

sparkling eyes" (*Sullivan*), Mr. Guy Hemsley, O.B.; Song, "When Myra sings" (*A.L.*), Miss Dymock; Song, "Brendon Hill" (*Dalhousie Young*), Mr. Louis Godfrey (O.B.); Song, "If I built a world for you" (*Liza Lehmann*), Miss Gertrude Austin, L.R.A.M.; Song, "When dull care" (*H. Lane Wilson*), Mr. Guy Hemsley (O.B.); Song, "The Midshipmite," Mr. Page Turner (formerly Blaydes), O.B., who kindly replaced Mr. R. Maclear at the shortest notice.

A *Mazurka*, by Mlynarski, charmingly rendered by Mrs. Olyanne was the only instrumental solo, but a host in itself. The hall was very well filled and the audience thoroughly enthusiastic.

## SPEECH DAY.

July 31st.

[For the reports of the speeches we are indebted to the *Beds. Times* of Aug. 4th.]

The proceedings followed the customary lines, though the function came off in the forenoon, and was shorter than usual, neither of these two changes being for the worse. When the members of the Procession were installed on the platform, the first item of the programme, the distribution of the prizes, was performed by the Headmaster, Mr. J. E. Morris nomenclating. An interpolated musical item, *Kermesse de St. Cloud* (Roeckel), by the School Orchestra, conducted by Dr. Harding, preceded the recitation of the Honours, academic and other, gained by members of the School and Old Boys in 1904-5.

A propos of these, the Head Master remarked that the first two Scholarships were the chief distinctions to be won at Oxford and Cambridge by any boy going up from a School. He was now able to announce that the examiners had recommended for the First School leaving Exhibition, D. H. Peel, and for the Second, W. C. Cleary. Two Leaving Exhibitions were all that the School had when it was a good deal smaller, and he did not think that two were sufficient for a School of the present size. He should like to have about six, and he hoped, as Mr. Whitbread was present, that the County Council would bear that in mind. G. Le Beau had gained the highest distinction in Mathematics that the University of Oxford had to give, and he believed that the value of it was recognised even by Cambridge men (laughter and applause). H. G. Tisdall, who had been elected to a Whitworth Scholarship, was a native of this town.

The School Choir then contributed a chorus 'When the heart is young' by D. Buck, after which the Head Master presented the Royal Humane Society's Certificate to Frank W. Beall, O.B., 'for having gone to the rescue of a boy in imminent danger of drowning in the Ouse, at Bedford, on May 27th, 1905, whose life he gallantly saved.' The occasion inevitably re-called the more recent calamity, the sad death of Mr. Beall's younger brother, to which the Head Master made a brief but fitting allusion.

The 'Tarbutt Prizes' were next presented, Mr. King explaining that they were instituted by Mr. Tarbutt in memory of his son Lieut. Tarbutt, who died in the South African War. The prizes were given to the boys who did most to promote a taste for physical exercise throughout the School, not necessarily to the best athletes. This time, however, they were awarded to two boys who had played a prominent part in the School games. Carter was the successful leader of the Football Team to victory after victory last year (cheers), and he was also a very good Head of the School. He was one who had principle, and did his duty independently of popularity (cheers). The second award was to D. H. Peel, who belonged to a family which had always known how to combine cricket and scholarship. He had been deady as a leader in School and House matches (cheers).

'Presentation' Bats were then given to C. B. Atkinson as having the best batting average, and to Peel, as having the best bowling average, of the season; Mr. King stating that Atkinson was a tower of strength and had not left the School (cheers). Presentation Oars were handed to the School Eight who rowed against Shrewsbury under circumstances which, said the Head Master, did them great credit; for although the heaviest boy in the boat broke his oar nearly at the beginning of the race, this did not prevent them from winning it. Five of the crew had rowed twice for the School already, and as most of them might not row again, an oar was presented to each, while the cox, who also did his duty in the Shrewsbury race, was presented with a rudder (cheers).

The 'first speech' was delivered by Mr. S. Howard Whitbread. He said:—

'My first duty is to thank you, Mr. King, for the high honour and pleasure, which it is to me, and must be to anyone who has at heart the interests of Bedford and its great Schools, to be allowed to stand upon this platform on so interesting an occasion. As we travel along the road of life we feel more and more, as years roll on, the honour and distinction of being allowed to mingle with those who are young and enjoying the golden days of life. Therefore, sir, I have to thank you for inviting me to stand here in this magnificent hall to-day. Speaking of this hall, I remember that one thing is yet wanting to

make the equipment of this great School worthy of its name and purpose. It is probably the largest School in the Kingdom that is without the inspiring associations which gather round corporate worship in a chapel of its own. I hope that before many years you will have a chapel of your own attached to this building, and that we shall be able to come and attend the services which will be held there in a manner befitting the great position of this School. May I inform the audience and all others interested in this School that a project is on foot for building a suitable chapel, that the design has been drawn by a distinguished architect, and, as a matter of course, funds are urgently required. A sum of £7,000 is necessary to complete the building, and £4,000 out of that sum, I am glad to say, has already been promised (cheers). A further sum of £3,000 will ultimately be needed, of which the Committee hope to raise £1,000 in a short time, and then they will feel in a position to commence work. That is surely an appeal which ought to touch the hearts of all who have any connexion with this great School. There is no time like the present. I have here a hat (laughter), and I have to say that, although we are grateful for the smallest gifts, the largest contributions will be the most thankfully received (laughter and applause).

Those of us who have listened to the long list of honours and distinctions won by your scholars which you, sir, have read out from the chair, will all agree with me that the high standard of education and of athletics which were cultivated and raised in this School under the presidency of the late Head Master, Mr. Phillpotts, has been more than maintained by the School under your own distinguished leadership (cheers). That list included some of the highest scholastic prizes open to boys from institutions such as this; and one thing that struck me was the large number of successful candidates you have sent out into the public services of this great Empire; not only the naval and military services, but those highly distinguished civil services in this country and in India. To those who, like myself, have had leisure to visit different parts of this great Empire, there is one thing we are proud of as Bedford and Bedfordshire men, the fact that in all parts of our Empire are to be found men holding high positions in the public service, after a training which they had received in this School of Bedford. I have seen myself in the jungles of India young gentlemen apparently fresh from Bedford, administering fearlessly and with confidence and success, large tracts of country as big as an English county. In another part of the world, in the far west, I had the honour to be the guest of the Speaker of the House of Representatives of British Columbia, Mr. Speaker Pooley; who had been a Bedford Grammar School boy (cheers). Only last week I parted from a personal friend who was educated here under Mr. Phillpotts, who rowed in the Oxford Eight, lost a leg in South Africa, and now comes back to Bedfordshire owing to the lamented death of our Lord Lieutenant, as Lord Lucas, and the owner of Wrest Park (cheers). Another thing I notice about your boys, wherever they may be met with; they love their old School, they talk about it, and they talk Bedford Grammar School shop (laughter). Some people do not understand it, but it appears to give them a great deal of interest and pleasure. It is one of the distinguishing characteristics of a great School that when its pupils go into the world they will insist on talking shop (laughter and applause). It may have no meaning to outsiders, but to them it means so much, and it means, above all things, that they are grateful to their old School; and when they have an opportunity they come back to see how it flourishes, and rejoice in its welfare. That is a characteristic of a great and good School, and it is one of the most honourable testimonials to the wisdom and success of those who have presided over it.

If there is one thing which I may venture to say to your pupils, sir, it is that I would earnestly exhort them to encourage that feeling toward their School. I would say to them learn to love your School, and carry that affection with you when you go forth into the world. Come back to your School when you have an opportunity in the days to come, and when you have sons of your own to educate, send them back to the Grammar School, which will, I believe, be an even larger and better School than it is to-day. Learn to love your School songs and your School institutions, cherish your Masters with affection, and I would almost ask you to learn to love your examiners (laughter). I know that one is apt to look upon an examiner as a kind of ravenous beast, walking about seeking whom he may devour, but, believe me, who am a little older and have known some examiners, that beneath a rough exterior they hide a kindly heart. Let me assure you that the normal examiner would be far better pleased if he could find out what you do know than find out what you don't. Therefore give him of the best that you have. Do not fear him. Let him know all the knowledge that is doubtless reposing in your brain. I do not mean to suggest that you should push things to extremities, or hurl all your mass of learning at his head, or follow the example of the gentleman who being once asked in an examination to compare the characters of Elijah and Elisha, replied: 'Far be it from me to institute invidious comparisons between the lives of two such holy men. Let me rather give a list of the names and dates of the Kings of Israel and Judah' (laughter). Or of that other ingenious youth who, when asked on which side of Jordan was Jericho, returned the historic answer, 'It depends on which side you stand' (laughter). Those, perhaps, are instances of carrying my theory to excess, but again I say, don't be afraid of your examiners, but seek to convince them that you know a great deal more than they might think from first appearance.

I hope, sir, I am not instilling any immoral principles into the hearts of the young under your care. Let me hasten to escape from the domain of scholarship and come out into the open air. In the list of honours that your scholars have won there are distinctions on the river, the cricket field, the football ground, the rifle range, and in the gymnasium honours of which young men may well be proud, and which are a sure indication that you turn out from this School not only scholars but men of that sound physique and fearless energy which Lord Cheylesmore knows so well how to appreciate. I observe that you have very nearly won the Ashburton Shield. I make no doubt that in a very short time we shall see that trophy adorning these walls. In the meantime, sir, let me convey to your Corps and the members of your Shooting Eight, a sympathetic token of my regard. I have handled a rifle, both on the shooting range and in the pursuit of hill game, I know how much patience and concentration and care it takes to make a man a respectable shot, and though my School Eight, I regret to say, were not even third in the competition for the Ashburton Shield, I had the melancholy distinction of losing by one point the Spencer Cup (cheers). I well remember the moment when I lay down to take my last shot. I had to get a bull's eye to tie with the winner, and have a chance of getting the cup. Those were the days of Wimbledon, and the range was distinguished by the extraordinary effects of its mirage. There were hot afternoons when the bull's eye on the target and the foresight of the rifle would join hands and execute an infernal kind of cake walk, instead of maintaining the solid positions they should (laughter). Be that as it may, my unfortunate shot was a centre instead of a bull's eye, and, although I failed to win the cup, I had the pleasure of knowing that I fairly frightened a young gentleman from Cheltenham, who afterwards became one of the most

distinguished shots in the British Army (applause).

Your success in athletics is remarkable, and I congratulate you upon it. Upon the river, where, I am told, you are invincible, I should like to express a hope that some day we may see a Grammar School Eight competing at Henley for the Ladies' Plate.\* You will have a somewhat high standard of crews to compete against. I attend Henley generally every year, and I notice from year to year how the standard of rowing of School and College crews maintains itself and progresses. The Eton Eight are to-day the holders of the Ladies' Plate. Eton seems to put on a heavier and better crew every year. I believe they feed them better than they used to do (laughter). However, the Ladies' Plate ought not to be beyond the reach of the Bedford Grammar School, and although I must hope Eton will continue to hold it, I hope Bedford Grammar School will make Eton row to a finish some day (applause). I will end with the same exhortation with which I began, Love your School. Make the most of your days here; they will never come to you again, and when you grow older you will know, if you do not know now, that they are the best days that come in a man's life. Keep at it all the time, whatever you may be doing, whether in the building here or out on the cricket field, or on the river—get your hands out sharply, keep the stroke long, put every ounce of your weight into it all the time, whether you win or lose, and let your ideal be that you shall make it some day quite an ordinary thing, when men are discussing the candidates for some post or position of emolument, that somebody shall get up and say, 'He ought to be good enough for us. He was one of King's boys at Bedford' (cheers).

The 'French Scene,' which followed, was taken from the comedy '*Le Commissaire est bon Enfant*' by G. Courteline. The three characters were well sustained by the actors, the accent of the representative of *Floche* being especially good. The cast was:—

<i>Le Commissaire</i>	...	...	Hazard.
<i>Breluc</i>	...	...	R. Watson.
<i>Floche</i>	...	...	Leverson.

Next came a musical interlude of two items, an arrangement of one of the '*Lieder ohne Worte*,' and the March from *Scipio*, in which the orchestra again acquitted itself with credit.

The medals won by the Shooting Eight at Bisley for taking the third place in the competition for the Ashburton Shield were then distributed by **Major General Lord Cheylesmore**, Chairman of the National Rifle Association, who delivered the second speech.

His Lordship said: When he was asked by Capt. Columbine to come down and open a rifle range, he had no idea that he was going to attend a ceremony such as this; but he was delighted to come and do anything he could to help rifle shooting. This was his first visit, and he especially congratulated the boys of the Bedford Grammar School on having won the third place at Bisley. This year they had had there some of the finest shooting they had ever seen, and also the presence of His Majesty to give away the prizes. No fewer than fifty

one schools took part in the Ashburton, and this year, for the first time, owing to the increasing number of schools in the competition, bronze medals had been given, and he congratulated the School on having won them. He was sorry that his own school did not win the shield, and that Bedford school did not receive its prize from the hands of His Majesty; but there was always something to look forward to, and perhaps next year or the year after they would see the shield in that hall, and, if so, he hoped that he might be invited down to see it. When he shot for the Eton Eleven—as it was in his time, some years, he feared, before Mr. Whitbread's—he was the Corporal of the Eleven, and the same school won that had won this year. He had to fire the last shot for Eton, when Cheltenham was two ahead, and by some extraordinary fate he scored three, and so beat Cheltenham (applause). Mr. Septimus Phillpotts and he were Eton boys together, and they had not been on the platform two minutes when they began to talk Eton shop (laughter). He was happy to hear that the Cadet Corps had increased from about 59 to 160, and he hoped that in this great School the number would be doubled next year. They had no doubt read of a scheme to have a Bisley week for boys, and combine with it a certain amount of training in connexion with Aldershot, and open the Bisley ranges. He hoped to see a large contingent from Bedford Grammar School (applause).

After a brisk chorus by the School Choir, the **Head Master** made a short speech. He said, on the School achievements he need say no more. They made a record which it would be difficult to live up to; they could not expect to win Balliol and Trinity Scholarships every year, but, to adopt the words of the poet, it was not in mortals to command success, but in Bedford they did more—they deserved it (hear, hear). Throughout the School there should be a spirit of loyalty and strenuousness to make them all do what they had to do with all their might, and with a determination to do their duty. There was one change on which he must say a word. Mr. Boyt, who had been a master there for some years, was leaving to become Head Master at Stourbridge. Mr. Boyt was a very able mathematician and teacher of science, and they would miss him (hear, hear). He felt great regret to turn away from his work and his life in the pleasant valley of the Ouse to the more grimy surroundings of a manufacturing centre; but he was taking up an important post that would give him great opportunities in the midst of a crowded population. He was sure they all wished him every success (cheers). He was glad to express his gratitude to all the staff

\* See the notes on the School Crew at Henley in this number.  
—Ed.

of Masters for the loyalty, earnestness, and ability which they put into their work. It was the co-operation of the Assistant Masters and parents that made the successes of the School possible. During the year the School had been in good health, and the numbers had been maintained. The games were used as a means of health and for promoting public spirit not for fostering a spirit of athleticism, which, in its extreme form was not only a public nuisance, but might become a national danger (hear, hear). They were glad of success in examinations, which were necessary entrances into the professions, and a means of stimulus to work; but in a seat of learning, it should be remembered, the real object was to encourage a love for and interest in literature, art, and science, apart from the examinations. The School had been reviving or starting fresh institutions, for instance the Debating Society, and a Natural History Society, so as to stimulate the interests of boys in something outside the ordinary School curriculum. The success of the day School depended on co-operation with the parents in seeing that the rules were reasonable and properly observed; so that the School would be a school not only of learning, but of discipline and character.

After this came the 'Greek Scene,' drawn from the 'Wasps' of Aristophanes. The cast was as follows:

<i>Philoceon</i> ... ..	J. K. Rankin.
<i>Bdelycleon</i> ... ..	A. Gordon.
<i>Sosias</i> } slaves	R. S. Seacome.
<i>Xanthias</i> }	A. Miller.
<i>Labes</i> (defendant)...	'Vic.'
<i>The Prosecutor</i> ...	'B.-P.'

The *mise-en-scène*, for divers good reasons, was much less elaborate than that of last year, only four (human) actors appearing and no 'chorus.' The excerpt, however, went with great briskness, and appeared to cause performers as well as audience plenty of amusement. Rankin, as the cantankerous old Dicast, was the life and soul of the company; he certainly has a natural bent for acting, and we should not be surprised to hear of him again on the boards of the A.D.C. at Cambridge. The vigour of his exodic dance somewhat belied the senility he had ably maintained throughout the scene. Gordon had a good deal to say and fewer chances of salient action, but succeeded very well in representing the glib and resourceful Advocate, and in one or two places of his appeal infused a real pathos into his voice. The two much smaller parts of the slaves were quite well filled by Miller and Seacome; the dogs behaved admirably, though the canine prosecutor was very mild-mannered, not

to say sleepy, and the defendant's whine was hardly consistent with his alleged ferocity. We take this opportunity of thanking the owners of the two dogs for so kindly lending them, at the shortest notice. The witnesses (mute characters) looked their parts adequately, though the *eschara* was very daringly anachronistic. The same criticism applies to the method of 'pedo-grams' by which the accused's innocence was demonstrated, but this was the bit of the scene which evoked the heartiest laughter and applause from the audience. *Bdelycleon's* final club-exercise with ponderous saucepans must have been somewhat alarming to those members of the Harper Trust who were within range.

The National Anthem concluded the proceedings in the Large Hall; and then there was a general dispersal to the recently-erected Miniature Rifle Range.

The School Corps, in extended order, lined the way, and hearty cheers greeted Lord Cheylesmore, who was accompanied by the Head Master, the High Sheriff (Mr. W. L. Fitzpatrick), Colonel Pitt, R.E., Mr. Howard Whitbread, Major King, Captain Columbine, and others. A rifle was handed to his lordship, who was closely watched as he took aim at the target. When it was found that his shot had pierced the bull there was loud cheering. Holding up the card target, he said, I must take that as a keep-sake, and have it framed (renewed cheers).

Col. Pitt said he had been asked to propose a vote of thanks to Lord Cheylesmore for opening the Range. His lordship was a very busy man, with many interests, and his presence showed the great interest he took in rifle shooting, and they had seen what a good shot he was. On Saturday he (Col. Pitt) saw Lord Methuen, who asked him to say how heartily he congratulated the VIII. upon its success at Bisley; he hoped it would be still more successful in future; so long as the Corps was commanded by the Head Master it could not fail to be a brilliant success. He (Col. Pitt) would like to see the Corps very much increased. He knew Schools where the Corps was 60 per cent. of the whole School, and he hoped that in course of time Bedford Grammar School would work up to those numbers.

The High Sheriff said he had the greatest pleasure in seconding the vote of thanks, for he felt a very great honour had been done to his old School. His lordship had set the boys of the Cadet Corps an example of good shooting, for which the best way of thanking him would be by taking advantage of the opportunity which the range would give them to shoot as

well as he did, and then he felt sure they would bring home the Ashburton Shield next year.

Lord Cheylesmore said he was glad to have been able to come and fire the first shot, especially as he had made a bull's-eye. He hoped it would be a fore-runner of many others made by the boys. He took deep interest in shooting, especially boys' shooting. Lord Methuen was a contemporary soldier with him, and he would report to him what an efficient Corps was under his command, and how smart they had turned out. He could only wish the highest success to the Bedford Grammar School, and that he might be present when they carried off the Ashburton Shield at Bisley.

#### THE MINIATURE SAFETY RANGE.

The School now possesses about the best constructed and most up-to-date miniature rifle range of any School in the kingdom. It is no small advantage to the School Corps to possess a safety rifle range on the spot, and it only remains to see that the best possible use is made of it.

The new range is mainly the result of Capt. Columbine's initiative and unremitting attention to the details of the construction. In 1902 when Capt. Columbine was undergoing the course of musketry at Hythe, he talked the matter over with the Commandant and the Instructors, who gave him every information and more than ordinary facilities for examining the ranges closely. Indeed, Colonel Pennington, the then Commandant of the School of Musketry, paid a visit to Bedford and selected the present spot, which is pronounced an ideal site, and is a piece of ground which could not be very well utilised for any other purpose. It is a 25 yards range, constructed from plans supplied by the late Commandant of the Hythe School of Musketry and Colonel Smith-Rewse, C.R.E. at Shorncliffe, the highest authorities on the subject.

The range is absolutely safe for the use of anything from an air-gun up to a full service charge. No fortifications would be made stronger for the resistance of missiles discharged by small arms than the materials and methods adopted in the construction of this range. The system adopted in its construction is that of hooded screens, and traverses or side wings, at various intervals, with a high and substantial stop-butt of earth and clay. The screens are faced with timber on the exposed sides, and covered at the back with steel plates the whole being of sufficient thickness to stop any bullet from penetrating it. The traverses, graduated in height from eight

to twelve feet, consist of a front and back of strong timbers, set in upright frames, bolted together (the space between being packed with shingle), and placed at such angles as will absolutely prevent projectiles escaping from the range. At the middle traverses the range is spanned by a girder and steel plates, inclined at an angle of 30 degrees from the horizontal with a view to deflecting bullets into the ground. At the firing point there are two bays, each with two platforms, so that four persons can practise at the same time. These platforms are built for the prone position, but the front part of each is movable so as to enable the standing position to be assumed when required. The rifles are placed in embrasures and remain there until the practice is finished, being simply lifted up by the firer at each shot. Between each pair of platforms is room for the instructor, who can also control the wheel which operates the target-carriage in its journey to and from the butt at the other end of the range. The target apparatus is known as the Dee system, which was approved after trial by the National Rifle Association at Bisley last year and pronounced the best of those exhibited. It is a travelling target, which runs on a couple of stout wires to and from the firing point, when operated by a cord and wheel. The cardboard target is easily fixed in a groove for the purpose, and each firer can, of course, secure his own record of shots—if he hits the card. It can be used as either a stationary or a disappearing target, a simple appliance, controlled by a cord, causing the target to appear and vanish at timed intervals; or little figures of khaki-clad soldiers may be substituted when there is a disposition to introduce an element of amusement. Each target carriage is faced with steel and serves for two firing points. It is proposed to use a light rifle known as the Stevens' Ideal (which weighs barely 6lbs.) for beginners, followed by a course with the Adaptor fitted in a Service rifle; and later the full charge may be used if found necessary.

The range has been constructed under the direction of Captain Columbine, who has introduced various improvements as the work has proceeded, and the wood-work has been done by Mr. James, the School Carpenter. The cost, about £150, comes out of the funds of the School Corps, but it is hoped that some of this will be reimbursed by donations from friends of the School who are interested in the project, or by assistance from other sources.