

LEVUKA SCHOOL CENTURY

PUBLIC

SCHOOL

LEN USHER



BIRTH.

ESTGATE.—At Tole, Rewa River, the wife of H. Eastgate, of a son. (Otago papers please copy.)

The Fiji Times.

"SWORN TO NO MASTER, OR NO SECT AM I."

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 1879.

It is to be confessed that the much talk about getting a public school and a teacher, and the accompaniments of an educational course for the interim capital of Fiji, has been long in being hatched into a practical reality. Possibly the future pupils have not been in anywise impatient of the delay, but it has been a subject of much censure on the part of parents and guardians, and all who have the education of the rising generation at heart. At last, however, the "malua," inevitable in this lotus eater's climate, has come to an end, and, barring some unforeseen catastrophe, the school will open on Monday next in Oddfellow's Hall, with a certificated master of much experience.

Mr. Bonynge, the teacher to be, arrived by the Gunga on Thursday last, and bears with him every testimony to his ability as a teacher and general fitness for the training of youth. The fact that he had under him in the position which he left at Wagga Wagga, a roll of four to five hundred scholars, with eighteen pupil teachers, is evidence enough of the popularity he enjoyed there, but a stronger testimony to his worth we find in an address received by him some four months ago from the principal inhabitants of, and, indeed, all connected with that town. Given on the occasion of an annual school fête, when there was no question of Mr. Bonynge leaving, it attests not only his "strict attention and thorough earnestness" in teaching, but his "uniform kindness to the child" and the latter is by no means the least important part in a schoolmaster's character. Through the heart may be won influence to secure intelligent application, which, we take it, is the only royal road to learning.

The schoolroom in the Oddfellow's Hall is but a temporary arrangement, and we hope soon to congratulate the town, on a handsome addition to its public edifices in the shape of a school and school house, that, if necessarily within a moderate estimate, will be of such well balanced proportions as to do credit to the taste of our public guardians and their builder.

The school and schoolmaster being secured, it is only wanted to see a hall well filled with docile, attentive pupils; and to that end we hope that pupils will be sent promptly, so that the teacher may, from the first, be able to introduce a habit of discipline, and make an arrangement of classes to form the nucleus of his permanent system. It is very trying to a teacher to have but a handful at first, not even very regular in attendance, each probably with a heterogeneous mass of accomplishments, all their

own, demanding the harder process of unlearning to be gone through before a well grounded education can be begun, and still more of like sort dropping in day after day to the confusion and embarrassment of classes already established, and the hindrance of a steady progressive initiative. In saying this, we by no means discredit the efforts of such teachers as may have laid the foundations of any knowledge the pupils have acquired. Such rudimentary teaching will undoubtedly be of great benefit, but where one comprehensive plan is not followed, and each teacher follows the bent of his own genius, the immature mind of the pupil is puzzled, and he loses time ere he grasps his unrecognised task, and appreciates the fact that it is the old teaching in a different shape. A very prompt attendance is one of the most desirable things in opening the school, and attendance of unvarying regularity is an absolute necessity if there are to be pupils at all.

The inhabitants of Levuka do not need to be told, we imagine, that this school attendance is, by the education Ordinance, compulsory under a penalty for non observance. And we may express our knowledge, that it is the intention of the executive of the School Board to enforce this provision of the Ordinance most strictly. If therefore a recusant or neglectful parent or guardian cannot show, to the satisfaction of the Board, that their children or wards are receiving proper education elsewhere, he will be proceeded against, fined and compelled thereafter to send the children, in whom he is interested, to school. The school fee is of such an amount that it can form no excuse for any one neglecting to fulfil this portion of his duties as a citizen, in seeing that his belongings are trained up and educated so that they may be in future years helpful to themselves and useful to whatever community they may be connected with.

In connection with the school the teacher intends by and bye to establish a boarding school for country pupils, and augurs the best effects from that aid to his teaching. The boarders at first, having the advantage of evening teaching, outstrip their day school mates, but these, in their turn stirred to rivalry, work the harder, and a commendable competition ensues, greatly to the benefit of all. So excellent have been the effects in New South Wales that the Council of Education are now building, for the teachers, large houses with ample accommodation for that purpose.

We need scarce, at this time of day, say a word on the benefit of a sound education. It is the one point on which all thinking, and for that part thoughtless, men are agreed, and only on the details of the provisions for it do differences arise. That such differences will not arise here is our firm belief, and it will be highly gratifying to see, in a year or two, a large proportion of Fiji pupils passing with credit at the University examinations of the colonies, and excelling, it may be, the youth of New South Wales and Victoria.

We have some idea that the climate and life of Fiji is not inimical to mental activity.

Of course no class difference can exist under the school roof, and, we do not, for a moment, suppose that that contemptible snobbishness exists here which will say, your child is not good enough to sit beside my child. In New South Wales the sons of the clergyman, of the doctor, of the lawyer, of the rich squatter occupy the same form as, and strive in the same class with the son of the petty retail grocer, or of the hardworking handicraftsman or laborer, much to the advantage of either, and with no diminution of that respect in after life which the world may accord to the higher placed man. In Scotland the laird's sons were wont to meet on common ground with the children of his poorest cottar, and very often the cottar was the best man at lessons and play alike, but it in no way tended to subvert the principles of order, or to lessen the respect to the laird in his district. Education and training, so that the mind may be fitted to enter into the business of life, is the object of school, and the better educated man is likely to be the better gentleman, be his birth what it may.

The School Board met on Friday afternoon last to receive Mr. Bonynge, the master of the Public School, who arrived per Gunga. After being introduced, Mr. Bonynge made some remarks, in which he stated that as Mrs. Bonynge was not in robust health he would be glad if the Board could shorten her hours of attendance in teaching. Some conversation ensued, and it being understood the request was made as a favor, and it was customary in the colonies to allow the schoolmistress shorter hours at times, the decision of the matter was left to the Governor and the Chairman of the Board. It was resolved that the holidays should extend to a month each at Christmas and Midsummer, and a week at Easter. The hours of attendance would be from nine o'clock morning to twelve noon, and from two to four o'clock afternoon. The Board are to provide all school books, slates and other necessaries, so that none of these expenses fall upon parents. The school to commence on Monday the 25th instant. Ten pounds per annum was voted for cleaning the school, after which the board adjourned.

Great honours are threatening our infant colony, if the London correspondent of the "Sydney Mail" is correct. He says, "It seems quite decided that H.R.H. the Prince of Wales is to pay a visit to Australia, and I see, in the 'Court Journal' of this week, that he will also go to Fiji and the whole Polynesian group of islands, calling at New Zealand en route."

Before H. Hunter, Esq., Chief Police Magistrate, on Thursday last Wagui, a Pijian, was charged with having indecently exposed himself in a public place, but was discharged with a caution. John Connolly was charged with having unlawfully sold liquor in his licensed house within prohibited hours. It appeared that between twelve o'clock on mid-night of the 7th and one o'clock on

restive and dillic they were spring of Mr. Johnson's turned round, cau violence on his was severely cut blood followed, say, the wounds a more than temp It is to be hoped t this accident taught a lesson ness in future. Chief Justice, w dent, expressed t the sufferer and conduct which ori

The latest ac leaf disease wer a-head. It is established on Storck, fifteen eight to ten miles the Wai Manu sented as not lo bloom not affecte

The friends formerly of the Rennie, in Messr will regret to he occurred on the 4

From Raki Ra ing districts we coming into favo commencing to p promise of a go poses to add an tation very short who so far has i is to turn his soon as possible. we hear the wa plantation goes glad to learn M abundant supply hundred and si over half of whic able weather on plentiful supply sugar mill. Mr into cane, and breadth planted.

A special meet ral Society was morning at elev porter attended, room, and on a hour later, a sim Time being pre the Sydney stea able to say whetl assembled at a la

A new punt-b hands of Mr. A. Raki Raki, cau gallant style on She had left on I got no sort of wi Ovalau coast, v gave her the e powers in getti brought her up equal, we are v iser, to some t a very good b style. We un for trading alo light draught equal to abou and draws nine thing short of cargo.

The Auckland observ—"Th pleased to reco

Gent's Leather Shoes, 8s. 6d.
Gent's and Boy's Straw Hats, 1s. 6d.
Gents' White Shirts, good, 5s. each
Best Alpaca Umbrellas, 4s. each
Gents' Silk ditto, 6s. 6d.
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ALL OTHER GOODS EQUALLY
CHEAP.

J. COUSENS,
LATE HOOKER.

SCHOOL BOARD, LEVUKA.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that the LEVUKA COM-
MON SCHOOL will be opened at
9 a. m. on MONDAY, 1st September,
in the Oddfellow's Hall.

Should such day be observed as a
Public Holiday, then the School will be
opened on the following day.

The School will be under the control
of Mr. THOMAS BONYNGE, and the
hours of attendance for pupils will be
from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, and from 2 to 4
p.m., daily.

The scale of Fees, payable in advance,
will be :—

For each child, per week .. 1s.
And in the case of Families,
for the first child, per week 1s.
And for each additional child,
per week 6d.

J. CRUICKSHANK,
Chairman School Board.

Office School Board,
Levuka, Augt. 22, 1879.

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experience in Ceylon, is open to
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Care of
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Pitt Street, Sydney.

A SITTING of the High Commis-
sioner's Court will be held at the
Supreme Court House, Niukaubi, on
MONDAY, the 25th instant, at the close
of the business in the Supreme Court.

C. H. H. IRVINE,
Acting Registrar.

Supreme Court,
August 22, 1879.

SAMOAN DICTIONARY AND
GRAMMAR on sale at the
Fiji Times office.

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LEVUKA SCHOOL CENTURY

LEVUKA PUBLIC SCHOOL 1879 — 1979

LEN USHER

THANKS

The most readily available source of information about the early days of Levuka Public School is in the Government Archives, Suva, where minute books, files, reports and Legislative Council papers are preserved. I had the utmost assistance from the Archivist, Setareki Tuinaceva, and his staff (especially Margaret Patel) in gaining access to these.

Fred Moffett had already explored the mine of information in the Archives in preparation for a paper on the school which he presented to the Fiji Society in 1967. I used this paper frequently as a guide to my own researches.

I added to personal memories of the school since 1930 by talking to former pupils and teachers. The pupils included Ratu Sir George Cakobau, who recalled the days when as a very junior member of the Garner Jones household his special task was to see that the headmaster's topee and shoes were kept immaculate — a useful preparatory discipline for one who was eventually to wear the white dress uniform of a Governor-General.

Reg and Dora Patterson talked from a background of association with the school covering three generations. In Suva, Mrs. Robinson recalled the years when, as Elsie Lepper, she was a junior teacher with Mrs. Hathaway. Annie Williams was a valuable source of information, not only about her own school days but also about developments since because, though now living in Suva, she has maintained close touch with Levuka. The present headmasters, Tui Malo and George Gibson, and members of the centenary celebrations committees in both Suva and Levuka added to this information, as did Paula Sotutu, not the first Fiji-born (the country of his birth is the Solomon Islands) but the first Fiji-recruited headmaster of the school.

John May and Victor Heritage helped to compile the record of sporting achievements of former pupils.

In New Zealand, Robert Gilmore did some vigorous detective work to trace relatives of Garner Jones. Of special value, he sent me a recording of an interview with Jessie Conrady, now a lively 86, with clear memories of her days at Levuka and the many years of service and companionship she gave to the Moore-Jones family in Auckland. Lima Simpson not only typed the manuscript and its numerous revisions but also gave valuable help in checking details.

In collecting photographs to illustrate the history, I started with prints from my own albums. Among those who lent additional photographs were Dora Patterson, Jessie Conrady, George Thaggard, Annie Williams, Alice Powell, Bob Warbrooke, the Fiji Times, the Fiji Archives, George Gibson and the New Zealand National Museum.

But the most fruitful source was the Fiji Museum, whose director, Fergus Clunie, made the resources of the photographic library fully available. This library is being strengthened and re-organised with skill and energy by an American Peace Corps worker, Tom Hill. My debt of gratitude to him, for helping to find photographs and then making copies of all that I assembled, is immense.

The colour photograph on the cover was taken by Stuart Inder, and the printing negatives were kindly supplied by the Pacific Islands Monthly.

Dallas Swinstead and the production staff of the Fiji Times, notably Joeli Cagilaba, Magnus Mitchell (an L.P.S. old boy), Krishna Chandra and Sami Nair, were extremely helpful. I thoroughly enjoyed working again with old friends in a once familiar atmosphere.

Finally, I offer comprehensive, but truly sincere, thanks to all others who have helped me but whom I have not mentioned by name in this introduction to a book which, because of so much friendly co-operation, it has been great fun to write.

Produced by
Information Services South Pacific.

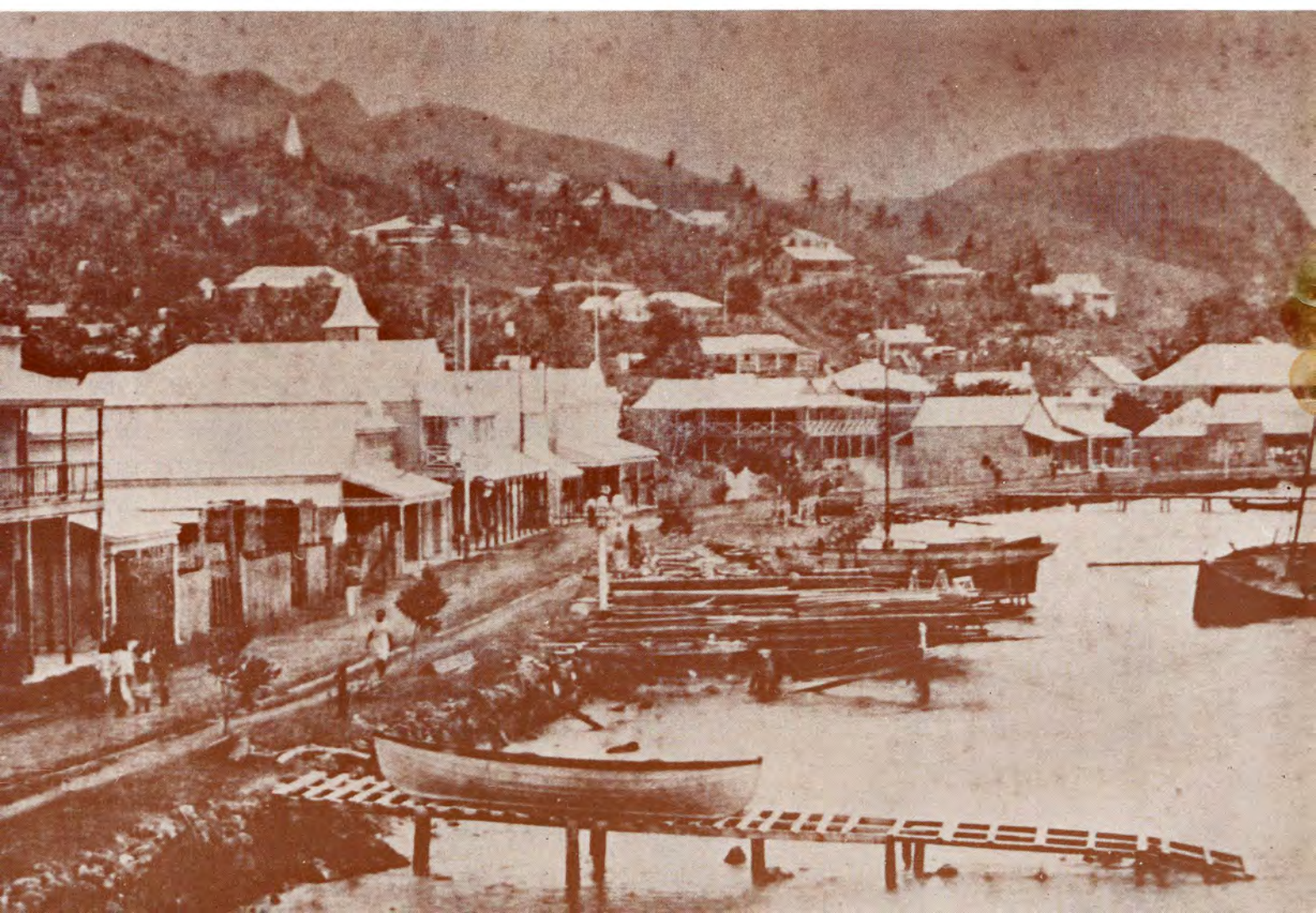
Printed by
Fiji Times and Herald Limited,
20 Gordon Street, Suva.

LEVUKA PUBLIC SCHOOL HEADMASTERS

Thomas Bonynge	1879-1883
George D. Miles	1883-1885
John W. Millar	1885-1888
C.F. Woolnough	1889-1891
Arthur Horne	1892-1893
	(Died October 1893)
D. Garner Jones	1894-1921
V.A. Green (Acting)	1921
A.J. Cross	1922-1924
F.N.A. Downward	1924-1926
William O'Connor	1927-1930
D.A. Saunders	1930-1931
L.G. Usher	1932-1936
	(Assistant 1930-1931)
M. McGrath	1937-1944
G.M. Thomson	1944-1950
G.R. Stacpoole	1951-1955
Max Christie	1956-1958
	(Died July 1958)
G.H. Moffett	1958-1960
D.L. Kelly	1961-1963
	(Assistant 1957-1960)
R.V. Miles (Acting)	1964
W.B. Harris (Acting)	1964
L.M. Robinson	1964-1968
E.J. Newman	1969
W.E. Donnelly	1970
Paula Sotutu	1971-1972
R.L. Pillay (Acting)	1972
John R. Sharan	1973-1974
PRIMARY	
George Gibson	1973-1974
A.R. Vadei (Acting)	1974-1975
George Gibson	1974-
SECONDARY	
T.W. Malo	1976-



Thomas Bonynge.



THE OPENING

In the afternoon of April 23, 1879, the Levuka Public School Board met for the first time.

Dr. J. Cruickshank was in the chair and among the other members was the Chief Police Magistrate, H. Hunter, who would later be responsible for seeing that Levuka parents sent their children to school.

Mr. William Scott, founder of the Fiji legal firm which still bears his name, was also a member. His son Harry, later to become Sir Henry, would two years later be enrolled as a pupil at the proposed new school.

The Board was completed by Messrs. M. Wilson, C.W. Drury and G.L. Griffiths, founder and owner of the then ten years old Fiji Times and by Mr M. McCulloch and the manager of the Bank of New Zealand, Mr J.M. Butt, who were not present at the initial meeting.

The Board, which was the Levuka Town Board under another name, had been appointed under the Public Schools Ordinance, No. 10 of 1879, which decreed that "There shall be established in Levuka a Common School at which the ordinary branches of secular education shall be taught upon payment of fees in the Schedule attached".

The fees prescribed were one shilling per week per child, reduced to sixpence a week for each additional child in a family.

The Ordinance provided for the establishment of "both common and high schools" in Fiji, together with technical schools for Fijians to supplement the rudimentary education being provided in villages by the Methodist and Roman Catholic Missions.

One such government technical school was opened in 1881 at Yanawai, in south-western Vanua Levu, but the Levuka Common School, later renamed Levuka Public School, was by then already in existence, and can rightly be regarded as the seed from which Fiji's national education system has grown.

The members of the first Levuka School Board had three main jobs — to draw up estimates of revenue and expenditure, and to find staff and a home for the new school.

The estimates were fairly simple. For annual salaries of a head teacher and his wife, also a teacher, 450 pounds was provided. Other amounts allowed were 50 pounds for house rent, 100 pounds for rent of a school

building, 70 pounds for furniture and apparatus and 50 pounds for incidentals — a total of 720 pounds.

To offset this, the Board hoped to get 100 pounds in school fees and 345 pounds from an education rate levied on Levuka property owners at the rate of what would now be the equivalent of 2½ cents in the dollar.

The shortfall was to be made up by the Government, the general principle being that the Government and the Board would each provide half the cost of the school.

Expenses proved higher than estimated and in 1880 the education rate was increased to the equivalent of 4½ cents in the dollar.

Finding a school room was quite a problem. The Board would have liked the use of the Mechanics Institute building, on the foreshore land near Niukaubi Hill, but an acceptable rent could not be negotiated.

Various Levuka residents offered shops or houses at rents ranging from the equivalent of 80 pounds a year to four pounds a week. The Board eventually rented the Oldfellows Hall, at one pound a week, for six months to give them time to find a site for a permanent school building.

Meanwhile a head teacher and assistant had been selected and appointed.

Mr. Thomas Bonyngé and his wife arrived from Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, in August and at a meeting with the Board it was decided that school hours would be from nine a.m. to noon and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., that there would be holidays of a month "at Christmas and Midsummer" (seemingly following the northern hemisphere seasons), and that the Board would provide "all school books, slates and other necessaries, so that none of these expenses fall upon parents".

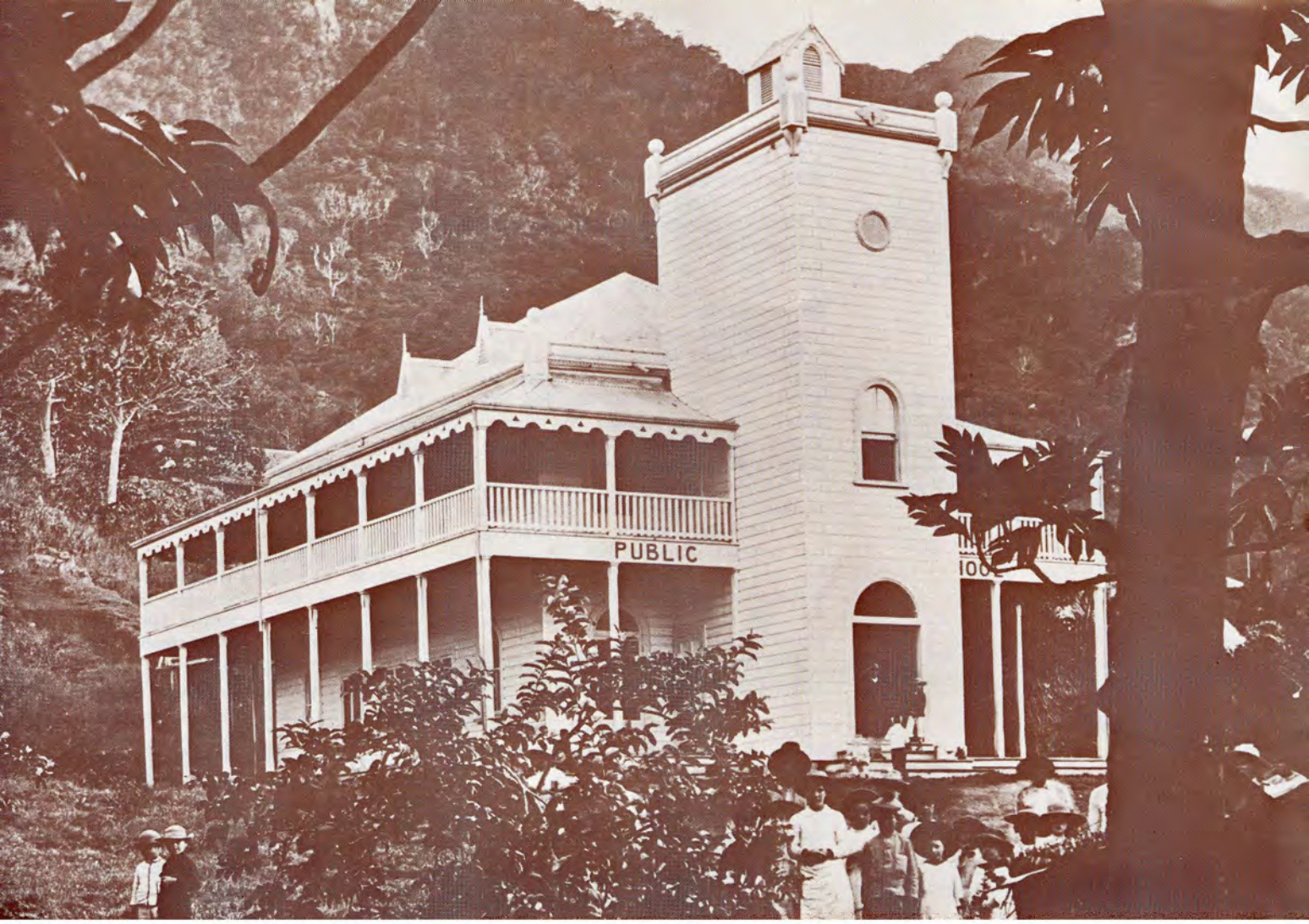
The date for opening the school was fixed for Monday, August 25. However the Oldfellows Hall was not yet ready, so the opening was postponed for a week.

A public holiday intervened, and the school eventually started on Tuesday, September 2, 1879, with a roll of 58, "of whom fully half were girls".

The Fiji Times reported: "Mr. Bonyngé expresses unqualified gratification with the appearance and style of his pupils and thinks he has admirable material to work on".

Levuka from the North end. The large building in the middle left is the Mechanics Institute. Beyond is Niukaubi Hill, once the site of the Cakobau Government's Supreme Court and temporary Parliament House, and now of a war memorial. The first proposal for a site for the school was to reclaim land between the Institute and the Hill.

Levuka from the South end. Buildings along Beach Street had their own verandahs which were later joined to form stretches of footpath.



FINDING A HOME

At the end of 1879 the lease of the Oldfellows Hall expired and the school was without a home, but the School Board was able to arrange for the temporary use of the Mechanics Institute.

The Board meanwhile continued the search for a site on which to erect a permanent school building.

They considered a hill at the back of the town, a site near the hospital and two pieces of land near Vagadaci.

The Government indicated that land on the south side of Totogo Creek could be made available but the Board members preferred a foreshore site and strongly favoured further reclamation between the Mechanics Institute and Niukaubi Hill.

Negotiations proceeded to a point where plans were prepared for a school here, but in November 1880 the Government repeated the offer of the Totogo Creek land and let it be known that no public funds would be available for acquiring any other site.

The Board was still unhappy and had begun discussions on buying some Convent property when their fellow citizens, foreseeing a likely increase in the education rate, stepped in and forced a decision.

At a meeting on March 7, 1881, the Board finally selected the Totogo Creek site, the members recording in the minutes that they were acting "in accordance with the decision arrived at by the ratepayers".

The Board offered a prize of 15 pounds for the best design for a school building. The prize was won by G.W. Moore, and the tender of 975 pounds for constructing the building was awarded to McGregor and Milne. A sum of 175 pounds was voted for levelling the site.

The school was completed in July 1881 and occupied in the same month. The two-storied building, though modified through the years, still stands.

As for the site, an overseas inspector wrote in 1910, "It is difficult to

imagine a more beautiful schoolground. There is a fair playing space".

This comment comprehended the loveliness of the setting (marred today by ugly "temporary" structures dumped on the lower lawn) and the limitations, later to become important as the school grew, that were created by the size and topography of the site.

The School Board embarked early on a beautification programme and the minutes of March 1882 record a suggestion by the Colonial Secretary and later Governor, J.B. Thurston, that lauci, or candlenut, should be among shade trees to be planted.

Thurston was at this time involved in the transfer of the capital from Levuka to Suva. There had been apprehension about the effect of the move on the school, but in January 1883 the Board minutes noted with satisfaction, "It is gratifying to see that notwithstanding the exodus to Suva the attendance at the close of the year (1882) was larger than that at the close of the previous year".

But there had been an effect. In 1880 the roll number had exceeded 200. At the end of 1882, the year when the transfer of the capital was completed, it had dropped to 151.

There were to be further blows. The period from 1885 to 1890 was one of severe economic depression and, as happened forty years later, planters in other islands could not afford to send their children to school in Levuka.

The position was made worse by devastating hurricanes in 1886 and 1889. Civil service salaries were cut and the number of government posts reduced. The severity of the 1886 hurricane was such as to "temporarily paralyse the colony's local trade, and destroy not less than one-half of its staple productions".

The average attendance at the Levuka school dropped in 1889 to just over 40, and only the bottom floor of the building was in use.

This was the lowest point in the school's history.

◀ The school building. An internal staircase led from the front door to the upper floor. The bell tower was removed in the early 1900s after being damaged by a hurricane.

◀ A rear view of the school.



EARLY YEARS

In February 1883 Mr. Bonyngue gave notice that he wished to resign, for health reasons, in the following July.

Later in the year his second assistant, Mrs. Hathaway (a name that was to reappear with distinction later in the school's history) died and Miss Ewins was appointed in her place.

To find a successor for Mr. Bonyngue the Board advertised in New Zealand and Australia and in May 1883 appointed Mr. George D. Miles, of Amherst, as headmaster.

It was not a happy choice. In the following April, the Board expressed the view that the falling attendance was due to the failure of Mr. Miles to exercise "that amount of energy and interest in the school which is expected in him as a head teacher".

The Board members could have been influenced by what the Fiji Times described as a "most unseemly scene" at the end of the Town Board meeting in the previous month.

Mr. Miles arrived at the meeting and demanded that the Warden, who was chairman of both the Town Board and the School Board, read a certain letter which Mr. Miles claimed had been sent by the Colonial Secretary.

The Warden refused to do so as it was the Town Board and not the School Board that had just finished sitting.

Mr. Miles then, the Fiji Times report says, taunted the Warden with being "afraid to read it", with being "ashamed to read it", and with being "ashamed of his actions".

The Warden replied briskly and Mr. Palmer then intervened to accuse Mr. Miles of "giving a scholar two emetics of mustard and water before the whole school, and then tickling his throat with a grass-spear to cause vomiting, simply to satisfy his curiosity as to whether or not he had been eating".

Mr. Palmer asserted, the Fiji Times

says, that "had the boys been a son of his, he, Mr. Miles, would have had the mustard down his own throat".

Order was restored only when one of those present succeeded in persuading Mr. Miles to leave.

At its May meeting, the School Board expressed the view that the dignified course for Mr. Miles to adopt would be to tender his resignation. Mr. Miles strongly disagreed, and a legal battle ensued, with dismissal notices being countered by writs claiming damages.

It was not until November 1885 that settlement was reached through arbitration. Among the losers, apart from the School Board and the children of the school, whose progress could not have been helped by the protracted dispute, were the ratepayers. The Colony Annual Report for 1886 noted that at 626 pounds the school rates were "abnormally high to cover the cost of an action for damages brought against the board by a teacher".

Meanwhile Mr. John W. Millar, of Hawthorn Grammar School, had been recruited as headmaster, and the school soon regained stability.

A report by Dr. Robert Beith at the end of 1887 said that under Mr. Millar and his assistant, Miss Palliser, "the discipline of the school remains of a very high character". Dr. Beith noted with approval that separate playgrounds were provided for boys and girls.

Inspections at this period were serious affairs. The reports, including the examination results of individual pupils in each subject tested, were published as Legislative Council papers. Whether or not a Government grant for the following year would be approved depended on what the inspector thought of the discipline and management of the school, the efficiency of the teachers and the progress of the pupils.

In the hurricane of 1895 the school was blown partly over. A contract for 50 pounds, supplemented by a Government grant of 25 pounds, was awarded to G. Patterson to straighten the building. At the same time, he attached wire ropes to anchor the school from the sides.

The Prime Minister of New Zealand, Richard Seddon (middle of the second row), visited the school on a tour of the Pacific just before the turn of the century. The chairman of the School Board, Captain David Robbie, is seated at the left.



D. Garner Jones in 1905. This photograph was taken by J.B. Stinson, who had just opened a studio in Levuka. The business was later developed by his son Charles into Stinsons Limited.

GARNER JONES ARRIVES

In 1890, a new Education Ordinance was enacted. Levuka was constituted an Education District and provision was made for a School Board with three members nominated by the Governor and three to be elected by the ratepayers, each for a three-year term.

The full title of the new law was the Public Education Ordinance, and the Common School at Levuka thus officially became the Levuka Public School, a name that was already in use unofficially.

Under the Ordinance, the School Board was to draw its finances from a Government grant and an education rate, both based on the number of children on the school roll, and from fees levied on pupils who were below the age of six years or above the age of 14 years.

Mr. Millar had been succeeded by Mr. C.F. Woolnough, who left Levuka some time in 1892. When his successor, Mr. Arthur Horne, arrived in September he found that the school had been closed for several months. Mr. Horne proved a popular and efficient headmaster and there was much sorrow when, in October 1883, he died.

The School Board recorded that "by his untiring energy and devotion" he had "won from the children their love and esteem".

They decided to seek the help of a New Zealand inspector of schools in choosing a successor. The man he recommended was to have a profound effect on the development of Levuka Public School and on the future of a great many of its pupils. He was D. Garner Jones, one of the ten children of Mr. and Mrs. Moore-Jones, who had come to New Zealand from England in 1886.

They settled in Auckland, where Mrs. Moore-Jones founded a school, known as The Ladies College, in the fashionable suburb of Remuera. After her death, two of the daughters, Amy and Winnie, carried on the college until advancing age forced them to retire. In addition to New Zealand children, the college attracted pupils from many South Pacific island territories.

For some reason now not known, Garner dropped the hyphen and the Moore from his name when he came to Levuka. It is an odd coincidence that towards the end of his life he acquired a hyphen of his own and official records speak of him as Mr. Garner-Jones. He is so remembered in a Suva street, near the Suva Grammar School, which bears his name.

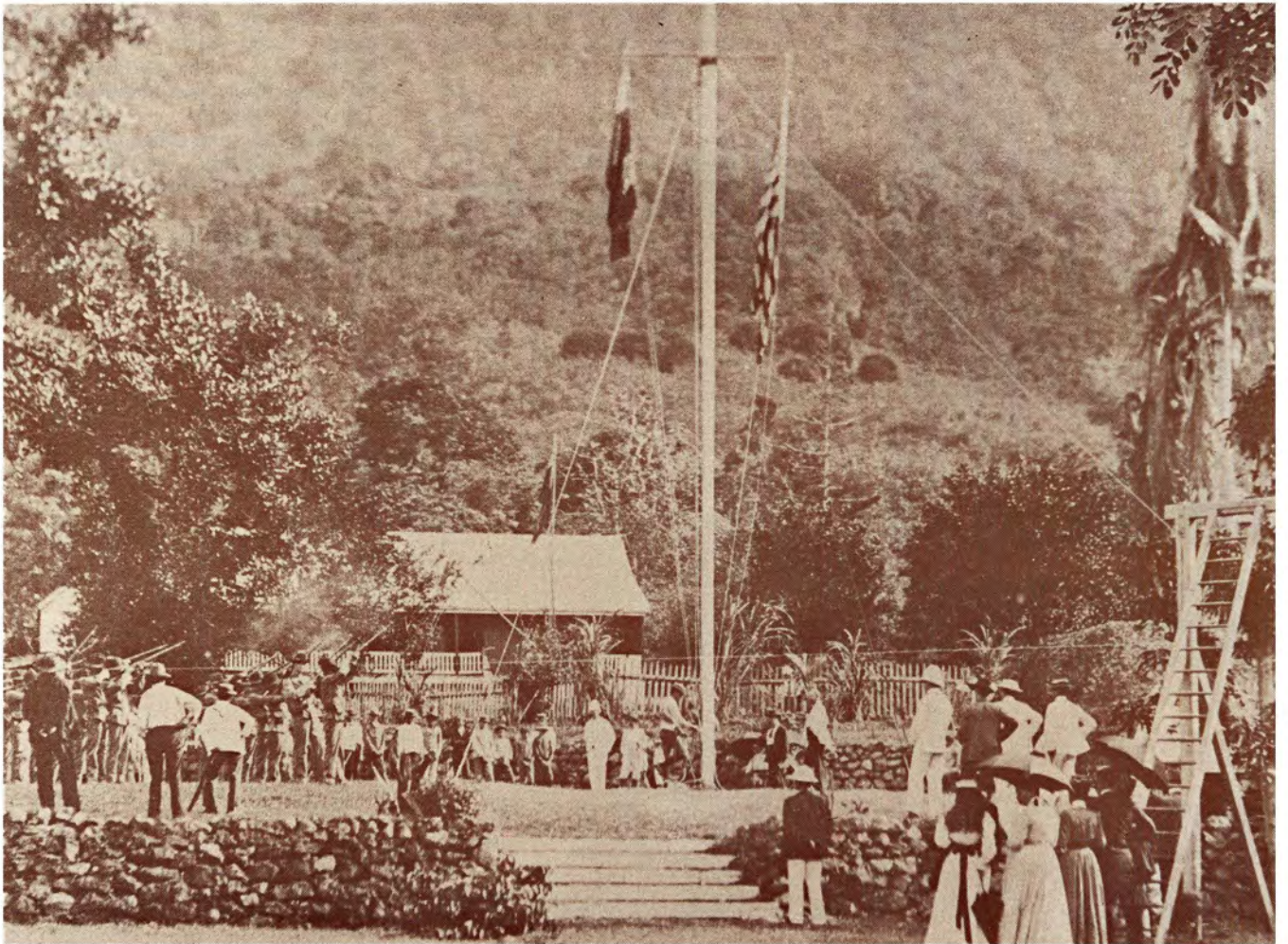
One of his brothers, Horace, became well-known in New Zealand as an artist, and as Sapper Moore-Jones he was responsible for some memorable paintings of New Zealand troops in action in World War I. One which he named "Murphy and his Mule", commemorating a one-man and one-animal mercy operation which saved many lives at Gallipoli, has been often reproduced.

Garner kept in close touch with his family and in 1913 from among his former pupils at Levuka he recruited a domestic assistant, Jessie Conrady, who at the age of 86 looks back on 55 happy years with Mr. and Mrs. Moore-Jones and the two daughters of the Ladies College in Remuera.

In an interview in Auckland in February 1978 she echoed the feelings of many hundreds of fellow former pupils at Levuka Public School when she described Garner Jones, or Garner Moore-Jones as she insisted on calling him, as "a wonderful man".



D. Garner Jones shortly before he died in 1930. He invariably wore a white topee, white buttoned-up coat with scarlet cummerbund underneath, and white trousers which fastened under white shoes.



RE-CASTING A CURRICULUM

The Cyclopaedia of Fiji, published in 1905, contains a biographical outline of D. Garner Jones.

"He was born, in the early sixties, on the Welsh border, and educated at Hanley and Cheltenham. Trained on the modern side for engineering, he finally adopted the profession of a schoolmaster. He held various positions in several parts of the old country as second and finally first English and mathematical master in secondary schools. He arrived in Auckland in 1886 and worked as a teacher in various towns in New Zealand until 1894, when he accepted the appointment as headmaster of the Levuka Public School. He holds English and colonial educational certificates and took honours in chemistry, theoretical and applied mineralogy and assaying.

"For many years he was the only licensed photographer in Levuka and in a special case of emergency acted for several months as editor of the local paper. He designed the seal of the municipality, and as a verbatim reporter has proved himself particularly useful to the town on many occasions"

He was a truly versatile man, with an in-built bias towards the practical, a characteristic that led him to adapt the curriculum of the Levuka Public School to meet what he considered to be the primary needs of its pupils.

A report on the school in 1913 by Australian inspector, Mr. A.S. Burgess, set out the background.

"Here are children of manifold diversities as regards race, standards of life, attainments, ideals and abilities, the great majority of whom need assistance of a very special kind to enable them to meet the demands made by our present civilisation. The question to be decided was this: Can this be done best by means of a purely intellectual training with some regard to manual work, or can it be done best by a training of a manual character with some regard to intellectual work?"

Jones had no doubt in his own mind that the second course was the one to be followed — but there was a complication. He was required by the terms of his appointment to follow the syllabus of schools in the Australian state of Victoria, a syllabus which Mr. Burgess described as "a programme of instruction drawn up almost solely with a view to modern European requirements".

Jones solved his dilemma by keeping to the prescribed syllabus — with some modifications — in the ordinary school hours, and calling on local craftsmen and tradesmen to help him to provide manual instruction before and after those hours.

He had his own idiosyncracies. All children were encouraged to learn to write or draw with either the right or left hand with equal facility.

In reports and other school records there are many references to the range of subjects taught at the school. The Cyclopaedia of Fiji gave a good summary.

"In addition to the general range of English subjects — in which the school has to be annually examined by a Government-appointed inspector — shorthand, typing and customs work are taught as every day subjects, together with first aid to the injured. The quadrant and sextant, in addition to a well-equipped compound microscope, are in constant use. Netting, (with home-made instruments), knotting, splicing and other rope-work are taught to all. Further, an up-to-date course is given in practical gardening, carpentering, building construction, joinery and the elements of metal work".

Other subjects — wireless telegraphy, boatbuilding and sailmaking, for instance — were added later and in 1912 a technical classroom was built as a centre for these diverse activities. The boatbuilding class constructed their own shed, 20 ft. by 10 ft. high.

The school day for the senior boys was full. An inspector in 1914 speaks of engineering classes from 8 a.m. to 9.15, sailmaking from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. and other manual subjects from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. It was perhaps not entirely a coincidence that the same report said of the senior school, "There is still some weakness in English spelling and composition".

The teaching of English was always a problem because so many of the children came to school speaking only Fijian, the language of their homes. Their introduction to English came in the junior school, presided over by Mrs. Hathaway, who originally joined the staff in 1899 as Miss Kate Ridings.

She was patient, kindly and a very good teacher. The memorable quarter-century which is usually referred to as the Garner Jones period should, to make the picture complete, have Mrs. Hathaway's name incorporated. The acting Superintendent of Schools, Mr. D.W. Hoodless, recognised this in 1922, when he wrote: "Mrs. Hathaway retired at the end of the year and the school lost not only an excellent teacher but one who had contributed perhaps as much as anyone to the continued success and progress of this school during the last 22 years".

The Superintendent of Schools, Mr. George MacKay, had previously written to the Colonial Secretary, "Mrs. Hathaway's almost unbroken period of service is, I think, unique".

Mrs Hathaway's classroom. In the right foreground is Agnes Chapman, whose sister Sybil (Mrs Gardner) was later a teacher at the school. Standing at the back, beside Mrs Hathaway, is pupil teacher Elsie Lepper, now Mrs Robinson, living in Suva.

The school cadets firing a salute. Garner Jones is standing to the left of the flagpole. The Swann home in the background was later bought by Mrs St Aubyn.



School cadets lead junior cadets in a patriotic parade along Beach Street during World War I. The Russian nurse behind the juniors is Dora Chapman (Mrs Patterson).



The cadet corps marching in front of the Post Office.

MEMORABLE YEARS

It is not difficult to read between the lines of the reports of inspectors who from 1900 onwards came annually from Victoria to inspect the Levuka Public School.

They were used to schools which closely followed the syllabus prescribed by a central department. It was part of their job to see that this was done. Garner Jones was a new experience, but with his convincing voice in their ears and the evidence clearly before their eyes the inspectors could not help but acknowledge that he was right when he argued that an academic course prescribed in Australia required radical changes in the context of Fiji, and especially of Levuka.

The inspector in 1910, Mr J. Holland, wrote:

"The work of the Upper School is characterised by brightness, alacrity, originality and efficiency; that of the Junior School by a quiet earnestness and thoroughness that have produced excellent results . . .

"A strict adherence to the exact programme prescribed would give more "passes" in the Inspectors' Register. The conditions of the school are, however, so unique and the results of the present instruction so excellent, that I should be the last to make any definite recommendation that would interfere with the headmaster's liberty or fetter him in any way . . . I have never inspected a similar school and I am afraid I shall never again inspect another like it."

The 1913 report by Mr A.S. Burgess, referred to earlier, said:

"In no school I have been in have the discipline and tone been equal to the discipline and tone of this school. Mr Jones can do what he likes with his pupils; their trust in him seems unbounded. He has established himself in their imagination and won their admiration and they will follow him with confidence wherever he may lead."

In 1903, Mr Henry F. Rix had noted that at Levuka Public School, "the pupils are so treated and trained that self-respect and courtesy become habitual to them."

Reporting in 1915, Mr M.P. Hansen recognised the importance of the place the Public School had gained in the community. Referring first to Mr Jones as a man of "unbounded and great originality and force" the report added, "He has created the present school and the magnificent body of public opinion supporting it."

These words were to become of nostalgic importance six years later when Garner Jones was no longer headmaster and the school went through an unhappy period when it temporarily did not enjoy the support of the citizenry of Levuka.

Mr Hansen made special reference in his report to the school's "fine cadet corps and band".

The cadet corps was the headmaster's particular pride and joy and from his place at its head he derived the title of Captain. The corps was established in 1894 and remained in unbroken commission for more than 20 years. Jones recalled, "It paid for its original uniforms and its band instruments. It bought its own canteen utensils etc, the complete outfit, and made its own signalling flags".

Many of the surnames among the original cadets are still familiar in Fiji today:

M. Hedstrom
S. Connelly
T. Wilson
A. Handyside
R. Patterson
A. Foxing
W. Houg Lee
P. Stolz
J. Whippy
A. King
L. Stuhlman
A. Wilson
S. Whippy

F. Gibson
W. Spowart
F. Spowart
H. Bentley
W. Hughes
F. Pfeiffer
A. Pfeiffer
C. Ensor
R. Foreman
H. Edward
E. Hughes
S. Hoerder
J. Williams

An armoury was attached to the lower school room to house the cadets' arms — though in 1896 these were only wooden replicas of Martini-Henry rifles.

A range for firing practice was installed in 1911 — not without some misgivings on the part of the School

Board, which appointed a sub-committee of inspection to make sure that the range was safe.

The cadet corps paraded on all ceremonial occasions — for instance at Kings's Birthday celebrations or when a flag-pole, donated by Levuka citizens, was formally installed at the school to commemorate the relief of Mafeking, an occasion of British imperial rejoicing in 1900, during the Boer War.

There were lighter sides. The commanding officer sometimes had the cadets march through Levuka streets to the tune of "There is a Tavern in the Town". One former pupil recalls cheerfully an occasion when Captain Jones halted the column outside the Polynesian Hotel and enquired, "Are you boys thirsty?". To the chorus of "Yes", the captain replied, "So am I", and disappeared briefly into the hotel bar.

The cadet corps training reflected the intense patriotism which Garner Jones passed on to the pupils under his care. The last paragraph of the last annual report he wrote, in 1920, referred to the unveiling of a list of former pupils of the school who had served in World War I. It said:

"The Roll of Honour represents 75 pupils who went to the Front, 13 of whom made the great sacrifice in the fields of north France and Flanders. Each and every one of these heroes was trained and educated from the Infant Department, under Mrs Hathaway, upwards to the senior division under the present headmaster".

A fitting background to this splendid declaration of service and achievement could come only from rolling drums and trumpets proudly sounded.

The Warden (Mayor) of Levuka, Mr D.J. Solomon (right of flagpole), with the chairman of the School Board, Captain David Robbie (left) at the presentation of a flagpole to the school by the people of Levuka to celebrate the relief of Mafeking in 1900.





Citizens of Levuka in the school grounds in the early 1900s.



Assistant teacher Miss M. Morrison with her class in one of the new rooms built to supplement the original building.

AN ERA ENDS

Throughout his 36 years at Levuka, ending with his death in 1930, Garner Jones dressed in only one style.

On his head he wore a white topee of the type familiar in photographs of Queen Victoria's generals. A strap across the peak could be brought under the chin on windy days. A white shirt and white trousers were given colour by a scarlet cummerbund, but this was not visible except when he was indoors because it was only then that he removed a white jacket buttoned up to the neck. White socks and shoes with a strap from the trousers under the instep completed his attire. He carried a walking stick, and in later years he wore a monocle.

Even when he travelled to New Zealand to see his family his clothes remained the same and Mrs. Zelta Floyd, a former pupil at the Moore-Jones Ladies College, recalls hearing of a time when Garner was given special honours by Auckland police because they thought from his appearance that he must be at least the Governor of Fiji.

The inspectors' reports which have been quoted, although lavish in their praise of the Levuka headmaster and his school, were not without some reservations, but Mr. Burgess summed up the position by saying:

"Having accepted Mr. Garner Jones and his solution of the educational problem in Levuka it is necessary to accept him in his entirety. He is not a personality of whom you may knock off corners; the corners in his case are an essential part of his personality".

Some of the unconventional corners appeared early. The chairman of the School Board in 1896, Mr. W.J. Thomas, complained that the headmaster had "passed an unsavoury joke" in Mrs. Thomas' presence and had refused to apologise. What remark it was that offended the good lady's susceptibilities is not now known, but following persuasion from the Board Mr. Jones agreed, under protest, to withdraw it.

In 1903, the Board took a more tolerant stand. A letter in reply to a complaint by Mr. Ensor said:

"The Board regrets that such an incident should have occurred, more especially in the matter of language, but would point out to you that even if Mr. Jones's language was, as it appears to have been, somewhat intemperate it was used on the spur of the moment and in the interests of school discipline".

It was one of Garner Jones' principal boasts that the fine discipline of the school had been achieved without corporal punishment, but he had other means of persuasion.

One former pupil, Mr. Reg. Patterson, recalls the day when, in the face of the headmaster's strongly expressed displeasure a class-mate ran to the

edge of the verandah, slid down one of the steel ropes used to strengthen the building against hurricanes, and disappeared from school for several days until anxious parents and relatives persuaded Jones to take him back.

Mr. Patterson recalls also a time when the headmaster asked one of the girls to go down to Mrs. Hathaway to get a plate and some salt. When she returned, Mr. Jones said, "For a long time I have noticed you chewing the corner of your handkerchief. I think you will enjoy it more if you eat it from a plate, with salt".

The School Board and some of the inspectors felt their greatest concern over some aspects of the administration of the school. The admission registers were, for instance, not always completely written up — a circumstance that has, incidentally, considerably handicapped later historians. The school fees and other accounts were also often incomplete and in 1912, the Board recorded the unanimous opinion that Mr. Jones "was not capable of keeping the boarding establishment books in the proper manner".

This seems odd in view of the fact that book-keeping was one of the subjects taught at the school, and former pupils recall the ingenious methods they learned for solving arithmetical problems.

A more likely explanation emerges from the report of a commission of enquiry into education in Fiji which sat in 1926 and examined, among other things, a complaint that the headmaster of Levuka Public School was overburdened with paper work and was not able to give sufficient time to teaching. The then headmaster, Mr. F.N.R. Downard, explained the number of returns he had to compile, the official letters which required reply, and the accounts which had to be kept. The commission chairman, Dr. A. Montague, said, "Mr. Jones had a supreme contempt for that sort of thing?" and Mr. Downard replied, "Yes".

The demand for paperwork increased when a new Education Ordinance was passed in 1916.

The Levuka Public School was no longer controlled by a local Board, but by a newly-created Board of Education. This national body, with headquarters in Suva and a Superintendent of Education as its principal executive officer, took over all the "real and personal property" of the Levuka School Board. The Board became the Levuka School Committee, with mainly advisory functions. The Education Rate remained a major source of revenue but parents who paid this rate were exempted from the payment of school fees for children under 14.

Through his twenty six years as headmaster Garner Jones had had his differences with the Levuka-based

School Board, but in the main this Board had been happy to give him his own way. He was now subject to more remote, and to a large extent more impersonal, control. He did not find this easy to accept, nor did he take kindly to the increase in the volume of official correspondence and the more detailed accounting required.

In 1915, the inspector had suggested that it would be a good idea for Jones to go overseas for a while to study "the many revolutionary changes that have characterised both the theory and practice of education" during his long period at Levuka. But Jones told the School Board that he could not afford to go on holiday, and the opportunity to relieve some of the pressures was missed. They were added to by the illness of Mrs. Jones who, as an accomplished pianist, had in earlier years been of great help in school activities.

A recent comment by Ratu Sir George Cakobau, who in 1920 joined the Jones household as a boarder while a pupil at Levuka Public School, indicates one of the effects of these pressures. Asked whether he found the home contact with Garner Jones stimulating, Ratu Sir George replied, "Yes, but not after about six o'clock at night".

The school committee and the department began to receive complaints of unauthorised absence from teaching, and on August 24, 1921, the chairman of the school committee reported to Suva by telephone that the headmaster was intoxicated and that his behaviour and language were such that the remaining teachers had left the school and declined to resume their duties. Jones was suspended by the Governor and next day he resigned.

Mr. D.W. Hoodless came from Suva to investigate the position and in a report marked by humanity and understanding he reported that the trouble was due to "domestic worries and lack of vacation leave". He advised Jones to withdraw his resignation and apply instead for permission to retire, in order to safeguard his pension rights. This advice was accepted, and the retirement became effective on October 31, 1921.

Throughout this trying period of personal tragedy, Garner Jones retained his sense of humour. On September 1, he wrote to Mr. Hoodless:

"I have to express my sincere thanks for your assistance. I assure you the Devil is not so black as he is painted, and further, that it is not the fault of the paint".

In November, Mrs. Hathaway wrote to the Colonial Secretary that she was now 55, and would like to retire. She did so at the end of June, 1922. The expression is sometimes lightly used, but in the case of Levuka Public School it could truthfully be said that an era had ended.





Former pupils at the school's diamond jubilee celebrations in 1939.

Boarders at the hostel in about 1913. Jessie Conrady, who later went to New Zealand to work at the Moore-Jones Ladies' College, is seated at the left.



The hostel in 1930, shortly before it was temporarily closed because of economic depression.

Well-dressed school old boys John A'Costa and Jack King. Jack was later editor of the Polynesian Gazette.



Playing on the front path of the school in 1930.

Former pupils at the school's diamond jubilee celebrations in 1939.



Prefects' dinner with the headmaster, Mr F.N.R. Downward. Nearest to the camera (right) is Annie Williams. Behind her are Fred Palmer and Esme Hopewell (Mrs Carne). On the other side of the table are Norah Eastgate (Mrs Schierling), Wally Morgan and Jean Forster (Mrs King).



Upper school grounds, 1935. The larger of the two guns at the front of the flagpole came from the China trader "Brilliant". It was presented to the school by Captain Davieson of the S.S. "South Australia", which traded between Australia, Fiji and Rotuma for Captain Kaad.

RE-ADJUSTMENT

To fill the gap left by the departure of Garner Jones, an assistant teacher at Suva Grammar School, Mr. V.A. Green, was sent to Levuka and at the beginning of 1922, another Grammar School teacher, Captain A.J. Cross, was appointed headmaster on probation.

The situation in Levuka, where connections between the town and the school and its headmaster, after being closely maintained, with mutual pride, for more than a quarter of a century had been suddenly broken, called for a good deal of tact and understanding. Cross unfortunately displayed little of either.

One of the first things he did was to disband the cadet corps which, he claimed, had been in the past "trained on altogether wrong and obsolete systems."

He changed the method of assembly and marching into school. "The drill done at this assembly", he said, "consisted of fancy counter-marching which cannot be found in any manual and is certainly not military drill". His new system called for all children to assemble in their classrooms immediately on the ringing of the bell.

He claimed with satisfaction that assembly time was thus cut down to half a minute, but he seemed quite insensitive to the effects of the sudden abandonment of a long-cherished custom.

He formed two scout troops to replace the cadet corps but later reported with regret that "after a few weeks the Scoutmaster's enthusiasm waned and the work fell on the headmaster's shoulders". He added, "Some 60 pounds is still required to equip the two troops and I much doubt whether the parents would or could consent to the expenditure of about one pound for each boy for uniform".

Criticism of Cross mounted in the town and what he regarded as a campaign against him and the school showed itself in irate letters to the *Polynesian Gazette*. He became convinced that the campaign was being organised by Garner Jones and his reports to Suva became more and more bitter.

At the end of two years, following an unsatisfactory inspector's report, Cross was told that his contract would not be renewed.

By this time, the governments of

Fiji and New Zealand had entered into a scheme of co-operation, under which New Zealand teachers were to be provided for a number of government schools in Fiji. The scheme solved many staffing problems and was to last, with periodic modifications, for more than fifty years.

It was agreed that the schools for which teachers were to be provided would follow the New Zealand syllabus. The basis of the teaching at Levuka Public School was therefore changed from the Victorian curriculum which (with the extensive Garner Jones modifications) had been used since the school's foundation, to that used in New Zealand schools.

This, in the eyes of already agitated Levuka citizens, was a further grievance, to be added to the loss of an outstanding headmaster, the government's seizure of property paid for over the years by the people of Levuka, and the transfer of control of the school from Levuka itself to the remoteness of official Suva.

There was a further, and entirely understandable, complaint. The scheme of Co-operation with New Zealand made it possible for either side to give three months' notice of termination of appointment, but there was no provision for a minimum period of service.

Teachers' contracts were for twelve months at a time. Some teachers stayed at Levuka Public School for only four months. Between October 1921, when Garner Jones retired, and the end of 1925 the school had three different headmasters and there were 18 changes among the assistant teachers.

The first improvement came when Mr. F.N.R. Downard, who had succeeded Captain Cross as headmaster, was persuaded to extend his contract from one to three years.

Mr. Downard was in charge when a Commission of Enquiry was set up in 1926 to survey Fiji's overall educational facilities. From its report came another reorganisation, and the creation of an Education Department, with a Director at its head.

The grievances of the people of Levuka were presented to the Commission by Mr. R.W. Robinson in a prepared statement. It described the golden days of Garner Jones and then

declared:

"But the scene changes! The Government assumes complete control, takes over everything, lock, stock and barrel, even to the few pounds in the locker, and the cupboard was bare ... Alas, How are the Mighty Fallen. That day marked the commencement of the Decline of the Levuka Public School".

Questioned by Commission members, however, Mr. Robinson admitted that on his one visit as a member of the school committee he had "found everything satisfactory". He had "thought the work was going along fairly well".

The mayor of Levuka, Mr. H.R. Greening, expressed the view that the school was "sympathetically and capably managed". Both he and the headmaster, Mr. Downard, agreed with Commission members that Garner Jones was an exceptional man, who had found exceptional solutions to the problems of his time. Neither could suggest ways of keeping staff at the school for the length of time that Jones had stayed.

When the Commission's report appeared, it included the paragraph:

"In regard to the complaints that the management of the Levuka School is unsatisfactory and the course of study is unsuitable the Commission is of the opinion that these complaints have no foundation in fact".

This brought most of the complaints to an end, but there were still pockets of discontent.

The final expression of dissatisfaction came in 1933, when a petition was prepared by a group based on a Beach Street yaqona saloon, protesting against the size of the education rate levied to help support the school. But this protest stemmed largely from the constitutional change which at that time had replaced the elected town councils of Suva and Levuka with nominated government officials. The petition was an echo of the historical objection to taxation without representation, rather than a serious complaint against the school or its staff.

In any case, the document did not go beyond draft form, and the signatures collected were on a separate sheet of blank paper.



School groups, 1935. Charles Walker, later Minister of Finance, is a little to the right of the middle of the second row.



The bonfire on the Peak to celebrate the silver jubilee of King George V in 1935.

DEPRESSION YEARS

From soon after it opened, Levuka Public School attracted pupils from outside Ovalau, particularly from Vanua Levu and Taveuni, and even from Pacific island groups beyond Fiji. Many of the country children found homes with Levuka families, the names of Mrs. Palmer, Mrs. Crooks (later Mrs. Roxburgh), Mrs. Hurley, Mrs. Gibson and Mrs. Stolz meriting special mention.

In 1908, a government boarding establishment had been opened, operating under the general supervision of the headmaster. In 1912, a small hospital building, constructed by Mr. Jack Eastgate for a contract price of 97 pounds, was added to the hostel.

In 1910, and again in 1915, because of the growing roll, separate classrooms were built on the hillside beyond the main school.

By the 1920s the number of pupils had risen to more than 200 and there were six teachers on the staff.

The year 1930 saw the beginning of a world-wide economic depression. In Fiji, the coconut industry was one of the principal victims, with the prices paid for copra dropping from the equivalent of more than \$80.00 a ton to less than \$7.00, which was below the cost of plantation production. The number of country children at Levuka Public School, and in particular the number of hostel boarders, dropped severely because parents were not able to afford to send their children to school.

In 1931, the hostel was closed and it seemed likely that when the school opened in 1932 the roll would be down to about 80.

The headmaster, Mr. David Saunders, agreed that a teacher of his seniority was no longer required, and he relinquished his appointment at the end of 1931. The Education Department filled the post by promoting an assistant master, Mr. L.G. Usher, who had been at the school since February 1930.

When this was reported to Wellington, the New Zealand Director of Education expressed the view that Levuka was "too important a school to place under such a young man". But the 24-year-old Usher was confirmed in the appointment and remained at Levuka for another five years before being transferred to the headmastership of various Fijian boys' schools and then to the headquarters of the department in Suva.

His successor, Mr. Maurice McGrath, was in Levuka for eight years, continuing and reinforcing a pattern, not only of significant continuity of service by headmasters and other teachers but also of close contacts between the school and the town. The Public School and its staff had become once more an integral and lively part of Levuka, a happy situation that has continued to the present day.

Fiji, like the rest of the world, gradually emerged from the

depression of the 1930s. The Levuka Public School roll never did drop to the predicted 80, and after 1932 was never below 100. By 1946, when Mr. McGrath was followed by Mr. George Thomson, a former member of the staff of the Suva Grammar School, it had grown to 162. The increase reflected the rise in the price of copra brought about by the demand during World War II.

The school hostel had been reopened in 1933, but under the direction of the Anglican Mission, with a government guarantee, up to \$200, against loss. In the first year the guarantee proved inadequate but as roll numbers improved the running of the hostel under lease arrangements proved increasingly practicable. Mrs. R. Kaad took over in 1935, and she was succeeded in 1953 by Mrs. Roxburgh. Dr. and Mrs. Erasito succeeded her in 1955.

Trip round Ovalau. Teachers are the headmaster, L.G. Usher, and assistant Sybil Chapman.





The school in about 1938.



Carpentry class at the Technical Centre.

EXPLOSIVE GROWTH

With the end of the war the school numbers continued to grow and in 1949 the government acquired land from Mr. Joseph Williams to extend the playing area. As the 1950s progressed, the growth of the roll turned into an explosion and at the same time the first signs appeared of radical change in the nature and functions of the school.

In 1952 a secondary department was established, with a third form class of five pupils. There was little indication that this was a watershed in the school's history, and that twenty years later the primary section of the school would have become the junior partner.

In 1949, the government had taken over a large building in the town that had been constructed by the people of the Rewa River village of Daku. The building was converted into a technical and handicraft centre for children of schools, not only in Levuka but throughout Ovalau. In 1957 this centre became part of Levuka Public School, and the old technical classroom of the Garner Jones days, the "Tin Shed" as it became caustically called, was brought into use as a classroom.

This was only one of the means employed to accommodate both the primary and the rapidly growing number of secondary pupils.

In 1953, the headmaster, Mr. G.R. Stacpoole, had written to the Director of Education about the accommodation problems facing him. He pointed out that classes were being taught on the verandahs of a school room and a staff house, and that two classes were sharing another school room. The position was so desperate that Mr. Stacpoole asked for permission to use one of the staff houses for teaching purposes, and to move the teachers occupying it into the school hostel.

Two years later, he reported that three infant classes were still being taught in this house, and asked when something was going to be done about building urgently needed new classrooms.

Nothing was done, and once again the people of Levuka came into the picture. In December 1955 they formed an indignant body, the Levuka Citizens Association, which sent a strongly-worded telegram to the Colonial Secretary, wrote to the Fiji Times about children being taught in a "dirty old shed," and provoked a Legislative Council debate, begun by the European Member for the Eastern Division, Mr. H.B. Gibson.

Mr. Gibson said, "I have been telling you for the last five years that Levuka is developing, but you just will not

listen to me. There are still people who believe that Levuka is dead."

For the Government, the acting Director of Education, Mr. J.G. Rodger, admitted that the position was as bad as had been painted and that the situation regarding staff quarters was probably the worst of any school in Fiji with, he said, one and a half houses available for a staff of fifteen. He promised action, and in 1956, using land bought from the St. Aubyn family, a new block containing three infant classrooms was built and for the first time in the school's history a separate office was provided for the principal. At the same time, a new staff house for a married couple was constructed, and the house that had accommodated the three infant classes was divided into two self-contained flats.

Classroom accommodation was only part of the problem, and in 1959, when the school roll was 300, part of the Woodhouse estate, near Convent Road, was added to the playing area.

The biggest area of growth continued to be in the secondary department, and in 1960 a separate two-storied secondary block, with two classrooms and a laboratory, was built on the site of the despised former "tin shed."



◀ Devraj, caretaker and cleaner, known to children in the 1930s as Charlie.



MORE GROWTH AND CHANGE

In 1956, Mr. Staepoole was succeeded as headmaster by Mr. Max Christie. It came as a grievous shock to the school and the town when, in July 1958, Mr. Christie died suddenly of a heart attack. Mr. Fred Moffett was transferred from the Education Department to take charge, and at the end of 1960 he handed over to Mr. D.L. Kelly, who had been an assistant teacher at the school since 1957. He was succeeded in 1964 by Mr. L.M. Robinson, who was headmaster until the end of 1968. For a year, Mr. W.E. Donnelly returned from retirement in New Zealand to take over the school, and in 1971 the first non-European headmaster, Mr. Paula Sotutu, was appointed.

Session Day 1960.

This fifteen-year-period saw some important changes in the school. In 1966 the secondary department, with a roll of 100, split its Form 3 into two, and by now covered the full secondary range to Form 6. This attracted more pupils, especially Fijian, and to a smaller extent Indian, from throughout Lomaiviti, where no comparable schools existed. The attraction was increased by the school's high academic standard, and its examination success record.

Although there had always been some Fijian, and one or two Indian and Chinese children at Levuka Public School, the pupils had from the beginning been mainly of European descent.

For a short time in the 1940s, following the educational philosophy of the time in Fiji, the Board of Education had laid down that unless there were exceptional circumstances pupils were not to be accepted at the Suva Grammar Schools or Levuka Public School if their names were in the Vola ni Kawa, the register of Fijian landowners. The justification given for this policy was that considerable public money was being spent on schools that were open exclusively or mainly to Fijians. But the policy did not survive into the changed outlook of the 1950s and beyond. The effect on Levuka Public School shows clearly in an analysis of roll numbers.

In 1959, of a total roll of 309, 219 (71 percent) of the pupils were of European descent. There were 58 Fijians (18.7 percent), 5 Indians (1.6 percent), 16 Chinese (5.2 percent), and 11 (3.5 percent) others, mainly from other Pacific islands.

By 1966, the number of pupils of European descent had dropped to 148 (35 percent) while the number of Fijians had grown to 159 (37.7 percent) and of Indians to 71 (16.9 percent). The total roll of 421 was completed by 27 Chinese (6.4 percent) and 16 others (3.8 percent). The racial composition of the staff had also changed, particularly as all the technical centre teachers were Fijian.

There were a number of happy by-products of the enlarged school roll and the increased racial diversity. One was an extension of sports activities. Cricket, rugby, hockey, athletics, basketball and tennis teams competed not only within the school, but against other schools on Ovalau. They began also to compete, with considerable success, in Fiji-wide schools competitions.

These years saw also a flowering of

drama and music. There had been some notable school concerts in the past, especially in the 1930s, but now the staff and pupils took part in stage presentations ranging from Gilbert and Sullivan's "H.M.S. Pinafore" to George Bernard Shaw's "Arms and the Man," Thornton Wilder's "Our Town" and the melodramatic "Ghost Train."

The school began to exchange dramatic performances with Queen Victoria School at Matavatuou and with some of them travelled further afield, to Suva and other towns on Viti Levu. But the stage presentation that brought widest acclaim was a Fijian folk-drama, "Rakavono," adapted for the stage by Mrs. Isobel Whippy from a story by A. Simmons, and set to music by the producer, Mr. N.G. Morgan.

The first performances were in 1968, at Levuka and Suva, with all the primary school and craft centre teachers helping in the production. The Suva performances were organised by a newly-formed association of former pupils. In 1971, "Rakavono" was revived to become part of the programme for the South Pacific Festival of Arts. An extract from the programme tells much about the opera, and perhaps even more about the school.

"In the cast of Rakavono, there are Fijian, Indian, European, Chinese, Japanese, Part-European and N.Z. Maori pupils of the Primary department of Levuka Public School acting and singing together to reproduce a segment of Fijian history. That the efforts of these pupils may fall short of the purists of Fijian culture is of little importance. The over-riding factor is that here are children who form a multi-racial cross section of Fiji, linked by a common bond and giving of their best to produce an unusual experience of beauty and pride. This experience and these children are Fiji."

In 1968 the principal, Mr. L.M. Robinson, was able with justice to describe Levuka Public School as "unique in Fiji." It was multi-racial and co-educational, training nearly 450 children, from Class 1 at five years old to some eighteen year olds in Form VI, in a wide variety of subjects to give them a firm academic, cultural, physical and social basis for adult life. "From a relatively simple institution," Mr. Robinson said, "it has developed into the flexible one of today, growing and adapting to changes in the community and the country."

Fred Moffett and Reg. Patterson, headmaster and chairman of the Board of Governors, at the unveiling of a fountain commemorating headmasters Garner Jones and Max Christie.



THE SCHOOL DIVIDES

The building programme of the late 1950s eased the immediate pressure on accommodation but it was not long before new demands were created by the still-increasing roll, especially in the secondary department.

The help given in 1967 reflects no credit on either the education or public works departments. They gave the school another "tin shed," in the form of two pre-fabricated buildings with aluminium sides. These they placed at the front entrance to the school grounds, an act of aesthetic vandalism that marred the beauty of a site which had given so much pleasure and satisfaction for nearly 90 years. Levuka citizens and the school staff were assured that the buildings were "only temporary." They are still there as the school approaches its centenary, 12

years later, the unpainted sides creating oven-like conditions for children and teachers in the hot season.

In 1969, another classroom with an appearance of permanence was built beside the "temporary" structure.

The next two years saw the block on the former St. Aubyn property enlarged and a new classroom built near the P.W.D. yard. At the same time, one of the old classrooms was converted into a second laboratory for the secondary division.

But by now the Board of Governors of the school had come to the end of its patience with the provision of patchwork accommodation to meet an ever-growing need and in November 1972 the chairman, Mrs. Mela Sandys, wrote a letter to the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education. She began by reminding him that the Levuka Public School was the only secondary school in the whole of the Lomaiviti Group and she went on:

"Witness, sir, the importance of the function of this school. Witness, by contrast, the shabbiness and inadequacy of its buildings and equipment. This school has a glorious past. It has a dilapidated present. Yet its role in education in Lomaiviti is beyond question.

"Look among the leaders of the social, political and economic life of Fiji and you will find graduates of this school. Look at the site of this school and you will find temporary classrooms that have become permanent, but you will not find adequate laboratories. You will not find an adequate library. You will not find an assembly hall. You will find that even our toilet facilities are inadequate."

The reply was that in the Estimates for 1975 the sum of \$50,000 would be provided for two classrooms a new science laboratory and a library, but that the national Development Plan 6 contained no provision for major work at Levuka Public School.

There had been rumours for some time about plans to convert the school into a wholly secondary institution and these created some tensions and uncertainty within the school and among the townspeople. On May 21, 1973, the Ministry announced that henceforth there were to be two schools — Levuka Public School Secondary and Levuka Public School Primary, and that Classes 7 and 8 were to be attached to the secondary school.

The principal, Mr. J. Sharan, who had assumed duty only at the beginning of the year, wrote in his log-book after making the announcement, "After a lengthy discussion, teachers reluctantly went to their classrooms."

The discussion has since continued, with plans suggested by the Board of Governors and the staff and the Home and School Association including the demolition of the original block and

the building of a completely new school, the purchase of more land from behind the Convent, the acquisition of the site of the adjoining P.W.D. yard, and the creation of a new primary school on the other side of Totogo Creek, on the Eastgate and nearby properties.

The total roll at the end of 1978 was 622, with 325 pupils in the secondary school and 297 in the primary. A racial analysis shows, when compared with the figures for 1966 given earlier, a marked increase in the number of Fijian pupils, a decrease in the number of Indians and a much greater decrease in the number of those of European descent. The totals are 393 Fijians (187 Primary, 206 Secondary, 63.18 percent of total), 103 Indians (53 Primary, 50 Secondary, 16.56 percent), 64 of European descent (30 Primary, 34 Secondary, 10.29 percent), 8 Chinese (2 Primary, 6 Secondary, 1.29 percent), and 54 Others (25 Primary, 29 Secondary, 8.68 percent).

At the end of 1978, the headmaster of the Primary School, Mr. George Gibson, made a number of suggestions to the Board of Governors. These were referred to the Ministry of Education and a reply at the end of January 1979 made the points:

1. The allocation of school buildings would have to be left till the question of the acquisition of more land and the future ownership of the primary school had been decided.

2. Negotiations for the purchase of the Convent land had begun in the latter part of 1978, but the Lands Department was still seeking funds for the purchase. The Ministry of Works depot was "still to be resited."

3. The question of an independent existence for the primary school would be raised at a meeting of Divisional Education Officers "soon."

4. Because of demands for money for the Nasinu Secondary project, few other major capital works could be considered "for the next two years or so."

5. The aluminium building in the primary section "was to be a temporary one." The Government Architect was designing cheaper alternative school facilities and a couple of these at Levuka Public School "would be easier to accommodate in the estimates."

6. Internal relations would be helped by frequent "open and frank discussions on common school matters between the two Heads of schools."

There, at the time of completing this history, the matter rested, but it did not make any easier the position of primary school children in classes of 50 and more (the largest one of 62, taught by one qualified and one licensed teacher) in the "temporary" aluminium hot-box.

Perhaps Mrs. Sandys should have sent another letter.

Secondary pupils, 1962.

Cast of play "The Magic Ruby". Front row: Elizabeth Powell (Mrs Sorby), Ratu Dreunimimisi, Mary Keni (Mrs Samisoni). Back row: Kathleen Smith (Mrs Johansen), Jane Erasito, Mary Petersen (Mrs Erasito).

Reuka

1: 3: '21

Thursday

Dear Mr. Hoodless -

Greetings!

I have to express my
 sincere thanks for your
 practical assistance. I
 assure you the Kivi is
 not so black as he is
 painted, and further, that
 it is not the fault of the
 paint.

Kind regards
 Yrs. Cordially
 W. James Jones

✓
 D.W.
 5-7-21

Letter to D.W. Hoodless from Garner Jones after his retirement.



Teachers at Yanucalilai school picnic 1931. Miss Sybil Chapman (Mrs A. Gardner), Miss Cora McDonald, Miss E. Clarke (Mrs Hargreaves), Mrs and Mr D. Saunders (headmaster).



School grounds 1930.



Form 2, 1934, with the headmaster, L.G. Usher.

Standard 3, 1930.





LOOKING BACK

In a study of the school's rolls throughout its 100 years one striking thing stands out. It is the recurrence of names of families that have contributed with distinction, though often unobtrusively, in towns and villages, or plantations or offices or in their own homes, to the development and welfare of Fiji.

Among the surnames of pupils who were enrolled in the first year of the school's existence are Bayly, Bentley, Brown, Ewins, Fenton, Gallagher, Hulek, Kennedy, Kerrigan, King, McDonald, McFadyen, McGowan, McKay, Moore, Morris, Newton, Palmer, Poulton, Raddock, Reading, Riley, Robertson, Scott, Smith, Spowart, Stevens, Stolz, Swann, Underwood, White, Whiteside, Williams, Wilson and Woolcott.

First Hockey Eleven 1961. Front row: Victor Heritage, Desmond Kelly (Principal), Winston Hennings (Captain), John May (Coach), George Thaggard. Back row: Eric Ashley, John Lalabalavu, Etika Raki, Semi Lagi, William Powell, Ralph Lalabalavu (Vice-Captain), Robin Mitchell, Alex Sanarive, Jack Ryland.

These names were all to appear again, some of them many times, in future rolls.

Added to them in the next 30 years were such names as A'Costa, Ah Tong, Ashley, Aull, Barrack, Berwick, Beddows, Bower, Bryson, Burness, Carr, Chambers, Chapman, Carpenter, Cooper, Chalmers, Curtis, Doughty, Driver, Eastgate, Ensor, Evans, Eyre, Foreman, Forster, Gardiner, Garrick, Gibbes, Gibling, Gibson, Gray, Groom, Hansen, Harman, Hay, Haynes, Handyside, Hathaway, Hedstrom, Hennings, Hicks, Houg Lee, Hopewell, Heffernan, Jamieson, Kaad, Kerrigan, King, Langdale, Lepper, Levy, Lockington, Low, McGoon, Milne, Mitchell, Morgan, Munro, Newton, Osborn, Patterson, Petersen, Peckham, Pickering, Rennie, Reay, Robinson, Simpson, Sinclair, Salmon, Spowart, St. John, St. Julian, Steinmetz, Swanson, Tarte, Taylor, Thomas, Toganivalu, Traill, Valentine, Warbrooke, Watkins, Wedlock, Wise, Whitcombe, Whysall, Whippy and Wright.

Still more names were added in the next 70 years, and with the recent increase in Fijian and Indian enrolment the school's second century will see a fresh group of recurring names.

Some of the first century's pupils have earned a special place for themselves in Fiji's history.

The Governor-General, Ratu Sir George Cakobau, is a former pupil, as were the first deputy prime minister, Ratu Sir Edward Cakobau, and six other Cabinet Ministers of the immediate independence era. When Charles Stinson handed over as Minister of Finance in 1979 it was to a fellow Levuka old boy, Charles Walker.

Two of the Toganivalu brothers, Ratu William and Ratu David, are still in the Cabinet. A third, Ratu Josua, is Fiji's High Commissioner in Wellington. Isoa Gavidi is a member of his staff. The High Commissioner in London, Joe Gibson, is also a Levuka old boy. Another one, Sung Kang War, is attached to his staff. A former headmaster, Paula Sotutu, is a senior official in the Commonwealth Secretariat in London.

The school was well represented in the Legislative and Executive Councils of the years between Cession and Independence. In addition to those who carried on into the post-independence House of Representatives, members included Sir Henry Scott, Sir Maynard Hedstrom, Ratu George Toganivalu, Ratu Tiale Vuiyasawa and S.H. Wilson.

Before becoming a Supreme Court Judge Ron Kermod was Speaker of the House of Representatives. Hugh Thaggard is a member of the House.

Mayors of Levuka have included Cyril King, Fred Kaad, Eddie Ashley

and Gilbert Underwood. Charles Stinson and a Levuka Public School headmaster, Len Usher, have been mayors of Suva and David Whippy deputy mayor. Laurie Simpson and Hugh Thaggard have been mayors of Savusavu.

The names of some of Fiji's leading business houses come from those of former pupils of Levuka Public School. Both Percy Morris and Maynard (later Sir Maynard) Hedstrom, founders of Morris Hedstrom Limited, were at the school, as were the two sons, Clarence and Randolph, of Walter R. (later Sir Walter) Carpenter, founder of the firm that bears his name. The two brothers later became joint managing directors and Clarence is now chairman of W.R. Carpenter Holdings Limited.

Stinson Pearce Limited resulted from a union of firms with which two Levuka old boys were closely associated. Stinsons Limited was built up by Charles Stinson on the foundation of a photographic business started by his father in Levuka soon after the turn of the century. One of the senior partners in Pearce and Company was Len Bentley.

Two other firms with a long history in Fiji were founded by the brothers A.Q. (Andy) and W.E. (Winky) McGowan. Basil Aidney has a prominent place in Williams and Gosling Limited, a company with which his father, a former member of the Levuka School Board, was associated for many years.

Walter Whippy is head of the boat-building business in Suva founded by his father Charles, also a former pupil of the school. The boatbuilding tradition of the Morris family is carried on by Jack at Savusavu. Tim Hurley, Arthur Evans and Robbie Lepper have operated shipping services based in Suva. The Suva-Levuka road and sea transport service pioneered by Reg and George Patterson is now run by Henry and Robert, of a further generation of Levuka Public School old boys. Alfred Powell is in charge of customer services for Blue Lagoon Cruises.

Tom Pickering is manager of United Engineers, a Suva-based firm which he helped to establish.

Former pupils of the school who have been branch or estate managers with Morris Hedstrom Limited include Hartley Palmer, Mark White, Reg. Eastgate, Charlie Thomas, Fred Kaad, Oscar Warbrooke and Walter and Herbert Smith. Angus Sword and George Powell have been branch managers for Burns Philp. Ratu Dreunimisimisi managed Rarawai sugar mill before joining the administration staff of the Fiji Sugar Corporation. Arthur Warren was secretary of Morris Hedstrom Limited in Fiji before going to Canberra to become resident secretary of W.R. Carpenter Holdings Limited.

In Papua New Guinea, Herbert

Girl students in the laboratory.



Kienzle built up a thriving rubber-planting enterprise and in World War II earned fame for his part in organising a supply and stretcher-bearing service along the Kokoda Trail. Dick Carruthers manages the family business in Apia, Western Samoa.

Former Levuka Public School pupils who have become hotel managers include Reg. Williams, Alfred Robinson and Peter May (Fiji), Henry Kikau (Honolulu) and Jim Powell (Indonesia). George Williams is news editor with the Fiji Broadcasting Commission. Magnus Mitchell is production manager for the Fiji Times & Herald Limited. Bill Apted owns and operates a supermarket and Maurice Fenn a snack bar in Suva.

Evelyn Bentley (Mrs. Lee) has been a member of Air New Zealand's staff from the beginning of the airline's association with Fiji. Victor Heritage is partner in a travel agency. George Pickering is deputy general manager of the Fiji Development Bank and Kali Bakani is an assistant branch manager. Len Usher is chairman of the Bank. John May is deputy chief executive of the Fiji Sugar Marketing Company.

Sea captains among the school's old

boys include Mo Whippy, Edgar Williams, Stan, Stephen and Fred Smith, Bob McCaig, Frank Mitchell, Albert Scott, Fred Vollmer, Edward Hamer and Alf and Malcolm Peckham. John McFadyen has controlled a fleet of fishing vessels in the Persian Gulf.

Among the lawyers in the old boys list are Sir Henry Scott, Nat and C.C. Chalmers, Ron Kermod, Harry Powell, Edward Powell and David Whippy. Robin Mitchell and Vilikesa Rabukawaqa are doctors. Gerald Patterson has a dental practice in London. Susan Pene (Mrs Herman) holds a senior post at the Fiji School of Dentistry.

Mary Petersen (Mrs. Terence Erasito), Henry Elder, Bill Williams and David Whippy are head-teachers in Fiji schools. Albert Brownlie is vice-chancellor of the University of Canterbury, New Zealand.

Other former girl pupils include May Anderson, the principal driving force in the foundation of nursing and medical training in Fiji, Maggie Woodhouse, the first Fiji trainee to graduate as a nursing sister in New Zealand, Iris Kermod (Mrs. Harvey Hunt), co-founder of a pioneering travel service and Annie Williams, whose social work has been internationally recognised by her election as president of the Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association. A kanisi Serukalou (Mrs. Dreunimisimisi) and Anaseini Qionibaravi, a former teacher at both the craft centre and the main school, have been appointed Senators.

Old boys of the school distinguished themselves as soldiers, sailors and airmen in both World Wars and in the Malayan campaign. Officers reaching field rank include Ratu Edward Cakobau, Wally Morgan and Mick Boulton. In 1978, Ratu Edward's son, Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, was placed in command of the Fiji group in a United Nations peace-keeping force in Lebanon.

The roll of Fiji's representative sportsmen and women contains many Levuka Public School names.

Harry (Sir Henry) Scott, Ratu Edward Cakobau, Jaswant Singh, Cecil Browne, Harry Apted and Alf Wendt have played cricket for Fiji. Ratu George Cakobau was captain of the rugby team that toured New Zealand in 1939. Paula Sotutu was manager of the first Fiji secondary schools team to visit New Zealand. Albert (Tiko) Eastgate played against the All Blacks in Fiji. Dave and Frank Solomon have been prominent figures in the rugby world in Auckland.

Iona Mitchell (Mrs. Whippy) and Robin Mitchell have competed internationally in athletics, Raymond Fisher in golf, Elizabeth Whippy (Mrs. Freeman) in both indoor and outdoor basketball, John May in volleyball and George Thaggard in bowls. Moses Evans won a Commonwealth Games bronze medal in boxing.

But it is in hockey that the school

has produced its greatest number of Fiji representatives. They include Anita A Costa (Mrs. Smith), Lulu Stockwell, Alice Bower (Mrs. Toganivalu), Harry Apted, Frank and Norman McGoon, Jim Powell, Karl Williams, Lloyd Williams, Godfrey Eastgate, Fred and Steven Dickson, Tony Newton, Terence Erasito, Lilian Hansen (Mrs May), George Salesi and Myra Riley.

The list of Levuka Public School old boys and girls who have gained prominence in almost every aspect of national life could go on still further, but would not complete the picture of the contribution which the school has made to Fiji.

The list would not include thousands of men and women who, in family or community life, or in commerce or agriculture, or in the professions or in Government service, have quietly through the years applied the lessons of good citizenship they learned in their school days at Levuka.

It would include only a few of the large number of former pupils now living overseas. Many of them will return to Levuka to celebrate the school's centenary, drawn by memories not only of the school but also of the town.

For Levuka contains its own magic — compounded of the sea and ships, of hills that turn streets into long flights of steps, of the hospitality and friendliness that have characterised the town and its people from its foundation, of the history in almost every building and street and piece of foreshore that makes the town one of Fiji's special places to live in, and of the calm that refuses to be bustled by pressure or self-importance.

In the past hundred years, Levuka and its Public School have grown together. When the old boys of the school foregather they laugh as they lapse into the Levuka dialect that developed from a literal translation of Fijian into English. An often repeated exchange is not wholly apocryphal.

"Why for you never sail one tin-boat last night?"

"Chris' man, I fright the shark."

Tin-boats, those sheets of roofing iron with the ends hammered together in which boys made perilous journeys within the reef, trips to the wharf to see cutters tie up and to talk to passengers and crew, swimming at The Falls and Waitovu, climbing the Peak or going for a picnic at Miss Caldwell's beach, playing or watching games in the Park, checking the time by waiting for the Church clock to strike a second time, listening to and learning from the conversation of parents and relations and friends in long sessions of convivial reminiscence — these are all part of the memories of children brought up in Levuka.

They are at one with the special memories of the Public School in each personal segment of the hundred years of eventful life in which the school has served Fiji and its people well.

Primary School 1973.

Part of the school today.

ASSISTANT TEACHERS

Apologies are offered for any errors in or omissions from this list. It was not easy to compile from the incomplete records available, though George Gibson and Mary Erasito helped greatly with the research.

1879	Mrs. Bonyng Miss Luisa Palmer (Pupil teacher)				
1880	Miss B. Robertson				
1881	Mrs. Hathaway (Died 1883)				
1883	Miss Ewins				
	Miss I. Ross				
	Miss Jonnston				
1886	Miss Palliser				
1897	Miss Kate Ridings (Mrs. Hathaway)				
1912	Miss C.F. Smith Miss Elsie Lepper (Mrs Robinson)				
1914	Miss M. Morrison				
1916	Miss M. Clough				
1920	Miss. F. Barker Miss C. Rutter				
1921	Miss J.A. Crossley				
1922	Mr. L.J. Cels Mrs. Cels				
1923	Miss O.M. Durie Miss D. Pirritt Miss L.L. Bean				
1924	Mr. Herbert W. Watson Miss Grace Ashton-Warner Miss C.J. Glen Miss R.K. Farrow Miss T. I. Hoe				
1925	Mr. W. Parsonage Mrs. L. Bailey				
1926	Mr. A.G. Reece Mrs. E. Hamilton Miss E.E. McKinnon				
1927	Miss E. Kelly				
1928	Mr. C. Day				
1929	Miss A.J. Lambert Miss I.M. Hughes Miss A. Tregenza				
1930	Mr. A.L. Kidson Miss Hazel Taylor (Mrs Stone) Mr L.G. Usher				
1930	Miss M. Grant Miss Sybil Chapman (Mrs. A. Gardner)				
1931	Miss Cora J. McDonald Miss E.F. Clarke (Mrs Hargreaves)				
1932	Miss Jane Ah Tong				
1934	Mr H.W. Buddle				
1936	Mr. G.A. Carswell				
1937	Mr. A.G. Kemp				
1938	Miss Anita A'Costa (Mrs. Smith) Miss W.W. Smith				
1939	Mr. Raymond R.V. Blanc				
1940	Miss Frances Dyer (Mrs. Boulton)				
1941	Miss Nancy J. Burnley Mr. Thomas McKinney				
1942	Miss I.H. McKenize				
1943	Miss J.A. Wollerman				
1944	Mr. E.A. Fenner Miss A. I. Edmonds Mr. C.G.O. Parr				
1945	Miss I.M. Bowman Miss M. McGann Miss Robertson				
1946	Miss M.E.G. Archibald Miss B.H. Morgan Miss Meta Stolz Mr. J.L. Stevens				
1947	Miss R Hodgson				
	Miss Sutherland				
	Mr. A.E. Norris				
1949	Miss E. Fleming Miss W. Walsh				
	Mr. G. Gibson Miss L. Smith Mr. R. Hodgson				
1950	Mr. C.J.C. Cowell Mrs. Cowell Mr. E.P. Palmer Mrs. N.H. Palmer Mrs N.D. Stacpoolle Mr J.P. Pickering Mr. Aporosa Mr. Taniela				
1953	Mr. F.W. Clark Mrs. J. Clark Mr. J.W. Pickering Mr. B. Jobson Mr. B. Sherwood Mr. John May Miss Lilian Hansen Mrs. N. Jobson				
1957	Miss M. Petersen (Mrs Erasito) Mr. F. Madden Miss A. Gibson Mr D.L. Kelly Mrs. Christie				
1958	Mr. Reg Williams Mr. Arthur Smith Miss S. Singh Miss N. Petersen				
1959	Mr. J. Roqica Mrs R.M. Wilson Mr. T. Erasito Mr. E.N. Harraway Mrs. V. Moffett				
1960	Mr. P. Managreve				
1961	Mr. G. Guivalu Mr. M. Birgin Mr. N.B. Harris Mr. R.N. Brickell Mrs. M. Brickell Miss F. Amoe Mr. I.W. MacKenzie Miss L. Miller Mrs. J. Ewins Miss M. Gerrish Mrs Elizabeth Kelly Miss Grace Whippy Miss Lutu Suguta (Mrs Elder) Mrs. A. Qionibaravi Mr. T. Peckham Mr. D. Finnie Mrs. M.A. Finnie Miss E.M. Riley Miss H. Smith Miss M. Hughes				
1962	Mr. T.A. Donnelly Mrs. R. Donnelly Mr. H. Elder				
1963	Mr. C.C.R. Rush Mrs. A. Rush Mr D. Horsefield Mr. V. Mateni Miss Q. Kangwai Miss S. Morris Mrs. Vasiti Kacimawai				
1964	Mr. D. Tressider Mrs. N.G.B. Harris Mrs. Robatuinasigana Adi Losalini Dovi				
1965	Miss H.F. Anderson Mrs. V. Paumau Mrs. L. Damu M. Roko Mr. R. Metcalfe Mrs. N. Metcalfe				
1966	Mrs. P.F. Robinson Mr. M. Kalaam Mr. M.J. Strachan Mrs. J.M. Strachan Miss J. Emori Miss S. Williams Miss I. Weir (Mrs. M. Whippy) Mrs. T.I. Morgan Mr. N.G. Morgan Miss A. Whippy Mr. R. Krishnan Mr. V. Mocolutu Mrs. Mocolutu Miss Degei Mrs. P. Cokanasiga Mrs. J. Bale				
1967	Mr. R. Krishnan Mrs. M. Coates Mr M.E. Coates Miss E.M. Riley Miss A.T. Tora Mr. J. Matararaba Mrs Finau				
1970	Mr. R. Deoki Mrs. J.M. Deoki Mrs. Dass Mrs. M.J. Newman Mr. K.N. Sharma Mr. N. Singh				
1971	Mr. T. Gerrard Miss G. Ashley Mr. T. Frost Miss H. Katafono Miss V.T. Tanake Mr. J. Lepolo Miss B. Devi Miss N. Vunitiko Miss J. Purnell Miss I. Webley Mr. A. Cimba Miss S. Pillay Mrs. Prasad Mr. P. Rokaduri Mrs. A. Tagi Mr A.R. Vadei Mrs. M. Sotutu				
1972	Mrs. Seniloli Mr. M. Seniloli Mrs. W. Kedraika Mrs K. Gukilau				
1973	Mr. R.D. Mathews Mr. P. Mathews Mr. P. Maharaj Mr. A.V. Rao Mrs. O.L.V. Rao Mr. S. Kalipan Mr. G. Nand Mr. P.S. Sandhu Miss R. Senarive Miss K. Chalk Mr. Khem Raj Miss M. Prasad Mr. S. Vasu Miss V. Kaloumaira Mr. A.F. Konousi Miss C. Peckham				
	Mrs. M. Mathews Mrs. K. Sandhu.				
1973	Mrs. V. Vasu				
	Mrs. M. Vulakauvaki				
1974	Mr. R. Prasad Mr. J. Gandar Mrs. B. Gandar Mr. L. Nandan Mr. W. Diamond Mr. J. Barry Mrs. R. Makita Mr. J. Luveni Mrs. J. Levaci Mr. A.R. Vadei				
1975	Mr. M.U. Dean Mr. A. Balraman Mr. Jagroop Miss S. Tabucago Miss. S. Singh Mr. Kanik Lal Miss G. Bale Miss M. Tuilevuka Mrs. L.G. Bower Mr. J. Waqawai				
1976	Mr. N. Shankar Mr. S. Lal Miss J. Wentland Miss A. Vosaki Miss S. Wati Miss A. Nisha Miss D. Simmons Mrs. T. Kaituu Miss C. Wong Miss Q. Tavisia Mrs. S. Maharaj Mrs K. Driti Mrs. S.K. Fong				
1977	Mr. P. Paramanand Mr. E. Utovou Mr. C. Lincoln Mr T. Guilbault Mr. J. Singh Mr. A. Kumar Miss P. Naidu Mrs. A. Ratumaiwai.				
1977	Adi V. Bonacibau Miss J. Grey Miss J. Garland Miss M. Jasper Miss A. Kubaubola Mr. E. Rokaduci Miss B. Vulaono				
1978	Mr. I. Baravilala Mr. G. Krishnan Mr. J. Henson Mr. B. Salacakau Mr. E. Daugunu Mr. E. Koroi Mr. M. Baskaran Miss C. Keuni Miss S. Kuari Mr. Ram Deo Mr. K. Chandra Mr. J. Koroivueta				
1979	Miss R. Lagi Mr. Jotame Mr. Irava Ieli Mr. R. Shankar Mr. A. Vulagi Mr. W. Waqa Miss S. George Miss S. Waqabaca.				

LONDON, Dec. 1.

and others money in gambling.

From the *Suva Times* we learn that the newly appointed Chief Justice of Fiji will leave Perth for the seat of his future labours during the current month. The *Times* also draws attention to the coincidence that while Mr. J. Gorrie just prior to his departure refused permission for the Crown to appeal to the Privy Council in Everett's case, C. J. Wrensfordsley has refused permission to appeal in the claim *Bibra v. the Director of Public Works*.

We regret to learn that Mr. Edward Harman, brother of Mr. John Harman, and an old resident of Levuka, met his death in Sydney on the sixth instant, by being run over by a railway train.

Although Mr. Bonyngé has announced his determination to sever his connection with the Public School in consequence of ill health, it is satisfactory to learn that this event will not be of immediate occurrence, as the six months' notice which he has by agreement to give the board does not commence until the 1st prox.

With reference to the result of the examination of scholars at the Public School, it is a noteworthy circumstance that the first special prize for mathematics has been carried off by a girl; Miss Eliza Rennie, the young lady who secured this distinction, having only been studying this branch of education a few months; also that the third prize in the upper fourth-class, and a special prize were obtained by Master Phillip Stolz, a studious half-caste.

Public School Levuka.

DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES.

The annual distribution of prizes in connection with the public School took place in the school-room on Friday evening in the presence of a numerous gathering of the parents and friends of the pupils. Previous to the prizes being given out, the children entertained the company present with a musical representation of the story of Robinson Crusoe. This is the first of the kind, we believe, that has been given in Fiji, and it must be said it was as interesting as it was novel and successful in its rendition. The descriptive readings were given by Masters Ewins, Hedstrom, Drury, Wilson, and Grounds; and the Misses C. Griffiths, A. Palmer, E. Spence, M. Drury, M. Morris, and Molloy, and the solos by the Misses A. Wilkinson, F. Morey, C. Griffiths, A. Palmer, and Master A. Grounds. In both the readings and singing the young folk did well, and fully maintained the reputation the school has earned on former occasions, though we are informed but little preparation was given for the entertainment, owing to the long and searching examination of the children for some weeks previously to ascertain their positions for prizes, &c. Mrs. Bonyngé presided at the piano, and we understand it is mainly to her exertions, after-school hours, that this really excellent and pleasing entertainment was got up.

The children having completed that part of the performance, the Chairman, Mr. George Smith, addressed the company present, and expressed the great pleasure it had given him to listen to the performance of the young folk. On every occasion he had the privilege of listening to them they acquitted themselves with great credit, and this occasion was no exception to the general rule. The marked improvement of the children was highly creditable to Mr. and Mrs. Bonyngé, and spoke volumes for the care that had been bestowed upon them. He would now endeavour to gratify the young folk in return by distributing the prizes which he was sure they had striven hard to earn. This he did, adding suitable remarks as occasion called for them.

The prizes having been presented to the various recipients, Mr. Bonyngé said he had a statement to make, the subject of which had given him very serious and anxious thought for some time past. He regretted to have to tell them that owing to failing health he felt it his duty to give up the charge of the school. His resignation would therefore be placed in the hands of the School Board at an early date. He regretted the necessity for this step all the more at the present moment, for at no time since he entered upon his duties did he stand so well with the parents of the children and the public generally, and at no time was there such a perfect and friendly understanding between himself and the School Board. This was, however, a question of school teaching versus good health, and he preferred to give up the former. He might add that the giving up the school did not necessarily mean he should leave the country.

The Chairman expressed the intense regret which he and, as he felt sure, everybody in the room must have experienced in hearing Mr. Bonyngé announce his intention of giving up the school. He was not saying too much in stating that it would be found very difficult to provide a successor worthy to fill his place and he gravely doubted whether they should succeed. Mr. and Mrs. Bonyngé had ever since they entered upon their duties steadily and perseveringly discharged them, and they had done so most effectively. He again expressed his regret at the decision to which Mr. Bonyngé had come.

After three cheers had been given for Mr. and Mrs. Bonyngé, the School Board and the Chair, the company separated, a considerable number, however, remaining for a time to inspect the drawings.

They are deserving of special notice, being the work of the pupils under Mrs. Bonyngé's instruction. They embrace a number of landscape views, human heads and busts, ruins, flowers, etc., and were executed in a manner highly creditable to pupils and instructress alike. They were pronounced by competent judges in the room as excellent in execution, and we do not hesitate to endorse the verdict.

A bulletin has been issued stating the Mr. Fawcett, the Postmaster-General is suffering from a severe attack of diphtheria.

In the House of Commons to-day Sir Charles Dilke, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, in reply to a question stated that the Egyptian Government had asked that a British commander and British officers might be appointed to the new Egyptian army.

Latest reports announces that Dr. Tai is now expiring. All hope of his recovery has been abandoned.

DEC. 2.

The English Government has decided to prosecute William Redmond for sedition, and require Michael Davitt and Healy, M.P., to find security to be of good behaviour, or in default, be imprisoned.

A constable has been shot in County Mayo.

The *Daily News* states that a compromise has been arrived at in respect to the trial of Arabi Pasha. He is to plead guilty to a charge of rebellion, and will be exiled, but will retain his sword rank and emoluments.

DEC. 8.

Michael Davitt threatens to summon the Right Hon. Mr. Gladstone and the Secretary for Ireland, Mr. Trevelyan, witnesses for his defence.

Their Royal Highnesses the Dukes of Connaught and Albany attended the funeral of His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury. There was an immense concourse of spectators.

The Rev Mr. Machonochie has resigned his living.

The Marquis of Salisbury, speaking at Pitchin, predicted that the prudence and courage shown by the House of Lords dealing with the Irish question would found likely to lessen the severity of taxation, and check actions subversive law and order.

A million francs have been voted by the French Chambers for the relief of sufferers by the Paris floods.

Sir Evelyn Wood has accepted the command of the Egyptian forces.

It is rumoured that Lord Harting will shortly be appointed Chancellor of Exchequer.

The Government have announced the intention of appointing a Royal Commission to inquire into the state of affairs in the Western Pacific.

The result obtained of the transit of Venus from various parts of the world are deemed amply sufficient to enable the sun's distance to be almost absolutely fixed at.

A train has been buried under the snow in Wales for 20 hours. The passengers were rescued.

The election for the vacancy in the representation of Liverpool in the House of Commons took place to-day, and resulted in the return of Mr. Smith, Liberal, by a majority of 370 over Mr. Forwood, Conservative candidate.