

1930



Ninth Annual Speech Day, Thursday November 12th 1930

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

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

The School's extensions

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

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

The Headmaster's Annual Report

The Latecomers

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

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

The Satisfactory Examination Results

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

A "Splendid Adventure"

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

Few of those who left the school in July were without some kind of occupation, but it was increasingly difficult for the average girl or boy to find employment with good prospects in Britain, and that was why the Headmaster was encouraging boys to embark on the splendid adventure of overseas enterprise. He particularly welcomed there that day the presence of Lord Middleton, who, by his personal interest and active co-operation, was doing much to foster and strengthen this great imperial movement. "We have three boys in Canada at present," he added, "from all of whom I have had cheery and contented letters, and I hope that another one at least will be going next spring." He continued that most people were unaware how seriously the movement of population from this country to the Dominions overseas had been checked by the war and other causes since 1913. Figures recently published had shown that the number of British subjects leaving for overseas countries other than Europe was 242, 000 in 1913, compared with 93,000 in 1929. This meant that, after making allowances for war losses, there were in 1930 roughly 1,600,000 more people in this country than there would have been if the regular movement of population had continued. As the unemployment dole increased, the movement overseas diminished, and it was impossible to resist the conclusion that either the increase of unemployment benefit had discouraged migration, or the spirit of adventure was diminishing. The Headmaster wanted to urge boys to get out of the rut, and on to the open road.

Homework and Health

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

Military Band Careers

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

The importance of the final year

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

Lord Middleton's Speech

1. Note of encouragement

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

2. The Coming Struggle - "Leave Politics Alone"

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

discouragement, but you children will have to tackle these problems, for upon the boys and girls of today depends the future prosperity of this country."

3. The Promised Land

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

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

The Prize Winners

Higher School Full Certificates:

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

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

Matriculation:

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

School Certificates:

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

R.S.A. Certificates, Intermediate :

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

Elementary :

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

Special Prizes :

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

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

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

Needlework Prizes..... Annie Thorpe, Margaret Poole.

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

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

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

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

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

House Challenge Cup :

- 1st. Talbot (1170 points)
- 2nd. Holgate (910.5 points)
- 3rd. Price (823.25 points)
- 4th. Guest (823 points)