

Sixth Annual Speech Day November 23rd 1927

County Alderman G. Price J.P. presided at the Speech Day and prize distribution held at 2.30pm on that Wednesday afternoon at the Hippodrome. Lady Kathleen Pilkington, a member of the West Riding Education Committee presented the prizes, and the Governors were in attendance.

The Chairman's Remarks

In his introductory speech the chairman spoke of his pride that since the last Speech Day, the new Assembly Hall, which was also fitted out as a gymnasium, had been completed. However, owing to increased attendance and lack of classroom accommodation the hall had necessarily been used for purposes other than those for which it was intended. There were now 355 pupils at the school, compared with 287 a year before, and 98 six years ago. The Governors were making every effort to secure the approval of the Board of Education for further extensions. They realised the need for economy, and they had many obstacles to face, but they would do their utmost to surmount them. On Tuesday he had seen the drafted plans for Scheme 3 which had been submitted to the Education Department at Wakefield. These included provision for five additional classrooms, a caretaker's house, gymnasium, and dining room. The Governors would do all they could to bring the urgent need of the extensions to the notice of the West Riding Education Committee.

Sacrificing Parents

Comparatively speaking, Ald. Price said that Hemsworth Secondary School was a new school, and the Board of Education Inspectors had paid it a high compliment with its excellent report. He congratulated the pupils and staff on this, and trusted it would be an incentive to double their efforts to maintain the reputation which had been acquired, and paid tribute to all connected with the internal or external administration of the school. He expressed to the parents and public generally the Governors' appreciation for their sending their children to the school. Owing to the hard times through which we were passing, many parents were making a great sacrifice to themselves. He hoped the children would realise that, and re-double their efforts and in the end repay their parents three-fold for their sacrifices.

Some years ago he said he wanted to feel that Hemsworth Secondary School had come to stay, and that it would send out young people who would play an important part in the life of the country and Empire. He was now quite satisfied in this direction, and children attending the school had the same opportunity of reaching the university as pupils at other secondary schools in any part of the country. He hoped they would work hard to achieve that end. There was very little room at the bottom, but plenty at the top, and his advice to the students was to aim high. No public office he held had given him greater pleasure than to watch this school grow, not only numerically, but in importance, and fulfil what had been a long-felt need in the area. The school was known, not only in the area it served, but throughout the length and breadth of the country, and many people whom he met commented on the splendid achievements the school had made in such a short time.

The Holgate Trust

In conclusion he mentioned that he had recently been appointed a member of the governors of the Holgate Trust. This Trust was not as well known to the residents in the Hemsworth area as it ought to be. The endowment was left many years ago by Archbishop Holgate to provide educational facilities for children in the district. He was hoping that they would soon be able to make it better known what the endowment was left for, and to bring to the notice of parents the kind of administration it would be directed to achieve, so that every student in both elementary and secondary schools might be able to take the fullest advantage of the endowment. Many people felt that when the Trust was removed, Hemsworth was robbed of something which belonged to the district, and the Governors would not rest until it was returned to the school.

The Headmaster's Report

In his annual report, Mr. A.G. Jenkinson reiterated the urgent requirement of the school for further classroom accommodation. The new Hall was being used for ordinary classwork as well as physical exercise, but there were still five forms without proper classroom accommodation. A new dining room was also badly needed, and the kitchen accommodation was quite inadequate to deal with the 200 diners which were now being served daily. An inspection of the school had taken place during the previous term, and the Board of Education inspectors expressed themselves satisfied, saying, "[The appearance and manners of both boys and girls are excellent, and the tone and discipline of the school are good. The school has clearly made a good start, and a firm foundation for future good work has been laid.](#)" Two additional forms had been added to the school, and Form I had been merged into IId. Next July two forms, Va and Vb, would be taking the School Certificate Examination, and the curriculum of the school had also been extended in several directions.

School Certificate Examinations

The results in the School Certificate exams last July were disappointing, and fell considerably short of those for the previous year; but in the Higher Certificate, which was taken for the first time, the results were good. Of seven candidates, five passed, and one, who obtained a distinction in History, was awarded a County Major scholarship. In the School Certificate, 16 candidates passed and seven matriculated.

The Value of Homework

The training of pupils in independent and individual thought was valuable, and facilitated by unsupervised work at home. Conditions in homes varied greatly, but in response to requests, he had arranged for every parent to have a copy of the homework timetable, so that they might do their share by seeing that the proper work was done.

School Activities

During the year, the school had taken part in the usual reading competition, at which the rector of Hemsworth (Canon Williams) adjudicated, and had showed intelligence and care. The school had a good library, containing some 450 books, but suffered from

the lack of a proper reading room; this was, however, part of the new buildings scheme, and in his opinion as serious a need as that for classrooms and dining room. There was also during the year an inter-house musical competition, including classes for piano, violin, solo singing and choral singing. Miss Purdon adjudicated, and considerable enthusiasm was shown. The school choir had competed as usual at Pontefract, and had been awarded 176 marks, with a first class certificate; and for sight reading 78 marks out of 100. The school had taken part in the Folk Dancing Festival at Pontefract, and won two first-class and seven second-class certificates, as well as the banner put up for competition among secondary schools. An art club had been formed by Mr. Taylor, and had a fairly large membership. In games, too, the school had done well, though there was great need for tennis courts for the girls. The successful organisation of games in the school was due largely to the care and energy of members of the staff and to the school captains. Sports were held as usual on parents' day, and were a great success. A course of public lectures had been launched, and were proving an appreciated feature. It was hoped to produce the first school play in the hall at the end of the term.

The Staff and Prefects

The ready co-operation and interest of his colleagues was much appreciated by Mr. Jenkinson. During the year, the staff had been augmented by three more teachers for Latin, Mathematics and Physics, and by an English and French mistress. A full time teacher had been engaged to take charge of the Domestic Science Department, which had meant the departure of a part-time teacher, Miss Morrison, whom they were all sorry to lose. He commended the work done by the School Prefects and particularly by the two heads of the school for the way in which they had lived up to the responsibilities of their position, and he emphasised the importance of the last two years of school life, between 16 and 18, in the formation of character and the training for a career. It was worth some sacrifice by the parents to ensure for their children this invaluable period of school life, and he was glad to believe that this obligation was in his school being satisfactorily discharged.

The Presentation

In distributing the prizes, Lady Kathleen Pilkington gave some advice to the girls, particularly on what professions they might pursue with advantage. She assured the parents that she would do all she could for the benefit of the school, and declared that its progress during its six years existence was nothing short of marvellous. She appealed to the pupils to be more adventurous, and said that at present there was a tendency for everyone to crowd into the same profession. Let them have originality, instead of following each other like silly sheep, and they would find life brighter. *Lady Kathleen was thanked, on the motion of Mrs. Schorah, seconded by Mrs. Guest (Governors of the school).*

Successful Scholars

E. John Barker had secured a County Major scholarship, and the certificates and prizes were as follows:

Higher School Certificates

(g) - Good (p) - Pass (s) - Subsidiary

E. John Barker, Distinction in History, Latin (g), English literature (g), Pure Mathematics (s).

Stanley Hawkesworth; Pure mathematics (g), Physics (p), Applied Maths (s), English Literature (s).

R. N. Slatcher, Pure Maths (g), chemistry (g), physics (p), English literature (s),

Kathleen Thompson, History (g), English (g), French (s), Latin (s).

S. Thorpe, Maths (g), Chemistry (g), Physics (p), History (s).

School Certificates

(M) Matriculation

John R. Barker, cr. in History, French, Mathematics; pass in English.

(M) Morris S. Gibbon, Distinction in Mathematics and Chemistry; cr. in English, History, Geography and French.

Harold Gorer; cr in History, French, Geography and Mathematics, pass in English.

Arthur E. Rappitt, cr. in History, French, Maths, pass in English, Physics and Art.

Arthur Thorpe, cr. in English, History, Geography, Maths, Art and Chemistry.

Fred Turner, cr. in French, Maths, and Chemistry; pass in English, History, Geography and Art.

Arthur L. Wilson, cr. in History, Maths, and Art; pass in English, French and Chemistry

(M) Walter H. Wright, Distinction in History, Geography and Maths; cr. in English, French, Latin, Physics and Chemistry.

Eunice M. Cousins, cr. in English, History, French, and Maths; pass in Geography.

Florence M. Hodgson, cr. in History, Maths and Chemistry; pass in English, Latin and Physics.

(M) Evelyn Parker, cr. in English, History, French and Maths; pass in Geography, Latin and Scripture.

Winifred Penn, cr. in English, History, French and Maths; pass in Scripture and Art.

(M) Doreen Raine, cr. in English, History, French, Maths and Chemistry; pass in Geography and Art.

(M) Winifred Sadler, cr. in English, History, Geography, French, Maths and Art; pass in Latin.

(M) Alice G. Scott, cr. in English, History, French and Maths; pass in Scripture, Geography, Latin and Art. (M) Maisie W. Thorne, cr. in English, History, Geography, French, Maths and Art.

Prizes for distinction in examinations

E. John Barker, Walter H. Wright, Morris S. Gibbon, G.A. Hunt.

Form Prizes

Form V - Walter H. Wright;

IVa - Vera Parton IVb - Annie Brailsford IVc - Harold Goulding;

IIIa - Nancy Parsonage IIIb - Doris Wilson;

IIa - Hodge IIb - Fred Williamson IIc - Fox;

I - Francis.

Reading Prizes

Seniors - Maisie Thorne

Juniors – Fox

General Information

Walter H. Wright, Morris S. Gibbon.

General Progress

R. Lincoln (23 places), Fred Turner (22 places).

Star prizes

F. Parsonage (64), Vera Parton (58), P. Mustill (47), P. Howe (46), Annie Brailsford (46), Richards (46), D. Wilson (43), Fred Williamson (38), Fox (35), Harry Heppenstall (35)

House Challenge Cup

1. Holgate (860 points)
2. Guest (521 points)
3. Talbot (474 points)
4. Price (78 points).