

Reports on Grace  
Dieu to S.P.G.  
1924 - 1958

Canon S.P. Woodfield  
Diocesan Training College  
Grace Dieu, Pietersburg.

PRETORIA

Diocesan Training College, Grace Dieu, Pietersburg  
N. Transvaal, S. Africa.

13th. January 1937

In making this Report I am aware that our usual Annual Report as presented to Synod has already been sent to S.P.G., and so this is more in the nature of a supplementary Report than a complete report of the work that has been done during 1936.

I am glad to be able to say that during the past year there have been many encouragements in the College work and that we are looking forward to an equally good year ahead of us. For the first time in its history, Bantu education in the Transvaal has had its own Chief Inspector who will co-ordinate all the work being done in Native schools and Colleges. This has supplied a longfelt need, for hitherto there have been four Inspectors, each with his own idea as to policy, method and aim, with the result that the work as a whole has suffered rather than benefited by their presence. Even now, it is worthy of note that of the six Inspectors of Native schools in the Transvaal not one is an Englishman and only one is an English-speaking South African. The others are Dutch or Germans. This in a country with a 50 - 50 English and Dutch language policy and part of the British Commonwealth of Nations. Anything that originates in England is suspect and less and less shall we be able to draw our man power for schools and churches from England as time goes on. This, in some ways, may be a good thing, but at present S. Africa is not able to supply the need. Recently I advertised in the Government Gazette for a teacher for our Normal College "missionary-hearted". There was not a single reply. I was then able to approach the educational authorities and ask for permission to appoint from England. With some reluctance permission was granted and it was admitted that the other Training Institutions (of other religious denominations) had found the same difficulty and had had to look overseas for their men.

Last May we were thoroughly inspected by all six Inspectors and it was realised that the present staff were tackling an almost impossible task. As a result I am glad to say that we have been given Government grants for two additional European instructors, and these have already been found and appointed. This should mean a tremendous lessening of strain on the existing staff to whom a tribute of real appreciation must be paid. They have carried on their work cheerfully and willingly and have been quick to seize any opportunity of improving the general standard of the place as a whole.

Our numbers have been almost more than we can cope with, and at the beginning of the last School year I refused more applications than we used to receive in former days. This means that we are able to make a better selection of those students who shall be admitted and this is already proving well worth while. Amongst former students I find a great pride in their old College and those who are teachers are constantly applying for admission on behalf of their best pupils. This "esprit de corps" is partly due to the regular issue half-yearly of the College "BULLETIN" a copy of which is sent to S.P.G.. Here they may read of what has taken place at the College during the past half-year and also any noteworthy happenings in connection with old students and members of the staff.



It will not be out of place to mention the great demand for woodcarving on the part of European priests during the past year. Over £200 worth of work has been done for European Churches and this has been greatly appreciated to judge from the letters we have received. Other carving has included a Pastoral Staff for the Bishop of Johannesburg, on the crook of which has been carved by Job Kekana illustrations of the seven Sacraments. A snapshot of this is being sent with this report

In the Mission District things have gone on very happily, I am glad to say, and there are signs of increasing interest on the part of the congregations of the twenty Churches in the district. The appointment of the Principal of the College as Priest-in-Charge of the Mission District seems to meet with the approval of the people and they value highly the opportunities it gives them for meeting sometimes at the College for such Festivals as Christmas, Easter and Michaelmas. This year the Christmas services were held at two centres - one being the College and the other a Church in the District. At both services were packed congregations, and after breakfast at the College there were no less than 58 baptisms while forty more people were baptised at the other "centre". These numbers included babes in arms and old folk who must be nearing life's end, while there was a large number of young adolescents and middle-aged men and women. This augurs well for the future of the Mission District and we hope that the work will continue to grow in quality and strength.

In my last Report I mentioned the attempts to bring together the Scout and Pathfinder and the Girl Guides and Wayfarer Movements, and I was on the eve of attending the meeting of the S. African Scout Council (at which the Chief Scout of the World was present) when certain proposals providing for the inclusion of Bantu, Indian and Coloured lads in the South African Scout Association were to be discussed. The Council sat for three days, and at the end of that time it passed UNANIMOUSLY resolutions providing for the inauguration of three parallel sections of the Boy Scout Association, each to be autonomous and independent and a distinct entity but all three together with the European section making up the South African Boy Scout Association. Such a proposal would have been unthinkable only three or four years ago - indeed when I did suggest it at a previous meeting I was told that there not a possibility of any such thing being approved. This time the proposal came from the Scout leaders themselves and those who spent most time and thought in arranging the details were the very men who had been most emphatic in their opposition previously. During the year, since February, a small committee of three Scout and three Pathfinder Officers has been at work drawing up the details of the new arrangements and these again were accepted UNANIMOUSLY by the S. African Scout Council in November at its meeting at Bloemfontein. As a result of this, when the S. African Pathfinder Council met in December it was able to resolve itself into the Pathfinder-Scout Council, and I, as the senior Pathfinder Officer who was also a Scout, had the privilege of swearing in 50 prominent Pathfinder Officers, African and European, from all parts of the Union and from S. Rhodesia and S.W. Africa as full members of the Scout Brotherhood. It was a great occasion for the controversy has gone on actively for the last fifteen years, and even the most optimistic of us never expected to see the objective achieved in so short a time. It has to be realised that in a country of racial prejudices and suspicion such as this is it is quite impossible at the present time to hope for full inclusion into one Movement irrespective of race and colour, but we did not expect or even greatly desire this - but we did want admission and recognition as Scouts and that we have obtained together with the right to wear the uniform, badges and to use the name, Law and Promises of the Boy Scout. It was interesting to note that this change of attitude on the part of some of the Scout officers was referred to, in all friendliness



We warmly congratulate our Governor, Col. H.P. Wolff on his latest successes at the Johannesburg Agricultural Show. This year he scored thirteen first and one second prizes out of possible total of fourteen prizes! It is the eighth year in succession that he has won the much-prized Silver Challenge Cup for the best exhibits of apples.

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As a result of the Lenten and Easter Day collections we were able to send the sum of £5. 9. 1d. to the Bishop of Lebombo for the Mission work of his diocese. We always regard this as our little piece of Missionary work. On Good Friday the collection in aid of the House of Mercy, Irene, which does valuable Rescue and Preventive work amongst European girls amounted to 14/9d.

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The Practical Examination of the Normal Department took place April 26th.-28th. under the supervision of Dr. Eiselen and Inspectors Achterberg, Franz and Liebenberg. Inspector Spruyt was unfortunately prevented from attending owing to illness.

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On April 27th. the Inspectors very kindly gave to the College an excellent Cinematograph Exhibition in the Buxton Hall. For two and a half hours we were able to listen to good classical music (some of which we had prepared for the Practical Singing Examination), and to watch educative films showing the movement of the earth in relationship to the sun, how we breathe, the life story of a butterfly, the history of transportation, traffic dangers in Johannesburg, Hong Kong and other interesting things. For many of those present it was their first experience of moving pictures and "talkies" and everyone was grateful for this innovation which it is hoped will now become an annual event.

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As usual Job Kekana and Dick Makembula have sent specimens of their woodcarving to the Johannesburg Art Exhibition. These craftsmen are busy all the year round on a continuous stream of orders and they can often be heard hard at work late into the night. The old carpenters' shop now houses the Woodcarving Department, and the two rooms at the end formerly inhabited by African members of the staff have been rebuilt and are now occupied by the two craftsmen.

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The following students will be leaving the College at the end of this session on the completion of their respective courses of study:-

NORMAL DEPARTMENT John Fache, Jacob Kadiaka, Solomon Kota, John Mabitsele, Johannes Madiba, Michael Makola, Joseph Makwela, Stephen Maloke, Jonah Mashikanya, Stephen Mashita, Solomon Matlala, Arthur Mbalaula, Richard Moloto, Andrew More, Manasseh Motsifane, Mackenzie Ntshala, Frank Phooko, Philip Ramphomane, Sidney Sepanya, Alfred Thebe, Andrew Tlhophane, Kate Mahlangu, Constance Manotsi, Selina Mataung.

CARPENTRY COURSE Titus Mamaregane, Hosea Maphakela, Wilfrid Masenya, Dalton Mgole.

DOMESTIC SCIENCE COURSE Comfort Ledwaba, Flora Kekana, Charlotte Lawrence, Fanny Mahawani, Lucy Makgalemele, Delina Maphakela, Grace Masekwaneng, Irene Phatlane, Mary Themane, Maud Tlatla.