



REPORT *of the* HEADMASTER
to the BOARD OF TRUSTEES



ST. ANDREW'S SCHOOL
MIDDLETOWN, DELAWARE



1933-34

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BY June 9th the School had passed through all the normal experiences of a school, including the occasion, both joyful and sad, of launching into the outside world its first graduating class. St. Andrew's has become of age. The School begins to show more clearly in its maturer lineaments the spirit and tendencies which make up its distinctive character.

Since the first year of the School, there have been constructed the Annex, which has been even more useful than we expected, the Master's house occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Sherwood, and the building nearing completion which is destined for the Headmaster, but will be used for boys next year. Besides these dwellings, the Boat House has been built by the generous gift of Mr. Henry Belin du Pont. The program of physical expansion has gone on almost continuously, and by the end of the summer has left the School with equipment to house and care for 90 boys and the appropriate masters and staff.

The care and upkeep of this plant has become a task of major proportions. As far as possible the

maintenance has been reduced to a regular routine, and it now proceeds with the swing of an ordered program.

The heating and plumbing were put to a severe test by the sub-zero temperatures of January and February, but except for a few frozen pipes there was never difficulty in keeping water flowing and the buildings warm. The heavy snow made the roads impassable for a few days, but a plow was constructed to be used behind the tractor, and this opened our lane. Meanwhile the cooks were driven over from the Farm in the morning in a farm wagon, and one was reminded of Colonial days when it was necessary one night to ride a horse out to the main road to pick up an emergency delivery of medicine.

The original planting program is well caught up, the lawns well established, and the feeding and spraying of our several hundred transplanted trees well under way. The hard winter did practically no damage to our plantations.

The new House is completed. There was excellent progress made, considering that the month of February and most of January were impossible for any sort of construction work. The building fits well into the landscape, according to the universal opinion, and is one more bit of evidence that every addition to the material plant and grounds so far has been harmonious in beauty and useful in effect.

At the Farm the principal changes have been the replacing of the roof of the Granary, the enlargement

of the roof of the Barn, an addition to the Horse Stable which doubles the number of stalls, the painting of the larger buildings a dark green with white trim, and the division of our arable land into five fields instead of three by new fencing. The fencing of the new and larger hog lot was also completed, leaving only one line of fencing for a cattle lane to be supplied next year in order to complete the fencing program for some time to come.

Manor Winks, our Jersey bull, caught pneumonia during the intense cold last winter, and after dragging on for many weeks, died early in the spring. He has been replaced by a good animal from the herd of Mr. J. Wirt Willis. There have been a good many heifers born this year, and with young stock coming on, it is increasingly possible to retire to the butcher the cows which do not test high in milk and butter fat production. The milk has grown richer in the last three years, and has seldom failed to supply the entire needs of the School.

The Farm entered the Administration's wheat reducing program, and it so worked out that it had to reduce its acreage only about half an acre from last year's. It has not entered the corn and hog control program. The School used the Farm wheat for flour again, and about 40 per cent. by cost of all food used by the School was purchased from the Farm.

One of the trotting colts that grew up on the Farm was exchanged for a large pony, which has been used for riding by the smaller boys and for the cultivation

of the truck patch. We now have three riding horses belonging to the School, and a fourth being boarded here by one of the boys. Riding has been popular as a pastime, and now that the horses have been paid for by the fees of the two previous years, the charge is small enough to allow anyone to participate in this sport.

The volume of business has increased to the point where it can no longer be handled adequately by parcelling it out to various members of the Faculty and Staff. The School has secured a Secretary and Office Manager in the person of Mr. Cortlandt Schoonover of Wilmington, a graduate of Wesleyan this June. Mr. Schoonover has been Director of Camp Appoquinimink, which is on the School property, and has been a good friend of the School for some time.

We ended the year with 75 boys, 20 from Delaware, 11 each from Maryland and New York, 9 each from Pennsylvania and New Jersey, 5 from Connecticut, 3 from Massachusetts, 2 from the District of Columbia, and one each from Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, Illinois, and South Carolina. The average length of time the boys have been in the School is 2.3 years. 45 per cent. came here from private schools, and 55 per cent. from public schools.



With the addition of Sixth Form courses, the curriculum assumes a rounded form for the first time. The School now offers four years of science. II Form General Science has been broadened to include some instruction in sport, such as handling small firearms, sailing a boat, riding, and the terminology of hunting and fishing. III Form Biology is a new course this year, and is only beginning to capitalize the tremendous diversity of plant and animal life that surrounds the School. One of the features of this course is the beginning of a Nature Trail along the gully back of the Headmaster's present house. Physics and Chemistry are offered in Fifth and Sixth Form Years, and equipment is gradually being collected for the laboratory work. The meetings of the Scientific Society were correlated with the science classes this year, by requiring attendance at the meetings every two weeks instead of preparation of the usual science lesson. Several of the boys spoke to the Society, with demonstrations of the principles involved, and Dr. Julian Hill gave a most impressive lecture on Chemistry with experiments.

The history courses have been shifted along in the curriculum so that they are taken up in higher forms than previously. Fourth Sacred Studies, which is the study of the Bible, is correlated with Ancient History; Fifth Sacred Studies, the History of the Church, is supplemented by an hour a week in Mediaeval History, and Modern History is offered in the Fifth Form and American in the Sixth. A Current Events Club

has been started, and at one meeting had an interesting talk from Mr. Messersmith, former Consul to Berlin.

Of foreign languages, there are offered four years of Latin, three of French, and two of Greek. Of Mathematics, Algebra and Plane Geometry are required, and Advanced Algebra and Plane Trigonometry offered in Sixth Form year.

In the field of music there was unusual activity of the Choir; and the pupils of Captain Williams, the visiting piano teacher, showed the excellent progress they have made with him in two concerts which they gave in the course of the year. The Hampton Quartette visited the School and sang to an audience that included a large number of visitors. This was a most pleasant occasion, and it was gratifying to note the enthusiasm and cordiality with which the whole School extended its hospitality to these visitors of another race, and their leader, Mr. Ketcham.

The School took the examinations of the Educational Records Bureau, and the results showed a distinct improvement over last year's. In English and Latin there was a decided rise in the curve of achievement from below the median of private schools in the lower forms to somewhat above in the upper forms. Biology and Chemistry, two new courses, were below the norm. The Histories and Geometry were distinctly above it. French, Algebra and Physics were about normal in comparison with other private schools taking the tests.

Thirty boys in the three upper forms took the examinations of the College Entrance Examination Board this June. Of the graduating class, three were accepted for Princeton, two for Virginia, and one each for Lehigh, Trinity, Washington College, the University of North Carolina and Colgate.

Beside the concerts already mentioned there were a Christmas Pageant and Carol Service, the usual Christmas tree for the families living on the place during vacation, and a production on an ambitious scale of "The Haunted House" by the newly organized "Criss-Cross Club." This play, in three acts, had the wildest success at its first showing in the School Common Room. It had more merit than many professional productions which it has been the lot of the writer to see, and the boys and coaches deserve great praise for their hard work and the spirit they put into their acting. There was a demand for the play to be given in Wilmington, which it was, by the courtesy of the Rector and Parish of St. Andrew's Church. The performance was followed by a dance for the cast at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Felix du Pont.

Trips were taken in the bus to Philadelphia, where the boys saw the Planetarium and the Franklin Institute, to Fort du Pont, Fort Delaware, and Fort La-motte, to the Schuylkill River for the American Henley, to Wilmington to the Offices of the Every Evening and Old Swedes Church, and to New Castle, where several of the old houses were visited under the leader-

ship of Mr. and Mrs. Janvier, and Judge and Mrs. Rodney.

There were three dances given at the School, one in each term. The boys have organized and financed these through their own committees, and they have been most successful.

The year in athletics shows St. Andrew's competing on even terms with the rivals who jolted our teams so often during the first years of the School. The football team did a little better than break even, in a hard schedule; the baseball team won all its home games, and was never defeated by more than two runs. The wrestling team won its only meet by a wide margin, and the tennis team was undefeated. Crew was given great impetus by the gift of the Boat House and two four-oared shells, for which the School cannot be too grateful to the donor, Mr. Henry Belin du Pont, and by the purchase from Harvard of a second-hand eight and pair-oared coaching gig. A squad of five fours with coxes was on the water all spring, and four races were rowed, with the University of Pennsylvania Second Freshmen, Lawrenceville Second Crew, McDonough, and Northeast Catholic High School on the Schuylkill for the King's Cup. Nearly every boy on the squad had a chance to row in one of these outside races. One of the Penn fours was defeated by the Junior Varsity, and all three McDonough crews were outrowed by corresponding St. Andrew's fours.

The weeds in the lake did not impede rowing or sailing for a single day this year, and the Yacht Club held races regularly every Sunday afternoon once the water was warm enough to get the boats out. There has been some excellent sailing in these races, and they have become a pleasant feature of Sunday afternoons here.

There was the usual participation in Junior football and baseball by boys not on other squads, and in both sports the Juniors had their share of outside games and trips away.

Last winter the unusual cold provided a foot of ice on the lake for over a month, and skating, hockey, coasting and skiing supplanted the touch football and soccer of previous winters. The winter sports were much enjoyed while they lasted, though even the most hardened northerners among the boys and Faculty had to admit toward the end of the winter that they were ready for spring. The activities of the work squad were curtailed by the snow, but they succeeded in chopping enough wood for the fires and starting the road to Mr. Sherwood's house.

We could have made ample use of an athletic building last winter, and if winters continue in this more severe pattern, it will be of paramount importance to have some large space indoors for games. The recent mildness of winters has caused New England schools who spurned gymnasia to reconsider their merits. The severity of last winter has caused the Faculty to become increasingly convinced of the neces-

sity of some such building here in the near future. The need is great for locker rooms outside the building, to obviate the presence of athletic clothes near the sleeping quarters; but the more fundamental need is for facilities for indoor exercise on a larger scale than now afforded by the basement. We have been advised by the accrediting commission of this region that a gymnasium or athletic building is an important consideration in admitting a school to its accredited list.

Until the snow came there were more than the usual number of colds, two-thirds of the boys succumbing at least once, as compared with less than half last year. Nine boys had intestinal grippe, 33 had bilious attacks, and 18 had influenza. There was more sickness than ever before, and we had our first epidemic of an old-line contagious disease when six boys were in the infirmary with chicken pox. The infirmary was quite adequate to all demands upon it. It is interesting to note that more boys living in rooms had colds than those living in dormitories, proportionately speaking.

The average gain in weight was about a pound less than last year, and amounted to eight and a third pounds. As the boys grow older it is reasonable to expect a slower gain in weight. Two boys gained from 15 to 20 pounds, 23 from 10 to 15, 26 from 5 to 10, and 12 from 1 to 5. Seven boys lost weight during the year, most of whom had been overweight to start.

Although the percentage of boys finishing the year on the Conduct White List is 61 per cent. compared with 77 per cent. last year and 69 per cent. the year before, the general discipline seems to have gone more smoothly than ever before, and the lower percentage probably indicates more checking up on surface order through the greater management of the discipline by the boys. The Sixth Form has handled many matters that it would have been difficult for the Faculty to deal with, and the weight of their influence behind the conduct of the School has given it both impetus and direction. This Form, which has had to take the lead among the boys for four years, deserves the thanks of the School for all it has done and stood for. We view its departure from School with real regret, notwithstanding that its influence will last on here for many years in countless ways.

In accordance with the principle that it is important to give boys specific preparation for the larger liberty of college life, the Sixth Form has been accorded many privileges and as far as possible left to order its own conduct. Its members have had full smoking privileges, and have been allowed occasional evenings in town at the movies. They put themselves to bed, were allowed a week-end a term aside from any they might have earned, and in general were treated as thoroughly responsible persons. The experiment of giving these liberties has worked out well. The lack of a common room for the Sixth Form has been a real inconvenience, but this will be supplied

when next year's Sixth takes up residence in the new building.

The addition of Mr. Holder to the Faculty and of Mrs. Holder and their daughter Peggy to the School family has been a very happy one in every way. Your Headmaster has expressed his gratitude to his co-workers so often in these reports that it may seem like routine to do so once more. Such is not the case. As time goes on his appreciation of their services to the School, individually and collectively, enlarges and deepens. He feels that it is a particular cause for rejoicing on the part of all who wish well to the School that the present organization has had so large a degree of continuity in its personnel, and he can wish the School nothing better than the same degree of continuity for the future.

Mr. Hutton and Miss Mary Tudor Jones of New Haven were married on June 30, and will occupy the married master's apartment, while Mr. and Mrs. MacInnes will live in the west end of the new house.

As we look back over these four years, and see what we feel has been healthy growth in all departments, we cannot but discern the operation of more than human wisdom and power in the life of the School. After all, the School was founded squarely on the assumption that a divine Being such as Jesus Christ called "Our Father" does work in his universe and does care about what we do. There has been enough transformation of human personality here in these four years to bear this out, and to confirm our

conviction that God can be sought after and found through the various means offered by membership in the Christian community. But in material ways, too, we have His blessing, and are doubly grateful for it in view of these exacting times. That the School has passed through infancy intact and strong has been due in large measure to the fine support its backers have given it; and while we thank God for His blessings, we thank those, too, through whom He has poured them on the School.

The increase in numbers of the School family has obliged us, to our benefit, to rely more consciously and systematically on the discipline of the Christian life in order to preserve that family atmosphere and character which it has had from the beginning. This has been done in various ways. Our visiting preachers have emphasized the social nature of Christianity and the Church; the Sixth Form has tried to make its discipline personal and redemptive; meetings of groups of various size and composition have been held throughout the year to discuss the religious life and to allow each member to contribute to the others the things that he has found particularly helpful; a fair number have adopted rules of prayer and periodic self-examination. These things have all helped the spirit of the School and bound us into a closer fellowship.

It is saying nothing new or startling to state as the first and greatest need of the world today the ability of its people, from one side of the globe to the

other, and from the lowest to the highest, to live together in unity, peace and fellowship. The time has come when the world must learn to do this if its civilization or any civilization is to endure. This is a task which will tax the resourcefulness, courage, and consecration of men to the utmost, even when aided by all they can summon of the grace of God.

Communism and Fascism are conducting experiments in controlled group living, and trying, we think with both sincerity and unsound assumptions, to solve the problems of human need and corporate life. Christianity has the solution if it will but work it out with equal sincerity in the corporate life of its Church and thence give it to the world. Here in this Christian School is a controlled experiment in Christian corporate life. If it can be worked out anywhere, it can be worked out in a community like this. If it is possible to apply the Sermon on the Mount to problems financial, social, and moral, as members of a family apply it to their family life, it is possible to do so here. It has been coming home to us with increasing force this year that this School could not have a greater destiny than to become a small scale model of a truly Christian society, turning out year by year trained followers of Christ who as they take their places in the world outside may help to capture its changing civilization for the Kingdom of God.

Respectfully submitted,

WALDEN PELL, 2D

Headmaster