

School History 1931

Introduction

This was the tenth year of the school's existence, which had been capably presided over, and had its progress driven forward by the chairman of the Governors, Ald. Gabriel Price J.P., together with the Headmaster, Mr. Arthur Godfrey Jenkinson M.A. and his staff.

Salaries

The total sum of £577 / 11s. / 11d was spent on salaries at the school for the month of January 1931, and in February the amount for the salaries had risen by one penny to £577 / 12s / 0d.

Mr. Piper on St. Paul's



On Wednesday, February 4th 1931, another lantern lecture, entitled St. Paul's Cathedral, was given at the school by Mr. E.W. Piper. The headmaster, Mr. A.G. Jenkinson, presided. Situated on the north bank of the River Thames, St Paul's distinctive dome was designed by Sir Christopher Wren in 1710 after the great fire of 1666 destroyed the original church. The cathedral consists of the Crypt, Ambulatory and Whispering Gallery.

A Pitch for the Pitch

Ald. G. Price, J.P. presided at a Governors' meeting at the end of February 1931 when a letter was received from the Headmaster apologising for his absence from duty. Illness had forced him, and also other members of staff, to take time off, but he stated that had he been present at that meeting, he would have pressed for further action to be taken about the provision of a pavilion and a water tank on the school playing field. He pointed out that it was two years since these items had been promised, and nothing had been done. If they were to have water on the cricket ground ready for the 1931 season, the tank should be installed at once. It seems contrary that the previous problem on the cricket pitch, highlighted in 1929, was that of "laying water". Now it would seem that the need was for water to be introduced to the pitch! Mrs. Dooley proposed that the Education Authority should be urged to act immediately on this matter, and then the Clerk, Mr. Charles Crossley, was directed to convey the sympathy of the Governors to the Headmaster and staff who were ill. A short time after this local bout of illness came more serious health news about the author, Arnold Bennett, who died in Paris at the end of March when he drank the local water to prove it was safe to drink - but was poisoned. It is an indication of the economic straits experienced by the County Authority at this time that it took six months for the Governors to realise that they were not going to receive the tank which they had asked for, and so in July 1931 they resolved to supply a hose and tap, costing £20, instead of a pump and cistern estimated at £99 / 10s / 0d.

General Knowledge and Howlers

The General Knowledge examinations at the school in March had the following results:

1. Elizabeth Austin
2. G. Grayson
3. Josephine Read
4. (tie) Ernest H. Wright and Lawrence J. Frazer

Taken from the school magazine of April 1934 are the following "howlers".

Bete Noir	the black sheep of the family, - someone unwashed.
A la carte	during the French Revolution the mob used to shout "a la carte" to the tumbrel.
Cul de sac	bags of coal - much beer - a crushing blow.
A caricature	what you get when you leave an office.
Ex officio	out of work - a man who has been a policeman.
Alma mater	going to mother.
The King's Speech	the King has a right to preach once a year from St. Paul's pulpit.



The Dining Room and Metalwork/Woodwork areas

The announcement was made at a Governors' meeting that the building of the new Dining Hall and kitchens was now complete, (at a cost of around £12,000) and would be in use in May after the Easter holiday. It was pleasing that the work had progressed faster than had at first been predicted, and a time of inconvenience and cramped 'making-do' would at last end.

Pavilion and Tennis Courts

Another letter to the Education Authority asking for speedy action on the erection of the pavilion and the laying of tennis courts was written and sent.

A French Assistant

Approval for the Headmaster's proposal for the appointment of a French assistant with a 'maintenance' of £100 per year was given. The Board of Education was in favour of such a scheme, and Ald. Price undertook to make enquiries about this matter from the Education Authority. The later arrival of Mademoiselle Parreau at the school was the successful outcome of this policy of enrichment.

A Resignation

The resignation of Miss E. Hodgson to take place at the end of the summer term due to her forthcoming marriage was accepted, and the Clerk was asked to convey the Governors' wishes for her future happiness. Not for the first time, marriage was putting an end to the career of a female member of staff, as was the accepted practice throughout the country at that time.

A Re-election

In the last Governors' meeting of the financial year, Ald. Price thanked everyone for the help he had received from Governors, Headmaster and staff. He in turn received a unanimous vote of thanks. Three weeks later, he was unanimously reinstated as chairman, with Mrs. Blackmore, a prominent member of the Hemsworth Rural Council, as vice-chairman. Capt. L. Hallam, in proposing him, stated that everyone knew of the enormous influence Ald. Price possessed at County Headquarters, which made him the most fitting and able man for the task.

More Land

The gentlemen of the Board of Governors were re-appointed to form the Grounds sub-Committee, and in response to a letter they had written to Mr. J. Hallam, the Director of Education for the West Riding, they heard that the matter of the school's need for more playing fields had been referred to the Education Committee's Architect. He in turn had stated that there were 8 1/2 acres of land at the school for games, and the estimated cost of making an appropriate football field for senior and junior students was £350 / 0s. / 0d. Capt. Hallam commented that this was an enormous sum of money to expend on a football field, but Mr. Jenkinson pointed out that the school had grown to such an extent that there were now 250 boys attending, and they only had one Rugby football field, which was quite inadequate. Further details of the architect's estimate were requested, and a decision made that the Clerk, (Mr. Charles Crossley) should enquire about the price at which land adjoining the school grounds and belonging to Messrs. Hanley and Sons, of Hemsworth, might be purchased.

School Dinner Account

There was a deficit of £14 / 16s. / 8d. for 1930-31, which had developed from an initial credit balance of £74 / 17s. / 1d at the beginning of the year. The Governors controlled this fund which provided meals for the students and was self-supporting. Fee-paying pupils paid 3 shillings per week for their meals, and the County Council made a grant in aid of the scholarship holders. The charges had always been consistent with the provision of good substantial meals, and at the beginning of 1931, when the balance in hand seemed to be high, the Governors had decided rather than lower the charges, they would add fruit to the menu. An increase in the numbers of students having the meals had resulted in the requirement of the services of an extra maid, which meant extra expenditure. 250 students now dined at the school daily, five days a week. The Chairman suggested that as the deficit was not large, the Board should allow matters to rest as they were for the following three months, because he thought there would be increased maintenance grants from the County Authority in the next financial year. Ald. Price's experience or perhaps prior knowledge of the county's future financial budget may have been exercised to inform this proposal. Mrs. Guest thought the best way would be to discontinue the fruit in the menu, but Coun. Isaac Burns opposed this. Capt. Hallam asked why £535 had been expended on meat, and only £6 on fish during the year. Did the children not like fish? He saw that £181 had been spent on vegetables, and he wondered whether they could have been grown in the school grounds.

The Clerk explained that all the vegetables grown in the school gardens were taken into the kitchen, and also, they could not acquire tenders less than 7d. per pound for fish. Coun. Burns stated that if vegetables could be grown in Hemsworth, they had no right to send away for supplies. He added that the County Council had land in Hemsworth that could be put into cultivation. As was often the case, it was decided to leave the whole matter to the lady Governors in collaboration with Mrs. Manning, the caretaker, and await their report. A month later, a number of recommendations were submitted, with a view to putting the fund on a satisfactory basis. Coun. Burns proposed that the cost of the labour required in connection with the school dinners should be requested from the County Authority, but an amendment that no action be taken in this matter was moved by Capt. Hallam, and seconded by Mrs. Schorah, and this was carried, with only two voting for Coun. Burn's motion. There the matter rested.

[The re-appearance of Mrs. A. Schorah as a Governor is noted from this date.]

The First Huddersfield Sports - May 1931

The Place Fartown Cricket Ground
The Schools The boys of Hemsworth, Penistone, Elland, Hipperholme, Holmfirth and Royd's Hall.
The Sections Juniors, under 14 yrs. Intermediates, 14 to 16 yrs. Seniors, 16 yrs and over.
The Awards A Shield presented by the West Riding County Council to be held for one year for the highest score, from each school, and also inscribed plaques for each individual section.

For Hemsworth, Croft K. in the Intermediate section scored a double victory in both the 100 yards and the 220 yards, and he helped his team to victory in the relay race. Harris was outstanding in the Senior section. The Hemsworth team won the Challenge Shield, and also the plaque for the Intermediate section. The Shield was presented to the Hemsworth captains by Miss A. Loveday Grylls, daughter of the Chairman of the Higher Education Committee of the W.R.C.C. Hemsworth's aggregate was 32 1/2 points, six points ahead of Royd's Hall, who just beat Penistone. Penistone won the Senior's plaque, and Royd's Hall the plaque for the Junior section.

Mr. Jenkinson later stated that this success had been most unexpected, and that great credit was reflected upon Mr. Sorby, the physical training teacher at the school, who had been very keen in the training of the boys. Throughout the sports, the boys had shown the true spirit of sportsmanship, and their success was a wonderful achievement for the school. It should be noted that this competition was for boys only.

"Tons of Money"

The fourth production of a staff play, "Tons of Money", by Will Evans and Valentine, took place in May 1931, to the enjoyment of all concerned. Wordplay, duplicity and extreme 'Britishness' were the key elements of the 1920's style farce, and Mr. Jenkinson commented that although the staging of the play meant much work for the members of staff, they enjoyed it as much as anyone.

New Appointments and a Promotion

In May 1931, the Headmaster recommended the appointment of Reginald J. Dowdeswell (Ryhill) a student of the school, as his assistant secretary, and this was approved by the Governors. For the post of Botany mistress, 89 applications had been received, and of the three candidates chosen for interview, Miss D. M. Kenward, of Chester received the appointment. Mr. J.W. Burroughs, the teacher of wood-work and metal-work at the school had been recommended by the West Riding Higher Education Committee for appointment as organiser of these subjects in all the secondary schools in the county. His work in the conversion and establishment of the workshops in the coach houses at the school had clearly impressed the county authority to the extent that he was to be given a greater scope for his talents.

Past v Present

The school's year continued with the annual cricket match between past and present teams, resulting in an easy win for the School side, which scored 151 (Bernard Hemstock 30, Naylor 29, Rhodes 20, Harris 16). Williamson (37) and Barker (21) were the Old Boys' highest scorers, and the innings realised 114, with the School winning by 37 runs. The best bowling figures were those of Fred Williamson, who took 6 School wickets for 30 runs.

School Concert June 10th 1931

The pupils of the school were assisted by the Old Savilians' Orchestra from Wakefield on this Wednesday evening. The Assembly Hall was crowded and each item generously applauded.

The programme

- Selections from "The Gondoliers" and "Lilac Time" and the "Ruy Blas" overture by the orchestra;
- Choral songs from Schubert, Parry, Macpherson and Mendelssohn by the choir;
- Solos from Joan Senior, Miss Wright, Granville H. Clayton and Estelle Rhodes;
- Pianoforte solos by Gwendolyn Crowther and Kathleen Perry;
- Violin solo by Eva Harris;
- Dances by Margaret Reeves.

The accompanists were Miss H. Agnew, Kathleen Perry and Lois Harris. The success of this evening's entertainment led Mr. Jenkinson to apply to the education authority for a number of instruments for the school orchestra. One month later, a refusal for this request was received, but with his usual perseverance, Mr. Jenkinson asked for the matter to be reconsidered.

Pontefract Musical Competitions- Secondary School Choirs 1931



Back Row L-R: Phyllis Stoker (Head Girl), Winnie Morley, Rosalind Atkinson, Ellen Keeling, Marjorie Harrison, May Madeley, Marjorie Kay, 8, Lorna Jagger
Third Row L-R: Grace Mills, 2, 3, 4, Doris Hall, Norah Handley, 7, Grace White, 9, Ethel Jones
Second Row L-R: 1, 2, 3, Estelle Rhodes, Miss Phyllis Wright, Kathleen Perry, 7, 8
Front Row L-R: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

A Matter of Etiquette

Following on from the investigation and report of the lady Governors about the dietary and administrative concerns of the school dinners in May, it appeared that certain instructions had been issued in June 1931 from the Education Committee's Offices in Wakefield directly to the school's caretakers, Mr. and Mrs. Manning. This did not please Mrs. Blakemore, who was presiding at a meeting of the Governors in June, and who reported that she had written to that effect to the Clerk, Mr. Charles Crossley. She felt that the Headmaster should have been notified in the first instance, but Mr. Crossley stated that it was customary to issue the orders direct. Therein lay the point at issue, and the Governing committee was without the guiding hand and sensible counsel of Ald. Price on this occasion.

Mrs. Blackmore was supported by Mrs. A. Schorah. The Headmaster, Mr. Jenkinson, pointed out that he really should know about everything taking place within the school. Coun. Isaac Burns suggested that they might follow the industrial system in future, where Directors did not write to the heads of departments but to the general manager, who in turn issued orders, allowing for a certain amount of local autonomy. Capt. Hallam thought it best that in future all correspondence be directed to the Headmaster, and the matter was closed.

County Minor Scholarships announced June 1931

Boys (26)

Badsworth	H. Johnson
Crofton	R. Barratt, I.C. Jones, R. Creasey, C. Stephenson, W.N. Lister.
Hemsworth	J. Crane, H.O. Evans, J. Morgan, W.H. Pattison, A.W. Cook, J. Pearce, C.W. Eastwood, G.R. Sutton.
Ryhill	V. Phoenix, R.F. Cleave.
South Elmsall	J. McCroakam, R.K. Backhouse, G.K. Wade, J.E. Robinson,
South Kirkby	J.H. Ward, D.S. Corbett.
South Hiendley	C.E. Perry
Thorpe Audlin	W. Hallam
Upton	E. Greenfield.
Huntwick with Nostell and Foulby	W. King

Girls (25)

Brierley	Janet Earl, Edna D. North, C.A. Banks, J. Wardle, May Harby, I. Mary Wormald, J. Laycock.
Crofton	Margaret M. Berry, E.B. Blackshaw, M. Bibey, E. Woodcock.
Hemsworth	Ethel Smith, Mary Ineson, C.M. Burt, M. Conway.
South Elmsall	E.M. Howse, B. Hillcox, Alice Allton, Ellen Palmer, Olive M. Boulton.

South Hiendley	Kathleen Mills.
South Kirkby	J. Orr.
Ryhill	Ruth Sterry.
Shafton	P. Blacknall.
Havercroft with Cold Hiendley	I. Fielder.

Practical Matters

At the Governors' meeting at the end of July, Ald. Price was back at the helm.

- An estimate was approved for the repair of the "Fives" court, and alterations to the changing room were approved at a cost not exceeding £50 / 0s / 0d.
- The forecourt was to be re-covered and repaired at an estimated cost of £48 / 0s / 0d.
- The resignation of Mr. Burroughs was formally accepted, and the advertisement of his post was decided upon. Also to be engaged was a practical joiner and engineer who would instruct the juniors and also be responsible for the joinering and general repairs around school. This proposal might solve the problem of the constant costs involved with the upkeep of such a mature establishment. The Headmaster stated that 120 pupils were taking the subjects of woodwork and engineering.
- The Headmaster asked for consideration to be given for the provision of a covered walkway from the school to the dining hall, and it was decided to draw the attention of the County Architect concerning the suitability of the accommodation of the kitchen staff.

The Tenth Sports and Parents' Day, July 22nd 1931

The day's weather was fine, and in the 40 or so events, records were broken in the long jump and throwing the discus. In the high jump, Hedley Wright beat by one inch the record set by his brother in 1929. At the conclusion of the athletic events, a solid silver cup was presented to the school by Ald. Price on behalf of the South Elmsall Pretoria W.M. Club, who gave it in appreciation of the services rendered by Ald. Price, and in the hope that it would be used as an inter-House trophy in a competition which would include art, music, reading and domestic work. In handing the cup to Mr. Jenkinson, Ald. Price reminded the audience that the same club had two years previously presented two scholarships for children of members of the club. Mr. Jenkinson suitably acknowledged the gift.

At the conclusion of the sports, the prizes were presented by Mrs. Blackmore, a member of the Governors, and later an arts and crafts exhibition was held. A cricket match, parents v. boys, and a tennis match, mothers v. girls were also later played on the school grounds.

Results

[Names have been augmented where possible]

Event	First	Second	Third	Performance
Girls 100 yards scratch, open	G. Jones	Emmie Wilson	Mary Sutton	
Boys 100 yards scratch, open	Williamson	Harris	Croft K.	
Boys 100 yards scratch, U 13	Scales	Fry	Wade	
Girls 100 yards scratch, U13	L. Smith	F. Smith	Constance White	
Boys 100 yards scratch, U15	Hopkinson	Bradley	Wade	
Girls 100 yards scratch U15	Bowen	R. Jackson	Clarke	
Boys Sack Race, open	Heywood	Scott	Edward Butler	
Girls Sack Race, open	Doris Hainsworth	R. Thorpe	D. Warner	
Girls High Jump, U15	K. Fairs	Goddard	Grace White	
Boys 120 yards Hurdles, open	Raymond Williamson	Harris	Bernard Hemstock	
Girls 120 yards Hurdles, open	Emmie Wilson	M. Hainsworth	Marjorie Harrison	
Boys 120 yards Hurdles, U15	Bradley	Parkin	Kitchen K.	
Girls 120 yards Hurdles, U15	Marion Jones	E. Cooper	K. Fairs	
Girls High Jump, open	Marjorie Harrison	Doris Hainsworth	Grace Mills	
Boys 220 yards, open	Harris	Croft	Colin Moxon	
Boys 220 yards scratch, U15	Hopkinson G.	Bradley	Caldwell	
Girls 220 yards scratch, U15	Marion Jones	Elsie Lindsay	R. Jackson	
Girls 220 yards scratch, open	Emmie Wilson	Mary Sutton	Marjorie Harrison	
Boys High Jump open	Ernest Hedley Wright	Dunn	Bernard Hemstock & Williamson (equal) 4ft. 11ins	Record
Boys High Jump, U15	Scott	Hopkinson	Newby	
Girls Balance Race, open	Cooper	Steele	Rowley	
Throwing the Javelin, open	Sterry	Dowdeswell	Moxon	
Throwing the Discus, open	Newby	Colin Moxon	Baxter	73ft. 9ins Record
Putting the Shot, open	Colin Moxon	Sterry	Wright & Williamson (equal)	
Girls Wheelbarrow Race, open	Wootton & Wilson	Pitchfork & Dyson	Walker & Cooper	
Boys 440 yards scratch, open	Ernest Hedley Wright	Harris	Williamson H.	
Boys 440 yards scratch, U15	Hopkinson	Caldwell	Walker G.E.	
Girls Obstacle Race, open	R. Jackson	Joyce Bragger	Clarke	
Girls Bunny Race, under 4ft. 9ins	F. Smith & Co.	I. Smith & Co	Mabel Townend & Co.	
Girls Three-Legged Race	D. Warner & Sylvia Chapman	K. Jackson & R. Hemstock,	Estelle Rhodes & Marjorie Harrison	
Boys Mile Handicap, open	Baxter	Newby	Sutton	
Girls Balloon Race	Declared Void			
Past. Brothers & Sisters Race	S. Dimon & boy, J. / Wilson & P. Nuttall (equal)			
Band Race	E Flat	Double Bass	Drummer	
House Relay Race	Talbot	Price	Holgate	
Tug o' War	Talbot	Holgate.		
Girls Long Jump, open	Doris Hainsworth	Mary Sutton	Ivy Caldwell	
Boys Long Jump, open	Harris	Colin Desborough	Bernard Hemstock	18ft. 2ins Record
Girls Long Jump, under 15	K. Fairs	E. Cooper	Mabel Townend	
Boys Long Jump, under 15	Walsh	Kirk	Hopkinson G.	
Girls Throwing Cricket Ball, open	Parsonage	M. Allen	Lois Harris	

Boys Throwing Cricket Ball, open
Girls Swimming Team Race
Boys Swimming Team Race

Charles Rhodes
Price
Talbot

George Potts
Talbot
Holgate

Williamson H.
Holgate
Guest

The House Championship was won by Talbot House with 115 points, Holgate 60, Price 59, and Guest 39 points.

The Victor Ludorum cups and the accompanying medallions were won by the following:

Senior Boys, K. Harris - 12 points; Senior Girls, Emmie G. Wilson - 8 points;

Junior Boys, H. Hopkinson - 12 points; Junior Girls, K. Fairs - 7 points.

Following the sports a cricket match, Parents v. Boys, and a tennis match, Mothers v. Girls, were played on the school grounds. On another page of the same newspaper the following account appeared.

HEMSWORTH S. S. SPORTS - an account from the local newspaper.

"In the evening a cricket match between sides representing the School and Parents was watched by a large crowd, Ald. G. Price captaining the parents' fifteen against the regulation eleven pupils. The elders took first knock, and owing to a bright innings by Price, jun., the respectable score of 102 was made. This proved too much for the school, who were dismissed for 93. Ald. Price had a turn with the ball, and managed to secure two wickets for 15 runs, the younger Price having 3 for 10."

Parents

Mr. Lees	c Wright	b Hemstock	8
Mr. White	c Wright	b Hemstock	3
Mr. Schorah		b Hemstock	0
Mr. Hepworth	c Wright	b Jacques	1
Mr. Price jr.	st Harris	b Potts	30
Mr. Price sr.		b Hemstock	2
Mr. Sutton		b Hemstock	0
Mr. Taylor	c Naylor	b Hemstock	13
Mr. Pickersgill		b Heath	1
Mr. Broome	c & b Wright		1
Mr. Mason		b Heath	11
Mr. Denton		b Hemstock	11
Mr. Smith	lbw	b Potts	4
Mr. Goodall		b Hemstock	3
Mr. Jagger	not out		8
Extras			6
Total			102

School

Naylor		b Lees	4
Potts	c Taylor	b Price jr.	28
Heath	lbw	Price sr.	5
Hemstock	run out		15
Williamson	run out		19
Harris	lbw	b Hepworth	5
Moxon		b Price jr.	4
Marlow			not out 1
Desborough		b Price sr.	0
Wright	c & b. Price jr.		9
Jacques		b. Lees	0
Extras			12
Total			93

Folk Dancing

The spell of good weather continued into the week following the sports, and the annual folk dancing display was held on the cricket ground at the school on Wednesday, 29th July 1931, with a large number of spectators being present. Dances were given by teams representing the school, Brackenhill Council School, South Kirkby Common Road, Featherstone Girls, Carlton (Barnsley) Girls, and Hemsworth Roman Catholic School. Mr. A.G. Jenkinson the headmaster led the dancing, for which the Glass Houghton Coal and Coke Works Band provided the music, and Mr. J. Swinbank of South Kirkby was the M.C. [This Mr. Swinbank was the father of the Latin teacher so well-known to later pupils of the school.]

Syd Brown's Rhythm Boys at the Midsummer Reunion

Syd Brown's Palais-de-Danse Band and his Havana Dance Band of 1929 had now two years later become the 'Rhythm Boys', and they provided the music for dancing at the Midsummer Reunion of Old Students, Staff and Governors on 24th July 1931. Messrs. W. Leo Dooley and William Kirk acted as M.C.'s, and after supper William Kirk, the Chairman of the Old Students' Committee, spoke a few words in relation to forthcoming events. The President, Mr. A.G. Jenkinson then welcomed everyone, including their friends, who for the first time had been invited. This was also the first occasion that the new Dining Hall had been used for a school function. The Headmaster congratulated several members on their success in the careers they had chosen, and hoped they would continue to prosper and bring credit to the school.

The Dining Room 1930s



Exam Successes In August 1931

It was announced that the following pupils had passed the examinations of the Northern Universities Joint Matriculation Board:

Higher School Certificate

Elizabeth Austin (distinction in pure mathematics), Phyllis Howe, Hilda Newton, Josephine Read, J. Lawrence Frazer, Albert V. Heywood, Alec Ramsden, Richards J., Frank W. White, Sidney Fox passed in Latin and Hodge C. passed the subsidiary stage in History.

School Certificate Matriculation

Form Va Colin Desborough, Patrick J. Kellett, Eric Ralphs, Sybil Howson, Margaret Paley, Sabina Weaver, Elsie Worrall.
Form Vs Arthur Walsh, Ethel Midgeley, Eileen Morley, Hilda Paley,
Form Vc Frank Denton, Reginald J. Dowdeswell, Harold Green, Phyllis A. Hall, Mary Littlewood.

School Certificates

Form Va Colin C. Hart, Bernard W. Hemstock, Harry Hyde, Colin Moxon, Norman Senior, John Taylor, Ernest H. Wright, Eunice Allen, Ruth Bower, Ida Farmery, Millicent Leaver, Hannah McCroakam, Kathleen Perry, Mary Sutton, Annie Thorpe.
Form Vs Edward Perry, Norman F. Poole, Arthur E. Whittle, Ivy B. Couldwell, Rose Fisher, Mary Metcalfe, Grace Mills, Irene Walker, Joyce Warner, Emmie G. Wilson.
Form Vc Harry H. Goodale, Thomas Hebden, Harold Noble, Herbert S. Perry, Thomas Wright, Mary Ward, Millicent Webb.

Of the 13 candidates who sat the Higher School Certificate examination, 9 obtained full certificates, and 2 pupils who took one subject passed. There was one Distinction. Of the 73 candidates taking the School Certificate examination, 48 were successful, 32 obtaining the certificate and 16 reaching Matriculation standard. Fifteen Distinctions were obtained, and all in all, the

headmaster was pleased with the results, especially as they had all been working under extremely difficult conditions of overcrowding. There was accommodation at the school for 250, yet there were 420 pupils attending. Seven classes were without a permanent 'home', and the ages of many of the candidates were lower than usual. Mr. Jenkinson made a point of assuring the Governors that no failures were due to the fault of the teachers. There were adverse results in Chemistry, he reported, and also in Botany and Art. Music and Mathematics candidates had done well, and Latin was better than ever before. History was quite good, and English had improved, for they had 2 Distinctions, 2 Goods, 35 Credits, 27 passes and only 7 failures out of a total of 73 candidates. Commercial subjects were good, but mechanics was weak this year. Mechanical engineering was 'quite good', and on the whole he was fairly satisfied.

Pay Them Less? Not likely!

An unpopular announcement from the Government in its Economy Bill of 1931 was that the salaries of teachers were to be reduced. Economies on all fronts were being demanded by Westminster as the economic crisis (sparked by the American Great Depression of 1929) caused hardship across Britain. Unemployment was soaring and the cost of benefits threatened to cripple the country. Across Europe, countries struggling with their own economic problems demanded gold rather than Sterling from Britain. The Governor of the Bank of England issued a warning that the country faced bankruptcy. In September, Britain devalued the pound in a bid to stop the slump. In October, Labour lost badly at the general election as the Conservatives won a huge majority of seats. Labour Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald formed a coalition government (the National Government) to tackle the problem of how to restore confidence in Sterling. MacDonald stayed on in title as Prime Minister. The National Government, now strongly Conservative, would continue to address the country's failing economy until mid-1935, but in Yorkshire, the school's Governors swiftly expressed their disapproval of the proposals for the teachers' salary reductions by writing a letter of protest to the Government.

Engineering Master

There were 19 applications for the post of engineering master which had become vacant by the resignation of Mr. J. Burroughs, and the appointment was given in September 1931 to the aptly-named Mr. H.G. Augur, an engineering master at the Sheerness Technical Institute, in Kent.

"Liquid Air"

On October 14th Mr. C.H. Douglas Clark, of the department of Chemistry at Leeds University, gave a brief account of the history of the liquefaction of gases, detailing the chief processes and the methods involved in the process. He emphasised the great number of failures there had been before success was achieved in the process. Faraday (1791-1867) was the first man to succeed in the liquefying of a gas. In the second part of the lecture, Mr. Clark conducted a number of interesting experiments to illustrate the subject.

History of Liquefied Natural Gas

[The concept of liquefying gases began with British chemist Michael Faraday in the 1800s. In 1873, Karl van Linde, a German engineer, built a working compression refrigerator for natural gas. A first-generation liquefied natural gas plant was built in West Virginia in 1912. In 1941, liquefied natural gas was first stored in insulated tanks at normal atmospheric pressure. Because the liquefied form of natural gas is only 1/614th the volume of natural gas, it is commercially and economically feasible to transport by ship or store in large volume only as a liquid. Natural gas in its original form is transported via pipeline. Before commercial shipping of liquefied natural gas, only countries and regions with pipeline access to the gas could utilize the resource.]

Tenth Annual Speech Day, Wednesday October 21st 1931

The chief speaker at this annual event held at the Hippodrome was Mr. A.E. Morgan, M.A., Principal of the University College of Hull, who gave a notable address upon loyalty and the need for an educated democracy. There was a large attendance, and Ald. G. Price, J.P., chairman of the Governors, presided, supported by Mr. Morgan, Mr. A. G. Jenkinson, M.A., (headmaster), Mrs. Guest, Mrs. Blackmore, Mrs. Garstang, Mrs. Dooley, Mrs. Schorah, Capt. L. Hallam, Messrs. J. Dunleavy, W. Exley, and C. E. Jagger (Governors).

Fine School Record

The Chairman said that in the ten years of its existence the school had made a history and record second to none in the whole of the north of England. Its development had been watched with great interest, and it had accomplished a fine record by the devoted attention of the headmaster and staff, the governors, and the public and parents. The young students who were leaving the colleges and universities, ready to take a hand in the affairs of the world, were a credit to the school. Last year the number of pupils increased from 410 to 420, comprising 385 holders of County Minor Scholarships, three Holgate Trust scholarships, one South Elmsall Pretoria Club scholarship, and 81 fee paying scholars. Economy was being urged strongly upon them, but the Governors could be relied upon to do all in their power to ensure that efficiency was not sacrificed to achieve that end. At a meeting of that description it would be wrong of him to take advantage of the political situation and the Economy Bill confronting the West Riding County Council, and he would satisfy himself in assuring parents that the Governors would do their utmost to see that efficiency was not impaired by the "cuts". The success of the school was a tribute to all taking part in its administration. He hoped that the tenth "Speech Day" would see the beginning of further developments and a new history, until they were satisfied that the school was second to none, and that there would be built up a centre of education which would be a blessing to the future lives of the students.

Headmaster's Report

A Difficult Year

Mr. Jenkinson stated that the past year had been difficult in the matter of organisation and administration owing to the increasing numbers and the restricted accommodation. Many forms had no classrooms, and the overcrowding of classes militated against orderly management and effective teaching. This state of things was bound to be accentuated during the coming year by the

increase of numbers to 420, and until the new extension was completed they could not hope for any improvement in this respect. In one particular, however, they were better off than at this time the previous year: the new dining hall was opened in May, and 330 dinners were served every day at one sitting and under comfortable conditions. The metalwork shop had also been extended according to plan and afforded temporary relief; when the machinery was installed it would provide the means of a thorough training in practical engineering.

Careers

Mr. Jenkinson wished to impress upon parents that the careers master and careers mistress, Mr. Austin and Miss Shortridge, explored the various avenues of possible employment for those leaving the school, and were always ready to give career advice. The trouble was that their advice was not sought early or often enough, and sometimes opportunities were thus lost. He appealed to parents to make their plans in good time. Every boy or girl should come to some decision as to a career when the age of 15 was reached. He also impressed upon them that teaching was not a career suitable or advisable for all. He urged parents rather to consider the various branches of the Civil Service, R.A.F. apprenticeships for boys, boy artificerships in the Navy, farming in Canada under various Empire migration schemes, apprenticeships with industrial firms, enlistment in military or naval bands for boys who were musical, and for girls domestic science, pharmacy, nursing and nursery nursing, in all of which there were good openings and an interesting and useful field of work.

A Suggested Reform

"In my last report," he continued, "I questioned the advisability of passing on pupils of 14 and 15 years of age from central or senior elementary schools to a secondary school, because of the difficulty of placing the scholars in a form suitable to their age". One girl who had already passed the School Certification examination was able to be placed in the Vth. Form and passed again last July with distinction in History and good marks in other subjects though she just failed to obtain matriculation. She had now progressed to the Leeds Domestic Science training College. Of the others, four held high positions and two rather low positions in their forms; two boys had had double moves, but they were still all considerably over the average ages of their forms, and are not likely to reach the School Certificate standard at the age of 17. However, he noted that the county authority was aware of the anomalies which these transfers involved, and in order to rectify them, would now review pupils at the age of 12 or 13, instead of 14 or 15 as then was the practice. The question of transfers from one type of school to another involved a consideration of the curriculum of the various schools. Education was meant to be continuous, and the different types of school, primary, post-primary, middle, secondary were being steadily brought into line. Why then should not the curriculum be continuous? Why should not Algebra and Geometry, General Science, and French be begun in primary and post-primary schools? The chief difficulty about late transfers would then disappear, because those transferred would be able to take their place in suitable forms in a secondary school. He hoped that a reform of this nature in our educational system would engage the attention of the administrative authorities.

Examination Results

Mr. Jenkinson said that the examination results were on the whole satisfactory, though owing to the difficult conditions under which teaching was carried on at the time, and the lower age of the candidates, the number of passes in the School Certificate was smaller than last year. At Leeds University in the Final Honours examination of the History School, Adelaide Branford and E. John Barker obtained good positions in the second class. Philip Bull at Leeds, Stanley Hawkesworth and James Keenan at Manchester had also obtained B.Sc. pass degrees. They were the first pupils from the school to complete a course for a degree at a university, and they were congratulated on their success.

Scheme of Work

The scheme of work in the school remained unaltered, though, if the accommodation had permitted, the number of forms would have been increased. Some re-arrangement of the upper school forms would be necessary next year, owing to the small number of those taking the commercial course as compared with the other two courses. It was becoming clear that there would have to be differentiation between matriculation and non-matriculation pupils. The value of a matriculation certificate had grown out of all proportion in recent years in the eye of employers and the general public. A matriculation certificate was required principally for admission to a university or training college, for admission to banks, and for some other professions which demanded a fairly high all-round academic qualification. For many branches of industry and business, a School Certificate showing credits in the specific subjects necessary for that particular industry or business would be a more reasonable proposition. Many an employer accepted a matriculation or School Certificate as a satisfactory qualification without any reference to the subjects in which credits were obtained. They should get away from the idea that a School Certificate of any kind was an adequate qualification for a position. The present tendency in secondary schools was to see the required standard for entrance to a university as being the only standard that counted as having real educational value. This tendency was due to the confusion of matriculation and school certificate, and to the demand of school authorities for matriculation results as evidence of a school's successful work. Some years previously, the Board of Education published a circular by which secondary schools were required to enter whole forms only, and not individual pupils, for the School Certificate examination. Now this restriction had been removed, with the result that many schools by entering only their best candidates, naturally secured better matriculation results. At Hemsworth they had always adhered to the Board's original instructions, only entering whole forms for the School Certificate examination. If he were invited to suggest a reform of the examination system he would divorce matriculation from the School Certificate, and he would diminish the value attached to a School certificate, as such, while increasing the value attached to credits in the various subjects, by giving to every candidate a certificate on which would be shown the passes obtained. Any girl or boy applying for a situation would then have a record to produce from which an employer could see at a glance what the applicant's qualifications were. Some reform was certainly necessary and these suggestions might help to focus attention more directly on the whole question. [This policy was finally adopted nationally in 1937]

School Activities

Referring to various activities of the school, Mr. Jenkinson said that instruments were still wanted for the school orchestra, and he believed they were as much a part of the necessary equipment of a school of that kind as typewriters, or sewing machines, or paint-boxes. At present, due to the present financial difficulties, all equipment had to be reduced, but he hoped when normal supplies were resumed that the claims of music would not be neglected. From the vocational point of view a school orchestra was important, because any boy who could play a wind instrument had a good career open to him. To every member of the staff he expressed his thanks and appreciation for their willingness and loyal co-operation, often at the cost of much personal inconvenience and at the sacrifices of leisure time. In spite of criticism from outsiders with regard to teachers' salaries, it was the spirit animating teachers which really counted and by which the value of a teaching staff was to be estimated. If judged by that standard the school was well served.

Ald. Price and Mr. Guest

"In this, the tenth year of the school's existence," concluded Mr. Jenkinson, "I wish to offer my particular thanks to Ald. G. Price, chairman of the Governors, for the help which he has given to the school and to me all through the ten years. Other Governors have come and gone, but Mr. Price, I am glad to say, has remained. We have had in him and our present governing body, supporters who could be relied on to back the school for all they were worth, and to maintain an active interest in all its concerns. It is with great regret that I have to record the death after a long illness, of Mr. John Guest, M.P., who was one of the original Governors of this school. Even when failing health had compelled him to sever his official connection with the school, he maintained a lively interest in its progress and welfare, and I have cause to remember with gratitude his friendly kindness and generosity. His name has been perpetuated in one of the school "Houses," which by a coincidence won the cup last year." The prizes were presented by Mrs. Blackmore, vice-chairman of the Governors, who was handed a bouquet by Phyllis Stoker, head girl of the school.

The University Habit

Mr. Morgan, who received a book from the headmaster as a memento of the occasion, said that some people were cynical of "speech days", but it was useful for a school to gather in public at least once a year and take a reckoning of what it had done, and to assess the future. Mr. Morgan was particularly pleased to be present, because Mr. Jenkinson and himself had worked near each other in Devon and Cornwall, and had both come to Yorkshire to till the great educational field to which they had both dedicated their lives. In Hull it had been felt that a new university college gave them cause not only for congratulation but also for an attempt to focus on their aims. University education had grown remarkably in the last century. A hundred years ago there were only two universities in England and Wales. Since then there had developed a solidarity of university feeling and sympathy throughout the country, whereby the training of the youth of England for the highest work which the nation needed to be done for it was possible. There could be no such thing as competition between universities any more than there could be between schools. They worked together, strengthening each other. He was certain that in the next generation or two, more universities would be needed before the country was saturated. The growth of universities increased the habit of going to them, and instead of depleting the number attending them it added to the total.

Loyalty and Truth

On "speech days" was concentrated the spirit of school loyalty, which alone gave flavour and real quality to the life of a school. Loyalties were hard things to face - and yet they were the glory of life. Loyalties caused tragedies and gave strength. It was only when loyalties were imperfect that they caused tragedies. Loyalty was truth. None of them could achieve absolute truth in this erring world, but they could approach to it more and more according to the strenuousness of their struggle for it. Was there anything more important than truth? Why did they go to school? To be educated. What did education mean? It meant fitting them in every respect so that they could take their part in life. A good and sound system of education should equip everyone with the ability to find truth, and to recognise truth when it was found. How frequently they were led aside by a misconception! How often difficulties arose through a lack of understanding! They were, in fact, so uneducated that they were always jumping to conclusions instead of examining the situation carefully. The real test of democracy - which was on its test in this generation - was that people, in the widest sense of the term, could see the truth. No people could govern themselves unless they had wisdom. An uneducated democracy was a contradiction of terms. Self-government by the people was possible only where they had education. This was a testing time for democracy. In many parts of the world people were throwing it over, and it was being replaced by dictatorships and oligarchies. English men believed in it and were struggling to make it effective. Young people were going to carry on the work of ensuring that the principle of government of the people by the people, for the people, was a practical way of managing the affairs of human beings. He believed that this and the next generation would show that those who launched democracy were right. To do that they had to be free from misconceptions. How often they were carried away by words and judgments without knowing the facts! They should be careful before they jumped to conclusions that all the data were at their disposal.

Clear Thinking

If there were three things, continued Mr. Morgan, that education should give, they were how to read, write, and speak accurately. If they could read accurately they could understand what other people had said. The bulk of the wisdom of humanity was stored in books. They were the treasury of the wisdom of the ages, and also of such wisdom as the present age had achieved. In order to read they must understand the meaning of words. They had a great means of propagating truth by being able to write and say what they wanted to say, so that other people could understand it. It was a vain delusion that they could think clearly but could not express themselves. To think clearly was essential for the understanding of truth and its conveyance to other people. That, to his mind, was the central function of education. They should strengthen their loyalty to their school and to the societies to which they belonged, but in the end it came back to loyalty to oneself, which meant nothing unless it was based on a real apprehension of truth. They should not be afraid to recognise the good qualities in themselves. It was not humility, but a form of vanity, to pretend that they did not recognise it. He hoped the second decade of the school would be as prosperous as the first they had just completed.

Mrs. Blackmore and Mr. Morgan were thanked on the motion of Capt. L. Hallam, seconded by Mrs. Schorah, and supported by Mrs. Dooley. Mrs. Blackmore replied and asked for the usual day's holiday for the pupils, which was granted. On the motion of Mr. W. Exley, seconded by Capt. Hallam, a vote of thanks was given to the chairman.

A programme of music was given under the conductorship of Miss Phyllis E.M. Wright, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., Kathleen Perry, and Lois Harris as accompanists. Part songs were given by the school choir, violin solos by Eva Harris, instrumentals by Eva Harris, Nuttall, Pattison, and Harry Walker, and songs by Miss Wright.

A General Election

Six days after this 1931 Speech Day, on Tuesday, 27th October, Ald. Gabriel Price, chairman of the HSS Governors, fought and won his seat in Parliament. This was the last election in the United Kingdom not held on a Thursday. It was also the last election, and the only one under universal suffrage, where one party received an absolute majority of the total number of votes cast.

General Election 1931: Hemsworth

Party, Candidate, Votes, %, ±%

Labour, Gabriel Price, 23,609, 70.5, -8.4

Conservative, W. F. C. Garthewaite, 9,867, 29.5, +8.4

Majority, %, ±%

13,742, 41.0, -18.8,

Turnout, %, ±%

33,476, 72.9, -2.9

Labour hold. Swing, -8.4

A Damper on Things

The ambitions of the Governors met the intransigence of the West Riding County Council in November 1931. Each of the previous requests for funds to improve the facilities at the school had been rejected. Mrs. Blackmore presided over what would have been a depressing meeting which heard that:

1. Due to the "financial crisis", the erection of the potentially expensive covered walkway from the school to the new Dining Hall was to be deferred, and the alternative solution offered was the provision of portable cloak stands at a proposed cost of £11 / 12s / 8d.
2. The money for the requested fencing at the school boundary to prevent cattle straying into the grounds at an estimated cost of £90 / 0s / 0d. was not to be forthcoming, and so it was decided that the school gardeners should be asked to carry out the work.
3. Mr. J. Hallam, the Director for Education for the West Riding, wrote to the Governors to make it clear that no further funding would be forthcoming on projects to which they were not already committed. This meant that provision of the hard tennis courts and the sports pavilion, which were not urgent, nor necessary, should be postponed.
4. The "present financial situation" dictated that there was no case to be made for the appointment of an assistant in the woodwork shop. The Governors, not surprisingly, decided that their request for the assistant should be pressed.

Capt. L. Hallam indignantly stated that they ought to insist that a deputation from the County Authorities should be asked to meet the Governors to discuss this further. Mrs. Schorah agreed with him, whereas Mrs. Guest and Mr. Dunleavy felt things should be left, but they were in a minority. Mr. Isaac Burns thought the Governors should not accept all the County Hall had to say, and so continued the discussions, with all of them experiencing the frustrations of knowing that their irresistible force had met an immovable object. The requested meeting was subsequently refused.

On a more mundane matter, Mr. W. Exley pointed out that 20 pupils from Grimethorpe were attending the school, and had to wait three quarters of an hour before they could catch a bus home. It was decided that the bus company should be requested to provide an earlier service for them.

"Stories of Submarines"

A thrilling lecture was given by Lieut-Commander Dixon of the Navy League at a well-attended public lecture at the school on December 2nd. He described the beginnings of the First World War, the part that submarines played, and their subsequent development as the war continued. He vividly described adventures aboard the vessels, and how their purpose differed from that of the present day. He spoke of a personal adventure in the China Seas on board a submarine in which they rescued Japanese prisoners from a Chinese ship. The lecture was illustrated by lantern slides, and H. Williamson proposed a vote of thanks to Commander Dixon.

Treading on Toes

The promised report from the lady Governors on the provision and adequacy of the school dinners was submitted to a meeting of the Governors which was crackling with tension in December 1931. The report itself began in uncontroversial terms. "The fare provided was suitable, ample and excellent. More than 50 pupils brought their own dinners, which they ate in classrooms, without supervision." It was these two last words which galvanised the Headmaster into a denial of the statement that there was no supervision. A girl and a boy prefect were definitely in attendance to supervise, he insisted.

With his feathers already ruffled, Mr. Jenkinson then voiced his complaint about the unexpectedness of the lady Governors' visit, about which he had not been consulted. "With all due respect to the lady Governors," he said, "independent visits of this kind are very irregular, not to say an improper procedure, and during the whole of my experience, which extends over many years, I have never known such a thing." He went on to say that at his previous school, the Governors visited him, and asked him to escort them round to inspect anything they desired to see. Even a Director of Education when he came to the school would give notice of

his visit. That was the recognised procedure in all secondary schools. Mrs. Blackmore said the visit was made in good faith, but she was sorry that it had happened, and an apology would be sent to Mr. Jenkinson and Miss Griffiths.

The stiffness of manner in the conduct of the remainder of the items on the agenda can well be imagined, as the tenders for provisions were approved:

Groceries	H. Brookes (South Elmsall),
Meat	W.J. Townend (Hemsworth)
Milk	C.S. Hanley (Hemsworth)

The resignation of Mr. G. Shackleton, the Physical training instructor at the school, owing to illness was accepted, and December's meeting closed with less of the seasonal good feelings than might have been expected.

Slipping Away

Although the participants may not have recognised it at the time, the year of 1931 at Hemsworth Secondary School showed continuing signs of a slowly developing situation within the Governing Committee of the school. It had begun in June 1930, when the chairman, Ald. Price, had been unable to attend the Governors' monthly meeting. No exact reason for his unusual absence was given, though it can be assumed that as his political activities were expanding beyond Yorkshire, there were bound to be clashes of appointments and demands on his time. In the Speech Day report of the local newspaper of November 1930, for the first time the Chairman of the Governors was reported as not present "owing to his being at an important conference in London." Might this have been a meeting with Ramsay MacDonald, the Prime Minister, or perhaps other members of the Government? Nor did he attend December's meeting of the Governors.

By the beginning of 1931 things seemed to be back to normal as Ald. Price resumed his regular monthly chairmanship duties. In all probability, the 1930's absences were attributable to the activities involved in assessing and confirming his suitability as the next Member of Parliament for the Hemsworth area, as the present incumbent, Mr. John Guest, seemed unlikely to continue for much longer in that position, due to illness. Confirmation of this came in November 1931, when the Headmaster announced at the school's Speech Day the sad news of the demise of Mr. John Guest MP.

Although the Governors' meetings prior to 1931 had been 'lively' affairs, as they discussed and sometimes disagreed on matters, there had always been the voice of reason in the chair to defuse tempers and ease tensions. The respect held by all the Governors for Ald. Price as chairman shone through each report of his ten re-elections to that office, yet it can be seen throughout the latter part of 1931 that the meetings held during his absences showed a polarisation of factions and some downright squabbling. The economic stringencies imposed on the school by the Government provided fuel to the fires, and it is clear that the absences of this one person had altered the tenor and atmosphere of the meetings, to the temporary detriment of the school's well-being.

In this the tenth year of the school, the Governors continued to ask for funds to extend the facilities for the pupils, and they continued to encounter resistance from the County Authority to most of their proposals. Money was not available for the long-promised tennis courts and sports pavilion, and patience was required. The attempts of the staff and pupils to raise funds themselves, as they did in former years, seem to have lapsed in 1931.

Throughout the country, unemployment had been gradually rising to almost three million during the year, and elsewhere in Europe, the menace of Fascism was growing. In Germany the Nazis were gaining strength and systematically working towards their aim of eliminating its democratic government. The economic embarrassment caused to the United States and Europe by the Great Depression coupled with the political instability caused by World War 1 meant that these rising threats to peace were not met and eliminated. It would be some time before Hemsworth, Yorkshire and the rest of Great Britain would see matters come to a head, but in 1931 there had already begun the trickle in the stream of events which would culminate in the torrent of war.