

1926 Terms and Holidays, Entrance Exam

- a. Spring Term January 6th - March 30th
- Half-term holiday February 22nd;
- b. Summer Term April 28th - July 28th
- Whitsun break May 24th and 25th;
- Half-term break June 11th
- c. Autumn Term begins Wednesday, 15th September.

No sooner had the New Year's celebrations taken place in the Hemsworth area than the ten year old children whose parents were planning their future education at the school were being summoned to take the entrance examination two days before the new term started on Wednesday 6th January 1926. In fact New Year's Day was on the Friday, and the exam was scheduled on the following Monday morning. The fees were advertised at the usual figure of £3/3s per term.

a. Memorandum 44

Shock, indignation, despair and a sense of injustice would doubtless have been expressed when the Governors heard of the contents of Memorandum 44. Winston Churchill, as Chancellor of the Exchequer was looking for economies at the Treasury in early 1926, and all local authority building estimates were called into review with this in mind. The Government's undertaking to subsidise the mineowners for the men's wages for nine months while the Royal Commission gathered its evidence, meant economies had to be made to finance this. Another more pressing need for topping up the Treasury coffers was the likely future cost of the measures to overcome the general unrest in the country - the clash of the classes - which was on the horizon in January 1926. Memorandum 44 and its restrictive instructions affected all Local Authority building estimates, and more specifically, those of Hemsworth Secondary School.

b. Let's Protest!

The County Education Committee met on January 19th to discuss this new matter. Ald. Price was there, and seconded a proposed amendment by Mr. Hyman that a protest be entered against the Memorandum and sent to the Chairman of the Education Committee and the Chairmen of the Higher, Elementary and Finance and General Purposes Sub-committees with the power to approve revised estimates if they deemed it necessary for submission to the Board of Education. Ald. Price did his best to explain that the Memorandum would ruin the proposed provision of a central Hall and Gymnasium at Hemsworth, plans for which had already been passed. If the Memorandum were to be enforced, the contract was likely to be suspended. Hemsworth Secondary School was already overcrowded, and the new Hall was urgently needed. The amendment was lost.

c. Crisis over

We may never know of the negotiations which took place in the corridors of power in Wakefield concerning Memorandum 44, but the school certainly owed much to the tenacity and acumen of Ald. Price, who was able to announce one month later in February that he had been successful in obtaining local sanction to the scheme for the erection of an assembly hall and gymnasium. The science classrooms were already in the process of being built, together with continuing conversion work to create a woodwork and metalwork facility in the coach house at the school. This sanction for the assembly hall was only the first hurdle. Approval from the Board of Education in London was now required.

Share an Art Master?

The County Education Committee wrote in February 1926 to suggest that the school should make a joint appointment of an Art master with Pontefract King's School. The Governors agreed, provided that they could have the services of the teacher for three days each week. It is not clear whether they had followed the Education Committee's instruction of December 1925 to advertise for an Art teacher, or had been dilatory in this respect. Evidently the committee had been busy on Hemsworth's behalf! Might this have been another cost-cutting exercise by the Education Authority? The actual appointment was made in June when Mr. H. Taylor (Leeds) accepted the post of part-time Art master.

No Red Blouses - please!

Letters of objection were received from parents concerning the requirement of girl students to wear red blouses as part of the uniform. When the Governors were made aware of this, they referred the matter for solution to the lady Governors and Miss Griffiths, the senior mistress. No doubt many a dolly tub had contained pink water, and the men folk were objecting to pink shirts! (Red dye is notoriously difficult to 'fix' into fabric.) An observation could be made that the wearing of red blouses would not have been sanctioned in the first place without the express permission of Miss Griffiths, and so in this respect, she would have had to climb down.

Small-pox

In view of the outbreak of small-pox in various parts of the country in January and February 1926, the Headmaster broached the matter of vaccinations for the children to the Governors, who were not quite sure what to do next. They agreed to leave consideration of the matter until they had consulted the County Medical Officer.

Success at Last

Early in March, the Board of Education in London sent its approval of the plans for the provision of a combined Assembly Hall and Gymnasium at the school at an estimated cost of £6,850. Work could now begin.

Desks, Chairs and Lavatories

The increased school population and extra classrooms called for more furniture, and an expenditure of £68 was made for desks and chairs during the Spring of 1926. Additional lavatories and washing facilities were also approved by the County Council to the tune of £222. Whether this referred to the boys' or the girls' facilities - or both - is not clear.

The Pontefract and District Musical Competition 24th - 27th March 1926

The competition began on the Wednesday morning, and ended on Saturday evening. Entries compared favourably with those of the previous year, and it was said that the element of "rush" had been removed by the postponement of the folk dancing classes until later in June, when a special full day's festival in the Castle grounds was planned. In the **singing of test pieces** the choir was awarded 158 marks, and came third out of five schools competing, but in **sight singing** they came first with 80 per cent marks, and had the marks been awarded in full, as they should have been, the school would have taken second place for the whole competition. **The latest musical development in the school was the formation of an orchestra.**

Salaries

On 23rd March the West Riding Education Committee met to decide on the future salaries of Head teachers in Secondary Schools as from April 1st 1926. Sir Percy Jackson was re-elected chairman, and Mr. Edwin Talbot vice-chairman. (There was therefore no change at the helm of the good ship WREC.)

Headmasters

School	No. of pupils 1926	Scale (1921 Scale)
Grade 1	Up to 200	£600pa with increases of £20 annually up to a maximum £675. £600 (£25) £750
Grade 2	201 to 300	£650pa and increases of £20 annually up to a maximum £815. £700 (£25) £850
Grade 3	Over 300	£700pa and increases of £20 annually up to a maximum £865. £800 (£25) £950

Those Headmasters in Grades 1 and 3 appointed prior to March 24th 1922 (i.e. Mr. Jenkinson) would proceed to the maxima of £720 and £910 respectively.

Headmistresses

School No.	of pupils 1926	Scale (1921 Scale)
Grade 1	Up to 200	£500 with increases of £15 annually to £572. £500 (£25) £600
Grade 2	201 to 300	£600 with increases of £15 annually to £672. £600 (£25) £700
Grade 3	Over 300	£650 with increases of £15 annually to £770. £700 (£25) £800

It is clear from these figures that all Head Teachers, and more especially the ladies, were to accept reduced wages. Approval from the Board of Education in London would follow.

The Water Pump

Another example of how the school had to wait for approval of its applications for funds from the Education Authority came in March 1926, when permission was at last given for a small new electric motor for the purpose of pumping water to be used in the school. The estimated cost was £55. At the Governor's meeting, Councillor Beaumont inquired whether this purchase would "put the school's water supply in order". The chairman said it would clear the school of any trouble in future. The water itself had been analysed, and was declared fit for drinking purposes. This water was presumably to be drawn from the well in the quarry garden, and would make the school independent from the town's piped water supply when required.

[A 500 gallon tank such as the one proposed in 1925 for siting within the roof of the school would have a cubic capacity of 80 cubic metres, and be about 4ft x 4ft x 5ft. If one gallon of water weighs ten pounds, then 500 gallons would weigh 5,000 lbs. If there are 2,240lbs in a ton, then the weight of the water in the tank would be 2.23 tons.]

A Princess

At No.17 Bruton Street, Mayfair on April 10th 1926 the Duchess of York gave birth to her first child, Elizabeth, who became Queen Elizabeth II.

Lock-out

The Samuel Commission published its report on the mining industry in March 1926. Its conclusions were to greatly affect Hemsworth and its surrounding villages. It recognised that the industry needed to be reorganised but rejected any form of nationalisation. It recommended that the Government subsidy should be withdrawn and the miners' wages should be reduced. The mine-owners published new terms of employment extending the seven-hour working day. There would be district wage-agreements, and depending on a variety of factors, the wages would be cut by between 10% and 25%. If the miners did not accept their new terms of employment, then from the first day of May they would be locked out of the pits.

On April 27 1926, three days before the showdown was to begin, the TUC General Council met and proposed a General Strike of its members on the understanding that it would take over the negotiations with the government from the Miners' Federation. Desperate to find some way out of this conflict, they held talks with the Conservative Prime Minister. The talks broke up, Baldwin walked out, and on May 3rd the strike began.

The Strike

Initially, the workers in the key industries - the railwaymen, transport workers, dockers, printers, builders, iron and steel workers were brought out on strike - three million men, or one fifth of the adult male population. Later on the shipyard workers, engineers and other trade unionists would be called on to withdraw their labour in support of the miners. A state of emergency was called.

Army and Navy leave was cancelled and the armed forces were sent to escort vital supplies. Food, coal and petrol were stockpiled, and the whole country ground to a standstill.

The Betrayal

The strikers organised themselves well, and the situation began to look like a revolutionary struggle instead of a wage dispute. Fearful of the consequences of the battle for power, on May 7th the TUC negotiating committee, without telling the Miners Federation, met Sir Herbert Samuel and accepted proposals which were viewed by the miners as a complete surrender. On May 12th the official General Strike of nine days was over, but the miners stayed out.

By October 1926 hardship forced men to begin to drift back to the mines. By the end of November most miners had reported back to work, forced to accept longer hours, lower wages and district agreements. However, many were victimised and remained unemployed for many years. The humiliation of the TUC was compounded shortly afterwards by an Act of Parliament making all sympathetic strikes illegal, forcing trade union members to 'voluntarily' contract in to pay the political levy, forbidding the Civil Service to join the TUC, and making mass picketing illegal. Workers everywhere believed the miners had been treated abominably, and there was a widespread and justifiable feeling that the mine owners were "a wicked lot".

The hardship suffered by the miners' children probably had little effect on the children of the better-off families who could afford fees for the education of their offspring, yet they would not have been able to miss seeing the general poverty around them in the Hemsworth area. At the local Elementary schools, malnourished pupils with inadequate footwear and clothing were commonplace. Mining was the major industry of the area, and as such was the livelihood of many. The year of 1926 would be remembered as an unmitigated disaster for the miners, who felt bitter against their employers, who were victimising them, and against the leaders at the TUC who had betrayed them.

More Children Need More Teachers

It seemed perverse that the number of fee paying children at the school should be on the increase throughout 1926 against a background of continuing hardship for the majority of the local population. By the month of June, Mr. Jenkinson was reporting to the Governors that the pupils would probably increase from 223 to 270 by the next term, and therefore permission would be required from the County Authority to appoint two additional assistant teachers. He had also decided that in future the girls would study Botany instead of Chemistry. The Governors agreed to make the request.

The Governors - another year

Probably due to the upset and unrest in the country and more especially in the local area, it was June before the usual annual re-appointments took place on the Governing Board of the school. Ald. Gabriel Price was re-elected Chairman, and Mrs. Alice Schorah vice-chairman. Messrs. Beaumont, Beetham, Hepworth, Lawton, Peckett and Jasper Smith were to continue as the Grounds Committee.

For the cricket lovers among the Governing Board, from 5th to the 8th June 1926 Yorkshire was playing Australia in a drawn match at Horton Park Avenue, Bradford.

The New Science Classrooms



At the beginning of the summer term of 1926, the new science classrooms became available for use. There was a Physics laboratory, a Chemistry laboratory, and at the far end of the block in the picture below was the Domestic Science room, which maintained its identity long after the two science rooms were eventually moved to a building erected later in the century.

County Minor Scholarships announced June 1926

At the end of June, the West Riding County Council announced the successful candidates in the recent County Minor Scholarships Examination. These children would be starting at Hemsworth Secondary School in September 1927:-

Boys (35)

Ackworth C. Desborough, G. Grayson, R. Green
Brierley J. Kerr, W. Linley, E. Perry, E. Ralphs, E. Smith, A. Sykes
Hemsworth H. Booth, S. Bowen, Sidney Fox, G.R. Guest, J.H. Hale, J. Naylor, C. Newby, E.H. Wright.
Ryhill R. Dowdeswell, H.L. Green, H. Noble, S.H. Perry, G. Sykes,
Shafton T.W. Marriot, V.T.R. White
South Elmsall J.H. Andrews, C.C. Hart, J. Taylor
South Hiendley K.E. Guest
South Kirkby J. Marlow, J. Mellor, J.N. Thorpe, H. Williamson

Havercroft with Cold Hiendley E.C. Pickersgill,
Huntwick with Foulby and Nostell J.W. Hemsworth, A. King

Girls (26)

Ackworth Dorothy Parkinson, Kathleen Sayles, Mary Ward, Eileen R. Greenfield, Edith Marson, Phyllis Turner
Brierley Geraldine Sabina Weaver, Alice Hinchcliffe, Agnes Manterfield
Hemsworth Phyllis M. Asher, Eva Barrett, Annis Davies, Phyllis Hall, Evalina Hunter, Doris Jackson, Ellen B. Roberts, Clara Taylor, Edie Watson
North Elmsall Annie L. Bower,
South Elmsall Hannah McCroakam, Florence Parsons
South Kirkby Grace Mills, Ethel Midgeley
Thorpe Audlin Kathleen Moore

Havercroft with Cold Hiendley Florence Hodgson
Huntwick with Foulby and Nostell Mary Littlewood

During the summer days of 1926 a set of older pupils already at the school would have been studying for, and sitting their School Certificate examinations, and the normal end of year exams for all would be taking place.

The Folk Dancing section of the Pontefract Musical Festival had been planned during the previous March to take place in the Castle grounds during one day in June 1926. Two first-class and three second-class certificates were obtained by the Hemsworth Secondary School dancers, and one first-class and one second-class at a similar festival in York.

The Fifth Sports and Parents' Day, Wednesday July 14th 1926

With the good weather of the summer months came the fifth annual sports of the school, held on the Wednesday afternoon of July 14th under ideal conditions. The field was bordered on three sides by tall trees which provided a shady vantage ground from which the thirty-seven events could be viewed with comfort. The sports proceeded without a hitch, and finished on time, due to the excellence of the organisation. The officials were:

President Mr. A.G. Jenkinson
Starter Mr. P. Crossland
Recorder Miss Morgan-Jones
Judges The Governors and Staff
Stewards School Prefects
Organiser Mr. W. L. Austin.

Marshaller of competitors Mr. R.T. Shiells

Mrs. J. Guest, Ackworth, presented the prizes, and selections were rendered by the Frickley Colliery Band.

The results were:

[Names have been augmented where possible]

Event	First	Second	Third
100 yards scratch, open, girls	Vera Parton	Jennie Hodgson	H. Wright
100 yards scratch, open, boys	Stanley Hawkesworth	Stanley Donaldson	Barber
100 yards scratch, under 14, boys	Fred Williamson	Senior N.	Mason
100 yards scratch, over 14, girls	Vera Parton	Jennie Hodgson	Ethel Gee
100 yards scratch, under 14, girls	N. Wright	B. Heath	S. Watkinson
Sack Race, open	Heywood	Frank Jessop	J. Castle
High Jump, under 14, girls	E. Allen	Marion Birkin	S. Watkinson
120 yards hurdles, open, boys	Garbett	Frank Rothera	Stanley Hawkesworth
120 yards hurdles, open, girls	Vera Parton	W. Sadler	Jennie Hodgson
120 yards hurdles, under 14, girls	S. Watkinson	Wright	
High Jump, open, girls	J. Fowler	Jennie Hodgson	Vera Parton
Four-legged Race, open, boys	Hodgson, Morgan, Wright	Taylor, Harold Goulding, Barker	George C. Mellars, Castle J., Slingsby
220 yards scratch, open, boys	Stanley Hawkesworth	Garbett	Stanley Donaldson
220 yards scratch, U14, boys	Fred Williamson	Sam Blackburn	Senior N
220 yards scratch, open, girls	Vera Parton	J. Fowler	May Bull
High Jump, open, boys	Harold Goulding	Warner & Thorpe equal	
High Jump, under 14, boys	Sam Blackburn	Fred Booth	Fred Williamson

Balance Race, open, girls	Phyllis Stoker	V. Johnson	W. Lee
Wheelbarrow Race, open, girls	J. Greenfield	A. Jessop	V. Johnson
440 yards scratch, open, boys	Stanley Hawkesworth	Slatcher R.N.	Garbett
440 yards scratch U14, boys	John Mellor	Clifford Morgan	Heywood A.V.
300 yards scratch, open, girls	J. Fowler	Vera Parton	B. Heath
Bunny Race, girls under 4ft. 9ins.	G. Laycock	Nellie Leaver	V. Hancock
Four-legged Race, open, girls	Marion Birkin, Esther Page, N. Wright.	Maud Wood, Hilda Finch, J. Long.	Helen Penn, Olive Murphy, V. Hammill.
Mile Handicap, open, boys	Brian Harrison	Keenan J.	Taylor E.
300 yards handicap, open, girls	S. Watkinson	B. Heath	May Bull
Old girls' race, 150 yards	Connie Madden	Millicent Wootton	Winnie Walsh
Old boys' race, 220 yards	Mills	Garbett	Cyril Teale
Brothers and Sisters' race:			
Brothers	Millicent Wootton	Harry Walker	H. Hilton
Sisters	M. Rappitt	M. Leaver & M. Austin	D. Law
Band Race	Mason	Tindlaper	Edwards
Relay Race	Price House.		
Tug-of-War	Price House.		
Long Jump, open, girls	Vera Parton	Ethel Gee	Lilian Dykes
Long Jump, open, boys	Stanley Hawkesworth	E. John Barker	Stanley Donaldson
Throwing Cricket Ball, open	Stanley Hawkesworth	Wilson A.L.	Slatcher R.N.

Points for the "Victor Ludorum" Cups were awarded only in open scratch events.

- "Victor Ludorum" Cups were won by Vera Parton, 15½ points out of 21; Stanley Hawkesworth, 15 points out of 18
- The points awarded for House Challenge Cup were: first 3 points; second 2 points; third 1 point.
- Relay Race: First, 10 points. The points gained by each House were: Price 76½; Talbot, 61; Holgate, 59½.
- "Price" won the Challenge cup for the second year running.

In a speech, after the sports, the Headmaster (Mr. A.G. Jenkinson) said he regretted that County Alderman and Mrs. Price (School Governors) had not been able to attend owing to a family bereavement. He thanked his entire staff for their efforts in making the sports a success, which they undoubtedly had been. He also congratulated the winners upon winning, and the losers upon their efforts to win which were more creditable considering the fact that no personal prizes were to be won.

Tea was served in the dining room, admirably catered for by Mr. & Mrs. Manning, the school caretakers.

An exhibition of the scholars' work was held in needlework, woodwork and art, some good work being on view, especially the drawings and paintings of Emma Bate.

After tea a cricket match "Parents v. Boys," was played, in which the boys proved superior, the scores being: Boys, 82 runs, Parents, 57 runs.

"Hey, No Nonny"

Scenes from "Twelfth Night" were enacted by the pupils in an open-air performance on the school grounds on Wednesday, 21st July 1926. Act 1, scenes 3 and 5; Act 2, scene 2, and Act 3 were performed. The weather was fine, but the attendance was poor. The music was under the direction of Miss Morgan Jones, assisted by a voluntary orchestra. The play was originally produced by Miss Prince and Miss Robinson. The business manager was Mr. R. Shiells.

The songs and dances in the programme were, "O, mistress mine," "Come away, death," and "Hey, no nonny" sung by Frank W. White. Gavotte danced by Emma Bate and Eunice Addis. Minuet danced by Emma Bate, Eunice Addis, Vera Parton and Kathleen Thompson.

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 Belch	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

This production was a carbon copy of the previous year's Twelfth Night at the Hippodrome, with the same cast and performers, but lacking the same audience numbers.

The rest of the school year passed without further activities and pupils started their summer break unaware that they would soon hear of the August achievement of the 18 year old American girl, Gertrude Ederle, who was the first woman to swim the English Channel, France to England, in 14hrs 39 min 6 sec.

Archbishop Holgate's Exhibition Fund for Hemsworth

It was announced in the local newspaper on July 30th that £40 per year was offered for competition to anyone aged 16 to 20 years old in the parish of Hemsworth who had attended an Elementary school there for not less than two years. The Exhibition would commence from 1st October 1926. The award was to be based on the passing of an examination set by the Northern Universities Joint Matriculation Board prior to 31st July 1926. The Secretary at Archbishop Holgate's Hospital, Hemsworth supplied the Forms of Application for the fund, which had to be returned on or before the 14th day of August 1926. It was to be hoped that any prospective claimants had already heard about the named fund from a different source long before this late announcement, (which was made the day before the expiry date), in order to have already taken the examination! This highlights the power and influence of the members of the Board of Governors, who would have been the ones who knew of the grant and the mechanisms to achieve it for the children they chose to promote. When a pupil had received notification that the exam had been passed, there were two weeks allowed in which to make the application for the grant.

A Rushed Paint Job

The Clerk to the Governors, Mr. Charles Crossley placed an advertisement in the local newspaper on 30th July inviting tenders for exterior painting to be carried out at the school. He stated that he would supply the specifications for the work, which was to be completed before the following 15th September, i.e. the start of the new term. All tenders had to be received not later than Wednesday, 11th August. So the local painters had twelve days in which to obtain the specification and prepare an estimate, and a further four weeks to do the work, assuming they were immediately available. By today's standards, this might not happen, but in the straitened employment circumstances of the local workforce, the Clerk would have been confident of a good response. This work would have contributed to the final stage of the creation of the new science classroom block and corridor, or perhaps the conversion work in the coach house, ready for the beginning of the new school year.

Botany and Geography, English and Latin

The two new assistant teachers requested by the Headmaster were appointed by the Governors during a July meeting, to take up their posts at the beginning of the new term on Wednesday 15th September. They were Miss Laura I. Parkin of Ripon, who would teach Botany and Geography, and Mr. G.P. White of Saltburn who would teach English and Latin.

Summer Endeavours

Throughout the long summer holiday the school and its environs must have been humming with activity - stone masons, painters, plasterers, joiners, electricians, glaziers, bricklayers and labourers all completing their work on the science classrooms and in the coach house, and turning their attention to the new Assembly Hall and Headmaster's house. Perhaps Messrs. Gregory and Sons of Castleford may have run special transport to deliver some of their workforce to the job in hand. Deliveries of scaffolding, stone and timber were probably constantly travelling up and down the drive, and it would be interesting to learn the identity of the craftsmen who laid the marble terrazzo floors of the corridors to the side of the Assembly Hall and classroom extensions.

School Certificate Results 1926

The new school year opened with new buildings to explore, and news of pleasing results. Six boys and six girls had matriculated, and all but one of the students who sat the certificate examination had passed. Everyone felt that these results would bear comparison with any school in the country, and congratulations abounded from Governors and parents. The staff was gratified and satisfied at the same time.

Boys Matriculation School Certificate Girls Matriculation School Certificate

Philip Bull, J. Keenan, A. Mart, Frank A. Rothera, James W. Smith, Raymond Wilkinson
A. Campling, A. Garbett, Harold Goner, H. Parsons, R.V. Williams.

Emma Bate, Adelaide Branford, Violet Dodds, Margaret Foster, Kathleen Jagger, Olga Kirkham
Marion Finch, S. Ghent, Hetty Littlewood, Winnie M. Penn, Doreen Raine, Alice G. Scott, Olive Tooth,
Miriam Wass.

A New Latin Master

Four applicants were interviewed for the post of Latin master at the school, and Mr. H. Scott B.A. (Liverpool) was appointed to start the new school year in September.

Needy Children

In November 1926 the effects of the miners' strike were still being strongly felt in the area, and the Governors were most anxious that no child should discontinue attendance at school because of the circumstances at home. Free meals and grants for clothing had been made to between thirty and forty families from the Hemsworth area, and in the local newspaper, the Chairman made it clear that no parent who was "feeling the pinch" need hesitate to make an application for assistance. All cases would be sympathetically considered.

We Should Be Re-graded

The increase in the pupil numbers at the school led the Governors, (probably encouraged by Mr. Jenkinson) to apply to the Director of Higher Education for the West Riding for an official raising of Hemsworth Secondary School's status from Grade 1 to Grade 2. There had been more than 200 children on the roll for quite some time, and it can be assumed that Mr. Jenkinson would still be smarting over the new salary scales inflicted on him earlier in March of that year. A new grading would mean a new pay scale for him. The Director, Mr. Hallam, sent a reply in November 1926 which demonstrates the evasiveness and equivocation of a politician busily moving the goalposts. In drawing attention to the salary scales and regulations for headmasters and

headmistresses, he pointed out that the numbers at the school had not been within the limits of Grade 2 for three successive years, and therefore the matter of re-grading could not be considered until the numbers in attendance on October 1st 1927 were known. The Governors' and especially Mr. Jenkinson's reaction to this can be well imagined. A measure of the disappointment at this decision can be seen with the speedy inclusion on November 12th of an article in the local newspaper accentuating the point that, "287 students are now attending HSS, an increase of no fewer than 62 over the number last year. These figures are as healthy as they are gratifying, and everyone in the district undoubtedly trusts that the school will go on from strength to strength, enrolling yet more students and training them to be responsible citizens with a duty to perform - to make the world a better place in which to live."

Fifth Annual Speech Day November 10th 1926

The Hippodrome was once again the venue for the ceremony, with the following dignitaries in attendance. County Alderman G. Price, J.P.(chairman of the Governors) presided, supported by the Bishop of Wakefield and the following Governors: Mrs. L. Garstang, Mrs. A. Schorah, Mrs. Guest, Mrs. Councillor Dooley, Councillors J. Potts, E. Beaumont and Jasper Smith, Mr. A. G. Jenkinson (headmaster), and Mr. C. L. Crossley (Clerk to the Governors). There was a large attendance of parents.

School Improvements

Ald. Price opened his speech by announcing that the number of children at the school had increased since the previous year from 224 to 287. He went on to announce that 25 out of 26 children had passed their School Certificates, with 12 reaching Matriculation standard, and with three distinctions. This was ample proof that the school was a great success, and justified all the money spent on its creation. Since the previous Speech Day, the science classrooms had been completed and fitted with modern equipment, and the new Gymnasium and assembly hall were expected to be ready early in 1927. On previous occasions, little had been mentioned about the playing grounds, which had been allowed to get into a poor condition, but the appointment of an additional gardener (Mr. Wycherley) had effected a considerable improvement. The numbers of school dinners provided had increased with the numbers of pupils in attendance, and continued to provide value for money.

Financial Struggles

Since the opening of the school, the provision of finances to cover the continual expenses of running such an establishment had resulted in many struggles for Ald. Price within the Finance Committee of the County Council. He continually pressed for improvements, and when the new gymnasium was completed, he promised to campaign for more classroom accommodation. He concluded by insisting that these continual improvements would result in the school's being known, "throughout the length and breadth of the country as one of the great seats of learning."

The Headmaster's Report

The headmaster, in his annual report, said that during the past year, in numbers, in efficiency, in attainments, in development, and in the many kinds of school pursuits, there had been a greater advance than in any year since the school opened in November, 1921. There were now 287 pupils (145 boys and 142 girls) as compared with 225 last year. Two forms had been added, one a commercial class for those in the last year who were not intending to take the school certificate. Botany had been introduced for girls, as an alternative to chemistry. Needlework was taught to all forms except VI, and domestic science to Forms IVc, IIIa and b, IIa, IIb, IIc, the work (cooking, laundry work and hygiene) covering a two year's course. The commercial course included shorthand, typewriting, commercial arithmetic, commercial geography, civics, history, English, art, French, science, woodwork, needlework, and domestic science. It was hoped that a course of this kind would, to some extent, meet the needs of those who left school at 16, but all those who possibly could, should aim at obtaining the school certificate, because it was accepted now as a necessary qualification for entry to many professions. It was intended to represent the standard which any normal boy or girl might be expected to reach at the age of 16 or 17, without undue specialisation.

At the last examination a normal form of 26 pupils entered and 25 obtained certificates. He acknowledged the industry and keen interest which every teacher had brought to bear upon the work of this examination, and congratulated them on the very pleasing results. What was particularly satisfactory was that 12 candidates reached matriculation standard and three obtained distinctions. The rest of the school had the usual annual examinations in July. The reports of these examinations were generally satisfactory. Work in school was still hampered by insufficient classroom accommodation. The new science block was opened at the beginning of the previous term, and the rooms were in constant use, but seeing that the school, when completed, was intended to accommodate 300, and that there were now 287 pupils, it would be understood that conditions were difficult. The gymnasium hall, expected to be ready in January would be a very welcome addition. It would provide a covered place for physical training, and as a hall for assembly it would meet "a long-felt want".

In games and other recreations a good record had been maintained. The Rugby team played 12 matches, of which four were won, one drawn, and seven lost, 171 points against 195, but they were playing the first teams of other schools for the first time. The girls played only three matches (tennis?) owing to bad weather and won one and lost two. The boys played 14 cricket matches, of which they won nine and lost five.

The headmaster concluded by paying a tribute to the staff for their loyalty and efficiency, and to the Governors for their sympathy and co-operation.

The Bishop of Wakefield's Address

The Value and Dangers of Education

The Bishop of Wakefield praised the West Riding County Council as a generous supporter of education in general, and particularly Hemsworth Secondary School. He reminded everyone of the enormous progress which had been made in education in the United Kingdom. Education was the way in which any civilised country ensured its proper place in the world in the next generation. The boys and girls at Hemsworth were obtaining a training which would enable them, if it were used properly, to be

real leaders in their own circles, and some of them, he hoped, in wider circles. In the old days education was the privilege of the few, and the concern of still fewer, and it was not until the beginning of the previous century that children of the working classes began to be educated.

Education was now becoming the interest of everybody. This was a good thing, but there was one danger in education becoming the interest of everybody, and that was, that they might overload those whose duty it was to look after education. **There was a tendency just now to pass legislation which was heaping fresh duties on the authorities responsible for education.** If they were not careful the authorities would not have time to think, and the moment that took place, the character of the child would be "rolled up flat." He had a lurking fear, sometimes, that in our improved systems of education we might possibly be not turning out the same distinctive characters as in the old days.

The schoolmasters and mistresses were quite alive to this, and he would like to see the Governors encourage them, as at Hemsworth, so that they might experiment and think for themselves. We are getting more and more to see that large classes and uniform methods would, if not carefully watched, turn out a uniform pattern of child and keep down those who might show distinctive points. He hoped the parents would make sacrifices to keep the boys and girls at school, for if they kept a child that was doing well at school as long as they could they would never regret it.

The prizes and certificates were distributed by Mrs. Lucy Garstang, and a comprehensive vote of thanks was given on the proposition of Mrs. Alice Schorah (vice-chairman of the Governors), seconded by Mrs. Guest.

Musical Programme

During the afternoon the following programme was given:

Part songs "Beauty and Truth" (Coleridge-Taylor), "Aspiration" (Elgar), "My love dwelt in a northern land" (Elgar), "The Londonderry Air" (arr. by T. le Cras), "From the green heart of the waters" (Coleridge-Taylor), the School Choir.

Violin solos "Herje Kati" (Hubay), "Viennese Waltz" (Gaertner-Kreisler), and "The Bee" (Schubert), Miss I. Purdon, A.R.C.M.; Songs "Ave Maria" (Bach-Gounod), "Hindu Song" (Rimsky-Korsakov), and "Cradle Song" (Kreisler), Miss M. Morgan_Jones.

A French play "Chez la Modiste," was given by May Bull, Molly Price and Maisie Thorne.

There was also an English play, "The Dear Departed" (Houghton), by Kathleen Thompson, Emma Bate, A. Garbett, R. V. Williams, Laura Austin and H. Parsons.

Another Chemistry Teacher

In December 1926 the Governors decided to make arrangements for a further teacher in the Chemistry department at the school. Other more mundane matters included discussion of the invitations to tender for the supply of meat, fish, vegetables, milk and groceries, and consideration of several applications for maintenance grants.

It's a Mystery

In December 1926 the national newspapers were reporting the disappearance of the famous author Agatha Christie, who was herself at the centre of a mystery when she disappeared from her home in Sunningdale. It followed the revelation that her husband Archie was having an affair with a younger woman, Nancy Neele. Newspapers offered rewards for information about her whereabouts, and for a brief time, Archie was suspected of murdering her! In the end, she was found at a hotel in Harrogate, Yorkshire, claiming that she was suffering from amnesia. No real explanation has ever been forthcoming, but it's known that she cheekily booked herself into the hotel as "Teresa Neele."

Supper and Dancing

On December 10th 1926 the second gathering of the Old Students of the school took place, with the purpose of reviving interest in the "Old Students' Association." A contemporary account relates that, "Dancing was indulged in to commence with, then the meeting was addressed by the Headmaster, Mr. A.G. Jenkinson who urged all those present to join the Association and make a strong flourishing body of it. He pointed out the great social and material advantages to be gained thereby."

Miss Winnie Walsh was elected president, and Webster R. as vice-president. A. Teale was re-elected hon. secretary, and Miss Hetty Littlewood hon. treasurer.

About 70 sat down to supper in the dining room, and after supper, dancing continued until eleven. It must be borne in mind that the Dining Room known to later generations of pupils as a separate building opposite the Woodwork and Metalwork rooms did not yet exist. A room within the old building was evidently large enough to seat 70 for supper on this occasion. Likewise, the Assembly Hall/first Gymnasium would have been in the process of being built at this time, and unavailable for dancing in its unfinished state. Was the same room used for both supper and dancing on that evening in 1926? If so, which room was it?