

ANCIENT HISTORY.

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OLD DALVEEN SCHOOL.

(By "Ex-committeeman.")

In recent issues of the "Daily News," under the above caption, there appeared articles by "One Who was There," and "Another who was There," that proved of much interest to a large section of your readers in the Dalveen and surrounding districts.

With the lapse of time it is only to be expected that history pertaining to the early days of any place, when only the memory for the great part is relied on, must necessarily be conflicting. Therefore, it is pleasing to record the fact that the "old hands" of Dalveen district agree that in the main, the reminiscences of the above school by the aforesaid old "school boys" are fairly accurate, and my object in writing is more in the way of a sequent.

Mr. T. W. Ramsay, a private tutor to the Aspinnall and Stay families at Cherry Gully in 1877, was subsequently (about 1878) appointed in charge of the first Dalveen school, on the Warwick road, near Mountain Park—then known as North Maryland provisional school—and built of slabs with a bark roof. Then in order the teachers were Messrs Sam, McCahon, G. H. Francis, Jas. Murphy, J. Maxwell, Gwilym Phillips, John Inglis, H. B. Palmer, T. B. Guppy, Andrew S. Cairns, Edgar S. Hill, Jas. Blair, C. T. W. Thiedecke, Andrew Sargent, and the present master (J. G. Fisher), who has been here for the past 13 years. Messrs Ramsay, McCahon, Francis, Murphy, Maxwell, and Phillips conducted school in the original building, and Mr. John Inglis (in 1891) was the first master in the new school, then for the first time designated Dalveen. The new school building was erected by Messrs Beattie and Stodart at a cost of £462, a fifth (£92) of that amount being subscribed by the few families that at the time resided in the district. Some fourteen years ago the building was removed to its present site, near the railway station, by Contractor S. Saunders, at a cost of £285.

Of the fifteen teachers, previously mentioned, who up to the present day have taught the three "B's" to the children of Dalveen, there were times

in the history of the school when seven of them met with trouble—either with the department or the parents—and of five in rotation four were dismissed from the service whilst teaching at Dalveen. This was a remarkable sequence, which proves one of two things, or perhaps both. Either the department appointed unsuitable teachers in the days that are not, or the parents were fastidious. The fact is there, however, and the dismissal of so many teachers in the space of six years is surely without parallel in the annals of Queensland schools. The four dismissed are now resting in Elysium fields in different parts of the Commonwealth.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, apparently, direful record of the school's history, Dalveen was not without its fair quota of estimable teachers—both from a departmental as well as a public standpoint. Two of them just now appeal to me—Messrs T. B. Guppy and the late A. Sargent. The former, in charge from June, 1896, to November, 1899, was transferred to Tuminaville, where he remained for 11 years, retiring from the service owing to reaching the retiring age. He returned to these parts, and, together with his good lady, is spending the evening of his days at their comfortable home (Elmo), about a mile on the Stanthorpe side of Dalveen. The late A. Sargent was at Dalveen from 1900 to 1914. On retiring from the service he was the recipient of a silver teapot and silver scuttle from the Dalveen residents on the eve of his departure for Brisbane. The chairman of the school committee (Mr. J. R. Turner), in making the presentation, said, "Mr. Sargent had proved an ideal schoolmaster, as during his four years' sojourn with us there had not been a single complaint from either scholars or parents."

In the light of present day procedure, by the Education Department, in the case of an outbreak of an epidemic among school children the following letters from the department, during the regime of Under-Secretary J. G. Anderson, may be of interest to your readers. August, 1883. "Chairman, School Committee.—In reply to your letter, intimating that the committee think it advisable to close the provisional school at North Maryland for a fortnight, because nearly all the

for a fortnight, because nearly all the children in the locality are ill, with measles and scarlatina, I have to inform you that the Minister has in no case authorised the closing of a school, notwithstanding that within the last twelve months very many schools have had the attendance reduced for a short time through the prevalence of juvenile epidemics. It is not considered advisable that the North Maryland provisional school should be closed." And again in July, 1900, the committee made application to have the school closed owing to the outbreak of a malady at the North Maryland school. The department's reply was "that temporary closure was not approved of, as it was the opinion of the Central Board of Health that the closing of schools was not effectual in the checking of epidemics."

"One who was There" avers that a Butler helped in the formation of the first committee in connection with the school. This is what one would expect seeing that members of the

Butler family have largely predominated in the Dalveen district since its inception. He evidently referred to that bluff old Englishman (the late James Butler), who, together with his brother (the late Dave Butler), was a member of that committee. In this connection the writer is reminded of an aphorism to the effect that strangers are never far astray, if, in addressing a Dalveelite, they use the name Butler. To emphasise this axiom, it is recorded that a visitor to the district, in the not very remote past, and cognisant of the number of Butlers in the locality, successfully addressed the first six men he met, and then, in answer to his further salutation of "Good day, Mr. Butler," to the seventh, that individual retorted, "My name is not Butler, but I am a son-in-law of old Jim Butler's!"

"One Who was There" refers to Wallaby Flat and Henhole (or Mea-rolé) Creek as component parts of Dalveen. I must confess that I have failed to locate either. - He may, in the case of the former, have in mind Wallaby Rocks, situated a few hundred yards from the site of the original school, and in the vicinity of

hundred yards from the site of the original school, and in the vicinity of which the children of the long ago often bathed. The Wallaby Rocks are on Mountain Park estate, and certainly is one of Dalveen's beauty spots. The rocks on either side of the gorge, in their stateliness, are a scene of grandeur. In favourable seasons a babbling brook of clear water speeds through the gorge on its way to the Rosenthal Creek basin—and therefore is an attribute of Warwick's future water supply. Previous to the annihilation of rock wallabies by foxes the caves and the country near by the Wallaby Rocks was the home of hundreds of these marsupials, and therein lies an incident that almost ended in tragedy. Some ten years ago, when the State Governor (the late Sir Hamilton Gould-Adams) took up residence at Mountain Park for the summer months, he on a number of occasions participated in shooting expeditions at the Wallaby Rocks. A year later, when in residence at Stanthorpe, he (the Governor) again journeyed to the rocks for a day's shooting, and had a narrow escape from a serious accident, when in slipping on a rock he was almost precipitated into the gorge. As it was, Sir Hamilton suffered slight abrasions to hands and legs. At his suggestion the matter was hushed up by the two or three then in the know.