

S.S. Sep-9/55

# Cainscross P.T.A. Told To Disband

**T**HE controversy which has raged around the affairs of the Cainscross Church of England School during the past two or three years has flared up again this week. It has been made known that the managers and trustees have called upon the Parent-Teachers' Association to discontinue its activities.

Meeting on Wednesday evening, the committee of the Parent-Teachers' Association were given the terms of a letter received by their secretary, Mr. W. H. Collins, from the managers. It was in the following terms: "I am instructed by the school trustees and managers to inform you that, in accordance with their rights and privileges, as trustees and managers of a church school with aided status, they request the discontinuance of Cainscross School Parent-Teachers Association and require you, from the date of this letter, to dissolve this Association. There will, therefore, be no further letting of the Church School building and the school's name may not be used in any way."

The Committee, having considered this letter, unanimously decided not to disband the P.T.A. and arranged to hold their annual meeting in the Coronation Hall, Cainscross, on the evening of September 20.

Managers of the Cainscross School were invited to attend but only Mr. W. J. Hussell (County representative) and Mrs. P. E. Parker (Stroud U.D.C. representative) were present.

## Nothing To Say

"I have nothing to say" was the reply made by the Vicar of Cainscross (Rev. H. G. Wicks) when asked yesterday (Thursday) to comment on the situation. He did add, however, that the managers of the School were "perfectly within their rights" in calling upon the P.T.A. to disband. Mr. Wicks also remarked: "The Bishop knows all about it. It won't make any difference whatever they say."

When told that Mrs. Parker had complained to Stroud U.D.C. that she had not been called to the meeting, Mr. Wicks expressed great surprise and said "The managers met ages ago and she was not a member."

The matter was raised at Wednesday's meeting of Stroud U.D.C. when Mrs. P. E. Parker said that last April she had been appointed a representative of the Council on the managers of Cainscross School. However, she had never been called to a meeting and had assumed that there had not been any meetings.

"Now I understand that there have been meetings of the school managers and that they have taken decisions which are very upsetting to the school and to the parents," said Mrs. Parker. "Parents have complained to me and this week I visited the school and I find that the county's representative (Mr. W. J. Hussell) had not been invited either. I have written to the County Education Authority and they cannot see why I have not been called to the meetings."

The chairman (Mr. E. W. Mason) thought they should be quite sure that Mrs. Parker's appointment had been notified to the Cainscross managers, but the Clerk (Mr. H. S. Gibbons) said

that the form submitted by the County Education Committee to him for names had long since been completed and sent off.

Mrs. Parker said she understood that the school managers had (in her absence) passed what they described as a unanimous decision calling on the Parent-Teachers Association to disband and not to hold any further meetings.

"Of course a lot of people have complained about that and asked me if I knew anything about it," she went on. "I also got in touch with Mr. Hussell and I find he was not present at the meeting."

## NO AUTUMN PRIZE-GIVING

Mrs. Parker said it had also been reported to her that the headmaster had been told he could not have a prize-giving in the autumn and that it would have to take place in the spring. As the headmaster had resigned he could not be present at such a function in the spring.

The headmaster had also been told he could have an open day on which parents could visit the school if it was confined to the day time.

"A lot of parents go to work and they like to visit the school in the evening," said Mrs. Parker. She wondered what the Council could do to see that their representatives were invited to attend the managers' meeting.

The chairman said that the school managers had power to make regulations they thought fit, but there did appear to be a weakness about sending out invitations to the meetings.

During subsequent discussion it became apparent that councillors serving on other boards of management had been invited to attend meetings. Mrs. Parker, who is also on the board of governors of Stonehouse Secondary Modern School, said she had been warmly welcomed there.

The Clerk (Mr. H. S. Gibbons) said he had written to the secretary of the Education Committee drawing their attention to the fact that Mrs. Parker had been appointed a manager of the Cainscross School.

Mrs. Parker also informed the Council that the headmaster had been "by-passed" by the managers, and not asked to meetings except those at which appointments were made. He was not asked to such meetings but more or less said, "I am going."

"I did not know until yesterday who is the school correspondent," added Mrs. Parker.

Finally, Mr. W. E. Thomas moved that the County Education Authority should be asked why Mrs. Parker was not invited to attend the meetings of the managers of Cainscross School.

Mr. W. K. Preston seconded and the Council approved, the chairman remarking, "I think that is all we can do at the present moment."

(Further Stroud U.D.C. News on Page Three).

## SERVICE RECORDED

A recording of the funeral service of the late Mrs. Sarah Louise Watson was made at Rodborough Tabernacle on Saturday, and is to be sent to Mrs. Watson's son, Mr. Kenneth P. Humridge, in Nigeria, and her daughter, Mrs. Arthur Hallett, in Johannesburg.