



REPORT *of the* HEADMASTER  
*to the* BOARD OF TRUSTEES



ST. ANDREW'S SCHOOL  
MIDDLETOWN, DELAWARE



1938

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JUNE 7, 1938

THIS report must begin with that which is uppermost in the mind of everyone interested in St. Andrew's, the loss of its great leader, Bishop Cook. We are grateful to have had his hand at the helm in these early years, and his close personal interest in everything about the School. His last visit to us was for the Christmas Carol Service. He had just come home from New York. He hurried through his dinner and drove to the School, arriving in time for the end of the Service. He went to the hospital a few days later, having given himself unsparingly to the end.

The boys were away on Easter Vacation at the time of his funeral, but we went to his grave in Old St. Anne's Churchyard on Easter morning for prayers and carols.

In the face of the loss of its Founder and the President of its Board the School has carried on, with increased size and healthy development. We are grateful to the Trustees, who made this possible and inevitable, especially the new Vice-President, Mr. Thompson Brown, and their indefatigable Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Allan Henry. The long hours of special meetings and

committee work have not gone unmarked or unappreciated by the School.

We have had the joy of completed buildings, and a stage much nearer completion in the grounds and planting. The year has been a normal one. We concentrated on two things, organization and more effective teaching. We went far in reaching both objectives.

Every activity of School life is now under a committee with a regular chairman. The headmaster has been relieved of practically all detail work. The Executive Committee, composed of the three original masters and one other in rotation, undertakes preliminary discussion of matters that are to come before the Faculty.

More authority was given the Sixth Form, but the School did not yet seem to be ready for this step and there was retrenchment before the end of the year. This was particularly true in regard to the Job System.

We concentrated on the main job of teaching, and the boys' records show that there was improvement all along the line. For example there were more in Honors Groups and fewer in failing groups than usual. The academic departments were organized more definitely, and a master appointed as Chairman of each. These departments will handle matters of planning courses, choosing textbooks, presenting budgets and the like.

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Planting was practically completed around the Gym, in the court south of the Addition, around Mr.

MacInnes' house and around Mr. Sherwood's house. Shrubbery was planted around and between the other houses. Next year it will be necessary only to replace dead trees and shrubs (there are bound to be some lost out of the 3000 planted in the last two years) and to thicken up here and there.

The hard roads from the Main Building to Mr. Hutton's and to the Annex and Mr. Sherwood's were satisfactorily completed. With the ploughing up of the old dirt road south of the Main Building, our road system will be complete for the present buildings.

The upkeep of all this planting and lawns is a major operation, and we have found it necessary to keep three or four men working on them steadily even after the actual planting was over. Our lawns have never received much feeding and in some places are much eroded and run down. We recommend a rather extensive program of bringing all lawns up to par next fall and winter, and some more effective means for watering them.

The grading of the lawns around new houses, the Gym and the Addition is being finished and they will be seeded in the fall. The Boathouse Gulley will be landscaped along natural lines this summer.

Two new four-oared shells and a four-oared gig were bought from the Cambridge Boat Works, and have proved to be excellent. The Crew coaches were also gladdened by the purchase of new oars from the Montague Company.



Three major gifts were made to the Library, a set of bound volumes of the *National Geographic* by Mr. John Brown, several hundred books, mostly on scientific subjects, by Lady Archer-Shee, and a set of O. Henry by Mr. and Mrs. Guy McCorkle.

We are still looking forward to the completion of the mural by Mr. N. C. Wyeth. It is also a matter of rejoicing that Mr. Richard Platt will have been able to complete his portrait of Bishop Cook before the end of the summer. This, with a large photograph of the Bishop presented by Rev. Dr. Charles Clash, will remind us of the Bishop's commanding presence and the kindly humor in his eyes.

The new School Store was very popular. Under Mr. MacInnes' imaginative custody it gathered atmosphere and a salty tang, and offered an increasingly wide range of goods and services. In a real sense it became the business centre of the boys' life, and gave forth as well the homely welcome of the typical country store.

We sent out a questionnaire to the parents on the subject of our allowance system. At present all deposits to a boy's account are supposed to be sent direct to the School. The boy draws on this deposit through a School check book. Second and Third Formers may draw a weekly allowance of 65 cents, Fourth and Fifth Formers may draw a weekly allowance of 85 cents, and Sixth Formers of a dollar. Ninety-six per cent of the parents approved of the present plan, and some of them wrote

that they would consider no other. We feel fully justified in continuing it, and we have written the parents asking their full cooperation in making it function more effectively. This means primarily seeing to it that their sons do not get extra supplies of money besides their allowances.

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At the Farm there were several major repairs, notably on the roof of the Farm house and west end of the cow stable. The Farm house was largely redecorated inside. Lightning rods have been placed on the barn, granary and silo.

We obtained a better market for our vacation milk and joined a Milk Producers' cooperative which will help us keep a good market. We seemed to have bad luck with stock this year, two cows and two horses dying from accident or disease. Possibly as compensation for this a two headed calf was born, a handsome mount of which can now be seen in the School Store.

Our marginal land along the main highway was planted with several thousand more seedling pines and spruces bought from the State. The 1000 Loblolly pines planted eight years ago in the woods along Silver Lake are now about 10 feet tall, and growing well.

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We ended the year with 105 boys, distributed by states as follows: Pennsylvania, 26; Maryland, 24; New York, 14; Delaware, 12; Washington, D. C., 5; New Jersey and



Virginia, 4 each; West Virginia, Tennessee and Illinois, 2 each; and one each from Ohio, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Connecticut, Massachusetts, the Hawaiian Islands and Germany, a total of 18 states, the Hawaiian Islands and a foreign country.

The German student came for half the year, on an exchange plan. Horst Roloff by name, he was extremely popular, did Honors work, and fitted beautifully into the School's life. We shall send a boy to Germany for a while next year.

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The addition of Messrs. Fleming and Shope to the Faculty strengthened it enormously. Mr. Sherwood and Mr. Fleming made a good start in the use of phonograph records to help with the pronunciation of foreign languages. Manual Training was taught for its first full year here, and was taken by some 40 boys. European History was not given this year. German was started and will alternate with Greek each year as a beginning course. In other words, this year German was a first year course, Greek second year. Next year the second year of German will be taught, and Greek will begin again.

The average number of boys in the classes was just under 10. There were two and in many cases three divisions in each form. We had the great pleasure and profit of a visit to our classes by Mr. Allan Henry, whose report was most helpful and encouraging. We would

welcome this kind of intensive survey by members of the Board, parents, and other interested people.

The closer organization of the School and the greater delegation of detail allow the older members of the Faculty to start taking their sabbaticals. Next year Mr. Sherwood will have the first half of the year off, Mr. MacInnes the last, and the Headmaster the Winter Term. The Faculty is most grateful for this generous and wise provision by the Board, and intends to make the greatest use of it, for study, travel and refreshment.

Seven of the members of our first graduating class of 11 boys will graduate from college this June, one is still in college and three are in business. Four of the seven have at one time or another done Honors work.

The Discipline Committee, with Mr. Holder replacing the Headmaster as Chairman, handled the routine disciplinary matters. Sixty-three boys or 60 per cent of the School, ended the year on the White List, but to balance this rather good showing there were 33 boys or 30 per cent of the School who at one time or another during the year were on Bounds for conduct unsatisfactory in general or in particular.

As the School grows larger, it becomes a more exacting task to keep our discipline incisive and yet personal and imaginative. This is being done by the Discipline Committee, and very effectively also by the boys' Faculty advisors, through whom a large part of the correspondence with parents is now being carried on.

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The program of recreation was full and varied. There were the usual lectures and recitals, and our first marionette show. Mrs. Carl Austin gave a fine piano recital, and the Founder showed some beautiful and interesting moving pictures which he took under water off a coral reef. These were in addition to many professional entertainments.

The new 16 mm. sound moving picture equipment was used several times. There were two dances, in the winter and spring terms, respectively, with an average attendance of 40 girls. The Criss-Cross Club gave a most creditable and hugely enjoyed production of Dunsany's "The Tavern".

To join the *Cardinal* and the *Criss-Cross*, which is the title of the yearbook, came the *Andrean*, a literary magazine, illustrated by photographs and linoleum prints. This was directed ably by Mr. Large, and its editors and contributors came mostly from the Fourth Form. It had three issues, and was really a splendid effort for a starter.

Many boys enjoyed the dark room in the basement of the Headmaster's House, and the products of their cameras were a continual source of amusement and interest to the School. Mr. MacInnes held a weekly contest for the best photograph, which was enlarged and placed on exhibition in the Store. Several of the photographs used in the School catalogue were taken by the boys.

Athletics were better organized than ever this year. The Athletic Committee, under Mr. MacInnes' chairmanship, coordinated the whole program, made out schedules, and saw generally to arrangements. There was organized a Varsity Club, known as "The Noxon-towners," which did yeoman service in supplying its members to umpire Junior games, and promote sport generally.

In the fall there were three separate football squads, each with a schedule of outside games, and a small riding squad for boys who could not play football. In the winter there was the first full season of basketball, for two squads, and there were also wrestling, squash and riding squads. An outdoor work squad cut all the wood for our fires, the riding squad continued, and the crew squad had informal indoor practice. There was only a week of skating, and no snow came to cover the newly developed ski-run at the head of the gulley toward the Farm. In the Spring there were crew, baseball, tennis and life-saving. An unofficial golf team played an occasional match. An informal game known as "spud" held sway in the half hour between supper and Chapel. The rules of this game were somewhat obscure to the uninstructed observer, but its climax was evident, and consisted in a forcible attempt to associate a tennis ball with the seat of the loser's pants.

There were 13 official games in the fall, 23 in the winter and 40 games or races in the spring, a total dur-



ing the year of 76 athletic contests with outside teams or crews.

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The health record was the best in some years. There were only 137 cases admitted to the Infirmary, against 178 last year with a smaller school. There were 2350 visits to the Infirmary this year against 4170 last year. Miss Miller attributes this improvement to two things: first, the campaign waged against flies, as carriers of intestinal grippe, in the fall and the reducing of the usual high number of cases to two; and second, the fine diet provided by Miss Bowers.

The gain in weight was the best since the first year. The average gain was 9 pounds, against 8.3 last year. Ten boys, most of them overweight, lost an average of 4.4 pounds. Of the rest, 26 gained between 1 and 5 pounds, 28 between 5 and 10 pounds, 23 between 10 and 15, 13 between 15 and 20, and 2 between 25 and 30.

Undoubtedly the most adverse factor in our health situation is carelessness, which produces unnecessary accidents, as in roughhousing, and allows boys to go out in cold weather without sufficient protection. Miss Miller wages a ruthless campaign against such carelessness, but it has to be more than single-handed combat to prevail.

Dr. Walter Lee of Middletown was appointed co-visiting doctor with Dr. Niles. Daughters were born

early in the year to the Larges and Holders. Carole Marie Large and Anne Stewart Holder were baptized in the Chapel. Mr. Latshaw's daughter, Dorothy, and his wife were baptized in the Chapel in the spring term, and directly following this ceremony the Headmaster had the great privilege of reuniting the couple in marriage. In appreciation of this Mr. Latshaw presented the Chapel with a fine silk Delaware flag. We are asking the boys and graduates from the various states to present their state flags to the School so that we may hang them down the aisles of the Chapel.

Mr. Large has had a fine return from his efforts to organize a well-regulated Acolytes' Guild. The boys of this guild now serve at the Altar and set it for Communion. The Chaplain also instructed the Confirmation Class, of whom nine boys and Captain E. H. Williams, our visiting music teacher, were confirmed by Bishop Kroll of Liberia.

The Headmaster baptized the first child of an old St. Andrew's boy on February 6th, in the School Chapel. Miss Millicent Shaw, daughter of Miller Shaw, ex '35, and Mrs. Shaw, was christened and then carried to the Altar and held there while the boys sang the School hymn.

We had a missionary team visit us after General Convention. Bishop Nichols of Kyoto and Rev. Hector Thompson, of Ethete, Wyoming, spoke in Chapel on this occasion. In Sunday evening services in Lent, Dr. Ogilby, President of Trinity College, Mr. Sherwood and



Mr. Shope spoke. Sixth Formers read the evening lessons in the weekday services, an innovation for us. The School worshipped two Sundays ago in Old St. Anne's and was addressed by its Rector.

Our first Christmas Carol Service in the new Chapel was a fine one. Our preacher was Rev. Robert Gilson of Seaford. Mr. Large conducted the Good Friday meditations, the Headmaster preached on Easter Day. The whole School communicated at the early service, and the late service was Ante-Communion, with hymns and sermon.

During Lent the Headmaster led the older group in the reading of Underhill's "The Spiritual Life", following each reading by a brief meditation. That this side of the life of our schools requires attention was stressed in the address of Dr. Comfort, President of Haverford College, to the Headmaster's Association this winter. As a result of this talk, a conference of headmasters and chaplains was held at the College of Preachers in Washington during the Easter Vacation. This conference was almost evenly divided between members of the Society of Friends and Episcopalians. Some 30 men attended. The first part was led by Mr. Walton, Headmaster of the George School, the latter part of Father Conover of Bernardsville. It was a significant conference. Apparently this thing is in the air, for there are several conferences on the religious life planned for boys and schoolmasters for the next few months.

This awakening is most encouraging. Such a movement is bound to proceed slowly. Certainly the Retreat Movement, which has been making quiet but real headway in this diocese and the Church at large, will help in this direction.

Unless it is felt that the next addition would be the most suitable memorial to Bishop Cook, it would be fitting that such a memorial should be connected with the Chapel. We have thought for some time of a series of eighteen stained glass windows, depicting heroes of the Church, from St. Andrew down to Bishop Cook himself, with the emphasis on the Christians of the Anglican and American line, like Alfred, Patrick, Columba, Augustine, Bishop White, Bishop Seabury, the Bishops of Delaware, and Rev. Philip Reading, the first Rector of St. Anne's, Middletown.

Our growing body of Alumni was visited by the Headmaster and Mrs. Pell on three trips, to the Philadelphia region, the Middle Atlantic and New England states, and the Southern states. Miss Michaelis accompanied us to the south. In all we drove about 3000 miles and saw most of the Alumni who are in college. A more pleasant experience can hardly be imagined than these trips, and it is hoped that they may occur regularly.

We would like to offer a special tribute this year to the ladies. Miss Bowers is leaving us, to our great regret, but with our deepest gratitude. She has done a splendid piece of work and set a fine standard for her successors.



brought them around all right. Our work-horse Bob won the blue ribbon for his class at the Harrington Fair. As this horse was bred on the School Farm this was a cause of some pride and rejoicing.

The Headmaster made a more than usually close inspection of our dairy conditions and procedure when two or three boys came down with peculiar types of fever, thought to be a form of influenza, at the close of the School year.

The herd is inspected for T.B., Bangs Disease and Mastitis, and has a clean bill of health on all three counts. The milk was found to be produced under good conditions.

With regard to the washing of utensils, clipping and cleaning of the cows, drainage of the barnyard, the use of strainer pads, cheesecloth and flyspray, and the cooling of the milk, the greatest precautions were being taken, and the total effect of the inspection was decidedly reassuring.

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The outstanding event of the summer was the cloud-burst on June 27th. It was bad enough in Wilmington to dampen the Swedish Tercentenary festivities, but in the Middletown region it rained 7.22 inches in 20 hours. The Silver Lake dam was washed out, and the water poured over the Noxentown dam. The wheat crop was in the shock, and the terrific wetting, followed up by continued rain, caused it to sprout to a marked degree.

In spite of this we got nearly 30 bushels to the acre and the corn crop is also a fine one.

The most serious flood damage at the School was in the Gymnasium, which was flooded with 6 feet of water in the basement, 2 feet in the basketball court, and 11 feet in the basement game room. The sailing dock was washed up, and the crew dock slightly damaged. The basketball floor will have to be completely relaid, but fortunately the lumber has dried out enough so that most of it can be used over again. There was an amount of \$3030 appropriated for the repair of all flood damage, the raising of the curbing around the Gym 14 inches, and grading accordingly. Two huge catch basins replace the single one at the northwest corner of the building. The grading has exceeded the estimate, but the floor will be substantially under, and the total estimate will not be exceeded.

The Silver Lake dam is to be replaced for the second time in five years, with a substantial structure. The Noxentown dam has been raised about a foot and a half, but no change made in the gates. These are decidedly difficult for one or two men to operate quickly, but offers from the School to install more smoothly working gates have not been accepted.

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On September 1st, Mr. N. C. Wyeth placed on the Dining Room wall the long expected mural. This remarkable painting has exceeded even the highest



expectations for it, and will be a focal point of inspirations for many generations of St. Andreans. To Mrs. Irenée du Pont, who has presented it to the School, and to Mr. Wyeth, whose amazing imagination and talent have produced it, go our most heartfelt thanks.

The tower room in the Gymnasium has been equipped with a linoleum floor, and a ceiling to conceal ventilating equipment. It is now a rather desirable room for four Fourth Formers, making ten boys and a master who are now housed in the Gymnasium.

The Fourth Form boys are divided between the Fifth Form corridor, the Gymnasium and two dormitories. The sooner they can be given rooms in one or two corridors, the better. This is the one urgent reason why another addition to the Main Building would be welcomed in a few years' time.

The Boathouse Gulley appropriation of \$500.00 has been about half expended and the part of the gulley around the walk and boathouse has been landscaped under the direction of the Headmaster.

Mr. William Day Scott, Jr., St. Andrew's '34 and Lehigh '38, has taken up his duties on the Faculty, and this term is teaching French, General Science and Latin. Miss Alma Jourdan, Drexel '37, and last year on the Staff of the Children's Orthopaedic Hospital in Philadelphia, has replaced Miss Bowers as Dietitian.

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Mr. Sherwood is in Paris on a term's sabbatical. The Headmaster goes off for three months in January, and Mr. MacInnes in February for the rest of the School year.

Mr. Hall's condition continues to be good, but he is not yet able to undertake even mild physical exertion.

Miss Jean MacInnes was born to Mr. and Mrs. MacInnes on September 16th, swelling the Faculty children's roster to six boys and six girls.

For the first time the schedule of classes was prepared beforehand, and was ready for the boys when they returned. Classes were held the first full day of term. Boys who had to take re-examinations returned one or two days early. The new schedule was the work of Messrs. Schmolze, Voorhees, Sherwood and Fleming, and incorporates a feature which makes possible greater elasticity than before. There are two or three divisions in each subject in each form. Greek began again this year, and second year German is being taught, both to substantial classes, according to the system whereby these languages start in alternate years.

So many boys take music lessons that Captain Williams teaches for four full days. Glee Club and Orchestra rehearsals have a special time on Monday afternoons, and the Choir a practice on Sunday and for a few minutes each weekday evening. Much time and interest is being put into music, and several boys are earning a unit of credit by their activities in this field.



A step of importance was the merging of the School's three publications into one organization called the "Cardinal-Andreas". As one editorial and business staff this will publish six regular newspapers, two literary supplements and one combined issue in year-book form during the year. This merger will save subscription fees to the students, a duplication of requests for advertisements, and the confusion of maintaining three separate boards and accounts.

There are three football squads, all playing outside games, and a small riding squad and a smaller tennis squad for boys who are physically unable to play football. Every year there is an attempt on the part of some boys or their parents to get them out of football on other than strictly medical grounds. It is the philosophy of this School that there is no real substitute for football as a body builder, a teacher of courage, teamwork, resourcefulness and endurance, and as a discipline in subordinating oneself to a corporate cause. The boys who are least anxious to play it are usually those who need it most. We find it desirable to make it compulsory for all boys who are able to play.

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Last year's graduating class are enrolled in colleges as follows: Princeton, 2; Yale, 2; one each at Delaware, Hamilton, Lehigh, Pennsylvania, Trinity, Virginia, and Washington College. Another will probably enter the Naval Academy later in the year.

There are now 118 boys in School, divided by states as follows: Pennsylvania, 37; New York, 18; Maryland, 16; Delaware, 10; New Jersey, 7; Connecticut, Virginia and District of Columbia, 4 each; Georgia, 3; Illinois, North Carolina and West Virginia, 2 each; and one each from Indiana, Massachusetts, Ohio, South Carolina, Texas, Nebraska, Maine, the Hawaiian Islands and Silesia, Germany, the last being an exchange student. One of our Fifth Formers is attending Bensberg School in Germany for the first half year.

The School is evenly divided between boys who came to us from public and private schools.

The weekend before the opening of Term the leaders of the Wilmington Y.M.C.A. held a two days' conference here, about 55 being present. The School can almost always arrange such a conference the weekend before opening, and has had one practically every year.

The well-organized Acolytes and Altar Guilds have had a good start this year. Sixth Formers continue to read the evening lessons in rotation. The Chaplain or Headmaster reads Morning Prayer in the Chapel at 8 o'clock every morning. The week-day celebration of Holy Communion is well attended, in spite of the early hour of 6.45.

Mr. Scott will perform the duties of Alumni Secretary this year, and we hope to build alumni association with the School up to greater strength.

It has become the fashion to question the democracy of democratic institutions, to accuse certain sections of American thought of fascism rather than the democracy they claim to espouse, and to point out that real democracy takes into account the will of the minority as well as that of the majority.

At a time when democratic nations are surrounded by totalitarian states, and democracy itself is challenged by aggressive rival ideologies, it is well that the basic theories and practices of democracy should undergo the closest scrutiny. There appears more and more clearly to be a close connection between true democracy and true Christianity. The closer this alliance can become, the better for both.

There is a sort of Christian democracy which is well expressed by the Quaker phrase, "the sense of the meeting". Here is no satisfaction with a mere majority vote, but an effort to reach practical unanimity through discussion and fair appraisal and an attempt by all parties to eliminate their selfish interests in the matter at hand. This is the sort of agreement on the right decision which seems to have the authentic stamp of the Holy Spirit. It is the kind of decision at which the "prophets and teachers at Antioch" arrived, after prayer, and which resulted in the sending out of Sts. Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey. It is interesting to read in the report on doctrine in the Church of England that the Commission sought to reach its decisions on just

such a basis of mutual agreement, rather than by simply voting.

It has grown up as accepted practice in the assemblies of this School that "the sense of the meeting" is the thing. We are looking for a more fundamental kind of democracy than that which aims to secure enough votes to defeat the opposition. In this kind of democracy a sense of the Holy Spirit, who can give us the truth if we will seek for it long enough and unselfishly enough, is indispensable. If St. Andrew's can be a training ground for that sort of Christian democracy, the School will be discharging a function second to none in value for the present day.

Respectfully submitted,

WALDEN PELL, II  
*Headmaster*



