open road.

Homework and Health

The headmaster had seen letters in the press, many of them from doctors, claiming that homework in their opinion had a harmful effect on the health of many girls. He had personally been told by a doctor that he had seen every ounce of strength taken out of girls in the upper Forms of many Girls' schools, with who could say what result in later life. Mr. Jenkinson laid the blame for this situation firmly at the door of the examining bodies, who demanded too much. Also culpable were the school authorities who have to satisfy those demands, and parents who allow their children to work too long at home. His believed that a certain amount of homework was useful because it demanded initiative in the pupil, but it was the duty of parents to watch for the signs of over-pressure at home, and not allow their children to spend more than the stipulated time set for homework. As long as examinations had to be passed and examining bodies insisted on so wide a course, homework was indispensable in the higher forms, merely to cover the syllabus in the time. In the lower forms the case was different, and he had tried to keep the time allotted for homework to a minimum. The ideal system was doubtless for preparation to be done in school under supervision, but as Hemsworth Secondary School was a day school where pupils travelled long distances, that system was impractical.

Military Band Careers

In mentioning that he would like to purchase some wind instruments for the school orchestra, Mr. Jenkinson pointed out that a military band offered a good career to a musical boy, and that the County Authority might well consider subsidising this type of activity in schools bearing the career prospects in mind. He knew that military bandmasters welcomed boys from secondary schools - in fact one boy from the school had followed this path and been very successful. Any boy of 16 or 17 who was musical and could play a wind instrument would be encouraged to join a military band, and in 12 years or so he may well be a bandmaster. The playing of wind instruments was too much neglected in schools.

The importance of the final year

Mr. Jenkinson felt that a boy or girl gained untold advantage by remaining at school to the age of 18 or 19. Those last two years could be worth all the rest put together, because it is then that their minds and characters were broadened, sifted, and strengthened. Some have said that the main value of education lies in the fact that it broadens the mind and builds up the character. He had heard the same thing expressed in a rather different fashion by a speaker who wisely said that both teachers and taught ought to use a secondary school education for learning to look at things from other people's point of view. This principle could be applied to any subject in the curriculum, and was invaluable as training for life. If teacher and pupil alike could learn to do this, a sense of humour comes into play, interest is aroused, apathy vanishes, and our school motto becomes a reality, because - "work has become its own reward."

Lord Middleton's Speech

1. Note of encouragement

After apologising for the absence of Lady Middleton, Lord Middleton congratulated all those who had received prizes and certificates, which were the result of hard work and industry. He hoped that those pupils who had not won anything would realise that there were other things which mattered in their school lives - knowledge and character. Successes in these often mattered just as much, so there was no need to feel downhearted. He explained that he served on an education committee in the East Riding, doing the finances and investigating new schemes. He found that there always seemed to be two schools of thought about the money spent on education. Some taxpayers would have liked to cut down by half on the amount spent, and conversely others would say that they were spending only half of what they should, as the need for more education was enormous. The country was spending millions on education as an investment in the future. When the younger generation grew up, the country would then be lifted and pushed along the road of progress to take its place among other nations and not be left behind. Individuals would be equipped well for the battle of life, and for the competition in trade and business. These were the benefits of investing in education. "If those results are successful," he asked, "don't you think that we who have had the money spent on us at school can be rightly be called to put something back? I think we can, for it is not an unfair demand. There is no country in the world where exist such opportunities for public service as in England." He continued that there were many roads to that public service, such as by the Boy Scouts, or Toc H, for instance, which were fine institutions for rendering service for their fellow countrymen.

2. The Coming Struggle - "Leave Politics Alone"

"Yesterday," said Lord Middleton, "we were commemorating a great sacrifice which I hope none of you will be called upon to undertake, but there are heroes of peace as well as of war, and perhaps that may be your portion. There are enormous problems to face in this country, and the men of my generation will not be able to deal with all of them. They will be on the heads of the rising generation. I wish you success, and trust you will solve those at which we have failed. The big troubles in the country today are unemployment and trade depression. Brought up as a simple soldier, I do not understand the ways of politicians, which baffle me. All parties say that if you believe in them they will cure our troubles, but when they get in they do not seem to do it, and I would advise you boys and girls to leave politics alone. The main reason we are in a mess today is because we are paying our debts. We have a burden of taxation which will continue until your children's time, because we have manfully and honestly come up to scratch. Honesty is our only policy. We are paying our debts and trying at the same time to maintain our social services. It is not easy and sometimes we see causes for discouragement, but you children will have to tackle these problems, for upon the

boys and girls of today depends the future prosperity of this country."

3. The Promised Land

Lord Middleton went on to say that despite the fact that there were 2.25 millions unemployed, there were more men in employment in 1930 than before the war. This meant that there were more people in the country than could be employed, and there had been no discernable national policy to scientifically distribute the population within the Empire. He had visited Canada to investigate the prospects, and he was now firmly convinced that there were better opportunities in Canada compared with Britain, with proper security there, and a good living to be made. Hemsworth Secondary School had already shown the way in this matter.

A comprehensive vote of thanks was moved by Coun. A. Flavell, and seconded by Mrs. Guest.

The Prize Winners

Higher School Full Certificates:

Elizabeth Austin, J. Lawrence Frazer, Morris S. Gibbon, George A. Hunt, Josephine Read, Leslie R. Smith, Arthur Thorpe, Frank W. White, Fred Williamson.

Higher School Part Certificates: Maisie Thorne, J. Richards, Ethel Gee, John R. Barker, Phyllis Howe, Hilda Newton.

Matriculation:

Sidney Fox, C. Hodge, Gordon Sterry, J.N. Thorpe, H. Williamson, Nellie Leaver, Esther L. Page, Doreen M. Schorah, Winifred Senior, Phyllis A. Stoker, F. Baxter, Thomas W. Marriott, A. Stanton, Mary E. Jones, Mary Littlewood.

School Certificates:

J. H. Andrew, Colin Desborough Colin Hart, Patrick J. Kellett, Eunice Allen, Hilda Brooks, Dorothy W. Lee, Margaret Paley, Nancy Parsonage, Nesta Stirton, Mary Walker, Elsie I. Worrall, S. Bowen, J. Marlow, John Mellor, C. Newby, Ethel Midgley, Emma G. Wilson, Frank Denton, Reginald J. Dowdeswell, Harold Noble, Phyllis A. Hall, Edith Marson, Mary Silvester, Mary Ward.

R.S.A. Certificates, Intermediate:

Mary Silvester, Harry Green, Frank Denton, Reginald Dowdeswell, Phyllis Hall, Alice Hinchcliffe, Mary Jones, Mary Littlewood, Edith Marson, Harold Noble

Elementary:

Florence Parsons, George Potts, Thomas Wright, Kathleen Sayles, Leslie R. Smith, Millicent Webb, Hannah Thorpe, A. Edgecombe, H. Goodale, K. Harris, Thomas Hebden, Millicent Heptonstall, Alice Hinchcliffe, Reginald Dowdeswell, Harold Noble, Frank Denton, Edith Marson.

Special Prizes:

For Distinction in Higher School Certificate, George A. Hunt.

For Distinction in School Certificate, Sidney Fox, Doreen Schorah, Gordon Sterry, A. Stanton, Emmie Wilson, F. Baxter, H. Williamson, C. Newby, Mary E. Jones.

Form Prizes: Sidney Fox, T. W. Marriott, Mary Silvester, Sybil Howson, A. Sykes, Millicent Webb, T. Francis, H. L. Hackforth, Richard Leeming, Marjorie Dean, Doris Hainsworth, W. Metcalfe, Roger Foye.

Needlework Prizes Annie Thorpe, Margaret Poole.

Reading Prizes Senior; Ethel Midgley, Junior; John Priestley.

General Information Josephine Read, Morris S. Gibbon, Eric S. Whittle.

General Progress Lorna Jagger (21 places), William Robinson (21 places).

Star Prizes Hackforth H.L.(59), Doris Hainsworth (50), Lionel Newby (48).

Special Commemoration Prizes for the Head Girl and Head Boy of the School (given by Mrs. Warde-Aldham);

Maisie Thorne, Fred Williamson.

House Challenge Cup

1st. Talbot 1170 points

2nd. Holgate 910½ points

3rd. Price 823¼ points

4th. Guest 823 points

"Pickwick"



Charles Dickens: 1812-1870

Despite the cold and foggy weather, there was a large audience at the school on the Wednesday evening of December 10th 1930 to hear the humorous talk on "Pickwick" given by Rev. A.E. Runnel-Moss, an acknowledged expert on Charles Dickens. This was his fourth visit to the school, and all were well entertained. Lawrence Frazer gave a vote of thanks, and the Headmaster seconded.

The Staff Dance

Two days after Rev. Runnel-Moss' lantern lecture, the staff held its annual dance in the Assembly Hall, and though only a small number attended, everyone spent an enjoyable evening.

"A Shoemaker's Holiday" or "The Gentle Craft" 17th December 1930

[A young nobleman Rowland Lacy is in love with Rose the London mayor's daughter. Both fathers oppose the match and try to separate the couple by sending her to the countryside and him to France as an officer in Henry V's army. Lacy leaves the army and stays in London disguised as a Dutch shoemaker to try to woo his love. He works in the shop of Simon Eyre who needs help because one of his journeymen, newly married, has been sent away to fight in France. The play tells the story of Simon Eyre (the shoemaker of the title), who rises through the social ranks to eventually become Lord Mayor of London. It is a patriotic play that celebrates the mutual dependence of the Monarch and the city of London, yet is also aware of class differences and social tensions. Meanwhile, at her father's country house, Rose meets another young noble who tries unsuccessfully to woo her. From there the plot turns in many directions as couples are divided, re-united and divided again, while the shoemakers ply their trade for everyone concerned. After an unexpected intervention from King Henry there's a happy ending, after he has made several proclamations concerning love, shoemaking and pancakes.]

This Elizabethan comedy written by Thomas Dekker and first performed in 1599 was staged in the school Assembly Hall to a large audience, despite the dense fog outside. Unfortunately, Miss Laura Austin was an absentee from the cast through illness, and her part was taken at short notice by Sabina Weaver. All the actors acquitted themselves admirably and were word-perfect. Hedley Wright as the Master Shoemaker and Lord Mayor Simon Eyre was the hit of the evening. His bickerings with his wife Margery (Grace Mills) were intensely amusing. Roland Lacey (George Potts) and Rose (Esther Page) as the two young lovers were most convincing, and Sybil the maid (Sabina Weaver) gave a piece of exceptionally fine acting. The Earl of Lincoln was ably portrayed by J. Lawrence Frazer, and Frank White as Lord Mayor gave a good performance as the outraged father. Sidney Fox as Dodger, Lord Lincoln's servant made a convincing spy, and G. Grayson, Cyril Warner and Harry Green played the two huntsmen and the Dutch skipper. The four amusing workmen, Hodge, Firk, Ralph and the Boy were played by C. Hodge, H. Williamson, J. Marlow and Thomas Hebden, and Jane, Ralph's sorrowing wife, was H. Bailey. J. Richards as the King had a truly regal manner, and the speech in the finale was a fine piece of work.

Mr. Jenkinson said it would be impossible to mention by name all the members and friends of the School who had in various ways contributed in the production of the play, but special thanks went to Miss Mann and Mr. Storer the producers, Miss P. Wright the accompanist and musical director, and Mr. R.T. Shiells the business manager. He commented that all the school plays presented in the past had been successful, and he hoped that Shoemaker's Holiday was no exception, and that all who had enjoyed the play would tell their friends. The reason that an Elizabethan play had been chosen was that the royalties on modern plays were so high that they could not have been afforded. He had broached this matter to the authorities concerned, and hoped that soon all schools would be able to present any play, ancient or modern, without having to pay excessive fees.

The play was repeated the following evening.

Sixth Form Party and Old Students' Ball

During the last week of term the Sixth Form held a Christmas Party, and there were over 80 present, including members of staff. The Old Students also celebrated Christmas in a beautifully decorated Assembly Hall on a different evening. During supper, which was served in the Chemistry Laboratory, Miss Freda Swaine welcomed all the new members to the Association, and wished everyone the best of luck for the New Year. The Headmaster also made a short speech, thanking the students for their hospitality.

The Governors' Christmas Meeting

After all the children had gone home to begin their Christmas 16-day holiday, Coun. J. Potts (vice-chairman) presided over a meeting which received news from Mr. Jenkinson about applications for the withdrawal of eight pupils from the school. Two boys were entering the training hostel at Beverley with a view to migration to Canada, and two others were joining the Royal Air Force. In reply to Mrs. Garstang, Mr. Jenkinson stated that there were already three old students of the school serving in the R.A.F. and doing well. The R.A.F. was now willing to accept any boy who had gained a School Certificate.

The County Authority had declined to supply the school with two additional sewing machines, but the Governors decided to compromise, and press for the supply of one machine.

On the suggestion of the Headmaster, it was decided to recommend the award of an "A" post to Miss Eva Shortridge, a member of staff, for special responsibility. Unfortunately, one month later, the West Riding Education Committee failed to approve this proposal, which would have involved an extra £38 per annum addition to her salary.

It must be noted that Ald. Gabriel Price, chairman of the Governors, had for the first time been unable to attend several of the Governors' monthly meetings, and even the school's Speech Day, during 1930. This could have been due to his increased political commitments. Already an extremely busy man who was involved in many local committees and activities, he was now entering the sphere of national politics as a possible successor to Mr. John Guest, the Labour M.P. for Hemsworth and district who had been a prime mover in the creation of the school in 1921. This meant trips to London for Ald. Price, and important meetings which took priority over local matters.

Belts were Tightening

Early in the month of December 1930, the president of the United States, Mr. Herbert Hoover, went to Congress and requested the sum of 150 million dollars for a public works programme to help generate jobs and stimulate trade and the economy in the USA. The general economic downturn which had started in October 1929 with the Wall Street Crash was spreading throughout the USA and Europe, and with significantly less money in circulation, businessmen could not get new loans or even renew their old ones, and were forced to stop investing. As a measure of the spreading unemployment in America, there were 6,000 jobless apple-sellers in New York in 1930 - selling apples being the only alternative to starving.

By the end of 1930 unemployment in Britain had increased from one million to two and a half million, and exports had fallen in value by 50%. The Government's revenues were falling as the cost of assisting the jobless rose, and the overall picture for the British economy was bleak. Compared to many of the industrialised countries, Britain had a relatively advanced welfare system, established in 1911 by the Liberals and funded by government, employers and workers. However, the scheme only paid out according to the level of contributions, rather than to the level of need, and was only payable for 26 weeks. Anyone unemployed for longer than this had to rely on relief paid by their local authority. Many were destitute, as even when working, they had been too poorly paid to afford any contributions. The queues at the soup kitchens were a common sight in the Hemsworth area and elsewhere in the North in the early 1930's.