

LESS, FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 1930.,

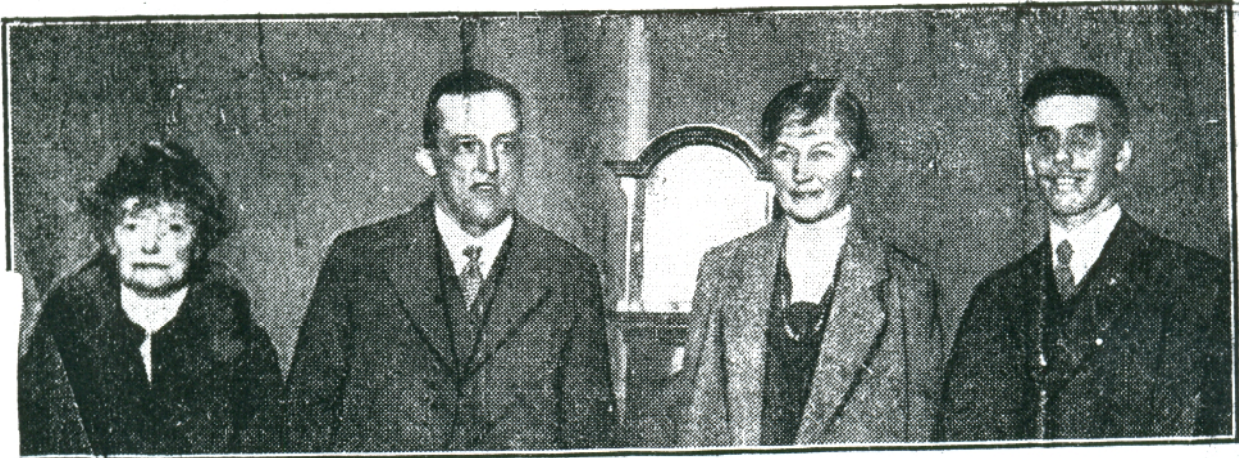
THE BRAMHAM "FOXES,"



Whose cunning and winning ways will soon make a name for this bright party of only recent formation, and who entertained at the Bramham Teachers' Presentation Concert on Friday last.

Photo, Y.P.S., Pontefract.

BRAMHAM TEACHERS' 128 YEARS' SERVICE.



Miss A. Drake, Mr. W. A. Horner, Miss A. Wormald, and Mr. R. F. Walker, who retired from service at the Bramham Church School last week with a total service of 128 years, comprising of 38, 16, 38, and 36 years respectively.

Photo, Yorks. Photo Service.

VILLAGERS RECOGNISE LENGTHY RECORDS OF SERVICE.

THREE OF THE STAFF WITH A TOTAL OF 110 YEARS' SERVICE.

HEADMASTER'S TRIBUTE TO HIS STAFF.

LETTER FROM COL. G. R. LANE FOX, M.P.

The residents of Bramham recognised in a fitting manner on Friday evening a record of 126 years of service on the part of four members of the staff of the village school, three of whom claimed a total of 110 years' service, and terminated their lengthy connexion with the school at the end of the day's session. This trio, who have learned to be loved and respected by the whole of the village, are Mr. R. F. Walker (headmaster), with 36 years' association with the school, and Miss A. Wormald and Miss A. Drake, who have held their posts at the school for 38 years each. The fourth teacher to be honoured was Mr. W. H. Horner, who, although with a shorter tenure of office (16 years), had also won the respect of both scholars and residents. With such a splendid record between them it was little to be wondered at that the Parish Room should be crowded with scholars and old scholars, and at a modest estimate it can be assumed that at least four-fifths of those present had passed through the hands of the three older teachers.

The Rev. F. W. Hicks presided over the presentation ceremony, and amongst those present were: Major W. T. Lipscomb, Messrs. W. Cass and W. H. Thackwray (school managers), Messrs. R. Hebborn and A. Wood (foundation managers), and Mr. G. Wagstaff (secretary of the Church Council).

The Chairman read the following apology from Col. the Rt. Hon. G. R. Lane Fox, M.P.: "I am extremely sorry not to be there, for I should much have liked by attending to testify to the universal esteem in which we all hold Mr. Walker and his colleagues, and how much we shall regret the loss of them from Bramham. It is only when we have lost Mr. Walker that we shall fully appreciate all that he has done for this place. There has been practically no movement for the good of Bramham with which he has not been connected, and the high standard at which he has maintained the traditions of the school is known to all. And of Mr. Horner, Miss Wormald and Miss Drake, his assistant teachers, they have not attained the same prominence as a headmaster, but we can say that they will leave us amid universal regret due to the respect in which we have had cause to hold them, and the value of the work that they have done among us. We can wish them all many years yet of prosperity and happiness, and can assure them that Bramham will miss them more than perhaps they can themselves believe."

The Chairman, in calling upon Major Lipscomb to make the presentations, said that short a time as he had been in Bramham, he had learned to honour their teachers, and to know what they had done for Bramham and the school.

The presentations took the form of cheques to each teacher, with a grandfather clock to Mr. Walker, bearing the following inscription:

"Presented to Mr. R. F. Walker by friends and old scholars in remembrance of his 36 years as Headmaster of Bramham School, May 30th, 1930."

was a slight consolation, and they would be able to see them sometimes. In regard to Miss Drake and Miss Wormald, he understood they were going to have them as residents of the village, which they were delighted to know. As to Mr. Horner, they wished him the very best in his future career. May he prosper and get on, and have good life and health. In conclusion, Major Lipscomb handed over "these small gifts for all they had done for us" (applause).

In addition to the clock and cheques, the scholars showed their esteem by presenting to Mr. Walker two beautiful book holders and a book marker (with silver pendants), and these were handed on behalf of the scholars by Rhoda Eastwood and Harry Tindall.

Mr. Walker said: Ladies, gentlemen, and scholars. I think I will not call you ladies and gentlemen, I will call you dear friends. I don't know how to adequately express my thanks on this occasion. The kindness of everyone is so great that I cannot thank you as I ought. I tried once to make a speech to my children this afternoon, but it was a "wash-out," and I had to give up. I do appreciate all you have done, the kind words which have been spoken, and the beautiful testimonial that has been given me. My feelings tonight are very mixed. I feel proud to think you think so much of me. Also I feel very sad in a way I am going to leave you. This sadness comes really from being out of work. I think I have led rather a strenuous life, and it rather bothers me to think I am going to be out of work and relegated into the ranks of the unemployed (laughter). I have had a hard life, but it has been a splendid life. I have never regretted one minute of that life here. I have had my ups and downs, and also had great successes. Bramham has done well. The school has done splendidly throughout all these years. One reason why I think the school has done well throughout the 36 years is because we have tried to really and truly educate the children at Bramham. After all, what is education? It is not simply coming to school to try to get efficient in arithmetic or English or the other arts.

The real education of a child is the drawing out of all that is best in its character, and that is the true vocation of a teacher—not simply to give knowledge, but to draw out all that is fine, best, and noble in those lives. You must remember that the children of to-day are the citizens of to-morrow, and the teacher's work and life should be a splendid example in that respect. A teacher should be very very careful how he or she goes about his or her work. It is a serious responsibility, but I think myself and my teachers have realised that responsibility, and I think that is one reason why our school has certainly been successful. I know from the testimony of many young men and women who have left school for years who have said that Bramham school and teaching had led them to do right. After all, there is not much matter with a school that can show a record like that. Another reason why the school has had a successful time is the close co-operation of my teachers and myself. I could never wish to have had such colleagues, faithfully working to that one end, all for one aim, and that in the interests of the child (applause). I cannot really individualise, and yet I sometimes wonder who is the most important teacher in a school. I think the answer without doubt is the infants' teacher, and we have been singularly fortunate in Miss Wormald (applause). Children received first impressions, and it is the first impressions that stick, and no one has laboured more faithfully than Miss Wormald in the guiding of those little steps and to pass them on to the school. She has laboured faithfully, but the reward will come. What can I say of Miss Drake? I think

a bird of passage, sixteen years at Bramham in happy years indeed.

An interesting musical programme followed, which, quite appropriately, was contributed by old scholars of the teachers. Mr. F. Dalby (Darlington) sang "The Floral Dance," with "The Windmill" as an encore. The rest of the programme consisted of a variety entertainment by a troupe of local artists, who we understand, are to form the nucleus of a Bramham Operatic and Dramatic Society. A most enjoyable number of items were given, chiefly of a humorous character, and the audience were kept in happy mood throughout. The party consisted of Miss Walker, Mrs. Bradford, Arthur and Harry Tindall, Collin Bradford, Jack Seed, George Fisher and Miss Young.

Afterwards the teachers and Parochial Council were entertained to refreshments.

The whole of the staff at the school now are supply teachers, and they will remain until July 1st, when the new headmaster and his assistants take over their duties. Mr. P. Hargreaves, of Normanton (Derbyshire) will be headmaster, and the other members of the staff recently appointed are Mrs. E. Brown (Bradford), Miss M. Wood (Bramham) and Mr. R. E. Mounce (York).

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Major Lipscomb said he felt that on such an important occasion as that it would have been more fitting if someone else who had been more longer resident had made the presentation. He had been in Bramham a mere twenty years next year, but what was that compared with the long record of service which the teachers had given them? Mr. Walker had been there 36 years, Miss Drake and Miss Wormald 38 years each, and Mr. Horner 16 years. "I wonder if there is any parallel case in the whole of the country. I think it is wonderful, and I think Bramham is very lucky to have that great record of service which they can show. I feel I should like to take a short lesson in the elements of the English language to enable me to express in a few words our feelings to-night. I am sure they know them, and therefore it will not be very necessary for me to say very much. I can only reiterate what Col. Lane Fox has said in his letter." Major Lipscomb said that if such an occasion had taken place in a city or large town they had a way of recognising the services of their citizens by honouring them with the freedom of the city, but in small

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