

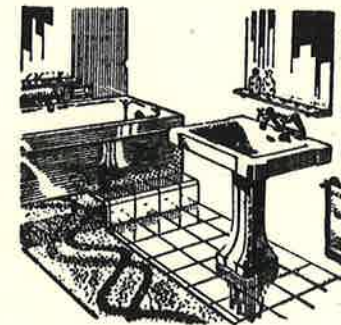
NUMBER 56

DECEMBER, 1956



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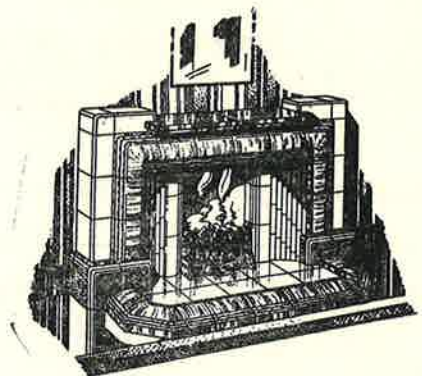
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The Journal of the Queen Victoria School

No. 56

DECEMBER 1956

Editorial

We start this Christmas issue of "The Victorian" by wishing all our readers our sincere Compliments of the Season. That having been done we can go ahead with our news of the School with a clear conscience and the consoling knowledge that those who never get past the first few lines of the editorial will at least be imbued with something of the Christmas spirit!

We warned you in our summer issue that this Christmas number hung above your heads. Here are the main reasons for its return.

Firstly we feel that, if we are to report all the events in the School calendar and still allow space for our literary and artistic efforts, we need two issues. Secondly, there is something slightly incongruous about sitting watching one Grand Day and reading about the one that took place twelve months previously!

While on the subject of the magazine itself may we call on a little more support from those for whom it is produced? We regret to say that less than 40 per cent. of the boys bought the summer issue.

So many changes have taken place in the School this year that we trust we are forgiven if any particular one is overlooked. We suggest the purchase of the summer issue which is sure to contain the information omitted from this one!

At the end of the term we bid farewell to our Commandant and his good lady and we understand that Brigadier A. M. Finlaison D.S.O., O.B.E., A.D.C., has accepted the appointment. We will, of course, accord our official welcome to our new Commandant in our next number.

Before term began we said goodbye to Captain and Mrs Maxton on their departure for the south of England, and shortly afterwards Captain and Mrs Naulty left for Germany. Before the end of term Captain Priddle leaves us to take up an appointment as S.O.3 (Edn.) Mid-West District. We wish all three families health and happiness in their new surroundings.

In their place we welcome Major E. Hitchman, Captain T. Blakemore, and Capt. R. A.

N. Turner, and trust that they and their families will enjoy their stay with us.

Our Chaplain, Mr Muir, left us at the end of October, and with his departure went something which the School will never again experience. But we look forward to the appointment of a new chaplain, and feel sure he will carve his own particular and very personal niche as James Muir has done.

The house system now exists in toto with the naming of the four houses. Four great names connected with H.M. Forces were selected—Haig, Cunningham, Trenchard, and Wavell. The first three constitute the Senior school, whilst Wavell is made up of the Juniors. Messrs Martin, Mortimer, Niven and White now take up other appointments within the School establishment, and their house duties now fall on the shoulders of the four house matrons recently appointed. We welcome Miss Chalmers, Miss Johnstone, Mrs MacRae and Mrs Stuart to their new posts, and trust they will not be overwhelmed by the size and exuberance of their new "families."

The military tradition of the School has not been damaged in any way by these innovations and, with the advent of the Cadet Force, it has received fresh impetus. A much wider facet of Army life has opened up than that engendered by drill and "spit and polish," with many of the modern weapons to be tried, and square drill carried to its logical conclusion in field craft and tactics.

In conclusion we would like to express thanks to two kind people who, with great personal inconvenience, have come to our rescue. The Rev. A. A. Macpherson, though with his own parish in Doune to attend to, has looked after the spiritual welfare of the Presbyterians since Mr Muir's departure, and Mrs Hitchman, with all the extra cares of a housemaster's wife, has found time to see that the boys were not deprived of the music lessons that they and Mr Muir enjoyed together.

As we write this editorial the first snow of the winter has fallen. We feel all Christmassy and joyful—so "A Merry Christmas" once again.

THE VICTORIAN

Lt.-Colonel R. F. Nason—late the Seaforth Highlanders

We have to announce the departure at the end of this term of the Commandant.

Lt. Colonel Nason was appointed in January, 1950, and leaves before the end of his second term of office at his own request. During this time he has seen many changes, both in the organisation of the School and in its fabric.

Many important people have been welcomed by him, particularly in 1951, H.R.H. The Princess Royal, and in 1954, H.M. Secretary of State for Scotland, who unveiled the stained glass window in the Memorial Chapel. This latter event was the climax to a long period of planning and organising, of tireless energy and enthusiasm by all concerned. But the man responsible for this piece of teamwork was undoubtedly the Commandant.

At the time of the Coronation he conceived the idea of the planting of memorial trees, and so we have the avenue of young pink hawthorn which leads up to the Married Quarters.

No one could call this School a thing of beauty but no one has worked more tirelessly to rectify this.

We wish Lt. Colonel and Mrs Nason health and happiness in the future.

V. H. LeM.

Mrs Nason

An Appreciation by Mrs Glass, Vice-President of the Queen Victoria School S.W.R.I.

It is with a very sincere feeling of regret that we in the Q.V.S. "Rural" bid farewell to our President, Mrs Nason.

When Mrs Nason first came to the School there was a very real need for something in the way of a social club for the women folk, and Mrs Nason decided to do something about it. In 1950 the Q.V.S. S.W.R.I. was formed and Mrs Nason became our first and only President. She has taken a great interest in all Federation matters and, quite recently was appointed President of the "Braes" W.R.I. Group of which we in the Q.V.S. are a member.

During the past six years Mrs Nason has given unstintingly of her time and enthusiasm; and by her tact, and gentle manner, and winning personality has endeared herself to us all. She will be greatly missed by each and every one of us.

We wish her all happiness and prosperity in the future and, when she goes, she knows that she will take with her all good wishes from every member of the Q.V.S. "Rural."

We will long remember with gratitude and affection our "First President."

Staff Changes

Departures—Captain K. Maxton, M.A.; Capt. D. Naulty, M.A.; Capt. L. V. Priddle; Rev. J. A. Muir.

Arrivals—Major E. Hitchman, B.A.; Capt. T. Blakemore, B.A.V.; Capt. R. A. N. Turner.

The Commissioners

We welcome on to the Board of Commissioners Mr D. Crichton-Miller, M.A., Headmaster of Fettes College.

With his wealth of experience of Boarding School education his presence on the Board should be an invaluable asset.

Presentation to the School

It is with great pleasure that we announce the presentation to the School of the two fine silver bowls which now stand on the communion table in the Chapel.

They were presented by Miss E. Addison Smith, daughter of Robert Addison Smith, C.V.O., whose sad death is still within our memory.

We record our sincere gratitude for this very fine gift.

Visitors to the School

The following were among those who have signed the Visitors' Book since Grand Day.

Rev. Dr H. C. Whitley, Minister of St. Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh.

Mr W. Hewitson-Brown, Scottish Home Department.

Gen. Sir Gordon MacMillan, Visiting Commissioner.

Brig. A. M. Finlaison, D.S.O., O.B.E., A.D.C., B.G.S., H.Q., Scottish Command.

Colonel V. M. A. Jafri, Director of Army Education, Pakistan.

Mr Ghousul Hussain, Ministry of Defence, Pakistan.

Rev. Dr R. Selby Wright, Minister of Canon-gate Church, Holyrood House and Edinburgh Castle.

Rev. James A. Muir

On Sunday, October 21st, 1956, the Rev. James A. Muir conducted his last service at the School. He had accepted an appointment, starting in early November, as Presbyterian Chaplain for the Huts and Canteens in Hong Kong.

For many people this service was tinged with sorrow and regret. There was sorrow because we were seeing for the last time in that capacity a man who had done more for the welfare and general well-being of the boys than anyone else on the staff. There was regret because, looking back on the four years that Mr Muir had served the School, we realised just how much he had contributed to practically every School activity worth mentioning.

Of his work as Chaplain it is almost unnecessary to speak. His was the spiritual impetus which helped to transform the Chapel into a building of grace and loveliness, in which it is now a pleasure as well as a privilege to worship. The services for which he was responsible were, like Mr Muir himself, eminently sincere and imbued with the essence of true Christianity.

To many of the boys he was a friend and mentor. He fought long and patiently on their behalf, and was responsible for forming and running such diverse activities as the Photographic Society and the Music Appreciation Group. His tireless energy, skill and patience at the School Concerts will not easily be forgotten by anyone who participated in them.

To staff and boys he was a man to whom we could go in times of stress; he gave unsparingly and unceasingly of time, money and energy. He is missed by us all.

E. D.

Old Boy Visitors

- 4/6/56 —Jas. Blake, Glasgow (804).
 9/5/56 —D. Bethune, Renfrew.
 10/6/56 —T. J. Grove, Westcliff-on-Sea.
 11/7/56 —A. Watters, Auchterarder (2161).
 " —P. Thomson, R.A.F., Anstruther.
 " —G. Stirrat, Doune (43).
 " —H. Duff, Glasgow (846).
 " —J. C. Harvey, Glasgow (488).
 " —W. Alexander, Balornock (2327).
 " —J. A. Quinn, Glasgow.
 " —R. Dingley, Glasgow.
 " —J. Blackie, Glasgow.
 " —D. Dempsey, Edinburgh.
 " —J. Marr, Edinburgh (1704).
 " —A. Marr, Edinburgh (1507).
 " —C. N. Craig, Dundee (829).
 " —W. D. A. Kerr, Dunblane (2225).
 " —J. R. S. Owens, London (358).
 " —A. Slorance, R.A.F. (825).
 " —R. Fairbairn, Lt., Cameronians (2207).
 31/7/56 —Ian Forbes, Inverness (1080).
 " —Jas. Forbes, Dunblane (1461).
 2/8/56 —J. G. A. Buchanan, Edinburgh.
 " —A. A. Bing, Rosyth (1850).
 " —W. McLachlan, Grangemouth (1483).
 3/8/56 —A. McD. Isdale, Kneller Hall (2153).
 " —R. V. Tasker, Kneller Hall (2420).
 8/8/56 —W. S. Carruthers, Rhyle, N. Wales (2073).
 20/8/56 —D. M. Liddel, Wellington, Somerset (1135).
 10/9/56 —D. McKenzie, M.E.L.F. (2222).
 17/9/56 —D. McQueen, Walthamstow (666).
 /9/56 —D. Hastie, Forfar.
 /10/56 —A. R. Williamson, B.A.O.R. (2110).
 11/10/56 —N. Sinclair, The Black Watch, Perth.
 20/10/56 —R. J. Taylor, E. Yorks (745).
 21/10/56 —R. Fairbairn, Lt., Cameronians (2207).
 4/11/56 —R. J. Bevan, Edinburgh.

Salvete

- 2742 Armstrong, M. J., Seaforth.
 2731 Arnett, M. H. A., R.C.M.P.
 2721 Brown, C. McK., R.A.F.
 2720 Brown, J. C., R.A.F.
 2728 McArthur, S. R., R.A.F.
 2711 Maxwell, D. A., A.C.C.
 2739 Newman, K. G., A.T.S.
 2710 Johnstone, D. P., Cameron Highlanders.
 2723 Murray, K., A.P.T.C.
 2700 Truswell, H. McK., R.A.
 2702 Murtagh, A. J., Black Watch.

- 2729 Aitken, W. A., R.A.
 2735 Barbour, P. H., Royal Scots.
 2734 Bell, J. D., Parachute Regiment.
 2733 Hamilton, C. C., R.P.C.
 2740 McKenzie, R. D. T., Seaforth.
 2703 MacLean, M. R., Scots Guards.
 2717 McDonald, J. A., R.A.
 2718 Ritchie, D. R., Scots Guards.
 2707 Savill, I. L., R.A.E.C.
 2719 Sinclair, A. J., Q.O. Cameron Highlanders.
 2730 Watters, J., R.T. Regiment.
 2708 Young, W., K.O.S.B.
 2726 Aitchison, I. S., R.E.M.E.
 2741 Greenhorn, C., R.A.
 2705 Docherty, V., R.A.F.
 2714 Gray, I. C., Black Watch.
 2706 Heron, C. B., Cameronians.
 2696 McGavin, L. T., R.A.
 2732 Roy, P. W., Black Watch.
 2727 Thomson, E., R.A.M.C.
 2736 Kilcullen, J. A., R.A.
 2738 Robson, C. J., Seaforth Highlanders.
 2722 O'Connor, T. J., Royal Scots.
 2716 Scott, G. H., A. & S. Highlanders.
 2737 Scott, W. J., Q.O. Cameron Highlanders.
 2715 Laughlan, M., H.L.I.
 2725 McFadden, J. A., R.A.M.C.
 2713 Logan, R. J., R.P.C.
 2712 Kay, P. C., R.A.S.C.
 2701 Stewart, C. J. A., Seaforth Highlanders.
 2709 Ross, G., H.L.I.
 2704 Marshall, S. T., R.A.F.
 2724 Watson, D. J., R.A.M.C.
 2699 Munn, R. D., R.A.F.
 2697 McGavin, D., R.A.
 2698 Bird, R. L., R.A.F.

Valete

TO SERVICES

- 2552 A. McLean, Army Apprentice School.
 16834 N. Poulson, R.A.F.
 2485 F. Stevenson, Army.
 2527 A. J. Cunningham, Royal Marines.

TO CIVILIAN LIFE

- 2538 J. Allan, Painter.
 2447 R. S. Alexander, Composer.
 2551 W. Brannan, Post Office.
 2500 S. Burn, Coach Painter, B.R.
 2553 R. Bevan, Apprentice Fitter.
 2355 K. Gavigan, Glasgow School of Art.
 2331 W. Jones, St. Andrews University.
 2467 H. McArthur, Mining Engineer.
 2319 J. McArthur, Edinburgh University.
 2465 R. McColl, Miner.
 2464 D. McKellan, Blacksmith/Engineer.
 2498 C. McNicol, Printer.
 2459 R. Rennie, Lawers Agricultural College.
 2499 W. Simpson, Apprentice Mechanical Eng.
 2341 A. Tulloch, St. Andrews University.
 2351 J. Wilson, Glasgow School of Art.

WITHDRAWN BY PARENT

- 2615 D. McLeod.
 2606 I. C. Muckersie.
 2663 J. Reilly.
 2635 R. Scott.

Grand Day 1956

This report of "Grand Day" by Bob Swift of the "Stirling Sentinel" is reproduced by courtesy of the Editor of that newspaper.

*

It goes without saying that the weather was brilliant for Grand Day at Queen Victoria School, Dunblane, on Wednesday afternoon; that the kilted and scarlet-tunicked Victorians marched as to the manner born, and that their pipes and drums sounded faultlessly.

These things, like the serried rows of H.M. Commissioners and slightly lesser mortals, the throng of proud, unsilent parents, the public host, and the thriving ranks of South African war veterans... these things, and the spasmodic belching of dense clouds from the school smoke-stack, are of the very essence of Grand Day.

Yet, change is in the air. It is not merely that your regular attender on Grand Day notices (with a pang) that those who were babes are now Senior Boys, that familiar faces have flown and that this occasion, at any rate, suffers through the loss of the military band.

Much of the change, indeed, is indefinable; but without doubt the new order is replacing the old, and what evidence of this is plain to see is also pleasant.

*

History was writ on Wednesday when Senior Monitor Wilson became the first boy of the school to present the parade of his fellow-Victorians to their inspecting officer on this annual occasion.

Vice-Admiral J. W. Cuthbert, C.B., C.B.E., Flag Officer, Scotland, carried out the inspection, and inspected also an erect company of Old Victorians, and told the boys that he was sure they would play their part in the future with honour, as their fathers had done before them.

It was seven years, said Admiral Cuthbert, since he last undertook his present role at Queen Victoria School, but he went back barely four months for an even more vivid memory — he was at Murrayfield in March, and the Victorians' pipes and drums were the only good things produced by Scotland on that sad day.

Admiral Cuthbert then presented prizes to the school which had, in perfect order under S.M. John Wilson, appeared almost to envelope him in three sides of a square.

*

He handed over the following awards:—Primus Medal—Pipe-Major A. Blackie. Cranston Memorial Essay Prize—Sgt. J. McArthur; Addison Smith Prizes—1, Sgt. J. McArthur; 2, Pipe-Major Blackie; 3, Cpl. A. Quinn. Junior; M. Burrows. Champion Piper — A. C. McDonald. Champion Drummer and Bugler—J. Fee. Champion Highland Dancer—J. Quinn. Champion Shot—Sgt. P. Gibson. House Drill Cup — B. House. House Shooting Cup—B House. House Championship—Junior Cup—D House; Senior Shield—B House.

At an earlier ceremony in the School's new playhall, Lord Kinnaird had presented a bar to

the Dux Medal already held by Monitor W. A. Jones, and had run the gamut of form prizes.

Lord Kinnaird, Lord Lieutenant of Perthshire, indulged in a friendly chat rather than plunged into a speech.

Dull as the daily round may be to begin with, he said, you only really had learned anything—football or Euclid—when you could do it, and do it well, without thinking about it.

*

Major L. D. Cowley, headmaster, spoke of the School's increasing success in the field of scholarship—a group of boys were actually sitting the G.C.E. examination in a nearby room at that moment—and its prime establishment as a school with thriving primary, junior secondary and senior secondary departments.

In the autumn, said Major Cowley, two new activities would be included in the life of the Victorians... an Army Cadet Force unit, and Boy Scouts and Cubs.

The playhall in which this ceremony was held has been entirely remodelled and redecorated. The Royal Engineers of Highland District have wrought wonders with the old building's interior—bare brick and rough boards have given way to elegant walls and a fine floor, and up-to-date and imaginative lighting has replaced the stark bulb-and-shade points of yore. A generous stage has been built.

What is more, the reconstruction scheme is enhanced by a scheme of decor perfectly apposite... needless to say, this is a product of the School through the art master, Mr V. H. Le Maistre.

Another addition to the school's structural strength is the rifle range, darling of Captain D. Naulty's heart and which he stoutly maintains is the best and most modern in the country.

*

After tea the Victorians put on a programme of several good and various things, beginning as custom is with a trumpet fanfare, tripping through Argyll Broadsword, romping a P.T. display, and dashing a Highland Fling before moving the crowd to thunderous applause with their finale of the beating of Retreat.

Among the spectators were the 1st Maribo Company of the Danish Boys' Brigade, and six Australian young women.

Meanwhile there was no lack of visitors to the exhibition of art and craft work done by the boys, and set out in the band room.

This exhibition has caused eyes to open ever wider during recent years, and 1956 points no exception. This indefinable order of change at Q.V.S. here perhaps comes nearest to tangible expression.

Every boy represented is something of an artist and a deal more of a craftsman.

There are pictures to prove a wealth of healthy and untrammelled imaginations, and woodwork, metalwork and moulding indicating unmistakable pride in jobs well done.

Last year I noted the development as budding artists of John Wilson and Keith Gavigan, and

the slight lead held by the latter. This year the roles might be said to be reversed, although—since their paths are now more clearly divergent—comparison is unfair.

Both have been accepted, and gladly, by the Glasgow School of Art, and both promise great things.

Wilson in particular leaves Queen Victoria School in a blaze of glory.

He is a prizeman in maths., art and history, has captained the 1st rugby XV and the 1st cricket XI, broken several school records on the athletic field (and competed with distinction the junior A.A.A. championships) and has as well shown himself to be a first-class soldier.

Notable among the handcrafts exhibits were some beautifully turned wooden bowls, an array of bird boxes (made in preparation for the ornithological club soon to be formed) and one more in the line of reinforced concrete and wood garden seats, while the newer Victorian pursuit of metalwork gave many quite astonishing examples of improving craftsmanship.

Three Victorians have won their way to Uni-

versity—W. A. Jones and A. Tulloch to St. Andrews, and J. McArthur to Edinburgh.

The full list of prizes and awards presented by Lord Kinnaird is as follows:—

P. VI—1, M. Nixon; 2, T. Miller. P.VIIB—1, R. Davies; 2, V. Edgar. P.VIIA—1, N. Burrows; 2, J. McLaughlin. Ic—1, W. Collins; 2, I. Tesler; 3, I. Johnstone. Ib—1, R. Cumming; 2, J. Airnes; 3, K. Amers. Ia—1, A. Leitch; 2, (equal), G. Thomson and G. Ferrier. 2b—1, F. McLuskey; 2, F. Saville; 3, B. Scott. 2a—1, D. Aitchison; 2 (equal) R. Logan and D. MacLennan. 3b—1 (equal), R. Alexander and C. McNicol; 3, W. Craggs. 3a—1, A. S. Hamilton; 2, A. Bethune; 3, R. Watson; 4th—1, G. Welsh. 5th—1, P. Gibson. 6th—English and French—W. A. Jones. 6th—Science and Maths.—A. Tulloch. 6th—Maths., Art and History—J. Wilson. 6th—English—N. Poulson. 6th—Art—K. Gavigan. Primary Art—M. Watt. Fowler Art Prize—A. S. Hamilton. Woodwork Prizes—1, N. Sinclair; 2, C. McNicol; 3, A. S. Hamilton. Metalwork Prizes—3b—W. Craggs. 2b—R. Barr and B. Scott.

Dux Medal and Bar—W. A. Jones.

AVIEMORE, 1956

After the usual tedious journey, we roared into Aviemore in our magnificent Leyland "tiger" bus. Waiting to greet us, was the "Rock of Ages," Sgt. T. Crossan.

Everyone was keen to start carrying the tons of equipment from the Bailey Bridge to the Rothiemurchus Ski-hut, a mere distance of 3½ miles—uphill. The hut itself was reminiscent, though more luxurious and sturdy, than the usual cowboy bunk-house. Four hours of back-breaking work saw the kit stored in the hut. The masters, with indefatigable zeal, supervised all this herculean toil.

Thanks to the stentorian bellows of Mr Girvan's orderlies, everyone managed to stagger out of bed in time for breakfast. The food was well cooked, but several small boys (and big ones, too) complained that there was not enough! Hiking began that day, with both Mr Drew and Mr Bruce taking parties to Ben MacDhui and Braeriach respectively. Little of note happened except that a mist came down on the Braeriach Plateau, and the boys with Mr Drew had to turn back, owing to a little mountain sickness on Mr Drew's part.

Wood-collecting reached its usual gigantic proportions this year. With the aid of the masters, who were indispensable, we managed to build a fair sized pile. Stevenson, himself, must have been a wood collector judging by his "Travels with a Donkey"—"As I climbed the interminable hill on the other side. . ."

The most exciting hike was to the Shelter Stones at Loch Avon. It was necessary to descend a steep slope for a thousand feet to reach the stones. Many scares were caused by rocks suddenly rolling underfoot. The ascent from the valley was worse than the descent. We climbed up the bed of a mountain stream to reach the Ben MacDhui Plateau. One small

boy lost his footing and was only saved by a stalwart arm thrust against his posterior. Before the ascent of the Feigh Buihe, Mr Bruce almost had a fit when he discovered that one of his "trustworthy" boys had forgotten a prismatic compass which had been lying on a rock on which Mr Bruce had leaned when eating his lunch. The loser found it again, however, under the threat of paying £12.

The usual diversion from the exhausting hikes was a game of whist, quietly played in the main room. This soon became a craze, until another game was brought to light. The new diversion was the game of Mah Jong. The set of pieces was courteously lent to one and all by Mrs Baker. Two boys, however, had a diversion of their own. These two were employed on re-tarring the creosote-covered roof. The periodic cricket players had their pitch swamped in gallons of tar, which dripped from the eaves, or flooded from the buckets which were accidentally knocked over in the course of play.

This year, Mr Bruce was fortunate in procuring three "88" sets, small walkie-talkie sets. At specific times, parties of boys went out on walks with these sets, and were given various compass bearings to track on. Except for the pain derived from hordes of voracious horseflies the excursion was usually carried out well.

Soon, however, the day of departure arrived; with tears in our eyes, but with happy hearts, we bade farewell to Sgt. Crossan and his men. We sat down and faced the prospect of another four-hour bus journey.

Everyone, we are glad to say, enjoyed himself; even the masters declared what a wonderful time they had had.

A. A. Blackie (IV).

A. S. Hamilton (IV).

House Notes

HAIG

House Master—H. Brown, Esq., M.A.

We in Haig have shown our house spirit in many ways: in sport, in external house activities, and in the house itself.

We have started the inter-house competitions with some success this year. Fielding two fifteens we gained seven points out of a possible eight. The First Fifteen won both its games and the Second did amazingly well to win one and draw one. Two of our younger players deserving of mention are J. Quinn and R. Barr.

The Swimming Gala takes place after the time of writing, but we seem to stand quite a good chance as we have finalists in most events.

The boys are still showing, as always, keen interest in external house activities. In the newly formed Army Cadet Force, in which Haig forms No. 2 Platoon, we are enjoying ourselves every Wednesday afternoon and evening in what are proving most interesting diversions—fieldcraft, map-reading, drill, boxing, basketball, swimming, and .22 shooting on our miniature range.

Mr Mortimer, our former C.S.M., has once again formed a concert party containing most of our "leading lights."

In the House itself we are a tidy, happy group. The emphasis is on cleanliness. By constant reiteration Monitor Gibson and the prefects, A. Quinn, G. Welsh, and A. Bethune, have got the boys to pick up litter, empty wash-basins, etc., and a strong feeling of co-operation and individual responsibility has developed. Between those who give the orders and those who receive them no gulf exists, and this makes a strong foundation for a smooth-running house.

It only remains for me to welcome our new Matron, Miss Johnstone; to thank Mr Mortimer for past services, and to wish them and Mr Brown the Season's Greetings on behalf of the members of Haig House.

P. Gibson.

*

TRENCHARD

Housemaster—Major E. Hitchman, B.A., R.A.E.C.

At the end of last term it was decided to revert to the three senior, one junior, house system, and C Company was "upgraded" to a senior and became Trenchard House.

We welcome Major Hitchman on his arrival at the School, and trust his stay with us as housemaster will be a happy one. We would like to thank Mr Mortimer for all his efforts on our behalf. When one realises that he has been providing the same services for Haig, performing his duty as Dancing Instructor and organising a Christmas Concert it will be realised just how busy he has been.

The rugby results were not so fortunate for us. Although coming last in the inter-house placings we have still got plenty of fighting

spirit left and it will be used to good purpose in the competitions to come.

We have three good prefects this year in R. Anderson, B. Fitzpatrick, and D. Scobie. Modesty forbids me to mention the monitor.

We of Trenchard wish Major and Mrs Hitchman, Mr and Mrs Mortimer, and all our readers a Very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

J. McKillop.

*

CUNNINGHAM

Housemaster—E. Drew, Esq., B.A.

Many changes have occurred in house organisation and no doubt these will be referred to elsewhere in the magazine. House monitor is the writer, J. K. Sim, and the prefects are A. S. Hamilton, A. Blackie, and R. Phillips.

There has only been one inter-house competition this term, rugger. We were miserably beaten by Haig, but with Trenchard had ninety minutes of grim battling. We did, however, beat them by a narrow margin. Having presented the rugger championship to Haig on a plate we look forward to our revenge in other sports.

We would like to give a cordial welcome to Miss Chalmers, our new matron, and hope she will be happy amongst us. To Mr Niven we would like to express our thanks for all he has done for us in the past and we wish them both and Mr Drew a Very Merry Christmas and a Guid New Year.

J. K. Sim.

*

WAVELL

Housemaster—Major J. Baker, B.A., R.A.E.C.

Major Baker is our housemaster with Mr N. Bruce as our house tutor.

Two new prefects have joined us, and at the end of this term we lose W. Craggs, a prefect who has carried out his duties with the small boys very conscientiously.

Mr Martin, our C.S.M. for so long, now leaves us to take up his new duties in "Q" Office. We thank him for past services and wish him well in his new job.

Of the four new house matrons we welcome to Wavell, Mrs Macrae, and we hope she will enjoy her task of looking after us.

With only one Junior House we cannot, unfortunately, join in the inter-house competitions, but being a big house in numbers we get plenty of team rivalry on an internal basis. Also we provide the members of the School Soccer XI which has been tackling the local primary schools with such success this term.

During their spare time the boys pursue various hobbies—art, model making, woodwork, gardening, swimming, and boxing.

I would like to conclude by wishing all readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

J. Fairbairn.

Army Cadet Force



On 19th September 1956 there was formed the 1st Perthshire (Q.V.S.) Ind. Coy. A.C.F. Initial strength was 83 recruits and 5 officers. No. 1 Platoon (Cunningham House) is commanded by Mr Ross. No. 2 Platoon (Haig House) by Captain Bennett, and No. 3 Platoon (Trenchard House) by Mr Reid. The Company is under the command of Mr Stewart, and Captain Ashworth is Adjutant. R.S.M. Lowdon has been training the cadets in foot drill and is about to start on weapon training.

*

The unit has been affiliated to the local T.A. Unit, the Scottish Horse, and it is hoped to enlist their help for advanced training, in due course. Recruit training in foot drill, citizenship, elementary map reading and field craft has been done on Wednesdays during this term, while on Wednesday evenings the cadets have had the option of Life Saving, Small Bore Shooting, Basketball or Boxing.

*

The Recruits' Test was taken on 14th November. All but two were successful, and they now pass on to training for Part I of Certificate A.

*

An A.C.F. Hut is nearing completion. This will give a drill space of 42ft. x 24ft., an armoury and store, and an office, so relieving pressure on space elsewhere. The site of the summer camp has not definitely been fixed, but enquiries are afoot as to the suitability of Stromness. It is hoped that some 40 boys will be able to take part.

Athletics—Gym Class

Capt.—Prefect A. Quinn.

Unfortunately, owing to Mr Reid's many other activities and to the rigidity of the time-table only half-an-hour per week can be devoted to this enthusiastic class. The nucleus of this class is last year's Grand Day Display Team who work hard to maintain their high standard. The newcomers, although lacking in skill, make up for this by their enthusiasm.

Prefect Quinn, assisted by Mon. J. McKillop, Prefect G. Ferrier, I. Forbes, and R. McKenzie, do much to add to the success of this class.

J. Wilson, last year's Senior Monitor, took part in the Scottish Junior Championships at Meadowbank, Edinburgh, on Saturday, 23rd June, 1956, and was placed 2nd in the Putting the Shot.

Rugby

Captain—S/Mon. P. Gibson.

Vice-Captain—Prefect R. Anderson.

Secretary—Prefect A. Quinn.

1st XV Master i/c Capt. Ashworth.



After a shaky start to the season and a few positional changes the 1st XV have settled down into a keen and hard-working side. The backs especially have improved beyond recognition on their earlier showing, and are now showing originality in attack as well as a solid defence. The forwards are fast but have not yet found a way of gaining regular possession of the ball against a heavier pack. If any are to be singled out for praise, they are P. Gibson (Capt.) and A. Quinn in the backs for quick thinking and acting, and J. Fairbairn, P. Fitzpatrick and D. Scobie for sheer hard work. Above all we are pleased to see so many good players among the younger members of the team, who will provide the nucleus of a good XV next year.

2nd XV Master i/c Mr R. E. Hughes.

The 2nd XV unfortunately have never been a fixed team and thus have not got to know each other's play. They have played hard, usually against bigger sides, but more often as a number of individuals than as a team. The results of their games so far are quite creditable.

3rd XV Master i/c Mr H. Brown.

This has been a good rugby term. The weather has allowed plenty of practice and matches, there has been great keenness, and obvious enjoyment of the games; and the standards of play and of behaviour on the field have improved rapidly. It has been a pleasure to find these young boys keeping their mouths shut and minds on the play, and not crowing over successes or grumbling in defeat. The only two heavy defeats have been by opponents who stood head and shoulders above our boys, and in these matches the team was seen at its best. They never gave up, and there was no moaning.

The match record is very good, for our team has been playing against heavier sides and schools with much greater numbers to choose from. J. Quinn has been the outstanding worker and battler, but the forwards all deserve credit. By sticking together, scrumming quickly, and playing really hard, they have pushed bigger packs around and kept the ball away from dangerous big three-quarters in the opposition. A pleasing thing is that we have so many eager reserves, all well up to standard.

The following have played in more than one match:—D. MacLennan; A. McKinnon, D. Aitchison, V. Carroll, B. McDonald, R. Lovatt, F. McLuskey; J. Wilkie, G. Thomson, J. Quinn;

P. Keenan, J. Dunbar, C. Geary, D. Sheach, J. Bain, R. Barr, E. Leigh, A. Leitch, A. C. McDonald, P. McColl, J. Henderson.

4th XV Masters i/c Mr G. Reid and Capt. Bennett.

The 4th XV is made up of the best players in the 1st year, but it must be remembered that these boys are in their first season of rugby. They have taken some time to learn the game and to settle down as a team, but in recent matches they have played well. The backs are a fast running, hard tackling set, and the forwards are moulding into a fighting pack. If progress continues they should with practice be a good team and we hope for better results in the second half of the season.

Results of matches played up to and including 24th November, 1956, are:—

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.
1st XV	8	5	3	—	85	59
2nd XV	7	3	4	—	77	54
3rd XV	9	5	3	1	80	67
4th XV	5	1	4	—	39	30

Swimming

Capt.—Mon. J. Fairbairn.



Since the beginning of this term the Swimming Baths have been the scene of great activity. The boys have been practising hard for the Annual Swimming Gala on Wednesday, 28th November, 1956, and we have many entrants for this year's races and competitions.

The special class being trained by Mr J. Reid for the awards of the Royal Life Saving Society has now reached its final stage and will be examined on December 5th, 1956, by Mr R. MacDonald, well known Scottish Olympic Coach, when it is anticipated a higher percentage of passes will be attained. The awards for which the boys are being presented are:—1 Instructor's Certificate, 4 Scholars, 8 Bronze Medallions, and 20 Intermediate Certificates.

Swimming Gala

The Individual and Inter-House Swimming Championships were held in the School Baths on Wednesday, 25th November, 1956. Many races were won on the touch and a most exciting and entertaining afternoon was enjoyed by the whole School. Mrs Nason presented the prizes.

Junior House—Junior Championship

Junior 1 length back stroke — 1, Aitken; 2, O'Connor; 3, Armstrong.
Junior 1 length breast stroke—1, O'Connor; 2, Aitken; 3, Douglas.
Junior 1 length free style—1, Gray; 2, Douglas; 3, Armstrong.
Junior diving—1, O'Connor; 2, Gray.
Individual champion—O'Connor.

Intermediate Championship

Intermediate 2 lengths back stroke—1, Miller; 2, McRae; 3, Melvin.
Intermediate 2 lengths breast stroke — 1, Miller; 2, McRae; 3, Melvin.
Intermediate 2 lengths free style—1, McRae; 2, Miller; 3, Melvin.
Intermediate diving—1, Miller; 2, Davies; 3, Thomson.
Individual champion—Miller.

Senior House—Intermediate Championship

Intermediate 2 lengths back stroke—1, Battye (H); 2, Mannion (H); 3, Maxwell (T).
Intermediate 2 lengths breast stroke — 1, Maxwell (T); 2, Strachan (A); 3, McDonald (T).
Intermediate 2 lengths free style—1, Maxwell (T); 2, Lambkin (C); 3, Miller (H).
Intermediate diving—1, Maxwell (T); 2, Baird (H); 3, Mannion (H).
Individual champion—Maxwell (T).

Senior Championship

Senior 2 lengths back stroke—1, I. Forbes (C); 2, Ferrier (H); 3, Bruce (T).
Senior 2 lengths breast stroke — 1, B. Scott (C); 2, I. Forbes (C); 3, McArthur (H).
Senior 4 lengths free style—1, I. Scott (H); 2, I. Forbes (C); 3, Ferrier (H).
Senior plunge—1, B. Scott (C); 2, A. Forbes (C); 3, Forbes (C).
Senior diving—1, I. Forbes (C); 2, Ferrier (H); 3, Keenan (T).
Individual champion—I. Forbes (C).

Open Championship

Open 2 lengths back stroke—1, Fairbairn (C); 2, McKenzie (T); 3, McDonald (C).
Open 4 lengths breast stroke—1, McKenzie (T); 2, Fairbairn (C); 3, McDonald (C).
Open 4 lengths free style—1, Fairbairn (C); 2, McKillop (T); 3, McDonald (C).
Open plunge—1, Scobie (T); 2, Fairbairn (C); 3, McKillop (T).
Open diving—1, Quinn (H); 2, McKenzie (T); 3, Pouke (T).
Individual Champion—J. Fairbairn (C).

Relays

Senior House, Intermediate—1, Haig; 2, Trenchard; 3, Cunningham.
Senior House, Senior—1, Trenchard; 2, Haig; 3, Cunningham.
Senior House, Open—1, Trenchard; 2, Haig; 3, Cunningham.
Life Saving Competition—1, Trenchard; 2, Cunningham; 3, Haig.
House Championship—1, Trenchard, 54 pts.; 2 (equal), Haig, 49 pts.; Cunningham, 49 pts.

Soccer

Primary School 1st XI



The Primary School 1st XI Football Team has had a very encouraging start to the season. It has lost one match, drawn one and succeeded in winning the rest.

Most of the games have been played on Saturday mornings at the School against teams from nearby primary schools, but it is hoped that next term more away

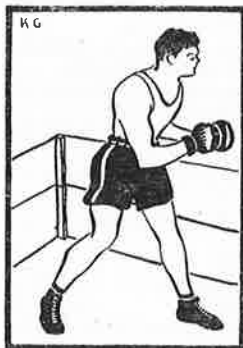
matches can be arranged.

The team has improved steadily since the start of the season, a large proportion of its success in the later games being due to an increasing sense of team work which has developed, coupled with the fitness of the players. We look forward next term, snow storms and freezing winds permitting, to an enjoyable continuation of the games.

First XI Matches—Autumn Term, 1956

Team played—Abercromby School, home, won 2-0; played Causewayhead School, home, won 9-0; played Doune School, home, won 4-0; played Abercromby School, Tullibody, away, lost 0-4; played Bridge of Allan School, home, draw 2-2; played Dunblane School, home, won 2-0; played Bannockburn School, home, won 3-0.

Boxing



Secondary boys have been meeting each Wednesday evening and Primary boys each Thursday. Inter-house contests have been put back to the Easter Term because of the number of boys undergoing inoculations. The opportunity has been taken to train the boys from the first stages, in footwork, proper delivery of punches, and sound defence. The emphasis has been on boxing as opposed to

fighting, and this should result in interesting contests next term.

It has proved extremely difficult to obtain outside fixtures, but we are hoping to have some inter-school contests next term.

Cricket

Results of matches not reported in the Summer Edition of the Victorian:—



1st XI won against Morrison's Academy 2nd XI and lost to Strathallan Boys' School and to the Masters.

2nd XI lost to Morrison's Academy 3rd XI and won against Grange Junior Secondary School 1st XI.

3rd XI lost to Grange Junior Secondary School 2nd XI.

Jet Propelled

It flashed by me, glittering and whistling as it sped through the air. The shape was immense as it turned for its second attack. The wings were small, but the fuselage large. The jets were making a peculiar humming sound. The identification marks were strange, fawn with red stripes in the shape of a star. A yellow light was flashing at the front, almost blinding me as it tore down the runway straight for my jeep. I made a mad dash, but all went black.

When I awoke I found myself lying on the floor, bedclothes and sheets covering me, and mother sweeping the floor with a vacuum cleaner, and prodding it into me as she swept it across the floor.

M. D. Watt (Ia).

Uneducable?

To Maths. we are resistant,
For our thoughts are somewhat distant.
We try to do our best—
But we always fail the test.

In English we giggle or quake,
Shakespeare—for heaven's sake!
And what can one say
About Burns or Gray?

In History we "haven't a clue,"
As for people we don't know who's who—
The dates and events
Just don't make sense.

In a lab. full of solids and gases
We're afraid we're a couple of asses;
No matter where you roam
There's no place like "ohm!"

J. K. S.

J. McK.

The Twilight

Walking briskly down Duncombe Place, York, I was suddenly confronted by one of the most beautiful sights I have ever seen. The long summer day was now drawing to its close. Like the grand finale of some massive theatre company's production, the evening sky paraded. Plain colours were mixed with exquisite shades of pink and gold. Far to the west, the ruddy glow of the sun was spreading softness; everything became suffused. As this fiery orb sank below the far distant hills fringing the horizon, shafts of sunlight probed the dusk like searchlights. The evening clouds were dark grey above, and tinged with yellow and orange from the setting sun beneath.

Directly in front of me, a second wonder became obvious. York Minster, a magnificent stone structure with a formidable central tower and two slighter bell towers, stretched towards the heavens, striving to catch the single twilight star which watched over the departure of day. Under the changing light of the setting sun, I could not ascertain the colour of this magnificent building. Sometimes it was almost white; sometimes it changed to a fawn colour. What with the changing sky and the Minster, the twilight was a veritable kaleidoscope.

A. A. Blackie (IV).

My First Flight

I was on my way to Africa to spend my holidays with my father.

We were at George Street B.E.A. terminal, and there, along with the other passengers, I was weighed with my luggage and had to present my ticket and passport. Afterwards we were put on a special B.E.A. bus and taken to Turnhouse Airport. We waited there for a little while, during which time we were called to a desk to show our tickets. Finally it was announced that we were to board our plane, and I walked out on to the tarmac and mounted the steps.

The first thing I noticed was the cockpit. The curtain was drawn back and I could see an impressive array of dials, levers and switches. I thought that the pilot must be almost cross-eyed looking at his instruments! I was shown to my seat and I glanced at the paper of the passenger in front of me. The headlines said that two planes had crashed and eighty people had been killed—not a very encouraging thought as I tried to do up my safety-belt—without success. Later the stewardess came round with barley sugar and she showed me how to fasten my safety-belt.

We were told that we would be flying at 19,500 feet, that the flight took ninety minutes, that we were in a Viscount and that the first stop was London Airport.

Shortly afterwards we began to move on to the runway and in a few minutes we started our take-off. I looked out of the window and saw that our flaps were down. Suddenly we were air-borne and my ears began to pop. I had taken off in a plane for the first time.

The stewardess came round later with a glass of apple-juice for each of us. Looking out of the window I saw we were above the clouds, but there was a gap here and there through which I saw the ground. It looked very different from how we see it when we are standing on it. It looked brown, with a network of roads over it and here and there a river shone.

We had breakfast. It was a very good breakfast. We had eggs and bacon, fried bread, tomatoes and some meat. There was bread and a cup of tea, and there was more if you wanted it.

After breakfast I again looked out and this time saw what looked like a field of snow, but was really the top of the clouds. They glistened in the sun and sometimes a mountain of snowy white cloud would rear up, and sometimes holes would appear like a giant's footprints.

All too soon we started descending out of this enchanted world. We were through and there below was London. We were ordered to fasten our safety belts and soon we were near the airport. Not till we were almost on it had I seen it.

When we were about a hundred feet up we passed over a road and the cars that were passing along looked considerably smaller. Soon we were gliding down the runway. We got nearer, nearer, then—bump! We had landed.

I had still a long way to go, but I had made my first flight.

J. Kay (Form Ia).

The Worst Hours of My Life

As I crossed the gang plank of the ship which was to take me across the North Sea from Harwich to the Hook of Holland, I knew that the journey would not be pleasant.

The sea was rough, and there was a high wind blowing. Even before the engines had started, I was beginning to look green. When we left the quay, I was violently sick, having eaten a large, greasy dinner.

Seeing my plight, a benevolent old gentleman came and asked me if I wanted any help, or if I wanted my mother. I was travelling alone. I replied that I did want my mother and she was not on the boat.

After about six very unpleasant hours I saw the harbour entrance, and half an hour later was being helped off the boat to join my mother who had come to meet me. I think that those six hours were the most unpleasant of my life.

G. S. Neilson (Form 3a).

Christmas

The Day is near,
Bringing good cheer,
Snowflakes falling,
The robin calling.

This very day,
Far, far away,
Our Saviour is born
In a grey dawn.

J. Wilkie (Form IIa).

The Stamp Club

The stamp club occupies the interest of about forty boys and has been run by Mr Drew for several years.

It is held in his room on Mondays for boys of eleven to thirteen years of age, on Thursday afternoons it is for the senior boys, and on Friday evenings for the junior boys.

Mr Drew gives unsparingly of his time to hold this club. He is a very keen collector himself.

When we go to the club we have a talk about stamps. After this talk we hold a competition entirely devoted to stamps. The prize for this competition is always stamps or a small stamp album. When the prize has been given Mr Drew gives us some stamps which he has acquired. We then "swap" stamps with each other. As we are swapping stamps we are fortunate enough to have "Music while we work," because Mr Drew puts on his radiogram.

We may, if we wish, buy some "approvals."

We are all very grateful to Mr Drew for having developed our knowledge and interest in this absorbing hobby.

A. G. W. Milne (IIa).

G. Thomson (IIa).

The Edinburgh International Festival of Music and Drama

Although there are fifty-two weeks in a year, there are three of these which are of great importance to Edinburgh. These weeks are of the utmost importance because it is during this period that the world-famous International Festival takes place.

It is to this spectacle that many foreigners are drawn, but it would not be possible to carry out such a highlight if it was not for the world-renowned actors and musicians who kindly accept the offer to come and entertain the numerous visitors.

Of the actors and actresses who come there are such well-known people and groups as Donald Houston and the Oxford University Theatre group. But the part of the festival which steals the show are the musicians and the Opera and Ballet Companies, such as the Glyndeborne Opera Company and the Sadlers Wells Ballet Company.

Although the actors and musicians may steal the show, the Military Tattoo holds its own. But what is this Tattoo? Well, this show is annually put on on the Castle Esplanade, solely by the Forces. It consists of massed pipe and military bands, drill squads, physical training displays, displays by mounted bands, Historical Pageants, and Highland dancing displays. It is in the latter that the School dancers are fortunate enough to take part, and very successfully, too. These Historical Pageants that I mention are reproductions of famous battles or important happenings which took place many years ago.

Among other highlights of the festival are the art exhibitions in the Royal Scottish Academy in Princes Street, and the Festival Club where many of the celebrities go for a dinner along with a few of the general public. But you cannot just walk in, you must have a ticket, and these tickets cost about seven shillings and sixpence, but believe me, it is worth it.

Then on the other hand what use would the festival be if the city did not receive the visitors to listen to and appreciate the wonderful acting and superb playing of the actors and musicians? It would be hard for me to say which nationality is to be found mostly in Edinburgh during the festival, but making a rough estimate, I should say the Americans were the most well represented. Among the crowds of visitors are to be found people from such countries as Italy, Brazil, India, Canada, and France.

There is only one thing left for me to say, and that is that I hope they will continue to stage the festival annually and draw the crowds of foreigners to Scotland's beautiful capital.

D. Scobie (Form IV).

Railway Locomotives

In 1935, Sir Nigel Gresley was the Chief Mechanical Engineer of the L.N.E.R. He introduced to our railways a class of streamlined locomotives. In this class he produced 34 engines of similar design, and capable of very fast speeds. One of these engines, the "Mallard," broke the record for steam engines by going at a speed of 126 m.p.h. This is still unbeaten today for steam engines. Every one of the engines has a name, and 60007 was called after him. They all weigh 102 tons 19 cwt., and their tender alone weighs 64 tons 19 cwt. They are also capable of pulling eight passenger and six freight wagons at one time. They are known to "loco-sporters" all over Britain as "Streaks." I myself am a loco-spotter and I have only seen six of these engines, but I hope to add others to the total by the end of the Christmas holidays.

J. Docherty (Form IIa).

Wriggle-Me-Ree

My first is in cabin but not in house,
My second's in rat but not in mouse;
My third is in motor but not in car,
My fourth is in water but not in tar;
My fifth is in army but not in navy,
My sixth is in soup but not in gravy;
My seventh's in island but not in wave,
My eighth's in cubby-hole but not in cave;
My ninth is in hull but not in boom,
My tenth is in death but not in doom;
My eleventh is in cricket but not in ball,
My whole is a thing that creeps on the wall.

R. Fraser (Form Ia).

Answer: Caterpillar.

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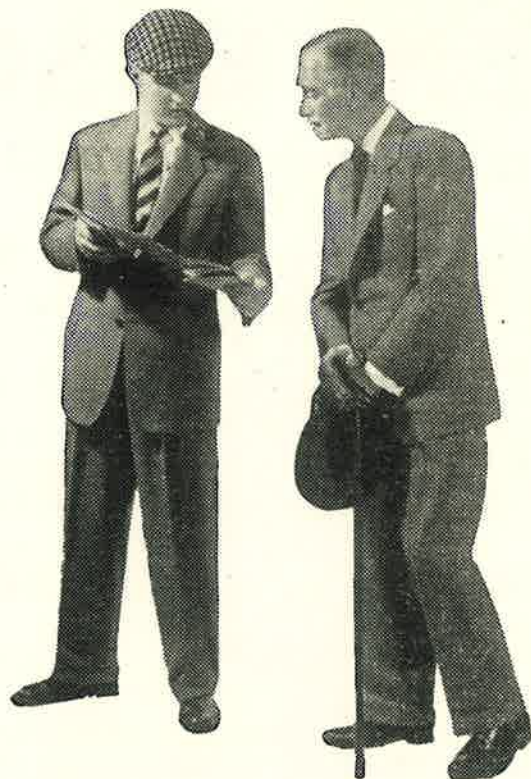
PETER HENDERSON, LTD.

Bagpipe Makers

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GLASGOW, C.2

Established 1868

PRICES ON APPLICATION



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Cut allied with artistry, style modelled with simplicity, cloth woven with integrity. Such are the qualities that fashion Drescott clothes and give their wearer that well-groomed appearance, that added advantage over his fellow-men

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