



The MANTRE

NEWSLETTER OF BISHOP COTTON SCHOOL, SIMLA.

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September, 1956

September proved to be an extremely busy and happy month. Doubtless, the main reason for the happiness lay in the fact that not only were there holidays but, as an experimental measure, boys were allowed to the plains. The big event of the month was Speech Day which is reported elsewhere. But in spite of Speech Day and all the activities that go on behind scenes in preparation for a great day, we found time to complete our Inter-House Boxing Tournament, our Marathon Runs and our Table Tennis leagues. The Kashmir trip, which had been planned for the holidays, had to be cancelled because a large number of boys decided to go home instead. In any case, the trip would not have materialised as the necessary permits had not been received. The same thing happened last year and led to the cancellation of a trip to Kashmir. Those were going on that occasion were disappointed and we are now anxious to find out how a party of schoolboys can get the necessary permits to visit Kashmir. If any kindly parent can help us or advise us we should be grateful as we hope to make the trip next summer.

The Boxing Tournament concluded on September 1st when a large number of visitors were present in the Gymnasium to witness the Finals. It would be idle to pretend that the boxing reached a high standard but it was, at any rate, vigorous. Much will have to be done if the School is to put up a satisfactory show against Sanawar later in the year. At the conclusion of the Boxing, the Headmaster announced that the annual match against Sanawar would be revived. He had been in communication with the Headmaster of Sanawar and after certain details had been worked out he would make a further announcement to the School. Prizes were distributed by Brigadier Raj Batra, an Old Cottonian and a former Boxing Colour. We very much hope that his words of advice will not go unheeded. Instead of trophies, winners received certificates but medals were awarded to the Best Boxer and the pluckiest Loser. The competition for the House Trophy was keen and was eventually won by Gurzon who also won the Proficiency Trophy. We offer our very hearty congratulations to Gurzon. They were deserving winners. Karwal Sundar Singh was adjudged the Best Boxer and R.S. Sawhney the Best Loser.

On the conclusion of the Boxing Tournament our thoughts turned to the Marathons, practice for which had started in August. The Runs were held on September 6th and, here again, rivalry was keen. For instance, both in the Senior and Under 15 Runs only a few yards separated the first three. The Runs were marred by a couple of accidents because of heavy rain which made the Simla roads so very slippery. Because of a protest from the Municipality, new courses for the Runs had to be devised and the following were finally agreed on:

- OPEN From the Sanjauli cross-roads, past St. Bede's and along the main road down to the School.
- UNDER 15 The same course except that it started at St. Bede's.
- UNDER 12 The same course but starting at Majithia House.
- UNDER 9 Starting at Ellerslie and coming down to the School via the short cut at Knollswood instead of the main road.

The winners were:

	<u>FIRST</u>	<u>SECOND</u>	<u>THIRD</u>
<u>OPEN</u>	K. Sundar Singh (C)	Anil Sikand (C)	S. K. Chaddah (I)
<u>UNDER 15</u>	Padam Singh (C)	Ranbir Rana (C)	Vijay Singh, 513. (C)
<u>UNDER 12</u>	Prem Kumar (R)	B. S. Hundal (L)	A. K. Basak (I)
<u>UNDER 9</u>	Mahesh Inder (C)	J. S. Randhawa (R)	Govinder Singh (I)

The Proficiency Cup was won by Gurzon while the Challenge Trophy by Iefroy.

SOCIAL WORK: In spite of Boxing and Marathons and preparation for Speech Day, a great deal of Social Work was done by the School during the month. The fact that boys are prepared to work long hours in the interests of the School is most creditable.

SPEECH DAY: Speech Day was on September 8th, our Presiding Visitor being Lieutenant-General Kalwant Singh who had very generously cancelled another appointment to be with us. The most important part of the day was devoted to speeches and we were glad to welcome not only General and Mrs. Kalwant Singh but a large number of parents and visitors. The General was met by the Chairman of our Board of Governors, the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, and the Headmaster and after members of the Board of Governors, the Staff and School Prefects had been introduced to him everyone made for Irwin Hall. The Headmaster opened the proceedings with his Speech in which he welcomed General and Mrs. Kalwant Singh and all those who were present for the occasion, including the Headmaster and Bursar of Sanawar to whom he extended a particularly warm welcome because of the long association between the two schools. The Headmaster spoke on the value of Public Schools and said that while Bishop Cotton School had drawn its inspiration from the great Public Schools of England and, in particular, from Rugby, there was no doubt in his mind that certain changes were necessary so that the School could be more in tune with the new India. He outlined successes at work and at games, sketched the development of various School Societies and stressed how necessary it was in the life of this School to have sound discipline and a good prefectorial body.

After the Headmaster's speech prizes were distributed. Prize books arrived just in time for prize-giving, on September 7th. They are now stamped with the School Crest.

General Kalwant Singh then delivered his much awaited speech. He said:

"I am happy to know that a good deal of emphasis in the activities of the School is laid on the development of character. This is but right because without character all else is of little avail. In fact, intelligence without character could be a source of danger to the individual himself and to his fellowmen. Intelligence, knowledge and cleverness alone without character may well lead to social evils.

"What is this character of moral strength or backbone which is so important in an individual. It is the sum total of attributes which determine the motives and actions of men. The basic ingredients which go to build up character could be three-fold: Firstly, integrity, which includes truthfulness, honesty and reliability; secondly, courage, both physical and moral; and thirdly, keenness and enthusiasm for what one has to do. In an individual these requisites are of vital importance not only to himself but to the community of which he is a part. No effort and pains are, therefore, too great in trying to mould the character of young boys like you.

"One of the instruments in training and moulding of the character is discipline. I feel that discipline is as important in civil life as it is in the Army. The main difference is that whereas in the former it is voluntary, in the latter it is compulsory. But it is both a civil and military necessity. I was, therefore, interested to learn that this School has a troop of National Cadet Corps which should help in this regard.

General Kalwant Singh added: "One of the aspects of school life, most conducive to this atmosphere, is the prefectorial system popularly associated with Doctor Arnold of Rugby. It is the prefects who run the school activities and carry corresponding responsibilities. The juniors help them by carrying out their orders. You thus learn by shouldering responsibility and exercising authority how policy is made and carried out. You learn about your obligations to those who are higher up and those who are lower down in the school ladder. You learn at an early age the value of discipline in a community; you also learn that throughout life authority and responsibility go hand in hand. This also develops leadership. The increasing importance of leadership to our newly-won independence cannot be over emphasized, particularly in view of various development plans which will require from you, the leaders of tomorrow, these attributes in all spheres of our national and development activities.

Games: "I would like to remind you that games play a very important part in the moulding of character. Games not only are useful ways of occupying leisure time or as an outlet for energy but also provide excellent training for citizenship and team spirit, so necessary in the battle of life. I am happy to know that

Speeches concluded with a speech by the Lord Bishop who thanked General Kalwant Singh for presiding on this important occasion in the life of the School. He endorsed the General's views on discipline and said that without discipline no school could function successfully. He felt that life at B.C.S. was vigorous and that the School had had a successful year. He congratulated the Headmaster on his appointment to so important a post and hoped he would be at the School for many years. He also extended his thanks to Mr. Brown, the Senior Master, who had upheld the fortunes of the School over two difficult years. He wished the School well and looked forward to its continued success in many fields. Speeches concluded with the School Song and the National Anthem. To the great surprise of visitors and, let it be murmured, the Staff, the singing was both vigorous and tuneful!

Speeches were followed by tea in Hall and then, once again, visitors made for Irwin Hall for Miss Roberts' production of the operetta, 'The Yellow Cap'. This was in keeping with her high standards and was much enjoyed by everyone. We then repaired to the First flat. Under thunderous applause from the School General and Mrs. Kalwant Singh drove slowly through the School gates. Speech Day concluded with a 'bara khana' for the School and visitors. Our special Service of Remembrance was held on September 9th when the Service was taken by the Lord Bishop. During the course of the Service, the Lord Bishop unveiled the Memorial to Old Cottonians who gave their lives in the 1939-45 War. The Memorial takes the form of a marble tablet designed by the Headmaster and presented to the School by one of our parents. The sermon was preached by the Lord Bishop. Particularly noticeable was the excellence of the singing and we were glad to revive the practice of an Anthem on so important an occasion. Boys were allowed home immediately after the Founder's Service. The majority of those who went home went down to the plains and from all reports reaching us 'a good time was had by all.'

During the holidays Irwin Hall was used for the North Zone Table Tennis Championships. Many of the players expressed the opinion that our arrangements were as good as any in India. For our part, we were glad to have been of some help to Mr. Bhasin, the very able Secretary of the Punjab Table Tennis Association.

Our own Table Tennis Leagues have been completed, the winners being:

First VII Ibbetson.
Second VII Curzon.
Third VII Curzon.

Term reopened on September 23rd and work began in earnest the following day. Late 'prep' has started in the Sixth Form and the Headmaster had made it abundantly clear that work will take precedence over all else. Though our results last year were satisfactory, we are determined to improve on them and we look forward to a holiday. We are certain the Headmaster will grant it in March for the excellence of our results.

STAFF: Mr. J. Asrani, one of the Editors of the 'Mitre', has now left us for a further course of studies at Edinburgh University. He has our very good wishes for much success in all his endeavours. We hope to have news of him and to publish his address in the next issue of the 'Mitre'. In his place we welcome Mr. S. C. Cowell who comes to us with long experience as a schoolmaster. His influence on the singing at Assembly is already noticeable.

FILMS: The School saw the following films during the month, in addition to some excellent educational shorts from the British Council:

September 2nd ... THE TITFIELD THUNDERBOLT
September 23rd ... DOUBLE DYNAMITE
September 29th ... THIEF OF DAMASCUS.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: We have received the Sanawar Newsletter, the YPS News Bulletin, the Doon School Weekly, the Daly College News, the Newsletter from Birla Public School, Pilani, the Sandesh from Modern School, N. Delhi, Mayoor, the Paulite.

We are most grateful to Sardar Sohan Singh, one of our parents, for his generous gift of a tennis net to the School.

OLD COTTONIANS' ASSOCIATION

NEWS:

- N.K.Ahuja (I.1948-55)
R. Vaid (L.1950-55) } are studying Science at Deshbandu College,
Delhi.
- Raj Bhasin (L.1951-55)
Harkrishan Singh (G.1953-55) } are at St.Stephen's College, Delhi.
- K.Cursetjee (R.1948-52) is leaving for the U.K. shortly to take
up engineering at Loughborough College.
- Davindra Singh(L.1947-55) has joined Karori Mal College, Delhi.
Dulip Singh (L.1952-53) entered the Royal Military College,Sandhurst,
on the 19th September.
- P. Gogte (G.1954-55) has passed the written examination for
entrance to the J.S.W. and we wish him
luck in his forthcoming interview.
- Hargurdial Singh(G.1948-55)
Surinder Singh (L.1950-55) are happily settled in Government College,
Chandigarh.
- K.N.Shakabpa (I.1949-53) will shortly be appearing for the Inter-
Science examination from St.Joseph's College,
Darjeeling, and hopes, after this, to proceed
to Peking University. We are grateful to
'Shaky' for sending us the 'Northpointer'.
- Yatindra Singh (R.1948-55) has joined St.Joseph's College, Darjeeling.
- R. L. Whitby (R.1941-43)-M.A.(Cantab)--is now on the Staff of
Gordonston, THE Outward Bound School.

NEW ADDRESS:

Ranjit Puri (R.1949-54) -- Box 417, East Campus, 3 Ames Street,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology,
Cambridge 39, MASSACHUSETTS, U.S.A.

VISITS: We were very happy to have with us last month Inderjit Ghadda,
R.Vaid and Hargurdial Singh. N.K.Ahuja also paid us a visit.

CENTENARY

May we remind our readers that our Centenary will be celebrated in 1959. It will not be too early to start our preparations next year. We are turning over a number of schemes in our minds but all such schemes will depend on the goodwill and generosity of all those who have any associations with this School. One big plan is to set up a new block for classrooms, Art and Science rooms and Staff quarters. Those of our readers who would like to make a monthly contribution instead of paying in lumpsum are asked to get in touch with the Bursar. Cheques should be made payable to the School, crossed and sent to the Bursar, Mr.A.C.Advani, who will issue a receipt. We are confident that parents and Old Cottonians will give us a full measure of support in helping us to carry out a number of very necessary improvements.

If any of our readers have any suggestions to make as to the most befitting manner of celebrating the Centenary please send them direct to the Headmaster.