

annual prize distribution 1918

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The annual prize distribution of the Saiyingpun School took place at noon. The school hall was profusely decorated with flags, palms, and fancy shades over the lights, creating a very pretty scene. There was a good attendance of parents and friends of the pupils, and practically all the scholars were present.

The day marked a record year for the school in attendance, with over 80 scholars receiving suitably inscribed silver medals for full attendance during the year. The school currently has 407 scholars. The Education Committee has recommended a reduction in the number by about 25 percent due to inadequate accommodation.

A guard of honor, consisting of the Saiyingpun Section of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, under Mr. Ray, came smartly to attention upon the arrival of the Hon. Mr. Claud Severn, C.M.G., who distributed the prizes.

Present on the platform were the Hon. Mr. Claud Severn, C.M.G., Sir Charles Eliot, K.C.M.G., Mr. A. Morris, Headmaster of the school, Mr. E. Ralphs, Inspector of Schools, Major Morgan, and Mr. Ho Kom Tong, the donor of the scholarships last year.

The ceremonies opened with a recitation by two diminutive Chinese scholars, which was very well delivered and much applauded.

The Headmaster then read the report:

****THE REPORT****

The average attendance was 403. The school retains its popularity among the Chinese, and a large number of applicants had to be refused admission due to a lack of accommodation. During the year, no less than 80 boys achieved the maximum number of attendances.

The discipline of the school is excellent, and the work done is highly satisfactory. Reading and conversation are good throughout, especially in the lowest classes, where "beginners" receive their first instruction in English from an English mistress, Mrs. Morris. Handwriting is particularly good throughout the school, with special attention devoted to this subject being apparent in all

classes. In the arithmetic papers, neatness and good arrangement were also noticeable. Object lessons have been intelligently given. In all classes, good sketch maps were drawn in connection with the geography papers.

In Class 4, taught in two divisions, there were a few weak papers in arithmetic in both divisions. With this exception, the class did excellent work. In Class 6, also taught in two divisions, the work was very good, except in arithmetic in the A Division and in arithmetic and geography in the B Division.

In Class 6, taught in three divisions, the third consisting of newly admitted boys, the A Division did very well throughout; the B Division was weak in arithmetic. The C Division, in a mid-term examination, did highly creditable work. Class 7, in three divisions, two consisting of newly admitted boys, showed very good results in all subjects. Class 8 was very good, although there was a tendency to weakness in arithmetic. The Beginners' Class, taught in three divisions, showed excellent results in these classes, where English is taught with great success.

The members of the Education Committee paid several visits to the school during April and May and expressed great satisfaction with the work done. Mr. Ponsonby-Fane, one of the members, wrote, "The relations of the Headmaster and scholars appeared to be peculiarly happy at Saiyingpun School."

The names of three old pupils appear in recent university lists, one as having passed the Matriculation Examination and two as having qualified for the Medical Faculty.

The financial life of the school has been well maintained. Chess has been in the charge of Mr. Bay, who has raised the players to a high state of efficiency. The school team won the Hong Kong Schools Chess League Shield, which was presented by the Hon. Mr. H.E. Pollock, K.C., at a function in July.

The library, recently enlarged, now contains about 500 volumes and is well patronized. Funds for the additional books and for the School Bugle Band were subscribed by a number of Chinese gentlemen. The Bugle Band is attached to the Saiyingpun Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. The Division, consisting of past and present pupils, is supported financially by Mr. Ho Kom Tong. It is thoroughly efficient and is furnished with the latest equipment. At the annual competition on "Our Day," the Division was placed second out of four companies competing. During the smallpox epidemic in the early part of the year, the members of this Division gave up a portion of their vacation and vaccinated no fewer than 12,062 cases. The Division, now attached as a Voluntary Aid Detachment to the Defence Corps, has also attended field days and mobilization

guards of honor, and the Defence Corps camp, as well as providing half the composite division sent to Canton on the invitation of the Governor of Canton for instructional purposes.

On "Our Day," boys from this school sold roses in aid of the Red Cross Funds, raising the sum of \$385. The Chinese Band has been formed and has become very popular, its services were frequently requisitioned for public functions and entertainments. Football and volleyball continued to flourish. Swimming was enjoyed throughout the summer; twice a week, the boys went out in steam launches to Stonecutters. It is noteworthy that a large number of boys, even in the lower classes, were now able to swim, and the Saiyingpun Division carried off one championship at the Annual Ambulance Brigade Aquatic Sports. The usual picnics and excursions were held.

The literature on the war, supplied by the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, was distributed to the pupils, and the pictures were displayed for general information.

In September, Mr. Mok Kon-sang presented the school with two scholarships, each valued at \$30 for one year, for Classes 7 and 8 respectively.

The school is grateful to Mr. L. Hi-sen, Kwok Sui-ian, Chan Isz-tan, Wong Kam-fuk, Chan Uto, Sir Ellis Kadoorie, Mr. Ho Loung, Lo Shin-wao, Choy Hing, Ip Sau-chi, Dr. Wan Mankai, and The Sun Co. for their donations to the library and bugle band.

The school also thanks the following subscribers to the prize fund: Sir Robert and Lady Ho Tung, Hon. Mr. Lau Chu-pak, Hon. Mr. Ho Fock, Messrs. Lo Shun-wan, Wong Kam-fuk, Cheung Kun-hing, Cheung I-sang, Ko Wan K'um, Chan Kai-ming, Ip San-chi, Ho lu, Ho Leung, Ho Wing, Ho Ki, Ho Kwong, Ho Shai-wa, Lo Cheungshiu, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Kotewall, Messrs. Ho Shai-kit, Li Pokwai, M. K. Lo, Simon The-yan, Choy Cheung, and Pang Limsha, and Lt. Ping Lung.

The school is indebted to Com. Beckwith and Messrs. A. Lung for flags, the B. and F. Dept. for palms, and the University for chairs.

Another recitation followed, given very nicely by one of the younger scholars.

The Hon. Mr. Claud Severn then distributed the prizes, after which another pupil gave a recitation that was heartily applauded.

****SCHOLARSHIPS****

From Class 4 to Queen's College: Haw Cheuk-ling, Wong Tai-kwan, Lo Hing-kuen, Leung Oi-sang, Chan Wai-chung, Un Kwai-yung.

Class 5: Tam Wai-hin (Government free scholar), Wong Pak-hing (Ho Kom-tong scholar).

Class 8: Ling Hung-to (Government free scholar), Chan Man-chan (Ralphs scholar).

Class 7: Li Tai-cho (Government free scholar).

Class 8: Wong Kam-fal (Government free scholar).

****CLASS PRIZES****

Class 5 A and B: 1st prize, Li Kwong; 2nd, Wong Wing-tong; 3rd, Leung Hing-ki; 4th, Cheuk Yuk-yan; 5th, Un Kaicheung; 6th, Fung Shiu-im.

Class 6 A and B: 1st prize, Leung Tit-sang; 2nd, Chan I-chuen; 3rd, Chung Wai-churn; 4th, Ng Hau-sin; 5th, Li Ka-u.

Class 6 B.C.: 1st prize, Tong Tse-yat; 2nd, Lai Tit-man; 3rd, Li Hi-lun; 4th, Chan Pan.

Class 7 A: 1st prize, Lan Pak-wa; 2nd, Yung Kwok; 3rd, Lau Chun-fan.

Class 7 B: 1st prize, Mok Kam-ching; 2nd, Mok Kam-to; 3rd, Pau Sai-fong; 4th, Tsang Nai-chuen.

Class 8: 1st prize, Li Mui-kwan.

Beginners Class A: 1st prize, Mak Wing-bim; 2nd, Chan Sik-kwan; 3rd, Lo Ping-fai.

Beginners Class B: 1st prize, To Yung-kwong.

Beginners Class C: 1st prize, Chu Kwok-chi.

Beginners Class: Cheung Chung-fat.

****VERNACULAR STUDIES****

Class 4-4 A: 1st, Wong Tai-kwan; 2nd, Au Kwong-lai. 4 B: 1st, Haw Cheuk-ling; 2nd, Chan Chok-yan.

Class 5: 1st, Wong Pak-hing; 2nd, Wong Wing-tong; 3rd, Chang Shui-po.

Class 6: 6 A: 1st, Chan Man-chan; 2nd, Leung Wa-kwan. 6 B: 1st, Chan Pun; 2nd, Kwong Kwok-fun.

Class 7: 7 A: 1st, Li Thi-cho; 2nd, Li Wing-hi. 7 B: 1st, Pau Sai-long; 2nd, Li Chung-in. 7 C: 1st, Li Shiuyung.

Class 8: 8 A: 1st, Li Min-kwan; 2nd, Ho Yun-tong. 8 B: 1st, Lo Ping-fat; 2nd, Mak Wing-kim. 8 C: 1st, Li Yupoon; 2nd, Leung Wa-kit. 8 D: 1st, Shun Chik-im.

Beginners Class: Leung Wun-kit.

****SPECIAL PRIZES****

Class 4 English: Chan Kan-cho.

Chess Prizes: Old Boys: Chan Po-ming. Present Boys: Li Kwong.

Sports Prizes: Old Boys: Football, Leung Oi-Hang; Old Boys, Volleyball, Au Kwong-lai. Present Boys: Football, Wan Man-kit.

Drawing: Blackboard Drawings, Lan C.

In Pencil and Brush Drawing: Cl. 4, Ng Wai-pun; Cl. 5, Char I-chan; Cl. 6A, Chan Pun; Cl. 6 D, Lê Tai-cho; Cl. 7, Li Chang-iu.

Handwriting: Wong Wing-tong.

Recitation: Fung Tam-leung, Choi Fak-pang, Fok Wing-kin, Choi Fuk-hol.

A large number of attendance medals and first-aid certificates were awarded.

The Hon. Mr. Severn then addressed the pupils. He was much honored by being asked to give away the prizes for the first time at Saiyingpun School. He had often heard of the great efficiency of that school and looked forward very much to being there when Mr. Morris invited him to present the prizes. He felt that he was perhaps poaching a little on Mr. Ho Kom Tong's preserve because he, a great benefactor of the school, had taken a deeper interest in the prizes.

The high standard had been well maintained. It was a most efficient school and deservedly popular among the Chinese. The site was cramped, and it was wonderful how much work was gotten through on the small site. He said the Chinese were fond of the school, and it was shown how much they appreciated the teaching they got there when they saw eighty boys before them who had not missed a single day's attendance during the past year. (Applause.) He thought it was a happy idea, both last year and the present year, to give to each of these

boys some small token to remind them of their very punctual attendance. He was sure all the scholars of Saiyingpun School went there very willingly, and many others would like to go there if there was room. He never liked to commit the Government to anything, so he would say nothing more about that.

The school was especially fortunate in having the continual guidance, year by year, of Mr. and Mrs. Morris. Their careful and sympathetic work had had a wonderful result, and during the past year they had also had a great help in Mr. Ray, who had shown great keenness in the social side of the School and also in directing the energies of the Saiyingpun Detachment of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. Mention had been made in the report of the great success achieved by the Saiyingpun Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. He had witnessed their exhibitions and their demonstrations on two "Our Days" in 1916 and 1917, and on one field day somewhere out near the Kowloon Hills. He was told off as a casualty early in the proceedings, perhaps not an unhappy one for the Saiyingpun Division. They set to work and put him on an ambulance. He was supposed to have sustained a broken leg. He was got on a stretcher and carried for some distance, and he was nearly upset. (Laughter.) He really thought he was going to become a real casualty. He did not know whether there were any members of that body present. He thought possibly they had gone to another place. (Laughter.) At any rate, he was very grateful to them, as he had to be a casualty – could not help being a casualty – and he was very glad to have been in such good hands. He was sure also that the Government was very grateful for the work done by the Saiyingpun Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade during the outbreak of smallpox.

They had heard of how the school had excelled in the different branches of athletics and of the Challenge Cup they had won for swimming, which showed that very great progress had been made. He thought all schools were realizing the importance of teaching their pupils to swim, which must have a very beneficial effect on the lives of the scholars. He was very glad to see Mr. Ho Kom Tong there. He continued to take a great interest in the School and was also very enthusiastic in connection with the Saiyingpun Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. He would also remind them that they had the honour of the presence of Sir Charles Eliot, whom he was sure, whilst he had been sitting there, was on the lookout for future undergraduates of the University. Sir Charles overlooked them from the hill, and he took a great interest in their work. He wished them a happy New Year, congratulated them most heartily on the successfully past year, and trusted they would spend pleasant holidays and a prosperous new year ahead of them.

Mr. Ho Kom Tong then addressed the scholars in Chinese, saying that in addition to the fact of their having the honour of the presence of the Hon. Mr. Claud Severn, they were further honoured by the presence of Sir Charles Eliot, the Vice-Chancellor of the University. He advised them all to keep their minds on their work so that some day they might be, under the care of Sir Charles Eliot at the University and become undergraduates. Cheers were then given for Mr. Claud Severn, the visitors, Mr. and Mrs. Morris, and Mr. Ho Kom Tong, after which the ceremonies concluded.