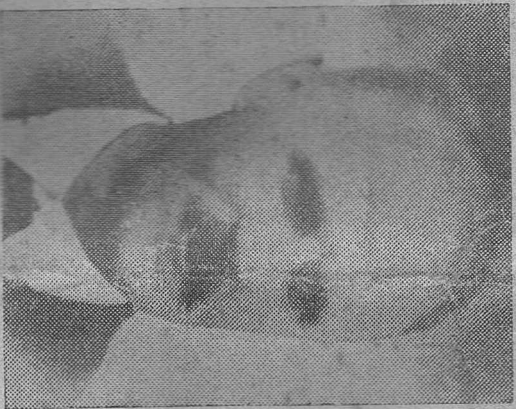


STROUD SCHOLASTIC



Above: Mr. A. J. Dee, who has retired after 30 years as headmaster at Tainscross Church of England School, Stroud.

Right: Mr. Robert Morgan, school attendance officer at Stroud, has retired after a quarter of a century's service.

HEADMASTER FOR 38 YEARS

RETIREMENT OF MR. A. J. DEE

PRESENTATIONS AT CAINSCROSS

From scholar to headmaster of the same school has been the attainment of Mr. A. J. Dee, who yesterday retired from the headmastership of Cainscross Church of England School, a position he has held for 38 years. He is being succeeded by Mr. Percy Giles, another old scholar.

Upon the occasion of his retirement Mr. Dee was presented with an armchair, an album containing the names of nearly 500 subscribers, including school managers, staff, scholars (past and present) and friends, and a cheque for a substantial amount.

The presentation took place at the close of lessons on Tuesday, and at the ceremony were a number of past and present scholars, parents and friends. The Vicar (Rev. C. H. Scott), who is chairman of the School Managers, presided, supported by Miss E. Spry Davis, Mr. J. B. Biggs, and Mr. W. G. Dudge (co-managers)—Mr. A. T. Avers was unavoidably absent—Mr. H. W. Carter (headmaster of Marlborough School), Mr. Steele (an ex-Board of Education Inspector), and others.

Model C. of E. School

The Chairman said they were gathered together that afternoon to wish God-speed to Mr. Dee, who had concluded his duties as headmaster of that important Church of England school. Mr. Dee had worked there with great success for many years, and on resigning his position they were conscious of the fact that the school was one of the model Church of England schools in the Diocese, of which they were all justly proud. It had been his (the Vicar's) privilege and pleasure to work with Mr. Dee for two years, and they had been two very happy years. With Mr. Dee as headmaster, and with such an efficient staff of teachers, things moved very smoothly in Cainscross, and they all felt that they could not allow Mr. Dee to relinquish his duties without saying how grateful they were to him for his many years of service, and how sorry they were to lose him as headmaster.

Staff's Regret

Mr. Percy Giles (Mr. Dee's successor) remarked that the teachers of the school wished him to say a few words on that occasion. When they first knew that Mr. Dee had decided to resign there was a general feeling of very sincere regret among the staff, for they all realised what a very fine chief they were losing. His ideas, his industry, his enthusiasm for whatever he thought would benefit the scholars had been a source of inspiration to them all. Mr. Dee had been a true leader, for not only was he fertile of ideas, but he could show them the best way of utilising them, for he himself was a teacher of exceptionally high ability, and could impart knowledge in a most concise, clear and thorough manner. They as teachers could follow his lead confident of success and secure in the knowledge that he would give credit where it was due. It was not surprising, therefore, that the total number of years of service of his staff (some of them serving now) should amount to no less than 108 years. Personally, he (Mr. Giles) owed Mr. Dee a very deep debt of gratitude, for he had been his guide, counsellor, and very sincere friend since the time when he was a scholar in the school.

Tribute By Old Scholars

Tribute By Old Scholars

Proceeding, Mr. Giles paid tribute to Mr. Dee as an old scholar, and in doing so said he was echoing the sentiments expressed to him in speech and writing by many old scholars during the last month. In those carefree days which they would give so much to recall, their confidence in Mr. Dee's learning and sense of justice was unbounded. He was their Caesar above whom there was no appeal, and although his judgments might be more or less painful, they knew they had in him a staunch champion against any outside interference. Keen as he was on all branches of learning, he was yet more anxious to develop good character, knowing that only by industry, truth and honesty could true happiness be attained. And so they found him quick to encourage any healthy sport, hobby or study that might lead the child to be happy and prosperous, the pride of his parents, and a useful, helpful and intelligent citizen of the nation. It was such persons the world wanted—men and women self-controlled and capable, with well-stored minds, well-practised reason, loving, just and true. So nearly 500 people from all parts of England, two from Canada, two from Australia, one from New Zealand, one from U.S.A., and one from Palestine, were that day offering Mr. Dee their very best wishes for his future happiness. (Applause.)

The Chairman then called upon the Rev. J. Wilkinson Story, for many years Vicar, to make the presentation, remarking that he felt he was the right person to perform the ceremony.

Love For Cainscross

Mr. Story said he had known Mr. Dee for nearly 38 years, having been present at the meeting when his appointment as headmaster was confirmed. So they had been running together for 38 years. That, said Mr. Story, was one of the leading Church of England Schools in the Diocese, which, in itself, was tribute to the work of Mr. Dee as headmaster. There was no reason why Mr. Dee should have remained there all those years, for he had had opportunities of accepting appointments as headmaster of important schools at Manchester, Bristol, Cheltenham and Cirencester, but his love for Cainscross and the children of Cainscross, caused him to remain.

Mr. Dee had done excellent work, and had always pulled his weight. No-one could deny that he had worked really hard, and had left nothing undone which he might have done in the matter of the education of the children. But the time had come when he felt he ought to give up and spend a little more time in life's easy chair. Having worked with him for so many years, there was nothing he (Mr. Story) could say detrimental of Mr. Dee as headmaster of that school. It would be impossible for him to be happier in the future than in the past, but they hoped that he and Mrs. Dee would be equally happy in the years to come. Mr. Story, amid applause, then asked Mr. Dee's acceptance of the armchair, album, and a substantial cheque.

Illuminated Address

The album, contained, in addition to nearly 500 names of subscribers, an illuminated address worded as follows:

"Presented to Mr. A. J. Dee, together

with an armchair and cheque by school managers, staff, scholars (past and present) and friends, on his resigning his appointment as headmaster of Cainscross Church of England School as a token of their regard and esteem, and an expression of their warm appreciation and grateful thanks for his un-failing efforts and hard work during 38 years as headmaster, and with best wishes for his future health and happiness. January 1933."

Mr. Dee's Reply

Acknowledging the gifts, Mr. Dee who was visibly affected by the break, said he had had some pleasant things to do from his desk in days gone by, and some very difficult things to do, but that afternoon he had the most difficult task he had ever had to face. He had to part with his boys and girls. His heart was really very full, and he could not really express to them what it was to feel that his official connection with Cainscross was to come to an end. He would, however, try his best to say how grateful and thankful he was to everyone for everything that had been done for him since he had been in Cainscross. His memory went back to the time of the Rev. J. D. Ewins, and he had worked with a succession of excellent vicars, who had been most kind to him and had allowed him to work in the happiest harmony possible with them.

Thanks To Staff

Having referred to the happy relations which had always existed as between the School Managers and himself, and having thanked Mr. Story for his kind remarks, Mr. Dee said throughout his years as headmaster he had had a staff of teachers who had been loyal and devoted. (Applause). "I am glad you recognise that, scholars," said Mr. Dee, "for I know it is deeply true that what success has come to Cainscross School has been in a large measure due to the service the members of my staff have rendered." Mr. Dee recalled the long service of his old friend, Miss Hopson, who had recently left, and acknowledged the loyalty of other long standing and present members of the staff, particularly mentioning Miss King and Miss Gardner, and said the new members of the staff were showing equal loyalty.

"Last but not least," he proceeded, "I want to say how proud I am to have to hand up the stick—shall I say the stick, boys (laughter)—to hand over my work to Mr. Giles, one who will carry on that work with the deepest interest he has always shown in the work here. I want you to back him up as you have me, and I am sure you will." (Applause). Mr. Dee acknowledged with gratitude the devoted service of Miss Edith Spry-Davies, who had worked with him as co-superintendent of the Sunday School, and, in conclusion, said how grateful he was for the gifts, adding that when seated in the armchair he would feel that he had the arms around him of all past and present scholars of Cainscross School. (Applause).