

MARCH 1, 1946.

MITCHAM COUNTY SCHOOL FOR BOYS

Establishing a Fine Tradition

REBUILDING HINT

A hint that Mitcham County School for Boys' is to be rebuilt, on a site where it will be possible to erect up-to-date buildings with adequate playing fields, was dropped by Mr. G. Alderman, Chairman of the Governors of the School, at their speech day.

"Such a school should have a better home," he said. "The school is not the building. It is the human components that live and work within the building, but it is true that the type of building is important because it affects the manhood that is turned out of the school. We have a site in mind, and we hope it may be possible in the not too distant future to see a suitable building erected," he said.

THE NEW ACT.

Speaking of the new Education Act he said that with patience, perseverance and fore-sight there would be great possibilities for the Act which could produce an educational system of which Britain could be proud.

Commenting on the absence of the new Clerk to the Governors, (Mr. E. J. Farrell), who is ill, Mr. Alderman spoke of the loss to the school through the retirement of Col. S. Chart.

As they could not welcome Mr. Chart as their Clerk to-night they had invited him as their guest speaker and as a mark of their affection and gratitude and with best wishes for his retirement they wished him to accept a collection of history books, a subject they understood he was to study.

HEADMASTER'S REPORT

More Boys than Ever Before

The Headmaster, (Mr. A. J. Doig), in his report, said there were more boys in the school than ever before. This was particularly noticeable in the upper school. They threatened at any moment to burst their banks.

He did not regard examination results as the only yardstick by which educational progress could be measured. But there were still some who so regarded examinations, yet at the same time condemning them as being unnatural and restricting. In 1944-45 43 of the 53 candidates for the General Schools Examinations were successful, 19 of them matriculating. Of six candidates for Higher School five were successful. During the

last two years nine boys had gained major awards of the Surrey Education Committee. The number taking Higher Schools was affected by evacuation, and the number for 1946 of 22 followed by a larger number for 1947 gave a satisfactory numerical picture of the most valuable part of the school.

They could show a large proportion of boys successful in public examinations. Those who had gone to the Universities and Training Colleges had acquitted themselves well. The Colleges had asked for others of the same sort.

OTHER ACTIVITIES.

But the life of the School did not end with this basic necessity, school certificate; other activities had continued and expanded. Despite lack of encouragement as to playing fields their standard of games was high. Gilbert and Sul-

Making its Traditions

Mitcham County School for Boys, which now has more pupils than at any time in its history, may be re-built on a new site. The chairman of the governors hinted this at Speech Day. Chief speaker was Col. Chart, who had a few stirring words in defence of the old school tie.

they wanted to be of value to Mitcham.

"What of the future?" asked Mr. Doig. "I feel we have built up a certain standard. We wish to raise that standard and not to see it debased. We wish to bear in mind that our standards cannot be narrowly dismissed as academic, but embrace all that go to make a full man. We want boys coming into this school to belong to it, not to be worried by fear of a sudden examination, or transfer. We want them to stay here throughout their secondary school careers, unless they prove to be mis-fits. We want the co-operation of parents, and we hope to find that the boys of the future will, with the example of the others before them, show that the material in Mitcham is as good as can be found anywhere."

He thanked those who had helped during the war and welcomed returning service men.

For Their Country

Thirty-eight old boys of Mitcham County School lost their lives fighting to preserve their country and the world from the Nazis. At the first speech day since the end of hostilities, the headmaster, Mr. A. J. Doig, read their names while the school and parents stood with bowed heads. They were: Lawrence Basan, John Beckett, Laurence Biddiscombe, James Boxall, David Carpenter, Peter Chapple, John Cole, Ernest D'Eath, Harold Dodds, Edward Draper, John Gaston, Edward Greenshields, Harold Goss, Guy Habgood, Henry Jackson, Leonard Jenner, Ernest Jobling, Eric Laver, Philip Lockyer, Frank Mason, Leon Millo, Eric Murray, Peter Noble, William Perkins, Stanley Ridgwell, Raymond Rinaldi, Albert Simpson, Richard Stainforth, Ronald Stotter, Clifford Trant, Douglas Trench, John Treays, Peter Twiddy, John Waller, Henry Weber, William Wilkinson, Howard Winchester, Leslie Zeffert.

livan Operas were again being performed. A.T.C., Scouting and harvest camp activities had continued.

The Old Boys' Association was re-starting again. They aimed at getting a playing field and headquarters. They wanted cricket, football and tennis fixtures and

COL. CHART AND TRADITION

Old School Tie is Not a Joke

Col. Chart said most speech day speakers told the gathering what he meant by education. This was almost traditional, but to-night they had broken with tradition and invited someone who had no pretensions to give advice on the subject. Britain was a land of tradition. Some were interesting, some useful and some valuable. Nowhere were traditions more carefully observed than in boys' schools. It had become fashionable to laugh at anything that had its roots in the past and they talked very glibly about a brave new world.

Tradition had become a stock joke on the wireless and the old school tie kept company with outworn jokes about mothers-in-law. But despite the sneers and jokes practically every school boy took pride in the achievements of his school. The traditions of a school were worth cultivating. He had been associated with their school since 1923. Mr. Chuter Ede, who was now Home Secretary, was one of the Governors of the School at that first meeting.

"From that date your school has been forming its own customs and creating its traditions; I have no doubt they are worthy of continuance," he said.

Sometimes they came across men who thought every country better than his own, but they rarely met a boy who would admit that any school was better than the one to which he went. Some people thought that a wrong attitude, but he suggested that support of the community to which they belonged was a very fine thing, it was something to be proud of and was of real service to the boys in their future.