

Eleventh Annual Speech Day, Wednesday November 9th 1932

Ald. G. Price, M.P., presided, and the prizes and certificates were distributed by Mrs. Nigel Leatham, a Governor of the school. An address was given by the Bishop of Wakefield (Dr. J.B. Seaton). On the platform were Mrs. Schorah, Captain L. Hallam (vice-chairman), Messrs. E. Nettleton, E. Ford, J. Dunleavy, W. Exley, and C. E. Jagger (governors), Mr. A. G. Jenkinson (headmaster), Miss M.A. Griffiths (senior mistress), and Mr. P. Crossland (second master). Others present included Mrs. Price, Mrs. Ford, Mr. J. Potts, Canon W.H.W. Williams (Rector of Hemsworth) and Mr. C. L. Crossley (Clerk to the Governors).

The Sinister Circular

The Chairman said it was just over 11 years since the School was opened, and it had fully justified its existence. The extensions were now completed. That the School continued to make very satisfactory progress was borne out by the results of the School Certificate and other examinations. The thanks of the Governors and parents were due to the Headmaster and staff for securing such satisfactory results. Many of them were concerned about the suggested changes in educational policy. A circular (1421) had been issued by the Board of Education which suggested further reductions in expenditure, and restrictions on secondary and elementary education. There were 74 free secondary schools in the country with about 29,000 pupils. Fees would be charged for these, and the Board said they would hesitate to approve a fee of less than nine guineas. In other secondary schools there were 200,000 free places, but these would no longer be free unless the parents satisfied a means test. An increase in fees would be demanded in respect of at least 100,000 pupils in 1,128 schools. These schools met the needs of less well-to-do people. He assured the parents that the Governors would resist any attempt to reduce the activities of secondary schools and the opportunities of children who came from poor homes.

Headmaster's Report

An Important Milestone

In his annual report the Headmaster said the past year was an important milestone on the road of the school's progress, for it had witnessed the completion of the school buildings as far as the present scheme was concerned. Since the opening of the school in 1921 the accommodation had been inadequate, and though there must still be at least three forms which had no fixed classroom, the additional rooms which had now been built provided adequate accommodation and included special rooms for art, botany and geography. A room in the old building had been fitted up as a comfortable library, and this supplied a long felt want. The library contained some 1,562 books, and it was intended to add to them every year. He suggested that every boy and girl who left the school should present a book, to be chosen after consultation with the librarian, as a help to the library, and as a mark of appreciation of such benefits as they felt they had received from their career at school.

Careers

Sixty two pupils left the school during last year, and there were 91 new entrants this year, of whom 62 were County Minor scholars, and 29 fee-payers; the present number of pupils was 422. Of those who left last July, eight had proceeded to universities and training colleges, seven were teaching temporarily before going to a training college, seven had been apprenticed to shops or trades, three were being trained for nursing, seven had entered offices as clerks, one had entered the Royal Air Force, one had taken up domestic service, one banking, four had left the district, one had left through illness, and two were at home or their employment was not known. "As I have pointed out on previous occasions," continued the headmaster, "we have a master and mistress on the staff, Mr. Austin and Miss Shortridge, who have much information concerning future careers at their disposal, and who are anxious to help parents in any way they can. But I would impress upon parents the necessity of consulting them early so that any possible opportunity may not be missed. Only the other day a boy came to me about entrance to the R.A.F., and I had to tell him that he was too old. Teaching as a career is likely to become more restricted because of the increased difficulty in obtaining admission to a training college and the already crowded state of the market. With a revival of trade and industry we hope that more avenues of employment will be opened out for those leaving secondary schools. It is more particularly cheering to me, therefore, in these difficult times, to report the success of two boys in obtaining West Riding Technological Scholarships, which will enable them to take a course at Leeds University for an engineering degree, and eventually enter the engineering profession." The two boys were J. Marlow and C. Newby. The headmaster mentioned that the alternative courses which were started three years ago with the approval of the Director of Education had been very well justified. In the recent School Certificate examination, of the 25 pupils in the arts form, where languages were the special feature, not only did everyone pass in Latin and French, but all except one obtained credits in Latin and all except five obtained credits in French. Of 14 boys in the science form who took mechanical engineering, which was the special feature of this course, all passed, two with distinctions, and of thirteen pupils of the commercial class all passed in commercial subjects. The general results of the examinations were satisfactory and up to the normal standard. Fifteen candidates took Higher School Certificate examination and 12 passed, 71 candidates took the School Certificate examination, and 53 obtained certificates; of these 15 matriculated. In the Royal Society of Arts examinations, one candidate passed in shorthand at 100 words per minute, three at 80, four at 60, and three failed. In book-keeping (elementary) eight out of 12 passed, one with credit.

Successes of past pupils:

History Degree obtained by Walter H. Wright at Leeds University,
English Degree by Kathleen Jagger at Manchester University,
Science Degree by Olive Tooth at Manchester University,

A Royal Scholarship for Art at South Kensington awarded to J. Leslie Jago. Only ten such scholarships for the whole country were awarded, so that Jago's success was a notable achievement, the foundation of which was laid at the Hemsworth School. In games and sport the school continued to maintain a high standard, although owing to financial difficulties they had had to curtail their activities in some respects. Great advance had been made in swimming. In other departments of recreation the school had done well, and although dramatic performances had to be dropped last year it was hoped to resume them this term with a production of Barrie's "Quality Street" and a production by the staff would probably follow next term.

Governors and Staff

After stating that the staff had undergone some changes, the headmaster tendered thanks to Miss Griffiths (headmistress) and Mr. Crossland (assistant master) and every member of the staff for another year of loyal service and ungrudging support. "As the school grows more extensive," he proceeded, "discipline does not become easier, and it is only the watchfulness and promptitude of every member of my staff that good order is maintained. To all parents I tender my thanks for their confidence in me and their interest in the school, and I can assure them that they will always find me ready to give them any help I can. To the chairman of the Governors I take this opportunity of offering the school's congratulations on his election as Member of Parliament for the Hemsworth Division and our best wishes for his successful career. I can certainly say that if he serves the nation as well as he has served this school the House of Commons will be the richer for his presence in it. Unfortunately he cannot now devote so much of his time to his duties as chairman of the Governors of this school, and we are very fortunate in having so able a vice-chairman as Capt. Hallam to officiate in his absence. I am most grateful to him and to all the Governors for their sympathetic and ready support. In spite of present difficulties and anxieties I hope and believe that this school, now fully equipped up to an accommodation of 450, will continue to supply the educational needs of this district in an adequate manner, and that it will endeavour to uphold the best traditions of English education. What is of real importance in a school is its personality. Every school must have its own individual personality, and this maxim applies to schools whether they are 500 or 50 or 5 years old. Any new school may rapidly make its mark if it has a good personality, acquired by means of good traditions. It has been my endeavour during the short history of this school to achieve this end, and I shall continue to use every endeavour to achieve it." The prizes were distributed by Mrs. Nigel Leatham, who was presented with a bouquet by Hilda Paley, head girl of the School.

The Bishop's Boyhood

The Bishop of Wakefield said that in going about the diocese he had been impressed by the wonderful growth of secondary schools, which afforded a high road to education for boys and girls of all classes. He was surprised to hear the headmaster say that the difficulties of discipline tended to increase as the School grew, for he had been astonished by the behaviour of the children who attended prize giving. When he was a boy their behaviour was a little more riotous. (Laughter) He was glad of the opportunity of visiting the School for many reasons, one of which was that he met many of the children in places which he visited for other purposes. In these days he was always haunted by the difficulty the scholars would have when they left school to find openings in which they could use the education they had acquired. He was glad to know that at Hemsworth they had specialists on the staff who tried to find openings for the scholars as they left school. He hoped a change for the better would come quickly. When he was a boy of 12, everything came crashing around him, and he was left with the narrowest means. If it was possible for one boy to make progress it was possible for others.

"Persons"

What did they think the School was for? They attended it to get information, but accumulated information was accumulated rubbish unless it was harnessed to some worthy purpose. They were at school to get the beginnings of technical knowledge which would fit them to take their place in life and earn their living. But there was something deeper. The School was really to make character. That was a process which began in the home and was carried on in the School. They were a collection of individuals, but they were not yet "persons." The whole object of life was to make individuals into personalities. This could only be done by fellowship and contact. That was one of the great virtues of a school, for frank interchange of opinions between boys and girls was all to the good. It was in that way that they had their corners rounded and shaped and were built to take the buffets of life. But to make them real persons was only possible by reaching to an ideal. At the school they were guided to the appreciation of literature. They were well guided, for there were many books which only put the sordid part of life in front of them. There was another way in which the ideal was put before them - contact with good example. They who were older knew the influence of a good, sympathetic and wise teacher. They could only grow into what they were meant to be by keeping themselves in touch with what was true, beautiful and good. That was why religion must always be the spirit and basis of any kind of true education. Boys and girls had a vague hope and vision of some way in which their lives might be used for the good of the world and the betterment of their fellows. "If you have ever had a dream of that sort, cling to it." One of the romances of life was the way in which early visions were fulfilled.

A vote of thanks was moved by Captain L. Hallam. Mrs. Schorah seconded.

A book was presented to the Bishop by the headmaster.

A musical programme was given by the school choir, songs by Miss P.E.M. Wright, and violin selections by Eva Harris, Eric Nuttall and Pattison. Miss Wright was the conductor, and Miss M. Agnew and Kathleen Perry accompanists.

A French play was also given by George Elvidge, H. Shelley, Fred Smith, George Wainwright, Ernest Pointon and W. Cauldwell, and another play entitled "The Rehearsal," by W. Metcalfe, H. Hardy, F. Fullwood, H. Mason, Albert Fox, Ernest Mellars, J. Brown, A. Kitchen, Gordon Pratt, G. Crapper and Norman Julian.

The Prize List

The chief prizes presented were:

County Technological Scholarships, J. Marlow and C. Newby;

Distinction in School Certificate, Colin Hart, Richard Leeming, Kenneth Goodall, Henry Hackforth, Bernard Allison, Laura Austin, Form Prizes, Kathleen Perry, Henry Hackforth, Alice Hinchcliffe, D. Hall, Eric Ineson. Eric S. Whittle, Gordon Hopkinson, Ernest Pointon, V. Parkinson, Margaret Cunningham, Phyllis Blacknall, A. Evans, Mary Ineson;

Needlework Prize, Doris Hainsworth;

General Information Ernest H. Wright

Star Prizes Phyllis Blacknall, Ernest Pointon

Special Prizes for Head Girl and Boy of the School

Phyllis Stoker, Alec Ramsden

General Progress Hannah E. Field, Vera Bancroft, W. H. Shelley, J. Watson.

House Challenge Cup 1. Talbot 1,301 points; 2, Holgate, 912½ points; 3, Guest 804½ points; 4, Price 797 points.

Armistice Service

On Friday, November 11th Mr. Jenkinson held a Service of Remembrance at the school, and in a short address he said that War to most scholars was simply a matter of history, but if a crisis such as that of 1914 arose again, they should be prepared to play their part as other men did in the last War. Two minutes silence were observed, and the hymns "O God Our Help in Ages Past," and "Oh Valiant Hearts" were sung. The Headmaster also read two verses of Laurence Binyon's "For the Fallen".

They went with songs to the battle, they were young.
Straight of limb, true of eyes, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.

Ald. Price Attacks the Cuts in Parliament

On Wednesday, November 16th 1932 the chairman of the Governors stood up in the House of Commons to speak out against Circular 1421, saying that it would reduce the opportunities of education for the children of the working class when all other countries in the world were advancing their facilities. In the West Riding, which was looked on as progressive, he claimed that the number of County Minor Scholarships had been reduced by 511. Of the 17,000 children who had sat the test, only 2,800 would receive the scholarship. Bursaries and Foundation scholarships had been reduced by 100, and County Major Scholarships from 58 to 45. He stated....

"We strongly protest against a National Government, comprising leading statesmen coming forward and asking us to submit to further reductions in the facilities for working men's children. The policy they are pursuing has robbed thousands of children from poorer homes of the opportunity of going forward."

He continued that the policy would also affect technical schools and Art schools. In its efforts to make a saving of £400,000, it would, according to Ald. Price, do £400,000,000 damage. If such economies had to be forced on Education Committees, he suggested that a number of children in Secondary Schools under the age of ten be sent to Elementary Schools, because at that age a child was not well enough developed to be in a Secondary School. He then continued,

"I want to add my earnest appeal that the Government withdraw the Circular at once. If they desire to have a trained generation in the future, now is not the time for curtailment of educational opportunities. Education is the birthright of every child. I am satisfied that if the Circular is withdrawn, the nation will receive the decision with acclamation."

The Headmaster's Lecture on Handel

The last of the Autumn Term lectures at the School was given on Tuesday 29th November 1932 by Mr. A.G. Jenkinson. Assisted by Miss P.E.M. Wright, the music teacher, the Headmaster made his lecture highly interesting by the frequent introduction of musical illustrations drawn from Handel's work. Miss Wright rendered solos, and Miss Agnew played a pianoforte suite. Eva Harris, a member of the School Orchestra played a violin solo, and Mr. Jenkinson also played gramophone records of well-known choruses sung by the Sheffield Choir to further illustrate his lecture.

A 17-0 Win

In the wintry weather of December 1932, the boys of the School Rugby Team gained a convincing win over Doncaster Grammar School. A smart move by Wilkinson ended in Senior sending Croft over for a try. The Hemsworth forwards were reliable in the scrums. Noble cut through and transferred to Croft who eluded several opponents and added a good try. Shortly afterwards, Williamson repeated this with a try which Hemstock converted. He also landed a penalty goal. Doncaster opened the second half strongly, but Wade defended well. Following a pass by Senior, Croft burst through the Doncaster defence to add a very good try, and Doncaster from this point were generally defending and narrowly escaped a larger reverse.

What's In A Name? (A Great Deal) - The Opinions

The advantage of changing the name of Hemsworth Secondary School to "Grammar School" was discussed at a meeting of the Governors in December 1932. Ald. Price was missing, and the meeting was chaired by Captain L. Hallam, who had raised the question.

Captain Hallam.....it was his experience that students seeking appointments and able to produce testimonials from a grammar school had an advantage. "I think it is our duty to give every possible advantage to the students attending this school in that direction and especially in these days when it is so difficult to place boys and girls. I think if we can give them any advantage we ought to do so and therefore I place this suggestion before you. There is no doubt that the name 'Grammar School' does carry weight." Captain Hallam added that he understood from Mr. J. H. Hallam, Director of Education for the West Riding, that all that was necessary in the first instance was for the Governors to send forward a recommendation to the county authority and they would submit it to the Board of Education. He did not think there would be any difficulty.

Mr. J. Dunleavy..... some people might regard the suggested alteration as snobbish, but he thought there was much to be said for it. Thirty years ago he passed from a secondary school to a "high school." There was no difference in the curricula, but the status of one was regarded as higher than the other. He thought the title would be an advantage to the students.

Captain Hallam..... there is no thought of snobbishness behind the suggestion. He had brought the subject forward with the genuine desire that the Governors should do all they could to enable the pupils to get the best positions in the country.

Mr. E. Ford.....at Wath on Dearne a new school had blossomed out into a "grammar school" in a very short time, but the school at Mexborough was still a "secondary school."

Mr. W. Exley..... thought Captain Hallam had done good service by bringing this matter to the notice of the Governors. He moved that the suggestion be adopted and that a recommendation go forward to the county authority.

Mr. Dunleavy seconded.

The Headmaster (Mr. A.G. Jenkinson),..... said the idea was not new and it was supported by the Board of Education.

Mr. Isaac Burns..... said he did not think Captain Hallam wished to hurry the matter and he advised that this suggestion should be put as a notice of motion for consideration at the next meeting. "I am pleased Captain Hallam has raised this matter," added Mr. Burns, "and I am pleased to know it is not the word Hemsworth that he is objecting to."

The Chairman..... I never thought of that.

Mr. Burns..... said that by using their brains and vision they might get even a better word than "grammar" for the school.

The Chairman..... said he appreciated the observations of the Governors, and he had no wish to precipitate. It had occurred to him that it would be a step in the right direction, and he had no objection to the matter being placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

The Headmaster..... remarked that the Board of Education were anxious to simplify matters by having the same name for the same type of school.

Mr. Burns' suggestion was agreed to.

Hemsworth Urban District Council

Councillor Isaac Burns reported the recent discussions of the School Governors about changing the name of the school from "Secondary" to "Grammar" to his colleagues on the Urban District Council, and strong reactions were expressed.

Coun. A. Bednall said there was little advantage in changing the name to "Grammar" school, which was not at all suitable.

Coun. G.W. Moses thought the move would be in the direction of the archaic, looking back to the times when schools primarily taught grammar. In his opinion, that word did not raise the status of the school. Modern education embraced a wider field than just grammar. Clearly the matter engendered strong opinions beyond the school itself.

"Quality Street" - a Hemsworth Secondary School Performance Dec 14th 15th and 17th

Because she's nearly 30 and still unwed, Phoebe Throssel is regarded as an over-the-hill spinster. Thus, when offered the opportunity for a reunion with Captain Brown whom she hasn't seen in years, Phoebe desperately wants to rekindle his affections. To this end, she poses as her own teenage niece -- and pulls off the ruse beautifully.

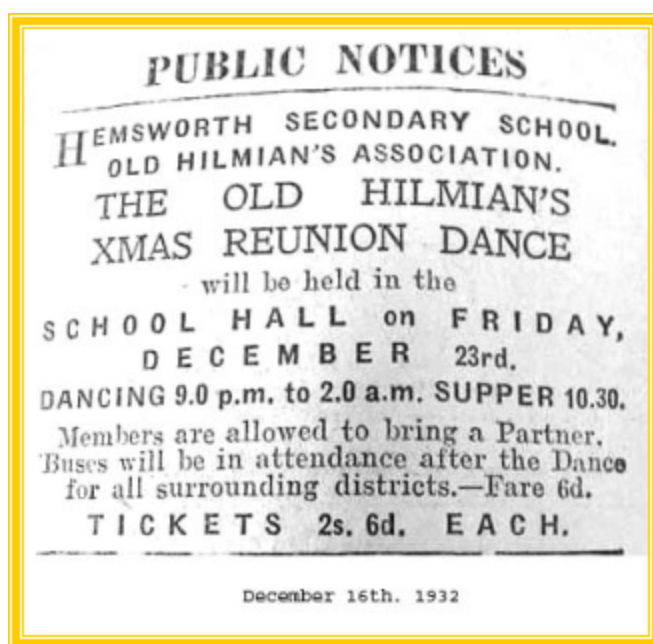
Cast:

Miss Fanny Willoughby	Estelle Rhodes
Miss Willoughby	Lorna Jagger
Miss Susan Throssel	Josephine Steele
Miss Henrietta Turnbull	Connie Bull
Miss Phoebe Throssel	Hilda Paley
Patty the maid	Marjorie Harrison
Recruiting Sergeant	H. Williamson
Mr. Valentine Brown	G. Grayson
Charlotte Parratt	Enid Toone
Ensign Blades	Sidney Fox
Harriet	Betty Mulheir
Lieutenant Spicer	L. Firman
An Old Soldier	Alex Ramsden
A Gallant	George Elvidge

Children in Miss Phoebe's School Edna North, Connie White, Elsie Smith, M. Wooton and Ernest Pointon.

Other characters drawn from Valerie Bancroft, Barbara Day, Vera Carter, Olive Boulton, F.P. Jones, Edward Perry, G.W. Eastwood and J. McCroakam.

Producers	Miss N. Clifford and Mr. J.A. Storer
Musical Director	Miss P. Wright L.R.A.M.
Stage Manager	Mr. J.A. Storer
Business Manager	Mr. R. Shiells
Incidental Music	E. Harris, Eric Nuttall and Pattison (violinists)



The advertisements for the three social events of April 1st, July 22nd and December 23rd 1932 which were held by the old students of the school reinforce the change of name of that association to **Old Hilmians**.

Scholarship Means Test - The West Riding Scale

Sir Percy Jackson chaired a meeting of the West Riding Education Committee on December 13th 1932 at which that Committee's policy concerning Circular 1421 was outlined. The recommendations of the Higher Education Sub-Committee were set out for approval:

- 1) Fees That no change be made to the existing minimum fee of nine guineas per annum for pupils over 10 years of age, and fifteen pounds per annum for pupils under 10 years of age.
- 2) Special Places That the number of special places in secondary schools to be offered in 1933 be the same as the number of County Minor Scholarships awarded in 1932 (2,040) with the addition of 40 children transferred from senior to secondary schools.
- 3) Income Limits That the scale for complete or partial remission of fees for those who were awarded a County Minor Scholarship be as follows:

Parents' weekly income not exceeding £5 0s 0d and one dependant child	Full fee given as aid.
Parents' weekly income not exceeding £5 10s 0d and one dependant child	Two thirds of fee given as aid.
Parents' weekly income not exceeding £6 0s 0d and one dependant child	One third of fee.
For each additional dependant child an addition of £26 0s 0d per annum to the parents' income would be allowed. (e.g. parents with an income exceeding £6 0s 0d but not exceeding £6 10s 0d and with two dependant children would receive one third of the fee.)	

Fees paid by parents for other children in the family attending a secondary school would be deducted from the parents' income when applying the scale.

With three dissentients the committee adopted this scale.

Later historians have struggled to assess how many working class parents would be able to understand the scale and calculate their due.

Throughout 1932 the Geneva Disarmament Conference was taking place, attended by 50 countries and chaired by the British Foreign Secretary Arthur Henderson. The discussions lasted for two years, but no agreement was found. 1932 was a year which saw the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, the discovery of the neutron by J. Chadwick, and the splitting of the atom by Cockroft and Walton. Ghandi was arrested and his Indian National Congress Party declared illegal. Franklyn D. Roosevelt was elected as President of the United States, and after November's general elections in Germany, Hitler's National Socialist Party was now the largest in the Reichstag. Broadcasting House, London, was opened during this year, and on December 25th the first Royal Christmas radio broadcast was made to the Empire by King George V.

At Hemsworth Secondary School in 1932 the basic structure of the education received by its pupils was by now well established. The four Houses, School Play, Speech Day and Sports Day were interwoven with lectures, country dancing and the presence of the newly-named but well-established Old Hilmians. Older pupils were continuing on to the Universities and the younger pupils were taking note of their role models. Discipline was good, with the Prefects system working well, and the sports teams achieving victories. Humming along in the background was the 'engine room' of the School, namely the Governors who were the driving force of progress, although the early 1930's frustrated their aims somewhat due to the lack of funding from the local Education Authority. Overseeing all activities was the Headmaster, who had gathered around him a Staff which, apart from a few occasional changes, stayed loyal and long serving. At the end of 1932 they all would have been wondering how long the school would continue to be named Hemsworth

Secondary School, and a few of them would have been speculating on how soon the Mining Centre would appear within the School grounds.