

THEY BATTLED

ALTHOUGH the official history of Government education in Rhodesia began with the appointment of a Commission of Inquiry which, in 1908, reported in favour of Government undenominational education, the unofficial story began in 1902 when a group of young married men in Bulawayo began to think seriously about the education of their children.

In spite of the fine pioneer work done by the church schools, and a little private school run by Miss Monnery for a few years, they felt that the Government should be responsible for education and

that it should be completely undenominational.

They formed a committee consisting of Mr. Bothwell, Mr. W. H. Haddon, Mr. A. R. Welsh, Mr. W. Baxendale, Mr. W. Wightman, Mr. C. Davis and Mr. W. J. Atterbury (who became Mayor of Bulawayo).

All were well-known businessmen and, although they had a long battle, in the end the Government agreed to go ahead — and the schools were built.

Mr. R. A. Fletcher, a pioneer surveyor and father of Sir Patrick Fletcher, also played a leading part in the various discussions.