

SPLENDID RECORD IN LEARNING AND SPORT



The ceremony at the laying of the foundation stone of Milton High School in 1926. The Headmaster, Lieut-Col. J. B. Brady, stands between the Earl of Athlone (who laid the stone) and Princess Alice. The Hon. W. M. Leggate (the Colonial Secretary) is on the right of the Princess.

NO sooner was the opening ceremony over in both schools than enrolment began, and regular school work commenced next day — July 26, 1910. There were 80 pupils on the register at Milton, and the principal, Mr. E. B. de Beer, MA, had three teachers to assist him—Mr. Shepherd, Mr. De Lange and Mr. Gregory.

Two more, Mr. Wilkinson and Miss Loud, joined shortly afterwards, and Mr. Gregory was transferred to Salisbury.

The number of pupils increased slowly but steadily and by October had risen to 98.

The first football match was played on August 10 against a junior town team, and the first cricket match took place on December 9 on the newly finished ground. The opponents, Plumtree School, have remained friendly rivals ever since.

The first half-year of quiet progress closed with the gaining of one second class and two third class passes in the Junior Certificate examination.

Not surprisingly, the sons of men who were still virtually pioneers showed great interest in woodwork, and from the first that course was popular with the boys.

One of the cycle sheds was used as a workroom, until in 1912 a "beautiful new wood-work shop" was opened.

BOY SCOUTS

About this time the Boy Scout movement was started in Bulawayo by the Rev. T. O. Beattie. The idea proved a great success, with Milton providing most of the Scouts enrolled.

In his speech on opening day Sir William Milton said he hoped Mr. de Beer would get his boys—if they passed the necessary standard — to join the cadet corps, as he considered it the duty of every boy and young man to fit himself for national service.

His words were heeded, and a cadet corps was very soon established. The cadets took part in ceremonial occasions throughout the years, and in 1920 they were invited to attend the funeral of Sir Leander Starr Jameson at World's View.

Under the command of Colonel J. B. Brady they went

by train to the Matopos Terminus, and marched from there to the grave. In that year, too, they held their own camp in the Matopos as the annual cadet camp at Gwelo was cancelled because of measles.

In July 1960, as part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations, a cadet standard was presented to the Corps by Col. R. A. G. Prentice.

The corps was disbanded, along with those of other boys' high schools, about two years ago.

Entertainment talent was never lacking. In the first half of 1920 no fewer than five concerts were held, with Mr. P. E. Cuckow's songs and stories "raising the dormitory floor by the wealth of applause he evoked".

Mr. C. J. Edgecombe, another talented musician and outstanding personality, also began his long association with Milton in 1920 after demobilisation. His training of the

choir resulted in several Eisteddfod awards.

Two other newcomers that year were Mr. William Gebbie and Mr. H. G. Livingston. They, together with Mr. Edgecombe, were all destined to become headmasters of Milton.

By 1921 the School had grown to 390 pupils, with more than 160 boarders. There was "not an inch of space" left in the boarding house, or in the four cottages which had been taken over to provide extra living room, and the school went on growing.

Arrangements were made for a new hostel and a new school for the seniors, to be built near the racecourse, and it was hoped this would be ready by February, 1923.

In fact it was nearly five years before the new premises were completed.

For many years the school magazine appeared half-yearly, and in 1925 the June issue was

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