

Parents Pawning Their Children's Future For Present Gain

High School Head's Comment On Tendency To Cut Short Children's Education

PROFESSOR BAILEY ADVOCATES UNIFIED NATIONAL SYSTEM OF EDUCATION

IN HIS ANNUAL REPORT at the 24th. annual Speech Night of the Dandenong High School in the Boomerang Theatre last Thursday night, Mr. J. L. Griffiths, headmaster, deplored the fact that some parents, attracted by tempting employment prospects, were taking their children away from school before their education was completed. This was a short-sighted view and these parents, he said, were pawning their children's future for present gain. Stressing the need for extension of higher educational facilities, Mr. Griffiths hoped that the time was not far distant when pupils would regard a University course as the natural sequel of their school career.

Dandenong High School had another very successful year and during the evening Professor K. H. Bailey presented no less than 162 Honor Certificates to the cream of the school's scholars, some of whom gained as many as 10 subjects.

On the stage with the teaching staff were members of the Advisory Council.

Mr. F. A. Singleton was in the chair, and in his opening remarks he stressed that education was a big factor in fitting pupils to accept the stern realities of life and imbuing them with the true ideals. He congratulated the staff and scholars on the completion of another excellent year.

Mr. Ray Jeffers sponsored a vote of thanks to Professor K. H. Bailey, M.A., B.C.L., LL.M. Dean of the Faculty of Law, Melbourne University, who presented the Honor Certificates to the pupils and delivered the principal address of the night. He was sure, he said, that pupils would look back with great pride at having received their certificates from such distinguished hands.

Seconding the vote of thanks, Mr. J. W. McAfee "corroborated" the previous witness's "evidence" in approved court style and expressed the High School's gratitude to Professor Bailey for coming out.

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In a thoughtful address, Professor Bailey regretted that there wasn't one system of National Education in Australia. That was one of the reasons that the ranks had never been closed in Australia, he said—the lack of a unified National Education. The people had remained in separate groups because they had been educated in separate groups with very distinct divisions. A unified national system of education would be a tremendous benefit. There were moves in that direction in other countries. After comparing the huge amounts spent by Australians on alcohol, tobacco, etc., Professor Bailey said that if the people wanted a higher standard of education they must be prepared to pay for it. "Unless we say we insist on paying more for education we can't expect the Government to give it to us," he declared. In addition to the Honor Certificates which he presented to the successful pupils to the accompaniment of applause, Professor Bailey presented the ANA Cup to Barbara Rodd and Alan Reid, captains of Wattle, leading sporting house of the year, and bound copies of the school magazine to the editors, Kathleen Beavis and Ron Wilkinson.

After the interval a capital programme of choral and physical culture items was given by the pupils.

library, and an earnest endeavor has been made to make the use of the library an integral part of the work in English. There is still much to be done in this direction, and I am hopeful that ere long no pupil will have completed the full school course without having an intimate acquaintance with much that is best in our literature.

PATRIOTIC AND CHARITABLE WORK

This year we have continued to do what we could to further the war effort. The school war savings group has shown a gratifying increase of more than 100 in membership, and nearly 300 pupils have subscribed approximately £700, while £200 has been forwarded to the Education De-

has been forwarded to the Education Department's war relief fund.

More than 400 dozen eggs were sent to various hospitals—this year's effort constituting a record.

Contributions to the school improvement fund have amounted to £57.

The action of the Municipal Councils of Dandenong, Berwick, and Mulgrave, and the combined Friendly Societies in continuing their grants for bursaries is much appreciated. It is to be regretted that the state of the finances of the Shire of Dandenong will prevent its contribution being made next year, and it is to be hoped that the grant will soon be resumed.

During the year we have had a number of changes of staff. Mr. Kane is doing educational work in the AIF, while Mr. Miller, who did such valuable work in connection with the boys' physical culture was transferred to Kerang High School to undertake the commercial work there. Miss Broughton, the senior mistress, retired in August, and her place was not filled. Mr. Jones, who joined the staff at the beginning of the year has most capably taken over Mr. Miller's work in physical culture, and Miss Broughton's Leaving Certificate English, and the school is much indebted to him for the responsibilities he assumed at short notice.

A sick-bay for boys has been built by Mr. Wirth, who is in charge of woodwork, and the Ladies' Welfare Club has agreed to furnish it suitably.

This year the house sports were held on a Saturday, and the innovation proved most successful. More than 300 parents and friends were present, and the afternoon tea arrangements were most capably carried out by the Ladies' Welfare Club. Too little is known of the unselfish, enthusiastic work of these ladies, and I hope that next year many more mothers will interest themselves in the work of this club, which also provides an opportunity for these ladies who have a common interest—the welfare of the school—to become better acquainted.

The school garden has been maintained in excellent order by the efforts of a number of boys under the guidance of Mr. Sinclair.

PUPILS DISTINGUISH THEMSELVES

Old pupils of the school are worthily represented in the various branches of our fighting forces. It is impossible to obtain a complete list of those who have enlisted, but we know that the majority of the boys who have left school during the past few years have voluntarily offered their ser-

years have voluntarily offered their services.

Pilot-Officer Leonard S. Reid has been awarded the DFC. for meritorious service and excellent leadership in the RAF.

PAST PUPILS AMONG THE CASUALTIES, TOO

It is with deep regret that we have read the names of a number of past pupils in casualty lists. Dal. Lethbridge is a prisoner of war in Germany, and A. H. Bishop in Java.

Gordon Graham was posted missing after the loss of HMAS Perth, Eric Renfree after an air raid over Germany, and Douglas Brumley after the withdrawal from Singapore.

Corporal Alfred Barton died of injuries received in Malaya. Sgt. Air-gunner Ian Garside was killed in an air accident in Australia, and Pilot-Officer Mervyn Green was reported killed in air operations over Germany. I wish to express the sympathy of all connected with the school, with their relatives.

The year has been a difficult one, and standards have not been easy to maintain. I desire to pay a tribute to the manner in which members of the staff of the school have carried out their duties, so that in spite of difficulties, the quality of the work has not suffered, and we look forward with confidence to the coming year.

I desire to thank members of the Advisory Council of the School for their unflinching interest in all that pertains to the welfare of the school." (Applause).