

Dandenong High School: Speech Night

Encouraged by that splendid audience which filled the spacious Boomerang Theatre, on Tuesday night, the head teacher (Mr. Langford) spoke of his delight in meeting so many who were deeply interested. He regretted extremely, as indeed they all regretted, the absence from amongst them of Colonel Knox, M.L.A., who was to have presided. Unfortunately an anxious time was being experienced in the discharge of his Parliamentary duties. Times were critical, and he had been compelled to telegraph his inability to attend. Every member's presence at the House was desired, he said, and he asked that his regrets might be conveyed to those present at their speech night. Happily, said Mr. Langford, Mr. Singleton, J.P., who had been such a tower of strength to them, had at the eleventh hour consented to take the place of Mr. Knox. He had stepped into the breach.

Outside the rain was pouring in torrents. Fearing he might not be heard, Mr. Langford, with voice clear and resonant, begged the audience to shout if they did not hear him. As he spoke the storm subsided, only to later renew with increased force, and still his words were perfect, and he continued to the end in the submission of the

TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DANDENONG HIGH SCHOOL, 1930.

Mr. and Mrs. Singleton, Ladies and Gentlemen, Staff and Pupils,—I have much pleasure in presenting this the 12th annual report of the Dandenong High School.

At the outset, I desire to thank Mr. and Mrs. Singleton for their willingness to help us in carrying out our

ness to help us in carrying out our programme to-night. Not until this morning did Colonel Knox know that the affairs of the House would deter him from being with us. When I approached Mr. Singleton, he agreed to help, and I feel quite sure that he will fill the breach very efficiently. Mrs. Singleton also deserves our best thanks for consenting to distribute the certificates and prizes.

The year, as far as members are concerned, has been one of continued progress. Last year we reached a gross enrolment of 411, but this year the numbers have very nearly reached 500. We have at present a gross enrolment of 470. This enrolment shows a marked increase (59 pupils) over that of last year, and there is also an increase of 26 pupils in the number who come from places outside Dandenong. Judging by the applications for enrolment received this month, these numbers should be well maintained. Ten years ago we were endeavouring to swell our numbers; to day we desire to arrest, or should I say, direct this growth.

Thoughtful people must agree that not every boy or girl is fitted for a high school course, nor is it desirable that we should aim at sacrificing the individual in an attempt to obtain larger numbers than heretofore. It is waste of effort, time and money to try to turn every pupil out of the same mould. The mere fact that a parent wishes his boy to take a high school course is not sufficient guarantee that he should be admitted. We should endeavor to avoid misfits, and to do this, greater care in changing from the primary to the secondary course should be exercised. The professor and the artisan, the doctor and the bricklayer, the lawyer and the laborer, are all equally necessary in a well-balanced community; but the High School is not necessarily the training ground for all. Have we not of late years been too inclined to encourage all and sundry to become the profes-

years seen the school to become the professor, the doctor and the lawyer, until we have now reached a stage where we find it necessary to encourage our farmers' sons to remain farmers, and so help this young and primarily agricultural country of ours to recover from the position in which she finds herself to-day. But I had better leave these controversial matters to the Chairman, and simply quote you bald facts relating to the school.

THE BUILDING AND GROUNDS.

Since our last report, the long-hoped-for additions have become an accomplished fact. Four class rooms and a sloyd room, together with fine out buildings, have been completed. These were carried out by a well known contractor, Mr. Harden, and have provided us with better accommodation than we have ever had in the past. The fact that the State was prepared to pay some thousands of pounds in erecting additions, moved the High School Council, staff, parents and scholars to make the surroundings in keeping with the very fine building. Accordingly £112 was raised at a bazaar to provide lawns, concrete paths and general improvements.

In addition, local citizens have helped to provide funds for the "Tharle Memorial Gates," which were declared open by the wife of the president of our school council on Thursday last. We also desire to thank the local Shire Council for providing a concrete crossing and a gravelled entrance to the school. The school, with the new Scout Hall on the northern entrance to the town, must create a very fine impression in the minds of visitors to this, the Gateway of Gippsland.

The lawns and flower beds are an eloquent tribute to the care and attention bestowed upon them by our gardener, Mr. Weedon. We are justly proud of our surroundings, and we believe them to be as fine as any in the land.

SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT.

Our pupils have maintained the good standard set by previous years; 33 candidates obtained the intermediate

standard set by previous years; 33 candidates obtained the intermediate certificate—a record number to date—2 with nine passes, 5 with eight passes, 13 with seven, and 13 with six subject passes. In addition, 8 completed four or five subjects entitling them to complete later on. A list appears elsewhere.

Seven candidates completed the Leaving Certificate, viz.: Frank Asling, May Ferguson, Nell Garlick, Jean Garlick, John Hunter, Jean Herbert and Ruth Lade. In addition, four passes each were obtained by four additional candidates. These may complete this year.

Forty-eight candidates sat for the I.O.R. examination this year, and all but one pupil obtained a pass, 60 per cent. Norma Anderson and Vida Wright with 92, and Tom Rothfield with 91, headed the list. Prizes have been awarded by the local Tent to these three candidates. We desire to thank the officers of this branch for their continued interest in the welfare of the pupils.

Jim Hurley obtained a State "Junior" scholarship, and, this year, Colin McAlpin has already won a Scotch and a Wesley scholarship; while George Clements has gained an Alexander Rushall Memorial scholarship to the value of £25 per annum, with a promise of a secondary studentship at the end of 12 months if he continues to do satisfactory work.

Olive Marshall has been awarded a Loyal Orange Lodge scholarship, and Nita Heald a Shelford Grammar School scholarship, which entitles her to three years' tuition.

IMPORTANT PROPOSAL.

I desire to place before parents a proposal which means a somewhat drastic change from the conditions previously obtaining in High Schools. The Leaving Honours candidates may, next year, be concentrated in three large central schools. This will entail considerable travelling on the part of the senior pupils. It will apply only to those who intend to study beyond the leaving stage. If this proposal is adopted, parents concerned should im-

adopted, parents concerned should immediately ascertain if any arrangements for transit can be made, as daily travelling or living away from home will become inevitable. Parents should ascertain from the Department as soon as possible an outline of the proposed change, so that plans for next year may be formulated by them.

SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT.

The school has had a fair measure of success in the Metropolitan Association since we joined it some years ago. This year our hockey team, after being in the final every year, except 1929, succeeded in winning the Hockey Shield. We congratulate Thelma Hocking, the captain, and her team, on their success. As we have, as coach, Miss Axford, an international hockey player, the result might have been expected.

The A.N.A. Shield was again won by our school this year. Out of the six contests with Warragul, we won five, viz.: Football, hockey, basketball, boys' and girls' tennis, while we were defeated at cricket.

This year we reduced the "Houses" from six to four. Boronia and Waratah were disbanded, and the pupils of these houses were attached to the other four. Some excellent contests have been staged throughout the year, and I wish to congratulate "Clematis" House on its success for 1930.

The tennis fixtures, both internal and external, have provided some fine matches. The tennis championship was won by Thelma Hocking from Joan Thompson, while Joan Hooper defeated Tom Rothfield on the boys' side. We congratulate them both on their success.

Here is the record of the sports achievements throughout the year: Football: B. Section (senior), tie for second place; junior, local schools, second to Springvale. Swimming: Boys, ninth; girls, sixth. Athletics: Boys, sixth; girls, sixth. Matches v. Warragul. Won A.N.A. Shield. Our own results are given elsewhere.

GENERAL INTERESTS.

The Religious Instruction classes

have been continued this year. Revs. Meers, Morton, Trezise, and Fathers Little and Ashe, together with Messrs Chambers and Robinson, have carried out this essential portion of the school's activity. We thank them for their interest in this work, and hope their efforts shall be the means of helping the boys and girls to a better appreciation and wider development of their spiritual natures.

From time to time donations have been made to the school. This year Mr. Roulston presented us with a very fine set of native weapons and dresses. These have been placed in the Geography room, and we hope, at some subsequent date, to hear from the collector himself, Mr. Roulston's nephew, a detailed account of their use as offensive or defensive weapons.

The Penny Savings Bank depositors have increased to 70 this year, the average weekly deposit being £1/3/6.

This applies only to pupils who have accounts with us. Quite a number have not transferred their accounts from their previous centres. Were these included, the deposits would be greatly increased. The effort on the part of the banks to encourage thrift is deserving of the very highest commendation.

FURTHER ACTIVITIES.

The school would be failing in its duty if it did not help in extra school activities. During the year we have helped the local Hospital, the Darling Bables' Home, and the Junior Red Cross. Miss Jukes, Miss Kenyon and Mr. Jeffery have been mainly responsible for the effort on behalf of these deserving institutions. Another activity I must mention is the school orchestra. With the limited time at his disposal, Mr. Burt, the conductor, has done exceedingly well. (You'll have an opportunity of judging their calibre at a later stage).

The Old Pupils' Association still continues to flourish. Mr. James Sharkie, the popular president, still does his best to make the association function satisfactorily, and the secretary, Mr. Alan Kingsbury, and his as-

tary, Mr. Alan Kingsbury, and his assistant, Mr. Arthur Butler, do all they possibly can to keep it prominently before the old pupils. Probably the most successful function of the year is the "Show Day" fixture, when, amongst other items, a complete tennis tournament is carried out. This year Miss Edna Hogg and Mr. Ron. Henshaw were the ultimate winners, from Miss A. Carroll and Mr. Jim Orr. We wish the association continued success and an ever increasing membership.

HEAD MASTER'S APPRECIATION.

I desire also to place on record my appreciation of the work of the School Council. They are all busy men, but they help unflinchingly and ungrudgingly, and the school extends to them its very best thanks. It also desires to express to-night an official welcome to the new member, Cr. P. C. Gartside. We also congratulate the President upon the honor conferred upon him by the State in the early part of the year when he was made a Justice of the Peace. The State is jealous of its selection, and we feel sure that Mr. Singleton deserves the honor.

MATTERS PERSONAL.

At the beginning of the year Miss Taylor left us temporarily for an exchange overseas. Judging by her many letters to a wide circle of friends, she is not only profiting by her experiences abroad, but is also enjoying every moment of her spare time. We should have her back with us in the early part of the New Year.

This very regrettable financial depression has not been an unmixed blessing so far as the staffing of the school is concerned. Owing to the uncertainty of the present outlook, no very drastic changes in staff for 1931 will be made. During the year at various times we welcomed the following members: Mr. C. F. Jeffery, who had previously been on the staff, returned to us from Mordialloc High School at the beginning of the year. Miss M. I. A. Steel came from Waragul High School. Miss D. Kenyon,

ragul High School. Miss D. Kenyon, from Bairnsdale High School. Miss R. F. Pollard, from Beaufort H.E.S. Miss U. F. A. Wilson, from Beechworth H.E.S. Misses V. A. Forster and M. E. Godfrey, from the Teachers' College. Miss E. Stephens and Miss W. Humphreys, from Melbourne Girls' High School. Miss M. Conlan, from Flemington Domestic Arts School. Mr. R. White and Miss J. Herbert were appointed junior teachers, and Miss Herbert has since been transferred to Dandenong West. Miss Forster, who was chosen as a member of the Australian hockey team, left during the first term. Miss Mitchell obtained a studentship at the Teachers' Training College; and has completed Diploma of Education. Miss Denton, who had been with us for several years, left to be married during the second term. She is now living at Minyip. We extend to her our very best wishes. Miss McKinnon, who started with us when the school began, left this year to be married. Every pupil and teacher of the school and every resident who knew Miss McKinnon had the greatest respect and admiration for her, and I am sure that you all join with me in wishing her married life to be as happy and prosperous as possible. Another member whose return is doubtful is Mr. Stack. His movements are not yet determined, but if he leaves us, our good wishes go with him wherever he may be.

IN REFLECTION.

The year has nearly closed so far as we, as a school, are concerned. Many of the pupils will not return next year, as they have completed their High School course. In my experience I have not known a time when the competition for positions was keener than at present. Some exit pupils are bound to experience difficulty in obtaining employment. The work they have done, we believe, should help them in selecting and securing a suitable vocation. Wherever they may be placed we hope they obtain positions that they may fill with profit to themselves and satisfaction

profit to themselves and satisfaction to their employers. If the school has fitted them to become efficient and thoughtful citizens, we shall be satisfied.

And now I desire to thank the staff for its loyal co-operation throughout the year. Every member has striven to do his or her best for the pupils and the school, and I extend to each my sincere thanks for sustained efforts on behalf of the school generally. Their willing assistance has materially assisted me in the management of the school. Nothing now remains but to wish you all a pleasant holiday, A MERRY CHRISTMAS, and, in spite of the economic depression, A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS.

"There is no one in this theatre to-night regretting more than I do the absence of Colonel Knox, M.L.A.," said Mr. Singleton. All had been hoping to again hear him with that 's realisation he always had that something to relate which was helpful, as it was likewise encouraging. For himself he felt it was a delight to aid, as he had done with many confreres, in the work of the Dandenong High School, and he thanked Mr. Langford for his acknowledgment. This was their 12th annual speech night, and all had been delighted, he said, with that excellent presentation by the head master, and they accepted it as an index to that faithful training which had been imparted, since so many of the students had won so high a place in the final tests. He was hopeful that whatever economies there may be in store at this period of depression, nothing would be done to interfere with prudent education, which makes for the nobility of character, and thus fits our young men and young women for National service. Concluding a thoughtful address, Mr. Singleton, with warm sincerity, urged boys and girls to avail themselves and make the best of present opportunities.

Then there was read by Mr. Langford the following Honor List, and with it came the distribution of prizes

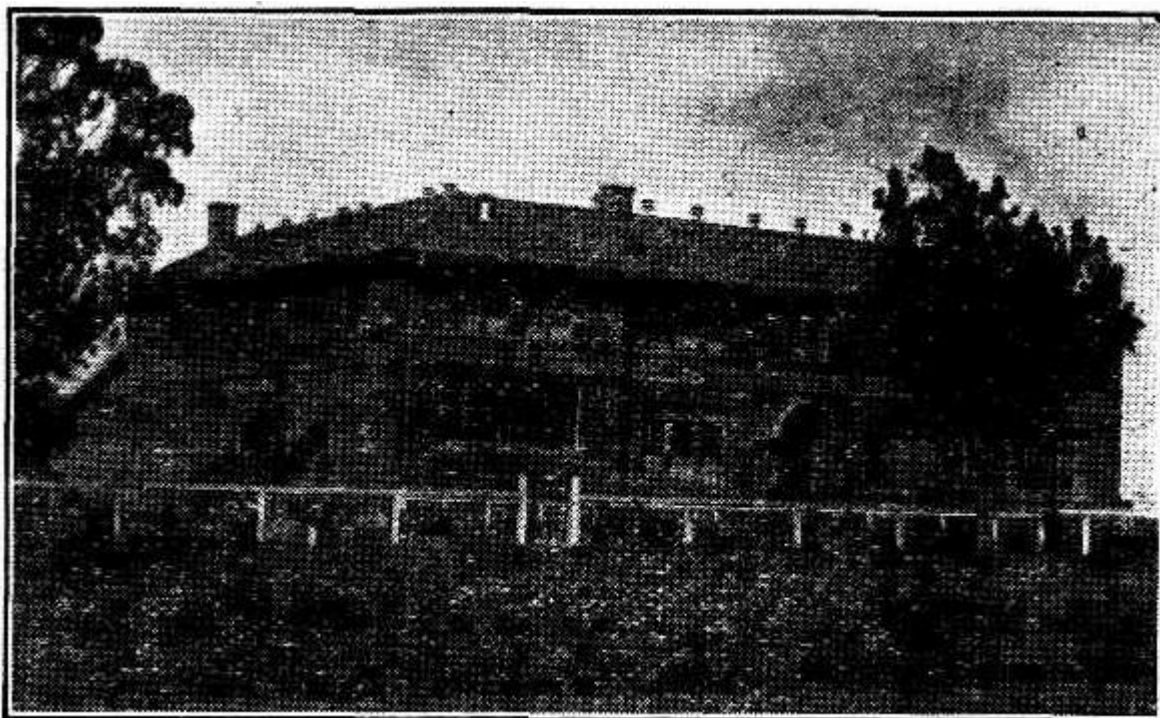
with it came the distribution of prizes and awards. In that Mrs. Singleton became aided by Mr. Brumley, and the gifts were graciously presented as they were happily received.

EXPRESSION OF THANKFULNESS.

When the gifts were presented, Mr. J. Abbott, J.P., moved a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Singleton for their gracious part in all that had concerned the school, and especially for their happy efforts that night. Mr. McAfee seconded, and the vote was carried with acclaim.

Later there was presented this delightful musical and terphichorean melange: Folk dances (a) "Hunt the Squirrel; (b) "If All the World Were Paper"; orchestra, "Toy Symphony" (Haydn); songs, (a) "Nelson's Gone a'Sailing" (b) "Plymouth Hoe" (Drake's Drum), Girls' Choir; folk dance, "Shepherd's Dance;" violin solo, "Intermezzo from Cavalliero Rusticana;" physical exercises, E Form Girls; folk dances (a) "Ruffy Tufty" (b) "The Butterfly;" songs, (a) "Water Boy" (b) "The Ragged Vagabond."

It was given by the students, was entertaining and delightful, and the last number followed by the National Anthem, and the evening terminated happily.



The Dandenong East State school, No. 1403, finished a good year's work by the distribution of prizes on Thursday afternoon. The infants of the school were provided with a Xmas tree by the Mother's Club, when each child received a present from Father Christmas.

The scholars were addressed by the head teacher, Mr. Besant, and the chairman of the School Committee, Mr. A. K. Titcher, and the prizes were distributed by Mr. Titcher. The amount necessary for the purchase of prizes was donated by the Mothers' Club. At the conclusion of the distribution of prizes, the scholars were regaled with ice cream, which was thoroughly enjoyed.

The Lux of the school is Jean Weist, who received a gold medal, presented by the School Committee. Jean has also attended five years without missing a day, and has received from the Education Department a certificate to that effect.

The school did particularly well in Merit and Qualifying examinations, gaining 100 per cent. of points—as they did last year—and 35 out of 43 gained their Qualifying certificates.

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The following gained Merit certificates: Kathleen Blain, Edith Joyce Carter, Lucy Clarke, Iris McLean, Doris Neilson, Evelyn Warmbrunn, Jean Weist, Alf Carter, Claude Gooding, Clarence Harvey, Hector Spark and Edgar Waterstrom.

Those who gained Qualifying certificates are as follows: Jean Bishop, Marie Carter, Joyce Corbet, Norma Davies, Mary Down, Rowena Evans, Marjorie Fyfe, Eva I Harrison, Jean Hoskin, Trena Logan, Dorothy Monahan, Thelma Norris, Lucy Smith, Lilian Rita Timmins, Joyce Williams, Dora A. Turner, Jack Bignell, Dorothy Wood, Ernest Burns, Edw. A. Cherry, Edmund Davies, Alan Douglas, Lawson Down, Maurice Evans, Frank Gourlay, Eric Hempel, Wilfred Jones, Stanley Markwell, Eric May, William Monahan, John McCoy, Robert Power, Jack Purtle, Leonard Tospell, Cecil Wilson.

Prize winners are as follows: For full attendance during year:

Grade 8: Alf Carter, Jean Weist, Joyce Carter, Lucy Clarke.

Grade 7: Alex. Pavdon, Joyce Den-

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Grade 6: Rene Cant, Edmund Davies, Mary Down, Trena Logan, Dorothy Wood.

Grade 5: Luke McCoy, Ben Whitwell, Alfred Cameron, Noel Corbel, Merle Luxford, Bessie Trewin, Jessie Down, Lily McLellan.

Grade 4: Grace Fletcher, Will Paydon, Mona Andrews, Shirley May, Emma Franklin, Alf. Chandler, Bert Cadd, Duncan McCallum, Alan Wood, Henry Down, Victor Jones, Keith Pell, Colin Neilson, Mervyn McCallum, Reg Cloke.

Grade 3: Vera Clarke, Dorothy Christopherson, Robert Titcher, Norman Oliver.

Grade 2: Ida Richardson, Walter Murphy, Ken Wood, Lawson Jones, Gordon Chandler, Ferdinand Parry.

Grade 1: Neil Bradbury, Montague Rodd.

The prizes for classes were as follows:

Grade 8 (Girls): Jean Weist (Dux of School) 1, Lucy Clarke 2, Joyce Carter 3. Boys: Alf Carter 1, Clarence Harvey 2, Edgar Waterstrom 3.

Grade 7 (Girls): Jean Spark 1, Bettie Honey 2, Joyce Dennis 3. Boys: Joe Neal 1, Alex Paydon 2, Cyril Hope 3.

Grade 6 (Girls): Jean Hoskin 1, Joyce Corbel 2, Nellie Hooker 3. Boys: Alan Douglas 1, Eric Hempel 2, Lawson Down 3.

Grade 5 (Girls): Joyce Tapp and Joyce Whitehead 1, Mary Cheeseman and Ethel Westneat 2. Boys: Noel Corbel 1, Alan Whyte 2, Ben Whitwell 3.

Grade 4 (Girls): Melva Davies 1, Emma Franklin 2, Elaine Brumley 3. Boys: Bert Cadd 1, Harold Oliver 2, Alf. Chandler 3.

Grade 3 (Girls): Vera Clarke 1, Alma Weeks 2, Lena George and Norma Fye 3. Boys: Robert Titcher 1, Reg Weir 2, Norman Oliver 3.

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