

1925



In 1925, George V and Queen Mary were still on the throne, and Stanley Baldwin was in his second term as the Conservative Prime Minister. In the Spring of that year, the Art Deco style was launched in Paris, and F. Scott Fitzgerald published 'The Great Gatsby'. In August, John Logie Baird was demonstrating his television technology, whilst throughout the year an increasing number of disillusioned workers in Britain were migrating to Canada, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa and Rhodesia, looking for a better life.

Many of the events of the next few years in Hemsworth and its surrounding districts were to be influenced by the national economic conditions in 1925 and more specifically by the leaders within the Trade Union Congress. During the First World War, the miners, dockers and railway workers had formed a Triple Alliance which united almost one and a half million workers. Other groups of workers joined them, and the TUC grew, until it represented a formidable number of industries and individuals.

In 1925, Stanley Baldwin appointed Winston Churchill as Chancellor of the Exchequer. Churchill had been influential in breaking the miners' strike of 1921, and was hated by the workers for this. In his April 1925 budget, Churchill aimed to make

the pound as valuable as the dollar (returning to the Gold Standard) and as such, overvalued the pound by 10%. Industry bosses had to make up for this overvaluation somehow, and the solution of the mine owners was to reduce the miners' wages and increase their hours of work. The Trade Union Congress protested, offering its support to the miners, and so the government supplied a nine-month subsidy for the miners' wages and appointed a Royal Commission of Inquiry to look into the problems of the mining industry. Neither side really believed a solution would be found, as previous such attempts had always resulted in a recommendation for nationalisation of the mines, which the mine owners obviously did not want. This period was looked on by the Government as a time to prepare for a huge fight with the working classes, and by the workers as a time to organise themselves for the battle to come. In this respect, therefore, the year of 1925 for the majority of the Hemsworth and District workforce was the calm before the storm.

Can We Reduce the Fees?

The agenda was a busy one at the first Governors' monthly meeting at the end of January 1925. Alderman Price, the chairman, promptly introduced his first proposal, which was to reduce the school's fees payable per term from three to two guineas. The matter of fees had first come to his attention when there had been an application from some poor parents for assistance for their child to be admitted to the school. Having examined the economic circumstances of the family, and in light of the general current expectation of more hardship to come, the chairman had formed the opinion that the reduction should be made. He said that the time had come when, "the kiddies ought to be considered". The general consensus was that the Governors should apply for such a reduction to the Higher Education Committee of the West Riding.

As a member of the County's Higher Education Committee, Alderman Price had a chance to influence its decisions, but the resolution to reduce fees from the school's Board of Governors had missed the issuance of the County's financial statements by one week. When Ald. Price asked the Treasurer whether the statements contained allowance for the reduction of fees, he was told, "No". He went on to fully explain the particular difficulties of parents in a mining area such as Hemsworth who were trying to maintain their children at Secondary schools. On hearing this, the Higher Education Committee's chairman, Mr. Hallam, stated that while there was no possibility of reducing the fees during the next twelve months because the estimates had already been passed and approved, however, powers would be granted to consider an emergency resolution from Secondary School Governors where a student's father had been temporarily thrown out of work. This would apply to all Secondary Schools in the Riding.

Not every Governor agreed with Ald Price about reducing the fees. Mr. G. Beaumont thought that anyone who could afford to pay £2 2s. per term would be able to find £3 3s. He did not think that reducing the fee by £1 1s. would be of much material help to parents, and the school would probably be turning away valuable income. Mrs. Garstang however disagreed with this, saying that everyone appreciated more the things for which they had made a sacrifice.

The New Extensions and Head's House

Word had at last been received from the County Authorities that a tender of £7,005 12s. 6d from Messrs. Gregory and Sons of Castleford for the building of the proposed extensions to the school had been approved and accepted. There was no mention of any tenders from the original local workmen who in 1921 had completed the conversion work before the school opened. Perhaps these proposed extensions were a larger undertaking needing the expertise and equipment of a bigger firm. A tender by the same company for £1,300 for the building of the Headmaster's house had also finally been accepted. The Yorkshire Electric Power Company had been notified that a supply to the present school buildings was requested, and it was now the time to decide whether the wiring should be installed for electricity to light the new extensions also. Without hesitation this course of action was approved by the Governors.

Old Boys' Association

Mr. Jenkinson announced in January 1925 that he intended to form an Old Boys' and an Old Girls' Association at the school, mainly in order to enhance the future work prospects of school leavers. He said there existed a Central Association which helped its members by contacting 'masters of labour' and helping "Old Boys" to obtain good posts after leaving school, and so a possible affiliation with this might be beneficial.

An Advisory Committee

For some time Mr. Jenkinson had been contemplating an increased involvement between parents, staff and the Local Authority, in order to encourage the smooth running of the school, and develop opportunities within the school which would benefit the pupils. The idea of such a committee was no doubt well meant, if naive, as it would have no executive power to control the affairs of the school. Such gatherings are often 'talking shops', but the altruism of the original idea was commendable.

The response from the County Authority to this proposal stated that it would not be practicable for a member of the staff of the County Education Department to attend the meetings of an Advisory Committee on a regular basis, but special arrangements could possibly be made for this, upon request. The letter asked for details of the numbers and ratios of parents, teachers and governors envisaged on such a committee, and what their function would be. Clearly the chairman and Mr. Jenkinson needed to meet the Director of Higher Education and explain their ideas to him.

The Headmaster's view was that there should be four Governors on the committee - the chairman, the vice-chairman, one lady and one gentleman. Four representatives of the school might be the headmaster, senior mistress and two first assistants, and there could be six representatives of the parents - three fathers and three mothers. Parents could have their own meeting to decide who they would nominate. Opinion was divided on the parents' representation, as many thought that each parish should have its own representative, but the headmaster maintained that this would make the committee too large.

The Holgate Exhibition Fund

The Director of Higher Education, Mr. Hallam, wrote to the school Governors in February 1925, noting that the Governors of the Archbishop Holgate's Exhibition Fund had considered the suggestions of the Hemsworth Secondary School Governors, but did not agree with them. He planned to report this to the Endowments Sub-Committee at their next meeting. This may be referring to the request for funds sent by the Hemsworth Governors to the Archbishop Holgate Trust in early 1922, or perhaps a more recent similar plea for support. The Director went on to point out the terms of a scheme dating from 25th August, 1916, whereby the seven-man composition of the governing body of the Exhibition Fund was appointed as follows: "Three by the Trustees of the charity; two by the Hemsworth Urban Council; and two by the West Riding County Council". The County Council representatives were Mr. John Guest M.P. and County Alderman W.A. Durnford.

The clerk to the Trustees had informed the Director that there was an accumulated sum of £700 (£60 per year since 1916), which had originally been allocated to the Hemsworth Boys' School under the former Archbishop Holgate arrangements, and which could now be invested, and the income used to provide scholarships for poor children in the parish of Hemsworth at the Hemsworth Secondary School. The Director supported this course of action and would suggest approval of this proposal to the Board of Education, saying, "It appears therefore, that the Trustees are not unmindful of the useful purpose which could be served by Exhibitions tenable at Hemsworth Secondary School." He said the County Council had had the power in 1916 and subsequently, to confiscate those particular funds of the Holgate Charity, but did not intend to do so just as long as schemes were formed to provide assistance for children. There was now enough money to provide 40 or 50 scholarships in Hemsworth. This would seem to be a positive move by those who were responsible for maintaining the momentum of the advances in Secondary education in the area. The storm clouds of industrial unrest were gathering, and this was welcome protection for the children.

It would seem from these exchanges, therefore, that Archbishop Holgate's Fund, which had been transferred to Barnsley in 1883, much to the tardy consternation of Hemsworth folk, was yet to supply some residual benefits to Hemsworth Secondary School children, although one can imagine this would be to the chagrin of Ald. Price!

Mr. Wycherley Becomes Gardener

On February 28th 1925, Mr. Wycherley (23) of Nostell Priory was appointed Head Gardener from eight applicants. His weekly wage was £2 10s and he was to commence his duties immediately. This was an appointment which was to last just over 28 years until his retirement in December 1952.

Tributes to the Chairman

At the end of each financial year, or at least around the end of March, the Board of Governors at Hemsworth Secondary School came to an end of its jurisdiction, and drew a line, so to speak, under its efforts of the previous year. Whether this was a time for new members to be co-opted and others to voluntarily retire is not clear, but certainly at their meeting of March 1925 there was an air of finality to the proceedings. Mr. J. Potts said that at this "last" meeting he wished to propose a vote of thanks to Alderman Price, the chairman, "whose unflinching efforts, attendance and courtesy" had been enjoyed by them all. Mrs. Schorah seconded the motion. It was clear that the development of the school in its early days owed much to Mr. Price, and this was the general opinion of all the Governors.

Folk Dancing

The Hemsworth Folk Dance Class competed in the Pontefract and District Musical Competition Festival on 24th March 1925 and was awarded three firsts and one second class certificate. One of the firsts went to the Morris dancers led by Mr. A.G. Jenkinson. A banner presented by the Hemsworth Secondary School for the highest aggregate of marks in the Folk dancing competitions was won by Castleford Girls' Secondary School.

Hemsworth's Folk Dancing Festival 5.30 to 7.30pm Saturday, June 20th 1925

All the local Primary schools were invited to send teams to this festival, and for those who came to Hemsworth from outlying areas, help with their travelling expenses was promised, "should the patronage at the gate allow". This was clearly a festival with a price of admission. The day itself was dry, though threatened with dark clouds.

The all-inclusive feature of this occasion was that the general dances could be danced by anyone who wished, with Primary school children enjoying being able to share the amenities afforded by the venue. There were 26 items on the programme, taking over two hours to complete. Miss Prince was in overall charge of the dancers, and Miss Morgan-Jones was assisted with the music by an amateur boys' orchestra of violins, whistles and drums.

In the evening's programme were the following dances.

Country Dances Helston Furry, Sellinger's Round, Childgrove, My Lady Cullen, Goddesses, Mage on a Cree.
Morris Dances Winster Processional, Rigs O' Marlow, Country Gardens.
Sword Dances Flamborough Head.

A Water Shortage

During 1924 there had been some discussion about the replacement of a worn-out hand-pump which **took water from the well in the quarry area, and enabled the school to have an independent water supply from the rest of the town.** It was felt at that time that the expense of a new pump and reservoir tank could not be justified when in the plans for the new buildings scheduled to start soon, a 500 gallon tank within the roof of the school had been included in the estimates. An electric pump to serve this tank would have to be installed at some time in the future when a power supply was laid on to the school.

Events conspired a year later in the summer of 1925 to highlight this unlucky lack of foresight, as there was a water shortage, and the water supply to the school was regularly cut off for 24 hours every week. The building work was still in the very early stages at this time, and no electricity meant there was no means of lifting the water to a tank, even if one were to be available. A new hand-pump would not have been sufficient for the job. To move things along, the chairman was given the power to accept any tenders for a tank as speedily as possible, and meantime everyone had to work around the difficulties as best they could.

Let there be light-soon!

The Clerk to the Governors, Mr. Charles Crossley, reported in June that a price for the installation of electricity within the school had been received from the Power Company, but that the West Riding Education Committee had stepped in to say that they intended to request special terms for the lighting by electricity of all the schools in the Riding. Evidently they hoped that a lower price per school could be obtained. Bearing in mind the water supply difficulties and the pressure to quickly obtain a reservoir tank and water pump for the school, the news that the powers that be wanted to delay things by including every school in the West Riding in the re-calculations of the Power Company's quotations would not have greatly pleased the Governors. The hopes were that the electricity supply could be connected at some time during the coming summer holidays, together with the new heating apparatus (radiators and pipes) which would be operated from a new heating cellar about to be created by the builders. Yet as things turned out, by July 4th the County Council had promptly approved the cost of £343 for the installation of electric lighting, and the plans for its installation were still on track.

County Minor Scholarships announced July 1925

These children were successful in attaining County Minor Scholarships, and would be starting at Hemsworth Secondary School in September 1926:-

Boys (22)

Ackworth	Frank Denton, Colin Moxon
Brierley	Harold Ashmore, Edward Turner
Hemsworth	Albert Bedford, Fred Booth, Morris S. Gibson, Thomas R.A. Goudge, Jasper Green, Harry Heppenstall, Patrick Kellett, Clifford Morgan, Arthur Slater, Walter Stallard, Thomas Steel, Francis Walsh
South Kirkby	Sam Blackburn, Alex Ramsden, Josiah Turton
South Elmsall	Arthur J. Jennings, Henry Sugden
Upton	George Ellis

Girls (13)

Ackworth	Mary Silvester, Ivy Wigglesworth
Brierley	Olive Murphy
Hemsworth	Annie Bennett, Florence M. Parsonage, Hilda Varley
South Elmsall	Marion Burkin, Martha S. Mustill, Esther Page, Doris Wilson
South Kirkby	Mary Froggatt
Upton	Phyllis Stoker
Huntwick-with-Foulby and Nostell	Mary E. Jones

Come to Tea

On the first day in July Mr. Jenkinson entertained to tea a large number of the primary teachers of Hemsworth and District. Afterwards they all entered into a free discussion on the recent changes in the education of young people, with special reference to the relationship between Hemsworth Secondary School and the new form of Central School (sometimes named 'Modern' or

'Middle' school). This proved to be a "knotty problem". (Seventeen days after this most civilised of gatherings, Adolf Hitler published his personal manifesto 'Mein Kampf', which would eventually lead to far knottier problems.)

The Central schools opening in the area at that time were designed to cater for the less academic child up to the age of 16, who would have benefitted from a less exacting curriculum which concentrated on more practical subjects. The Headmaster maintained that the aim and scope of the two types of school were quite different, and hoped that the value of the curriculum offered at the Hemsworth Secondary School, which not only opened the way to University, but provided an all-round education up to the age of 16, would continue to be appreciated in the district. There was, of course, an underlying, if unspoken, fear that the Hemsworth Secondary School's numbers might have suffered if parents decided to send their children to the new alternative 'free' schools.

The First School Certificate Examinations

For the first time in the school's short history, twenty-one students sat the public examination for the school certificate in the summer term, having spent four years of study at HSS. The results would be announced the following September.

Governors Say No

Towards the end of the summer term, on the Friday afternoon of July 10th 1925 County Alderman G. Price presided at a Governors' meeting at the school. Those present were: Mesdames Schorah, (vice-chairman), Guest and Price, Councillors W.H. Beetham, J. Garbett, J.P. C. Cressey, and E. Beaumont, and the Clerk, Mr. Charles Crossley.

Primitive Methodist Convention

The first matter to be considered was the request received from the Rev. G.H. Smith, Primitive Methodist Minister at South Elmsall, for the use of the school grounds for a religious convention of around 100 persons, mostly adults, to be held the following September. The Clerk mentioned that a previous similar request from the Roman Catholics had been refused, and Coun. Garbett pointed out that the Primitive Methodists ought therefore to be refused. The Chairman asked whether the gathering would be solely Nonconformists, or would there be some Church of England representatives also. The Clerk could only say that the request had come from the Primitive Methodists. Several members noted that the caretaker would have to be on duty for part of the day, but the main reason for the eventual refusal issued was the fear that the granting of permission for the event would set a precedent and lead to many more similar requests.

Another Assistant Mistress

Mr. Crossley stated that the vacancy for an additional assistant mistress had been advertised, and that applications would close on July 16th. Two of the Governors would have preferred the new teacher to be a native of the county, but Mr. Jenkinson insisted that all applications be dealt with on merit alone, and not place of birth. As was the usual method, the applicants would be reduced to three in number, to be interviewed by the Governors at a special meeting on July 27th. When this meeting subsequently took place, Miss W. Hanson B.A. of Doncaster was appointed to the post of additional assistant mistress. A Yorkshirewoman had nevertheless prevailed.

Girl's Playground

It was in the summer of 1922 that Mr. Jenkinson had first mooted his idea of creating an asphalted area as a playground for the girls. Two of the members of the Grounds sub-Committee of the Governors had originally strenuously opposed this, and yet now, three years later, the Headmaster finally achieved his aim. The school was allocated £300 for the building of a quadrangle, and yet a mystifying rider to this allocation was that the figure quoted did not include "the formation of the quadrangle"!

Boy to Assist

The meeting approved the appointment of a boy who would assist in the care of the grounds at a weekly wage of 12/6d.

The Fourth Sports and Parents' Day, Thursday July 23rd 1925

"Price" House Won the Championship

The fourth annual sports and parents' day of the Hemsworth Secondary School was held in brilliant sunshine, and there was a large gathering to enjoy the events. Great rivalry was shown between the three "Houses", and the spectators were treated to some excellent sports, although Kirk W. managed to run away with most of the scratch races.

The Results

[Names have been augmented where possible]

Event	First	Second	Third
100 yards scratch open girls	Vera Parton	Jennie Hodgson	M. Lindsay.
100 yards scratch open boys	Kirk W.	Stanley Hawkesworth & Mills (dead heat).	
100 yards scratch under 14 boys	Brewin	Brian Harrison	Senior N.
100 yards scratch under 14 girls	N. Wright	Ethel Gee	B. Heath.
100 yards scratch over 14 girls	Jennie Hodgson	Vera Parton	Winnie Sadler.
Throwing Cricket Ball open	Stanley Hawkesworth	Kirk W.	A. L. Wilson.
High Jump under 14 girls	N. Wright	H. Brooks	E. Austin.
220 yards scratch open, boys	Kirk W.	Mills	Stanley Hawkesworth
220 yards scratch under 14, boys	Brewin	Brian Harrison	Reginald Clark & Senior
N. (dead heat).			
300 yards open handicap, girls	May Bull	B. Heath	N. Wright.

High Jump, under 14 boys	Brian Harrison	Brewin	Senior N.
Bunny Race (under 4ft. 9ins.) 80 yards, girls	G. Laycock	Elsie Hinchliffe	May Bull.
220 yards scratch open girls	Vera Parton	Jennie Hodgson	J. Fowler.
440 yards scratch open boys	Kirk W.	Miles N.	Gorner H.
440 yards scratch under 14 boys	Brian Harrison	Brewin	Ernest Rowney.
Balance Race open girls	A. Jessop	V. Hammill	Hilda Finch.
High Jump open boys	Kirk W.	Richard Buttree	Harold Goulding & Brian
Harrison (tie).			
High Jump open girls	Jennie Hodgson	M. Lindsay	Violet Dodds & N.
Sadler (tie).			
880 yards scratch open, boys	Kirk W.	Stanley Hawkesworth	Garbett.
300 yards scratch open, girls	Vera Parton	M. Lindsay	J. Fowler.
Four-legged Race girls	Price	Holgate	Holgate.
Four-legged Race boys	Talbot	Price	Price & Talbot (tie).
Sack Race open boys	J. Castle	Howitt	Morley.
Wheelbarrow Race open girls	M. Walker & Heywood	V. Johnson & John Mellor	Winnie Penn &
Hodgson.			
Skipping Race open 100 yards, girls	Vera Parton	Phyllis Addis	Edna Law.
Mile Handicap open boys	Gibbon	Garner H.	Clifford Nettleton.
Old Girls' Race 150 yards	Hilda Gaunt	S. Dawson	Edith Gaunt.
Old Boys' Race 220 yards	Cockbourn	Copley G.	Tait S.
Brothers' & Sisters' Race	Connie White & Harry Walker.		
Relay Race	Talbot.		
Tug of War	Price.		
Long Jump girls	M.Lindsay	Lilian Dykes & Vera Parton (tie).	
Long Jump boys	Kirk W.	Stanley Hawkesworth	Richard Buttree.

House Challenge Cup points were awarded as follows: 1st. 3pts; 2nd. 2 pts; 3rd. 1 pt. Relay Race - 1st. 10 points.

"Victor Ludorum Cups points were awarded in open scratch events as follows: 1st. 3 points; 2nd, 2 pts; 3rd. 1pt.

"Victor Ludorum" Cups and Medals

Boys Kirk W. (20 points out of 21)

Girls Vera Parton (13½ out of 18).

House Challenge Cup Price 85½pts Talbot 54½ Holgate 48.

Bandsmen's Race Smethurst Lockwood.
(playing instruments whilst running)

The headmaster, Mr. A. G. Jenkinson, M.A., in a short speech after the sports, paid a tribute to his staff, thanking them for their co-operation and help in organising the sports, particularly Mr. Austin (secretary). Mrs. Alice Schorah presented the prizes, and also a large box of chocolates from the children to the headmaster.

The following were awarded **school cricket colours**: Barker, Mills, Hawkesworth, Glew, and Crossley. A very large gathering sat down to tea after the presentations.

In the evening an **exhibition of Fives** was given by Harry Crossley, the fives captain, and Walter Parsons, versus Barker E.J. and Kirk W. A keen game was won by Crossley and Parsons.

Another attraction was the **cricket match**, Parents v. School.

The parents were represented by Ald. G. Price (capt.), Messrs. Brewin, Senior, Law, Wright, Kitching, Greenfield, Watson, Schorah, Benton and Barker.

The School XI was: Barker E.J. (capt.), Mills, Stanley Hawkesworth, Glew, Harry Crossley, Mart, Frank A. Rothera, Wright W.H., Kirk W., Richard Buttree and Fred Williamson.

The parents batted first and made 57 (Mr. Brewin 21 and Mr. Kitching 17). Mills took 7 wickets for 21 runs. The School easily passed this total without a wicket falling, and closed at 104. Stanley Hawkesworth made 50, winning a bat offered by the headmaster.

Carlton Main Colliery Band played during the afternoon, and one week later, the school was quiet again, as all pupils and staff began their summer holidays.

The School Years Ends

Only the footsteps of the Governors and Headmaster would have echoed on the wooden floors as they proceeded to their meeting on the Monday afternoon of July 27th. The rest of the staff and pupils were enjoying their summer holiday. Those present were County Ald. G. Price, (chairman), Mesdames Schorah, Guest and Garstang, Councillors W.L. Lawton, A. Flavell, E. Beaumont, and Jasper Smith. They appointed Miss W. Hanson B.A. from Doncaster as assistant mistress, and accepted a tender of £155 from Messrs. Cockcroft and Briggs of Knottingley for repairs to the premises. The short agenda meant that the Governors could now also look forward to a month's break from their duties.

At this stage, the surveyors had probably visited the school and the Architect's department had made its plans for the Assembly Hall/Gymnasium and the classrooms which would be used for Science. The area which succeeding generations of pupils knew as the 'Quad' would now exist on paper and the preparations for the setting of the foundations, drains and electricity supply of the new science classrooms would be under way. During the summer break, the new heating pipes and radiators were all to be installed. There was also about to be set in place a less obvious independent water supply, and a more obvious and exciting new electric lighting system throughout the school!

Back to School - The Results

The measure of the efforts of the Headmaster and staff since the school's opening in 1921 rested in how well the first set of pupils did in their first public examinations. The announcement in September 1925 stated that of the 21 students who sat for the school certificate, 13 had been successful, four out of six boys reached the matriculation standard, and three boys obtained distinctions. The Headmaster had thought that the chief stumbling block might have been languages, but he was wrong, for French was the most successful subject of the examination, with only one candidate failing, and 17 reaching the matriculation standard. It was a remarkable achievement compared with most other secondary schools and one on which Miss Griffiths (senior mistress) was heartily congratulated for her excellent teaching. The chief stumbling blocks proved to be Mathematics and Physics. Ten successes came from the girls in these subjects.

Distinction in School Certificate: E. J. Barker, A. Campling, S. Thorpe

School Certificates: Harry Crossley, Stanley Hawkesworth, R. N. Slatcher, Eunice Addis, Emma Bate, Lilian Dykes, Marion Finch, Mary Hodgson, Freda Swaine, Kathleen Thompsonson.

At that time, pupils at the age of 15 or 16 sat the examinations of the School Certificate. This was a grouped examination in which candidates were awarded certificates at two levels according to their success in a range of subjects, the higher level, known as "matriculation" requiring success in English, mathematics and a language other than English plus two other subjects. The successful candidate received the School Certificate, and if he/she attained a sufficiently high standard, his/her Certificate counted as Matriculation to the Universities. Passes in 5 subjects including Latin completed matriculation requirements. Unlike its successor the GCE exam, it had a number of compulsory subjects and all had to be passed at a single sitting. **As a result of the pupils' achievements, a Sixth Form was established, with the aim of preparing for the Higher School Certificate Examinations in 1927.** It therefore follows that the list of scholarship successes would furnish the names of the pupils in the photograph.

The First Sixth Form 1925



Image from Audrey Carrington. Thank you.

Back Row L-R: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

Front Row L-R: Marion Finch, 2, Freda Swaine, Mr. Crossland, 5, Emma Bate

Science Master's Resignation

It soon became known at the start of the new term that Mr. Ernest Dickinson, who along with Miss Elsie Jackson and Miss M.A. Griffiths had been one of the first teachers to be appointed to the staff (at a starting salary of £267/10s per annum) in October 1921, would not be returning. He had already informed Mr. Jenkinson of his wish to leave, and his resignation had been accepted. He had obtained a new position as senior science master at Oldham Municipal Secondary School, and said in his letter of resignation that although he had spent many pleasant hours at the school, he felt that his departure would not prove detrimental to the working of the school.

Mr. Jenkinson paid tribute to Mr. Dickinson, who was liked and respected by the boys. He had taken a keen interest in the schoolwork, and was efficient and reliable. Although a temporary science master had been arranged, the school would advertise

for a permanent replacement for him, and also for another assistant mistress in place of Miss Prince, who was about to be married. **The accepted view of the time was that a married lady must leave her teaching position when she took a husband.**

Three New Faces

No time was lost in replacing Mr. Dickinson and Miss Prince, and by the end of October 1925, the following members of staff were appointed:

Miss Eva Shortridge of Eastbourne	assistant mistress.
Mr. Leslie N. Collette of Chatham	assistant master
Mr. Robert F. Shiells of Harrow	assistant master

During the same month, less than a hundred miles down the A1, Margaret Thatcher was born in Grantham.

Clerical Help and a Telephone

A request to the Governors was made by the Headmaster at the beginning of the new school year for some help with the clerical duties involved in the running of the school. He wanted an additional assistant who could teach elementary subjects and also cope with the excessive amount of clerical work. There were now 220 pupils at the school, and he felt that in view of these increased numbers, the installation of a telephone would also be a great help. Ald. Price undertook to make enquiries as to the best type of master required for such work, and to make a recommendation, and also to apply to the County Council for a telephone.

Speech Day Number 4 - November 11th 1925

Armistice Day was chosen for the ceremony and prize giving at the Hippodrome in 1925, and on such a special day, everyone joined in singing the songs "Heroes" by Farrier, and "Jerusalem" by Parry.

Ald. Price was, as usual, leading the Board of Governors, and accompanied by special guests Sir Percy Jackson, (Chairman of the West Riding Education Committee) and Lady Mabel Smith, (who had been unable to attend the Speech Day of the year before) The Headmaster and Staff were also on the stage.

Lady Mabel Florence Harriet Wentworth-Fitzwilliam (1870-1951) was the sister of the 7th Earl Fitzwilliam, and married Lt. Col William Mackenzie Smith. A radical socialist, Christian, and well known social worker, she was also a leading member of the Workers' Educational Association, formed in 1903, and she organised classes at Maltby, where she was chairman of the Board of Governors until 1951 at Maltby Grammar School. She was also a member of the West Riding Education Committee.

Sir Percy Jackson (1897-1984) Chairman of the West Riding Education Committee. He had a school named after him situated in Adwick le Street, near Doncaster which existed from 1939 to 1968.

The Headmaster's Report

In his annual report, the Headmaster spoke with confidence about the increasing numbers at the school, and of how they could actually show tangible evidence of the quality of the education given to the pupils now that the first set of results had been issued in the shape of school certificates. Satisfactory progress had been demonstrated, especially for a new school. There were now 225 pupils at the school, as compared with 184 the previous year, and of these, 166 were fee payers. The rest were student teachers and holders of scholarships and exhibitions. There were 115 boys and 110 girls, nine Forms, and a Sixth Form, added for those who wished to study for a Higher School Certificate, to be taken in 1927. A second IV Form had been added, and the current Form V would be taking their School Certificate Examinations in July.

Changes to be introduced in September 1926 would involve the introduction of Cooking for girls in Form III and possibly Form IV, and Needlework was to be extended throughout the school. The boys would study Physics as an alternative to these subjects. For boys or girls who did not see themselves staying on at school beyond Forms IV or V, alternative courses involving typing and shorthand, and book keeping would be offered to enable students to take up clerical work on leaving school. This was the germ of an idea which subsequently proved so valuable to many pupils, and was organised and supervised by **Mr. Collette**.

Industry and the Secondary School

Mr. Jenkinson said he was aware that schools must offer their pupils an education which would equip them for their lives when they left. They had to think of earning a living, which was important; however this was not the primary aspect of the curriculum. The requirements of the industry, trades and occupations which were open to the pupils did have to be borne in mind, but he emphasised that a Hemsworth Secondary School education would give the pupils habits of thought and a desire for knowledge which would enrich and equip them for anything. In mentioning the importance of any particular subject - Latin, Chemistry, Geography or Algebra - it was not the purpose of the study of these subjects to turn out classical scholars, or chemists, explorers or mathematicians. It was to create men and women with a desire for knowledge and the ability and will to acquire it.

A difficulty faced by Secondary school headmasters was that for years, efforts had been made to get industrial firms to recognise the value of hiring a 16 year old who had completed the full four years of education at school, rather than 14 year olds. The employers said they could not afford to pay a 16 year old a wage which he might have reasonably expected for his age, and the schoolmasters on the other hand, maintained that that the quality of work to be expected of the Secondary school boy would be far superior. If employers would establish the age of 16 as compulsory for the starting of Apprenticeships, or insist on a school certificate as a guarantee of a satisfactory education, then schools might move even closer towards assisting industry with even closer links. He said, **"I put forward this consideration in order to remove the reproach which is sometimes levelled at secondary schools that they are not in touch with the industries around them."** It might also be commented that Mr.

Jenkinson, in proposing a more technical set of subjects to be studied, (typing, book-keeping etc) was insuring against the reduction of the school's population due to transfers of pupils to the Middle schools.

More space needed

The rest of the school had the usual annual examinations in July. Although the results were satisfactory and the reports on various subjects were favourable, work was hampered to some extent by congested conditions in the school. Even when the new science classrooms were completed there would still be a shortage of classroom accommodation if the school continued to grow as they hoped it would. However, by the time the new science classrooms (the 'top' corridor) and the gymnasium (assembly) hall were completed he anticipated that they would be in a position which would call for the completion of the school as it was intended finally to be. This was a passing reference to the expected 'Third Phase' of the building plans, which provided for a new dining room and kitchen at the school. This was becoming an urgent necessity. Dinners were now served daily to 140 children in two sittings and the kitchen accommodation was inadequate and the atmosphere was bad.

The Middle School (aka 'Modern' or 'Central')

Mr. Jenkinson spoke of the concerns about the opening of a new Middle school in the Hemsworth district. Would it affect the numbers of the Secondary school? He did not think it likely, as the two types of schools were quite different, catering for different types of young people. Secondary schools provided a classical education, and Middle schools an education of an industrial type. He commented that the curriculum of his own school would equip a young person for entrance to University, giving an excellent all-round education up to the age of 16 and beyond.

In conclusion

Good progress had been made in games and other out-of-school activities. More tennis courts were needed, and the hope was that a hard tennis court could be made. The cricket ground had been enormously improved and enlarged. Miss Morgan Jones was encouraging great progress in Music within the school, and later in the term a production of "Twelfth Night" would be staged.

There had been a few changes of staff, with Mr. Dickinson's leaving, and the arrival of Mr. Collette, Mr. Shiells, Miss Hanson and Miss Shortridge, making the current complement of staff as follows:-

The Headmaster, Miss M.A. Griffiths (senior mistress), Miss Elsie Jackson, Miss E.D. Robinson, Miss M. Morgan Jones, Miss Eva Shortridge, Mr. Philip Crossland, Miss W. Hanson, Mr. James Arthur Storer, Mr. Leslie N. Collette, Mr. Robert F. Shiells.

The Headmaster thanked his staff most sincerely for their splendid loyalty and untiring energy, and also tendered thanks to the parents for their continued appreciation of the school and its work.

The Prize List

Lady Mabel Smith (a member of the West Riding Education Committee) presented the prizes, and mentioned the importance of the teaching of various subjects in training the young people to think clearly. To the boys and girls, she remarked: "**Do not let worldly wise people rob you of your ideals.**"

The prize list was as follows:

Distinction in School Certificate	E. J. Barker, A. Campling, S. Thorpe.
School Certificates	Harry Crossley, Stanley Hawkesworth, R. N. Slatcher, Eunice Addis, Emma Bate, Lilian Dykes, Marion Finch, Mary Hodgson, Freda Swaine, Kathleen Thompson.
English Subjects	E. J. Barker, Adelaide Branford, W. R. Wright, E. Taylor, J. Richards, Frank W. White, Phyllis Howe.
Languages	E. J. Barker, R. V. Williams, Katharine Hawkesworth, Helen Penn, Edith Guest, Edna Law.
Mathematics and Science	R. N. Slatcher, Philip Bull, Winnie Sadler, A. Thorpe, Vera Parton, Robert Wilson, Phyllis Howe.
Needlework	Vera Parton.
Woodwork	G. Hunt.
Singing	Ethel Gee, Frank W. White.
Art	Emma Bate, J. Lawrence Frazer.
Reading	
Seniors	Miriam Wass, Frank A. Rothera,
Juniors	Maisie Thorpe, R. White.
General Knowledge	R. N. Slatcher, E. J. Barker, J. A. Leslie Jago.
Magazine Prizes	Miriam Wass, Millicent Wootton, Emma Bate.
General Progress	Doreen Raine, Ethel Smith, L. R. Smith.
Star Prizes	Mary Nettleton, Phyllis Howe, Vera Parton, E. Taylor, Frank W. White, Robert Wilson.
House Challenge Cup	Holgate 1,582 points, Price 1,127½ points, Talbot 1,119 points

Mrs. Schorah proposed a vote of thanks to Lady Mabel Smith and Sir Percy Jackson, and made special mention of how her heart swelled with admiration of the former's power of addressing an audience. All were honoured and very grateful to both for their kindness, and she thought each had given splendid service. As a resident of Hemsworth she made reference to the old Holgate Grammar School which was, in spite of much comment, removed to Barnsley. She, as a girl, never had the opportunity even to go to that school as it was for boys only. She thought that the children today should be grateful for the chances they have which their elders had not.

In calling upon Mrs. Guest, of Ackworth, to second the vote of thanks, Ald. Price apologised for the absence of Mrs. Garstang, whose husband, professor Garstang, was one of the lecturers at Leeds University. Mrs. Garstang had given great help to the

Governors' Committee. Her inability to be present was owing to the illness of her daughter. Mrs. Guest endorsed what Mrs. Schorah had said about Lady Mabel Smith and Sir Percy Jackson.

- In the splendid musical programme, the following part-songs being given by the choir: "A Madrigal of Spring," "Snowflakes," "The Snow," "Lullaby," and Madrigal.
- Miss Morgan Jones, who had done so well in training the choir for the Pontefract Festival, sang "The Jewel Song" from "Faust," "Down in the Forest," and "Love's Philosophy."
- Miss Emma Bate gave two very suitable recitations for Armistice Day. They were "In Flanders Field," and "The Dead."
- A speech in Latin was very ably given by E. J. Barker. This was "The Lamp of Learning," taken from Cicero's speech in defence of the poet Archias, delivered at Rome in the year 62 B.C.

Perhaps the most entertaining item on the programme was a short French sketch L'Affaire de la Cruche. The part of the irritable Monsieur Eysette was splendidly taken by Harrison Parsons, the other parts being acted by Lilian Dykes, R. N. Slatcher, and R. V. Williams.

Donations to the prize fund were acknowledged from the Rev. F. W. Holmes, County Alderman and Mrs. Price, Mrs. Dymond, Mrs. Heywood Jones, Mr. Lawton, Mr. Schorah, Mrs. Dooley, Mr. J. Smith, Mr. Beaumont, Mrs. Guest, Mr. Potts, Dr. Wiltshire and Mr. W. H. Beetham.

Dinner Fund Deficit

Two days after the celebrations of Speech Day, the Governors received news of the finances of the Dinner Fund. There was a deficit of £46 / 14s / 6d. Something must be done! This was the first time the Fund had been 'in the red'.

Total amount received £657 / 8s / 8d
Total Expenditure £701 / 2s / 2d

The number of dinners served was 1,858. The lady Governors, led by Mrs. Alice Schorah, recommended several changes.

1. All the provisions should be purchased by tender, instead of a retail price. Although the meat was bought this way, the groceries had been bought at retail price, and this was not economical.
2. The carving of the meat should be done in the kitchen and not at the tables by the pupils. This would avoid a great deal of waste.
3. One master and one mistress should be asked to dine with the children. The meals in this case would not be charged for, as they would be supervising. The free meals offered to the Prefects who were on duty should be withdrawn, and their dinners should be paid for.
4. The members of Staff who stayed at the school during the dinner hour should pay one shilling for their dinner, and so should any visiting teachers.
5. A ticket system should be introduced. Each child would buy a daily ticket for 8d with no reduction for a full week. The headmaster commented that this would save a great deal of bookkeeping.
6. These measures were adopted, and a crisis averted.

December's Meeting

What appears to have been a business-like gathering of the Governors presided over by Ald. Price on December 11th 1925 decided on the awards of contracts for supplies to the school.

Fish	S. Sheard & Co, Wakefield
Milk	Cecil S, Hanley, Hemsworth
Meat	W.J. Townend, Hemsworth
Groceries	T. Finch, Hemsworth.

- The tender of Messrs. J.E. Taylor & Sons, of Wakefield for renovations was accepted.
- Two applications for premature withdrawal of pupils were discussed, and it was resolved that the parents be asked for their observations.
- A request for the provision of additional conveniences and facilities for the boys was referred to the County Architect.
- The Education Authority had pointed out that a well-qualified Art teacher was needed at the school, and so it was agreed to advertise the position.

Twelfth Night - Dec 15th and 16th 1925

Once again the school trooped down to the Hippodrome to watch Shakespeare's comedy, "Twelfth Night".

The Cast

[Names have been augmented where possible]

Viola	Hetty Littlewood
Orsino	Stanley Hinchcliffe
Olivia	Miriam Wass
Sebastian	E. Taylor
Maria	May Bull
Malvolio	Stanley Hawkesworth
Feste	Frank Rothera
Sir Toby	A. Garbett
Sir Andrew Aguecheek	Philip Bull
Priest	Harrison Parsons
Fabian	Fred Williamson

Attendants	Brian Harrison and J. Keenan
Antonio	Stanley Donaldson
Page to Olivia	Fred W. Wright
Officer	A. Campling
Dancers	Emma Bate, Eunice Addis, Vera Parton, Kathleen Thompson.
Orchestra led by	Mr. Atkinson
Piano	Miss Morgan Jones

The account in the local newspaper gave a good insight into the performances of each character. Hetty Littlewood was praised for her fine acting, clear speaking, charming manner and pleasing voice. Stanley Hinchcliffe looked a nobleman to perfection, and was an attractive character, and Miriam Wass was gentle and gracious. There was a distinct likeness in figure and face between Viola and Sebastian (E. Taylor) who played an awkward part very well, enjoying his encounters with Sir Toby and Sir Andrew. His voice, however, was in marked contrast to his "twin", and the audience could have been forgiven for smiling at the incongruous words, "The same face! The same voice!"

May Bull played the part of Maria vivaciously, with an infectious laugh, and Stanley Hawkesworth's Malvolio was intelligent. He had a long scene in which he read the letter, and managed to maintain the interest of the audience throughout. Frank Rothera's clown Feste was well played, and he showed great versatility when impersonating the priest. Sir Toby was played by A. Garbett as a jovial old rascal whose boisterous humour and love of ale rather bettered his good breeding. The favourite character, especially with the younger members of the audience, was that of Sir Andrew Aguecheek, a part played with vacuous imbecility by Philip Bull, with quaint mannerisms and a strange voice. His 'cackle' was highly entertaining. Harrison Parsons as the priest had little to do, but did it well, as did Fred Williamson as Fabian. Others who helped with the success of the show were Brian Harrison and J. Keenan as the Duke's attendants, Stanley Donaldson as Antonio, Frank White as page to Olivia and A. Campling as the Officer.

The three songs were all sung in a pleasing voice and without nervousness by Fred White. The songs were, "Oh, Mistress Mine" (Morley), "Come away death" (Brahms) and "Hey ho! The wind and the rain" (Quilter).

The Gavotte in the first Act was prettily danced by Emma Bate and Eunice Addis, and they were joined in the second Act by Vera Parton and Kathleen Thompson to dance a minuet.

It was said by many that the drinking scene was especially amusing, and the baiting of Malvolio was splendidly done. When poor Malvolio appeared with his cross garters, the house rocked. Another entertaining scene was the sham duel between Sir Andrew and Cesario. There was pleasant entr'acte music supplied by an orchestra under the direction of Mr. Atkinson, with Miss Morgan Jones at the piano. Costumes and wigs were professionally supplied, and some scenery and the curtains were made by members of the staff. The garden scene was especially fine. Each of the actors was well received with a warm ovation at the end of this third school play, and then Mr. Jenkinson thanked everyone concerned with this enjoyable production. He expressed great pleasure in the knowledge that Shakespeare was enjoying such a wide appreciation in schools in general and in Hemsworth in particular.

The audience of the Tuesday afternoon was mainly children from the top classes of the neighbouring Primary schools, and the performance was repeated on the following day.

Old Students' Association

The ending of the year was marked by the beginning of a new tradition. Just before Christmas, a social gathering of past pupils, staff and Governors was held at the school, where the hall had been tastefully decorated. A presentation was made on behalf of the old students by Miss C. Attwood of a bowl and vases to Mr. and Mrs. Manning, the caretaker and his wife. It was felt that their unstinting efforts in assisting the Association should be recognised. County Ald. G. Price J.P. Chairman of the Governors, and Mr. A.G. Jenkinson both made speeches in which they reminded members of the Association that they carried the traditions of the school into the wider world, and therefore the reputation of the school rested with them.

After supper, the staff entertained everyone with musical items. There was a solo from Mr. Robert Shiells; a musical monologue from Mr. James Arthur Storer and a duet by Miss Morgan Jones and Mr. Philip Crossland. Mr. Jenkinson joined in with Mr. Crossland and Miss Morgan Jones in singing some entertaining trios, and then the evening ended with dancing.

The event had the luxury of warm rooms, heated by radiators, and the safety and illumination of the electric lights now available within the school.