

VISIT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

OFFICIAL OPENING OF HIGH SCHOOL HOSTELS

The attendance at the official opening of the Middelburg High School Hostels on August 3 (Bank Holiday) by the Administrator of the Transvaal, the Hon. J. S. Smit, was not as large as was anticipated, due, no doubt, to a number of counter attractions and the unpropitious nature of the weather—a cold, biting wind, accompanied by dust, adding considerably to the cheerlessness of the surroundings. Those, however, who ventured out-of-doors were not disappointed, as the arrangements for their comfort and convenience at the High School and

and are thus given a very pleasant outlook.

Although the new buildings have cost the Provincial Administration something like £15,000, it is felt in many quarters that the money was spent judiciously since Middelburg, which is undoubtedly one of the most thriving educational centres in the Transvaal, should more than justify the confidence that has been placed in its future. Mr. I. J. van Heerden, M.E.C., also deserves praise for the interest he has displayed from time to time in putting forward the claims of the town as its representative on the Provincial Council.



Voorspoed Hostel, Middelburg.

Photo]

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sports fields gave no cause whatsoever for complaint. We would, therefore, take the opportunity of congratulating all who helped to bring this happy issue to fruition.

It will be recalled that the school has been in its present grounds for only a few years, and the School Committee, together with the principal, Mr. D. Brink, are doing all possible to follow the municipal afforestation policy by planting avenues of trees in the grounds.

Previously the male boarders were housed together in the old Voorspoed Hostel. The cottage system was decided upon, however, and today a number of cottages have been built in the school grounds adjacent to the school, each of which stands in its own plot. There are also cottages for two resident masters who supervise.

The cottages are well furnished and equipped, and each houses 15 boys, who are under the charge of a prefect.

While there is a general study room in each of the cottages no meals are taken there, but the boarders repair to a main hall situated in a separate building in the centre of the cottages and facing a large lawn which leads off on to the playing grounds. At the new Voorspoed Hostel, therefore, the boys are not herded together in dormitories,

Opening Ceremony.

Supporting the Administrator on the platform were Mr. I. J. van Heerden, M.E.C., Rev. W. S. Bruwer (chairman of the School Board), Mr. J. P. v. d. Merwe, Mr. Anton du Toit (Rector of Potchefstroom University College), Mr. G. T. Robertson, M.P., Messrs. G. Moerdyk (Architect), A. J. Barrable, J. P. McLees, H. D. Clegg and A. L. de Villiers.

Mr. J. P. van der Merwe gave a comprehensive review of the history of the Middelburg school hostels since their inception and spoke in high praise of the unselfish labours performed by Dr. J. Z. H. Rousseau, a former resident of Middelburg, and Mr. A. J. Barrable, to place these institutions on a sound and lasting footing.

Mr. G. Moerdyk, commenting on the expenditure involved to erect the buildings, jocularly remarked that there was a surplus of £4, which, however, would not cover the expense necessary for the planting of trees.

His Honour the Administrator reminded his hearers at the outset that the public were not taking enough interest in the election of their public bodies, with the result that too much reliance was placed on the Government for support. In the course of further remarks he (the speaker) confessed that he was not in favour of free education as some schools had 97 per cent. bursary pupils of which not more than

12 per cent. qualified for matriculation.

The hostels were then formally declared open amid applause, and those present were invited to partake of the dainty refreshments that were so generously placed at their disposal in the new Voorspoed dining hall and High School hall.

A basket ball match between representatives of Middelburg and Belfast first and second teams resulted in victories for the home-sters.

OPENING VAN HOERSKOOL SEUNSKOSHUIS.

(Indrukke van Buitestaander).

Middelburg was Maandag weer in feesgewaad. Nieteenstaande die skrale windjie was elkeen se gesig 'n toonbeeld van innerlike vreugde, wat as besoldiging kom van 'n nagestrewede ideaal wat eindelijk verwezenlik geword is. Middelburg 'en distrik het ryker geword—die fasiliteite tot opheffing van ons volk het omvangryker geword en die moontlikheid om engeblik te ontwikkel tot ruimer perspektief, is daar geskep.

Die publiek was baie hartlik ontvang deur die verantwoordelike personeel. Alles was pragtig en stiptelik volgens tyd georganiseer.

Die Voorsitter het die publiek korteliks toegesprek alvorens die Administrateur die woord gevoer het. Lof en waardering is aan vroeëre baanbrekers toegeswaai, by name Dr. Rousseau en Mnr. v. d. Lingen, asook die leeu-aandeel wat Mnr. Barrable in die ontwikkeling van die koshuise gehad het. Onwil-

lekeurig het by die publiek 'n simpatieke gevoel vir die huidige Koshuisvader en moeder ontstaan. Hulle werk wat van so 'n ontsaglik belangrike aard is, n.l., die vorming van edele karakters, die opbou van 'n volksgees, burgers waarop die staat trots kan wees, ja burgers waar die roem en grootheid van die volk in die toekoms gaan ahang—aan hulle is g'n enkele woord van lof en waardering gerig nie, en het menigeen gewonder of die gebou en die gesonde finansiële beleid die enigste en vernaamste faktor in ons hedendaagse ondankbare wêreld is.

Die toespraak van die Administrateur was nugter. Met harde, dog lang geskroomde feite het hy ons Transvaalers wakker geskud. Ek sê geskroom, omdat dit al lang gevoelde feite is, dog versweë uit vrees vir politieke verlies. Die vrye on-

derwysstelsel wat alle verantwoordelikheid van die skouers van die ouer neem en dit op die staat werp ten koste van ons persoonlike eer en selfstandigheid. Die volk is aan degenereer, ons volkarakter word ondermyn deur die in menige geval, gewraakte wanvoorstelling om van die staat enige moontlike steun te verkry.

Daarna is daar verversings aan al die gaste verskaf. Alles het getuig dat daar heelwat opoffering moes gewees het om soveel gaste so mildelik te ontvang. Die huismoeder dra alle lof weg vir haar organisasie en netheid van die geboue, die huisvader vir die smaakvolle wyse waarop die gronde uitgelê is.

J.J.E.



Voorspoed Hostel Houses.

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