

The School Magazine

OF THE

McCABE COMMERCIAL SCHOOL

MAIDSTONE



Vol. V. No. 14.

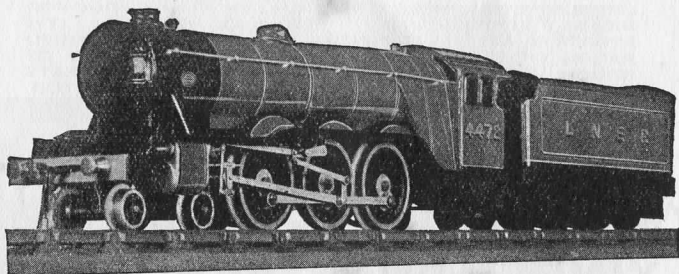
May, 1935

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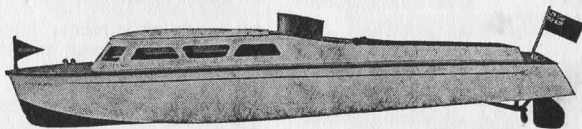
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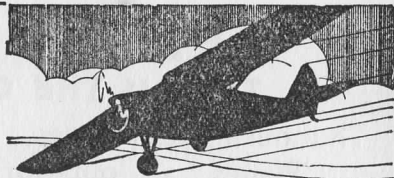


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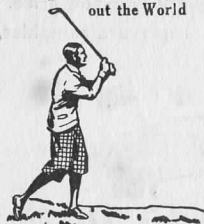
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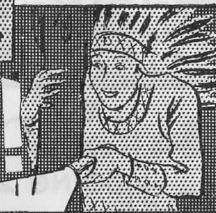
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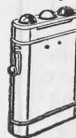


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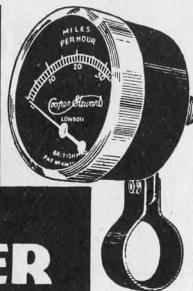
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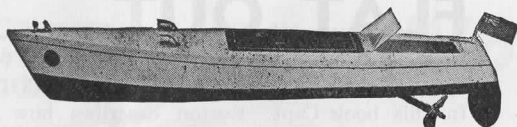
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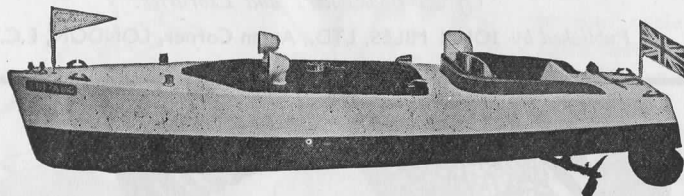
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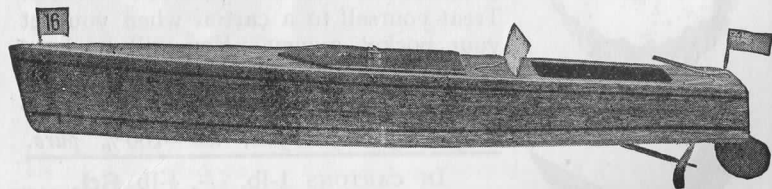
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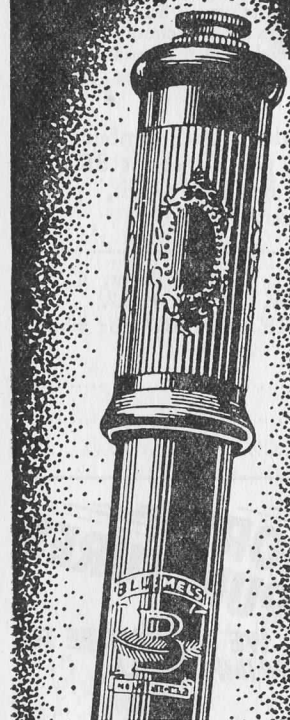
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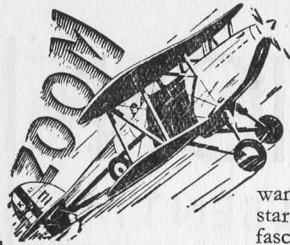
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McCABE COMMERCIAL SCHOOL MAGAZINE

VOL. V. No. 14.

MAY, 1935.

SCHOOL HISTORY

Wednesday, 8th May.—School Service and Presentation of Jubilee Medals.

Tuesday, 28th May.—Old Boys' Meeting.

Monday, 10th June.—Whit-Monday.

Tuesday, 11th June.—Half-term Holiday.

Tuesday, 25th June.—Old Boys' Meeting.

Wednesday, 26th June.—County Fair.

Wednesday, 17th July.—Sports Day. 17th.

Monday, 15th July.—Examinations Begin.

Tuesday, 30th July.—Old Boys' Meeting.

Wednesday, 31st July.—Term Ends.

Wednesday, 18th September.—Christmas Term Begins.

Wednesday, 18th December.—Term Ends.

Salvete.

The new boys for the Easter Term were:—

No. 153.—G. E. Pickup, Prep. (School).

No. 154.—W. A. Shoebridge, Up. IV (St. Augustine's).

No. 155.—D. B. Smith, Lr. IV (School).

No. 156.—E. Harries, Lr. IV (St. Augustine's).

No. 157.—R. Tapsfield, V (St. Peter's).

No. 158.—C. Temple-Wright, Prep. (St. Peter's).

Valete.

Three boys have left School this term. R. W. Randall has gone to a clerical post in the Rate Office. A. A. Bradley went to Messrs. H. Taylor & Son, Outfitters, and B. A. Ball has gone into his father's business—the Primrose and Len Dairies.

Congratulations to the boys who have passed their examinations. Particulars will be found in the account of the Concert. Several more day and evening pupils have sat for their Shorthand certificates (all grades, including speed) and we hope to receive news very soon of their success. F. A. Hunt is sitting next month for his Trinity College of Music test and D. Winsor and G. Reynolds will soon take their examinations for the Royal Academy of Music certificates. The music mistress, Mrs. Stanford, L.R.C.M., hopes that further pupils will be ready during the year.

It will not be long before the Sports Day again comes round and doubtless some boys are getting into training with an idea of lifting some of the challenge cups and prizes. The honorary treasurer will soon be issuing an appeal for the "sinews of war" and we hope he will have no anxious moments as to whether sufficient money will be forthcoming to cover expenses and to purchase a good selection of prizes. Last year's expenditure was nearly £18 and left us with a deficit of over £1.

Our usual collections for the Hospitals and various charities have been continued. The results will be announced in the next issue. D. Noakes and J. Piper have acted as librarians and they report that a few more books would be welcome as many of the present ones are getting worn out. This is not an adverse criticism for a library.

At the end of this term we hope to arrange the usual trip to London. Parents and Old Boys will be welcome to accompany us. Particulars will be given in due course.

In the Upper School a good start has been made with the year's literature. "The Merchant of Venice," "The Cloister and the Hearth," "Barnaby Rudge" and Doyle's "White Company" are being read. Much of the Upper School work has been illustrated by means of Pictorial Statistics—the method of Dr. Neurath—and lino, potato and rubber cuts have been made of the chief symbols.

The History Course this term has included the Great War and it is curious to reflect that an event in which so many now alive played an active part should be a subject of School history. We were grateful to several parents for sending personal experiences. An exhibition of war-relics was staged, arranged by K. Whibley, and included parts of a Zeppelin brought down at Writtle, as well as guns, bombs, shell cases and scientific instruments. The course concluded with selected extracts from "Journey's End" and Remarque's "All Quiet on the Western Front," expressing the feeling on both the English and German sides.

We have been informed (1) that when the Egyptians died their ashes were put in churns, (2) that oxide is the skin of an ox, and (3) that Lady Day is the date when ladies obtained the vote.

GERMANY TO-DAY

I had not visited Germany since 1931, and although somewhat prepared by written accounts for change, I was curious about the "New Germany." My first impression was obtained when the green-uniformed custom officers boarded

the train at the Dutch frontier. A list of over 200 banned newspapers was presented, and I was asked to declare any named therein. A compatriot was busily engaged to see if *Punch* was proscribed! Full information was demanded of the traveller's money, and entered in his passport. I was glad to note that, as formerly, on the stations, and in the central places of the towns, giant Christmas trees (my visit was in December and January) were placed and illuminated though often surmounted with flaming swastikas. Once in Germany, I had considerable difficulty in distinguishing the many uniforms, The Reichswehr (State Army) in blue, Hitler youth in brown, the Jungvolk (Nazi boy scouts) in black, the Fleiger Sturm (flying clubs) in blue, and Labour Campers in brown. In addition there were the ordinary uniformed members of the National-Socialist Party, and the picked Black Guards as well as the Police, Bund Deutscher Mädchen, and the S. A. Frauenschaft are the organizations for women. Lastly in grey capes and pink hats were the lottery-ticket sellers who are everywhere in the streets and restaurants. English newspapers were on sale far more than formerly, and the circulation of Swiss papers printed in German (though not anti-Nazi or they would be prohibited) was enormous. The reason for this state of affairs seems that the Government papers being controlled so rigidly are becoming increasingly dull. As to the people it is difficult to form any opinion as nobody will talk about home conditions. In the country there is still enthusiasm for Hitler, but in the industrial towns with wages falling and prices slowly rising indifference and discontent are spreading. Professor Carl von Tsycka of Hamburg has stated that wages are now two-thirds of what they were in 1929. I asked a tram driver in Düsseldorf what were his wages, and he told me 25s. per week. It must be noted, however, that rents are but half of what they are here. There are innumerable petty restrictions: you must not listen to a proscribed radio station, or lend a banned book, or make jokes against the Government, or cross the street at the wrong spot, all punishable offences. I was nearly fined one mark on the spot in Cologne, for crossing incorrectly. These are but a few of the welter of impressions that I received. I need only say finally that I was greeted with courtesy and hospitality everywhere, and that of all the people I talked to, Nazis, business-men, soldiers, shop-keepers, etc., not one wanted war especially with England. Let us hope that by mutual interchange of visits we shall understand more of each other, and realize that we must all take our place in the great family of nations.

William the Silent.

FOOTBALL

The standard of football has risen this term mainly owing to greater keenness shown by the boys.

We have been privileged to receive two visits from Mr. S. Davidson, the ex-Middlesbrough and Scottish International right half-back. His talks and demonstrations were very interesting. We are looking forward to a visit on the last Thursday of term from Mr. L. Graham, the ex-Millwall and English International left half-back.

The boys greatly appreciate the visits of these great players.

The list of matches and results this term is as follows:—

26th Jan.—Granville (home)	Won	5—0
6th Feb.—West Borough O.B. (home) ...	Lost	4—1
16th Feb.—Boxley Jnrs. (away)	Won	5—1
9th Mar.—Granville (home)	Won	10—1

Summary for season:—

Played 9. Won 8. Lost 1. Goals for 48; against 11.

The House matches this term resulted as follows: School beat St. Augustine's 5—4, St. Peter's beat Schol 5—1, St. Peter's beat St. Augustine's 8—1. The table of points is as under:—

	P.	W.	L.	Goals.		Pts.
				F.	A.	
St. Peter's	4	4	0	26	4	8
School	4	2	2	12	18	4
St. Augustine's	4	0	4	10	26	0

Football badges this season were awarded to G. Goodchild, L. Beale, C. Jessup, A. Byam, J. Pierce, N. Stevenson, E. Hughes, A. Harrison, M. Froud, J. Beale, L. Morgan, W. Shoebidge and J. Hooker.

G. Goodchild (*Captain*).

J. Beale (*Hon. Secretary*).

CHESS

All of the older boys are very keen on Chess, and amongst them are some good players. The School cleaner reports that on one occasion he found three or four boys watching a game two hours after everyone else had gone home. Space prevents us giving complete scores in the Tournament. The winners of the four rounds were as under:

1st Round, 8th March.—Whibley, Betts, Goodchild, Noakes.

2nd Round, 15th March.—Ball, Whibley, Betts, Goodchild, Piper, Noaks; Draws: Pierce v. Tapsfield, Rickard v. Locke, J. Beale v. L. Beale.

3rd Round, 22nd March.—Whibley, Ball, Betts.

4th Round, 29th March.—Noakes, Whibley, Betts.

House Points.—St. Peter's 75, School 70, and St. Augustine's 45.

D. Noakes (*Hon. Secretary*).

THE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

The Association's programme has been full and varied. The monthly meetings have been interesting and well attended, and we are grateful to the School authorities for providing refreshments. The premier event in the Old Boys' Year took place on 24th January—the Annual Dinner. Forty members attended the Royal Star Hotel. We were greatly indebted to the Manager for the trouble and pains he and his efficient staff took. The Association was greatly honoured by the presence of Councillor Hillier French as the Guest of the evening. During the Dinner Mr. Eley and his talented company entertained the gathering. The speeches were brief and stimulating, and only a bare outline appears here. Mr. W. C. Beale, the Chairman, paid an eloquent tribute in proposing Councillor French's health. Mr. French replied in humorous vein, and recalled interesting stories of his youth. He said that it was a great privilege to attend the Dinner, and he could think of no finer way of keeping old friendships than by an Old Boys' Association. Mr. Piper, President, in proposing the Association, said that they were in an historic building where Disraeli made one of his earliest speeches, and while they could not claim him as an Old Boy it was a fact that he was educated in an Independent School. He was very pleased to see so many of the older Old Boys present. Mr. Solman in reply said that he hoped members would support the Association. The Rev. C. W. Martyn proposed the School whose growth he said was amazing. Mr. Williams said that they could be proud of the School records in sport and work. In Mr. Piper they had a worthy successor to Mr. McCabe, for their Principal was not only a fine teacher but a great friend. At the Annual General Meeting Mr. W. C. Beale, who has done so much for the Association, asked to be relieved on account of the pressure of business. The Association have fortunately retained him as Vice-Chairman, and Mr. Solman, an untiring worker, has taken the office of Chairman. We all wish him good luck. All the other officers remain, and Mr. George has taken Mr. Solman's place as one of the Secretaries.

There have been two Social Evenings at the Central Café on 28th February and 4th April. At the former the

"Maidstone Dragoons," a percussion band trained by Mrs. Piper, were warmly received. Both these functions were enjoyed and included dancing to the melodious strains of the Rhythmic Band (leader H. Vince, an Old Boy), competitions and novelties. A team of Old Boys played members of the Church Institute in an indoor games competition. We were not very successful, winning only three events out of eleven, but better luck next time.

A. M. W.
T. G.

Book these dates *now* :—

Monthly Meeting : Tuesday, 28th May.

Evening Hike : Thursday, 30th May.

Meeting : Tuesday, 25th June.

School Sports : Wednesday, 10th July. 17th.

Meeting : Tuesday, 30th July.

INDUSTRIAL GEOGRAPHY

The first of several interesting visits paid this term was to Messrs. Mason's Brewery. The various processes were very clearly explained by our conductor, Mr. Mason, from the arrival and grinding of the malt down to the despatch of the casks. After the removal of the malt extract the "wort" is boiled and hops and other ingredients added. The mixture is now fermented and we saw the large tanks of copper or aluminium used for this purpose. After fermentation is completed the beer is finally bottled or casked. The casks need to be spotlessly clean and we saw the machine which both cleanses and sterilizes the dirty casks by means of steam blown into them at high pressure.

Our next visit was to the Marley Tile Works and we were interested to note that this represents one of the new industries now springing up all over Kent. The sand is obtained from a pool near the works and is sucked up from the bottom through metal pipes. The sand is then washed and mixed with cement and dye. After an explanation of the processes of moulding and surfacing, we saw the machinery at work, receiving the mixture at one end, moulding and surfacing the tile and passing it out at the other end ready to be dried. The tiles are dried for 36 to 48 hours and then removed from the moulds and stacked in the open. After about six weeks they are ready for use.

Our next visit, to the Ryarsh Brick Factory, represented another of the new Kent factories and we are indebted to Mr. Hanson for the time and trouble he took in his explana-

tions. The factory is situated in a sand quarry which contains 99 per cent pure silica. The entire machinery is driven by a powerful steam engine which transmits the power to a large wheel by means of cables made of Egyptian cotton. The sand is mixed with lime and passes into a machine which moulds the bricks at 90 tons pressure and produces them ready for baking at a speed of 30 per minute. The bricks are baked by steam for eight hours in "auto-claves" at a pressure of 120 lbs.

Mr. Hanson demonstrated the amazing strength of these bricks and pointed out their superiority over cement bricks in resisting dirt, fire, frost and acid and in their beautiful glaze.

Our last visit was a cycle ride to see the new weir on the Medway at Branbridges. As the water level rises the weir automatically opens to a corresponding extent. It cost £5,000 and is the only modern example of its kind in this country. Huge concrete weights control the pressure plates, and despite its critics, the weir appears to have functioned with complete satisfaction and the Medway Catchment Board are to be congratulated on their enterprise. The working of the weir was explained by Mr. Williams, who was in charge of the party.

K. H. Whibley.

IT'S A FACT

How would you like to sit and read newspapers all day for your living? There are 40 or 50 men in a New York office who sit in rows, each steadily reading about 40 newspapers. After this they tackle the weekly and monthly magazines, making a total of about 2,000 different publications being studied each day. Their business is to mark in blue pencil certain items in these papers which are then handed on to the next department where the marked items are carefully cut out and dropped into various tin boxes, labelled with the names of various people for whom these paper clippings are intended.

If you require current information on any subject you must apply here. Recently someone wanted to know about bodies washed up by the Atlantic. Over 100 items were found for him—at the rate of 5 cents each! No one yet knows what he wanted them for. Another person wanted a picture of the Prince of Wales and in 4 months he had received over 4,000—enough to start a picture gallery.

R. J. Randall.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

The School junior branch of the League of Nations continues to flourish and credit is due to those boys who have voluntarily undertaken the work necessary for conducting the branch, and those boys who have joined. A meeting was held in St. Peter's Hall at the end of term when Miss Bunyard was the principal speaker. She has had first hand experience of the work at Geneva and explained that peace could be attained quicker if everyone thought about the problems from both sides of a quarrel and this would be easier if the various nations of the world understood each other better. All people should try and obtain the good qualities of other nations and thus improve their own.

Our branch numbers just over 50 members and several of the older boys correspond with League members in other countries. Incidentally some of these members are exchanging foreign stamps and picture postcards.

Parents or Old Boys who are in sympathy with the work of the League are eligible to join the School branch as adult members.

G. Goodchild (*Hon. Secretary*).

J. Piper (*Hon. Treasurer*).

WHY HAVE WAR?

War is insanity! People are killed, and homes are wrecked; and what comes of it? A terrible mess everywhere. When a war ends many people are left homeless, and all through, perhaps, a little squabble over a prince being murdered. One country accuses another of the murder, they can't agree, and there goes another war! Yet all this bloodshed could be prevented by a talk around a table, and the murderer himself, instead of a nation, punished.

D. Colinese (age 10).

STAMP COLLECTING

Since the Exhibition last term more interest has been taken by boys in the School in this fascinating hobby—in fact, stamp catalogues were chosen as prizes by some boys.

M. Betts, D. Noakes and J. Beale displayed good collections and much interest was taken in the specimens on view. Three boys belong to the Maidstone and Mid-Kent Philatelic Society which meets at the Church Institute; we have many collectors in the School and a few more members would be welcomed in the Society to take part in the meetings, exhibitions and discussions which are arranged. Mr. Piper

recently presented some of the upper boys with a number of good specimens of stamps as a gift from Mr. Ralph Martin, one of the Old Boys. They were greatly appreciated.

M. Betts.

THE QUETZAL OF GUATEMALA

All stamp-collectors are familiar with the beautifully engraved stamps of Guatemala from 1879 onwards, depicting the emblem of the Republic — the Quetzal (Que-zal) of the parrot family, as well as on the lithographed issues of 1886 and 1923.

We do not need to be ornithologists to know that parrots and parakeets take kindly to captivity, and in fact are probably happier in the security of food and protection than in their wild state, where they are main food of birds of prey, monkeys, and other animals and reptiles.

The Quetzal of magnificent plumage, a native of Guatemala and Honduras is, however, of different temperament, and cannot be kept in captivity, where it immediately pines and dies.

Thus it is the emblem of liberty, and is one of the few things strongly protected in Guatemala, where it is a serious offence to take or kill the bird.

From the adjacent country of Honduras, however, numbers of the skins of the rare bird are imported for sale to "patriotic" Guatemalans—though, however, after death, the glorious sheen and colours of the plumage fades.

The bird is embodied in the designs of most issues of Guatemala as well as those mentioned, and the fiscal stamps.

M. Betts.

BOXING AND PHYSICAL TRAINING

The physical exercises have been held at St. Peter's Hall and also we have had one or two open-air periods when the weather has been favourable. The boxing has taken place at the High School Gymnasium, after a short spell with the apparatus. The inter-house boxing provided an interesting tournament.

Juniors. Rippengal (S.)—Fraser (P.) 6—4. Shoebridge (A.)—Black (P.) 4½—5½. Froud (A.)—Farman (S.) 5½—4½.

Seniors. L. Beale (S.)—P. Randall (A.) 10—5. J. Beale (P.)—Edmed (A.) 10—5. Noakes (P.)—Whibley (S.) 7½—7½.

The final house points were: School 28, St. Peter's 27, St. Augustine's 20.

C. Jessup (*Hon. Secretary*).

PRIZE DAY AND CONCERT

The following account of the Prize Day on the 1st of March is taken from the local press :—

It is quite evident that the McCabe Commercial and Mount Pleasant Preparatory Schools will need a larger hall for their annual concert and prize-giving in future. On the occasion of the fourth annual event, held on Friday last, the Corn Exchange was packed with an enthusiastic audience when Mr. H. I. Piper, Principal of the School, presented the 33rd annual report in the history of the School.

During the year, he said, there had been a high percentage of attendance, and consequently much good work had been achieved, and great progress had been made in all directions. This year 30 new pupils had been admitted and 17 had left, bringing the present total in the two Schools to 89. This was very gratifying, as in 1930 there were only 48 pupils on the roll.

The high quality of the work had given over 90 per cent of success in outside examinations.

The football team this season had had great success and only one defeat. The cricket team was not so successful, but the greatest victory of the season was over the Old Boys. After a few words on boxing, swimming, drill and other sporting activities, Mr. Piper thanked his staff for their fine work during the year.

The Rev. C. W. Martyn, Vicar of St. Peter's, said he had been connected with the School so long that he felt he was its honorary chaplain. He could assure them that the School was being run on very up-to-date lines, and that its education was keeping abreast of the times.

Mr. Noakes, on behalf of the parents, thanked Mr. Piper and his staff for all they had done for the boys.

The prizes and certificates were then presented by Miss Leaver, Principal of the Girls' High School, and an enjoyable concert followed, in which nine small boys dressed as pierrots, under the direction of Mrs. Stanford, were warmly applauded. B. A. Ball and M. Froud performed a step dance. J. H. Piper gave a burlesque wireless item. A choir of over 20 sang ballad songs with a good tone, under the direction of Mrs. F. A. Piper, M.R.S.T. The desert isle scene from the "Tempest" was very effective, Caliban being ably played by J. Beale, Stephano was taken by G. Goodchild, and Trinculo by R. J. Randall. Ewart Haywood played a piano-accordion with great effect, and Mr. S. Reynolds rendered Rackmaninoff's "Prelude" on the piano. Miss Waters also sang two songs with her usual success.

A very effective item, under the direction of Mr. A. M. Williams, was the board room scene from "Oliver Twist." J. Piper gave an exceedingly good representation of Oliver, B. Ball was a typical Bumble, and A. Byam was a thoroughly black sweep. D. Noakes portrayed the short-sighted magistrate and K. Whibley made a good parsimonious Chairman of the Board.

A short play was staged under Mr. Bettle's direction, entitled "Baron Bold, the Pirate." The costumes were exceedingly attractive and colourful. E. Hughes gave an effective solo in the title role, while P. Randall was a breezy sailor. L. Baker and N. Hartridge were very prominent courtiers at the court of the Queen (K. Noakes), and D. Winsler was excellent as the pirate's attractive niece.

An item which drew sustained applause was the percussion band from the two schools, under the direction of Mrs. Piper. This is a novelty, and 15 performers, dressed in red, blue and gold uniforms, gave selections of Handel's music, followed by popular dance items. Undoubtedly this was the most popular item of the concert. The concert concluded with a humorous sketch, "A Question of Character," J. Piper, J. Beale and R. Rickard keeping the audience in a roar of laughter.

A portion of the concert, together with other items, will be repeated in St. Peter's Hall on Wednesday, 22nd May, at 7.30 p.m. Admission 1s. and 1s. 6d. The proceeds will be devoted to St. Peter's Hall Fund. We hope to see a full house again.

The Honours List and Prize List is as follows :—

Challenge Cups

- Old Boys' Cup (with medal).—G. H. Goodchild.
- Cricket House Cup.—School (L. Beale, captain).
- Football House Cup.—School (L. Beale, captain).
- House Championship Cup.—School (L. Beale, captain).

Honours List

- College of Preceptors (Dec., 1933—Jan., 1935).
- K. H. Whibley, Junior (distinction in Algebra).
- J. H. E. Piper, Junior.
- G. H. Goodchild, Preliminary (distinction in Arithmetic).
- E. Shaw, Preliminary (distinction in Arithmetic).
- J. H. E. Piper, Preliminary (distinction in Arithmetic).
- M. F. E. Betts, Preliminary (distinction in Arithmetic).
- K. H. Whibley, Preliminary.

Pitman's Shorthand, and Typewriting.
 H. Philpott, Theory, Stage ii.
 H. Philpott, Speed, 60.
 G. H. Ashby, Theory, Stage i.
 J. H. E. Piper, Theory, Stage i.
 G. H. Goodchild, Theory, Stage i.
 W. G. Apps, Elementary Typewriting.

Prize List

Top of Class.

Easter.—VI, H. G. Hogg; V, R. A. Wood; Up. IV, J. W. Beale; Lr. IV, W. Tucker; Up. III, M. G. Froud; Lr. III, R. W. Westbrook.

Summer.—VI, G. H. Ashby; V, A. A. Byam; Up. IV, M. F. Betts; Lr. IV, A. Harrison; Up. III, L. F. Rippengal; Lr. III, D. C. Colinese.

Christmas.—VI, G. H. Goodchild; V, C. R. Jessup; Up. IV, R. C. Corke; Lr. IV, E. G. Hughes; Up. III, E. K. Leeves; Lr. III, A. J. Taylor.

Good Work, Summer and Christmas.

VI.—K. H. Whibley, L. Beale. V.—B. A. Ball, D. R. Noakes. Up. IV.—R. A. Rand. Lr. IV.—D. A. Black, F. H. Mercer, J. Hooker, S. Moore. III.—B. Westover, H. H. Mungham, A. E. Barham, N. L. Hartridge.

Preparatory and Mount Pleasant School

Easter.—A. E. Barham, A. V. Baker.

Summer.—G. F. Griffin, R. C. Croucher, R. Relf.

Christmas.—R. Sawyer, P. Stearn, R. Farrant, R. Relf, C. Temple-Wright, B. Day, G. Pickup, E. Skinner, R. Croucher, Roy Baker, Rita Baker, R. Knight, K. Fraser.

Meccano Exhibition

E. C. Austin, W. Tucker (working models). P. Randall (non-working model). R. Knight (under 10). B. Westover (assembly). M. F. Betts (stamp display).

Certificates

VI.—R. W. Randall. Up. IV.—R. D. Corke, J. P. Pierce, E. C. Austin. Lr. IV.—S. H. Farman. Up. III.—A. W. Seymour. Lr. III.—H. H. Mungham, B. T. Wicks, D. C. Winder, C. J. Beale.

NOTICE

This magazine is the official organ of the McCabe Commercial School, Past and Present. Subscription 2s. 6d. per annum. All Old Boys of the School are urged to become regular subscribers and thereby keep in touch with the School and with one another. Issued in January, May, and September.



O.H.M.S.

THE CIVIL SERVICE AS A CAREER

It is barely seventy-five years ago that the following little speech made by a Papa to a Mamma would have been thought perfectly natural. It is the sort of speech that the fathers of a generation or two ago were sometimes wont to make when their sons were completing their last term at school:

“Mary, my dear, James leaves Dulchester at Christmas. Poor lad, he’s still terribly ignorant. I’m afraid, too, that we’ve got to admit he is not quite right in the head. Not balmy, of course, my dear. But just a little er—dull. I must speak to Lord Bitters about him. After all I did to get him into Parliament he ought to find James a post in the Civil Service.”

And he probably did!

You see, in those days the Civil Service was a very different organization to that we know to-day. There were no entrance examinations. Influence, and sometimes even bribery, were important means of obtaining appointments and of keeping them once they had been obtained. It was a national disgrace.

The efficiency of the Civil Service as organized to-day is due very largely to the work of Sir Charles Trevelyan and of Sir Stafford Northgate, who were appointed in about the year 1850 to investigate the whole problem of a permanent Civil Service and report upon the best method of recruiting the personnel. They were ruthless in the changes they recommended and were responsible for sweeping away the bad old system of political and private patronage. In its place they recommended that all entrants to the Government administration should be subjected to a competitive examination. A Civil Service Commission was appointed, and this Commission gradually brought into being the system employed at the present day.

The Grading of Civil Servants

You will perhaps get a useful "birds-eye" view of the work of the Civil Service from a perusal of the following list of Government departments: Admiralty, Air Ministry, Ministry of Agriculture, Civil Service Commission, Colonial Office, Customs and Excise Department, Board of Education, Health Ministry, India Office, Inland Revenue Department, General Post Office, Board of Trade, Treasury, War Office, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Labour, Scottish Office and Foreign Office.

One of the important tasks of the Civil Service Commission has been to grade various types of clerks employed in the Service. Clerks are now graded according to the nature and responsibility of their work. The grades are as follows:—

The first of these is the administrative, executive, clerical and technical appointments in England; we then come to our second type, consisting of services under the foreign offices abroad; our third group consists of administrative and technical appointments under the India Office; and the fourth group of the same kind of appointments under the Colonial Office; our final group would cover various similar services which cannot be grouped in any of the above categories.

We will now examine the first of these grades, described as Home Civil Service Administrative Clerkships.

Home Civil Service Administrative Clerkships

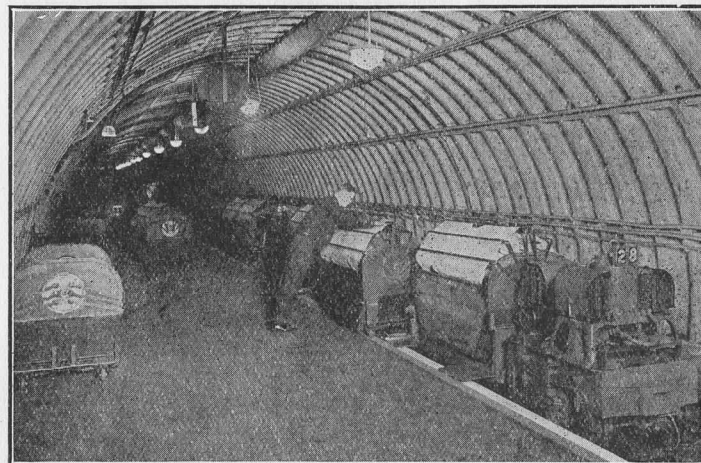
Under this group we must deal with the administrative, executive and clerical classes to most Departments of the Home Government. These are both the highest paid and the most onerous positions in the Service. Until 1912, only candidates with honours in classics from Oxford or Cambridge had a reasonable prospect of passing the qualifying examination. To-day the syllabus has been revised so that honour students from the younger universities stand an equal chance of success with those from Oxford and Cambridge.

Administrative clerkships are obtained in any of the Government offices mentioned above, with the exception of the Foreign Office: Clerkships in the Foreign Office are obtained through a separate but similar examination.

It is natural that the duties of this type of clerk must vary according to the department to which he is appointed; but generally speaking the duties of administrative officers are concerned with the formation of policy, with the co-ordination and improvement of Government machinery, and with the

general administration and control of the various departments of the public service.

Whilst there is naturally a certain amount of routine work to be done by the junior officers of the administrative grade, there is a great deal of useful and important work to be tackled. In the Home Office, for example, he may be engaged in the criminal division, when his work will require investigations of a judicial character. If he is in the industrial division of the Home Office his work will include many matters relating to the administration of Acts concerned with factories and workshops. Should he go to the Ministry of Health he will be called upon to deal with local government,



THE CIVIL SERVICE AT WORK (Crown Copyright)
Loading a two-car train on the Post Office Miniature Railway.

public health and housing questions. At the Board of Education there will be work concerned with supervising and carrying out the Board's policy in regard to elementary, secondary and technical schools or with the Board of Education's medical and special services.

At the Treasury he would naturally be concerned with matters of finance and may have to deal with some aspect of foreign loans, Budget and general taxation, or on questions relating to the personnel and remuneration in civil and military departments. It is probable that during the first few years his work will touch all these various departments in order to get a wide general view of the work and responsibilities of the Treasury. Should he go to the Board of Trade

or Ministry of Labour his contacts will be mostly with commercial and industrial problems.

The commencing salary for Administrative Clerkships is £200 a year, and rises by annual increments of £20 to £500. These salaries are at present supplemented by a bonus to meet the increased cost of living since the war, which makes the commencing salary about £300 a year and the maximum in the first grade of promotion about £650 after 13 years. But there are good prospects of gaining promotion to a higher grade within the thirteen years. It is possible, for example, to become a Principal on a salary scale of £750 to £900, or with the bonus of about £980 to £1,000. Beyond this grade are assistant secretaryships in the various departments at £1,000 to £1,200 a year, and on a higher level still, for the exceptionally able, are posts as permanent heads or deputy heads of departments at salaries ranging from £1,800 to £3,000 a year.

It should be noted that there is a substantial pension on retirement in practically all grades of the Civil Service.

Examinations for these appointments are held annually in August, and the age limits for the Home Service are 22 to 24 years.

The Executive Class

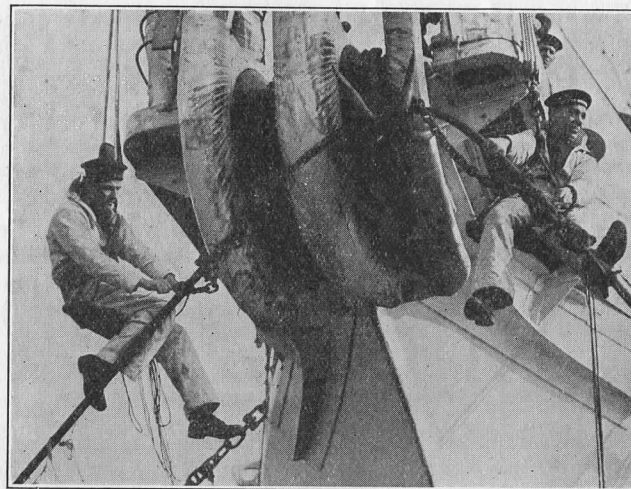
The work required in this class is less responsible than that of the administrative class, in so far as officials are seldom concerned in the formation of policy. At the same time the work covers a wide field and requires considerable qualities of judgment, initiative and resource. The junior executive officers are responsible for the direction of small sections of departmental business and for initial investigations into important questions for the subsequent attention of the senior members of the departments. As promotion is obtained, the work of this class is concerned with matters of internal organization and control and with the conduct of important departmental business. Salaries with bonus commence at £180 a year and rise to £400 or £500. There are also prospects of promotion to above this figure for those who have the requisite ability.

The age limits for admission to this grade have been fixed from 18 to 19 years.

Clerical Class

In this category come all those who perform the simpler clerical duties in public departments. These duties do not include the purely mechanical or routine work which is

usually assigned to female writing assistants. In the Junior grades of the Clerical Class the duties comprise checking and cross-checking of straightforward statements, accounts, claims and returns, collection of statistics and the supervision of the work of the female writing assistants. The senior members of this class are responsible for the supervision of sections of clerical work and higher individual work



THE CIVIL SERVICE AT WORK (Crown Copyright)

Work on a faulty Submarine Cable.

similar to that performed by Junior members of the Executive Class.

The salaries, inclusive of bonus, commence at about £100 a year and may rise to about £300. There are possibilities of transfer to the Executive Class at higher salaries if reasonable ability is shown. Boys are admitted to this Clerical Class between the ages of 16 and 17 years.

These, then, are the principal grades in the Home Civil Service.

Customs and Excise Service

The work of the Customs Department entails a very active life and frequent outdoor duty on landing and shipping stations for the purpose of examining imported and exported cargoes, in general stations covering an area of a town or country and involving regular travelling within that area for

examination of brewing businesses and other trades liable for excise duties, in distilleries and bonded warehouses, where the Customs Officer will have to take account of dutiable goods and supervise the movement of goods in bond.

The Board of Customs and Excise is also responsible for a chain of laboratories—especially at the larger seaports, where are tested samples of spirits, tobacco, sugar, and a host of other goods.

Entrance to the Customs Service is by an examination covering the following subjects: English, Elementary Mathematics, general intelligence, Science, French, German, Latin, History and Geography, Economics and Elementary Politics. The first four of these subjects are compulsory, but of the remaining six only two need be taken. The age limits are 19-21 years. Junior posts are paid on a salary scale of £180, rising by annual increments of about £10 to £15 to £600.

We have so far dealt with those posts in the Civil Service that are filled by competitive examination. In addition to these there are a number of appointments that are made either by selection or examination or by both. Under this category would come the following:—

Meteorological Service and Observatories

The development of aviation and wireless has made this an extremely important Service. Appointments are assigned without examination to those who have taken their degrees in science, with honours in mathematics and physics. The commencing salary is £272 a year, rising to £700 or £800. The work consists of forecasting weather conditions, keeping the statistics relating to climatic changes and other similar work. There are a limited number of appointments for technical assistants at a commencing salary of about £150. Candidates must be between the ages of 18 and 23, and must have passed a university matriculation or equivalent examination.

Museum Assistants

Vacancies in the Science Museum at South Kensington are advertised from time to time. Applicants must have an honours degree denoting a knowledge of science and technology in order that they may control as effectively as possible various scientific and mechanical exhibits that would come under their charge.

Appointments in the Natural History Museum are given on the results of an examination on English, Arithmetic and

General Knowledge. A thorough knowledge of a science appertaining to the work of one of the departments is also necessary. These departments include Zoology, entomology, geology, botany and mineralogy.

The commencing salary is about £250, rising to £440 as Assistant, and from £475 to £800 as Assistant Keeper. There are four principal posts in the Natural History Museum with salaries at £1,000 a year.

In addition to these there are a number of other posts in the Home Civil Service that are obtained either by nomination or selection. The more important of these are the Inspectorships of Factories under the Home Office, Inspectorships and Deputy Commissioners' appointments under the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Clerkships in the Houses of Parliament, Assistantships in the British Museum and engineering appointments in the Post Office.

Many of these latter are now thrown open to competitive examination.

Civil Service Posts Abroad

The most important posts in the Civil Service Abroad are of course in the Foreign Office and Diplomatic Service. Vacancies are very few in number and the process of selection is a very careful one. A high standard of educational and personal qualifications is demanded and preference given to graduates of Oxford and Cambridge. There is also a tendency on the part of those responsible for the selection to take into account such factors as private wealth and family connections of the candidates.

The work consists of smoothing out the relationships between this country and other nations. Great tact and resourcefulness are essential, since on the word or actions of a diplomat might rest the peace of the world. The Diplomatic Service is the link between one nation and another.

The age of entry is from 22 to 25 years, and the examination is held on 1st August. Prior to the examination candidates must be viewed by a selection board. The examination is the same as that for Administrative Clerkships in the Home Civil Service, but all candidates must be very proficient in French, German, and European History.

Secretaryships in the Foreign Office carry with them salaries commencing at £300 a year and rising to £1,000. There are prospects of even higher posts with anything up to £1,500 a year for those with very special qualifications.

The Consular Service

This is a Service for those who are prepared to settle permanently abroad. It is broadly classified into three divisions: (1) The Western or General Consular Service, which comprises appointments in Europe, North and South America, and in parts of Africa; (2) The Near Eastern, including appointments in Abyssinia, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Morocco, Persia, Russia, and Serbia; (3) The Far Eastern Service, China, Japan and Siam.

The duties of consular officials are concerned mainly with watching the interests of British commerce abroad. They prepare an annual trade report of their country, and from time to time send special reports to this country for the use of our trading committee. They search for possible markets for British goods and administer the Merchant Shipping Acts. In addition to these trade responsibilities they must watch the interests of the British subjects resident abroad, and apply for relief in cases of distress.

Candidates are required to have attained the age of twenty-one before sitting for the competitive examination, which takes place once a year. Prior to this examination they must be interviewed by a selection board, which meets early in May of each year. They may appear before this board at any time after they have attained the age of 19.

This examination is the same as that for the Home Service Administrative Clerkships, but for all candidates French and General Economics are compulsory, and a high standard for these subjects is set.

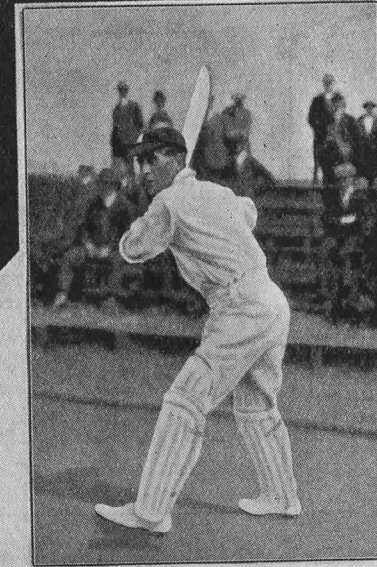
Salaries commence at £300, rising by £20 a year to £600, with a representation allowance of from £50 to £170 and house rent of approximately £100 to £200 in addition. A Consul receives from £800 to £1,000 a year with allowances of between £200 and £450 a year. There are also a few appointments as Consul-General with salaries plus allowances of £1,700 to £2,100 a year.

Further Information

For more detailed information application should be made to the Secretary, Civil Service Commission, Burlington Gardens, W.1.

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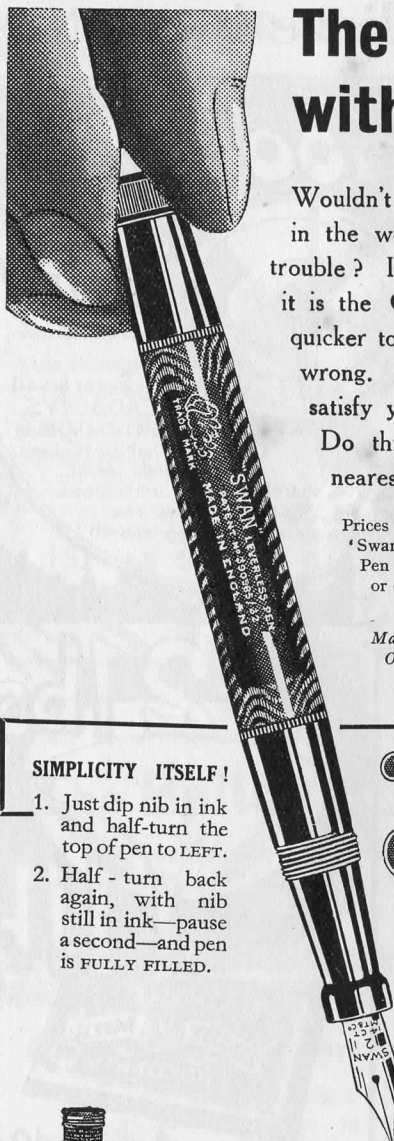
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