

High Dudgeon

After the Christmas holiday, it soon became clear that the furore created among some of the Governors by the wording on invitations sent by the committee of the Old Students' Association to their social gathering in December was not about to fade away. More heated discussion took place during the first week of January at the Governors' meeting, and some time later, extracts of the opinions expressed by Mr. J. Picken, and Mrs. J. Guest, with replies from Mr. Jenkinson and Ald. Price, appeared in the local newspaper under the heading, "Governors' Wrath - A Tactless Invitation." In endeavouring to bring the matter to a close, Ald. Price proposed that it should be left to the Headmaster to have a quiet word with the offending committee to make sure that such misunderstandings did not re-occur. Everyone, including Mr. Jenkinson, agreed to this, and now they could pass on to other business in hand, which was the appointment of new members of school staff.

An Engineering Master

Mr. Jas. W. Burroughs B.Sc of Harpenden, Herts. was appointed Engineering Master at the school in January 1929, pursuant to the new policy of expansion of the curriculum.

Mr. J.W. Rhodes Joins the School

In February 1929, three candidates for the post of assistant gardener at the school were interviewed, and Mr. J.W. Rhodes of Upton, was appointed. He was to remain in employment at the school until his retirement in the 1960's.

Dinner Fund Loss

With a balance of £117 in the dinner fund account, the loss of £4 over the previous term was discussed at the Governors' meeting in January. It was suggested that the reduction of the price of a ticket by two pence during the Autumn term accounted for this, added to which there had been a drop in demand during the second half of that term. The Chairman suggested that things were best left as they were for a term or two, as there was a healthy balance, and if it were not spent, the County would claim it.

Exciting Hockey

Hemsworth S.S. Girls 2 Ackworth Q.S. Girls 2

On Saturday, 26th January, 1929, an exciting match took place at the Hemsworth school. Ackworth's greater knowledge and experience initially proved difficult for the Hemsworth team, but they soon adjusted, and continued to press throughout the game. Ackworth's two goals were scored by Margery Beaumont, and Misses Hilda Brooks and Vera Parton scored for Hemsworth. This game made history by being the first one to be reported in the press.

It Will Not Go Away

As promised, Mr. Jenkinson attended the next meeting of the Old Students' Association on 26th January, no doubt with the intention of smoothing things over concerning the invitations which had given offence to certain Governors. The requesting of an entrance fee to the Christmas social for those guests who accompanied the Governors and were not old students of the school was the contentious issue. Since the Governors' meeting in the middle of January, when tempers had been running high, an account of what had been said in anger had appeared in a local newspaper, and of course had been read by members of the Old Students' Association. They in turn reacted to this, and at their meeting a short time later, one of the invitations was read out to everyone in an effort to identify anything objectionable about it. The members failed to see what was causing the offence. It was mentioned that several of the Governors, including the chairman and his wife, had accepted the invitation and attended the dance.

Mr. Jenkinson was now in an unenviable position. He had been hoping to close the matter with a quiet word, and found himself having to undertake to explain the point of view of the Old Students' Association to the Governors at their next meeting. Not only that, but the Old Students were in turn righteously indignant that criticism of their invitations had been openly displayed in the local press, and so they decided to draft a letter of their own for publication, to explain their position.

THE LETTER

Sent without delay to the local newspaper:

Sir,

A report appeared in your last issue with regard to the recent dance held by the Hemsworth Secondary School Old Girls' and Boys' Association, and which appears to us to call for immediate explanation. The Association is represented as having sent out an invitation which was improperly worded, and which reflected discredit on the school. We do not consider that there is anything in this invitation to which any reasonable exception can be taken. It has always been a strict rule with the Association that no strangers should be invited to these gatherings, because they are intended to be reunions of old students of the school, and the character of such gatherings would be altogether altered by the admission of strangers. The only exception to this rule has been in the case of Governors and members of the staff, who have been invited on the same terms as members. No complimentary invitations have been issued to anyone. The Association cannot afford to issue them, and it would be unreasonable to expect them to do so. It was also stated in your report that Mr. Picken was refused permission for his children to attend the dance. What actually happened was that a friend of Mr. Picken's family was told that under the rules of the Association he could not attend the dance. We wish to make it clear that the Association had no intention of giving offence to anyone, and we regret very much that such a charge should have been unjustly brought against it. It is the desire of the Association and of everyone who is concerned with the credit and welfare of Hemsworth Secondary School that the meetings of the Old Girls and Boys and the affairs of the Association should be conducted with good fellowship and good feeling.

Yours etc. on behalf of the Hemsworth Secondary Old Students' Association,

W.L. Dooley, Winifred Walsh, Freda Swaine, Millicent Wootton, P.T. Burns, S.L. Carter, W. Kirk, A. Grayson (Hon. Secretary)

The Governors' Next Meeting - Loggerheads

As could have been predicted, the matter of the offending invitations was still a white-hot issue at the next Governors' meeting on 16th February, especially now that the Association's letter had been published and read by all. Ald. G. Price presided over a Friday afternoon's uncomfortable discussion. Mrs. Guest introduced the topic by saying she had read the old students' letter in the newspaper, and interpreted it as insinuating that she had objected to paying for her ticket, which was nonsense. She stated that when the Association was founded, she was one of the first Governors to send them a subscription, and she had always paid to go to their functions. Mr. J. Picken said he regretted the trouble had arisen. He asked the Headmaster whether he had written the letter for the Press, and Mr. Jenkinson replied that he had assisted in writing the letter. Mrs. Dooley said she had received an invitation and she failed to see what was wrong with it. The Association had always been grateful for the kindnesses extended to them. She could not see that the invitation reflected in any way on the education of the children. Mr. J. Potts regretted that the Governors and old scholars were at loggerheads and causing discontent, as that would not be to the benefit of the school. Mrs. Guest said she had been astonished to see such a letter in the papers, and she had a right to defend herself. The Headmaster read out the wording of the invitation, and said there was little in it to which any reasonable person might take exception. He explained how in attending the meeting of the Association, as requested by the Governors, he had seen that the members were indignant about seeing the matter reported in the Press, and he understood that they had therefore published their letter in an effort to clear themselves of the false charge. Mrs. Guest said she felt it would have been much better if the letter had been sent to her, instead of the Press. The Chairman remarked that he did not think that Governors were in any position to govern or control the rules and regulations of the Association, and on that note, the subject was closed. As if to throw even more fuel on the fire, an account of this meeting and the comments of its attendees also appeared in the newspapers soon afterwards.

(Comparatively speaking however, these altercations in Hemsworth paled into insignificance compared with what was going on in Chicago during that same week, when two days earlier than this meeting, seven gangsters, rivals of Al Capone, were murdered in the St. Valentine's Day Massacre!)

The 21st Annual Pontefract Musical Festival Tue-Sat 13th -17th March 1929

The Adjudicators

Sir Richard Terry, of London. Mr. R.H. Wilson of Manchester, and Mr. A.G. Jenkinson of Hemsworth and Mr. J. Gawthorpe of Shipley in the elocution classes. The President - Mr. G.K. Hibbert, J.P. Headmaster of the Ackworth School Musical Director - Mr. R.B. Walker

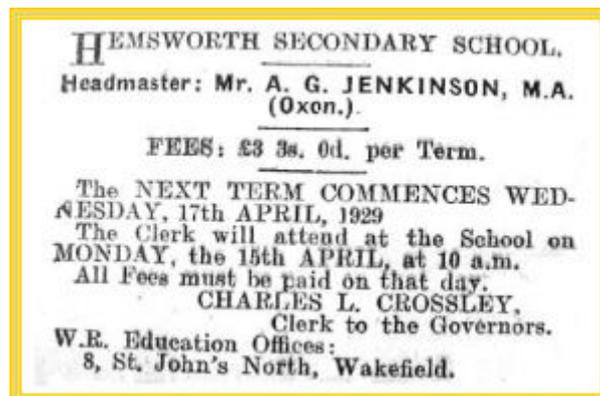
There were 671 entries, which was 100 more than the previous year, with 20 schools competing in the junior classes and 24 in the senior, with 22 adult choral entries. The decrease in entries from the South Kirkby and Hemsworth districts was noticeable. Hemsworth Secondary School's choir was placed third with 176 marks for two test pieces, one of which was "The Owl" by Dr. Chapple, organist at the Pontefract Parish Church. It was said that they had a rich resonant tone, and with a little more 'elasticity' they would have achieved a better position. On the Wednesday, Mr. R.H. Wilson praised the Intermediate school choirs, saying they would be a good foundation upon which to build a revival of choral societies in the event of the "sensationalism of jazz" dying down. To illustrate the breadth of talent in the area, the other sections open to competition were; Vocal Duet (11-13; School Round; All School Choirs; Girls' School Choirs; Boys' School Choirs; Girls' Solos (11-13 and 13-16); Boys' Solos(11-13 and 13-16); Vocal Duet(13-16); Sight reading and ear test; Elocution; Small school choirs; Large school choirs; Part-song for Girls' Clubs; Pianoforte Solo; Pianoforte Duet (Junior); Male Voice Choir; and Church and Chapel Choirs.

(The competitors and adjudicators of that time could not have known that a few weeks later, in Berlin, a baby named Andreas Ludwig Priwin would be born who was to become the world famous concert pianist, composer and conductor known as Andre Previn. Over in Holland, a similar musical genius was also born during March 1929 who became a world famous conductor by the name of Bernard Haitink.)

Old Students Make a Plan

At the half-yearly meeting of the Old Students' Association in March 1929, Mr. W. Leo. Dooley presided and presented the half-yearly report. Miss Freda Swaine and Mr. William Kirk presented reports of the Sports section. Doubtless still mindful of the recent clash with some of the Governors, on Mr. Dooley's suggestion they agreed to hold a garden party in the summer, but not to admit the public. After the business was concluded, dancing followed.

The Summer Term to Come



The fees of nine guineas per annum, or three guineas per term for those pupils not in receipt of a County Minor Scholarship were still in effect in 1929, as they had been since their introduction during 1922. The advertisement for the date of the new term usually appeared in a local newspaper one week beforehand.

Easter Whist and Dance - 9th April 1929

The Old Students of the school led by Messrs Barker and Hawkesworth decorated the Assembly Hall with streamers and lanterns kindly lent by Millicent Wootton for the Easter event, staged when the pupils were on holiday. The attendance during the early part of the evening was poor. The winners of the Whist prizes were Miss J. Greenfield and Miss Winifred Walsh, Mr. S. Fry and Mr. James Keenan. There were about fifty members present for the dance. Mr. Syd. Brown's Palais-de-Danse Players supplied the music and Mr. W.L. Dooley acted as M.C. At supper, Miss Phyllis Addis, the president, made a short speech thanking all who had worked so hard to prepare the Hall, and regretting the poor attendance. It is left to conjecture whether this was caused by bad weather, poor communication and advertising, or perhaps a lack of Governors' support?

For the Sports Fund

Miss M.A. Griffiths organised a Jumble Sale in the School Assembly Hall on Saturday, 20th April 1929, and raised £15 17s. 6d for the Sports Fund. Miss E.D. Robinson and Mr. J.A. Storer produced the Staff Play on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, 1st and 2nd May 1929 and also gave the proceeds to the Tennis Court Fund, (or Sports Fund.)

Nothing but the truth

The second act "curtain" to this well-known farce was performed by the Staff to a large audience, and an examination of the cast list is a guide to who was on the staff at this time.

Van Dusen	Mr. L.T. Hyde
Ralston	Mr. J.A. Storer
Rev. Doran	Mr. L.N. Collette
Dick	Mr. R.T. Shiells
Rob	Mr. T. Manning
Mrs. Ralston	Miss E.D. Robinson
Ethel	Miss E.V. Hinckley
Gwen	Miss E. Shortridge
Sable	Miss I. Quayle
Mabel	Miss D. Hanson
Martha	Miss D. Mullinder

Mr. Manning achieved a notable success as the "hero" and won roars of laughter. Miss Shortridge played her role with charm, and made the most of the emotional opportunities. Miss Robinson was outstanding, striking the right note of smugness and portraying the injured and jealous wife convincingly. Mr. Hyde's Van Dusen contrasted well to Rob, and showed self possession in difficult "situations". Mr. Storer did well in a difficult part, as did Mr. Collette, who proved equal to the demands of another exacting role. The high standard was maintained by Mr. Shields, Misses Quayle, Hanson, Mullinder and Hinckley, and the school orchestra played entr'acte music.

26th April 1929 The Governors' Annual Meeting

Mr. J.H. Hallam (Director of Education for the West Riding), Mr. H. Wormald (County Architect), Mr. A.G. Jenkinson (Headmaster) and Mr. J.W. Burroughs (School Engineering Master), Ald. G. Price J.P., Coun. Mrs. E.L. Dooley, Coun. Mrs. Bingley, Mrs. G. Price, Mrs. J. Guest, Councillors J. Potts, T. Hepworth, A.S. Madeley, I. Burns, F. Corbett and J. Picken, and Mr. Charles Crossley (clerk.)

- The Clerk extended a welcome to the old members, and welcomed Coun. Isaac Burns as a new member.
- Coun. Hepworth proposed the re-election of Ald. Price as Chairman, saying there was no better man for the position. As a member of the West Riding Education Committee he could be of great assistance to the Governors. Coun. Corbett seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.
- Returning thanks, Ald. Price said that this was the eighth year of the school, and everyone could be satisfied with its growth and improvement. With the co-operation of the Governors, he hoped they would continue to improve the status of the school, making it a credit to the staff, students, parents, Governors, and the West Riding Authority,
- Coun. Potts was unanimously re-elected vice-Chairman, and returned thanks for the honour.

Other Business at the Meeting

Engineering extension

The Engineering master, Mr. J.W. Burroughs had been invited to this annual meeting, where he could offer his specialist advice to Mr. Hallam the Director of Education, the Headmaster and Mr. Wormald the County Architect concerning schemes for the extension of the newly-established technical branch of the school. Mr. Burroughs, the Head and Mr. Wormald were empowered to submit plans which would include machinery estimated to cost £250 to the County Authority, the Board of Education and the Ministry of Health.

The Dinner Fund

Income £1,021 / 19s / 8d.
Expenditure £1,041 / 16s / 9d.

The Chairman explained that the loss of £19 / 17s / 1d. on the year was due to the reduction in the price of each dinner to students, but the fund still had a balance in hand of £38 / 17s / 10d.

Funds for a tennis court

The Headmaster reported that the sum of £163 for the provision of a hard tennis court had been raised by voluntary efforts at the school on the part of Staff and students. The Governors decided to ask the County Authority to make a grant to cover whatever else was necessary to bring the court into use.

A resignation

The Governors accepted the resignation of Miss Doris Hanson, the teacher of History and physical drill. In her letter, Miss Hanson stated that the reason she could no longer continue at the school was her forthcoming marriage. She added that she had been very happy at Hemsworth Secondary School. It was decided to appoint a visiting teacher to take the girls in physical drill, and to fill the vacancy left by Miss Hanson with a mistress qualified to teach History and French.

School Holidays

A list of school holidays for the year totalling 70 days was submitted to the meeting by the Headmaster, and it was approved.

Renovations

The Governors recommended that renovations be carried out in the Chemistry laboratory, the Physics laboratory, the Domestic Science room and its adjacent corridor, and the front door of the school. The classrooms had now been in use since 1926, and probably needed re-decorating. Later in the year, an estimate from Mr. E. Priestley of Pontefract of £50 for this renovation work was accepted.

In America

In America, the Republican Herbert Hoover had been inaugurated as the 31st President in March, succeeding Calvin Coolidge. He believed that there were technical solutions to all social and economic problems, a philosophy which was to be greatly challenged in the coming months.

In London

On 30th May 1929 the UK General Election took place, and with no clear winner, there was a hung parliament. Ramsay MacDonald's Labour Party won the most seats, but failed to get a majority. The Liberals, led by Lloyd George regained some seats lost in 1924, and held the balance of power. Rather than concede to this situation, the Conservatives stood down, and shortly afterwards, Ramsay Macdonald formed a new Labour Government, and appointed the first ever female cabinet minister, Margaret Bondfield.



Ramsay MacDonald, Stanley Baldwin, David Lloyd George

New Arrangements-The First Transfers

On Friday, 24th May 1929 a new policy of selection and rejection was seen for the first time at Hemsworth Secondary School. In a letter to the Governors regarding the award of special County Minor Scholarships, Mr. J.H. Hallam, Director of Education for the West Riding, wrote:

"With the development of the South Kirkby (Moorthorpe) Middle Schools the position has arisen that certain of the children in attendance at these schools wish to be prepared for the Northern Universities School Certificate examination, although such preparation is not normally regarded as part of the work of a Middle School. The Headmaster and Headmistress of these schools have been instructed to bring forward for consideration by the Headmaster of the Hemsworth Secondary School all cases of children who, in their opinion, are suitable for such preparation, and are desirous of taking the examination. If the Headmaster of Hemsworth Secondary School considers, after imposing such tests as he considers desirable, that any other children in question are suitable for transfer to his school and are likely to pass a leaving examination not later than the year in which they will become 17 years of age, County Minor Scholarships tenable at the Hemsworth Secondary School will be offered to these children on his recommendation. I shall be obliged if you will arrange for the headmaster to consider and report on such cases of this nature as may be brought to his notice.

On the other hand, there may be County Minor School Exhibitioners in attendance at the Hemsworth Secondary School who are unlikely to benefit adequately from the Secondary School course, and who would be better placed in a Middle School. Should there be any holders of County Council awards from the townships of South Kirkby, South Elmsall, Badsworth, Upton or North Elmsall (these townships constitute the area from which pupils in the Moorthorpe Middle School are drawn) who are regarded by the Headmaster as coming within this category, please ask him to submit a report and recommendation on each case. The question of cancelling the scholarships and transferring the children to the Middle School will then be considered. Any such transfers as are referred to above from the Central (Middle or Modern) to the Secondary School should take place not later than the end of the term in which the pupil reaches the age of 14."

The response of the Governors at their meeting was to approve the suggested arrangements mentioned in the first part of the letter, while expressing the hope that there would be no necessity to transfer anyone from the Secondary school to the Middle school. They would naturally have been pleased at the prospect of increasing the numbers of pupils at the school by "cherry picking" from the best talent in the surrounding schools, but the reaction of the Middle school Heads to losing their brightest pupils and possibly having to accept the rejected pupils of the Secondary school can only be imagined.

A Change of Mind

The committee of the Old Students' Association met on June 13th 1929 to finalise plans for their summer social event. The 'Garden Party' idea from their discussions in March was changed, and the new proposition was to hold an "Old Students' Day" on July 26th, when there would be a cricket match for the boys, and a tennis tournament for the girls, with a dance to follow. The chairman, (W.L. Dooley) and secretary (J. Grayson) were authorised to make the arrangements. The next meeting for the election of officials was fixed for July 19th, when a new list of regulations would be considered. Perhaps with the passage of time, the committee felt a review of its basic rules might benefit future relations with Governors and other members.

'Teacher's Death'

The headline in the local newspaper of the first week in June, 1929 introduced the news that Miss E.D. Robinson, the senior English mistress at Hemsworth Secondary School for the previous five years, had died after a long illness. She was interred on Friday, 30th May in Birmingham, when the school was represented by Mr. A.G. Jenkinson, the Headmaster, and Miss M.A. Griffiths, Senior Mistress.

A letter of condolence was subsequently sent to the relatives of the late teacher from the committee of the Old Students' Association. The Governors also expressed their sympathy at a meeting later in June, when a letter was read out from Ald. Price, the chairman, who was unable to be present owing to having to attend an important meeting in Doncaster. His sentiments were endorsed, and in passing a vote of sympathy, the Governors commented on Miss Robinson's loyalty and faithfulness to duty and the great interest she had always taken in the school and pupils both in and out of school hours. In fact, according to the school's records, she had been listed as one of the producers, along with Mr. Storer, of the Staff Play, 'Nothing But the Truth', staged in the school Hall only weeks before, on the 1st and 2nd of May.

The Pontefract Music Festival

The annual folk dancing festival was held in the grounds of Pontefract castle on 24th June 1929, and the school did very well. The Secondary School Banner for the highest aggregate of marks which had originally been presented to the Festival by Hemsworth Secondary School in March 1925 was won by the school with 253 marks on this day. Other Hemsworth results were:

Under 14 sword dancing	third
Under 14 Morris Dancing	third
Under 18 sword dance	second
Over 18 Morris dance	second
Girls' Country Dance (Indian Queen)	first

There were 85 competitors in all. The adjudicator was Miss Sinclair of London, and the prizes were distributed by Mrs. Southerton-Estcourt of Darrington Hall.

A Concert

The events at the school continued a day later with the staging of a highly successful concert on the Wednesday evening of June 25th which became one of the most talked of events in the area. A packed Hall witnessed the considerable talents of the musicians and dancers.

The Artistes

Miss Phyllis M. Wright, L.R.A.M	the music mistress of the school who had a delightful contralto voice.
The Old Savilians of Wakefield	an efficient orchestra which included 25 performers.
Mr. G. Merrars	violinist
Miss Kathleen Perry	soprano
Mr. B. Lister	piccolo player
Mr. G. Mason	baritone
Miss Maisie Thorne	pianist
Miss Miriam Wass	contralto
Misses Connie Bull and Rosalind Atkinson	dancers

At the end of the concert, the Headmaster thanked the audience for supporting the event, and also the artistes for their services. He especially mentioned the Old Savilians Orchestra who had attended free of charge to help make the concert a success, and he hoped that Hemsworth people would have the pleasure of hearing them again.

Miss Quayle is Poorly

The clerk to the Governors, Mr. Charles Crossley, was asked by the Governors at the end of June 1929 to forward an expression of sympathy to Miss I. Quayle, a member of staff, with the hope that she would make a complete recovery from her prolonged illness.

Draining the Cricket Field

Subject to the sanction of the West Riding County Council, the West Riding Education Committee was reported in June to have approved the proposed provision of drainage facilities on the school playing fields at the estimated cost of £99 / 10s / 0d. This would hopefully solve the reported problem of "laying water", and would more than likely have been centred in the region of that

piece of "holy ground" called the cricket pitch. The original request for this was made in April, but by the time sanction was given and the work completed, the cricket season would have been over. This matter is a clear example showing how each requirement for the improvement of the school had to follow a prescribed and routinely slow procedure through committees at various levels before final approval was given and progress could be made.

My Rent Is Too High!

A request from Mr. Jenkinson to the Governors was made in June 1929 for a reduction in the rent of his house in the grounds of the school. Compared to other houses of the same size in the district, he felt that his rent of £42 / 10s. / 0d. per annum was too much, and resulted in his rateable value being too high. The Governors agreed to recommend that his application be granted, however in the following October this was subsequently turned down by the County Authority.

Praise for the Headmaster

Mr. A.J. Jenkinson's efforts to advise and take an interest in the careers chosen and followed by his pupils received praise from the Governors in June 1929. His methods of informing the parents and pupils of the available options were commended by Coun. Isaac Burns, who said he hoped that this valuable interest would continue, to the benefit of all concerned.

County Minor Scholarships announced June 1929

Boys (25)

Hemsworth	R. Foye, G. Platt, J. Dalton, Walsh, J. Brown, A. Fox, E. Iveson
Brierley	E. Baxendale, V. Thorpe, K. Kitchen, W. Metcalfe, T. Scott.
Crofton	F. Pitchfork, G. Keen.
Havercroft-with-Cold Hiendley	G. Brown, W.E. Couldwell, E. Hampton.
Huntwick with Nostell and Foulby	R. Wade, E.S. Whittle
Ryhill	W. Robinson.
Shafton	David Stanley Moore.
South Elmsall	E. Page, J. Watson, S.B.T. Weaver, L. Wilson.

Girls (14)

Hemsworth	Muriel H. Brooks.
Brierley	Muriel North.
Crofton	Kathleen Thorpe, Gladys Boulton, Marjorie Jones, Margaret Poole.
Huntwick with Nostell and Foulby	Dorothy Dickinson
Ryhill	Joyce Bragger, Kathleen Hemsworth.
South Elmsall	Sylvia Chapman, Elsie Mason, Betty Shephard, Florence Gascoigne.
Shafton	Grace White

This number of future pupils, due to start in September 1929, would be counterbalanced by the loss of 17 pupils who had sent notices of withdrawal effective from the end of the summer term. While no record exists to give specific reasons for these withdrawals, the worsening economic situation in the country, and especially in the Hemsworth district at the time might not have been unconnected.

New Teachers

Ald. Price J.P. presided at a meeting on Friday July 5th 1929 at which the following appointments to the teaching staff were made, effective from September 1929:

Miss G.M. Lockey M.A.	Penzance	Senior English Mistress.
Miss D.L. Prince M.A.	Sheffield	History and French Mistress
Miss E.C. Makey	Rutland	Physical Drill Mistress

One month later, with Mrs. Garstang presiding, the Governors appointed Mr. John Henry Heppenstall to the position of Secretary to the Headmaster at a remuneration of 15s. per week. At the same meeting, another application from the Hemsworth branch of the Workers' Education Association for the use of a room at the school for tutorial classes was granted.

Old Students' Day

The planned annual reunion of the Old Students' Association took place on Friday, July 26th and the proceedings opened with a School v Old Boys cricket match which the Old Boys won by two runs. The School Tennis Team played the Old Girls, and won by ten games. At the dance held later in the evening, the M.C's were Messrs. W. Leo Dooley and G. Walsh, and the music was supplied by Syd. Brown's Palais-de-Danse Band. Mr. William Kirk, treasurer gave his report, which showed a credit balance of over £2 / 10s / 0d.

The newly elected officers of the Association were:

President	Mr. W. Leo Dooley
Vice-President	Miss Freda Swaine
Treasurer	Mr. William Kirk
Sports secretaries	Girls - Miss Millicent Wootton, Station Road, Hemsworth.
Boys	Mr. Cyril Teale, Rotherham Road, Hemsworth
Committee	Misses Olga Kirkham, Winnie Walsh, Messrs. E. John Barker and Harold Parsons.

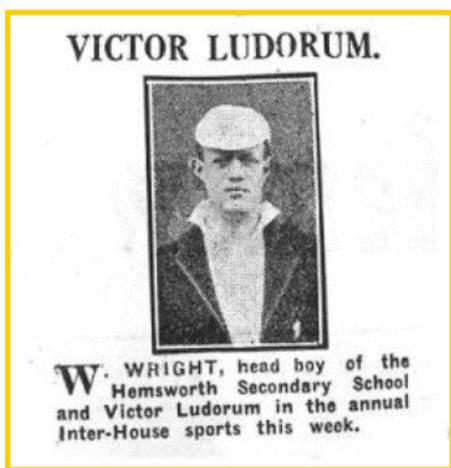
The Association, formed in June 1925 now four years later had 170 members.

The Eighth Sports and Parents' Day, Wednesday July 24th 1929

A large crowd of spectators watched the events of the afternoon, with the classrooms open for inspection, and an exhibition of needlework, woodwork and art drawings on view in the Assembly Hall. The Headmaster requested that donors of Victor Ludorum Cups would come forward in order to keep alive the spirit of friendly rivalry between the Houses.

House Points Holgate 80, Guest 66, Talbot 55, Price 36.
Victor Ludorum cups Walter H. Wright (Head Boy of the school) and Kathleen Sayles.

Event	First	Second	Third	Performance	
100 yards girls, open	Kathleen Sayles	Emily Wilson	Ethel Gee	12.5 secs	
100 yards boys, open	Walter Wright	Norman Senior	Sam Blackburn	10.3 secs	new record
100 yards girls, U13	W. Bower	A. Collinson	Muriel Hilton	13.4 secs	
100 yards boys, U15	Thorpe	Hemlock	Marlow J.	12.2 secs	
100 yards girls, U15	Mary Sutton	Dorothy Parkinson	Annie Dodd	13.2 secs	new record
Boys sack race	Albert Heywood	Robert Wilson	Bramley		
Girls' High Jump U15	Dorothy Parkinson	Marjorie Harrison	Marjorie Deane	3ft 9 ins.	
120 yards hurdles, boys	Sam Blackburn	Fred Williamson	Arthur Thorpe	17.2 secs	
120 yards hurdles girls	Kathleen Sayles	E. Wilson	Florence Hodgson	19.1 secs	new record
120 yards hurdles, boys U15	Bernard Hemstock	Arthur Thorpe	Marlow	19 secs	
120 yards hurdles, girls U15	Mary Sutton	Sybil Howson	Alice Hinchcliffe	21 secs	new record
Girls' open High Jump	J. Fowler	Grace Mills	Eunice Allen	4ft 4 ins	new record
Four-legged race boys	Guest House	Holgate	Guest		
220 yards boys	Walter Wright	Sam Blackburn	Fred Williamson	24.5 secs	new record
220 yards boys U15	Arthur Thorpe	Bernard Hemstock	John Jacques	30 secs	
220 yards girls U15	E. Sutton	Kathleen Liversedge		35 secs	
220 yards girls open	Kathleen Sayles	E. Wilson	Marion Birkin		
Boys' High Jump	Walter Wright	Arthur Thorpe	Senior	4ft 10 ins	
Boys' High Jump U15	Marlow	Bernard Hemstock	Arthur Thorpe	4ft 2ins	new record
Slow bicycle race girls	J. Read	Marjorie Harrison	Rosalind Atkinson		
Wheelbarrow race, girls	M. Walker and Heywood	Mary Jones and Hudson	M. Norton and Roebuck		
440 yards boys	Walter Wright	Moss		60 secs	new record
440 yards boys U15	Arthur Thorpe	Bernard Hemstock	Ernest Wright	68.5 secs	new record
Obstacle race, girls	Kathleen Perry	Dorothy Rogers	A. Finch		
Bunny Race, girls	Joan Jagger	G. Ramsden	M. Townend		
Four-legged race, girls	Kathleen Sayles	Hannah McCroakam	E. Kirk		
Mile Handicap, boys	Mellor	Taylor	Arthur Thorpe	5mins 28.5 secs	
Plant pot race, girls	E. Nuttall	A. Chadwick	F. Senior		
Old Girls Egg & Spoon race	Kathleen Thompson				
Old Boys 220 yards	Harold Gomer	Stanley Hawkesworth	William Kirk	24 secs.	
Brothers and Sisters race	C. Wilson	M. Wainwright			
House Relay	Holgate				
House Tug o' War	Holgate				
Long Jump, girls	Kathleen Sayles	Ethel Gee	Marion Birkin	13ft. 9ins.	
Long Jump, boys	Sam Blackburn	Fred Williamson	Morris Gibbon	16ft. 0ins	
Long Jump U15 girls	A. Hinchcliffe	Dorothy Parkinson	Marjorie Harrison	11ft 9ins.	
Long Jump, U15 boys	Bernard Hemstock	Francis	Hudson	15ft. 0ins.	
Throwing the Cricket ball	Clarke	Ellison	Fred Williamson	86yds 8ins.	
House Relay Swimming	Holgate				



Apart from being Victor Ludorum in 1929, Walter Wright achieved a high standard of play in his school cricket Team. The batting averages for the 1929 season reveal him at the head of the list, with an average of 38.1 runs for 19 innings. Reginald Clarke and Fred Williamson both averaged 20 for 20 innings each, with the latter heading the bowling averages with 77 wickets at a cost of 7.4 per wicket. Clifford Morgan had 30 wickets at a cost of 8 runs per wicket. Walter Wright accepted 15 catches during the season, and gained the school some recognition as a nursery for future sporting talent. Walter was the son of Mr. Alva Wright, the Clerk to the Hemsworth Urban Council.

Higher School Certificate 1929

The Sixth-Formers who achieved their Higher School Certificates were: Violet Dodds, Kathleen Jagger, Winifred M. Sadler, Olive Tooth, Morris S. Gibbons, George A. Hunt, Walter H. Wright.

School Certificates

Form VA

Matriculation: Boys: E. John Barker, Harry Ellis, Albert Heywood, John Mellor, Alec Ramsden, Arthur A. Slater, Cyril Warner.

School Certificate: John H. Smith

Matriculation: Girls: Clarice Allen, May Bull, Phyllis Howe, Edna Law, Hilda Newton, Florence M. Parsonage, Ethel M. Smith.

School Certificate: Phyllis M. Addis, Nellie Chilton, Nancy Parsonage, Mollie Price, Doreen M. Schorah, Doris Wilson

Form VB

School Certificate:

Boys: James Jennings, Clifford Morgan, Gordon Sterry.

Girls: Hilda Brooks, Jessie Fowler, Nellie Leaver, Winnie Senior, Nesta Stirton, Phyllis A. Stoker, Elsie I. Worrall,

Matriculation: Elsie Hinchcliffe.

Form VC

School Certificate: Boys: Reginald Clark, John H. Heppenstall.

Girls: Mary Silvester.

[Names augmented where possible]

The New School Year - Term Commenced 18th September 1929

The County Architect was requested in September to come and inspect the North Walk, and submit his recommendations and estimates for the cost of the necessary repairs.

The Governors decided to make a further grant of £54 to the School Games Fund (Tennis Court Fund)

The tender of Mr. Benson of Hemsworth for the carting of coal to the school at 1s / 9d. per ton was accepted.

School Dinners suppliers were to be as follows:

Groceries	H.E. Brooks, South Elmsall.
Meat	W.J. Townend, Hemsworth.
Milk	R.N. Bramley, Badsworth.
Fish	W. Harrison, Hemsworth.

Birds and Beasts

In October 1929, the well-known traveller Mr. J. Burt, F.R.G.S. gave an interesting lecture to an audience of over 250 people in the School Assembly Hall entitled "Birds and beasts of the African plain and jungle". He recounted several of his African adventures, and illustrated his talk with slides and photographs. A vote of thanks was moved by Miss J. Reid, and seconded by Mr. Jenkinson, and was heartily endorsed by the audience.

I Need Help

Mr. Manning, the Caretaker, requested some help in October 1929 with the housing of fuel and attention to the heating apparatus during the winter months. Evidently the shovelling required to stoke the boilers, and move the loads of coal or coke into the boiler cellar was proving difficult for one man, and so an arrangement was made for the gardener or his assistant to help the caretaker as required, and to report on how this arrangement was working to the Governors at their next meeting. This arrangement would not have immediately affected Mr. Rhodes, the assistant gardener, as he had been off work for the previous month owing to illness. His salary was paid in full until his recovery.

Eighth Annual Speech Day, Wednesday November 13th 1929

A large attendance of parents and pupils at the Hippodrome on Wednesday afternoon, 13th November saw the prizes distributed by Mrs. W.W. Warde-Aldham of Hooton Pagnall Hall. The chief speaker at the ceremony was to have been Mr. C.H. Sampton M.A. Principal of Brasenose College, Oxford, but owing to illness, he was unable to attend, his place taken by Mr. J.H. Hallam, Director of Education for the West Riding, who delivered a fine address. Also present were: Ald. G. Price, J.P., Chairman of the Governors, presiding, supported by Mrs. Guest, Mrs. Garstang, Mrs. Price, Messrs. J. Potts (vice-chairman), T. Hepworth, A. S. Madeley, (governors), Mr. A. G. Jenkinson, M.A., (Headmaster), Miss M. A. Griffiths, B.A. (senior mistress), Mr. Philip Crossland, M.A. (second master), and Mr. Charles L. Crossley (Clerk to the Governors).

In his introductory speech, Ald. Gabriel Price J.P. remarked that he could see that the large attendance was an indication that interest in the school went beyond its four walls, and this made the Governors feel that their efforts to get the best educational facilities in the district had not been in vain. He thanked the parents for sending their children to the school, often at great sacrifice to themselves, and he urged the pupils to concentrate on their studies, and avail themselves of the opportunities they had for a good start in life. He assured all those present that the Governors would do all they could to improve the school so that it could be regarded as one of the finest in Yorkshire.

The Headmaster's Report

Eight Busy and Fruitful Years

Mr. A.G. Jenkinson said that the progress made at the school in the past eight years was incredible, yet there was still much to be done. The new buildings referred to in the last report had not yet been begun, but would soon be started. To carry on a school of 360 pupils with a building equipped for 250 was a difficult task. There was special need of enlarged workshop accommodation to carry on that branch of the curriculum, and for more playing fields to accommodate outdoor games. A generous grant from the Local Authority meant a new hard tennis court was now being considered. The headmaster paid a cordial tribute to the work of his staff, and to the parents and Governors for their understanding and reasonable acceptance of his policies.

Break with Tradition

The pupils in the third and fourth years were now following their alternative courses, as planned, and the fourth and fifth forms were divided into three branches - arts, science and commercial - all three courses leading to the School Certificate. This system broke away from the traditional rule of no specialisation before school certificate, but in this age one was obliged to break with many traditions, and a course which included English, a foreign language and mathematics could not be regarded as specialised to any considerable extent. On the other hand, there was strong revolt against mass production in education; it was being recognised more and more that the individual matters, the individual girl or boy, the individual teacher, the individual school. Even at the age of 14 or 15 some account must be taken of the tendencies which a girl or boy shows towards one branch or another of educational training.

The Examinations

The number who had gained matriculation during 1929 was encouraging. Seven out of ten candidates gained Higher School Certificates, sixteen matriculated, and twenty one obtained School Certificates, a total of 37 passes out of 53 candidates. Three whole Forms were now entered for School Certificates, and took the examination in all main subjects. There was no collection of pupils or of subjects, as with some schools, which were therefore perhaps able to show a higher percentage of successes. He doubted if there was any other school of a similar size which submitted three whole forms for school certificate examination, and the proportion of successes under these conditions was, he thought, extremely satisfactory.

A Parker-Rhodes scholarship in mining engineering, tenable at Sheffield University, had been awarded to Arthur Thorpe. This was a new scholarship, awarded for the first time. In the Royal Society of Arts examination, 13 candidates obtained certificates in arithmetic, 15 in book-keeping, and 15 in shorthand. Seventy six pupils left at the end of last year, and 76 were admitted, including 55 County Minor scholars. The decision of the Government to raise the school leaving age, and the consequent demand for a larger number of teachers to be trained, had had its effect in increasing the number of pupils who had left school to go into training colleges or practising schools instead of staying on for another year.

Employment Problems and Colonial Enterprise

There were difficulties in obtaining suitable employment for boys leaving school, and he was trying to bring the school into closer touch with employers. This was easier in the large towns; however, he was appealing to the local Chamber of Trade and to all employers in the district to notify the school of vacancies so that girls and boys with a good standard of education might have an opportunity of applying for openings. "In any case," continued Mr. Jenkinson, "It is difficult to find good openings in this country for all who want them, and for that reason I am encouraging boys (there is a better opportunity for them than for girls) to acquire a spirit of adventure and to go in for colonial enterprise. Last year several talks on the subject were given in the school, and Miss Leatham came on one occasion - her interest in these schemes is well known and her words will still be fresh in the minds of some of you."

School Training

Dealing with the work and character of the pupils, Mr. Jenkinson quoted Mr. Rudyard Kipling as saying that very few men are more than sixteen years old when it comes to the pinch - meaning that the boy is father of the man. School training was merely a rehearsal for the greater things of life. Mr. Kipling laid stress on the value of three things which must be learnt at school, self-control, toleration (that is being able to see the other person's point of view) and a sense of what really matters. He hoped and believed that they were teaching these things at Hemsworth. In this part of school education, prefects had their place. If they were true to their duty they could do more than anyone to keep the right tone in the school and to develop those characteristics of which Mr. Kipling speaks. He recalled many loyal and conscientious prefects who endeavoured to leave the school better than they found it, and he was very glad that through the kindness of Mrs. Warde-Aldham, the head girl and head boy of last year were to receive special prizes in commemoration of their year of office. These prizes were given to Miriam Wass and Walter H. Wright.

Congratulations

Mr. J. H. Hallam congratulated the Governors, headmaster, staff and pupils on the completion of a very successful year of school work, and said no one could doubt that they had a flourishing school with a vigorous and many-sided life which was not unmindful of the world outside. They had lectures, school societies, and performances of various kinds which indicated that the school was very healthy in one important connection - that was, in keeping in touch with the community which it served. This was a time of very important pending developments in education. Many secondary schools were celebrating their 21st. birthday. It was just about 21 years ago that the great growth began of secondary schools in England, in which the West Riding took a very important part. Hemsworth was a younger school, and might be said to be just emerging from the kindergarten stage to the junior department, but from his experience it had made its desires felt in its eight years' existence. They had met with a pretty generous response, and he hoped that the next instalment of their building would see them with complete accommodation.

In the school they had a special provision for boys and girls who were not going on to the university. They had commercial and engineering courses, which was an important point which must be borne in mind if secondary schools were to continue to prosper. When he was in the United States seven years before, he was impressed with what they were doing in that respect. They had had

a tremendous growth in the proportion of children attending secondary schools, and they found that as that growth went on they were obliged to provide more than one course to meet the needs and aptitudes of different types of students. Since July they had been trying to persuade the Board of Education that they ought to have workshops for woodwork and metalwork, and he hoped that before very long they would succeed in their request.

How parents can help

A child's success depends not only upon the teachers or the pupils alone, but on the support of the parents, who might help by seeing that homework was done properly, in a quiet room if possible. Parents might help a great deal by never suggesting that things that happened at school were not of much importance. It was a tremendous help to a boy to feel that his parents were interested in what he was doing at school. If the father or mother spent a few minutes helping the boy, it showed there was a partnership going on, and without that partnership between the home and the school they would not get the maximum amount of success. He hoped all the children realised that whether they were paid for or were scholarship holders, the community was at a considerable expense in enabling them to attend that school. They were all receiving what represented a large sum of money in their school life. Even if they paid fees it did not represent half of what their schooling actually cost. Why should it be worthwhile to spend that money on them? Because they might be more useful to the world in general when they had left school. The most important thing of all was to keep themselves physically fit, otherwise the rest of their work would be hampered. He also urged them never to say they understood a thing unless they really did. They should never accept a formula unless they know how it is arrived at, because unless they understood the principle, when they went out into the world later on they would find they were doing very badly paid work for someone who did understand it.

Finally, he pleaded for attention to the small things. There used to be a tradition that things like handwriting did not matter. It was rather a superior kind of thing to write something which other people could not read. That was a grave mistake. Plain writing and neatness in their work were important, for there was more pleasure in knowing that they had done a piece of work really well and thoroughly. "A great deal of what I have said," he continued, "might be summed up in what a famous English headmaster said, 'Honour your work and your work will honour you.'"

In addition to the school certificates, the following prizes were distributed: -

The Prize List

For scholarship Arthur Thorpe

For Distinction on school certificate John Mellor, Harry Ellis, Albert Heywood, A. Stanton, Clarice Allen, Doris Wilson, John H. Heppenstall, Mary Silvester.

Form Prizes:

Va	Phyllis Howe	Vb	Elsie Hinchcliffe	Vc	John. H. Heppenstall	
Iva	Sidney Fox	Ivb	Ethel Midgley	Ivc	Mary Jones	
IIla	J. Taylor	IIlb	Annie Thorpe	IIlc	Sybil Howson	IIId; Leslie Guy
IIa	R. Thorpe	IIb	Joan Jagger	IIc	Marjorie Dean	

Needlework Prizes (given by Mrs. Guest) Mary Metcalfe and Margaret Paley.

Reading Prizes:

Seniors Maisie Thorne

Juniors Marjorie Dean

General Information Betty Austin, J. Lawrence Frazer, Ernest Hedley Wright

General Progress Alice Hinchcliffe (16 places), Estelle Rhodes (11 places)

Star Prizes H. Goodale, Sybil Howson, Ethel Midgley

Special Commemorative Prizes for the Head Girl and Head Boy of the school (given by Mrs. Warde-Aldham)

Miriam Wass & Walter H. Wright.

House Challenge Cup :1st. Talbot. 2nd. Price. 3rd. Holgate. 4th. Guest.

Mrs. Warde-Aldham and Mr. Hallam were thanked, on the motion of Mr. J. Potts, seconded by Mrs. Guest. The Chairman was thanked by Mr. T. Hepworth, and seconded by Mr. A. S. Madeley.

A musical programme was given, arranged by Miss Phyllis E. Wright (teacher of music and singing), who was to have conducted but who, owing to an accident, was unable to be present. Mrs. Wilks (nee Miss Morgan Jones, a former teacher at the school) kindly stepped into the breach.

A Re-Grading of the School

Following the guidelines given to them in November 1926 when they were refused an up-graded status by the Director of Higher Education, Mr. J.H. Hallam, the Governors now felt the time had come for a raising of the status of Hemsworth Secondary School from Grade 2 to Grade 3 as from September 1st. 1929. There had been over 300 pupils in attendance for three successive years, and in accordance with the regulations governing the scales, the salary of the Headmaster was due for revision. The request was made with high hopes of success.

An American Catastrophe

In the late 1920's there was a speculative boom taking hold in America, where millions of people were investing heavily in the Stock Market, often buying their shares with borrowed money. Banks lent heavily to fund this, and rising prices encouraged more people to buy more stock in the hope that prices would rise even further. In October 1929, panic selling on the New York Exchange as prices began to fall wiped 5 billion dollars off stock and share values, and many shareholders were ruined. Banks and businesses failed and a world economic crisis followed, bringing an era of depression and unemployment. A ripple effect

across the world at the US economic collapse meant that world trade contracted, and governments faced financial crisis as the supply of American money dried up. Countries erected trade barriers and tariffs which worsened the problems by reducing world trade, and most industrialised countries (apart from the Soviet Union), then suffered 10 years of economic slump and catastrophic levels of unemployment and homelessness, known as the 'Great Depression'. The Autumn of 1929 was just the beginning.

The Staff Have a Ball

On Friday, December 6th 1929 150 guests attended the staff's first annual ball, held in the Assembly Hall. Messrs. T.L. Hyde and R. Shields were M.C's for the evening.

"Admirable Crichton" 18th and 19th December 1929

The students of Hemsworth Secondary School performed Barrie's play in the school Assembly Hall on Wednesday and Thursday evening, 18th and 19th December 1929, and it was received with admiration and applause by the appreciative audience. From beginning to end there was not the slightest hitch, the acting was of a high standard, and the whole performance was undoubtedly a great success. Fred Williamson as Crichton, the perfect butler portrayed his part with masterly effect. Maisie Thorne as Lady Mary Lazenbury, who was remembered for her lead role in "She Stoops to Conquer" was also very good. Leslie Smith made a realistic and aristocratic Lord Loam. Josephine Read made an impressive but rather terrifying Lady Brocklehurst, and John Lawrence Frazer as Lord Brocklehurst made an admirable foil for her sarcastic wittiness.

Other outstanding characters were:

G. Grayson	Hon. Ernest Woolley
Ethel Midgley and Mary Jones	Ladies Agatha and Katherine Lazenby
Frank White	Mr. Treherne
Grace Mills	"Tweeny", who drew the most laughs. Her quaint mannerisms won the hearts of the audience.
Other parts were taken by	M. Walker (Mrs. Perkins), J. Richards (Monsieur Fleury), J. Marlow (Mr. Rolleston, valet), Arthur Thorpe (Mr. Thompsett, coachman), Hilda Paley (Miss Fisher), Dorothy Parkinson (Miss Simmons), Sabina Weaver (Mlle. Jeanne, Albert Heywood (Thomas), John Taylor (John), Kathleen Sayles (Jane), Thomas Hebden (page boy), Frank Denton (Naval officer).
The producers	Miss G.M. Lockey and Mr. J.A. Storer, who also officiated as Stage Manager.
Musical Director	Miss Phyllis Wright L.R.A.M.
Business Manager	Mr. Robert T. Shields.
Electrician	Mr. G.A. Hunt

A December Carnival

In the latter part of November the Dance Committee which was part of the Old Students' Association had decided to hold a Carnival for their Christmas reunion. Whether the Dance Committee was totally out of touch with current World events, or whether the serious effects of the Depression had failed to reach Hemsworth is unclear, but this choice of celebration seems a surprising one for that particular moment in time. Perhaps since the General Strike three years earlier, there had been a continuing sufferance of low employment and general level of poverty in the district, so that a 'Depression' as such seemed to make no difference, or perhaps the Dance Committee was flying in the face of adversity with a grand gesture of defiance. As it was, the evening turned out to be a great success, with many old students travelling all day to be present. The school Assembly Hall was decorated with streamers, flags and balloons by the members' committee, and Mr. George Hunt, a member of the school, provided limelights for the dancing, which continued until 2 a.m. on the Saturday morning of 21st December. At the supper, Mr. W. Leo Dooley the president of the Association spoke a few words, saying how pleased he was to see so many members present, and how he hoped the membership would continue to grow. He then presented a silver and china fruit dish to Mr. and Mrs. Manning, the caretakers, in thanks for the work they had done to make the evening a success. Mrs. Manning responded suitably. Mr. Jenkinson the headmaster then spoke, thanking the members for their kind invitation to himself and his staff. There would have been quite a "delicate" choice of words, no doubt, bearing in mind the difficulties and misunderstandings each side had experienced earlier in the year. A spot waltz competition danced by limelights was won by Mr. Shields and Miss Hodgson (members of the staff), and the music was provided by Mr. Syd. Brown's Havana Dance Band.

At the close of this decade, Britain's first 22 public telephone boxes had appeared, and a two-seater Morris Minor cost £100. New on the scene in 1929 were the first one pound and ten shilling notes, though there may not have been too many of those circulating in the Hemsworth area among the working classes in the late 1920's and the 1930's. Most of Britain's traditional industries such as coalmining, shipbuilding, steel and textiles existed in the north of England at this time, and it was the north which bore the brunt of the Depression. Unemployment and homelessness soared, and construction was virtually halted. Farmers and rural areas also suffered as prices for crops fell, and cities which were based on heavy industry were hit hard. Yet the effects of the Depression were uneven, as some areas in the south did not suffer any mass unemployment and poverty. Although the Wall Street Crash was the immediate cause which triggered the Great Depression, there were other contributing factors, including the vast economic cost of World War 1, which had weakened the ability of North America and Europe to respond to any major economic crisis. It may be that the choice of an old students' Hemsworth Carnival to see out such an 'economically unfortunate' year, whether planned by superior intellects or by means of serendipity, was a fitting closure to the 1920's. The following decade was to bring hard times for all those living in the Hemsworth district, and the school would be hard pressed to maintain the momentum of the progress made so far.