

CAINSCROSS PARENTS

REVOLT

School Governors Opposed

IMPUDENCE ALLEGATION

NEARLY 100 members of Cainscross Parent-Teachers' Association voted defiance of the School Foundation Managers' orders that it should disband, at a meeting at the Coronation Hall on Tuesday.

Expressing their "dismay and astonishment," they voted that copies of their resolution, in addition to a request for a full enquiry, be sent to the County Education Committee, the Archdeacon of Gloucester, Diocesan Council for Education, the Bishop of Gloucester and to Mr. Anthony Kershaw, M.P., for forwarding to the Minister.

The resolution stated: "The members of the Cainscross Church of England School Parent-Teachers Association wish to express their dismay and astonishment at the recent demand by the school managers that the Association be disbanded.

"At their meeting tonight, a unanimous decision was taken that this demand cannot be complied with and they request a firm assurance from the Education Committee that they will be upheld in this decision, and that the future participation of both parents and teachers in P.T.A. activities will have the full support of the Education Committee."

A BOMB-SHELL

Reading the letter, which called on the Association to dissolve, Mr. W. S. Mosey (P.T.A. chairman) commented: "It came as quite a bomb-shell. There was no reason given."

The chairman of the Foundation Managers is the Rev. H. Wicks (Vicar of Cainscross).

He was "not in" when telephoned by the "Stroud News", but his wife, who is also a manager, said: "I don't think he would have anything to say. The whole matter is finished as far as we are concerned."

Mr. Mosey went on to read the whole of the correspondence between the Association and the Foundation Managers.

SUBDUED LAUGHTER

A burst of subdued laughter greeted the last letter he quoted from the Foundation Managers.

It stated:—

Cainscross O. of E. School: re closure of Parent-Teacher Association, "Ashcroft", Cashes Green Road, Cainscross, Stroud. 17 September, 1955.

"Dear Sir,—The Foundation Managers acknowledge your communication of the 14th September, regardless of the impudent language in which it is couched.

I am instructed to say that the Foundation Managers are fully aware to whom your letter of the 8th September was addressed, but they wish to say that you seem not to have read or under-



Cainscross Parent Teachers' Association, told to disband by the School's Foundation Managers and that it could no longer use the name of the school, takes action. No longer able to notify members of activities through the school, mothers picket the gates and hand notices of Tuesday's "defiance" meeting to children to take home.

stood their letter of the 15th August (it called on the Association to disband). From this you should have understood that so far as they are concerned the Association no longer exists, therefore if you have in mind to invite other representatives to your Meeting, which presumably you did before, such invitations are your business.

As regards your reference to future developments, the Foundation Managers would point out that their Meeting of the 15th July was absolutely legal, and that they are perfectly entitled to act as they have done and intend to do, and they would suggest that since the School of which they are Foundation Managers is a Church-controlled School, the utmost care and caution is observed at the forthcoming Meeting both in regard to what is said and what is given to the Press, unless those responsible are prepared to accept possible consequences.

In conclusion, I am directed to say that any future correspondence should be directed to the Foundation Managers' solicitors, Messrs. Haines and Sumner, Bastion House, Brunswick Road, Gloucester."

IMPUDENT LANGUAGE

The communication alleged to have contained the impudent language was:—

Oliveston House,
Cainscross,
Stroud.

14th September, 1955.

Cainscross Church of England School Parent-Teachers Assn.

"Dear Mrs. Sellars,—I have to acknowledge with thanks your letter of the 13th inst.

In view of possible future developments I must point out to you that my letter was expressly addressed to the School Managers and I think you may agree that this is of the utmost importance to you as School Correspondent.

Yours faithfully,
(signed) H. W. COLLINS
Hon. Sec. P.T.A.

P.S.—I refer, of course, to my letter dated 8th September requesting the Managers to meet a delegation of parents."

SCHOOL MANAGERS

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Mr. Collins had emphasised School Managers, as opposed to Foundation Managers, as both Mrs. P. Parker (Stroud U.D.C. Councillor) and Mr. W. J. Hussell (County Councillor) were members of the School Managers, but not Foundation Managers.

Mr. Mosey also read a letter from the Headmaster of the School, Mr. L. M. Dobbs, which stated:—

"I wish to say how much every member of the Staff and myself value the Cainscross Church of England School Parent-Teachers Association. It has been a tower of strength at the School, supporting every aspect of the School's work since its inception in 1949.

The Association has provided the School with valuable apparatus and equipment, but above all, engendered a close and real friendship between parents and the School.

I have never experienced such a pleasant and cordial atmosphere, and this has a great effect on the child's security and progress at School.

I know you all—I value this friendship, and so does every one of the Staff, and may this close link continue for the benefit of the School.

Signed: Yours sincerely,
L. M. DOBBS,
Headmaster."

HAPPY RELATIONSHIP

Commenting on Mr. Dobbs' letter, Mr. Mosey said the most important and valuable feature of the Association had been the happy relationship set up between the staff and parents, and the letter from Mr. Dobbs furnished proof of this if any were needed. The relationship had been of inestimable value to the children, and alone was sufficient to strengthen their determination to keep the P.T.A. intact, and even to intensify its activities in the years to come.

He referred to Mr. Dobbs' resignation as "one of the saddest things we have learnt over the recent weeks. We all know why he is leaving," said Mr. Mosey.

Mrs. P. Parker and Mr. Hussell were present at the meeting.