

*R. Bates*

# *The Novocastrian*

"REMIS VELISQUE."

:: The Organ of the ::  
Newcastle High School.

JUNE, 1916.

Vol. 6 — No. 1.

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*Newcastle :*

T. McLuckie, Printer, Newcomen Street.

1916

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SCHOOL OFFICIALS, 1916.



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(2) ASSOCIATION.—(1) L. MADDEN (Captain). (2) (Competition) J. EVANS (Captain)

# The Novocastrian.

THE MAGAZINE OF THE NEWCASTLE HIGH SCHOOL.

VOL. 6.

June Number, 1916.

No. 1.

## OFFICERS.

Patron	W. WILLIAMS, B.A.
Editor	R. G. HENDERSON.
Committee	C. PRESTON, J. DONALD, SPORTS OFFICIALS AND SUB-PREFECTS.

## EDITORIAL.

### “Self-Reliance.”

One of the objections frequently aimed at the present system of State Education is that too much is given the pupils for nothing. Thus, say the critics, the virtue of self-reliance is stunted in them. Certainly the pupils of this School have much reason to be grateful. They are provided with their education, and with books. They are given every opportunity of using the High School as a stepping stone to almost any calling. But in some respects this School is comparatively neglected. There was an opportunity for the self-reliance the critics say we cannot possess. The result scarcely supports their view. Within the past three or four years, with practically no official support, the School has obtained seven typewriters, a filing cabinet, an excellent magic lantern of the latest type, an up-to-date duplicating machine and a very good library. At the same time we have not been selfish. We have contributed largely to foreign and home relief funds, and our efforts are only beginning.

In general, then, the School in this respect has done very well. But general effort should be backed up by individual effort. Some pupils here need more backbone. Without the aid and direction of the teacher they are helpless. That is in the class-room. But the same thing is occasionally to be seen elsewhere. The games of the School do not get as much support as they should. When Combined Maitland and Newcastle gave a Sydney cricket team a very thorough defeat a few months ago, the victors deserved the cheers of their School fellows, but the latter were not there. Perhaps they were cultivating that noble game noticed in a Novocastrian leader a few years back—the game of marbles.

The proportion of fiction borrowed from the library is too high. Some light reading is very desirable, but so is something more substantial, especially for boys and girls who have to make their own way in the world.

Teaching, sport, books are all here for your benefit, so “help yourselves.”

THE NOVOCASTRIAN.

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## The Trip to Sydney.

(By Colonel Bogie).

At 8.35 a.m. Friday, 19th May, the Brisbane mail, weighed down with its extra burden of High School Students, grunted out of Newcastle. At first our spirits were dampened by the sight of no less than five teachers, yet every credit must be given to these who in no way made themselves over-officious or proved the slightest trouble. The journey down proved a delightful relief from the terrors of school, and everything thereto pertaining was promptly sat on or shelved; even the bell at Gosford made us jump with fright as it brought back momentary memories of one of the same species existing at our own famed institution. Instead of Algebra lesson we had an enthusiastic game of “Five Hundred,” but the teachers having left us at Hornsby, the singing period was celebrated with much noise, and, accordingly, amid such classical tunes as “Mr. Noah,” the mail glided gracefully into the Metropolis.

That night being the night of the play, Richard III, we met at the Adelphi and secured comfortable and convenient seats and had a good view of the performance. Its producer and leading actor, Allan Wilkie, must be complimented on his acting, illustrating the character of Richard by some fine original touches. The leading lady seemed to be somewhat embarrassed by a frog in her throat, which made her speeches very dramatic, although we would not recommend her to give a testimony to —— (for this space see advertisement manager) as other actresses do.

Although we had regarded this play as but an excuse for a visit to Sydney, on the rising of the curtain we straightway told ourselves that the dryness which is generally complicated with anything in the “fag” line, was totally absent and the play proved not only to be educational, but also exciting and interesting. Before anything further is said, mention must be made of the improving difference between the play as written by Shakespeare and as produced. It was an adaptation of the version of Colly Cibber which besides “bringing it within” three hours traffic of the modern stage, made it more dramatic and comprehensible to the modern audience. In fact the production well deserved its advertising epithet “sumptuous.” The murder scene was particularly fine, the scenery adding greatly to its gruesome aspect, which drew many an exclamation from the female section.

The Ghost Scene also appealed to our dramatic sense, but in the duel—well, neither Richard III. or Richmond were fencers. We fail to see why on Richard’s holding his sword above his head Richmond should continue to make ferocious slashes at it, while a dig in Richard’s ribs would have settled accounts for good.

Nevertheless they fight on, they slash and thrust until—Ah, Richard! a fatal step, and Richmond's sword has ended his cares. "Peanuts and Lollies" says the boy upstairs.

After leaving the theatre and pondering on the play, its dramatic merits, its interesting and exciting scenes, on a play that possessed all the melodrama of the modern stage, we could not bring ourselves to believe that this same Shakespeare was the same villain who had caused us to utter many despairing groans, to scratch our heads until they ached, to get so many "jawings" from Mr. Hayes, and eventually to lose heart and see our chances of success linger and die over the very examination paper. No! it seems impossible. Yet—'tis a fact, and we must let our enjoyable evening be the means of helping us to forgive this impersonation of graft and hard labour.

The next day passed in the bliss of idleness. It was with sad thoughts that we began Sunday, knowing too well that the end approached. Having assembled at the meeting place we get rather scared at the non-appearance of Mr. Hayes and the tickets, which turn up about five minutes before the train leaves. On account of the limited accommodation no teachers travelled in our carriage, so that the rest may easily be imagined. A carriage to ourselves, youthful enthusiasm and no teachers, equals—a real good "ruff-up" and a quiet (?) trip home.

The incidents of that journey home must be related with a good deal omitted, for I cannot bring myself to divulge some of its secrets, yet part cannot go unrelated. In the first place, confusion arose through the transference of certain articles belonging to a certain fellow from a certain carriage to another, also a certain thing which happened in a certain tunnel, also (censored by the Editor). From which you can see we had a quiet journey home, as was observed on arrival by one of the teachers. Freshened by our trip, we go to school on the next day with the most honest intentions to settle down again, only to be made to face the music in the shape of these horrid exams.

### From Lee's Essays.

3B's Motto:—"Otium cum dignitate" (especially otium).

"This lady preserves her game better than any of the gentlemen in the country." This obviously refers to some of the girl tennis players.

"O life, long to the fool, short to the wise." Because of detentions, of course.

Gollan—"Content thyself with the small barren praise,  
Which neglected verse does raise."

## The Woman-Bird.

### An Australian Legend.

(By a Bush Girl).

Very many years ago, before the wicked white MEN brought alcohol and cruel guns and swords to this lovely land, there dwelt on the slopes of a sunny mountain-range a certain family of blacks, four in number—father, mother, and a little boy and girl. They seemed very happy, for fish abounded in a neighbouring stream, and yams and other wild food were plentiful, as well as 'possums and bandicoots. The children loved the birds and the bush, so they were allowed great freedom to roam about and revel in all the wild wonders which surrounded them. One day they had gone somewhat farther than usual, and had reached the edge of a lovely little gully, from which they heard coming all the forest sounds they had ever heard. It was as though a meeting were being held, at which every kind of bird was represented and each representative was speaking in turn. This so puzzled the children that they determined to examine the scene. After creeping silently for some time in the direction of the sounds, they were astounded to see only two birds, one of which was perfectly silent, whilst the other danced, flapped its wings, strutted about and imitated every bird for miles around. He was a big, proud bird, with a lovely upstanding lyre-shaped tail, the beauty of which seemed to have turned his head. His antics appeared to have for their object, to make his unadorned partner still humbler than nature had made her outwardly, and to impress her with his wonderful powers and importance. When he had danced and screamed to his own satisfaction, he cast a "follow me" look at his meek admirer, and hopped out of the clearing in search of the daily food. She followed at a respectful distance picking up what he cared to leave behind. The children stealthily crept after the pair in expectation of another performance, but the crack of a dried stick scared the timid lyre-birds, and they disappeared for the rest of that day. So the children returned home to tell their Mammy of this strange new adventure, but Mammy listened in silence, put the children to bed, and went out into the moonlight to ponder. Next day the children went back again to the lyre-birds' gully, but this time they beheld a quite different scene. The haughty male bird was lying wounded on the spot where he had lately danced; a boomerang had struck out his tail, broken a wing and severely injured a leg, and the vain, greedy creature lay humbled in the dust. And what of his slighted partner? She was the picture of bustling anxiety—running about for food for her lord and master, smoothing his feathers, clucking consolingly in his ear, and working infinitely harder than ever she had done when struggling to find a little to eat where he had first selfishly scratched for the best. The children returned this

time with a very sad tale to Mammy. The latter again remained silent awhile, but presently took a child on each knee and solemnly said: "My dear little black piccaninnies, your stories about the lovely bird's wife have told me a great secret. I have often wondered how your father has always treated me as an inferior being, fit only to do all the disagreeable things, minister to his wants, admire him, praise him, and be his uncomplaining slave. All the other wives that I know are treated the same—they must never think, only work. And now I see where our men-folk have acquired this custom; they are always hunting, and studying the habits of animals and birds, and this gaudy tyrant of a lyre-bird has so appealed to them and worked upon them that they have actually adopted his mode of life, and we wives have become as the poor woman-bird you have been watching. But to-night a strange feeling has come over me, a New Spirit seems to be hovering near, and telling me that all this will change some day, and that the women of Australia will be the freest, noblest, and most respected in the world; but that will not be till we are dead and gone."

## Typewriter Statement of Account.

24th May, 1916.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d	EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d
Cash on hand 1/2/16 ...	16	6	10	Filing Cabinet and Cards	10	18	3
Subscriptions to 24/5/16	24	16	6	Repairs ... ..	7	12	8
				Insurance ... ..	0	5	2
				Miscellaneous ... ..	0	14	5
				Balance in Bank ...	21	12	10
	£41	3	4		£41	3	4

Examined and found correct.

E. GAMMIDGE  
K. GOLLAN.

## Shakespearian Recital.

(J. Cassidy).

This recital, held on the 26th April, 1916, was very interesting and highly educational and gave an opportunity of displaying the talent of various students.

The chief performers were Messrs. J. Henery, R. Harvey, U. Brown and R. D. Blakemore, whilst Messrs. Preston, Symes, Chalmers, Broadfoot, and several others played minor parts.

The opening scene was that of a quarrel between Brutus (U. Brown) and Cassius (R. Blakemore). Mr. Brown spoke his lines clearly and without any very noticeable hesitation, and Mr. Blakemore delivered his address with considerable elocutionary skill. Although the lines were well spoken, there was not much emotion introduced. The scene ended with the reconciliation of Brutus and Cassius, much to the disappointment of the bellicose junior members of the audience.

The next speech was that of Brutus (Mr. J. Henery replacing Mr. Brown in the part). It was spoken in a clear resonant voice and was perhaps the most striking item in the programme.

Mr. Harvey gave an exceptional good rendering of Mark Antony's speech and received great applause.

A diverting comedy, which showed us the humorous side of Shakespeare to advantage, was the extract from "A Midsummer Night's Dream." The parts of Pyramus and Thisbe being taken by Mr. R. Blakemore and F. Firkin, respectively, Mr. J. MacDermott taking the part of the wall. The play was well acted and the dialogue, particularly the declamatory parts, clearly enunciated. The small parts of the King and Queen were taken by Mr. Pearson and Miss Olive Camps, who sustained their parts creditably.

The attendance was good and the performers reflected great credit on their able instructors, Messrs Hayes and Henderson. The scenery supplied by that admirable phantasmal firm, Imagination Unlimited, left *nothing* to be desired and in collaboration with the historically incorrect costumes, proved that the stage director was a pastmaster in the art of producing Shakespearian plays. Might I suggest that at a future date he and his talented students would give us another chance of seeing them in, say, scenes from the 'Merchant of Venice.'

The performance was brought to a successful close with a speech by Mr. Williams, which was listened to attentively by the students who gained a considerable insight into the genius of our incomparable bard—William Shakespeare.

## The Leaving Certificate Examination.

As this examination is the end of the High School course, we think some knowledge of what it leads to may be useful to pupils and parents.

A pass in the L.C. admits one to (1) The University; (2) The Training College; (3) The State Civil Service. We may state at once that it is necessary to pass in four subjects, of which one must be English.

(1). **THE UNIVERSITY.**—To go to the University on the L.C. a "matriculation" pass is necessary. This varies according to the faculty you wish to enter. In any case you must pass in English, in Mathematics, and in either Latin, French, Greek, or German, and in one other subject. Of these four, some must be passes at the higher standard (i.e., the ordinary L.C. standard). The higher subjects necessary are:—

- (1). For **ARTS**—Latin or Greek, and one other.
- (2). For **LAW**.—Latin and two others. A second foreign language pass is necessary, but may be at the lower standard.
- (3). For **MEDICINE**.—Three subjects, one of which must be a foreign language. A pass in Latin (either higher or lower) is compulsory and in a second foreign language also.
- (4). For **SCIENCE AND AGRICULTURE**.—Three subjects, one being a foreign language.
- (5). For **ENGINEERING**.—Mathematics and Mechanics, and a special paper in English and Geography. A pass in a foreign language is necessary before you graduate. It is best to get it done at the L.C.
- (6). For **VETERINARY SCIENCE**.—Two, including a foreign language.
- (7). For **ECONOMICS AND COMMERCE**—As for Science.

On the L.C. examination, a large number of Government exhibitions are awarded. Last year the number was about 170. These entitle the winner to exemption from all University fees, and an allowance of books. In addition, there are many bursaries worth from £20 to £50 per annum for those unable to support themselves at the University. On the L.C., plus some special Honours Papers, there will also be awarded University Scholarships and prizes for General Proficiency, Classics, Mathematics, and Modern Languages. The prizes are £5, £6, and £10 (the latter for girls only), and the scholarships £40 to £50, mostly for one year only.

(2). **THE TRAINING COLLEGE.**—An ordinary L.C. pass will admit one to the Training College if already a probationary student. The student does a two years' course and gets an allowance of £50 per annum. A student with a matriculation pass may go to the University for the Arts or Science course. This makes his course four years altogether with the same allowance. At the end of the two or four years, the student goes teaching at a minimum of £110 per annum.

(3). **THE STATE PUBLIC SERVICE.**—If you wish to enter this you have to pass in certain compulsory subjects, English, Mathematics, History, Dictation, Handwriting, and Drawing if you wish to be a Cadet Draftsman. Besides the compulsory subjects, two optional subjects may be taken. The candidate has to pay a fee of 5/-, and if successful starts at £75 per annum. He is placed in a higher grade than those who enter by the Intermediate Exam.

## An Answer to "Worried."

The Editor, "The Novocastrian,"

Sir,

In the last "Novocastrian" someone named "Worried" sent in a conversation between two Second Year boys, in which the boy who made it up (for I am sure it was made up) seemed to object very much to sitting for examinations. Now I do not agree with that idea, and I want to tell my fellow-pupils why. To begin with, why do we come to school? To learn things, of course! I cannot see any other reason—at any rate, if there is any other reason, why does not someone tell us so? At all our lessons the teachers tell us things and make us learn things from our books and then ask us questions to see if we have remembered it all, and if we forget I think it is right to tell us what they think of us. That makes us learn all the harder, because what is the good of learning things if we forget them? I know some fellows do not like every subject in school, but that is because they are lazy or they are doing what is wrong. One boy in our class the other day who had been kept in, said, "Latin's no good to me." Well, what right had he to talk like that about a subject which the Inspectors say we have to learn? Besides, if this boy knew all the words in the Latin books would he not know a lot? and were not the Romans good fighters and did not Caesar conquer Britain and kill thousands of the Gauls? He showed us how to fight, and we would not have known the best way to kill other nations and blow up places and have a big fleet if he had not come over. I think, too, Latin is very important for us while we are young, because some of us want to be doctors and you could not cure people if you did not know Latin. And it is the same for all the other subjects. Algebra and all other Mathematics are necessary for engineers to be able to manage the fleet and our submarines, which kill so many Germans; and history must be learnt so as to see how Napoleon and other leaders destroyed everyone who opposed them. And we have to learn from ordinary books, too, because if we did not read Shakespeare how would we know what he thought about how to fight, and how would we have known what Blakemore and Henery and the others were reciting on Shapeseape Day? And French is good, too, because some time in after life you might meet a Frenchman or you might be let go on board a French ship and be able to read the notices over the doors of the cabins and ask the time so that you would not miss the train. And Science is good, because they say the Germans know a lot of science and can make nasty poisonous gas which is handy for choking soldiers in trenches, which we ought to do whenever we can. I do not know Shorthand and Typewriting, but the Commercialists would not have been given the best rooms in the School if they would not be useful in offices and such places as Walsh Island, where some of



our boys are now making up lists of the number of shells and big guns. The only subject I think is no good is German, and I am glad I do not learn it, because the Germans are good fighters.

Well, what is the use of learning all these valuable things if you do not sit for the Intermediate, because its purpose is to see how much you remember, and if you forget a lot of things they know you must be no good, and will not give you a pass and you cannot become a doctor or lawyer or anything decent like that. I do not believe you can even be a teacher if you fail in the Intermediate, so I think from what I have said that we can all see that "Worried" is sick of school, because he is lazy and does not know much, and it serves him right if he cannot get a good position and be rich in after life, which is what we should all try to do and no one could do it if there were no examinations.

I am,  
"A HARD-WORKER."

## There is a Reward.

(By *Thelma Threlfo.*)

The Summer had bidden farewell to our land, and in all her grand glory had fled to a fairer home. Autumn, so stern and mournful, had come and laid waste the beauty Summer had wrought during her short reign. He had robbed the flowers of their richness and colouring, and made the tall trees brown and bare, and strewing the ground with lifeless leaves, added to that already over-stricken land the feeling of sorrow and loneliness. But what could indeed compare with the sorrow and loneliness of that little home set deep among the hills, which were so sombre and still—and waiting—a patient waiting and hoping which beautifies the soul and ennoble the heart.

It was two years ago since John Sedman, the father of the home, had gone to fight for his country, since he had kissed his wife and the baby, and given his little son Jimmie some good advice to last him into his manhood, and since he had suppressed a sob and looked perhaps for the last time on those dear native hills.

The little home was just the same as when he had left it, except for that waiting—longing—hoping spirit; the baby was now a rosy little girl of three, and little son Jimmie, his mother's comfort and right hand. But the spirit of love was brightly burning, and warmth and welcome awaiting the absent one. One day the mother read in the paper a cruel, heartless report that John Sedman was wounded seriously; she gasped—she read it over and over again—she cried aloud, one heartrending sob for pity, mercy and comfort, "Help him, help my John, we need him so."

God granted her prayer. He brought him back from death's very door, back once more to those hills and to the sad, waiting home. But that gallant father, who had gone forth in all his fresh manhood and strength, had returned so broken, so helpless. A burden perhaps? Never! The love, joy and patience that filled that home upheld the father in all his suffering and longing for his lost strength. So day by day he would sit in his chair watching the seasons changing those silent hills, but never that loving service and tenderness of his home life.

The wife toiled all day, and at night was rewarded by his patient smile and the brightness and joy of her pretty daughter, who kept those little rooms so fresh and clean. Jimmie had gone to school and had had a fair education; he had pushed himself on in his work by his honorable character and intelligence, and now after the years of her loving toil, his sweet mother was able to rest, and Jimmie kept the home in greater comfort than ever was known before in that humble family circle.

Years passed by and peace had long reigned o'er that troubled land. But in the hills stands a noble home, and through the spacious rooms ring merry little voices. His children's children are proud of their brave dear grandfather, and what greater joy can there be to him than to tell them of the brave Australian band who fought for England, who sacrificed everything to fight. His children are proud of him, his children's children hold his name in reverent love and hero-worship. Often Jimmie's eldest son says, "I say, Dad, I'm glad I have grandfather's bravery and suffering in the war to talk about, the same as other boys can boast about their grandfathers. Daddy, just think how ashamed we would have been if——"

"Yes, my son, but your grandfather fought for his country, although the sacrifice was great, and now he has his reward."

## Une Entente Tres Cordiale.

(By "Threebee.")

She was not one of those "ships that pass in the night." She came into our lives, and with many of us she has left "un souvenir ineffaçable," and didn't a great French poet say that "le souvenir" was the sweetest thing in life? And who is she that all we folk commend her? Why the good ship "Vendée"—Capitaine Chauvel and his very merry men!

Yes, a large crowd of boys, girls and teachers were kindly invited some weeks ago to visit this allied ship; and none were sorry to have accepted, and when a second invitation was extended, the party was so large that many could find room only in the hold and on the yard-arms, much to the dismay of the captain. The ship was veritably swarmed over, but as no masts or ballast disappeared the invasion must be regarded as a purely non-hostile one.

All began by making a careful inspection of the vessel from the ship's compass to the captain's "boy"; the latter proved, by the way—to a small select band—to be very interesting. They asked him how he called himself, and after much pencilling and explaining, someone declared that his name was something which sounded very much like "More-ice," but he was not as cool as this name might suggest. He was a musical youth, too; in fact with his concertina he constituted the ship's band. Moreover, he sang, and it has been said that (after our second visit) he never ceased charming his "copains" aboard ship with that beautiful lyric "Ouvre tes yeux bleus ma mignonne," into which he invariably brought the phrase "tes cheveux blonds"—though these words were never known to belong to the song before. The mystery of this daring interpolation has never been cleared up—at least on board the Vendée.

The officers, too, were extremely interesting as far as could be ascertained from their gestures and an occasionally comprehended phrase, such as "Oui Mademoiselle." The chief officer had a broken leg, and it was wonderful how readily many of the party grasped the fact. Other sailors displayed pictures and post cards, all of which interested us immensely, for somehow our eyes seemed more trustworthy than our ears.

However, several of our number declared afterwards that they had really held long conversations in French with the sailors, but the only proof they could give was to display albatross beaks and feet and pretty necklaces (let me see, who were the boys who got the necklaces?), French story books and magazines. These generous gifts from the friendly "Vendeans" proved conclusively that some amongst us might have possibly said "Merci bien Monsieur."

In any case this mingling with a number of Frenchmen certainly had the effect of adding interest to the language of Rousseau—an interest which (in the case of the boys who got the necklaces—and others) hasn't yet waned, in spite of the fact that the Vendée is now tossing about somewhere between here and Chili.

## School Notes.

On Friday, March 10th, Mr. Killip bade farewell to the School for the time being. The occasion was marked by a little ceremony. Both pupils and staff were unwilling to let Mr. Killip go without some permanent sign of their liking and respect. From the staff Mr. Killip received a wristlet watch, and from the pupils a pair of field glasses and a pocket-book. The presentations were made by Mr. Williams and by J. Henery and Doris Chadwick respectively. Mr. Williams and Mr. Hayes in short speeches mentioned the extreme conscientiousness and energy Mr. Killip put into his work, and the regret we all felt in losing him. Mr. Killip, in reply, expressed his gratitude for the handsome gifts he had received, and said that he had found it both easy and pleasant to work here. He had never been in a school where teachers and pupils worked together so smoothly. The affair concluded with cheers for Mr. and Mrs. Killip, and for young Don, who had, early in the proceedings, taken the chair—or the table. Mr. Killip is at present in camp with the Engineer Signallers at Kiama.

The departure of Mr. Killip was signalled in another manner as well. On Monday, March 13, the Life-Saving Squad he had been training were examined. All passed, and many with especial credit, which shows the thoroughness of Mr. Killip's instruction. The examiner said they were very good indeed and would, if sent to Sydney, have a good chance of winning the Roth Challenge Shield. However, they had to be content with this; the Sydney trip could not be arranged.

By the time this appears in print, the lantern and duplicator will both be working overtime. The latter is a particularly intelligent machine. It prints exam. papers at lightning speed, and with unusual neatness, and stops of itself at 100 or 1000 just as you ask it. Unfortunately it will not tell you the questions afterwards. What we want now is a machine (for pupils) to answer questions, and another (for the staff) to mark them and keep in the failures.

During first quarter (fifty days as far as the library was concerned) 2,133 books were issued. Of these, 1350 were fiction, 350 historical fiction; English literature, history, and poetry reached about 70 each, while nearly all the other sections represented attained at least double figures. There were 301 borrowers on the list, and the library now contains well over 700 books, without counting duplicates. Some handsome donations have been made to the library, and to

those who made them we wish to give our heartiest thanks. We must also mention with gratitude the skill and hard work put into the book-case by Mr. Scoular, assisted by Messrs. Monk and Walker.

The art of skipping is going up by leaps and bounds. The girls are all very grateful to the Sports Committee

The war is developing the military faculties of Fourth Year. At the Tennis Matches against Maitland at the Cricket Ground, some of them showed distinct strategic ability. From a commanding position near the gate, they were able to watch Cricket, Tennis, and one another all at once.

At the opening of the Tuck Shop, a remark was heard: "It would be a good thing for the sale of drinks if they cut off the water at lunch time." (This was probably by a commercial student).

An enquiry from a member of 2C re the Tuck Shop: "Sir, will we be able to leave the class and go and get sweets?"

There is a testy feeling in the air lately.

In the tram, apparently after a Girls' Sports Committee Meeting:—First Girl (to sympathetic friend): "Yes, she was quite insulting; *of course, she's* had experience, and no one else knows how to do anything *at all*." (Now, who was the offender?)

The Christmas examinations are somewhat ancient history, but we may note that we passed 59 candidates in the Intermediate, and 20 in the Leaving Certificate. Pride of place in the former goes to Eda Lockwood (6 A's and 1 B) and in the latter to Stan Carver (7 A's, 1 B, Honours in English and Maths.); Muriel Lane (4 A's, 3 B's, Honours in English, Latin and History); H. Sweetapple (6 A's, 2 B's, Honours in Maths.); J. Nicholson (5 A's, 3 B's, Honours in Maths.)

That distinguished military man, Col. B. R. Cooke, Q.C., I.C., L.C. (elect), still deigns to associate with the civilians in Room 4.

We hope the Fourth Year will take as high a place in November as they did at the unveiling of the Soldiers' Memorial.

"Words are like leaves, and where they most abound  
Much fruit of sense beneath is rarely found"—Pope.

Several instances have lately come under our notice of pupils talking in a loud and conspicuous fashion in trams or public places. Such pupils should remember that it can be readily seen they come from the High School, especially if that is the subject of their talk. Unfortunately their folly reflects discredit not merely on themselves, but on the institution of which they are members. Every pupil should bear in mind that his or her conduct is an advertisement of the school, and try to make the advertisement an attractive one.

Any one who has lost a Dutch East Indies coin, resembling a threepenny bit, should apply to the manager of the Tuck Shop. He is anxious to meet such a person.

"Chlorine gas," said a science student lately, "has a pugnacious odour." He was, no doubt, thinking of its use in the trenches.

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS—

3rd Term begins	...	3rd July
School Concert	...	20th September
3rd Term ends	...	22nd September
4th Term begins	...	2nd October
Intermediate and L.C.	...	End of November

Miss Nellie Braye will be in Newcastle for about two months of next term and hopes to get together some of the girls for hockey. Those anxious to learn the game and be well coached in it should take advantage of Miss Braye's kind offer.

An interesting historical document was discovered last year. It was a muster roll book of a part of a Roman Army operating in Galicia. Its personnel was varied and its casualties numerous and peculiar. The O.C., COL. COOKE, was only fractionally present on most occasions; this may be explained (a) that he was absent-minded, or (b) that his duties were extensive and demanded partial absence. The KAISER and CICERO talked one another to death. M. LANE was given leave of absence, having been attached to the Fleet as an anchor. HANNIBAL had been discharged as incompetent owing to the loss of an eye. And so on. The anachronisms will delight the heart of PRESTON,

## Ex-Novocastrians.

### Captain R. McNiven.

Readers of the "Novocastrian" will be pleased to hear that our good friend, and ex-teacher of this school, Mr. McNiven, has been doing excellent work with the Anzacs. Shortly after landing on Gallipoli, Lieutenant McNiven received a bullet wound in the arm, which sent him for some weeks to Mudros Island. Returning again to his battalion, he displayed such excellent judgment and coolness that he, with another officer and 14 men, was told off to hold the last trench during the now historic evacuation, and on reaching Egypt once more, he was immediately recommended for a Captaincy. He is doubtless now in France, which country will surely appeal much more to a man with his progressive ideals than did the dreary, dusty peninsula where he first saw the horrors of war. In various letters to members of the school and staff, Captain McNiven has given a vivid account of what he experienced and witnessed. His keen, thoughtful brain seems to see in war little that is not gruesome and barbarous. One striking passage in a letter from him begins, "They talk about the romance of war! There is no such thing! It's very romantic to see—" and then follows a list of unprintable horrors, in which mingle dust, flies, sleeplessness, disease, filth, utter callousness, gruesomeness and death in its manifold phases of abomination. Truly a world cannot be degenerate whose men can face—ay, and even return to—such things.

Since writing the above, we have seen a letter from Captain McNiven, somewhere in France. The following extracts may be interesting.

France, 16/4/16.

We are approaching the fourth week of our tour in the land of the combiens and the il y a's. We are all charmed with the French people, and the welcome we received all along our train journey of three days was wonderful. The petits enfants in particular took the fancy of our lads, and their bigheartedness has never struck me so much as here. The conduct of the men has been only what an Australian would expect of his fellow soldiers and has earned high praise from our own magnificent Birdwood and the G.O.C. the British Army we are attached to. We spent a short time in the trenches here, and after our 5 months without a rest at Gallipoli in the trenches, it is ridiculously soft to spend 4 days in, then 4 days out, and after a few weeks go almost out of the sound of the guns, and at the end of 3 months, a week's leave.

They have water laid on to all the trenches. At our post at Anzac, for the last 8 days we were there, we heard the Turks tamping under the tunnel

we lived in, and our line was on a cliff edge with a 400 feet drop. Our water ration for days and days was a pint a day per man for all purposes. In the village we hold all is desolation. It is a glorious sight to see women hunted out of their comfortable homes, and it is quite evident that the same sporting feeling will never exist between our men and the Huns as it did in the case of Johnno, the Turk. Best wishes to all the boys and girls I used to know. I am gas expert to the battalion. Met Alan Smith in Egypt; his special job is picket officer.

May this worst of all wars soon cease; may Australia soon regain her thousands of brave sons and may our own "Ronnie" return to us safe, sound, and cheery as of yore!

At the unveiling of the Soldiers' Memorial at the Post Office, one of the wreaths was brought by our Senior Girls, in memory of the old boys who have fallen.

H. MORGAN has passed in Section 1 of the Final Law Examination for articled clerks, and B. HELMORE in Section 2 of the same examination.

DR. J. SMITH is now resident medical officer at Newcastle Hospital.

C. WEGG when last we saw him was in camp at Broadmeadow. By this time he is somewhere in Egypt, France, Mesopotamia or Salonica.

As a result of their Public Service passes in the Intermediate Examination, R. CHERRY, C. GRAY, L. HACKWORTHY and F. EDWARDS are now at Walsh Island, and H. HALTON in the Registrar General's Office, Sydney.

Some impressions from BIRRELL MOSS at the University. "Things are just middling. We used to grumble at the old 'High' every two minutes of our lives, and now we have something to grumble at. I can see trouble ahead if we do not look out. RUTH SAUNDERS, MARY FAIRLESS and LIZZIE MACLEAN are the only girls who are attending the Uni. in Arts, and MURIEL LANE is the rep. in the Medical School. CLARRIE PERCY, JACK NICHOLSON, HAROLD SWEETAPPLE and J. KEM YEE are all in Med. This latter gentleman is quite overwhelmed by the importance of the 'Mr.' before his name. NORMAN MULHEARNE is also down here doing Med. LEW WILLIAMS is doing Law, and I am the single Arts Student. Mary is the only Newcastle pupil to take English

honours, the rest of us have more sense. I was teaching for three weeks at Leichhardt and I do not know who got the worst of it, the kids or I. I think it was a draw. —\* was the centre of attraction at the —, and I was in demand because I called her —\*, and might be able to give introductions. There was a grand total of about 12 day students and 2 night to pass the French test, so I am glad I kept away from it."

[\* The Editor will be happy to supply this name on the receipt of a stamped, addressed envelope and the sum of £2 in gold or notes].

C. F. PETTINGER and H. SWEETAPPLE both figured as contributors to a recent number of *Hermes*, the former in verse and the latter with a letter. But our informant was unkind enough to say she could not make head or tail of Harold's effort.

From DICK HOWARD somewhere in France, March 26th :—

I am still quite well and enjoying myself immensely. We steered a zig-zag course across the Mediterranean and had to wear our life belts continually in case of a surprise visit from submarines. I found that my school French does not vary very much from the colloquial French of France and now I am fairly well off in this respect. On their way to their permanent camp they got lost in mud and darkness. They arose at 10 o'clock to find snow all round them and so had a snow-balling competition.

Amongst the ex-pupils who have enlisted or are at the front are :—

George Scott	Percy Charlton	Keith Reid
Richard Howard	Stan Preston	Victor Sterling
Andrew Douglas	Herbert Chippendall	Frank Raysmith
John Watt	Leonard Chippendall	Neville Porteus
Douglas Fraser	Robert Baker	M. Sussman
James Steele	Norfolk Elliott	Alec Chalmers
Walter Churchill	Donald Short	Frank Sharpe
John Schroedar	Roy Wilcox	William Jeater
Arthur Felton	Lamert Thomas	Ernest Jones
Max Arkeil	Bob Lasker	John O'Connell
Gordon Gray	Harry Prince	Richard Barnard

## Boys' Sports.

## CRICKET.

(By K. D. Chalmers, J. Bryant and R. Fitzgerald).

At the beginning of the season the N.D.P.S.S.A. condescended to allow N.H.S. to enter the district competitions, making one stipulation that the maximum age of the senior team should be 6 months under that of the Primary Schools. Taking advantage of this, we entered two teams in the senior (under 16) and one in the junior (under 14).

Senior No. 2 won the Senior Competition, with No. 1 a good second. The juniors were unlucky enough to lose when in a good position, largely owing to the misinterpretation of a small point in the rules of the competition. The committee decided during the season to give two medals to each team, which was appreciated because it had the effect of making everyone keener. The medals are not yet to hand.

N.H.S. SENIOR TEAM NO. 1.—Senior No. 1 was originally captained by T. Magin, but unfortunately he had to leave us at the middle of the season, and the captaincy was handed over to K. D. Chalmers. We had to meet three teams, Wickham, Hamilton and Senior No. 2, each 4 times. The following is a summary of the matches:—Played 9 matches; won 6—18 points; lost 3; Unplayed matches, forfeits, 2—6 points; drawn, 1—1 point. Total, 25 points.

We are, however, able to say that we were defeated only by Senior No. 2. We defeated Wickham four times. In one match Fitzgerald showed his worth by getting 4 for 3, then scoring 80 not out, and then in the second innings getting 3 for 6. In another match, Chalmers was informed that he was in danger of interviewing the civil authorities for trying to ruin Wickham bowling green. Hamilton we played once—never again. The scores were, Hamilton 8 and 1, N.H.S. Senior No. 1, 7 for 173. In the second innings of Hamilton the only score was 1 bye. Magin, 3-3 and 4-0, and Chalmers, 7-4 and 6-0, did the bowling, while Magin 43, Fitzgerald 41, Massey 30 and Chalmers 24 got the runs. We met No. 2 four times, winning once and losing three times. In the first match the scores were, Senior No. 2 124 runs, Senior No. 1 132 runs. In the second we were all out, and the scores show the result—No. 2, 40 and 76; No. 1, 97 and 7 for 66. In the third, Fitzgerald and Massey saved an outright defeat by a brilliant partnership of 66 (Fitzgerald 25, Massey 21), as the scores will show—No. 2 5 for 114, No. 1 60 and 7 for 116. The last game was the deciding game of the competition, the points of the two teams being equal. No. 1 were out to win, but were reported as "also ran." The scores were:—No. 1

27 and 45, No. 2 69 and 2 for 6. Fitzgerald (11) got top score, and Chalmers, 6-25 and 2-4, bowled best for Senior No. 1. The features of all the games against Senior No. 2 was the batting of W. Little of No. 2. The medals for the team go to R. Fitzgerald, best batting, and K. D. Chalmers, best all-round.

In conclusion, we congratulate No. 2 on winning the competition and thank Mr. Heatley for the interest he took in the team.

N.H.S. SENIOR TEAM NO. 2.—N.H.S. No. 2, captained by J. Bryant, brought the honor of winning the competition to the Newcastle High School. They were only defeated once and that was by N.H.S. No. 1, who were the only great rivals of the winners. In the first match against Wickham the scores were Wickham 7 runs, N.H.S. No. 2 74. For N.H.S. No. 2 Madden got 4 wickets for 4 runs, while Bryant bowled 6 wickets for 3 runs. Ramshaw and Bryant did the scoring, piling up 20 each. We defeated Hamilton by a still greater margin, the scores being Hamilton 16, N.H.S. No. 2 213 runs. Our batting was very good. Little scored 22 runs, Britt 45, Colin Gray 45 and J. Bryant 73. Madden and Bryant did the bowling.

In our first match with N.H.S. No. 1 we won by 8 runs, after a hard fought match. In the second we were not so fortunate and were defeated by 50 runs. Chalmer's unnatural fielding was the cause of our defeat. He fielded well and won the day for No. 1. In the third match, No. 2 obtained a victory, thus equalising the points and making it necessary to play a fourth match to decide the competition. In the fourth match it was either do or die, and both teams were confident of success. No. 2, however, were the victors by 8 wickets and 5 runs. Little did the scoring for No. 2, piling up 33 runs, while Bryant and Madden did the bowling.

The medals for N.H.S. No. 2 go to H. Little for batting average, and to J. Bryant for the best all-round player. N.H.S. No. 2 were not so fortunate as No. 1 in the way of umpires. No. 1 had Mr. Heatley as coach and umpire, too, while No. 2 had no coach and had to rely on the opposing team for umpires. Next season we hope to see more of the teachers taking an interest in the sport so that we shall always have an umpire.

## SOCCER FOOTBALL.

Last season was a great success for the enthusiasts of the round ball game at the Newcastle High School; the junior team won the District Competition, and the senior team had an undefeated record, including two matches in Sydney. The game is as popular as ever this season, and so far the senior team has met and defeated Maitland High School by 5-3, and we are, justly, looking ahead to another visit to the capital.

## CHARACTERS :

CASSIDY.—A very good wingman, centres a ball excellently and shoots well; would do better if he did not waste his time amongst the Rugbyites at lunch-time.

BROADFOOT.—A very good forward, dribbles well, and is very cool, sometimes too cool.

PEARSON.—Also a good forward, tries to play fast, but does not often succeed. "Freddie" is so anxious that he is inclined to be selfish.

THOMAS.—A very good shot with his left foot, kicks excellent corners, but is rather slow.

KEMPSTER.—A "dark horse." Has made a good start. Kicks well, but rather amuses the spectators with his defence.

KELLETT.—One of last year's products, a clever player and is frightened of nothing.

GRAY.—Not a bad player, strong kick, but manœuvres his left leg rather weirdly.

DUNCAN.—A good full-back, strong on defence, but does not put enough ginger behind the leather.

E. JONES.—Has a strong kick and a fairly good defence, but does not place ball well enough.

SYMES.—As goal, would do better if the Sports Club bought him a fishing net.

CHALMERS.—One of the "has-beens." Has ended his career as a sport.

"ANGEL" GRAY.—A good back-yard footballer, rather too pretty, considers football too rough for his line.

L. MADDEN (Capt.).—Not a bad centre. Plays a very good game, but he spoils many shots by giving them to "Hop."

As the High School is handicapped by six months in the A Grade Schools Competition, the team is not quite up to last year's standard. As it is, we have drawn, lost and won respectively the three games we have already played. Nevertheless, with Clark, the brilliant half-right, and Carrol (with the freckled face), the International goal-keeper in our team, it may be said that we have brilliant prospects of annihilating Adamstown in our next match at the Cricket Ground. Two of our players, Rowse and Dawson, were picked to represent High School in the match of East against West at Plattsburg, on Saturday, May 20th.

## ATHLETICS.

(J. W. Henery and R. Lydon.)

The Quarterly Sports Meeting was held on 31st March, at the Cricket Ground. The weather conditions were splendid and a good afternoon was spent. A feature of the sports was the Challenge Events with Maitland High School, in both of which Newcastle was successful.

Messrs. Murphy and Gibson officiated as judges, and Messrs. Williams and Heatley had charge of the pistol. We take the opportunity of thanking these gentlemen for their services.

Appended are the results :—

440 Yards' Handicap.—1st, B. Cooke, 75yds.; 2nd, J. Gray, 30yds.; 3rd, T. Henery, 76yds.

1st Year Handicap.—1st, Thompson, 6yds.; 2nd, Rouse, 6yds.; 3rd, Redgate, 6yds.

2nd Year Handicap.—1st, Madden, 5yds.; 2nd, Soper, 8yds.; 3rd, Bryant, 6yds.

3rd and 4th Year Handicap.—1st, Harvey, 6yds.; 2nd, J. Henery, sc.; 3rd, Cooke, 14yds.

100 Yards Challenge.—1st, Henery (Newcastle); 2nd, Compton (Maitland); 3rd, Gibbs (Maitland).

440 Yards Relay.—1st, No. 9 (Clack, Coles, James, A. Gray); 2nd, No. 5 (Gollan, J. Gray, Thomas, Egan); 3rd, No. 7 (Lydon, Preston, Madden, Blakemore)

440 Yards Challenge Relay.—1st, Newcastle (Henery, Harvey, Donald, Gollan); 2nd, Maitland.

Class Nomination Handicap.—1st, Henery, 4th year; 2nd, Hawkins, 2C; 3rd, Clack, 2AC.

220 Yards Handicap.—1st, Cooke; 2nd, Halton; 3rd, Madden.

Allcomers' 100 Yards Handicap.—1st, Ostinga, 6yds.; 2nd, Harvey, 5yds.; 3rd, Halton, 7yds.

Carry your Chum.—1st, Ostinga and J. McDermott; 2nd, Harvey and Browne.

Sack Race.—1st, A. Tyler; 2nd, J. McDermott; 3rd, T. Henery.

## FORM CHAMPIONSHIP.

	Swimming.	Athletics.	Total.
4th year	12	45	57
3A	23	14	37
3B	25	11	36
2A	12	13	25
2B	11	5	16
2C	—	2	2
2AC	—	5	5
2BC	6	—	6
1A	—	3	3
1B	—	—	—
1C	—	—	—
1AC	—	—	—
1BC	7	3	10

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## Swimming Carnival.

Our Annual Swimming Carnival was held at the Ocean Baths on Thursday, March 16th, at 2 p.m. punctually. The weather, though not the best for swimming, kept fine and every event was run off without a hitch, thanks to the efficiency of the officials. For the first time in the history of the High School, the carnival was attended by the girls of the school, who made the carnival a success and the swimmers display their very best form, with the result that several very keenly contested races took place. The baths were very clear and full, and there was every accommodation for the spectators who crowded the baths. The handicapping was very good and the swimming splendid, and last year's records broken. The success of this carnival inspired the girls with enthusiasm for a carnival of their own, which they have every intention of holding next year.

### RESULTS OF CARNIVAL.

- 100 yards' Championship, 16 and under.—1st, J. Keating, 4 points; 2nd, W. Brown, 3 points; 3rd, H. Halton, 2 points.
- Breast Stroke Handicap, 50 yards.—1st, Rutledge, 3 points; 2nd, Christie, 2 points; 3rd, Dick, 1 point.
- 50 yards' Championship, 14 and under.—1st, A. MacDermott, 4 points; 2nd, E. Deed, 3 points; 3rd, J. Dick, 2 points.
- 150 yards 3 Stroke Race Handicap.—1st, Lydon, 3 points; 2nd, Paxinos, 2 points; 3rd, Fitzgerald, 1 point.
- 100 yards' Championship of School.—1st, J. MacDermott, 5 points; 2nd, J. Keating, 4 points; 3rd, E. Harvey, 3 points. Time, 77secs.
- 100 Yards All-comers' Handicap.—1st, Clarke, 3 points; 2nd, Forbes, 2 points; 3rd, Johnson, 1 point.
- Neatest Header.—1st, E. Deed, 3 points; 2nd, G. Forbes, 2 points; 3rd, J. MacDermott, 1 point.
- 50 yards' Handicap, 16 and under.—1st, C. Gray, 3 points; 2nd, Rutledge, 2 points; 3rd, Keating, 1 point.
- Obstacle Race.—1st, J. McDermott, 3 points; 2nd, E. Harvey and H. Little, 2 points each.
- Relay Race.—1st, Forbes, Cassidy, Clarke, J. McDermott (Captain), 3 points each; 2nd, C. Christie, R. Lydon, Attwood, W. Brown (Captain), 2 points each; 3rd, H. Halton, H. Little, W. Broadfoot, J. Keating (Captain), 1 point each.
- Points obtained in events (including heats):—J. MacDermott, 12; J. Keating, 10; G. Forbes, 7; W. Brown, E. Deed, R. Lydon, Clarke, 6 each; Rutledge and E. Harvey, 5 each; Halton, Christie and A. MacDermott, 4 each; J. Dick, Paxinos, C. Gray, H. Little, Cassidy, 3 points each; Attwood, Fitzgerald, 2 points each; W. Broadfoot, G. Johnson, 1 point each.

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## Northern District Combined Schools' Carnival.

A Combined Schools' Carnival was held for the first time by the Northern District Schools on the 24th March. About five hundred entrances were received, and a little over four hundred pupils competed. The Carnival was held under admirable weather conditions and the organisation was excellent. Newcastle High School won six events, that being the greatest number won by any school at Carnival. A. McDermott won the 14 Years' Championship pretty convincingly. He is a young swimmer who has a great future before him. In the Championship of the Northern District (under 16) G. Forbes led up to the 50 yards, but in the home run J. Keating came out of his shell and won by a yard. J. MacDermott and J. Keating won the Senior Relay Race by yards. Both swimmers have a fine stroke, and it would be safe to say that if either of the two swam the whole distance either would have won. The results, as far as the Newcastle High School is concerned, are as follows:—

14 Years' Championship.—A. MacDermott.  
Championship, under 16 years.—J. Keating.  
Senior Relay Race.—J. MacDermott and J. Keating.  
Novelty Race.—G. Johnson.  
Diving for Plates.—C. Christie.  
Rescue Race.—R. A. Symes.

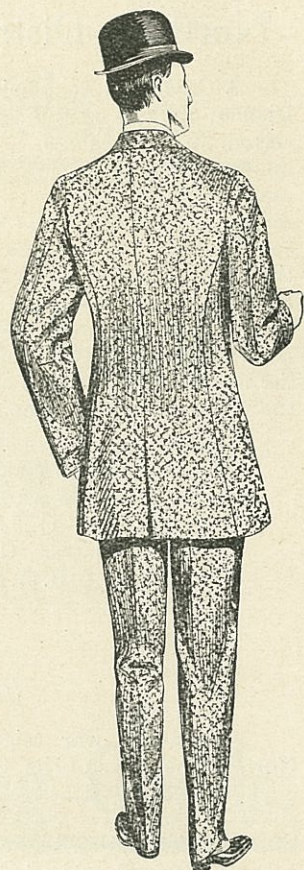
## Girls' Sports.

(Ida Saunders and D. Blomberg).

Now-a-day war reigns supreme everywhere—even on the tennis court. Now, if the laws of the tennis court could have been adapted to those of the cricket pitch the catastrophe might have been averted. But since two, and not eleven, aside is law, sparks began to fly on the courts. Nor were the scenes of tumult restricted to them, since rackets and balls do not grow there, but must first be obtained from their retreat under lock and key. Hence, great was the excitement at half-past three, and many were the ruthless raids on the poor press to determine definitely who should be the first fortunate four for that afternoon. So as their instructors reluctantly released their restless charges, the enthusiastic experts of tennis rushed round at top speed to gain net, balls and rackets. But in this critical career to the press, the fated fourth formites were heavily hampered by the deadly determination of one tantalising teacher who dearly delighted in detaining the "expensive luxuries" under her scrutinising supervision for fully five mighty minutes till the more fortunate players had succeeded in safely securing the material for the first set or so. May that dear director soon realise that school closes at 3.30 p.m. and not 3.30 + x p.m. Matters reached a deadlock when racquets and balls belonged to members of one class and the net to those of another, since one class had been freed exactly one minute before the other. So party faction arose. Third year interpreting kindnesses as significant signs of weakness, and foreseeing a speedy and signal victory, flung themselves into the fray. Then five fine, fit, fluent, faithful, fearless female fourth formites, being forthcoming and slightly objecting to being sat on in this manner, took up the gauntlet and "fiercely raged the battle" on the courts. Then third class new-posters and advertising agents having gained a very fine conquest over one in our own ranks, declared—though in no way authorised to do so—that third year squashed the remaining fraction of fourth year every time. Then was found on



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the bag of one of the faithful five an ode. And at last I reach the object of this rigmarole. It proves beyond doubt that war begets poetesses. So let me present to the world what will paralyse it by its exquisite beauty and the modest estimation of self everywhere evident, while the pathos of the last stanza defies any eye to read it unless through a veil of tears.

Ode written in commemoration of the triumphant conclusion of the tennis club war. [The Editor could not stand it].

And now for facts.

More enthusiasm has been infused this year in the sports than formerly. We have at last found a lady teacher, Miss Blacklock, who is taking an interest in them and spends Friday afternoon in endeavouring to improve the various items of our sports curriculum. We have obtained one of the city courts and a portion of the cricket ground has been marked out for basket ball, and we are now entering upon the Season's Sport with ardent enthusiasm. Early in the year a General Sports Meeting was held. The names of girls elected are given on the official page.

### TENNIS.

At the first meeting of the Sports Committee a sub-committee was elected: Doris Chadwick, Gladys Corrigan, Dorothy Blomberg, Ada Stove, Ida Saunders, for the management of the more minute details of tennis. Two matches have been played against Maitland, and owing to the strenuous efforts of our girls, we emerged victorious from the last. A tournament has been played off and the winners of the various years are:—Grace Cowell, 4th year; Gladys Corrigan, 3rd year; Rosa Heath, 2nd year; 1st year not played off. And now a Girls' Double Tournament has been arranged, and quite a number of feminine athletes have given in their names. It was decided by the Sub-committee that an "A" and "B" team should be selected in tennis, and the selections were as follows:

A.—Gladys Corrigan, Una Mitchell, Ada Stove, Lillias Lowe, Ida Saunders, Grace Cowell.

B.—Doris Chadwick, Dorothy Blomberg, Marjorie Lane, Edna Cassidy, Zeenie Clarke, Maggie Buxton.

### BASKET BALL.

Our Basket Ball season has now began, and Miss Blacklock has kindly consented to initiate us in the intricate rules of that exciting game. Nothing has been definitely arranged with regard to the organisation of the Basket Ball Committee, but this will be done shortly.

### SWIMMING.

We regret to say that the Bogey Hole has not been brightened by our cheerful and somewhat noisy presence, owing to the "vis hiemis." Towards end of season "Tom" was horrified by the arrival weekly of about 80 or 90 young students coming to enjoy a dip in the briny after a week's steady fag.

### SKIPPING.

A number of ropes have been procured and now the recesses are spent in that enjoyable pastime.

The school at present is in a ferment of excitement owing to the proximity of the Quarterly Sports which are to take place on the 9th June, at which, for the first time, the girls will take a prominent part in the programme. The school is enlivened by the sight of pairs of girls parading about on three legs. First aid is sometimes required to restore the damaged enthusiasts to "normal temperature and pressure."

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## Flashes from the Form Reports.

Many of our special correspondents are too anxious to flash. More news items would be welcome.

### 4th Year.

Wish to thank the late 4th Year for their kind bequests, but complain that the magic press door and map sticks are no longer in working order. "B.C." is invited to apply in his best handwriting (as if he had a best) for position as moving picture operator. The girls have lately taken many "Tennis Court Oaths" (for explanation see the Girls' Sports column.)

A "young stock exchange" has been started, pins and matches being the principal stocks dealt in.

The "married men" defeated the "clowns" in the tournament by 31 to 28. The latter attribute their defeat to bribery of the umpire.

### 3A.

Anticipations of "Lazy Luxuriant 3rd Year" have been disappointed by the new system of examinations. Most of the fags are among the fair sex; their good marks are quite monotonous. The class is also apparently distinguished for its proficiency in practical science.

After much waiting they have at last been introduced to Livy, whose Latin it is a pleasure to read, being so vivid.

— is walking to school to reduce weight. Some other personal items conclude:— G. D.—very fond of French sailors, but too talkative; E. H.—the distinguished explorer of the dungeous; A. C.—only heard of in exam. results; A. B.—fond of the ladies; F. P.—sometimes confused with "Sarah."

N.B. We are requested to state that Clive married Ethel.

### 3B.

Includes some fags; one even has his bag so inscribed. Are proud of their sporting record. Their swimmers topped the list; one of their runners can do 100 yards in 11 secs. (on paper).

The ladies are quite fond of teaching this class (we must verify this).

3B includes some distinguished actors and actresses, e.g., "Charlie Chaplin" and "Marmaduke Willie"; also a pair of famous acrobats.

There is a commercial element in this class, but its strong tendency to migrate elsewhere prevents it being much of a nuisance.

### 2A.

They fear the disintegrating effect of exams. Their behaviour has lately improved, mainly through Fitz becoming fond of the fair sex. (How much of it he is fond of is not stated. Reporters should be more precise).

High marks for Australian History were mainly due to a realistic representation of Bass and Flinders in the "Tom Thumb"; a window blind was the sail and a fractured seat the rudder.

Owing to last term's Petition of Right, one of the girls has greatly improved. Much gratitude is expressed to the teacher who lost the Algebra papers.

### 2B.

Quote Cicero to show that it is harder to begin than to end a form report. But in the next paragraph we are glad to find that M.T.C. has accepted the old age pension and retired to Sandgate. Unfortunately he has a successor who debates daily on Pompeius in Room 1.

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# FAIRLESS BROS.,

## Stationers, Booksellers.

TELEPHONE 44.

In the forest of arithmetic they find great stumbling blocks in the shape of huge logs. But they find the ten-jointed fractions of algebra a thing of beauty and a joy for ever. Strange taste! They deny that Richard III is as dry as a temperances sermon. They find it keeps their hair on end. Altogether a very scholastic form, no sports apparently in 2B. All they live for is work. But they take it cheerfully.

---

### 2C.

Send in two reports, both beginning with poetry.

"Now is the winter of the form reports  
Made glorious summer by this star 2C.

The old name is still upheld by the new generation of philosophers, aided by a few chips off the old block.

Singers are numerous here, but not always appreciated. Squib and others are specially mentioned; also J.O.G.'s angelic voice and fairy footsteps.

---

### 2AC.

2AC are surprised to find that after two years' work their brains are not full. They are so speedy at shorthand that one young fellow had to be cautioned. The girls are good at French, but the boys beat them in everything else.

---

### 2BC.

Their initials have various meanings: the 2nd bad class, according to one teacher, and 2nd best and brainy class, according to themselves.

"Pat" is devoted to penny dreadfuls. Their fags are all of the fair sex. Pinkstone is gone, but not forgotten. Lastly, a mystery is propounded: "Who took the leather boot lace?"

---

### 1A.

1A think that, on the whole, they are a useful class. For example, in V.W.M. they have almost a perfect Vernier.

G.F.G. is also a useful lad when you look into it. In geometry he is always ready to have a try and never fails to break down.

This interesting communication was interrupted by the school bell.

---

### 1B.

1B are busy bees. By pure hard luck they missed the top rung of the ladder. Next year they hope all to be marmalades (which sounds clever but weird). They have a rare bird called "canary," and hope to fly into 2A next year.

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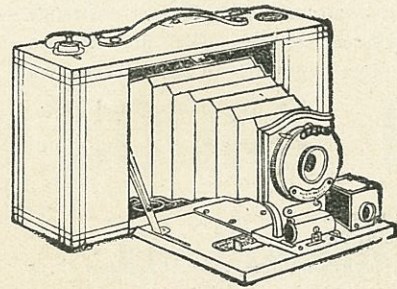
### 1AC.

We like their report; it contains no grumbles. They all seem happy, especially when free chocolates are going round. Sympathy is expressed for the young gallant whose desire to get two tickets for the pictures was prevented by lack of cash. Also for the cyclist who collided with the stone.

---

### 1BC.

G. and K. are being watched with bated breath. The absence of "Sparrow" caused an outbreak of verse, but the censor has cut it out. The loss of Hilda has left them inconsolable. They explain that B.C. means bosca class. We hope so.



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## Sports Union.

At the beginning of the year it was thought advisable to have instead of a number of unrelated sports committees, a body elected by those who paid their sports subscription to exercise a general supervision of the sports: Last year organised sport was practically a dead letter, except for the league football competition, under Mr. Heatley, and the British football, under Mr. Walker, and a few matches with Maitland. The bulk of the students received little opportunity for sport throughout the year. The objects in view in forming the Sports Union were to ascertain, through the representatives of the scholars, what sports would be supported, to arrange and control Quarterly Sports, where not only individual competitions, but form competitions might take place. So far it has been successful in catering for the majority of its members. The girls have tennis and skipping, while basket ball and hockey are to be introduced. The boys have swimming, cricket, football (Rugby League and Association), and baseball has been revived.

A further step is to be taken in the form of organised games, such as prisoners' base, etc. A feature of the sports in future will be inter-class competitions, when the points won by the various members will be totalled at the end, and the most successful class will be acclaimed the "Cock of the walk." Every member should thus endeavour to enter whenever possible, as he or she should have an interest in putting their particular forms at the top. Although not a function of the sports union, it might be a good idea to add to the points gained the average percentage gained at the tests by the individual forms, and thus carry the friendly rivalry between forms to other than mere sport. It is hardly needful to point out that the objects of the Union can only be obtained by the hearty co-operation of all its members in striving for the honor of their respective classes, not for any personal gain. We further hope that it will lead the older and more proficient to help the younger and less experienced members to grow up worthy representatives of the school in all ways.

Two Sports Meetings (details of which are found elsewhere) have already been held successfully, one on the Cricket Ground, the other at the Ocean Baths. A third is to be held shortly at the Cricket Ground, when class events for girls are to be introduced. After the holidays a Girls' Sports Meeting is to be held, when we hope that the healthy rivalry will add more points to the various classes.

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## **Some Local Doings and Beings.**

The ex-pupils of the Newcastle High School resemble a good many things—like certain well known brands of tea, they are assorted; like the parson's egg, they are good in parts; and, finally, like a much boosted refresher, they are still going strong. Some are dead, some are married (some only engaged so there is still hope for them), some for years in gaol have tarried, in fact there appears to be no species of disaster that has not overtaken some or one of them.

Three old boys (L. Grahame, H. Jamieson and R. Mitchell "Bowser") repose in the peaceful shades of the Water Bored—Requiescant in pace. Three other members of the staff (M. Arkell, H. Prince and G. Gray), once prominent 3rd yearers, have enlisted.

Norman Humphries and Ken Mitchell are learning to trace "lost money" and put other people's pot on, in the offices of a prominent firm of local accountants.

The legal profession is overrun by old boys. Six of them (M. Chippendall, J. Williams, H. Morgan, W. Reid, B. Helmore, and recently, N. Cragg) are in eager pursuit of the law and the profits, especially the latter, which none of them have yet caught. Each of them is doing his level best to fleece—pardon, I mean please—the general public.

Quite recently, according to latest communiques, Tom Britt took over the entire management of a prominent Newcastle solicitor's office—as long as he does not take over the entire cash in hand as well, doubtless everyone concerned will be satisfied.

Mick Hogan and Jack Chapman are busily engaged instructing the young mind at Wallsend and Wickham respectively. It is rumoured that the young mind very much

L. Polak, C. Jacka and H. Davis are getting "Fitz" at the East Maitland Lands Office. Bob Perrau, who was formerly in the same office, is now at the front.

Four ex-pupils (C. Hudson, N. Hughes, H. Morgan and B. Helmore) are members of the Workers' Educational Association, and have been taking a course of Industrial History and Economics, under their old friend and master, Mr. Hayes. The latter three took part in a debate held in connection with the the classes on the relative merits of the Industrial and Domestic Systems of Industry, and needless to say the side they supported was—beaten.

Esmond Kirk is candidate for the vacant position of Sub-collector of Customs at Newcastle, while Jack Owens is trying to get the Chief Commissioner for Railways on the list of unemployed.

## Combined Matches.

After a series of very interesting matches had been played between N.H.S and M.H.S., it was decided to select a team from the two schools to play the pick of the S.S.P. Schools, who have been fortunate enough to be coached by Mr. Iredale, the old International player. Six players were selected from N.H.S., while five (Bryant, U. Brown, R. Fitzgerald, Hawkins and Massey) were lucky enough to be included. The result was a great surprise to us (also to Sydney), for we won by the substantial margin of 101 runs. We won the toss and decided to bat, and succeeded in compiling 187. The runs were scored by Mackay (Capt.) 58; Foster, 47; Clifton, 21; Fitzgerald, 18; Greentree, 18. Stephens, the Sydney Captain, took 7 for 78. Much to our surprise, Sydney only scored 86; Stephens (28) obtained top score. Hawkins, our fast bowler, trundled excellently, with great pace (for corroboration apply S. Stephens). Hawkins took 3 for 15; Greentree 2 for 21, and Bryant 2 for 10, also bowled well. U. Brown played well behind the stumps, taking Hawkins' deliveries very well. At the conclusion of the game we were invited to play a return match at Sydney the following Friday.

### SYDNEY MATCH.

On the Friday following we therefore set out in a confident frame of mind after our previous victory, but unfortunately we returned vanquished by 20 runs. The same team was picked, but we were unfortunate in having to do without J. Bryant, the N.H.S. Captain, who unluckily missed the 6.50 train, so Little, the emergency, was given a chance of distinguishing himself. N.H.S. players covered themselves with glory in the batting line by all scoring ducks, but made up for it in the bowling. The wicket was not at all good after the rain, but unfortunately for us improved as the day went on.

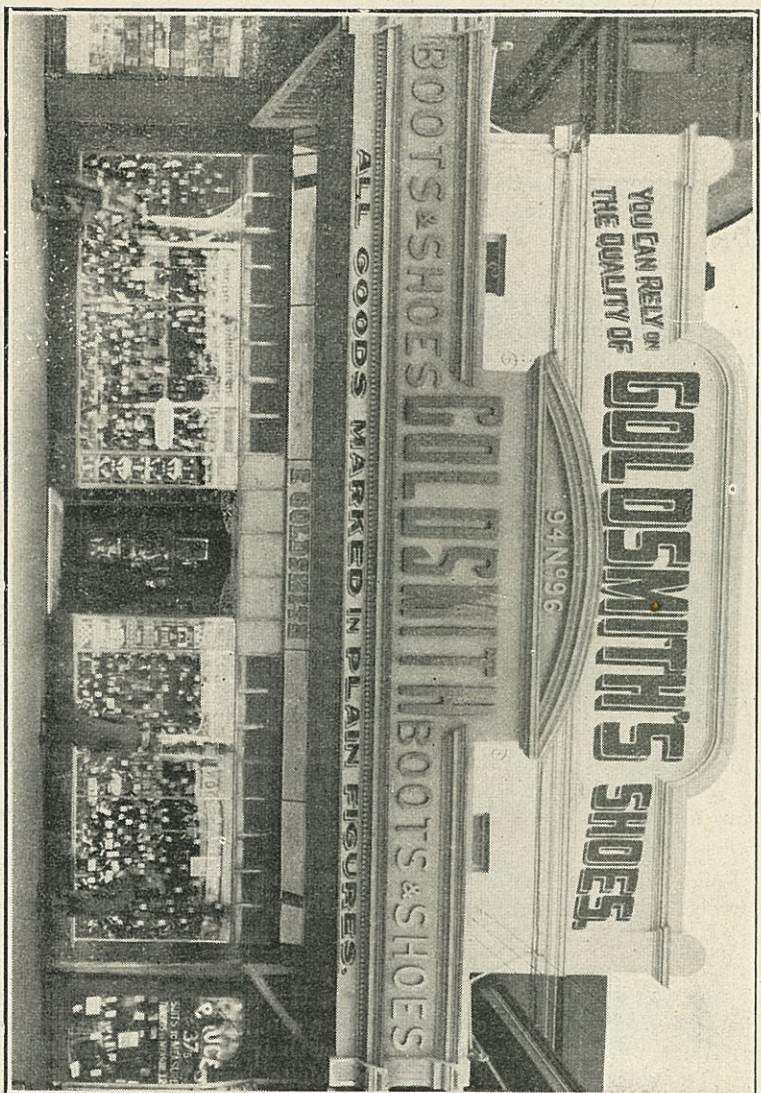
We batted first and only scored 78. Foster, 20; Clifton, 30, were the highest scorers. Stephens took 6 for 37, and Baker 4 for 29. Sydney proved too good and scored 98; Levy, 31; Baker, 18; Sykes, 21; Stephens, 19, did the batting. For us Fitzgerald 4 for 11, Clifton 3 for 11, bowled best.

All members of the team sincerely thank Mr. Heatley and Mr. Rossiter, who accompanied us, for their interest and kindness towards them during the trip, and for the trouble taken in arranging the necessary details in connection with it.

### JUNIOR CRICKET.

The Junior Eleven, a combination of scientific sloggers, made a great "hit" last Cricket season, but were unfortunate enough not to win the Competition, finishing third to South Newcastle, the Premiers.

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Play on the whole was good; Murphy's fine late cuts and Hogan's superb leg glances brought great applause from the enormous crowd (which followed up all the games with great interest. The team played 9 games—won 6, lost 2, drew 1. Medal for highest batting average was obtained by E. Egan, who secured an average of 21; highest score 63 n.o. C. Walker obtained best bowling average and medal for best all-round player. E. Solomon, although not a bad player, once tried to catch, but failed of course, and much to his delight, was not worried by the ball again and slept in peace. B. Cannington, our famous long-stop, lessened the opponents' score on many occasions by his sure fielding. E. Deed, behind the sticks, faced the fast deliveries of our bowlers with great coolness, and his splendid drives were appreciated by the other members of the team.

The players wish to thank Mr. Monk and Mr. Heatley, who, when circumstances permitted, accompanied the team and cheered the boys on to victory.

---

## Boys' Tennis.

(J. Henery and R. Lydon.)

As far as the boys are concerned, tennis as a form of recreation has practically appeared. Because of this apparent lack of interest in the game, the boys' court has been given to the girls, who make better use of it.

This lack of interest is only noticeable in the results of the matches against Maitland, we having been beaten rather badly on two occasions. At present a tournament is being played off under the control of the Boys' Sports Union. Up to the present the following pairs have been successful:—Harvey and Ostinga, Henery and Lochrin, Donald and Newton, Fitzgerald and Massey, A. McDermott and Little, Chalmers and Firkin.

A mixed doubles and girls' doubles have still to be commenced.

Appended are the results of the two above mentioned matches against Maitland:—

(1) Maitland	3 sets	14 games
Newcastle	0 sets	10 games
(2) Maitland	4 sets	25 games
Newcastle	0 sets	11 games

In conclusion, we congratulate the girls on their meritorious win against the Maitland girls.

## The West for the East.

(By "Twacy" Jim).

A boy about eighteen years of age sat in the drawing room of an old Southern Alabama mansion. Suddenly he rose restlessly to his full height. Into his eyes crept a look of wistful longing, as he lifted his violin and passed his fingers caressingly over it. As he gently drew the bow across the strings, soft, sad strains of exquisite music floated through the large French windows and drifted among the stately old trees and beautiful shubbery. All unconscious of time, he played softly on, pausing now and then to gaze unseeingly before him. A soft step was heard in the hall, and a tall woman entered the room. She was evidently his mother, for there was a striking resemblance between the two.

"Ralph," she said in a voice refined and low, "do stop that sad music. What is ailing you."

"You know, mother," he answered irritably.

"But, my son, do you really want to go to that horrid wild West?"

"Yes."

"Oh Ralph, I thought I could have you stay here and grow up a gentleman."

"Yes, mother, but can't there be gentlemen in the West as well as in the East?"

"I don't know about that," answered his mother doubtfully.

"Father always says that the outward appearance doesn't make the gentleman, but that which is in his heart."

Mrs. Brown looked at the boy thoughtfully, then said, "Do you really want to go?"

"I'm sure I do," he replied eagerly.

"Well, then, you will have to settle it with father."

The boy kissed his mother and hurried away in search of his father. Father and son had a long talk together, which ended in Ralph having his own way.

Exactly a week later Ralph hurried through the hall on his way to the carriage which was waiting. At the door he was stopped by a slender girl with eyes and hair considerably lighter than his own. She clung to him with her arms about his neck. "I wish I were going with you," she whispered.

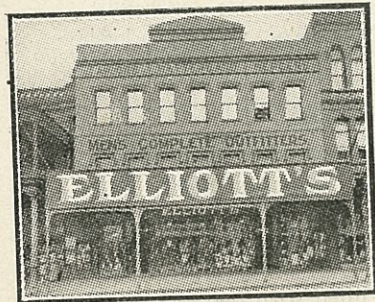
"So do I, Sis," he answered, "but you can't. You stay and comfort mother. Besides, the West's no place for girls like you. Good-bye, Dor."

He kissed her and was gone. The brown eyes filled with tears as she saw the horses trot briskly down the avenue. A few minutes later he was being rapidly whirled away—away from home into the world.

Out of the face of his father, stern with suppressed feeling, shone his gentle eyes. Again he felt the grip that made his fingers ache, and heard that familiar

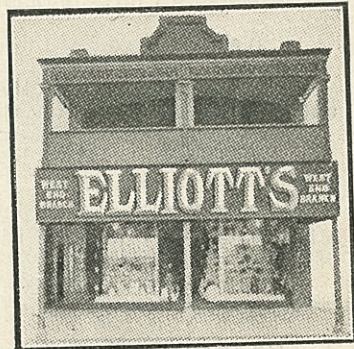
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voice he so loved. “My son, my son, good-bye.” “Dear father,” he murmured, and then turned to divert himself with the objects whirling by.

Ralph soon arrived in the West and was met on the station by a cowboy named Sandy Bernard, who introduced him to the other cowboys, who called him “Lady Fingers.” About a week later an old Indian rode up to the ranch on a beautiful black horse. Ralph looked at it admiringly and Sandy looked at his face in suspicion, but could only see honesty written on his face. The old chief trusted Ralph, but Ralph never stopped thinking about the black horse.

One day a letter was given to him, and Ralph looked at it in bewilderment. It bore no post mark, and Ralph tore it open and found a note on which was written in a cramped hand:

“Mr. r. brown,

“Der ser,

“red feather is goin to dar happy huntin groun and wand you to hav black hawk. give him a home.”

“red feather.”

Ralph gazed at it in bewilderment—Black Hawk! For him! That evening he went to the old chief's hut, and on knocking received the faint “Come.” On entering he went to the bed on which lay the old man. Finally Red Feather spoke. “Red Feather—is—goin—to—the—Happy—Hunting—Grounds. Take—Black—Hawk. Take—good—care—of—him—always.” Ralph promised he would, and then the old man died. Ralph left and went to the stable and patted Black Hawk on the back and then mounted and rode away in silence.

Sandy was the only man in the ranch who disliked Ralph. One day as he was passing Ralph's office he saw the door open and altered the books and took up some papers and bills just as Ralph entered. Ralph discovered “his” error and worked at it unsuccessfully and at last gave it up. The boss discovered the mistake and Ralph was discharged.

One bright day in June when all out of doors was alive and glad, a dark figure was seen against the horizon by the cow-boys of Star Ranch.

“That's that Kid Brown on Black Hawk” said one of the men.

“Fellows,” interrupted Ralph in the midst of all other anxious questions, “I'm here to-day with sad news for you; I wouldn't have been here otherwise—Sandy's dead—stone dead.” “Watcher mean?” All eyes were turned on the speaker in bewilderment. Ralph drew a pack of papers from his pocket and selected a dirty piece of an old envelope from the others.

“Read that,” he said, “It's my pass-port into respectable society and back to my honor.” Just then the Boss came out of the corral, carrying a coil of rope in his hand. Jack read—

“I took those bills—Sandy.”

The Boss then came up and wanted to know all the ins and outs of the case.

“Fellows,” said Ralph at last, “I left his body under a tree at Willow Watering about four hours' ride to the north on the Redding Trail. We must get him away before to-night or the coyotes will.”

“What was the matter? What happened to him?”



"Rattler!"

"He raved for hours and about midnight sat up straight and wild-eyed, gazed at me." "Are you Brown?" he demanded at last.

"Yes."

"Wal, I reckon as now I've told you I suppose you're glad to see me dying." "He wouldn't lie down, boss, but gazed at the stars a few minutes. Suddenly he fumbled about his clothing. He could not articulate, his hands fell helplessly to his side and sank back against the saddle. His lips were moving—"piece paper—pencil, were all I heard." He seemed to sleep. I got there but could not rouse him.

At sunrise he turned his head and reached for the paper, trying to write. I guided his hand as he mumbled: "I took—those—bills—Sandy." He was trying to thank me out of that bruised and broken body of his. Poor unfortunate fellow! Now let's bring him home."

That night at sundown Ralph drove the buck-board into the circle of buildings. The body of Sandy lay on a heap of straw in the bottom. Ralph guided the horses into the yard, thinking of his first coming to the West. Now he could go home and face his father; he had his honesty proven.

## Statement of Accounts.

June 3rd, 1916.

Credit—Tuck Shop	...	...	19	3	3½
Sports	...	...	31	4	9
Concert	...	...	0	5	3
Total	...	...	50	13	3½
Debit—Library	...	...	16	5	3
Sundries	...	...	3	12	11
Total	...	...	19	18	2
Credit Total	...	...	50	13	3½
Debit Total	...	...	19	18	2
Net Total	...	...	£30	15	1½

Examined and found correct.

C. E. BROWN  
J. W. HAYES.

It was intended that this issue should contain a photograph of MR. KILLIP, in uniform. Unfortunately this did not arrive in time, but we will make up for it in our superb Christmas number, which you are advised to order early to save disappointment.

## Debate.

"Then of their session ended, they bid cry . . . The great result.—Milton.

The Debating Society, in obedience to a long-felt want, was revived on Tuesday, May 30th. The subject was "Conscription," the Ministry affirming the necessity of this in Australia. Unfortunately, at the very opening, an ill omen delayed proceedings. The PREMIER (B. R. Cooke) had fallen into the hands of higher powers (of the nth degree) and was delayed in Room I. On his arrival he soon showed that this matter had not impaired his conversational ardour or dialectic skill. He appealed to the example of our Allies. The Navy could not win the war against a land power and must be supported by a great army. Australia through its great area and small population, especially needs conscription. The anti-conscriptionists were practically giving Germany a present of 225,000 men—the number of eligible Australians not yet enlisted.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (E. Harvey) pointed out that Conscription had never yet been necessary in Britain's wars. One volunteer was worth five or six pressed men. (This aroused the mathematical powers of various other speakers). The navy was kept up by voluntary service. The cases of France and Belgium did not apply, as they had been attacked in their own territory. He pathetically pointed out the plight of widowers' children, if their fathers were forced to war.

J. DIXON aroused immediate attention by stating that he had happened to be in a refreshment room. The audience scarcely seemed to think it credible. Two soldiers, he went on, were talking to the lady behind the counter. She thought the soldiers who had gone were the scum or dirt of Australia, whereat her audience said they were forced to have a bath every day. He thought this proved the desirability of Conscription. The audience did not seem to believe this either. He then appealed to the Declaration of the Rights of Man. Equal rights meant equal responsibilities.

C. PRESTON, with much emotion, declared he came before them in the garb of an orator. It looked the same as ever, but we took his word for it. He continued, in impassioned style, loud voice and abundant gesture. He used many poetical quotations, but his feelings sometimes prevented him from finishing his sentences, especially when he put the feminine point of view. If the Conscriptionists had their way, the parks would be empty, the promenade deserted. Picnics and beach-teas would be no more. Why should helpless

females be deprived of necessary support of a sturdy right arm. What a waste! He finished by an interesting but inappropriate quotation of the celebrated Steele Rudd.

J. DICK, appealed to the photos on the walls in a very effective sentence. He went on to quote Scipio and Hannibal. He also quoted Macaulay! We knew it was bound to happen.

L. SUSSMAN, looking somewhat shy, wanted to know why prisoners should be released to let them enlist. No one could tell him.

C. WILSON asserted that money could be obtained from America at 3½%. We think the Government should apply to Mr. Wilson for assistance.

THE PREMIER, in reply, appeared with a formidable list of silly things said by the Opposition. He ridiculed their logic, but tripped himself in some figures. He also mispronounced the word Conscription, and probably this made his audience doubt his knowledge of the subject. In spite of a pathetic break in his voice, the vote went to the Opposition by 25 to 14.

### Correspondence.

"Reason."—Your interesting letter would have been printed, but that the matter had already received attention. We hope you are by now satisfied.

"Hard-worker."—We have printed your letter, but must confess we think your views on history somewhat strange. Your faith in Latin is very touching. On this point, have you seen the statement that the Romans conquered the world because they did not have to waste their time learning Latin? It is worth thinking over. Ask any commercial boy his opinion.

J. Dick, "Waf La Posse," "Isabelle"—Crowded out.

### EXCHANGES.

We wish to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of—"The Falcon," "The Goulburnian," "Fortian."

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