

School History 1924

1924

The early months of 1924 showed changes in the World's events which were to have far-reaching consequences. In January, Vladimir Lenin died and Joseph Stalin began to purge his rivals and clear his way for leadership of the U.S.S.R. Ramsay Macdonald was elected the first Labour Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. King George V and Queen Mary ruled the United Kingdom and the British Empire. In February Calvin Coolidge was elected President of the United States, and in March, Adolf Hitler began writing Mein Kampf (My Struggle) while he was imprisoned in Bavaria.

As the winter of 1924 came and went in Hemsworth, there were less events of importance concerning the school reported in the local newspapers. It was as though Press interest in the novelty of the new school's existence had given way to other things.

Let's Get Ready!

Not until the Spring of 1924 did any further discussion take place about the house to be built for the Headmaster. A letter was sent to the Governors from the County Authorities in April stating that the Board of Education had at last approved the provision of a house at a cost not exceeding £1,250 and that tenders had been invited. The immediate reaction to this news was the establishment of a sub-committee of Governors to deal with the tenders when they arrived. Ald. Price the chairman, Mr. C.B. Little and Mr. W.H. Beetham was the threesome which stood ready and poised for the task.

Gas Oven Fumes

In April 1924 the Clerk Mr. Charles Crossley gave the Governors disturbing news about Mrs. Manning, the wife of the school caretaker. She was receiving medical attention due to being affected by the fumes from the Gas ovens as she was cooking the dinners of the schoolchildren. The West Riding County Council had been informed of this, and in reply had instructed the County Architect to look into the matter immediately. The Headmaster said that the Architect had visited the school, and had recommended the installation of a ventilation shaft to carry away the fumes.

Another Assistant- Mistress

There were ten applicants in April 1924 for the advertised post of assistant mistress at the school, three of whom were interviewed. They were:-

Miss M.M. Jones of Warrington

Miss A.E. Bruckshaw B.A. of Market Drayton

Miss D. Murfitt B.A. of Hoyland, near Barnsley.

The post was given to Miss M. Morgan Jones, and so the staff contingent became the Headmaster; Senior Mistress; three assistant masters; three assistant mistresses and a part-time manual instructor.

From the School Magazine

Most Hilmians would know of the North Walk, but there was a clue to the existence of its polar counterpart, the **South Walk**, in the second edition of the School Magazine, which contained three photographs - one of the South Walk, another of the School itself and also one of a performance of the play, "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

The Magazine's first twenty pages were devoted to notes and news of school life in general, both work and recreation. The scholars' own contributions were only signed with initials, and so authorship can only be guessed. "S.T.H." wrote an imaginative piece entitled, "A conversation between a sparrow who has looked in a classroom window, and his friend," and "Leo's" contribution of descriptive writing was a phantasy, "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

There were short poems by A.S. (Early Morning) and "Felix, 2b" (How Robin Hood met Little John), and the following contribution signed E.D. entitled "Concentration", which may have been created with an acknowledgement in mind of the Headmaster's 'Concentration of Will' address during Speech Day the previous December. 'Concentration' was clearly one of the Headmaster's oft-repeated words.

Concentration

The following is some idea of the information gained by a member of Form IV who is unable to concentrate. History is in progress in Form IV, Maths in V, and French in Form III.

"Today we shall do Geometry, when William the Conqueror landed with le petit chose a l'ecole. Ce n'est pas possible for the Britons to be in one straight line quand la porte est fermee a clef. When William landed they say that he slipped sur la table, but he said this is proposition 3 book 2. This row of girls might do well in a beauty competition, but where brains are concerned how could Harold be hit in the eye quand la fenetre n'est pas ouverte. In conclusion, we must remember that Harold was tired and so how on earth can you find the centre that way parceque le livre est sur la table? (Bell heard in the distance, student coming to life asks if the homework is really Monsieur Harold sur le theorem of Pythagoras)"

Too Expensive!

It only took one month for the 3-man sub-committee of the Governors to gather in the tenders for the building of the Headmaster's house, but unfortunately they were all above the upper limit of £1,250 specified by the County Council. Presumably, such a long time had been taken to give the final approval to build, that the costings for materials and labour were now unrealistic. The County Architect would need to produce freshly modified plans to fit the budget, resulting in yet further delay. As an alternative, it was suggested that Addiscombe House, on Barnsley Road, Hemsworth, which was then for sale at £1,200, could be purchased to accommodate the Headmaster, in preference to the building of a new house in the grounds. Mr. Jenkinson's response to this was that the house was not at all suitable, and he would not live there. Clearly the Committee could not force the Headmaster to live where they chose, but they said there would be some difficulty in approving a cost of over £2000 to provide a new house for the

Headmaster, especially bearing in mind that an opportunity of buying a house in Hemsworth for £1,200 had been rejected. A compromise was suggested whereby two semi-detached houses could be built, one for the Headmaster and the other for a member of staff. Further consultations were obviously necessary, and after much discussion, it was resolved to contact the County Architect asking him to submit plans for the erection of a house, along with further plans for a new block of classrooms at a cost which the West Riding Education Committee and the Board of Education would approve.

An Unsafe Floor

In May 1924 the County Architect reported to the Governors that the floor of an upstairs classroom was unsafe and required larger joists. The estimated cost of the work was £90, and it was decided to proceed with the remedial replacements without delay.

[Author's note: One of the pupils of that time has mentioned that Country Dancing took place in an upstairs classroom in those early days of the School's existence. There was no School Hall as yet, and if the weather was inclement, practices would take place in what used to be the largest bedroom used when the Hall was occupied by a family. The stress on the joists was clearly more than they could bear, and the practices were moved to the ground floor.]

"A room upstairs was set aside for PE and country dancing. One day, as we were in the middle of 'Gathering Peascods', an urgent knocking could be heard on the door, the floor rocked with our dancing and the messenger said that the ceiling was in danger of collapsing on to the floor below. This put an end to dancing upstairs." **Marion Finch**

Senior Assistant Master

When Mr. Jenkinson requested in May that Mr. Ernest Dickinson be recognised as senior assistant master, the matter was deferred until the end of the school year by the Governors. They did, however, forward a request to the County Council Higher Education Committee for the services of a visiting Needlework mistress on three days of the week.

County Minor Scholarships announced June 1924

These children were successful in attaining County Minor Scholarships, and would be starting at Hemsworth Secondary School in September 1924:-

Boys (20)

Ackworth	Robert Wilson, Harry Ellis, Harry Hemsworth, Frank N. Hewitt.
Brierley	Frank Jessop, Ernest Rowney
Hemsworth	Harry Maybury, Lawrence Frazer, Reginald Clark, Bertram A. Scott, Leslie Bancroft, Walter Parsons, Robert Whitehall
South Kirkby	Fred Williamson, Clifford Nettleton, John Mellor, Robert F. Addis, Leslie Jago.
South Elmsall	Frank White, Brian Harrison.

Girls (13)

Ackworth	Edith M. Brown, Ethel Smith, Hilda Newton, Winifred Senior
Brierley	Lucy Chilton, Elsie Hinchcliffe
Hemsworth	Nancy Parsonage, Annie Brailsford, Ethel Gee, Winifred Dalton
South Elmsall	Edna Law, Nellie Leaver
South Hiendley	Edith Guest.

Three Delightful Plays

On the evening of Wednesday, 25th June 1924 the school gave three performances before a large audience in the Quarry Garden. The school choir enhanced the evening's entertainment with the part songs: "The Silver Swan" (Orlando Gibbons), "Who is Sylvia" (Schubert), "Where the Bee Sucks" (Dr. Arne) and "The Nightingale" (Thomas Weelkes).

The Cast Lists were:-

The Princess and the Woodcutter," by A. A. Milne

Princess	Kathleen Hawkesworth
Woodcutter	Cyril Teale
King	W. H. Wright
Queen	Adelaide Branford
Red Prince	G. Copley
Blue Prince	T. Burns
Yellow Prince	R. Webster

"Fleur de Neige"

La Reine	Evelyn Parker
Fleur de Neige	Alice Scott
Le Prince	Kathleen Jagger
Moroir	Hilda Sharpe
Chasseur	C. Bradshaw
Nymphes Sylvestres	May Bull, Molly Price, Mary Moody, Vera Hammill, Adelaide Branford, Elsie Nicholson, Violet Dodds, Jessie Ledger
Gnomes	R. Williams, J. Keenan, Philip Bull, E. Taylor, Geoffrey Schorah, F. Turner, G. Hunt.

"Creatures of Impulse," by W. S. Gilbert:

Old Lady	Phyllis Addiss
Martha	Winnie Sadler
Pippette	Molly Price
Sergeant Klook	Stanley Hinchcliffe
Peter	Frank Rothera
Bomblehard, a miser	E. J. Langley
Jacques, a rustic	A. Garbett
Village Girls	Winnie Penn, Olive Tooth and Hilda Gaunt.

In this play a mysterious old lady casts a spell on all who offend her, and under this spell, individuals must keep repeating their impulsive actions whether they like it or not. Of course, at the end, the old lady releases everyone from her spell. This play seemed to be the most enjoyed of the evening in the beautiful natural setting of the Quarry Garden.

Producers were:- Miss M.A. Griffiths, Miss D.L. Prince and Miss E.D. Robinson, each of whom also arranged the dances and dresses.

Business Manager was Mr. Philip Crossland, ably assisted by Mr. J.A. Storer and Mr. E. Dickinson

The Choir was rehearsed by Miss M.M. Jones.

Refreshments were provided by Mr. and Mrs. Manning.

Make-up was supervised by Mr. Undy of Fitzwilliam

The Rector of Hemsworth supplied the chairs to seat the audience.

The British Empire Exhibition, summer 1924

The British Empire in 1924 covered a quarter of the land on Earth, contained 58 countries, and had possessions on every continent. On St. George's Day, 23 April 1924 King George V opened an exhibition held in Wembley, with the official aim, "to stimulate trade, to strengthen the bonds that bind Mother Country to her Sister States and Daughter Nations, to bring all into closer touch, the one with the other, to enable all who owe allegiance to the British Flag to meet on common ground and to learn to know each other."

To mark the occasion the King sent a telegram to himself routed from London through the British Empire and back to London. The electric message took one minute and 20 seconds, and passed through Canada, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, India, Aden, Egypt and Gibraltar. The Exhibition was the largest ever staged, costing £12 million and when it was over, everything was dismantled apart from the stadium which later became the home of Football. It attracted 27 million visitors, some of whom travelled there from Hemsworth Secondary School. During the summer term, Miss Griffiths, Miss Prince and Mr. Dickenson took charge of a mixed party of 33 boys and girls for a three-day stay in London, primarily to visit the Exhibition, but also visiting the House of Commons and other places of interest. This highly successful trip was the School's first official School Holiday and Educational Visit, and encouraged by this, later on, a group of Boy Scouts from the School's Troop, accompanied by Mr. Storer, also made an excursion to the Exhibition.

Folk Dancing July 18th 1924

Fine weather favoured the dancers from HSS and its surrounding Primary Schools on the July Friday evening when everyone gathered on the cricket ground behind the school. There was an ambitious programme of 26 dances, including Morris dancing, country dances and sword dances, all watched by an appreciative audience which lined the dancing area. Kinsley Council School, South Elmsall Council School, Moorthorpe Council School, and Hemsworth Roman Catholic School joined the Secondary School in the first massed processional dance, "Helston Furry", and then Kinsley children danced "If all the World were paper". Six South Elmsall girls performed a longways country dance, "Step Stately", then a combination of Kinsley and Moorthorpe girls followed this with a round dance, "Put on thy smock on a Monday". The boys and girls of the Secondary school stepped out with a country dance on the line called "Dargason or Sedany". A Morris dance, "Blue-eyed Stranger" was given by members of the school staff, Messrs. Jenkinson, Dickenson and Crossland, aided by Mr. A.H. Whitehead, senior organiser in physical education to the West Riding of Yorkshire, Mr. G. Fitzgerald, organiser of physical training to the West Riding and Mr. Instone, organiser of physical training to the Castleford and Pontefract Secondary Schools. They showed the potentialities of Morris Dancing as a form of adult recreation, and then Kinsley and Moorthorpe earned applause for their Morris dance, "Bean Setting". Six senior boys from the Secondary school danced "Laudnam Bunches" and then the tutelage of Miss Colley, of Fitzwilliam was displayed by the eight senior girls from Kinsley Council School as they performed "Merry, merry milkmaids". The Secondary boys once again gained huge applause for their sword dance, "Flamborough Head" and an individual turn, "Old Mother Oxford", a Morris jig by Mr. G. Fitzgerald was also well received. A round country dance, "Newcastle" was performed by four boys and four girls of the Secondary school and received loud applause. The two hundred and fifty dancers all joined in for "Christchurch Bells" and this was followed by a Maypole Dance given by the children of the Hemsworth Roman Catholic School. However, the dance had become so intricate that at one point the Maypole collapsed, but it was soon righted, and the dance continued. "Lads a Bunchum", a Morris Dance given by the Secondary School staff was particularly spectacular, with its intricate rhythmical movements punctuated by stave tapping. This was followed by twelve tiny tots from Kinsley Council School dancing "Sweet Kate", a country longways dance. Their gesticulations were much appreciated by their audience. After a neatly performed sword dance by the Secondary School staff the programme was brought to a close by a massed round country dance, "Sellinger's Round". Miss Morgan Jones and Master C. Knee accompanied on the piano

The Third Sports and Parents' Day, July 26th 1924

The Officials;

President	Mr. A.G. Jenkinson
Starter	Mr. J.A. Storer
Marshall	Mr. P. Crossland
Recorder	Miss Morgan Jones

Points awarded; 1st - 3 points, 2nd - 2 points, 3rd - 1 point, and relay race 1st - 10 points, the totals to contribute to the winning of the House Challenge Cup. The colours of orange (yes, orange) and green were flourished by Holgate and Talbot, making it obvious to the spectators that the individual efforts were part of a whole effort for the benefit of the House. Individual overall winners in the open scratch events received "Victor" and "Victrix Ludorum" Cups. The Long Jump and Tug o' War have been introduced for the first time.

[Names have been augmented where possible]

Results (H - Holgate House, T - Talbot House).

Event	First	Second	Third
Throwing the Cricket Ball (open)	Stanley Hawkesworth.(T)	Kirk W.(H)	Knee C.(H)
100 yards scratch, girls (open)	Freda Swaine (T)	M. Lindsay (T)	F. Hirst (H)
100 yards scratch, boys (open)	Kirk W. (H)	Cockburn (T)	James W. Smith (T)
High Jump, Under 14, girls	Hilda Gaunt (H)	Winnie Sadler (T)	Violet Dodds (T)
Sack Race, Under 14, boys	Morley (T)	Rappit A. (H)	Thorpe A. (T)
220 yards scratch, girls (open)	M. Lindsay (T)	J. Hodgson (T)	M. Wootton (H)
880 yards scratch, boys (open)	James W. Smith (T)	Garbett (H)	Copley G. (T)
330 yards handicap, girls (open)	M. Lindsay (T)	B. Heath (H)	Hilda Sharpe (T)
High Jump, Under 14, boys	Morley (T)	Rappit A. (H)	Miles (T)
100 yards scratch, Under 14, girls	Jennie Hodgson (T)	Violet Dodds (T)	F. Long (H)
Sack Race, boys (open)	Heenan (H)	Cyril Teale (T)	Frank A. Rothera (T)
Balance Race, girls (open)	Jessie Ledger (H)	Mary Moody (T)	Hilda Finch (H)
440 yards scratch, boys (open)	Cockburn (T)	Kirk W. (H)	James W. Smith (T)
300 yards scratch, girls (open)	Freda Swaine (T)	M. Lindsay (T)	Hilda Sharpe (T)
100 yards scratch, Under 14, boys	Morley (T)	Harold Goulding (H)	Cliff (H)
100 yards, over 14, girls	Freda Swaine (T)	F. Hirst (H)	M. Wootton (H)
High Jump, boys (open)	Kirk W. (H) 4ft. 9in.	Webster R. (H)	Buttrell (T).
High Jump, girls (open)	F. Hirst (H)	E. Gaunt (H)	M. Lindsay (T)
220 yards scratch, open, U 14 boys	Harold Goulding (H)	Cliff (H)	Turner F. (H)
880 yards handicap, boys (open)	James W. Smith (T)	Garbett (H)	Keenan J. (H)
Skipping Race, 100 yards scratch, girls (open)	F. Hirst (H)	M. Lindsay (T)	F. Long (H)
220 yards scratch, boys (open)	Cockburn (T)	Kirk W. (H)	Mills (T)
Obstacle Race, girls (open)	M. Wootton (H)	Maud Wood (H)	Lilian Dykes (T)
Relay Race	Talbot House.		
Tug o' Wa	Holgate House.		
Long Jump, girls (open)	M. Lindsay (T)	Winnie Sadler (T)	Lilian Dykes (T)
Long Jump, boys (open)	Kirk W. (H) 15ft. 4in	Knee C. (H)	Copley G. (T)
4-legged Race, boys (open)	(1) Richard Buttrey, Cyril Teale & Rothera F.A. (T) (2) Barker E.J., Kirk W. & Knee C. (H) (3) Martin E., Dooley W.L. & Slatcher N. (H)		
4-legged Race, girls (open)	(1) Molly Price, Mary Moody & May Bull (T) (2) Lilian Dykes, Freda Swaine & Hettie Littlewood (T) (3) M. Finch, H. Finch & E. Killingbeck (H).		
House results were	Holgate 84½ points	Talbot 97½ points.	
The Victor Ludorum Cups for boys and girls were won by Kirk W. (15 pts.) and M. Lindsay (13 pts.) respectively.			

After tea a cricket match was played between the parents and the boys. The parents were all out for 7. Mills performed the "hat-trick" and took 7 wickets for 3 runs. The boys responded with 51 for 4 wickets. The parents were sent in and made a total of 24. One day later, on July 27th, the closing ceremony of the Olympic Games held in Paris took place. It is a possibility that some of the athletes who took part in the Hemsworth sports had been inspired by hearing of the achievements of Harold Abrahams and Eric Liddell, who won gold medals in the 100m and 400m events. Their story was not to be told until 1981 in the film 'Chariots of Fire'.

Raising Standards

While the preparations for the plays, the folk dancing demonstration, the Pontefract Festival and the sports were occupying the energies of Staff and pupils in the July of 1924, the end of year examinations were also taking place in all subjects, and when the results were examined, the Headmaster pronounced himself pleased with the decided improvements shown in method, accuracy and intelligence. Home lessons (homework) had proved their value in raising standards of written work, and a reading competition was held to address the shortcomings of self-expression and clarity of verbal communication generally observed in the pupils. With reference to this, Mr. Jenkinson said, "Children do not realise how selfish it is to mumble, and what a great deal of time is wasted by repetition. A reading competition, which, with the assistance of Miss Wilson, was held again this year, will do much it is hoped to remedy this defect, and the performance of a Shakespeare play is also very helpful."

Summer Renovations

During the Summer Term, the whole of the main school block was pointed and repaired externally, and it was decided by the Governors that renovations inside the school should be left until the new heating apparatus had been installed.

Preparations

Ald. Price announced at the July meeting of the Governors that there would be 30 or more new pupils attending the school after the summer holidays, and that new acquisitions needed to be organised early in preparation for this. The Housekeeper would need additional cutlery and crockery, an extra table, and a new kitchen range. The Clerk, Mr. Charles Crossley, was instructed to send in the requisition for the extra equipment.

The School Year ended with what must have been a satisfying feeling of accomplishment for Mr. Jenkinson, his staff and the Governors. Apart from the 'difficulties' over the building of the Headmaster's house, the consolidation which had taken place must have put everyone concerned in an optimistic mood ready for September's challenges.

Back to School - more pupils, new prefects and another House

At the beginning of the new School Year in September 1924 there were 184 pupils at the School, with 94 of them paying fees. Compare this with the 98 students attending in 1921, 140 on the roll at the first Speech Day, and 150 at the second. This steady growth over the previous three years meant that further accommodation, extra classrooms, more modern equipment and laboratories and above all, a central hall, had become a necessity. Knowing this, the Finance Committee voted £5,750 for improvements and additions.

There were still seven Forms in the school; IIc and I were amalgamated into Form I, the numbers of pupils having been reduced to allow for more individual teaching. The large number of children who had moved up was accommodated in an additional Form III. New pupils were placed in a Form no higher than II, and Form V was engaged in preparations to take the School Certificate examination the following July. Another House was created and given the name of "Price" in honour of the dynamic leadership given to the school Governors by Alderman Gabriel Price. Three Houses now existed within the school, Holgate, Guest and Price, yellow, red and blue. The increased numbers at the school meant that the room previously used as a reading room had to be converted to a classroom, and this loss of a quiet study area was much regretted. Hopes were high that when the new block was built it would be possible to establish a reading room within it. As the school roll grew, the system of Prefects was introduced as an aid to discipline within the school. Twelve individuals were chosen who were expected to maintain the serious aim of preserving the school's traditions, honour and good name. Freda Swaine became the first Head Girl for 1924-25.

The First Prefects



Back Row L-R: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Front Row L-R: 1, 2, Freda Swaine, Major Jenkinson, 5, Emma Bate, 7

The Hippodrome Again



A steady relationship was developing in the early 1920's between Hemsworth Secondary School and its local Picture House. All the events requiring the assembly of large numbers of pupils, parents and friends of the school were of necessity held here, as the school had not yet acquired its own Assembly Hall-cum-Gymnasium. The grounds and gardens of the School were ample enough for the outdoor occasions such as Country Dancing Festivals, Sports Days and the occasional summertime drama performances, but the Speech Days and winter Shakespearean presentations required comfortable seating and a stage, and Mr. Burns, the Hippodrome's proprietor, was only too glad to supply these (no doubt at the same time looking forward to his showing of the film 'The Thief of Baghdad' starring Douglas Fairbanks, currently about to be released).

Third Annual Speech Day December 10th 1924

The Hippodrome was once more booked for the afternoon staging of the Speech Day and Prizegiving of the School. This time a more ambitious programme was undertaken, with an opening Musical interlude given by the pupils. The Principal Speaker on that day was Sir Henry Hadow, Vice-Chancellor of Sheffield University, with Ald. Gabriel Price J.P., Chairman of the Governors, presiding.

Musical Programme

- The School Choir sang the Part Songs, "Song o' the Gale" and "Comrades Today (both by Wyles Foster), "In Summer Woods" (John Ireland), "Beauteous Morn" (Edward German) and "Shepherd's Lullaby" (Cyril Jenkins)".
- A solo performance on the pianoforte was given by Knee C.. He played the first movement of Sonata in G (Beethoven) and "Scherzo in B flat minor" (Chopin)
- Forms IIA and IIB sang the French songs "Berceuse d'Amorique" (Breton Folk Song) and "Petit Oiseau" (Bureau).
- Miss Morgan Jones sang "A Song of Thanksgiving" (Francis Allitsen), "Phyllis has such Charming Graces" (Old English), and "The Londonderry Air" (Traditional).
- Carols sung by the choir were; "The Angel Choirs are Singing" (Old English), "Christ is Born, go forth to meet Him" (Old French) and "See amid the Winter Snow" (Old French).
- The traditional Sea Shanties interspersed in the programme were "The Girls of Dublin Town", "Haul the Bowlin", "Haul Away, Joe" and "Rio Grande".

The Headmaster's Report

In speaking of the recent "Open Day" at the School, it is unclear whether Mr. Jenkinson was referring to the Sports and Parents' Day held on July 26th, or perhaps a separate occasion when parents had expressed to him their interest and pleasure from a visit to the School. There had certainly been a "Hemsworth Education Week" when the Open Day was taken to be a 'stocktaking' for the parents. The Headmaster welcomed the involvement of parents within the school, and stated that only with a thorough insight into the workings of the school could they achieve a successful partnership. Such visits were to be welcomed and encouraged, and he was enthusiastic in proposing an advisory committee of parents, Governors, the local education authority and the School staff which would co-operate in developing the school.

Latin

Mr. Jenkinson once again returned to the subject of the teaching of Latin in school. Latin had been dropped by some pupils in Form V to allow more time for the study of French because it had been difficult for them to learn the two languages well enough in such a new school over less than four years. He hoped to make Latin an alternative subject to Science during the year preceding the School Certificate. Although the Headmaster had not changed his opinion as to the usefulness of learning Latin, he saw that the curriculum was crowded, and choices had to be made between Arts and Sciences. Pupils wanting to take an Arts degree should continue with Latin, but on the Science side this was not so necessary. At any rate, the present situation was that modern foreign languages needed extra study time in school, and particular attention had to be paid to this.

Concentration

'Concentration' was another of the repeated themes of Mr. Jenkinson. He felt that many answers in the annual examination papers had been too sketchy and incomplete, showing that the pupils' knowledge was deficient. Only by the power of determined and concentrated effort would the pupils grasp a deeper understanding of their subjects, and this would be aided to a great extent by home lessons, where problems and meanings had to be worked out by the pupil himself with unassisted effort.

Games

Excellent progress had been made by the boys during the year, thanks to the efforts of Mr. Dickenson and Mr. Crossland. During the cricket season 11 matches were played, and seven won. The boys had shown great enthusiasm with rugby also, and much improvement was made. Of five matches played, only one had been lost, and the team was now meeting the first teams of some schools. "Fives" was also played with keenness and skill, and a pair of boys was mentioned by the Headmaster whom he felt would be a match for any pair from any secondary school in the country. High praise indeed, and yet these opposing players were hard to find. The girls were similarly praised for their progress in hockey, under the careful coaching of Miss Prince and Miss Robinson. Netball and tennis were played during the summer term, but there were no matches. There was the space for more tennis courts to be laid, and this was now a necessity.

Music

Miss Morgan Jones had been a welcome addition to the staff, as she had placed music to the forefront in the school. At the Pontefract Music Festival the choir obtained a first Class Certificate with 172 marks out of 200. Certificates had also been won for country dancing by both boys and girls at Pontefract and Leeds. The Morris Dancing of the boys had reached a very high standard.

Gramophone, Wireless and Library

The School's gramophone had proved useful for country dancing, and the appreciation of good music on wet days. It was found to be of no use in the teaching of French, owing to the poor quality of the records. The school wireless was in constant use receiving broadcasts from abroad as well as from the Home stations. Mr. Storer had spent a great deal of time in building and adding to the set which was used by both boys and girls during afternoons and evenings. Next term it was hoped to acquire a loudspeaker 'of the latest type'. The Library now contained 450 books, and the Headmaster mentioned his hope that every girl and boy would present the library with the gift of a book when they left the school. He also announced that there would be a third issue of the "School Magazine" the following term.

Thanks

Both the Staff and the Governors received the Headmaster's profound thanks and appreciation for their efforts, with Miss Griffiths and Ald. Price receiving special mention for their assistance in the running of the School - Miss Griffiths for her supervision of the girls; Ald. Price for his "guiding hand, and his strenuous support."

Sir Henry Hadow

Vice-Chancellor of Sheffield University (1919-30)

During the 1920s and 1930s Sir Henry Hadow (1859-1937) chaired a consultative committee that was responsible for several important reports on education in England. In 1926, a report entitled 'The Education of the Adolescent' looked at primary education in detail for the first time. It prioritised activity and experience, rather than rote learning and for the first time discussed the specific needs of children with learning difficulties. The report also made the important recommendation of limiting class sizes to a maximum of thirty children, and abandonment of all-age schools with the creation of secondary modern schools. Later on, in 1931, another report was published: The Primary School, which was influenced by the educational ideas of French psychologist, Jean Piaget, and advocated a style of teaching based on children's interests

There were two reasons, according to Sir Henry, why he was delighted to be attending Hemsworth Secondary School's third Speech Day. Firstly, because it was a new school it was interesting to watch the growth of such an undertaking from its very beginnings. The establishment of traditions and the sowing of the seeds which would later be garnered was like seeing the beginnings of the growth of the pupils themselves. The other reason he was glad to be there was that such a good start had been made at the school, with the doubling of its numbers within three years, that there was much evidence to be seen of its continued progress. Not only was the school increasing in size, but also, according to the Headmaster's report, in its achievements.

Music

As a man to whom music meant a great deal, Sir Henry was impressed by the musical achievements of Hemsworth Secondary School. He asked the audience whether they had noticed where the eyes of the singers were during the excellent performance of the choir. They were fixed on the pianist, which was exactly where they should have been. This demonstrated not only a fondness for the music, but good teaching and good discipline, which resulted in a first-class choral ensemble. Added to this, he said that when one found the second form of a school singing in French, with the audience understanding everything, it showed abilities of which many much larger and older schools might well have been proud. The music of the school deserved great praise.

Advice to the Parents

In listening to Mr. Jenkinson's descriptions of the subjects offered by the school, Sir Henry thought that the wide variety of serious and also lighter options was impressive. Concerning the teaching of Latin, he urged those who thought that Latin was an unnecessary luxury to think again. Some parents said they did not want their children to spend time learning something they would not use in later life, but this was not a valid objection. If parents looked back and tried to remember everything they had learned at school, they would find there was not a large amount recalled, and this was good.

"Education should not be about filling a child's head with facts, but with things that would strengthen the child's mental and moral muscles; enlarge its outlook and make it more capable of dealing with the problems of life."

On the subject of home lessons, or homework, Sir Henry appealed to parents to allow as much time as possible for the children to do the work they had been given from school. He acknowledged that there was a danger to make children "useful" helping in the home, and urged parents to remember that there was but a short time allowed for children to acquire their education, and overworking would result in tiredness and strain, to the detriment of lessons. Another important thing to bear in mind was for parents to allow their children to complete the full school course until the age of 16. Parents had a difficult course to steer between apathy about their children's education, and too much interference. Both were to be avoided at all costs.

To the Staff and Pupils

Sir Henry also had some direct advice to the teaching staff of the school. He had no doubts that they were doing their work efficiently, but would ask them, and all teachers in all schools and colleges to have an illuminated card-board sign hung in their bedrooms, so that they may see it day and night, saying "Remember what you were at their age." There was general applause to this.

To the pupils

Sir Henry spoke directly of their responsibility to ensure that they remembered they were the school. Everything existed within it solely for their sakes and because they were there. They were the centre and core of it, and the future of the school depended on what they gave it. This was more important because it was a new school. Their welfare was its welfare. There was every reason to be proud of their school, and they should ensure that they lived their lives so that it was proud of them.

In ending his address, Sir Henry suggested that the balance of work and play in the school might be adjusted by requesting of the Headmaster and Governors an additional half-day's holiday. This inaugural tradition was acceded to by Ald, Price on behalf of the Governors to the great enthusiasm of the audience.

The Prizewinners

Mrs. Alice Schorah, in the absence of Lady Mabel Smith, presented the prizes to the following:-

Form Prizes

V	E. J. Barker
IV	A. Mart
III	Hilda Gaunt
II	Ila Winnie Sadler, IIb Jennie Hodgson, IIc Doreen Schorah
I	Phyllis Howe
English	E. J. Barker, Edith Gaunt, Clarice Allen, R. N. Slatcher
History	Frank A. Rothera, Adelaide Branford, Doreen Schorah
Geography	Lilian Dykes, Winnie Sadler, Jennie Hodgson
French	Freda Swaine, Olive Tooth, Nellie Chilton
Latin	E. J. Barker, R. V. Williams
Mathematics	E. J. Barker, Hilda Gaunt, Doris Miles
Physics	Stanley Hawkesworth, A. Stanton
Chemistry	R. N. Slatcher, Raymond Wilkinson
Art	Sybil Ghent, Philip Bull, E. Taylor
Singing	N. Miles
Needlework	Winnie Penn
Woodwork	T. E. Dickinson
Scripture	Kathleen Jagger, G. C. Mellors
General Progress	A. Thorpe (22 places), Winnie Penn (16 places)
Reading Competition	Miriam Wass, May Bull, R. White
General Intelligence Exam.	Mary Hodgson, Olive Tooth, H. Gerner, Kathleen Jagger.
Star Prizes	E. J. Barker, Winnie Sadler, Doris Miles, R. N. Slatcher.
[Names have been augmented where possible]	
House Challenge Cup	Talbot House (607½ points), Holgate House (394 points)

On the proposition of Mrs. J. Guest, seconded by Mrs. G. Price, Sir Henry Hadow was thanked for his presence and Mrs. Schorah for having distributed the prizes.

As the winter term drew to a close, the pupils and staff had only one week after the Speech Day before they were again to present themselves at the Hippodrome, this time with an ambitious programme. Much of the first term of the new school year would have been taken up with rehearsals, costumes and creation of props for those involved in the production of one of Shakespeare's plays

'As You Like It' -Dec 17th and 18th 1924

Orlando de Boys	Cyril Teale
Oliver de Boys	Carter S.
Jaques de Boys	Stanley Hawkesworth
Phoebe, a shepherdess	Molly Price
Le Beau	Philip Bull
Touchstone & Sir Oliver Martext	Frank A. Rothera

William
Silvius
Rosalind & Ganymede
Audrey, a goatherd
Celia & Aliena
Charles
Adam
Amiens
Duke Frederick
Sir Rowland de Bois

Garbett A.
Kathleen Jagger
Hetty Littlewood
Kathleen Thompson
Emma Bate
Copley G.
Fearnside E.
Senior N.
Stanley Hinchcliffe
Keenan J.

In fear of their lives, Rosalind and Celia flee to a forest. Escaping what they most fear, they both discover what they both love. Rosalind, the daughter of a banished Duke falls in love with Orlando, the disinherited son of one of the Duke's friends. When she is banished from the court by her usurping uncle, Duke Frederick, Rosalind switches genders, and as Ganymede, travels with her loyal cousin Celia and the jester Touchstone to the Forest of Arden, where her father and his friends live in exile. Observations on life (including love, aging, the natural world and death) are made, and families are reunited. By the play's end, Ganymede, once again Rosalind, marries her Orlando. Two other sets of lovers are also wed, one of them Celia and Orlando's mean older brother, Oliver. As Oliver becomes a gentler, kinder young man, so the Duke conveniently changes his ways and turns to religion so that the exiled Duke can rule once again.

The three-act arrangement of the play was hailed in the local press as a happy success. "In the free naturalism of their work we forgot the awkwardness of youth - even in the boys." (Sth. Yorkshire Times.) There was boisterous fun in the first act when Orlando wrestled and overthrew his opponent, and zest in all the work, combined with intelligence in the delivery of the lines. The dialogue between the disguised Rosalind and Orlando was particularly impressive, and Hetty Littlewood's Rosalind was graceful yet spirited. Emma Bate as Celia spoke clearly and acted well, as did Stanley Hawkesworth as Jacques. The bully was masterfully played by Stanley Hinchcliffe, and Frank A. Rothera, (the previous year's 'Puck' in *Midsummer Night's Dream*), was at home with his part of Touchstone, revelling in the action, and therefore a delight to watch. Philip Bull (*Le Beau*) played his part with just the right amount of "affectation", and Cyril Teale's portrayal of lover and hero was vivacious and convincing. The smaller but important parts were played well. Courtiers and foresters were Millicent Wootton, Eunice Addis, Marjorie Hudson, Phyllis Addis, May Bull, Mary Moody, Connie Madden, Rappit A. and White F.W.

The songs of the play enhanced the presentation. Senior N. sang "Blow, blow thou winter wind," and "Under the Greenwood Tree", and joined with White F.W. for "What shall he have who killed the deer" and "It was a lover and his lass". The choir gave "Foresters, sound the cheerful horn" and dancers performed a minuet to Beethoven's music in the first Act, and the country dance "Newcastle" at the end of Act three. The performance was completed by the orchestral playing between Acts of Frederick Rosse's music to "The Merchant of Venice." The costumes and scenery, combined with the enthusiasm and enjoyment of the students, made the afternoon's entertainment at the Hippodrome a huge success. Wednesday's audience was large, and comprised mostly of the children of the Secondary School and its surrounding Primary Schools to which invitations had been sent. This was felt to be an excellent idea. A second show was given to another large audience the following afternoon.

1924-25 Terms and Holidays

September 1st to December 19th with a half-term holiday on November 3rd.

January 11th to April 8th with a half-term holiday on March 2nd.

April 29th to July 30th with the Whitsun holiday June 1st and 2nd, half-term (not a holiday) June 10th.



On Friday afternoon 19th December 1924 Ald. G. Price presided at a meeting of the Governors held at the School. Also present were Mrs. G. Price, Mrs. J. Guest, Mrs. A. Schorah, Mrs. Garbett, Messrs. J. Potts, T. Beetham, J. Peckett, F. Cressey, the Headmaster (Mr. A.G. Jenkinson) and the Clerk (Mr. C. Cresswell).

A School Museum - deferred

The Headmaster reported that the County Authorities were encouraging the establishment of school museums within the Secondary schools of the West Riding, and to facilitate this, were willing to entertain requisitions for display cases to exhibit the artifacts. There were not many items of this nature in the school at that time. There was a small collection of geological specimens, but the reasoning was that if they had some cases, Mr. Jenkinson thought that the children would be encouraged to bring more exhibits. On reflection, he suggested that it would be better to postpone the application for cases until the new extensions were completed, for then they would have a new corridor, which would be the very place for cases. It was decided to postpone the application.

[This would seem to be an early reference to the display cases which were eventually installed above the cupboards lining the Hall (later Library) Corridor. They are still there. *Photo above.*]

Join together!

A suggestion was broached to the Governors about the establishment of an advisory committee comprising Governors, Staff, Parents and possibly the Education Authority, which would hold a meeting every term in order to discuss any matter relating to the school. Mr. Jenkinson welcomed this idea, already mentioned by him on Speech Day, saying he would like to see such a committee started. Ald. Price proposed to place the matter on the agenda for the next meeting, when a scheme could be formulated, and this was approved by all.

Another gardener

It was resolved to engage the services of an additional gardener after an advertisement had been placed, at a weekly wage of £2 10s a week, to commence duties in March, at the beginning of the growing season.

Electricity

There had previously been some discussion about the possibility of establishing the facility in school to show films, but of course the staff were unable to do this because there was no electric power laid on to the buildings. Lighting was by means of the piped gas supply. The County Hall Authorities wrote to the school stating that the statutory rules and orders prohibited the use of any "illuminant" other than electric light for a cinema lantern, and that ruled out the showing of any films in school unless a small dynamo were to be installed. However, when the new extensions to the school were built, (i.e. the Assembly Hall, and classrooms surrounding the Quad) the architect planned to incorporate electricity within them. Mr. Cressey said the Yorkshire Electric Power Company had all the cables placed down in Hemsworth, and it would not be long before the light was "put on." It was resolved to write to the power company asking them for all particulars of their proposed scheme for lighting Hemsworth by electricity, and the possible date of the commencement of electric lighting. This meeting of the Governors took place when all the pupils had gone home after their last day of term, and no doubt the Governors would have ended their deliberations with thoughts turning to their imminent Christmas celebrations.

The year closed with events both local and international having been achieved. Clarence Birdseye had invented a process to fast-freeze foods, and London's first red double-decker buses were being introduced. The dance craze known as the Charleston was everywhere, and George Bernard Shaw received the Nobel Prize for Literature. The comedy team known as the Marx Brothers had become stars, and the British Empire Exhibition had been held as a measure to shore up the diminishing influence of the Mother country amongst its dependencies.

At some point in the year of 1924, two of the dignitaries who had strong connections with the school would have been lining up together at a ceremony held at Leeds University, both wearing gowns and tasseled hats which would have been recognised by Henry the Eighth. Sir Percy Jackson and Sir Michael Sadler were both awarded Honorary Doctorates, LLD and DLitt respectively.

The School had established a few "firsts" during 1924, such as the School Trip, or Educational Visit, and the half-day holiday announced on Speech Day. However, consolidation in general, and a sense of its own identity were the strongest themes of its development in 1924.

In Hemsworth, Shakespeare and Country Dancing were flourishing; Electricity and the new school buildings were on the horizon and perhaps further into the far distance was the Headmaster's house!