

SOMETHING WONDERFUL AND UNIQUE

MR. R. K. GRACIE, Headmaster of Milton High School.

NEWLY arrived at this school, it has fallen to my lot to write a few words about Milton—and what a happy task it is to do so.

From afar, for those who have never been in contact with the school, the name of Milton has always conjured up an image of something unique, something wonderful, a school which offered to its pupils that fine tradition which is such a vital factor of benefit to the young man stepping out into the world today.

Now that I have been able to read some of the history of the school, and to meet the people who were pupils of the school and teachers who served at the school it has become apparent why this image has not faded over the years. For here has been built up a tradition well founded in the motto of the school, 'Quit ye as men', which has been an inspiration to teacher and pupil alike.

When one reads of such men as A. D. Campbell who served at the school with distinction from 1923 until the outbreak of war, a Rhodes Scholar who gave his life, or F. G. "Putt" Jackson, who was associated with the school from 1924-1959 and knew each one of the first eight headmasters, or F.



Hambly, who has not only coached rugby at the school for many years, but also seen every home match at the school for the last 31 years, one realises the tremendous love these men had for the school and the pupils and the devotion with which they served them.

Built on foundations such as these, what school can fail?

One wonders what thoughts passed through the mind of the first headmaster, Mr. de Beer, when the school was opened on July 25, 1910, by Sir William Milton, the Administrator of the BSA Company at that time. Could he have envisaged the passage of time and the extreme benefit which would flow from this school to the children of families in Bulawayo?

Looking back, one must be convinced that indeed this man, under God's guidance, was able to do just that. The traditions

of the school which, for so long, was the only boys' school in Bulawayo and therefore a vital factor in the community, have grown from the earliest days.

Now we have a fine school; indeed, two schools, as the High School was built later in 1927 while the Junior School still remains at the site in Borrow Street, with a total of nearly 20 times the original 80 boys who enrolled on the first day so long ago. But each of these pupils today can look back with thanksgiving and look forward with courage, knowing that he can go out into the world to serve.

