

## Burra High School

### ANNUAL BREAK UP

The Institute hall was crowded on Thursday evening, December 19th, when the students of the High School celebrated the cessation of studies for 1929 by giving a splendid programme of music, song and dance, combined with the distribution of prizes and certificates. These celebrations become each year more popular and the programme presented this year will further enhance that popularity. A pleasing feature of the function was the splendid attendance of past students all of whom showed great interest in their old school. The Chairman of the High School Council, Dr. D. Macdonald Steele, presided and the following members of the Council were present: Revs. J. S. W. Coles, W. O. Harris, E. Lawson, Messrs A. B. Riggs, and M. A. Radford.

The hall was nicely arranged and the flowers dotted here and there on small tables were blue larkspur and brown gallardia, whilst large bows of brown and blue ribbon (the school colors) adorned either end of the stage. A well executed overture, "Marche de Toreros," played by Mora Killicoat and Beryl Lawson opened the proceedings and was followed by a chorus in unison, "The Lord is my Light," by the students. This beautiful compositions under the baton of the head master, Mr. E. A. W. Haese, was sung with marked expression and beauty of tone, with every word distinctly heard.

The chairman then extended a cordial welcome to all and also expressed his gratification and that of the members of the Council at seeing such a number of parents and other folk present and hoped as a result

that next year would see many more children entering the High School. Like the students he did not believe in long speeches at break-ups and would limit his remarks just then to words of welcome only.

A duet, "Old folks at home," violin and cello, by Geo. Hann and Beryl Lawson respectively, with Mrs. Haese as accompaniste on the piano, showed skill and talent and was well applauded. Physical drill by the boy students was given with gronola accompaniment manipulated by Alan Penrose. The lads looking very fresh in their white shorts and alternate blue and brown colored sashes. The next item, "Happy Birds," set for three parts, was very sweetly sung by the girl students. This was

for three parts, was very sweetly sung by the girl students. This was followed by an elocutionary competition between four students. The test piece was, "If" by Rudyard Kipling. Recognising the value to a student who having once learnt the lines embodied in the piece, Dr. Steele explained that he had offered a prize for the student who could recite it the best. Only four entered, viz., Maisie Radford, Shirley Harris, Laurie Twist, Natalie Neagle. The Rev Coles was asked to adjudicate and based his decisions on stage deportment, delivery, voice volume, expression and effect. The winner was Shirley Harris with Laurie Twist second. Once started Shirley not only warmed to the message contained in the piece but said her words very distinctly without apparent undue effort, besides giving certain words their full value and expression. The vowel O which one so often hears used in the place of A was for once entirely lacking. The other three did well but nervousness was possibly the primary cause of their defeat. Shirley received well merit-

ed applause. One of the attractive features of our High School break-ups are the pretty old English Folk dances and the grace and beauty in which these are stepped by the girls, in their period costume, a source of delight to the audience. The item was a bracketted number, the first, "Mary and Dorothy" very prettily executed as also was the second a ribbon dance, both meeting with a storm of applause. At the conclusion of this number the annual report was presented and read by Mr. E. A. W. Haese:

### Annual Report.

In presenting this brief outline of the year's activities of the Burra High School, may I be allowed to express my pleasure at your attendance this evening which is one indication for your keen and kindly interest in the welfare of the students who attend the school. Other indications of interest are not lacking, for this function is but a fitting and proper climax to a year packed with interest and benefits obtained by the students whose supporters and benefactors and every right thinking person desires to be. Enrolments this year constitute a record—61—being in excess of last year by one. The staff has been fully engaged in providing the very best for these young men and women and a notable feature of the year is the interest displayed by all classes which have been unusually regular in attendance in spite



all classes which have been unusually regular in attendance, in spite of prolonged absences due to illness of quite a number. The net result may be gauged from the fact that the average attendance for the year is nearly fifty-three—another record—while the ready response by the students was a notable feature of the year's work. Surprisingly few students left school during the year. This is another indication of the fact that parents continue increasingly to realise the advantages to be had by continuing their children at school beyond the compulsory age. Nowadays, fortunately, only an unenlightened, unprogressive and shortsighted parent would even passively neglect to urge the privileges and development which are bound to follow courses of study such as the secondary schools now provide.

Exceptional advantages have been provided at Burra this year, for the boy students, have in addition to their regular subjects, been instructed in woodwork since the establishment of the Woodwork centre in charge of the special instructor, Mr. Robinson. Benchwork and design are now supplementary to the more strictly "mental subjects" and are as important for the boys as Domestic Art is for the girls. These additional courses within the curriculum are of very great benefit to boys and girls who are to become practical and efficient men and women.

The routine work of the school has proceeded very smoothly and there has been a harmony and unity of purpose evident throughout the year. I believe that the students respect their teachers one and all; I know that the teachers one and all love the students who have been placed within their sphere of influence.

Support as always—of parents and friends has been all that could be wished. We have never yet in vain required aid for school functions, conveyances and even provision of accommodation for visitors. In April we acted as hosts to the Clare High School when the girls were equal in tennis and our boys had a first innings victory in cricket. In June we visited Clare to receive a bad beating in football but the girls were not inferior in basketball. In August we competed at Riverton in

the combined High School sports, but left the shield behind, and tied with Clare for third place. In September we entertained girl students from Peterborough when the basketball match played with them was drawn,

match played with them was drawn, scores being equal.

There has been no necessity to raise funds by means of organised efforts this year, as the High School Council was still able to meet all our needs for expenditure on books, music, tar-paving and so on. For some time permission to build the shelter-shed by the tennis courts has been expected. This improvement should be completed very soon.

Students' committees for the regulation of cricket, tennis, football, and basketball have been functioning effectively. Interest has been maintained in the school magazine which is produced once each term—a single typed copy limited to one edition—but of more than passing interest.

Unfortunately—owing to the death of the late Director, Mr. McCoy, no inspection of the school took place until the end of November when the final examinations were in progress. Nevertheless Inspector Allen expressed his keen appreciation of the work that had obviously been performed and commented upon the very pleasing spirit shown by both students and staff. One matter that cannot be over-looked is the fact that enrolments next year are likely to be smaller, due partly to the fact that grade 7 of the Burra Primary School has dwindled so alarmingly during the year. We look to the enrolments from that source as the mainstay of our numbers, and trust that every parent will use his interest to see that every qualified pupil takes his place in the High School desks next February.

Finally, it is my pleasing duty to report that loyal co-operation, steady endeavor, elevating and developmental influences both within the school and outside it have been the everyday practice of the members of the staff—Miss Batchelor, Miss Jones, and Miss Parker—who have given a fine example and every encouragement, and have led the way for students in a very impressionable period of their lives. We look backward with regret knowing that another happy year is behind us; we look forward with every confidence to the coming year knowing that our work will ever more strongly mould those for good who enter the portals of the Burra High School.

A waltz song from Faust by the girl students followed, after which the chairman in giving his address stated that "break ups" served many purposes, and were generally looked upon as pleasant functions and one that marks the cessation of



looked upon as pleasant functions and one that marks the cessation of school duties that the students might enjoy respite in pleasure and relaxation. The latter was not a sort of reward for strenuous work done but an opportunity to freshen the mind and body. At break up functions parents and friends also had the opportunity of judging what encouragement the students were given by the prizes awarded and thus impress on them the advisability of letting their sons and daughters take advantage of the chances offered by the High School. Dr. Steele also referred to the controversy recently in the daily papers from the pen of a man of prominence in the scientific world who not only attacked the present system of compulsory education but in effect argued that it was a waste of money, that the present compulsory age should be altered back to either 13 or 14 years and further deplored the waste of money in educating the number of children that now go to the High Schools. Dr. Steele said the Professor possibly had good arguments from his own standpoint to put forward but taking them generally it was a matter that called for serious consideration. Personally he differed from the Professor and would still continue to do what he had advocated ever since he had been Chairman of the Council, that was to give their children the best education they could and keep them at the High School as long as possible. Nor did he think it was a waste of money unless a child showed lack of intelligence, there were instances certainly where it seemed an impossibility for some children to absorb knowledge, one cannot absorb if they are not absorbent. This class however are in a minority as there were so many others quick to take the advantages offered. Another fact was that at the early age of 13 or 14 but few children were capable of deciding just what he or she would make of their lives, nor what possibilities they possessed. Knowledge is power and before a child can do it must know, further the the brain needed exercise as much as the muscular portion of the body, the human brain being more highly developed than the animal, it simply must go on. If the age limit were reduced there were parents who would take the opportunity of taking their children from school and thus naturally stunt their intellects. One had also to think how this would eventually seriously reflect on the State, whereas by developing a child's in-

tellect as is the present progressive scheme of the Government this was bound in future years to assist the State by educating the present generation in the best possible manner. Politically it might be dangerous to educate the masses but personally he felt it right to give the boys and girls every chance, this was a duty parents owed the child and the nation. In conclusion the Chairman thanked Mr. Haese and his staff for their attention to their duties and the consideration shown their scholars and wished the staff, scholars and other friends a happy Xmas and a Prosperous New Year.

**At the request of the Chairman, the Mayor, A. B. Riggs, Esq., presented the following awards:**

Dux of first year class, Stan. Thomson; **Second in the first year class, James Meers**; Greatest progress for the year, 1929, Intermediate, boys, George Hann; Greatest progress for the year, 1929, Intermediate, girls, Norma Steer; Dux of School, Beryl Lawson; Most industrious student, May Bruff; Excellent attendance, attended every session, Stan. Thomson, Howard Hooper, Phillip Oborn, Harold Pearce, Nathalie Neagle, Thamar Bevan, Mavis Riggs, Beryl Lawson; Domestic Arts theory and practice, Mavis Riggs; Excellence of character and influence, Lorna Harris; Head prefect, boys, Clifford Lucas; Head prefect, girls, Mollie Walker; Sports secretary and treasurer, boys, Rowland Hammond; Sports secretary and treasurer, girls, Beryl Harris; Most successful boy competitor, inter High School Sports, Jack Finch; Most successful girl, inter High School Sports, Shirley Twist; Best examination results, year 1928, Mollie Walker; **Best essay on "Petroleum and its Products," prize of £1 1/- awarded by the Vacuum Oil Co., Winifred Meers**; Intermediate Certificates, year 1928, Aileen Laurel Walker, Beryl Lyda Lawson, Kenneth Arthur Kellock, Robert Pearson Woollacott; Domestic Arts Certificates, year 1929, Edna Allen, Sheila Fairchild, Roma Flaherty, Audrey McDonald, Elma Nelson, Margaret Pearce, May Bruff, Mavis Riggs.

The second portion of the programme opened with a vocal duet, "Ghosts of little roses," by Thelma White and Norman Steer and the next item a Continental Folk dance, "The Rheintauder," by girl students, was very quaint. The girls taking the principal parts were attired as Frauleins of the 18th century with long full skirts, short bodices, their

long full skirts, short bodices, their hair falling loosely or hanging in ringlets and banded with colors to match their frocks. The young Cavaliers? also wore striking period costumes. An exceedingly effective item and greeted with marked applause. Winifred Meers' recital, "How Mr. Symons took care of the baby" was also well received, her impersonation of the harassed mother, the irate father and crying baby was very naturally given and caused much amusement. A piano-

forte solo, "March Du Boen Apis," by Rowland Hammond followed and the beauty of the music produced by this talented lad so appreciated by the audience that a recall was demanded. It is certainly a compliment to be recalled for a pianoforte solo and the pleasing part of it that unknown probably to the majority assembled. it was - Rowland's last performance in Burra as the family left Burra for good at the end of the week. A scene from "She stoops to Conquer," was next staged and the caste as follows:—Launlord, Rowland Hammond; Marlow, Clarrie Fuss; Hastings, George Hann; Hardcastle, Laurie Twist; Tony, Phil Halls; Diggory, Jack McWaters; Servants, Rex Opperman and Charlie Jesser; Miss Neville, Mavis Riggs. Clarrie Fuss spoke and acted his part well as also did Laurie Twist and the servants but the other lads were not nearly so distinct possibly owing to nervousness. The concluding number a part song, "See our oars with feathered spray," was sung with the same beauty of expression as marked the students' first item. Mrs. E. A. W. Haese acted as accompaniste throughout. The celebration closed with the National Anthem.