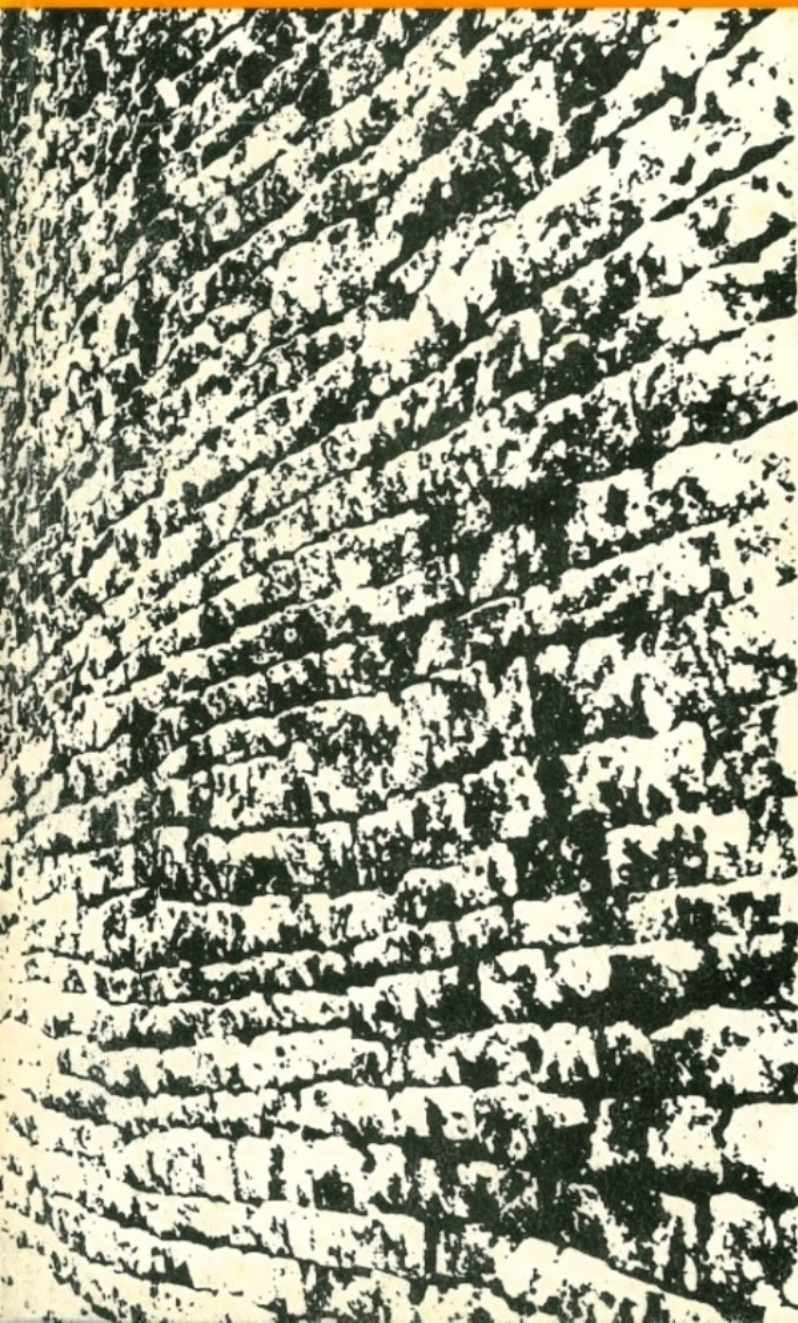


HERITAGE

PUBLICATION No. 4

1984



The History Society of Zimbabwe

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R. C. SMITH

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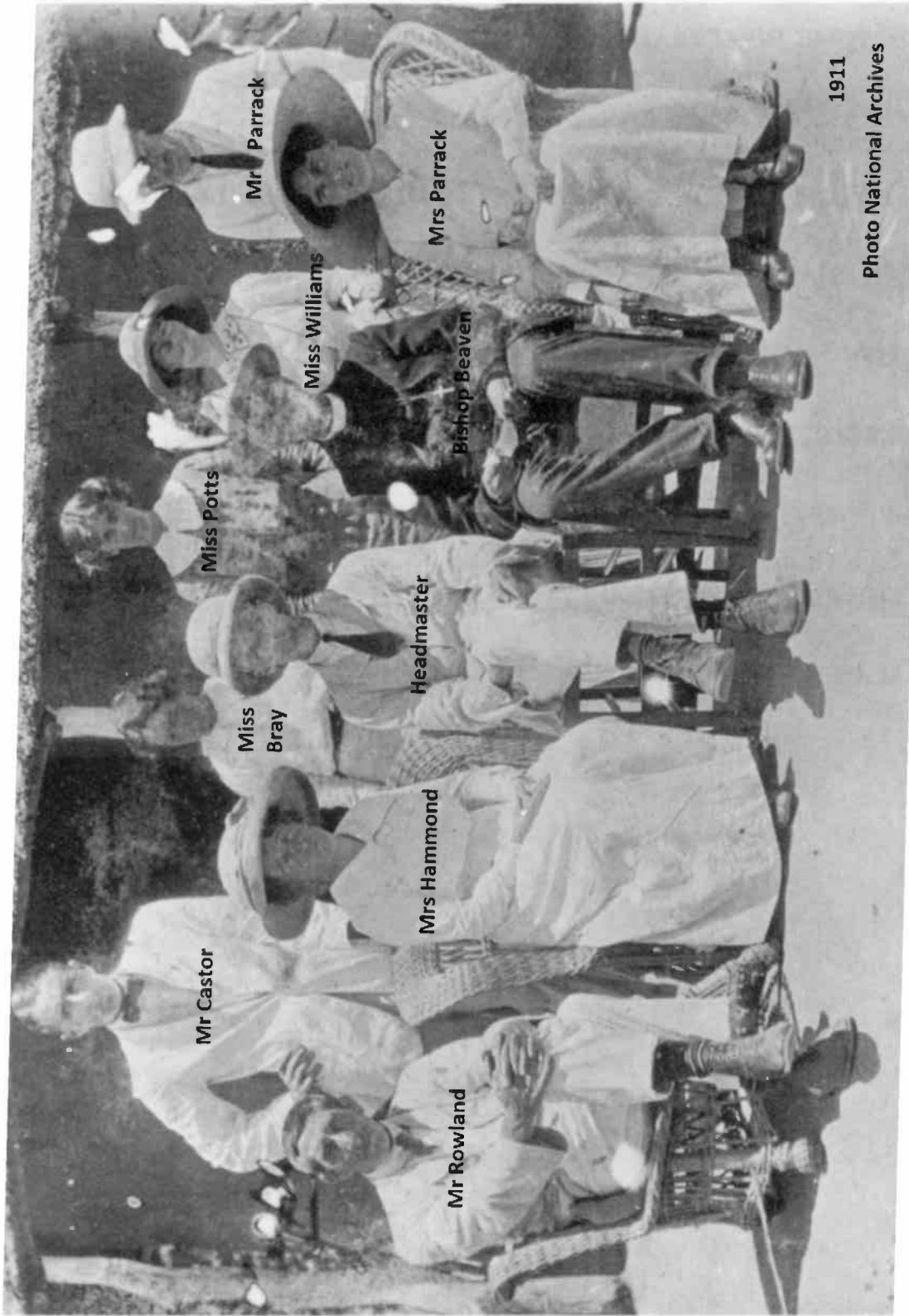
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COVER DESIGN — *Front*: Zimbabwe Bird, from a cast in the National Archives of the soapstone original which was removed from Great Zimbabwe by the archaeologist Theodore Bent in 1891; masonry from a passage wall in the Great Enclosure, Zimbabwe (photograph c. 1904). *Back*: Masonry with chevron decoration, from the outer wall of the Great Enclosure (photograph c. 1894); Conical Tower (photograph c. 1930) National Archives.



Mr Castor

Miss Bray

Headmaster

Miss Potts

Miss Williams

Mr Rowland

Mrs Hammond

Bishop Beaven

Mrs Parrack

Mr Parrack

1911

Photo National Archives

The Early Years of Plumtree School

by J.B. Clarke

This article is an extract from the second chapter of J.B. Clarke's history of Plumtree school and is a follow-up of the first article that appeared in *Heritage* 3.

THE START OF HAMMOND'S ERA

While Plumtree School was weathering these early storms a young man named H.S. Keigwin, was stationed at Tegwani as an assistant to the Native Commissioner. He was keenly interested in local projects aimed at improving social facilities in the area. In his opinion Plumtree School would benefit should a personal friend, one Robert Woodward Hammond, be appointed as Headmaster. Keigwin and Hammond, had become friends while at Cambridge and now both were in Southern Africa.

R.W. Hammond was born in Liverpool in 1876, one of the five children of the Reverend R.H. and Mrs. Hammond. After completing his schooling he went up to Cambridge in 1897. On the outbreak of the Anglo-Boer war he joined the Imperial Yeomanry, was shipped to South Africa in 1899 and served in the field. At the conclusion of hostilities he returned to England and taught at St. Aubyn's School Eastbourne, and then at Hymer's College in Hull. While there he married Miss Harriet MacEacharn and in 1903, accompanied by Mrs. Hammond's sister, Eila, they sailed to South Africa. Mr. Hammond took up an appointment as Headmaster of the Government School at Amsterdam in the Transvaal, and Miss Eila MacEacharn enrolled at the Normal College in Pretoria to train as a teacher.

Hammond and Keigwin had corresponded regularly, and during a school holiday Hammond visited Rhodesia to study the educational opportunities.

He was obviously impressed for in December 1905 Keigwin wrote to Hammond "Now as to your suggestion about educational work up here . . . Yesterday I drove to the siding to fetch Archdeacon Beavan of Matabeleland, . . . He and I are good friends, indeed he asked me some time ago to join the Committee of the Plumtree School, which is a Railway School, but managed by the English Church in Bulawayo, i.e. Archdeacon Beavan. It is at Plumtree Siding, a fine brick schoolroom and consecrated chancel at the east end. It is a residential school, good attendance and very fair buildings etc. They have been running it with a Schoolmistress and three women assistants, but they have never got on well. I said to the Archdeacon "Why don't you get a married man and his wife in charge?" He replied that he had himself suggested it quite lately but the difficulty was to get a suitable man. I told him all about you, and he seemed to think you were well suited . . . I would awfully like to get you here at Plumtree". Keigwin went on to describe a farm (Maakwa) of which he was part owner, and suggested that if Hammond came to Plumtree the two of them could buy out the other partners and "we could do well out of it".

Archdeacon Beavan lost no time in writing to Hammond to inquire of his qualifications, and on receipt of these wrote offering him a post. "There is no vacancy at Plumtree just yet; there may be soon . . . but we want a man for St. John's, Bulawayo at

Easter, and we want someone who will pull the school up and compete with the (Jesuit) Fathers here". Hammond was evidently tempted by this offer but Keigwin wrote in haste to dissuade him. "No don't give up your present billet . . . I don't know the salary at Bulawayo . . . you would be in a town and could do no farm work at all". On the strength of this Hammond turned down the offer of St. John's.

Having failed to get Hammond for St. John's, the Archdeacon and Council then offered him Plumtree. This he accepted with the proviso that Miss Nepean (Mrs. Hammond's companion) be given free board and lodging in order to take over the matron's duties which Mrs. Hammond, having young children, would not be able to carry out. Hammond resigned his post at Amsterdam and he and Miss Nepean arrived in Plumtree in July 1906. He took over the school which consisted of five huts, a schoolroom, a diningroom and a wood and iron "ganger's cottage" which served as a kitchen.

The staff consisted of himself, an assistant teacher Miss Helm and the matron, Miss Nepean. There were 18 boarders and 3 day pupils all in primary school standards. When he left two months short of thirty years later, some of the original buildings remained, but these were dwarfed by the present classroom and hall block, the library, Milner House, Lloyd House, Grey House and the Dining Hall. There were extensive grounds, a wide range of sporting facilities, twenty members of Staff and 180 boys all in High School classes. But to return to 1906.

Hammond and Miss Nepean arrived on the 13th July and the third quarter (term) passed uneventfully, the only noteworthy event being the arrival of Mrs. Hammond with their sons, Ian and Bobby, at the end of August. The fourth quarter was more lively. On the 8th October the kitchen "cottage" was destroyed by fire. The building was lined with matchboard and this went up like a torch. Hammond had been heating tar on the stove in order to treat the floor, but had gone off to lunch leaving a servant to watch the stove. Evidently the domestic also took himself off, for the tar boiled over and caught fire. Hammond's lunch was interrupted by an uproar from the rear premises and he dashed out to find that it was impossible to contain the flames. They were able to save some of Miss Helm's possessions before the room which served as her bedroom was engulfed, but everything in the kitchen and storeroom was destroyed. Hammond wrote to Reid Rowland (The Council Secretary) and his letter is an anguished cry from the heart.

"This fire has absolutely knocked me over after working every day of the holidays carpentering, plastering, whitewashing, tarring etc. to save the school a few shillings and improve it a bit and then at the very end of it to get this which is almost bound to cost the school a lot (and myself more than I can afford in addition) simply makes me want to blub. When it started I didn't know what to do and divided my energies between trying to put it out and trying to get the things out and so failed altogether in former and partly in the latter. The staff started pulling out iron bedsteads and as they always do, stuck in the doorways, so my poor tools and harness and heaps of other far more valuable and more inflammable things got left. For heavens sake lets have a brick kitchen as far away from the huts as possible. If I hadn't something decent to show in the shape of new children I think I should do a bunk". Fortunately the building was insured but it was some months before replacements were available and another building obtained from the Railway authorities. This was a "Platelayer's Cottage". It was of the same three room design but was to be lined with bricks not matchboard, this distinguishing the respective social status of the platelayers and gangers of those days. No mention is made as to how cooking was carried

on in the interim, but doubtless the ubiquitous three legged pots on open fires did their usual sterling service.

The next highlight occurred soon after, and is best recorded as penned by "The Chronicle" — October 23. "His Excellency the High Commissioner accompanied by Lady Selborne and Lady Gwendoline Cecil made a visit of inspection to the Plumtree Boarding School on the morning of 23rd inst. interrupting his return journey to Johannesburg for this purpose.

"Arriving at 11 o'clock H.E. was met on the station by the Headmaster (Mr. R.W. Hammond) and the Reverend H.P. Hale and Mr. J.R. Rowland who had come from Bulawayo on the same train to represent the School Council . . . A Guard of Honour was provided at the station by the School Cadet Corps under Corporal Payne B.S.A.P. After inspecting the Guard, His Excellency proceeded to the School outside which the rest of the boys and girls were singing the National Anthem. Here the staff and those parents who were able to be present were introduced to Lord Selborne and 'God Save the King' again sung. The Headmaster then read . . . (an) address of welcome to His Excellency.

"His address ended, at Lord Selborne's request some of the girls went through musical drill. The dormitory huts and diningroom having been visited and tea provided, Lord Selborne planted a 'pinus halepensis' in the school ground. His Excellency and party then returned to the train which had been delayed an hour at the station". (The School motto "ad definitum finem" is reputed to have been coined from the gist of a "lay sermon" which Lord Selborne preached. There is no record of any sermon, but in all probability he delivered a short address at the tree planting ceremony).

Lord Selborne's visit was followed by a succession of holidays which would delight the present schoolboys. On 5th November, Guy Fawkes took a back seat as this was celebrated as "Matabeleland Occupation Day" and the school granted a half holiday. Four days later there was a whole holiday to celebrate the King's birthday. This was followed by another half holiday "Shangani Day" on 6th December. Hammond also instituted an "Arbor Day" to encourage tree planting. Present day Plumtree with its magnificent shady trees is a tribute to his foresight.

The annual Prize Giving and Concert took place on 15th December. Items included a scene from "Much Ado About Nothing" and the trial scene from "Alice in Wonderland". "The Chronicle" reported "Almost every item on the programme was well done and the audience were particularly well pleased with Hamilton's song "Drink, Puppy, Drink". Three days later the "Sports" were held. There was a programme of 24 events and each was well contested. "There was none with less than 6 starters". It is of interest to note that the mile was won in a time "of about 8 minutes". Although the school was making sound progress Hammond was dissatisfied with the dormitory accommodation as provided by the huts. It would seem with good reason, for judging by numbers, the children must have been crowded in with ten or more to each hut. Conditions were chaotic when galvanised iron baths had to be brought into the huts for bathing. The matron was responsible for the supervision of this and of seeing that the girls kept their hair clean: a very necessary precaution in those days when head lice were not uncommon. Much acrimonious correspondence passed between the school and various parents with accusations and counter accusations as to where "those creatures" (as they were euphemistically termed) had been acquired. A letter from an irate mother reveals that these and other unwelcome guests were not confined solely to the girls' hair "I can assure you that I was both angry and upset when I found the condition his head was in: it made me perfectly ill cleaning him, not

only was it filthy with the creatures my husband spoke about, but there were also those horrible things called crabs on it, that really shocked us more than the former" . . . Hammond was also concerned, as Miss Slinn had been, over unauthorised nocturnal extra mural activities. "I have duplicated all supervision in order to avoid boys and girls mixing more than necessary, it is really only the safe way and I pray daily for separate boarding houses. It is not good enough after having been teaching and supervising from 6.15 a.m. to 8.00 p.m. to turn out from dinner at intervals to see what the blighted girls are making such a noise about or at 2.00 a.m. to prowl around on night duty to try and catch boys with night prowling propensities". The writer recounted the above to two old ladies, (both in their eighties) who had been pupils at that time. With one accord they burst into gales of laughter and readily confirmed that "especially when Mr. Hammond went off to the hotel of an evening we would be out of our hut windows like a shot and sky larking around".

Additional dormitory space was provided by building yet another "lean-to". This was added to the schoolroom and surprisingly was built to the design of a Bulawayo firm of Architects. These "lean-to" structures became a characteristic of Plumtree buildings, even to the extent of constructing "banana room lean-to" additions under the eaves of the huts. The Plumtree of 1977 is not free from these architectural monstrosities which owed their birth to shoe string budgets and the urgent need for expansion. The addition to the schoolroom provided a much needed and functional dormitory, and was duly occupied by the girls in January of 1907. A feature in its construction was the placement of two tanks to catch and conserve the precious rain water. Yet this new accommodation marked the start of a vicious circle which was to bedevil the school in the years to come. Applications increased and more children were accepted than could be comfortably housed.

Conditions again became overcrowded and more buildings were urgently needed. Hammond drew up plans for an extensive structure shaped somewhat like a splayed U, and approaches were made to the Beit Trustees and to other bodies in an attempt to raise £10,000 for these extensions. This was not forthcoming so once again the Council fell back on the generosity of the long suffering Railways. They rose to the occasion and offered to sell the school a "wood and iron" section of barracks which had been erected at Mafeking during the Boer War siege of that town. These reputedly bore the evidence of the siege, being liberally peppered with bullet and shrapnel holes. The first block of barracks was duly dismantled, railed to Plumtree, and re-erected to the west of the huts in July of 1907.

Immediately prior to the arrival of the barracks there occurred two events which merit inclusion in this manuscript. On 21st May 1907 St. John's School travelled to Plumtree with a Football XI and a Shooting team, so inaugurating the first inter school competitions to be held at Plumtree. St. John's were the victors winning the soccer 4-0 and also the shooting, by an undisclosed total. Hammond somewhat sourly recorded that Plumtree would have won the shooting had not the St. Johns Drill Instructor insisted "after the 100 yards event had been fired, that only the four best scores (from each team's six shottists) be counted".

Then on 11th and 12th June, Bishop Gaul paid his official farewell visit to the school which had been founded under his direction. He had resigned the See of Mashonaland and was returning to South Africa.

Soon after the Bishop's visit Hammond informed Council that "in writing home to my mother . . . I mentioned some of the difficulties which we experienced by having boys and girls together here and said that I wish I had someone on the staff who had experience of the Co-educational system which is being developed in England. My mother wrote back to me

saying that by chance she had heard of a man who would answer to the one I wanted . . . I wrote to him and have recently received an application and testimonials from him". The result of this was that on the 16th August Mr. T.B. Watson, late scholar of Keble College, arrived to take up an appointment as an assistant master. He did not have a pleasant introduction to Plumtree as the next day he was confined to bed with Scarlet Fever. Vigorous precautions prevented the disease spreading. These included Miss Nepean going into quarantine, a qualified nurse being summoned from Bulawayo, the day pupils being excluded from school, (to their joy and the great indignation of their parents) and strict hygienic measures taken in respect of cutlery and crockery. Nobody else contracted the disease, but an outbreak of ringworm added to Hammond's problems and these were compounded even further by an event best described as he recorded it in his "log book".

"September 16th. Five of the Senior Boys, (A—B—C—D and E), break out of their hut and bounds and go to Kollenberg's store into which they break and from which they take various articles, being surprised by a native they clear off back dropping most of the stolen things on the way. Corporal Payne to the school at 12.20 a.m. and as a result of search and inquiry the five are unmasked but A is released on protestations of innocence.

September 17th Mr. W.E. Thomas A.R.M. allows the boys out on the Headmaster's recognisances.

"September 19th. Mr. Kollenberg returns and agrees not to prosecute, being paid £10 for the damage done to his store and stock. A admits having been concerned in the affair.

"After having been spoken to before the whole school on the subject, the five boys and F, who had suggested the escapade, are flogged in the presence of the boys of the school. The parents of the boys concerned are asked to withdraw them from the School".

Later, when he made his report to the Council, Hammond stated that this was probably a blessing in disguise as it enabled him to get rid of pupils who could never have been any credit to the school. The two ring leaders aged 18 and 16 were still in the Third Standard. This episode also led to the establishment of the "Prefectural System" and Hammond concluded "Many of the children, both boys and girls, have lived a wild life before coming to Plumtree and a satisfactory standard of behaviour has only been established by a most thorough supervision of the pupils' out of school activities."

At the end of 1907, a second block of barracks was obtained from Mafeking and erected on the east side of the huts. The cost of both sets of barracks was met by obtaining yet a further loan from the Education Department. (At this stage the Council already owed the Education Department quite a tidy sum in respect of loans for the construction of the Schoolroom and other buildings.) The second block was sited approximately where the road now runs to the west of the main classroom block. This permitted a further increase in numbers and by August 1908 when Hammond had been in office for two years, there were 57 boarders.

This period marked the beginnings of many of the every day aspects of Plumtree School which we take for granted today. There was, in addition, a gradual change in the family background of the pupils. These were no longer predominantly from railway homes: more than half were the children of farmers and miners. Similarly there was a swing to a majority of Rhodesian-domiciled pupils where previously the bulk had come from Bechuanaland (Botswana). These years (1907 and 1908) saw Plumtree make the transition from the village school environment towards the educational concepts and practices of the English Public Schools' system.

This system, which had been successfully transplanted into the Church sponsored

“Private Schools” in South Africa, was to take root and flourish at Plumtree. The beginnings of this approach to education dated back to Thomas Arnold, headmaster of Rugby from 1828 to 1840. His emphasis on religious and moral principles, gentlemanly conduct and intellectual ability, coupled with reforms within the school system, were seized upon by a zealous band of Victorian educationists. They implemented and improved upon Arnold’s concepts and produced a pattern of administration which was generally accepted and applied by the leading schools of those days. Very broadly these innovations centred around the House and Dormitory system where each boy found his niche and so strengthened the feeling of belonging or being a part of his particular unit. There was more emphasis on rapport between boys and masters, and the development of leadership and discipline by appointing a prefect body from within the ranks of the boys. Perhaps the most strikingly effective innovation was implemented by G.E.L. Cotton (a protégé of Arnold’s) when he became Headmaster of Marlborough. He realised that the bulk of the vicious behaviour, the drunkenness and other misdemeanours, so admirably chronicled by Thomas Hughes in “Tom Brown’s Schooldays”, stemmed from idle hours when there was no constructive activity to occupy the boys. The antidote was organised games. This was such a marked success that it was speedily adopted by other schools. Team games flourished and by the 1880’s compulsory sport was very much the order of the day. The value of more culturally rewarding activities was also realised and the various clubs and societies as we term them today, came into being. It was towards these goals that Hammond and his small band of helpers directed Plumtree School.

Initially all the organisation fell on Hammond’s shoulders. He appears as the coach in an early photograph of the girls playing hockey, and it has been recorded that he even joined in the rugby practices, both to encourage the boys, and to illustrate the finer points of the game. The boys at first played soccer, but in 1907 this was dropped in favour of rugby as their winter game. Both boys and girls played cricket in summer. Hilda Smith is recorded as being a great “over arm bowler” and even the bigger boys had been heard to request that she slow down the pace of her deliveries. A tennis court was built and the game proved very popular. The girls’ hockey was played on “Top Field” which was situated where the Chapel stands today. Rugby was played on “Lower Field”, the present day Kabot. The development of this field had been made possible by the acquisition of a 100 acre portion of the farm Nxele. Games were compulsory on four afternoons of the week. Dramatic productions were not confined to the annual prize giving ceremony and the pupils were encouraged to take part in concerts on Saturday evenings. Poor communications and the small population dictated that virtually all the school’s entertainments should be self generated. Mrs. Hammond’s musical ability was a great boon and the traditional Plumtree singing and musical productions date from this time. In the 1907 Sports concert one of the items was “Three little maids from school”, this marking the start of a long and happy association with Gilbert and Sullivan. Under the guidance of T.B. Watson, the first school magazine was planned and was published in June 1908, so inaugurating a most valuable permanent record of the school and its doings. Then as now, finance was a great problem. The library was increased by several generous gifts of books from the Victoria Legion and the S.P.C.K. Also at this time the Debating and Literary Society was launched and met every Tuesday evening.

This was a remarkable achievement on the part of the Staff who at that time comprised only a handful. Though it was a small staff there were constant comings and goings as Hammond set a high standard and demanded the same from his colleagues. Many of those

appointed did not live up to their testimonials and others had a penchant for strong drink. The wife of one of these wrote to excuse her husband's absence from duty "I am sorry that Mr. X is not at work. He was not feeling well and took some brandy to settle his stomach, unfortunately he took too much. I do hope that you will overlook it this time . . ." Despite the frequent removal of unsuitable characters there remained a nucleus of dedicated teachers who, with Hammond, firmly launched the school on sound lines. T.B. Watson, Mrs. Hammond's sister Miss Eila MacEacharn, Miss Helm and Miss Nepean were amongst those stalwarts.

Sidney Bradfield was a pupil at this time and he has very vivid memories of Mrs. Low who was the Cook Matron. Every Wednesday morning the boys had to queue up for their weekly dose of a dessertspoonful of sulphur and treacle. Woe betide any boy who tried to evade taking this obnoxious medicinal dose, which she claimed cleared their complexions of pimples, and their bowels of the wild fruit and berries which they consumed in the veld. He recalls that her menus were spartan and that stewed marulas featured all too frequently. R.W.H. presided at table and did not permit any liquid to be served with the meals. He held the view that this interfered with the proper chewing and digestion of the food. Furthermore he could not abide the "dreadful colonial habit" of aiding mastication by adding a good swig of water or tea to an already overfull mouthful of food.

As it is to be expected a number of "firsts" was recorded at this time. The first inter-school cricket match was played at Plumtree against St. John's College on the 26th and 27th November 1907. Plumtree scored 40 and 167. St. John's replied with 180 and 28 for 3 so winning by 7 wickets. Their captain, Bell, scored 137 not out and 23 not out. The magazine, in sour grapes vein, recorded the opinion that Bell should not have been allowed to play in a school match as he openly broke the commandment "Thou shalt not smoke". He obviously repented of these youthful misdemeanours as we shall meet him later as a "Man of Cloth". The return match was played in Bulawayo and St. John's won by 30 runs. On the 10th August 1908 the first rugby match was played at Plumtree against the Bulawayo Juniors. This was not a school XV, but a club side drawn from both schoolboys and young working men. The Juniors won 15-0, and also won the return match in Bulawayo 11-0. On 11th June 1909, Plumtree beat St. John's College in Bulawayo, 17-0; in what is claimed to be the first ever inter-school rugby match played in Rhodesia. Plumtree also won the home return match, 15-0, on 31st August 1909. Hammond was proudly able to claim (in his annual report) that the school had the best "rugger XV in the country!" On the academic side Chrisanthe Macre became the first pupil to win a Beit Scholarship. She also enjoyed a long innings as the first Head Girl, (1906-1909) and later became the first "Old Girl" to qualify as a teacher. R. Rennie was the first Head Boy and C. Raush is named on the Cricket Honours Board as the first Cricket captain, but technically this honour belongs to one of the five who broke into Kollenberg's store. E.B.N. Liddell was the first Rugby captain and also the first Victor Ludorum. Ellen van Aswegan was the first Victrix.

The school badge also dates from this period, and apart from certain colour changes, has remained unaltered to the present day. A competition was organised and all pupils were encouraged to submit designs. Much to the indignation of the senior school girls (who were under the impression that entry was confined to the school children) the prize was awarded to the entry submitted by Miss McEacharn. When the School Colours were registered the badge was described as "A shield divided chevron wise into two unequal portions, the upper and larger coloured red and the lower bottle green. On the upper part is

a plumtree arising from the point of the chevron, the tree is light green with nine red fruit. Within the upper part but standing upon the chevron, is, on the dexter side and facing dexter, a locomotive in black and white; on the sinister side and facing dexter, is an African elephant in its proper colours. Within the lower part is an anchor coloured red lying bendwise with its arms upwards and to the dexter side. The whole shield is enclosed by a gold line. Below the shield is the motto "Ad definitum Finem" in red on bottle green on a scroll within a gold line. The anchor and the locomotive acknowledge the parts played by the Church and the Railways respectively, in launching the school. The elephant denotes that the school is in Matabeleland. (Lobengula's Royal Seal depicted an elephant). The nine plums represent the nine Smith children.

In 1909 the old diningroom had its roof propped up, its pole and dagga walls were removed and replaced by bricks and mortar. This building was to serve the school in many guises, hospital, laboratory, workshop, and ultimately as the artroom until demolished in 1972. At this time a controversy arose between the Railway Chaplain, the Reverend Toy, and Mr. Hammond concerning the use of the schoolroom as an undenominational chapel. Toy insisted that all services should be conducted under the auspices of the Church of England and that no other denomination be permitted to use the building. Hammond favoured undenominational services and pointed out that if Toy's views were enforced, the school was liable to lose the Government grants which it was then receiving. He offered to resign if the Council felt that it was in the school's best interest for it to develop along the lines stipulated by the Rev. Toy. The staff further complicated the issue by starting a drive for funds to build an undenominational chapel at the school. The Council, swayed by the financial implications involved, decided to play down the single denominational issue, but they also requested that the staff shelve their chapel project. Thus it was that Plumtree was further directed along the lines of the South African "Private Schools", but without owing allegiance to any specific denomination, a trait which has been preserved to this day. Then, as now, services were conducted by visiting clergy of various denominations, or by the Headmaster. The first chapel (presumably the consecrated apse) had been dedicated to "St. Michael and All Angels" which name has been preserved for all Chapels built subsequently. There was also an attempt to name the school "St. Michael's" as some correspondence (circa 1906) is so addressed, but apparently this name never came into general use. The term "Matambo's School" is still widely used by local Africans. This being derived from the nickname "Matambo" bestowed on Hammond by the early pupils because of his penchant for string ties. In later years this was shortened to "Tambo" then "Tam". John Hammond (R.W.H.'s third son) states that the name derived from "bones" and was descriptive of his father's skinny build. L.V. Jowett one of the early pupils wrote this affectionate account of his first meeting with Hammond. "It was a very nervous and unspeakably grubby little boy who staggered off the train at Plumtree after two miserable days of dusty travel through Bechuanaland. It had not been a pleasant journey. Home and all familiar things seemed so much further away each minute. Other small and larger fry, ages ranging from nine to sixteen years, all bound for Plumtree, had joined the train at Mafeking, Artesia, Francistown and other places on the line. They all seemed to know each other and because I was new and green, teased me about the terrors of boarding school and, in particular, about one Matambo, the headmaster. I came to dread Matambo who, to me, became a fierce face under a mortar-board, with a terrible voice and biting cane. At Plumtree we were met at the station by a tall, thin, dark young man who greeted everyone with a cheery word and a heartwarming smile. He had a special kindly word for

the forlorn new-comer who immediately gave him a little boy's hero-worship. I wondered who this charming man could be but was too shy to ask and it was only when I saw him in gown and mortarboard that I realised that he was indeed the dreaded headmaster. From that first meeting sprung a regard and a friendship which grew over the years".

At the 1908 Cadet Inspection the corps received a verbal barrage because of their inefficiency. The inspecting officer, Captain Mockett, was most unimpressed and taunted them with "playing at soldiers". Much hard work resulted in a commendation at the following annual inspection, and the school was second to St. George's in the musketry competition for the Ramsay Cup. Cadet camps became an annual event and were serious affairs the corps marching to the selected site in full kit complete with rifles. In 1909 the camp was at Dombodema some 25 kilometres from the school. The corps set off at 7.00 a.m. and arrived at their destination at 5.00 p.m. They were fully occupied for the six days spent under canvas. Reveille at 5.30 a.m. was followed by P.T., Kit Inspection, General Fatigues, Parades, Skirmishing, Sham Fights, Night Attacks and Defence. Heavy rain added to their discomfort. They obviously returned in fine fettle for the homeward march was accomplished in five hours marching time with half an hour's rest on the way. The magazine proudly commented "3 miles an hour. Very good marching for Cadets, several of whom were only 8 or 9 years of age."

On Empire Day the Corps paraded and fired three volleys after the Headmaster had hoisted the Union Jack and the girls had sung the National Anthem. Marksmen Badges and other trophies earned on the range were presented by Mrs. Hammond. The parade was followed by a games afternoon. There were sufficient on the Staff to raise a mixed Cricket XI. The girls beat the boys at hockey, various novelty races were run, and tea served under the big figtree, which still stands between the Library and the Chapel. That evening a dance was held in the schoolroom, the proceedings being enlivened by the boys staging a mock attack on the building and firing off blank ammunition.

The year 1910 produced Halley's comet and the school was further illuminated by the purchase of an acetylene lighting plant. Mr. W.E. Thomas kindly donating half the cost. The dormitories acquired additional furniture in the shape of lockers complete with hanging cupboards. These were constructed by the carpentry class at a cost of £4 for the timber. (A sum well spent in Hammond's estimation as he informed Council that the dormitories were now far tidier). These were also welcomed by the visiting School Inspectors, one of whom had written in his formal report: "At Plumtree you hang your clothes on the trees". The Editor of the magazine lamented that an income of £10 per year was needed to keep the publication going, and he called for donations. This seems a trifling sum today, but at that time the Editor received precisely that amount as his monthly salary. Despite this pittance he had the courage to enter into matrimony. A brief notice in the June 1910 magazine reads "Wedding — At Plumtree, on December 17th 1909 by the Rev. Canon Hallward, Thomas Browning Watson to Eila Mary MacEacham". At this time St. John's College closed down and became the separate boys' and girls' schools of Milton and Eveline respectively. This event disrupted inter school sport, no matches being played much to the indignation of the Plumtree pupils, especially the girls who had been keenly anticipating a hockey match against the St. John's girls. However the Cadets under Sgt. Maj. Low succeeded in wresting the Ramsay Cup from St. George's.

1911 was an uneventful year. Soon after term commenced the Council summoned a member of Staff, Mr. D., to appear before them. To their great consternation a parent of one of the girls had complained that Mr. D. had written to his daughter and had sent her



Cadets, 1917.

Photo — National Archives



Milner huts, 1921.

Photo — National Archives

sweets, presumably during the Xmas holidays. Mr. D. readily admitted to the charge adding that he had sent gifts of sweets to others of his pupils. Upon Council demanding his immediate resignation Mr. D. replied that "as the Council were such a narrow minded lot of men" he would resign, but only at the end of term.

The staff was further depleted by the departure of Mr. and Mrs. Watson to Gwelo where he had been offered a better position with the Government Education Department. This was a great blow to Plumtree as they had both given valuable service to the school. Mr. and Mrs. Hammond went on long leave to England in March, and while they were away a first class row erupted amongst the Staff. Mr. McDonald, the acting Headmaster, reprimanded Mr. C. for beating two pupils. (By Council decree only the Headmaster could administer corporal punishment). Mr. C. defied McDonald who promptly suspended him and reported the matter to the Council. Mrs. C. then roused the four lady members of Staff in support of her husband, who was a good looking rascal, while he in turn appealed to the local parents for support. The Council met and were informed that the majority of the Staff had resigned in protest at Mr. C.'s suspension, and in addition a deputation of noisy parents was demanding to be admitted to the meeting in order to voice their support for Mr. C. Muriel Baraf in her "Recollections of Plumtree School" recalls the Staff going on strike for a day, but reveals that the pupils were unaware of the reason behind the strike. McDonald was perfectly justified in his actions and the Council supported him. However they were faced with a walk out by most of the Staff and the ire of a vociferous deputation of parents! After much oil had been poured on the troubled waters all were persuaded to return to the school and work amicably for the remainder of the term. Most of the conciliation was effected by Mr. J. Reid Rowland, the long serving Council Secretary. He, incidentally, had moved to Plumtree while Hammond was away in order to handle the business side of the school. The early school owes a debt of gratitude to this gentleman who gave many years of faithful service in an honorary capacity. (The writer also pays his tribute, for much of the history of this era is contained in the meticulous files compiled and preserved by Reid Rowland). The result of the Staff imbroglio was that Mr. C. left at the end of the term, and when Hammond returned he persuaded Council to withhold the annual increments due to those members of staff who had supported Mr. C. About this time two young men, namely Castor and Parrack, joined the staff and over the ensuing years did much for the school. Outside the classroom their talents lay in dramatics, debating and the coaching of games.

Hammond had developed a definite antipathy to co-education and was constantly drawing the Council's attention to the inadequacies of this system. He pressed for a clear division of the sexes even to the extent of teaching them separately, and he often alluded to the dangers of "being too much together". After several years of being badgered by the Council the Government made them a loan of £6,000 to cover the costs of building a "Boarding House" at Plumtree. This was the start of what later became Milner House. It was designed to accommodate 40 girls with 5 resident staff, and it was claimed to be the first double storey building to be constructed between Bulawayo and Mafeking. A long cherished, perhaps not factual anecdote, holds that the architect omitted to include a staircase, and when the builders removed their scaffolding it was discovered that there was no access to the second storey. A large external wooden staircase was abutted onto the building, and this gave rise to the name used by the local Africans "Lo Stairs".

The Cadet Corps continued to expand. A 600-yard range was constructed on a portion of the 100-acre plot, and the girls were enrolled in an auxilliary section known as

the "Nursing Corps". They made their own uniforms out of zephyr set off by a white cap and white apron. They were instructed in first aid and they also learned musketry, even to firing the old Martini Henry rifles which had a kick like the proverbial mule. They paraded with the cadets on state occasions. The annual camp was held in the Matopos for the first time. This involved entraining in open trucks at Plumtree, being shunted off to spend the night at Alanwyck, a siding on the Bulawayo side of Westacre. The next morning the Matopos train picked up the trucks and took them to "the Rhodes Park". The cadets referred to their transport as "the Train de Trucks", a parody on the Zambesi Express which was known as the "Train de Luxe". (Muriel Baraf describes this special train as providing "a 13 day excursion from Cape Town to the Victoria Falls for £19 first class . . . It was a most luxurious train for those days . . . comprising six cars, a dining car with kitchen . . . a buffet smoking and library car"). When the cadets descended from their "Train de Trucks" they set up camp and carried out the usual exercises. An innovation was a full scale attack on the local baboon troop, whose unfortunates suffered eight casualties before making an undignified retreat.

1911 marked the start of the inter-school matches against Milton. The first rugby match was won by Milton, 35 points to 6. Plumtree won the first of the (now traditional) two day cricket fixtures by 38 runs. The Plumtree rugby XV notched up a record, which to date has not been surpassed, by trouncing an unfortunate Gwelo team by 100 points to nil. The girls were at last able to play inter-school matches and succeeded in winning both hockey matches and a tennis encounter against Eveline.

A festive occasion was the first wedding of an old pupil to be celebrated in the school chapel. Miss Nellie van Rooyen, daughter of the old hunter Cornelius van Rooyen, was married to Mr. Arthur Wilde. "On leaving the Church the bride and bridegroom were pelted with rice and were glad to get into the waiting Cape cart. Mr. Thomas . . . had a difficult task in taking his four horses out of the school grounds, but he managed them splendidly and drove off in great style . . . A reception was held at Mr. van Rooyen's house . . . in the evening a dance was held (and) kept up until seven o'clock the next morning.

Notes on Some of Zimbabwe's Mines

by R. Cherer Smith

CAM AND MOTOR MINE

EIFFEL FLATS

The Cam and Motor's history is as old as that of modern Zimbabwe. The first flood of claims was pegged in 1890 by Doctor (later Sir) Leander Starr Jameson, collaborator and friend of Rhodes, and a member of the pioneer column that arrived at Fort Salisbury on the 12th September, 1890.

Another block of claims was pegged in 1891 by a syndicate headed by F.C. Selous, but it was not until the 1920's that these claims really revealed their hidden worth, for they were to develop into not only the country's richest, but biggest mine. During its life it produced 4½ million ounces of gold, worth £36 million, and by 1953 it had reached the 39th level.

In the years that followed the early interest in this area, several other blocks were pegged by various pioneers, but with the exception of the Selous Syndicate's 'Good Shepherd', all were allowed to go to forfeiture due to the unsettled times after the Boer War, the Rebellion and the Rinderpest — a cattle disease that had denuded the country of its livestock and thus its means of transportation.

The claims were re-pegged under new names by two prospectors named Cameron and Campion in 1905. Cameron's holdings were named the Cam and Petrol. His three adjacent blocks were sold to the Yellow Jacket Syndicate in 1907. The Cam went into production immediately and continued until the following year.

Active prospecting in the district took place and commenced on the Eiffel Blue Mine, the Motor, Cam and Glenmore Turkois Mines. The Government encouraged the development in the area and apart from establishing a police station and post office at Gatooma, now Kadoma, a railway station was opened by the Railways which assisted prospecting and mining operations considerably. Thus the township of Kadoma was born.

Sir Abe Bailey, who had acquired more than 1¼ million acres of land around Kadoma, was an enthusiastic believer in the potential of the mine and the area in general and started growing tobacco, providing a warehouse not only for his own crops, but also for local farmers. The warehouse, along the Chegutu - Kadoma Road, is still in existence and is used as a textile factory.

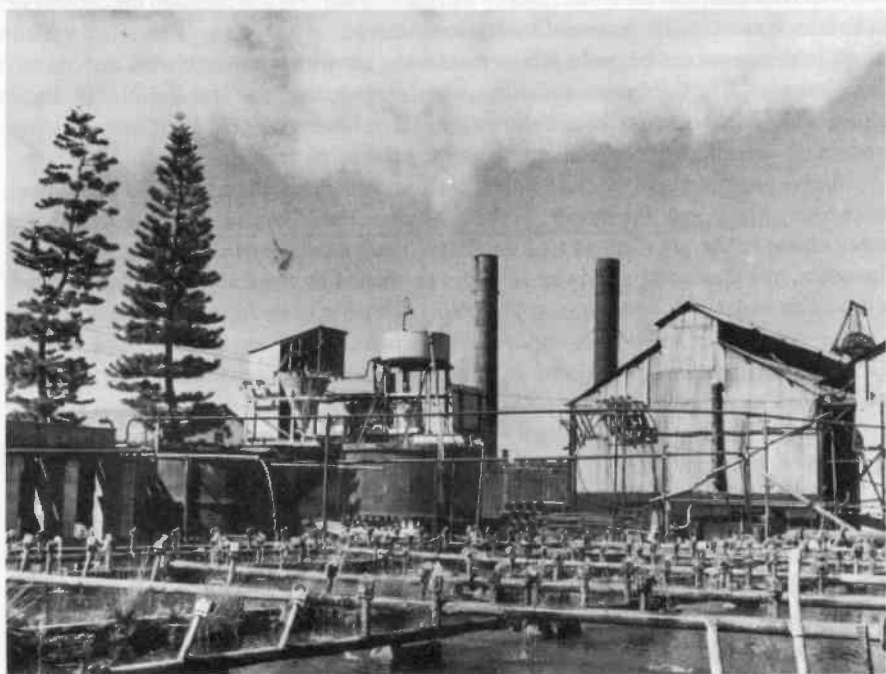
In 1909, the Cam and its companion, the Motor Mine, were acquired by the London and Rhodesia Mining and Land Company Limited, together with a number of adjacent blocks held by a group of prospectors. 'Lonrho' formed a new company called the Cam and Motor Gold Mining Company (1910) Limited, and in 1911 the new company purchased the Good Shepherd Goldfields Limited.

Production on the Cam and Motor Mine was maintained by its owners on an experimental basis during 1911 and 1912, after which there was a break for exterior development and plant reconstruction.



Cam & Motor Mine, Eiffel Flats.

Photo — National Archives



Cam & Motor Mine, Eiffel Flats.

Photo — National Archives

A plant, comprising six ball mills, six roasting furnaces and a slimes plant was put into commission in February, 1914, but heavy rains in 1915 caused a cessation of work on the 1st level where there was some caving of the workings. At this critical time the mine was under the management of Mr. John McDermott. In consequence of the difficulties being experienced, crushing was suspended in December, 1918. The ore was associated with arsenic and antimony and proved to be refractory, necessitating the investigation of other methods of extraction.

After certain experiments were carried out on the mine, the roasting plant was dispensed with and in its stead all the ore was treated by being wet crushed and passed through an oil flotation process. The usual method of gold recovery was then followed by amalgamation on copper plates, concentrating on blankets and shaking tables with cyanide treatment of the tailings and slimes.

A reconstruction of the Company took place and The Cam and Motor Gold Mining Company (1919) was registered on July 17th, 1919, being a reconstruction of the Cam and Motor Gold Mining Company Limited which was founded on September 3rd, 1910. The London and Rhodesia Mining and Land Company Limited held the majority shares and were also appointed secretaries, managers and consulting engineers for the mine.

The initial share capital of the company was £617 500 made up of £1 shares, of which 604 235 shares were issued in exchange for a similar number of £1 shares in the old company. There were increases in capital during 1923 and 1925 until the issued capital reached £750 000. In October 1932 it was decided to return 7/6d per share thereby reducing the capital to £468 750 in 750 000 stock units of 12/6d each.

The original property consisted of 755 mining claims which were later increased to 855, and were developed into the largest gold mine in Rhodesia and one of the biggest in the world.

The claims were originally held under licence from the B.S.A. Company who owned the mineral rights in Rhodesia until 1933 and were subject to Royalty.

Mining was undertaken in four lodes known as the Cam, Camspur, Motor and Petrol. Five main shafts were sunk to various depths.

The thick soil covering the area around Eiffel Flats had been a barrier to prospecting and it was only by trenching and drilling that the geology of the area was determined with any degree of detail.

The ore bodies were mainly replacement deposits in carbonated greenstone or interbedded sedimentary rock, with strikes in two directions. One was between east and south east and the other between north and south east.

The largest ore body was found in the Motor lode which formed the lower portion of a thick bed of arkose about 700 feet thick which dipped steeply at about 75° to the west.

North of the central part of the mine the strike swings around to the north east. This lode varies in width up to thirty feet. The ore is heavily mineralised containing needles of mispickel and stibnite.

The Cam reef runs eastwards from the Motor lode and strikes across the formation. Other reefs traverse the workings and the deeper the mine the more complicated is the geology of the area.

Crushing operations were suspended in December, 1920, as the plant was being renewed. The new equipment came into operation the following March. The plant was extended to include 56 Nissen stamps with an ore crushing capacity of 25 000 tons per month.

Improvement in the methods of gold extraction such as fine grinding, improved cyanide treatment, including oil flotation of the fines, and elimination of refractory minerals by concentration were introduced on the mine with good results. Only the concentrates were roasted, which process considerably lowered the working costs.

Further exploration works and development to build up ore reserves were carried out.

The mine consumed large quantities of wood for its boilers and other fuel requirements. It contracted with private persons to cut and deliver more than 40 000 cords of wood a year. Soon the surrounding forests were denuded and a light railway to carry the wood from the Suri Suri River was constructed in 1914.

Although the company was permitted by law to cut wood for mining purposes anywhere on unalienated land, there was an immediate outcry from the small workers and tributors in the Suri Suri and Chakari areas who objected to the arrival of the Cam and Motor's wood cutting gang in what they regarded as their preserve.

There were many small workers in and around Chakari or Shagari, as it was then called. As there was some moral case in their argument, the B.S.A. Company, through Sir Ernest Montagu, then Secretary for Mines, gave them a sympathetic hearing. As a result, a compromise solution was arrived at and the company altered its railway route to a point which was mutually acceptable, ten miles east of Shagari.

The railway was installed in preference to other forms of transport because it was impossible to operate transport wagons due to the Tsetse flies that had encroached into the area.

In later years when the railway line was recovered, the rails were sold to the Posts and Telegraphs Department for use as telephone poles at a time when steel poles were difficult to obtain due to 1939/45 post-war shortages of steel and coal. The poles were erected in the Karoi district, which was then being opened up to tobacco farming.

The mine was once involved in a case of litigation with a transport rider who had lost a large number of cattle due to arsenical poisoning while they were grazing near the mine. There was much argument as to whether arsenical deposits from the smoke stacks could be of sufficient toxicity to be lethal. A commission of enquiry, consisting of the Government Agricultural Chemist, Mr. George Blackburn, and the Government Veterinary Bacteriologist, Mr. L.E.W. Bevan, was appointed to investigate the complaint.

To establish what constituted a lethal dose of arsenic, some cattle were given daily doses of the poison until they displayed the typical symptoms of poisoning such as violent purging, weakness, staggering, inability to rise and finally culminating in death.

The Commission concluded that there was insufficient arsenic being discharged from the mine to poison the stock, but in view of the high mortality rate amongst the transport spans, it believed it was possible that there existed a source of arsenic in toxic quantities which was accessible to the animals in the vicinity of the mine.

The mine management followed a liberal policy in regard to the provision of amenities for the welfare of its staff. At one time the mine fielded a very strong first league rugby team. But apart from the usual recreational facilities, schools and places of worship were provided. They gave a suitable site on the company's property to the Reverend T.C.B. Vlok of the Dutch Reformed Missionary Society to build a mission hall for the benefit of the mine's African labour that was recruited in Nyasaland (Malawi) where the missionary society had established a flourishing work.

Mr. A.S. Rome, M.I.M.M., M.A.I.M.E., succeeded Mr. J. McDermott as Mine

Manager. He also served on the Rezende Mine and was appointed as Chief Government Mining Engineer on October 1st, 1935.

The Chamber of Mines established an apprenticeship training school at the Cam and Motor Mine, where mining apprentices in the artisan grades were required to attend periodic courses of instruction in theoretical subjects at the school.

Since its formation in 1956, Rio Tinto Limited has been actively engaged in mining and exploration work throughout the country. They sunk a number of boreholes in the area of the Cam and Motor Mine and also made some trenches to determine the geology in detail. Early in 1960 Rio Tinto purchased the Cam and Motor Mine which had by then reached the 40th level at a depth of 6 544 feet and Eiffel Flats became the centre for the new owner's activities in the Kadoma area.

NORTH KARIBA COAL COMPANY LIMITED

The North Kariba Coal Company was registered on July 17th, 1929, and formed to acquire 25 coal certificates issued in Northern Rhodesia (Zambia) in favour of the North Kariba Syndicate Limited of which Mr. W. D'Arcy Cathcart, a Salisbury architect, was the principal shareholder.

The syndicate was allotted 2 500 fully paid up shares in the new company which had an authorised share capital of 25 000 shares of £1 each.

The Anglo American Rhodesian Exploration Company was allotted 2 750 fully paid up shares for 23 coal claims in the area. The claims were situated in the north of the watershed of the Kariba Lake basin.

The London and Rhodesia Mining and Land Company Limited were appointed Secretaries, and Messrs. Digby Burnett, Gordon C. Hards and W. D'Arcy Cathcart were made directors of the company.

The Mining, Ranching, Cotton and Tobacco Lands of Rhodesia Limited, a member of the 'Lonrho' group of companies, became one of the principal shareholders.

The company undertook exploratory work, but ceased operations in 1931 and thereafter merely maintained its interests in the claims by renewing the annual licence fees which amounted to £1 per annum per 100 acres.

The granting of mining licences in Northern Rhodesia stipulated that for each succeeding year from the close of an initial period of four months after registration, a claim holder had to execute at least sixty feet of development work of shafts, drives, tunnels, winzes or boreholes of a minimum diameter of 1 inch from which a core was to be extracted.

Although development work need not be done upon a reef, it was a requisite that it should have been done with a view to the actual development of a reef, and that it should be new work, and not the restoration or cleaning out of development work previously done.

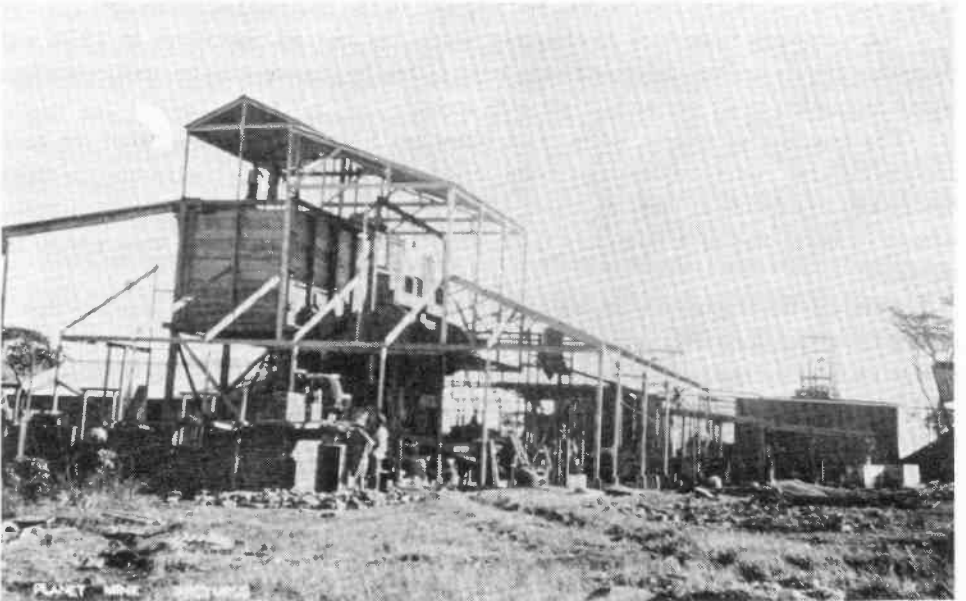
Trenching or excavating of a minimum depth of three feet which had been performed for the purpose of tracing a reef or proving a deposit could also be reckoned as development work.

As the B.S.A. Company were the owners of mineral rights in Northern Rhodesia, they permitted the exploration and development of the country's mineral resources on the basis of either sharing in the enterprise by the right to subscribe one third of the working capital at par, or upon such other terms as may be given to the other subscribers of working capital, or on a royalty basis. Where the payment of royalty was accepted it was generally



Hartley district gold mine, 1918.

Photo — National Archives



Planet Mine.

Photo — National Archives

fixed at 5% on the gross value of the output, but the company reserved the right to fix a higher amount in the case of deposits of exceptional richness, for which special terms were arranged.

On January 1st, 1941, an agreement was entered into between the London and Rhodesia Mining and Land Company Limited and the Union and Rhodesia Mining and Finance Corporation who were holders of 7 307 shares in the North Kariba Coal Company, whereby 'Lonrho' agreed to finance the Coal Company in order to keep the coal location registered in its name, in consideration of which the coal Company would allot one share for every £1 advanced for this purpose.

The Union and Rhodesia Mining Company was also to transfer to 'Lonrho' 3 653 fully paid up shares in consideration of 'Lonrho' relieving the Company of its obligations.

In 1949 the Northern Rhodesia Government requested permission to undertake exploratory work in the area through the Anglo American Company. The Government also requested an option exercisable until 31st December, 1950, to purchase any or all of the locations at £1 000 per 300 acres or the whole for £5 000, whichever was the lesser.

The North Kariba Coal Company was offered an option for five years to subscribe on flotation terms up to the amount paid, but the Company rejected the offer and preferred to wait a geologist's report on the area, as a number of boreholes had been sunk on the claims.

In the meanwhile, concern was being felt that the claims would be inundated by the Kariba Lake or that the claims would suffer from percolation as a result of the creation of the lake. These fears proved to be groundless as the area was too remote to be affected by the waters that would inundate the surrounding area.

When the long awaited report was received from the Anglo American's consulting engineers, it was to the effect that the claims were worthless. At an extraordinary meeting of shareholders convened on the 7th June, 1958, it was accordingly decided that the claims be allowed to go to forfeiture and that the Company be wound up voluntarily in terms of Section 209 (a) of the Companies Act.

At the time the Company was liquidated, 10 750 shares had been issued. Apart from the cost of acquiring the claims (£4 550), an amount of £6 200 was spent by the Company on licences, exploratory and administrative costs.

ARCTURUS MINE

The mine was first registered by Mr. T.W. Fletcher on September 12th, 1891. The history of the mine, however, is not a simple one of a single mine, but of three mines which have combined into a single unit. The three original mines were the Slate, the Arcturus and the Planet.

Early records of the district are somewhat incomplete, and apart from Fletcher's peggings no other information is available as to who pegged the Planet and the Slate mines. It is apparent that the district, which was known as Enterprise, was prospected very soon after the occupation.

These mines changed ownership a number of times, particularly during the period between 1909 and 1912. A company called the Gold Schiste of Rhodesia Limited was formed in 1910 to exploit the Enterprise Reef, but in the same year it was amalgamated with the Rhodesian Exploration Development Company.

Further uncertainty regarding the future of the mine followed a dispute between the mine manager and the B.S.A. Company regarding the locality of certain ores. A barren

fissure found on the 4th and 5th levels proved to be a powerful post ore fault, and which later became known as the "Slate Fault" had a profound influence on the mine's history.

In 1911 the Planet-Arcturus Gold Mine Company was formed and acquired some 550 gold claims on the site of the present mine. They also proceeded to develop the three original properties. The Planet was let on tribute between 1914 and 1918 and the Slate and Arcturus Mines were leased to the Goldfields of Rhodesia Development Company Limited in 1918, who worked them for six years.

The three mines were connected in the second and third levels and a new shaft was sunk in 1914 which served all three mines.

The mine was situated within ten miles of the nearest point on the Beira railway and in 1920 it was connected by a narrow gauge railway built by the Goldfields Development Company Limited to the main line near Ruwa.

Authority for the railway had previously been granted by a special ordinance (No. 5 of 1913) passed by the Legislative Council on the 30th May, 1913.

The outbreak of the 1914-1918 war retarded development of the mine. Production of ore could not keep pace with the mill, and accordingly the pillars and reserves were mined and by 1924, with the exception of a few pillars, the whole of the Slate area had been mined and most of the ore in the Arcturus section down to the fifth level taken out. The management decided to close the mine, and in October, 1926, ownership was transferred to the Goldfields Rhodesia Development Company Limited who let the claims go to forfeiture in 1919.

Messrs. Grant and McLean worked the Slate mine in the 1930's whilst the slimes were treated by Messrs. Owen and De Beer.

Mr. W.S. Senior, a former Minister of Mines, purchased the mine and by 1940 had the mine dewatered and producing.

Power supplies for the mine were provided by the City of Salisbury who entered into a special supply agreement covering a period of six years, but twelve months before its expiry date the Electricity Supply Commission took over responsibility for the mine's energy requirements.

A new company known as the Arcturus Mines Limited was registered on the 6th February, 1945, with a capital of £75 000 in £1 paid up shares to take over the mine. Mr. Senior met an untimely death in an air accident and in March, 1946, the scrip relating to the entire issued capital of Arcturus Mines Limited was purchased by the Coronation Syndicate from his estate. With the acquisition of the company by Coronation Syndicate Limited, the mine came under the control of 'Lonrho' who acted as managers and consulting engineers for Coronation Syndicate in Rhodesia. The mine was acquired at a cost of \$1 24 000 and on December 20th, 1947, a further 67 240 shares were allotted to the company to provide additional development finance.

After the property had been acquired by the Coronation Syndicate development took place on a large scale. During the first fifteen months, 17 000 tons of ore had been milled from which more than 4 000 ounces of gold had been recovered at an average cost of \$2,57 per ton milled. These operations resulted in a working profit of \$14 602.

Sinking operations to deepen the main shaft were commenced in January, 1946, and by June the total depth of the shaft had reached 221 metres. A new reduction plant was installed the following year, but owing to the complex nature of the ore being treated, difficulties were experienced. After these were overcome, better extraction was obtained and the mine's economics were placed on a better footing. Ore from the 12th level was the

most troublesome as it contained quantities of copper which caused problems in the reduction plant that affected the gold extracted.

The following year it was necessary to award a general increase in wages of 10% to all mine employees and this, together with rising costs in mining, placed the mine's future in jeopardy. An application was made to the Royalty Review Commission which granted a subsidy of \$1,02 per ounce on all gold won with effect from the 1st November, 1947, but this was insufficient to keep the mine going and following further representations the subsidy was increased to \$4 per ounce as from February, 1948, subject to review from time to time.

The main shaft reached the level of its economic depth in 1949. It was timbered to the tenth level, but in consequence of the dip of the ore body being 56 degrees, it could not be profitably deepened.

Tungsten carbide steel jack hammers were introduced for the first time in 1951, with the result that deeper and more blasting holes were drilled per shift, with a resultant increase of 100% in development footage. An electric-battery trammer was installed at the same time and the efficiency of the mine was raised considerably. As a result of the increase in output from the mine it became necessary to instal a new reduction plant and the tonnage crushed went up from 36 000 tons to 53 000 tons in 1956.

The mine was at that time benefitting from good value ore from a new reef that was discovered in 1952 on the west side, which was thought to be the lost reef of the old Slate mine that had been worked many years before, and which had been connected with the second and third levels of the Arcturus Mine. This reef had previously been lost due to faulting, had produced rich values, and its re-discovery had given the mine a new lease of life. When this reef was under full development the mine paid good dividends. A vertical depth of 534 metres had been reached by then on the Arcturus section.

Mining deposits are not inexhaustible, and in the early sixties there were signs that the ore reserves were running out. It was decided to rationalise part of the group's mining activities and the assets of the mine were sold to the Mazoe Consolidated Mines Limited in September, 1965.

The Company opened a small school for the children of its employees and made a contribution to the payment of the teacher's salary. The parents and Government also paid a portion of the salary but after three years the number of children dropped to four and it was decided to close the school.

REVUE DREDGING COMPANY LIMITED

Towards the latter part of the nineteenth century the Macequece District was the scene of much mining and prospecting activity. Gold was being found in rich ore pockets, and several veins over an extended area were being developed. Most important were the discoveries of deposits in the Penhalonga valley where the Rezende and Penhalonga mines developed into two of the country's larger producers.

Unfortunately, the various lodes, schist or quartz, in different zones were difficult to follow and consequently there never was much money available for their exploration.

At a later date, a dredger was installed in the Revue valley by the Andrade Mining Company, which worked a long stretch of the valley. The Revue river's source was near Penhalonga and flowed eastwards into Mocambique, where the country soon flattened out into a low-lying plain. Access to this area was from the top of the Penhalonga Valley from

where a rough road would take one down the Revue Valley past the old Paradox Mine into the Shua Valley where the Andrade dredge was in operation.

The alluvial contained a value of about 5 grams of gold per cubic yard and the dredger recovered about 1 000 ounces of gold a month over a considerable period, but the working expenses and overhead charges proved too heavy and the company closed down in 1931.

The gold recovered by the dredge had been shed in the neighbouring Umtali mountains, probably from the schist deposits bordering the Revue river valley.

An offer was received and accepted whereby the whole of the company's assets and undertakings were transferred for a share consideration to the Eastern Transvaal Consolidated Mines Limited, which through Sir Abe Bailey, were associated with the London and Rhodesia Mining and Land Company Limited, who acted as Secretaries and Managers of the dredging company.

Attempts were made to extend their activities into the then Rhodesian side of the border and to follow the courses of other rivers in the area, but difficulty was experienced with the land owners who objected to having the river banks and bed disturbed by a dredger. Consequently, the overtures made by the company never came to fruition and were subsequently abandoned. Although traces of gold were found, there was probably insufficient value in the alluvial to make a determined effort worthwhile.

Within two years of the new company starting operations, it had treated nearly 600 000 cubic yards of alluvial and recovered £18 486 worth of gold, but difficulty was encountered owing to huge boulders that occurred in the area being worked. The dredge was dismantled and re-erected to another position eleven miles across the country, to the site where the previous owners had been operating. The transfer was effected in an unusual manner. A large hole was dug in the ground and the dredge assembled inside, using the sides for support. When re-assembly was complete the hole was flooded from the river by digging a canal and the dredge once more was afloat and immediately began digging its way



Alluvial gold workings, 1904.

Photo — National Archives

into the main canal. The previous operators had only cut a narrow channel but by undercutting the channels a great deal of alluvium was treated.

The new site proved reasonably profitable. About 11¼d worth of gold was recovered from every cubic yard of alluvial treated and produced a profit of 6½d per cubic yard. The dredge was capable of working about 80000 to 90000 cubic yards a month.

As a result of the acquisition on August 1st, 1945 (of the interests) by the Coronation Syndicate of the assets of the Eastern Transvaal Consolidated Mines Limited, ownership of the Revue dredge passed to the former company.

The London and Rhodesia Mining and Land Company were appointed Secretaries, Managers and Consulting Engineers for the Coronation Syndicate, and the company's head office was moved to Johannesburg.

During the first eleven months after the takeover of the company, 1 210 000 cubic yards of soil were treated, from which 3 970 ounces of gold were recovered at an average working cost of 3.876d per cubic yard. The working profit for the period was £14 853.

The Eastern Transvaal Consolidated Mines Limited had immediately prior to the takeover been negotiating with the Portuguese authorities in regard to a concession in the Luenha area. In order to avoid any complications, the application remained in the former company's name but it was to be transferred to Coronation Syndicate after the formalities had been completed.

In the meantime, the Portuguese tried to forestall the Rhodesian representations by forming a company themselves and successfully obtained the grant of the land in question. They offered the Eastern Transvaal Consolidated Mines Limited an adjoining area, but the company's geologist, Dr. Zipprich's, investigations proved that the claims were not worthwhile and the application for the concession was not pursued.

In Moçambique, concessions of state land were governed by laws passed in 1918, but in addition to these fundamental laws many other measures were enacted which caused confusion in the interpretation of the legal provisions applicable, and often difficulty in their implementation. An attempt was therefore made to remedy this situation in 1944 by enacting a law defining the basic principals governing concession of state land (Law No. 2001 of May 16, 1944).

Portuguese legislation regarding concessions of land have always been guided by the aim to defend uncompromisingly the interests and rights of populations over land occupied and exploited by them.

The Company also held title to a number of alluvial claims in the Chua area and these were abandoned in March, 1947. Considerable work had to be done in connection with the digging of canals to provide sufficient depth of water to enable the dredge to function.

Operations on the Revue Dredge continued until March, 1949, when all workable deposits had been exhausted. The Company removed all its motors and other plant including items of scrap and sent them to Salisbury for disposal.

The Inhyamucarara and Tristao hydro-electric power stations were sold to the Portuguese authorities on the understanding that they would allow the repatriation of the Company's assets to Rhodesia.

The Winefred Power Station was sold to a prominent Mutare resident who owned a farm adjacent to the dredging operations.

What had been a long and profitable enterprise had finally come to an end and the Company was wound up in 1951. Since the undertaking was acquired in 1931, 86 032 ounces of gold were extracted, resulting in a profit of £219 537.

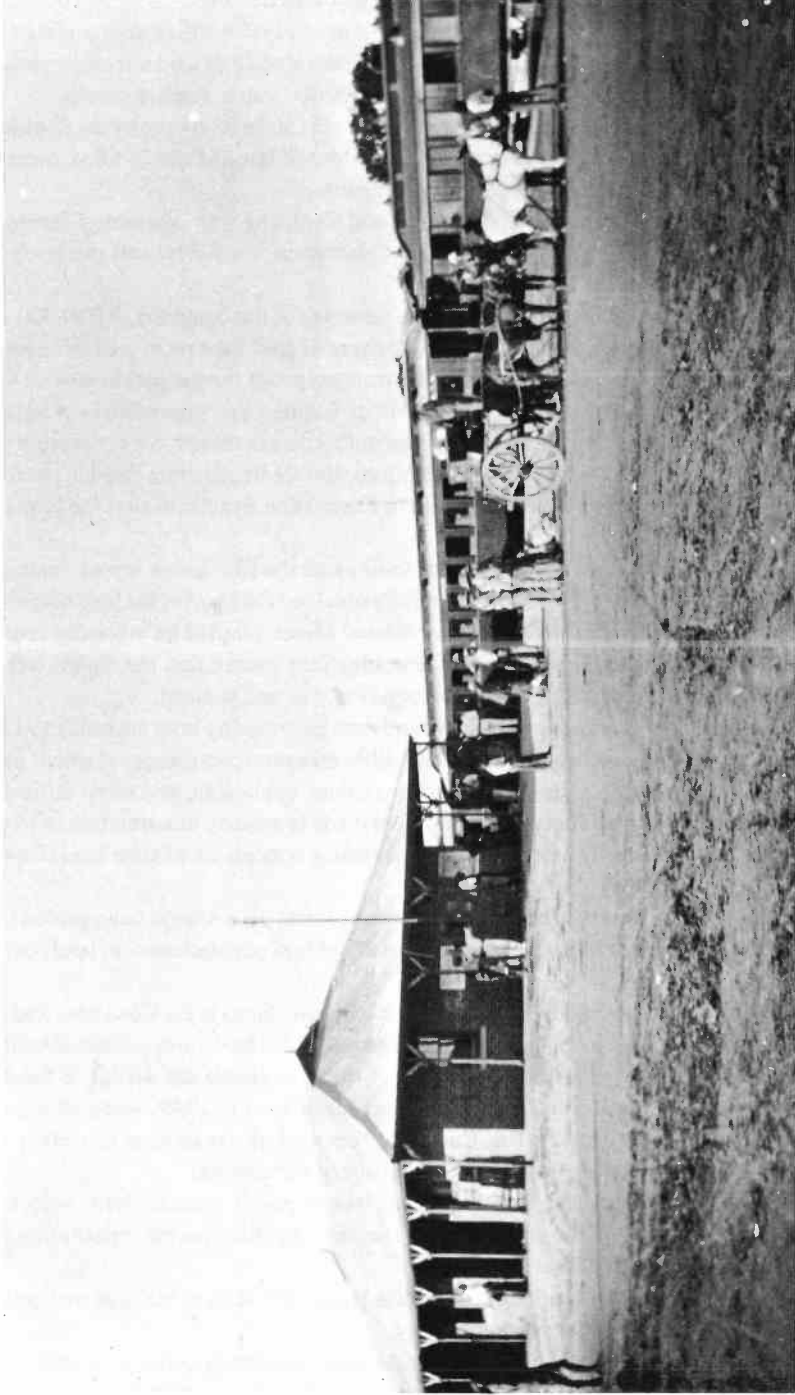


Photo — National Archives

Gwanda station.

How The Railway Came To Gwanda

by Mary Fleming

When the township of Gwanda was founded in 1899, it had already become an administrative centre under an Assistant Native Commissioner, who operated from Guatala's kraal. With the discovery of gold in the district and the expectation that it would yield a lot of the precious metal, it soon became an important growth point and it became imperative that a railway line be constructed to serve the growing community.

The Eagle Hawk claims were registered in 1894 and four years later the Geelong Mine was operating with a 20-stamp mill. The following year the Devon and Grant (subsequently renamed the Seafield) came into production.

An agreement was signed by the B.S.A. Company on March 30, 1900 to construct a railway from Bulawayo. In fulfilment of this undertaking the railway was completed in 1903 and opened on August 25.

Prior to the arrival of the railway ox-wagons were used to transport stores and equipment from Bulawayo. Mail and passengers were conveyed in Cape carts drawn by mules or horses. There was much scathing criticism at the appalling state of the roads before the construction of the railway and the Chamber of Mines in their annual report of 1901 commented upon the well-nigh impassable state of some of the roads particularly in the Gwanda district, especially during the wet seasons. Transport riders were demanding prohibitive rates for transport. Major Heany, who had interests in a group of seven gold mines in the district claimed that he could not afford to bring forward from the coast the necessary machinery required by his group of mines, and threatened to curtail work in the district until an assurance could be given of a better transport facility.

The contract to construct the railway was awarded to George Pauling whose company had constructed most of the railway lines in this country. Work on the branch line commenced from a point on the Bulawayo-Gwelo line known as Heany Junction. However the junction was first named Gwanda Junction by which name it was known until 1904. The line reached West Nicholson, the most southerly point of the Filabusi-Gwanda gold-bearing schist complex in 1903. The line ran through Filabusi siding (renamed Balla Balla meaning Kudu in 1907), which is situated 66 km from Bulawayo. This station became a convenient railhead for the mining area around Filabusi where a number of important gold mines such as the Fred, Blue Reef, Killarney and Hibernia had been opened. The latter also had a 20-stamp mill for crushing the ore. Other stations or sidings along the route were Essexvale, Stanmore, Sibiwa, Gwanda, Anterior, Colleen Bawn, Jessie and West Nicholson (the terminus).

Water was scarce in the district and the Matabele Gold Reef group of mines took advantage of the railway to truck supplies of water from the Umzingwane river to the Nicholson mine at West Nicholson for the crushing and treatment of ore.

The railway became a boon to the local miners for the transportation of heavy machinery for the mines, and later cattle were conveyed from the large ranches and cement limestone to the cement works in Bulawayo.

The line has been re-aligned on several occasions to improve the gradients and curves. When the original teak sleepers were replaced on these occasions, they were snapped up

by the mining and farming community for timbering shafts and tunnels or for the use as fencing posts. The outline of where the old line used to be can still be seen to this day. Although vegetation has overgrown much of the old track the old route can still clearly be seen. In some places the road now follows the abandoned railway track. This is not the only place in Zimbabwe where this was done. North of Hwange much of the old railway line was altered to serve as a road for vehicular traffic.

The original tracks were laid with 60 lb yard rails and when these were upgraded in 1978 with recovered rails from the Gweru-Bulawayo which itself had been upgraded with a heavier track, the Electricity Supply Commission purchased them from the Railways for electrical reticulation. These rails carried markings "R R 1902". Most of the rails used in Gwanda and environs came from the Koodoovale section.

Many of the bridges along this route had abutments and piers built of granite blocks with a high degree of craftsmanship. Later construction was of concrete with less artistry. A number of the bridges and large culverts have been strengthened with concrete, but the original work was so attractive, that in many instances it was incorporated into the new work and retained for embellishment.

The Manziannyama bridge just south of Gwanda is a delightful example of a pioneering bridge, with stone-built abutments and the steel girder carrying, at the Gwanda end, the builder's plate "Arrol's Bridge and Roof Company, Glasgow 1899".

The bridge over the Umzingwane river was replaced after the original was washed away in 1918. This event prevented a Miss Nora Hunt from travelling to Somabula where she was to take up a teaching appointment. Whilst waiting for the bridge to be repaired she changed her mind and decided to stay in Gwanda and taught in the school there for the next twenty years.

The present Colleen Bawn station layout is on a recently built deviation. The original "Colleen Bawn" was a gold Mine on the crest of a ridge just before the level crossing which was served by a spur from the railway line. The mine was originally pegged in 1895 by S. Daly, a prospector from Australia. In 1903 a company called 'Rhodesia Limited' was formed to acquire Daly's property, and within two years they had sunk five shafts which extended over the east and west lengths of the strike for a distance of over one thousand feet.

In 1930 another spur was put in to allow the Premier Portland, which had been manufacturing cement from deposits near Bulawayo since 1913, to exploit the mountain of limestone. Subsequently another cement company "Rhodesia Cement Company Ltd" was formed and erected a factory at Colleen Bawn and this necessitated a major reconstruction of the track.

To end on a note of mystery; just past Anterior Siding and the Zeederberg Pass road, there is an original stonemasonry culvert close to the main road, approached by reversed curves, carrying a 30 km/hr speed restriction. On either side of these the track runs in a straight line, and in continuation of this there are half-completed embankments in a straight line on either side of the stream. Whether these date from the time of the original construction or represent an abandoned project in the 1950's reconstruction is not clear, and why this apparently logical and beneficial cut-off was not carried through to completion remains a puzzling mystery.

Thomas Baines And His Blue Jacket Journal

by Robert Arnold Jones

“The failure of duty which I am obliged to report against you are neglect of duty as storekeeper to the Expedition in not only giving away large quantities of them to Generoso and others, a fact which lays you open to prosecution; leaving your duties . . . and without leave in order to skylark with certain Portuguese, in doing which you took a whaler without authority and very seriously damaged it; wasting artists’ material in painting the Portraits of Pascal and Albino without authority, etc, from the officer I left in charge.

It is with deep regret that I have to make such a report, but I am unable to find any excuse for the serious failures of duty enumerated and must therefore perform a painful duty.”¹

These were the reasons David Livingstone gave for dismissing Thomas Baines ignominiously from the Zambesi Expedition. Although the Doctors’ journal and letters show that he had some reservations over his action, he would never publicly admit he was mistaken and all Baines’ later efforts to clear his name were in vain.²

The picture that emerges of Thomas Baines in his “Northern Goldfields Diaries” is a very different one from that presented to Livingstone: “He receives £1 a day and does next to nothing”.³ In his accounts of his journeys into Rhodesia we see a man who works hard and plays hard, who unstintingly uses his own resources when the company were niggardly with theirs and it seems unreasonable to suppose that a man could change so much in so short a time. It was this curious paradox that led me to enquire further into the character of Thomas Baines and I was intrigued by the fact that on his voyage to Australia in 1855, he sought to lighten the boredom of his companions by launching a weekly paper, “The Blue Jacket Journal and Chronicle of the Blue Waters.” According to Mr. Wallis⁴, this venture received no great support so that Baines had to edit, transcribe and illustrate the periodical as well as write most of the copy under the pen-name of Tim Touchemoff. The paper displays his homely wit bubbling over with genial fun which obviously did not impress the dour Scots Doctor of his subsequent expedition.

The only remaining manuscript of this journal lies in the National Library at Canberra and is in very poor condition so that this account of the journal is from a micro-film copy and photographic enlargements prepared for me by the National Archives in Harare.

The prospectus of “The Blue Jacket Journal and Chronicle of the Blue Water” under the pictorial heading, begins as follows:

“Were it not for the persuasion that the publication now contemplated, must materially contribute to enliven a voyage which has so happily commenced; the editor and his associates would not have ventured on an undertaking of such labour and responsibility.”

He continues in a mock-heroic strain:

“Through the medium of this journal fresh sources of amusement will be opened and the present genial contented feeling may be sustained. An opportunity being afforded for the free interchange of ideas, that lassitude of mind which is so great a bar to lively pleasant communion may, by a little mental exercise, be averted and as it is ever a duty and a

privilege to contribute towards the happiness of others, suggestions no doubt will be constantly considered for the furtherance of general entertainment."

Although, as Mr. Wallis points out, Baines was largely responsible for copy as well as for editing, he keeps up the fiction of a true editor by stating in his first editorial the difficulty he had in selecting "from amongst the numerous subjects submitted to our favourable notice," a topic "on which to bestow our Editorial consideration."

The magazine, which must have cost Baines many long hours on a tossing ship, contains a wide variety of articles and although many of the topical allusions must, of necessity, escape us, there is still sufficient interest in the magazine to make it enthralling reading.

"The Blue Jacket Journal" closely follows the contents of any other magazine which seeks to cater for all tastes — in this case the microcosm of shipboard life. No magazine would be complete without its "Notices to Correspondents" and the following is typical of Baines' humour: "Ignoramus (a well-chosen name). To amputate one's twig, is the more refined phrase for 'cutting one's stick'. The expression is derived from the preparations usual in the Sister isle upon the commencement of a journey when the first care of the traveller is to seek out for himself a stout Shilleleh. Hence to say that Pauden Kavanagh has 'cut his stick' means that he has fully prepared himself to leave 'the dear little place, where he was born' and start, perhaps, on a reaping expedition in the South of England".

Many advertisements appear in the journal, some of them based on the peculiarities of an ocean voyage, such as this one:

"A Card. Mr. James Muller having observed that many of the gentlemen on board the Blue Jacket commit butchery on their chins while performing the ceremonies of the toilet in consequence of the difficulty of holding a razor steadily at sea, is now happy to announce to the community at large that he has opened a haircutting and Shaving Saloon, carefully fitted up with the most recently improved conveniences so as to insure a light and steady touch and never a troublesome and dangerous operation, one of ease and gratification. He trusts by an earnest attention to his business to obtain a large and permanent patronage."

As Mr. Wallis states, Baines had a knack for versifying so that the "Blue Jacket Journal" contains many examples of Baines' varied gift with words. I write "varied" advisedly because it would be wrong to dismiss Baines as a mere writer of parodies although he can do that with practised ease. Early in the Journal he announces a poetry competition — a prize is offered for a poem composed after the following fashion. "The sentiment and measure are left entirely to the fancy of the composer but each line must terminate with one of the words given below, and they must follow the same order". The words are then given — "groans, smiles, bones, isles, grief, nuts, beef, struts, boil, soap, toil, hope." This mock competition leads to great fun for Baines and, we hope, for his fellow passengers. We have the inevitable irate contestant who complains that his entry has been ignored or that he should have been awarded the prize. Baines answers his supposed tormentors in true editorial fashion, either blaming the office boy or disclaiming any knowledge of the entry. Neptunius Junior is among the aspirants and submits the following poem;

"My lad take heed that hollow groans,
Don't follow on malicious smiles
And make you wish you'd kept your bones
In your own native Scilly Isles.
You'll soon have cause enough for grief,

And learn whose heads resemble nuts,
Though fed upon subscriber's beef,
Your Editorial father struts.
Don't let your wrath against me boil
Though I prescribe the use of soap,
Don't mollify Miss Mopcap's toil,
Nor disappoint your father's hope.

It is surprising that ingenuity goes into finding different lines to match the rhyming words given. Finally, towards the end of the voyage, the Editor announces with great flourishes the result of the competition with brief criticisms of the poems submitted.

One of the early poems in the paper is entitled "Our Journal" by Timothy Touchemoff. It shows the ease with which Baines can find both rhyme and rhythm to suit his mood:

While sailing o'er the mighty ocean
A little party got a notion
Instead of wasting time like vapour
To jot their thoughts down upon paper.
Yes, yes, cried one, we'll keep a journal
A record of events diurnal,
But number two suggested meekly
That it best be published weekly.

The title proved an easy choice since "All is blue above, below, sir" and so "The Blue Jacket Journal" earned its name. Baines' predictions of a rush to contribute did not seem to materialise however, yet he carries on —

Don't let it drop for want of pluck,
But wish our paper better luck,
There's lots of folk to find you matter,
People all like to write or natter.
So set about it with a will, sir,
Of matter you'll soon have your fill, sir,
And whether weekly or diurnal,
Success to our Blue Jacket Journal.

By far the longest poem in the journal — it appeared as a serial over a number of issues — is "A Fowl Legend or a Tale of a Clipper in the Olden Time". This amusing poem is reminiscent of Coleridge's "Ancient Mariner." It is written in pseudo-archaic English, it is divided into cantos and each canto into "fyttes". There is a short prose commentary at the beginning of each fytte. The first commentary reads: "The poet describes the dinner hour on board and how the Captain is y'troubled". The first verse reads:

No grace is sung but the bell has rung
Knights, squires and ladies fair
With eager step and merry jest
To the banquet hall repair.
And sooth it is a goodly sight
To mark how readily
Both great and small attend the call
Of that bell's sweet homily.

Another of the more serious poems in the journal is enclosed with a letter to the editor and purports to have been written "while listening to the fine old bells of the Collegiate Church of Wolverhampton one Sunday evening last Autumn". The poem is nostalgic — which would appeal to the passengers — and contains a fund of moral persuasion. The closing lines, especially are not without merit:

Then continue your peals you fine old bells,
Still float through the evening air,
And as oft as ye sound may we ready be found
To attend to the duty of prayer.

Ballads and plays are to be found in the "Blue Jacket Journal" although time has rendered many of the pages indecipherable.

All the merit, however, is not in the poems; there are prose articles of a wide variety which capture the imagination and the inevitable sketches delight the eye on most of the pages.

One series which required much thought and a background of scientific education is "The World We Live In". It consists of a number of pseudo-scientific articles describing the wonders of this world — some factual, others apocryphal. The opening paragraph of the first article is indicative of the style in which the series is written:

"Having been requested by a gentleman in whose discretion I repose unbounded confidence, whom I have known (I was about to say from the day of my birth) but at least as long as I have been capable of forming an acquaintane, who has certainly known me for an equal period and been my dearest and most esteemed friend despite the opinion of some men that he has been my sole enemy, and of whom I may say without hesitation that in endeavouring to make myself acquainted with his character, I am fulfilling the main precept of one of the most ancient philosophers — to attempt a description of the World in which we live — I beg to state that after advancing all the objections I could think of and finding one after another overruled by the arguments and importunities of my friend, whose opinion of my talent is at least equal to my own, I have consented with much distrust of my ability, to undertake the task and it is with no little diffidence and trepidation I now offer to the world (that is to say, the inhabitants thereof) the result of the limited observations I have been able to make." The writer goes on to say that he is opposed to duelling first because he is afraid of breaking the law and "again I am afraid of breaking the force of a 'cylinder comical' before it has fairly expended itself in space and gently yielded to the laws of gravitation."

One very humorous article illustrated by the most appropriate sketches is on a topic much favoured by ocean travellers: "Crossing the Line". He gives the article a literary and historical background by such references as "How to count for its omission in the Luciad is perhaps more difficult as Cameons must actually have been an eyewitness to the occurrence and we are therefore reduced to the alternative of believing the renowned Vasco da Gama and his crew did not know when they reached the Line, or that having duly observed all the customary rites, the strength of the nuts they cracked with their Madeira rendered them oblivious to all that had occurred."

Charades were a popular pastime in Baines' day and the journal contains many examples of these guessing games, the answers of which escape me. In his supposed role as a reporter, Baines writes many articles which are jocular reflections on the events of the voyage. In his column, "Births, Deaths and Marriages", he is gratified that he has no

record of deaths and bemoans the lack of marriages but is happy to record "one of the results of marriage".

"Madame Bucky whose condition had for the last fortnight been a subject of general solicitude especially to the more fashionable circles of her own sex in the neighbourhood of the cuddy, gave birth on the 18th inst. in a neat cottage on a rising ground, beneath the carpenter's table, to four sons and two daughters, who with their interesting and youthful mother are doing even better than could be expected, under circumstances so unusual . . ."

In such a manner he describes the birth of the first pups on board the "Blue Jacket".

Fashions come under his purview as the ship sails southward and the passengers change their mode of dress.

The business men on board the "Blue Jacket" could not be deprived of their market reports so Baines fills the deficiency with items such as these:

"Bread — known as 'Soft Tack' has undergone a rise, caused it is presumed by the late discovery of a better description of Yest and the superior talent employed in the manufacture of this very necessary staff of life . . . Claret — Market fairly supplied, and consumption is large . . . Spirits generally dull, the stock on board is moderate".

His Stock Exchange report is couched in precisely the correct terms:

"The only investments that have yet opened afford employment to a very limited amount of capital, but the transactions reported below are evidence of active speculation which is proof that the money market is in a healthy state . . ."

The war in the Crimea was raging while the "Blue Jacket" was on her way to Australia so what could be more natural than that the indefatigable Baines should supply the passengers with news of the conflict? This is contained in his illustrated article, "Sketches from the Seat of War". It is supposedly despatched by submarine telegraph — another innovation of the century. Baines sought every means of interesting his fellow passengers. This is shown in a long and involved court case, couched in the most intricate legal terminology, in which he uses quotations from "Hamlet" to prove the monstrosity of the crime.

The one hundred and thirty so pages of the journal are predominantly ones of gay fun but Baines is serious again in the Editor's farewell address to the "Readers of the Deck Copy". He shows his mastery of a simple but effective prose style and makes good use of repetition. The first paragraph runs:

"'For the last time'. How many times have these few words been uttered, and how various the meanings they have conveyed, of joy or sadness, of happiness or melancholy, of calm cool calculation or of anxious and excited speculation, they are alike the natural and spontaneous expression. 'For the last time' shouts the schoolboy as, throwing down his books, he rushes to join the exhilarating games of the vacation. 'For the last time' he repeats as toiling in some close workshop in a crowded town, he thinks of the blithe holidays he has spent in the sunny open country. 'For the last time' cries the auctioneer as watching another nod he holds aloft the Hammer one stroke of which transfers the Heirloom, perhaps for ages, to the possession of a stranger. 'For the last time' pleads the transgressor when despite his resolution to improve he yields to the next temptation. 'For the last time' sings the sailor joining in the cheerful chorus of his messmates, as, yielding to their efforts, the Anchor rises and demands but another heave at the windlass to bring it to the Bows. 'For the last time' sighs his lonely widow as she thinks how often he has clasped her to that manly breast now cold forever. 'For the last time' say the aged couple as with uplifted hands they bless their departing child."

Sentimental it may be, but it is true sentiment nevertheless. Baines seems to have enjoyed immensely his six weeks labour with the journal and to the refrain 'For the last time' he wishes all his fellow passengers well "and we are sure that whatever may be their destination, no one will refuse to join us in wishing success to Capt. Underwood and his good ship, Blue Jacket."

It is a production such as the "Blue Jacket Journal" which gives point to Mr. Wallis's rather extravagant estimate of Baines. "He is a second Defoe with more of genial humour than the creator of Robinson Crusoe possessed . . . He could turn out rollicking rhymes, troll a merry lay, and roll out tunes on the accordeon"⁵. This is a fairer estimate of his character than that given by the dour doctor who could not stomach Baines' fund of good humour.

A reviewer in the "Times Literary Supplement" sums up most adequately the character of this great man of Africa:

"He was a man of his time, which was from 1820 to 1875. He had its constructive energy, its physical strength, its passion for encyclopaedic knowledge, its scientific spirit, its undoubting forwardness, its prevailing lack of scepticism. In short, Baines was an eminent Victorian whose eminence might have come to be more generally recognised if he had been less modest, if he had greater social advantages, and if his interests had been less dispersed."⁶

NOTES

"The Blue Jacket Journal and Chronicle of the Blue Waters", photographic facsimile of manuscript in the National Library, Canberra, Australia.

"The Zambesi Expedition of David Livingstone, 1858-63. Journals, letters and Despatches." Edited by J.P.R. Wallis. Chatto and Windus 1956. Oppenheimer Series No. 9.

"The Northern Goldfields Diaries of Thomas Baines 1869-73". Three volumes. Edited by Mr. J.P.R. Wallis. Chatto and Windus. 1946. Oppenheimer Series No. 3.

"Thomas Baines of King's Lynn" Explorer and Artist 1820-1875" by J.P.R. Cape 1941.

"The Times Literary Supplement" Saturday, May 3rd 1947.

1. "The Zambesi Journals of David Livingstone 1858-63. Journals edited by J.P.R. Wallis, Volume I pages 118-9.
2. "Thomas Baines of King's Lynn" by J.P.R. Wallis — page 229.
3. "Zambesi Journals of David Livingstone . . ." entry for 10th March, 1859.
4. "Thomas Baines of Kings Lynn" . . . pages 90-91.
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6. "Times Literary Supplement" May 3rd 1947. Reviews of "Northern Goldfields Diaries . . ."

North Charterland Exploration Company

by R. Cherer Smith

The North Charterland Exploration Company was formed in 1895 to acquire a vast tract of territory in North-Eastern Rhodesia. Its property was situated in the Southern portion of North-Eastern Rhodesia and included most of the Fort Jameson and Petauke districts. Its territory covered 10 000 square miles or 6 400 000 acres and was bounded on the east by Nyasaland (now Malawi), on the south by Moçambique and on the west by a line at right angles to the southern boundary which was drawn 200 miles from the eastern tip. Then on the north it had a line which ran parallel to the southern boundary.

Its lands were granted to it in the form of a Concession which comprised of a tract of fertile land on a plateau with an altitude of about 3 000-4 000 feet in tropical grassland that was covered with scrub and the remains of forest with numerous granite outcrops. Two-thirds of the land was arable and capable of cultivation, but the remainder was unsuitable for this purpose.

Three different types of soil were found in the region. A granite sand belt suitable for tobacco growing ran through the middle of the Concession and towards the north-west there was a heavier and darker soil which was also suitable for tobacco provided it was fertilised. Grain crops could be grown in the south on the dark loam which occurred in this area. Sweet grasses suitable for cattle were to be found in most of the Concession, and the climate was tropical but healthy. Except for the lowlands, it was cold in winter. The region had an average rainfall of 38 inches per annum, which was ideal for agriculture.

The country was provided with good timber that was suitable for firewood and building purposes, but much of it had been denuded by indiscriminate felling by Africans whose system of land husbandry entailed clearing an area for cultivation by burning the trees and then using the land until it no longer produced good crops. They then moved elsewhere and repeated the performance.

Tsetse fly at first infested a considerable area of the western portion of the Concession rendering it unsuitable for settlement, but the most vital question affecting the development of the Concession was that of transport. During the early years of its existence the Company proved that the eastern portion was suitable for cotton growing, but this notion was rejected by cotton growing experts. The Company placed some 1 000 acres under cotton cultivation and in addition about 2 000 acres of cotton were planted by the settlers.

The cotton was placed on the Liverpool market and fetched good prices ranging from 6d to 9½d per pound, but it was exceedingly difficult to get the necessary machinery for baling the cotton or to profitably get the cotton out of the country because of the lack of transport facilities.

The same remarks equally applied to mineral developments in the Concession. As a result of two years persistent prospecting by the Company's mining engineers and prospectors, about twenty blocks of claims were pegged and partially developed. In most cases the results were satisfactory, and although some of the small lodes gave excellent

results, the claims could not be exploited again because of the lack of transport and communications.

To overcome this handicap, the Company constructed a road of about forty miles in length from Fort Jameson to Misale on the Moçambique border and, at their request, the Portuguese Government improved the road from Tete to Misale, which was about 185 miles in length. The Company also purchased seven wagons and oxen but many of the latter died from the tsetse fly, so that this form of transport had to be supplemented by local carriers; as many as 700 being employed in one month.

The Company succeeded in inducing a few settlers to take up land in their territory, some of whom possessed considerable capital and were of the most desirable class, but regulations introduced by the Administration to provide for compensation to Africans residing on the farms caused a number of settlers to leave. These regulations recognised that Africans living on the farms had certain rights and were to be compensated at the rate of £1 per hut if the African was required to move, resulting in the cost of compensation being greater in some cases than the cost of the land. Moreover an African squatter was entitled to cultivate any portion of a settler's land he chose, and invariably chose the most fertile areas to cultivate his crops.

Although David Livingstone passed through this region in 1855, nothing was heard of the country until 1890 when Her Majesty's Consul in Moçambique brought the territory under British influence. It was then inhabited by native tribes, one of which was the Angoni, a slave raiding people.

The Angoni are descendants of a tribe which is generally believed to be an off-shoot from the Zulu or Swazi, which crossed the Zambesi about the year 1825, and formed a kingdom on the south east coast of Lake Tanganyika. But some of their number under Chief Chikusi remained in the high country to the north of Tete because the party was too large to support itself from the loot of the country through which it was passing.

Some years later the Tanganyika country was abandoned and the several powerful chiefs composing the Angoni nation migrated to the high country west of Lake Nyasa and established three separate kingdoms under the chieftainships of Mpeseni, Chewere and Mombere.

These people retained many of their customs brought from the south, such as the manner of dress and warfare. Their weapons were stabbing assegais and cowhide shields that were used as protection but since they had seldom met with any determined resistance on the part of the timid people whom they subjugated, they lost much of their reputation for courage and fighting prowess.

In the southern part of the territory the predominant people are the Angoni of Mpeseni who have, however, become so blended with the tribes whom they have subjected, that there was scarcely a distinct type of Angoni to be found.

Their chief wealth consisted of herds of cattle and flocks of sheep and goats. Their religious ideas took the form of worshipping the spirits of their immediate ancestors who required to be propitiated from time to time. The Chief was by virtue of his office, a high priest, whilst the recognised medicine men and witchdoctors were also possessed of degrees of priestly authority.

The burial place of a Chief was beneath the dung of his principal cattle kraal, which was afterwards reduced in size, but continued to shelter a few head of his more valuable cattle. The propitiation of his spirit took place at a tree or rock at some secluded spot in the vicinity, which was in some manner dedicated to or identified with him.

Various expeditions entered the country, one of which was by Carl Weise and Dr. Cyril Hoste who explored this region between 1885 and 1891. These expeditions bore fruit and led to the expansion of British territory through the action taken by Alfred Sharpe, the British Consul at Moçambique.

Weise returned to England with a treaty that he had concluded with the Chief Mpeseni and on the strength of this treaty the Moçambique Gold Land and Concession Company Limited was formed to take over the Concession. In 1895, the British South Africa Company who already had certain rights in the country, assigned to the Moçambique Company 10 000 square miles of its land in exchange for the Weise Concession, subject to the formation of another company to operate the Concession.

This grant carried ordinary mineral and land rights over the area of the country set forth in the Concession, subject to the British South Africa Company's regulations as to land, mines or minerals, which were applicable to the territory in question. They were parallel with those in force south of the Zambesi, and included in its Mines and Minerals Ordinance of 1895. Precious stones, oils and fossil substances were excepted from the Ordinance and were retained by the B.S.A. Company.

The rights of the natives were to be respected. Townships were only to be laid out by or under the sanction of the B.S.A. Company, and the land requisite for this purpose could be resumed by the Company as land required for a public purpose, in which case alternative blocks would be made available.

The Concession was made to the Moçambique Company on condition that it transferred forthwith to the British South Africa Company all rights and interest in what was known as the 'Weise Concession' so far as these were within the present British Sphere. It was also stipulated that neither the Moçambique Company nor Mr. Weise would make any claim in respect of any Concessions which they may have obtained south of the existing frontier between British and Portuguese territory that may be found upon an ultimate delimitation or alteration of the frontier line to be in the British Sphere.

Any further acquisition of land or mineral rights that the Moçambique Company obtained within the British territory or in what may in future be declared British territory, was to be deemed to be included in the arrangements made and was to be transferred to the new Company without any intermediate profit. The B.S.A. Company was to be given a 42¾% interest in any such new holding or acquisition.

The British South Africa Company stipulated that it had to approve the directors of the new company that was to be formed and also reserved the right to nominate, after allotment, two members of the Board, provided the number did not exceed five, and so in proportion.

The B.S.A. Company also requested that the new Company's Articles of Association be submitted to it for approval, and specified that no official of the company was to be given a percentage of the profits of the company as part of his remuneration without the specific consent of the B.S.A. Company.

It was at this stage that the North Charterland Exploration Company Limited was formed. It was incorporated in May, 1895, with a share capital of £1 000 000 divided into 1 000 000 shares of £1 each. Of these, 700 000 shares fully paid were issued to the vendors in payments for the Concession, who transferred 300 000 shares to the British South Africa Company in consideration of the grant, and 300 000 shares were set aside for subscription for working capital, of which somewhat less than 100 000 were issued and paid for.

The North Charterland Company, under its leader Lt.-Col. Garner Warton, entered the country from Tete and arrived at Misale in June, 1896.

The Paramount Chief of the Angoni, Chief Mpeseni, had been suspicious of the British but had maintained friendly relations with the Portuguese. Realising this, Weise, when making his first overtures, approached him by way of Tete and disclaimed any British connections. He was thus able to gain the friendship of the Chief and secure the Concession. The Chief was unaware of the financial transactions that had subsequently taken place regarding the Concession rights and Warton had therefore to enter the territory on the basis of his kinship with Weise.

The North Charterland Exploration Company called their first station 'Fort Young', in honour of the chairman of the company. The other important station was named Weise, after Carl Weise, the real founder of the company, and was situated at the present Luangeni.

The town of Fort Jameson, which took its name from the old Station some twenty miles to the north, was established in October, 1898. It was named in honour of Dr. Leander Starr Jameson, a compatriot of Rhodes and who had accompanied the Pioneer column into Mashonaland, but who at this time had fallen into disgrace for his part in the Raid into the Transvaal. The station was well situated with good water in a picturesque part of the country surrounded by a range of granite hills. The buildings were erected with locally made bricks, and some were roofed with iron, although most were thatched. There were a number of offices and stores for the accommodation of the staff of about fifteen officials. The town was connected by telegraph with the main line of the African Transcontinental Telegraph Line, and mails were received and despatched north and south twice a week by runner through Feira and on to Salisbury (Harare) via Sipolilo (Guruve).

Fort Young, the headquarters of the North Charterland Exploration Company, was situated twelve miles south of Fort Jameson and the company's agent acted as honorary postmaster.

Major Patrick Forbes, who was at the time acting Administrator of North Eastern Rhodesia, on behalf of the British South Africa Company, recognised the precarious position of the Company and had to deal with the Chief through Weise.

Recognising the weakness of the B.S.A. Company's own position, Lt.-Col. Warton appointed himself as Administrator and Magistrate in the Concession territory, but this was not recognised by Forbes and was thus made ineffective, as the British South Africa Company insisted on its rights to organise and carry out the administration of the country.

In terms of the Weise Concession, Chief Mpeseni was to receive about £200 worth of goods per annum. These were presented to him in the form of ostrich feathers, rugs, beads, blankets, calico, etc., and a rifle valued at about £50. After the second payment was made the Angoni war of 1898 broke out, from which time other arrangements were made.

Relations began to deteriorate between the Chief and the North Charterland Exploration Company and after the Chief had threatened the Company's officials, it asked for armed forces to protect them. It was estimated that the Chief could muster about 30 000 warriors.

In response to this request, the British Central Africa Company sent troops from Kota Kota on Lake Nyasa into Mpeseni's country. They arrived in December 1897 and the operation lasted for 42 days, but the actual fighting only took place on the 19th and 20th January, when about 100 warriors were killed.

Mpeseni's eldest son, who was regarded as the instigator of the trouble, was captured and summarily shot in the presence of a large number of headmen. The Chief had fled into the bush but voluntarily surrendered and after a year's exile at Fort Manning he was allowed to return to his chieftaincy. He was then paid an allowance from territorial funds along with all other recognised chiefs in the territory.

During the operation 14 000 cattle were captured, many of which were despatched to Salisbury or found their way to individuals.

The company started with high ideals, as can be gauged from its prospectus which was drawn up with magnificent magnitude. There were to be ten stations of which two, those named Weise and Misale, were even in 1896 marked out for future townships. Mining stations were forecast at Misale, Chifombo (Chipiri Hills) and Msoro; and trading stations and labour recruiting depots were to be established at Chasya, Clurupe, Muliko and Mpetu. A station near Mpeseni was designed to control the political activities of the Chief, and the health of the company's staff was to be catered for by the erection of a sanatorium at Chingalizia, where a fort was also to be established.

The main purpose of the company was prospecting and mining and its first staff included ten European prospectors. Gold was discovered at Misale in June, 1896, but



Robert E. Codrington, 1869–1908, Administrator N.W. Rhodesia, 1907.

Photo — National Archives

instructions were issued to keep the discovery secret and that no hint be given to the Portuguese as the discovery was on their boundary. Indications of the discovery were that it was identical to the Bantek of the Transvaal. However, it later proved that the Portuguese were aware of this deposit which they had previously worked, but that it was of such poor value it had been abandoned.

The North Charterland Exploration Company commenced growing coffee at Fort Young, as it was believed that a great deal of the Angoni plateau would be suitable for this crop. The early expectations were, however, not realised and this project was subsequently abandoned.

The North Eastern Rhodesia Order-in-Council of 1900 laid down, *inter alia*, that the company should from time to time assign to the natives inhabiting North Eastern Rhodesia land sufficient for their occupation, whether as tribes or portions of tribes, and suitable for their agricultural and pastoral requirements, including, in all cases, a fair and equitable proportion of the springs or permanent water.

All questions relating to the settlement of natives on the lands within North Eastern Rhodesia were to be dealt with and decided by the Administrator, but all such decisions were to be reported to and subject to review by the Commissioner.

A native was entitled to acquire, hold, encumber and dispose of land on the same conditions as a person who was not a native, but no contract for encumbering or alienating land, which was the property of a native, would be valid unless the contract was made in the presence of a Magistrate and attested by him, and bearing a certificate signed by him that the consideration for the contract was fair and reasonable, and that the native understood the transaction.

The company retained the mineral rights in all the land assigned to natives. If the company required any such land for the purpose of mineral development, or as sites of townships, the Administrator would order the removal of the natives from the land, subject to them being assigned just and liberal compensation of land elsewhere, situated in as convenient a position as possible.

Subsequent to the proclamation of the Order-in-Council, a large number of Africans from the Portuguese and Nyasaland borders migrated into the Concession and claimed the same rights as the original inhabitants, thus adding to the company's obligations towards the indigenous population.

Townships could only be established under the sanction of the B.S.A. Company and land could be resumed by the Company for public purposes at any time. In fact, this right was exercised in 1916 when farm number 39 on which the town of Fort Jameson was established was repossessed.

In 1902 the resources of the North Charterland Company were exhausted and the B.S.A. Company acted as caretakers, providing the necessary funds for keeping the Concession alive and preventing the concessionaire company from going into compulsory liquidation. The amount so spent was approximately £16 000.

In 1904, a Commission was appointed to report under Section 40 of the Order-in-Council of 1900 and the commission recommended that 490 square miles should be allotted to Africans for settlement. This was done, and in the same year the Administration created the Loangwe Game Reserve by a Proclamation made by Mr. R. Codrington, Administrator of N.E. Rhodesia. The area allocated for African settlement occupied some of the most fertile portions of the territory, and contained about 8½ huts per square mile.

In 1907, a further area of 26 000 acres was set aside for the Embasihe Game Reserve, for which the company received no compensation.

Three years later the company was forced into liquidation and certain financial groups subscribed £100 000 for the development of the Concession. The old company was accordingly reconstituted and the North Charterland Exploration Company (1910) Limited was incorporated with a capital of £500 000 in 1 000 000 shares of 10/- each, of which 386 925 were issued fully paid and 200 000 were issued at par as working capital. These were fully paid up but out of the £100 000 subscribed working capital, approximately £16 000 had to be paid to the Chartered Company in respect of the money they had expended during the interregnum. Some £4 000 was incurred on the reconstruction of the company, leaving only £80 000 available as working capital.

There were 2 000 shareholders in the company, of whom 1 980 were in Britain and the remainder in Southern Africa.

Of this amount the company spent some £30 000 in mineral and agricultural development, leaving them with a balance of approximately £500.

The object of the new company, like that of its predecessor, was to explore the Concession for minerals and agricultural development.

The following years were ones of systematic exploration, but the activities of the company were hampered by the lack of communications and the outbreak of hostilities between Britain and Germany.

Political changes were slowly emerging under the influence of the Administration and in 1911 the two areas of the territory north of the Zambesi were amalgamated and known as Northern Rhodesia.

In 1916, Sir Harry Wilson, K.C.M.G., a director of the company, arranged for Mr. J.D. de Josselin de Jong, Secretary for Agriculture in the Netherlands, to visit the Concession to report on the activities of the company and the suitability of the area generally for agricultural pursuits, and the production of silk.

Although Mr. de Jong's reports were favourable, the experiment was abandoned as it seemed silk could not be produced as economically as was the case in the Eastern countries, notably China.

Crops that Mr. de Jong reported unfavourably upon were rubber, eucalyptus and coffee. A nursery had been established to provide the estate with various seedlings, but this was also not a success.

Cattle thrived in those areas that were free of Tsetse fly, and water supplies were secured by the erection of a number of windmills over wells that had been sunk.

Mr. de Jong sought the advice of the United Tobacco Company, Cape Town, on his return to Europe, who advised him against the growing of dark coloured leaf, as the company only required bright tobacco.

The planters were under contract to sell their crops to the North Charterland Company up to 1920. They were paid prices that averaged 1s.2d. per lb. for their tobacco, but the following year the company stopped buying tobacco and the United Tobacco Company also decided against buying tobacco from North Eastern Rhodesia.

The banks refused overdrafts and called in the facilities already granted. This situation created a great deal of despondency and the settlers formed the North Eastern Agricultural and Commercial Association to which Major Jeffries was elected Chairman.

Although he made strong representations, very little assistance was forthcoming from

either the B.S.A. Company or the North Charterland Exploration Company, because everybody was preoccupied with the problems of the war.

The period 1917/18 proved to be one in which the company encountered many difficulties. Firstly, about 10 000 African fugitives from Portuguese East Africa crossed into the Concession. There was trouble with the Portuguese authorities and although the company wanted to eject the refugees, the Government ordered they be kept. The outbreak of the influenza epidemic resulted in many deaths and most of the workers left the estates and fled to their villages to escape the ravages of the disease.

By 1918 the company was again running short of funds and issued preference shares to provide more working capital. At this time the company was engaged in fostering the settlement of European farmers in the area and a scheme for settling ex-servicemen from the United Kingdom and India was brought into operation.

In 1923, the country became a Crown Colony and an agreement was entered into between the British South Africa Company and the Crown, which permitted the Crown to set aside African reserves within the Concession owned by the North Charterland Exploration Company, but the clause was contested and decided by the Privy Council to be *ultra vires*.

Because of the uncertainty of their future and the difficult post-war conditions pertaining in the country, its economic prospects did not appear optimistic and by 1925 there was an accumulated deficit of £52 404. At the same time a Commission was appointed to consider further African reserves and set aside 3 558 square miles of the Concession for the occupation of Africans. The population pressures were aggravated by the refugees from neighbouring Moçambique, who had been received into the country on a permanent basis.

A new company styled 'The North Charterland Exploration Company (1937) Limited' was incorporated and registered in Southern Rhodesia on December 28th, 1936, to take over the business and assets of the previous company. The new company's objects as stated in its Memorandum of Association were *inter alia* to 'carry on the business of prospectors and explorers in all its branches, to open up and work any claims and mines, and to raise, dig and quarry for, extract or otherwise prepare for market, gold and other minerals, precious stones and other substances, and to trade in such materials and to carry on the business of ranchers and growers of cotton, tobacco, maize, and any other crops, and to sell, dispose of, and deal with mines and mining rights of all kinds and undertakings connected therewith, and to trade, import, export and deal in merchandise of all kinds and to carry on any trade or business whatsoever . . .'

The subscribers to the Memorandum of Association of the new company were: Mr. Digby V. Burnett, who became Chairman, and Messrs. G.C. Hards, J.H. Mitchell, F. le Seuer, J.S. Woods, J.C. Switzer and R.V. Ord, all of whom were employees of the London and Rhodesia Mining and Land Company Limited.

The company was registered with a nominal capital of £300 000 which was subsequently reduced to £82 400 on June 5th, 1942, and again to £41 200 on the 6th November, 1943, divided into 824 000 shares of one shilling each. Existing shareholders were given the opportunity of having their old shares converted in those of the new company or of being compensated therefore. This right was duly rescinded in 1950 when the Board resolved that no further claims for the conversion of the 1910 company shares would be accepted. At this time there were still 7 391 shares outstanding.

The first year's operation showed a loss of £980 but a profit of £3 151 was made in

1938. The company planted tobacco on its six estates and produced 222 095 lbs. of tobacco in 1940. But its profitability was marginal, and in 1941 sustained a nett loss of £1 015, but three years later a profit of £5 596 was recorded.

On December 2nd, 1948, the company increased the nominal capital to £100 000 by creating 1 176 000 new shares of 1/- each which ranked *pari passu* with the existing shares. Of these 206 000 were offered at 3/- per share for subscription by existing shareholders of the company. The remainder of the new shares were held in reserve for future requirements of the company.

In May, 1937, the Provincial Secretary of Northern Rhodesia had intimated to the company that the Government required to increase the native reserves, and £27 000 for 55 000 acres was offered to the company. Nothing came of this offer, but in 1938 the Government offered to buy an area of 135 000 acres. The company did not want to break up its land into small pieces and therefore could not agree to the sale. The company said it would prefer to sell its entire holding rather than odd lots, as and when the Government required them.

In May, 1939, Mr. Digby Burnett, the Chairman of the company, interviewed the Governor of Northern Rhodesia and offered the land for £300 000, putting it on a basis that it would only pay back the shareholders of the company the money that they had spent, although it fell short of the actual value of the land.

At this interview Mr. Burnett suggested that the land was worth about £282 000, but it was really a shot in the dark as the land, at that time, had not been subjected to any valuation. The company was prepared to get out of the whole business, lock, stock and barrel, for £300 000, but the offer was turned down by the Government.

This led to protracted negotiations between the company and the Northern Rhodesia Government. The latter maintained that they were entitled to take over the land at no



Original P.O. and PC's office, Fort Jameson, 1936.

Photo — National Archives

valuation by virtue of the provision of the 1900 Order-in-Council that provided for the handing over the by company of its land for African use, a provision that was reinforced by a Privy Council decision.

The Government considered that apart from tobacco land, the land had no buyers and therefore the Government should get it without cost. It wanted to take over the whole Concession, but gave the company the option to retain 2 435 121 acres. An offer of £56 000 was made for 1 341 600 acres immediately required for African settlers or £75 000 for the total Concession, which equated to 4½d per acre.

The company, on the other hand, contended that it had spent a great deal of money on developing the territory for the general well-being of the country as a whole and was therefore entitled to some compensation. It had spent the money on various things such as roads, survey, and had experimented in the growing and culture of rubber, cotton, wheat and tobacco, as a result of which the tobacco industry was firmly established.

It had found that rubber was unsatisfactory and cotton had not been a very suitable crop for the area. The expenditure by the company on these matters had helped the settlers to know that certain crops could not be grown or that they could not be grown with much success. All the money spent on these experiments had been of value to the country in making it suitable for occupation and in proving its value.

The Government then threatened the company with expropriation, in which case it would receive nothing, but gave it the option to place the matter before an arbitration court. On January 22nd, 1941, the parties agreed to go to arbitration and appointed Sir Robert McIlwaine K.C., a judge of the High Court in Southern Rhodesia as umpire, with Messrs. H.F. Cartmell Robinson and Edwin Taylor as arbitrators.

The hearings were held in Salisbury, which itself caused some doubt about the validity in law of the proceedings in Northern Rhodesia. The matter was settled, however, by an undertaking by both parties to accept the findings of the arbitration court, but it was necessary for the award to be made in Northern Rhodesia, and for this purpose Sir Robert, in due course, travelled to Livingstone.

Mr. Norman Price, K.C., Captain H. Bertin, K.C., and Mr. Dendy Young (later a judge in the High Court of Rhodesia and Chief Justice of Botswana) appeared for the company and Mr. H.W. Wilson for the Northern Rhodesia Government.

The arbitration proceedings lasted for three weeks and the evidence comprised of more than a thousand pages of typescript.

The arbitrators fixed the amount to be paid by the Northern Rhodesia Government at £153 985, which was more than twice the amount offered to the company and about half of which they had asked for their property.

A sequel to the arbitration award of £152 647 was a dispute between the company and the Commissioner of Taxes who claimed that the difference between the value of the land shown in the company's accounts, viz £75 000 and the amount of the award should be treated as a profit and therefore taxable.

The company contended that when it was reconstructed in 1937, its shareholders were substantially the same as those of the old 1910 company, and after the former and new shareholders had injected capital into the company to liquidate its liabilities, the land assets were not capable of being realistically valued and were shown as £75 000 merely as a balancing figure in the balance sheet. The company never pretended that the balance sheet figure was the actual value of the land, but merely a paper one, for there was very little possibility of a buyer being found for such a large tract of land. It was contended that until a

buyer could be found, it would be impossible to ascertain the actual worth of the land, which itself lay unchanging and immutable, as it had done through the centuries. Its value could therefore only be assessed by outside forces reacting upon it, the first of which, since 1895, was the Government's desire to acquire it.

The company took the matter to the High Court in Northern Rhodesia and appealed against the decision of the Commissioner of Taxes on the following grounds:

1. That the acquisition from the company by the Northern Rhodesia Government of the land referred to in the assessment did not result in any profit or gain at all to the company, because the real cost of land to the company exceeded the amount paid to the company by the Government.
2. Alternatively, if the company received more for the land than what it had cost the company, then such surplus was not a gain or profit from any trade, business, profession or vocation or from any other taxable source of income.
3. The acquisition of the land in question belonging to the North Charterland Exploration Company (1910) Limited by the North Charterland Exploration Company (1937) Limited was not a purchase of the land but part of the necessary arrangements for reconstruction of the 1910 company, the shareholders in both companies being substantially the same. Moreover the original cost of the land to the predecessors of the 1937 company which itself was merely a reconstruction of such predecessors far exceeded the price received from the Government for the land.

After considerable legal argument, Judge Robinson gave judgment in favour of the Commissioner of Taxes, but the company took the matter to the Rhodesian Court of Appeal. The case was heard in Salisbury in June, 1944, where judgment of the lower court was confirmed.

The company thereupon became liable to pay the Northern Rhodesia excess profits tax, but submitted an application to the Northern Rhodesia Board of Referees for relief from this tax, in which submission it was partly successful.

The company had hoped to reduce its capital by returning to its shareholders part of the proceeds of the sale of the land to the Government, but because of the costs of litigation and the income tax and excess profits tax liability, it was partly frustrated in its intention. The last laugh was with the Northern Rhodesia Government, who being forced to pay more for the land than what they were prepared, got a large amount of the purchase price returned to them by way of taxes.

After the Northern Rhodesia Government took over the Company's assets in the Concession, the directors decided to transfer £50 000 to reserves and wrote down the assets accordingly. A capital distribution of 50% was made to shareholders in 1941. Three years later the capital of the company was reduced to £41 200, made up of 824 000 shares of 1/- each.

The company, after losing its Concession in Northern Rhodesia, concentrated on its commercial activities. It operated a number of trading establishments in the Fort Jameson area and held the Shell petrol agency, including tobacco auction sales which enabled local growers to dispose of their crop.

The Company objected to the expropriation of its property, as it had received nothing for the loss of just over a third of its Concession. The company was aggrieved at this treatment and filed a petition of right challenging the expropriation. The petition was dismissed on the grounds that although the agreement between the Crown and the B.S.A. Company were ultra vires, section 40 of the Order-in-Council of 1900 was held to be valid

and this provision entitled the Crown to take the land without compensation. The Exploration Company could, therefore, not object to the loss of its Concession.

The Northern Rhodesia Administration thereafter did not show much sympathy towards the company as a policy had been adopted that African interests had to be paramount in the territory. The company, who had made substantial contributions to the development of the country, felt it was obliged to make representations to London regarding the attitude of the Administration.

It pointed out that it had spent large sums of money in developing the Concession, which was of direct benefit to the country.

The company expressed the view that its policy fostered the development of the area and shared in this task with the Administration and should therefore not be subjected to attempts made by the Administration to extract as much from its resources in taxes and fees as it could. Strong objection was also taken by the reconstructed company when it was taxed with transfer fees retrospectively in relation to the original Concession held by the Moçambique company.

In 1927, the company provided a further £51 000 for developing the Concession, and saw its dreams coming true as settlers poured in and land prices soared. There were upwards of 600 Europeans in the district, but within twelve months, however, it was discovered that the tobacco buyers had overstocked and that both the Rhodesias were overproducing. The bottom fell out of the tobacco market and many growers were disillusioned and faced ruin in both countries. The tobacco boom that had heralded such a bright future came to a devastating halt. The Government offered assistance but the market remained depressed for some time, and as the farmers around Fort Jameson were too far from the railhead to be able to grow any alternative crops for sale, the town fast reverted to its former modest dimensions.

These depressed conditions led to further deterioration in the company's financial position, which resulted in its liquidation in 1937.

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Notes From The Manicaland Branch Of The Society

MUSCAN the name of a monthly publication issued by the Mutare Museum, Scientific and Cultural Association provides space for a number of local clubs and associations to publicise their activities, and the Manicaland Branch of our Society has made use of this facility to publish various aspects of the City's history and the people who helped to make that history.

We publish extracts of articles which appeared in some issues of *Muscan*.

"Johnnie Holland, sportsman and auctioneer of note in a town not unknown for its notable personalities was one of those very well known characters. The name John Sothern Holland first appears in a 1906 Umtali gazette on public bodies under Clubs and Societies; Football clubs — Association and Rugby — Joint Hon. Secretaries J. Holland and A. Cinnamon. His name also appeared in many other papers and periodicals until his death in September, 1957.

He was born in Grahamstown on the 14th of December 1880 and was the youngest son of Thomas Holland who was the Deputy Sheriff of Grahamstown at the time of his death. A tremendous beginning, for his son "Johnnie" and his grandson "Binks" both held that same office in Umtali, the latter until 1975.

"Johnnie" was educated at St. Andrews College, Grahamstown and spent the next three years with merchants, Hansen and Schrader, Port Elizabeth before joining Pauling & Co. in 1899 at Beira to assist in the building of the Beira-Manicaland railway line. He later joined the Railways in Umtali as chief bookkeeper, a post he held for 12 years. In 1911 he left the Railways in order to work with Mr. Huxtable as an auctioneer and general estate agent or broker; which business continues to this day! Their first office was three wood and iron rooms on brick stilts facing Main Street — about where the entrance to Gammon's showroom is now. He then moved from there across to where Cecil Chambers now stands in place of Suter's Buildings, which burned down. The last move was in 1934, to the premises they now occupy in Plumpton Chambers.

"Johnnie" was always interested in sport. At the age of 26 he was already on the organizing side of sports, in all of which he excelled. As with all his generation here, without all the modern distractions, he had to manufacture his own relaxations and took part in all sports as well as range and game shooting. He was Squadron Sgt. Major of the Southern Rhodesian Volunteers, and represented Mashonaland against Matabeleland as half-back in 1908. He captained his Cricket and Rugby clubs at one time or another. He also played his part in the business life of the town, being secretary of the Farmer's Association, and the Chamber of Commerce, and Director of what was the only Trust Company here, the Manica Board of Executors. He was agent for both Mr. Francis Myburgh, member of the old Chartered Company's Legislative Assembly, and for the one time Speaker of the Rhodesian Parliament, Mr. Lionel Cripps. He was secretary of the Umtali Tramway Coy, Founder Member of the Inst. of Auctioneers and Estate Agents, Life Member of the Umtali Club and Commissioner of Oaths. He was married on April 10th 1913 to Joan van Coller, daughter of Dr. van Coller of Caledon. They had two sons and a daughter. "Johnnie" died on the 11th September 1957 and his wife Joan on 30th October, 1960.

The Manicaland Stock Exchange

The Society's publication *Heritage 3* records a detailed picture of the origins and growth of the Bulawayo Stock Exchange Building which was erected just before the turn of the century. How sure the early settlers were that mining and business would boom to such a degree that a Stock Exchange would be necessary! So much for the Western end of the country — the eastern end felt exactly the same, so a Stock Exchange was built at Mutare (Umtali) at about the same time.

The Umtali stock exchange was one of the first brick under iron buildings to be erected in the new township; another was the Magistrate's residence, which is still standing. In those days the town had three architects, Messrs. Andrew Erskine, S.D. le Roux and J.A. Cope Christie, whose office was at the corner of Third Street and Second Avenue, just behind the Stock Exchange. One wonders which of the three drew the plans for this building, because access to the upper storey was via an outside stairway built against the northern wall. An internal stairway was only put in some time later! shades of Harmony House where the architect forgot the stairway which had to be built in after the building was completed.

All the foregoing information was revealed by research that arose from the fact that the Bulawayo Stock Exchange had peppercorn trees planted in front of it, whereas that of Umtali had them planted across Third (Victory) Avenue in front of Cecil Hotel. One wonders why the peppercorn tree was one of the first varieties chosen to beautify a new country and its buildings? Will we ever know? (Possibly they were brought up from Kimberley where they were very popular — Editor). By the early twenties they had grown into large trees some 40-50 cms in diameter.

One day a 'jaldi jaldi' man (Indian conjurer) came to do his tricks, and performed on the wooden floor of the hotel veranda. He finished off with what must have been an example of mass hypnotism. His helper, a small thin Indian lad, was forced into a rope net bag, then tied down in a crouching position and put into a wicker basket just large enough to accommodate him. It was impossible to see him through the wicker-work. The fakir, or conjurer, or hypnotist, then incanted his magic spell over the basket, and taking a long sharp pointed sword thrust it through the basket from every direction to the horror of the onlookers; in fact one lady fainted. Then having passed his hand over the basket again, he opened it to reveal nothing inside. His acolyte then climbed down out of one of the peppercorn trees with the net bag over his shoulder. How was it done?

Three young lads were fascinated, and having watched the conjurer collect all his gear and move into the sanitary lane between the Magistrate's court and the Stock Exchange and there sit down to count his earnings, went up to him and asked for more 'jaldi jaldi'. He said 'yes' but demanded money first. Searching their pockets they found one shilling and sixpence which proved to be enough. He took one of his small pots, such as are used for potting plants, scooped up the dust from the lane and filled it. He then took a mango seed from his bag and planted it in the pot and sent his helper to get some water, which he poured over the seed. He made his incantations whilst waving his hands over the pot and lo and behold a mango tree about two feet high grew out of the pot before their astonished eyes.

This seems the correct place to continue talking of trees. Soon after the completion of the Stock Exchange building, when His Royal Highness, Don Luis Felipe, Duke of Braganza Crown Prince of Portugal arrived in Umtali during the course of a tour of British

and Portuguese territories in Africa, he was prevailed upon to plant a tree to commemorate his visit. This tree, a *Rauvolfia inebrians*, commonly known as the *Quinine Tree* is still to be found outside the Magistrate's Court in Mutare, and is coincidentally planted within ten paces of two thorn trees, the original of which are reputed to have been brought to this country by those early footsloggers of Southern Africa, the Portuguese. These thorn trees are generally known as the *Mexican Mesquite* tree and were named by Mr. Norman Chase Mutare's late noted botanist as *Prosopis Julisolis* variety *Welulina*. It is strange that both species of tree, planted in such close proximity to each other should have been associated with members of the Portuguese nation.

Book Reviews

The Plumtree Papers by Mary Clarke. Published by the Plumtree Foundation p.p. 221 \$15.

Collectors of Zimbabweana will welcome the publication of this volume, which is obtainable from the Bursar, Plumtree School.

The book is a companion volume to the "early years of Plumtree School" by J.B. Clarke, extracts of which have appeared in *Heritage* 3 and the current issue.

The book deals with the history of the Bulalima-Mangwe district up to 1922 and depicts the lifestyle of the period. Much of the source material has been researched in the Plumtree School archives, but to these have been added the personal stories of some of the district's residents, many of whom are second and third generation Zimbabweans. Among those who have made such contributions are Tommy Murgatroyd, Albert Taylor, Charlie Ndlovu, Joyce Wooler, Harold de Bene and Bob Hammond, sons respectively of a former Postmaster and R. W. Hammond the school's well-known headmaster. These first hand stories have helped to make up the flesh and bones of the book.

The Mangwe area was the staging post for the entry into Matabeleland proper and here missionaries, traders and hunters had to await the Matabele king's permission before proceeding any further into the interior. Many of the early settlers, some of whom had arrived prior to the occupation of Mashonaland, such as Hans Lee and Cornelius van Rooyen, finally gravitated to Plumtree. In this village there were therefore many 'characters' who have featured in the annals of our history and Mary Clarke has told of their life and times in a very readable manner.

Although much of the story centres around Plumtree school (which is understandable in the light of the prominence the school had in the life of the village) the author covers the prelude to the settlement in the Mangwe valley and the subsequent occupation of Mashonaland as part of her historic overview of the district.

A chapter is devoted to the uprising in 1896, where the Mangwe settlers were in the midst of the Matabele action and where they were beleaguered for some time behind a stone wall fort which they had erected for their protection.

Life after the cessation of the hostilities is described by the author and was undoubtedly typical of that prevailing elsewhere in the country at the time. It was in these years that the education system in this country was developed.

The effect of the Great War of 1914-19 on the community and how they collected funds to assist in the war effort is contained in another chapter.

Communications were poor and the crossing of rivers by overhead cables was commonplace during the seasonal heavy rains. An account of a Model T Ford being ferried across a river in this manner is given and there is an interesting illustration of the event.

There are many illustrations including some maps of the area which are useful to pinpoint some of the places referred to in the text. Footnotes and a bibliography appear at the end of each chapter which is a useful reference for any one who wishes to make further studies of the district.

Cecil M. Hulley's Memories of Manicaland. Published by the author Cyclostyled 113 p.

Shortly before he died Cecil Hulley wrote his memories of Manicaland where he spent most of his eighty years, having entered the country as a small boy.

“*Memories of Manicaland*” is written more as a story than a chronicle and assessment of events covering the earliest days of the area to more recent times” says Senator K.M. Flemming in his Foreword to the book. He continues “The Pioneering section of the book in particular is a very human and readable story, told by a pioneer who was very much a part of the scene about which he writes. “Within the pages there are interesting facts, there is humour, tragedy, and personal glimpses of the characters who helped make the history of Manicaland. There are numerous anecdotes which portray the courage, and endurance of men and women who were responsible for the early development of this great land of ours”

The book contains fifteen chapters, and although much of it covers the general history of the country which is well documented in other works, the book contains a lot of other matter relative to the Province such as the history of the Mutare schools and the local Police Force. A list of the school's headmasters and the officers commanding the police is given at the end of the respective chapters; most of these men went on to play a further important role elsewhere in the country.

The last chapter of the book I found most interesting. It contains a short note about the people who took part in the growth of Manicaland.

Included in this list are some notable characters who not only played an important role in Manicaland but also in national affairs, such as Lionel Cripps, who was elected the first Speaker in the House of Assembly.

Another politician Charles Eickhoff, was Postmaster Umtali for seven years before going into the newspaper and publishing business, which he relinquished in 1934 when the business was taken over by the Rhodesia Printing and Publishing Company Ltd. But the old name of the '*Umtali Advertiser*' was retained.

Other well-known names such as J.S. Holland, Dr. Walter Alexander, R.S. Fairbridge, William Longden, John Meikle, Mrs. Ethel Tawse-Jollie, Sir Edgar Whitehead and many others are included in this chapter.

Students of Zimbabwe history will find a book such as this of great value in providing local colour and detailed accounts of rural development.

The End Of The Road

All members of the Society will have learnt with deep regret that Books of Zimbabwe announced on the 24th of June last year that the company would cease publishing and that *Cricket's Rich Heritage* by Jonty Winch was to be the 145th and last title.

At the end of February the company had closed its bookshop in Abercorn Street, Bulawayo, and on 30th June the service offered through its outlet in Genesis Galleries, Harare was to be discontinued. The Book Club was disbanded at the end of August and the remaining bookstock was disposed of locally and through export markets.

The Company was run by one of our longstanding members Mr. Louis W. Bolze and the Society would, I am sure like to pay tribute to him for making available to the general public and our members in particular, so many historical books of this country, that would otherwise have been unprocurable.

During its 15 years of publishing and running of the Book Club, Books of Zimbabwe has enjoyed the support of many thousands of individual members, public libraries, university college and school libraries, booksellers, antiquarian dealers, Africa study institutions and Africana collectors in many countries. It is a tragedy that economic circumstances have dictated that the service be brought to an end.

In releasing the news of the cessation of publishing the Book Club circulated a brochure to its members, part of which follows below. This sets out the history of the company which it is believed will be of interest to members of the Society.

Editor.

A BACKWARD GLANCE

Founded by Louis Bolze as a hobby and started at home in 1968 as Books of Rhodesia, the Company has rendered an invaluable service to this country and to Africana/Rhodesiana/Zimbabweana collectors world wide. It was built up during the lean years of UDI yet, despite sanctions and the difficulties of materials procurement, it became an exporter and foreign currency earner from the very first volume it published. Over the years the Company has earned for the country over \$406 000 from this source.

Its first project was the facsimile reprinting of rare and out-of-print books on the early days of this country. These were presented in the matching 36-volume *Rhodesiana Reprint Library — Gold Series*, in standard and leatherbound editions, the latter limited to 150 copies. This was followed by the 24-volume *Silver Series*, also in standard and leather bindings, the latter being limited to 100 copies. Concurrently, many non-series reprints were produced, among them the *NADA Journals*, *The Victoria Falls*, *Zambesi River, Sketched on the Spot (1862)* by Thomas Baines, and *A Breath from the Veldt* by J.C. Millais.

Included in the reprint choices were books of special interest to African readers, e.g. *My Friend Kumalo* by Mhlaganzhlansi and *'Mlimo* by 'Mziki. Later it was to publish new works for this readership, e.g. *African Nationalist Leaders in Rhodesia — Who's Who* by Robert Cary and Diana Mitchell, and *Zimbabwe Stone Sculpture* by Marion Arnold.

By 1970 the Company was publishing new works by local authors, and of its own origination; this aspect of its output was to dominate the later years, contributing almost

50% to its total output. Best known among these are *Call-of-the-Marsh* by Jill Wylie, *Lions, Leopards and Lynxes* by Vivian J. Wilson, *Wild Places of Zimbabwe* by Dick Pitman, *Side-gate and Stile* by N.H. Brettell, *The Mukamba Tree* by June Farquhar and *The Guardians* by Joy Maclean — and the best-selling *Whenwe* cartoon book.

As interest in Rhodesiana grew it extended its product range to include the facsimile reproduction of antique maps of Africa and art prints of the paintings of such pioneer artists as Thomas Baines and Cornwallis Harris. Equally popular among collectors were items originated by the Company: *The World of the Wagon*, a portfolio of magnificent paintings by Jeff Huntly; and LP record of readings by James Robinson of Cullen Gouldsbury's *Rhodesian Rhymes*; a full-colour presentation, with explanatory text, of the entire 42 panels of the *National Tapestry* now in the National Museum, Bulawayo; the sets of four silver and bronze medallions commemorating the centenary of the death of Thomas Baines in 1975; the bronze casting of the renowned 'Crocodile Plate' and the delightful die-stamped miniatures of it in silver and bronze; the bronze statuette of the hunter, Frederick Courteney Selous, modelled by Jill Kaufman, F.R.B.S.; and the beautiful embossed silver *Ivory Hunter's Plate* after a sketch by Thomas Baines.

During a preliminary survey at the time of the Company's establishment, the book trade showed little confidence or interest in the idea of the Company undertaking the production of Rhodesiana reprints. This sired the solution of setting up the Company's own Book Club and offering its productions directly to the public at a discount off retail prices. The response from the public was almost overwhelming, and in the initial years Book Club membership exceeded 3 000. As it grew it acquired members in South Africa and overseas. The book trade was not excluded but encouraged to participate in the marketing, and in due course it gave its full support which has been greatly appreciated.

The raw materials for the reprint programme were original books, mostly of the 19th century. In the course of collecting these from interested individuals, but mainly through slow and laborious acquisition from many foreign sources, Louis Bolze built up one of the most comprehensive privately owned libraries of its kind in the country, the benefits of which were passed to the public through the Company's publishing programme.

In 1975 the Company extended its operations by launching the *Africana Reprint Library Series* which was published by the Africana Book Society (Pty.) Ltd., in Johannesburg where a small bookshop, marketing its output and exports from Books of Rhodesia, was set up in the Carlton Centre. Thirteen titles were published under this imprint in standard and leatherbound editions, twelve of which were in the Series. Further publishing by that company was suspended some two-and-a-half years later owing to marketing problems. Some of the books are still available in South Africa.

During that period the Company, with clockwork precision, produced a reprint title every month, plus non-series and new books, totalling some 24 hardback and leatherbound titles a year. It became more export orientated and was a regular exhibitor at Trade Fair Rhodesia, Bulawayo (where it won a Gold Medal and other Trophies), at the Rand Show, Johannesburg, and lesser shows at Cape Town, Windhoek, Pretoria and Pietermaritzburg. After Independence, selections of its books were included in various book and art presentations in London and elsewhere in the UK. But its proudest moment in this direction came in 1982 when, with a complete range of its productions on a large exhibition stand of its own, it took its place among more than 5 500 publishers from 86 countries, as the sole exhibitor from Zimbabwe at the Frankfurt Book Fair, the world's premier event of its kind.

By then its strong general list of new writing included biographies and titles on animals, wildlife conservation, sport, art, poetry, architecture and railway locomotives.

On the advent of Independence, the Company identified itself wholly with the new Zimbabwe. It created Bookset (Pvt.) Ltd., Bookprint (Pvt.) Ltd. and its Bookbind department which, together with new equipment and building extensions, gave it increased output capacity and made it virtually independent of reliance on external printers. This development represented a fairly large financial outlay with which the Company received assistance through a single share capital investment and loan funds from the same source. To boost Book Club membership and sales, Company bookshops were opened in Bulawayo and in the Genesis Galleries, Harare, and greater efforts made to export.

A TURN IN THE TIDE

In the light of subsequent economic trends, the confidence shown in the future of the market in Zimbabwe, for the Company's particular products, proved to have been misplaced. As far back as five years previously the Company had attempted to broaden its scope through diversification into the educational field, and for young African readers in particular, but unsuccessfully so. Fresh efforts made after Independence were equally ineffective in the face of the growing capabilities of the long-established and newly arrived multinationals based in the UK, and the Company's own relatively limited financial resources. Material-distribution problems but, above all, the severe cuts in foreign currency allocations as they affected essential supplies of imported book paper, made it difficult to plan ahead with confidence or to sustain a publishing programme at a level that would cover overheads. Conditions were further aggravated by delays caused by the flight of printing skills and the shortage of technical back-up services.

Much of the market on which the Company existed in the past has been lost through emigration and has proved costly to replace on the export market involving, as it does, widespread and expensive advertising. This, too, can be counter-productive when lack of materials hamstrings the servicing of export enquiries.

Some Zimbabweans have been deterred from purchasing books which they believe have been banned as 'Rhodesiana'. Government Gazette General Notice 785 of 28 August 1981 prohibits the sale of objectionable souvenirs but 'books about Rhodesia' are not affected by this legislation. Unfortunately in 1981, the Press in Bulawayo described the banned souvenirs as 'Rhodesiana' which many of the public wrongly assumed included the Company's products.

From the next year onwards, confusion of a different sort arose when another bookseller, with shops directly opposite those of the Company, both in Bulawayo and Harare, was allowed to register a name so similar to that of the Company's to become a source of frequent situations of mistaken identity with all their associated inconveniences. National Books of Zimbabwe has, in fact, no connection with Books of Zimbabwe.

During its lifetime, Books of Zimbabwe rescued from potential oblivion in the public sector, most of the finest books from the country's early past, and by reprinting, popularising and distributing them worldwide, ensured a wider preservation of Zimbabwe's literary heritage. Through its novel approach it created a large body of Rhodesiana/Zimbabweana/Africana collectors among ordinary citizens, giving them the opportunity of acquiring copies of rare and valuable historical works inexpensively. Local authorship was also given encouragement through publication of new works, one of which has been republished in Sweden, and several others transcribed into braille.

Collectively, the books make for a better understanding of Zimbabwe's background and contribute to a balanced evaluation of historical fact such as will best be made by posterity with the advantage of the perspective of time. It is hoped that they will also serve as aids to reconciliation.

After 1980, the Company was engaged mainly in completing a number of books which were carry-overs from pre-Independence days — productions on which big investments had already been made: *Salisbury's Changing Skyline*, *Some Renowned Rhodesian Senior Schools, 1892-1979*, *More Rhodesian Senior Schools, 1950-1982*, *Occupation of Mashonaland*, *Thomas Baines of King's Lynn*, and *Cricket's Rich Heritage*.

Most successful of its recent reprint productions has been the *African Hunting Reprint Library Series* in which six of the more popular southern African hunting classics have been republished in a standard edition and five only in a leather binding.

FUTURE MOVES

In the circumstances described above the Company has found it impossible to maintain viability and, a loss situation having developed, a decision has been made to withdraw from the publishing field. The winding-down steps already mentioned were then taken.

Louis Bolze retires from the Company at the end of August. He hopes, in future, to retain his links with writing and publishing in a free-lance capacity. He may, in the meantime, be contacted through the Books of Zimbabwe address.

Mrs. Joan Hopcroft will remain on with Books of Zimbabwe to manage the future marketing and wholesaling of the book stock, and to supervise the accounting of the Company's other active functions, i.e. Bookbind, Bookset and Bookprint. Like Mrs. Enid Bolze, a director, and Mrs. Gwyn Penwell-Smith, Mrs. Hopcroft has been with the Company as a member of staff since its inception, and more recently as a director.

Sincere thanks are expressed to the shareholders, directors and staff of Books of Zimbabwe for the part they have played in establishing and developing the Company as a foremost book publisher in the country between 1968 and 1983; and, once again, to all those who have supported it with their custom.

National Chairman's Report for 1982

Your committee met on three occasions during the year under review to consider the business of the Society. Committee members have conscientiously attended meetings and contributed to the work of the Society. During the year Mrs. Libby Norton resigned from the committee due to pressure of work, and Mrs. Fleming has also resigned as she and her husband are emigrating from Zimbabwe.

Membership

The membership of the Society as at 31st December stood at 692, but like many similar institutions, the Society continues to lose membership through emigration, and other causes. Although this loss is to some extent counter balanced by efforts to obtain new members there has been a net loss. Members are therefore urged to make a special effort to recruit new members and thus ensure continuity of the Society. Unless this is done the Society is doomed to extinction. Application forms which could be used by members in recruiting new members are available from the Society.

Journal of the Society 'Heritage'

The second issue of the Society's Journal 'Heritage' was published during the year, and like its predecessor was well received. Our Editor is to be congratulated in maintaining the previous high standards that have been set, both as regards quality and contents. Heritage 3 is currently being printed and it is hoped that members will shortly be receiving their copies. This issue will be distinctive in that much of its content will be in the form of histories of companies and other organisations that have made important contributions to the economic development of this country. In sponsoring their histories these companies have made a permanent record of their past achievements for the benefit of posterity.

Preservation of Historical Buildings

Mr. Spencer Cooke has continued to chair the sub-committee charged with the preservation of historical buildings and it is gratifying to report that municipal councillors not only in Harare, but in other centres have expressed interest and shown goodwill in the preservation of our historical buildings. The City of Harare has agreed to restore the Old Market Hall and to use it as a market for local street vendors. However, before real and final progress can be made in regard to the preservation of buildings of historical interest amendments to certain legislation will have to be made.

Annual Dinner 1982

The annual dinner for 1982 had to be postponed due to lack of accommodation and was held at the Royal Salisbury Golf Club on the 25th February, 1983. Seventy eight persons attended and an attractive menu containing a brief history of the Society was produced, including the names of all past National Chairmen since 1953. Professor George Fortune was the guest of honour and proposed the toast to the Society. Professor Fortune, one of the country's leading authorities on Shona, spoke on the process of

transforming a spoken language into a written language and gave a number of amusing instances of mistakes made by early translators. He paid tribute to the pioneers in this field, notably Fr. Hartmann S.J. and Fr. Harry Buck C.R. and the first American Board Missionaries at Mount Selinda.

Stocks of Journals etc.

The storage and safe custody of the Society's stocks of back numbers of its publications has for many years presented a problem. The stocks were kept in the vault of a local bank without charge, but access was restricted to times convenient to the bank, and under these circumstances it was difficult to take stock or make lengthy visits to select journals that had been sold. We are therefore grateful to the Mining Industry Pension Fund for making accommodation available in a basement in central Harare which is readily available, at all times. The stock has been re-arranged and catalogued for easy reference. Efforts to sell these stocks have not met with much success, and sooner or later a decision will have to be taken regarding the retention or disposal of this old stock.

The Society still has a number of Botanical Portfolios available for sale and these are excellent value. A number of books on Lord Malvern written by Professor Gelfand and Dr. J. Ritchken, are also obtainable from the Society. Any member interested in acquiring these items is invited to contact the Society.

The Committee agreed to allow a Bulawayo publisher to publish selected extracts from past issues of NADA for presentation in a proposed series of cultural essays from Zimbabwe in various themes. We are still awaiting the outcome of these negotiations.

Branch Activities

The Mashonaland branch has had a relatively active year under the Chairmanship of Mr. Tim Tanser and the branch arranged visits to Beatrice and Goromonzi. A walk-about to parts of Harare to see historical buildings and a visit to the Police Camp were organised by the branch, but I am sure you will hear more about these activities at the conclusion of this meeting. The Manica branch continues to suffer from a lack of members, but nevertheless two of its stalwarts, Messrs. Bent and Went continue their efforts to maintain an interest in the society for the Manica members.

It is regretted that the Bulawayo branch has not been resuscitated. Mrs. Fleming has undertaken to make an approach to some members with a view to re-establishing the branch, but with the prevailing conditions in Matabeleland, I do not hold out much hope at present.

Finances

The financial statements will be presented by the Hon. Treasurer. The society's finances are in a relatively sound condition, and whilst the committee has resisted increasing subscriptions this may well become a necessity for the incoming committee to consider for the next financial year.

Conclusion

The current year sees the conclusion of my second term of office, and constitutionally it is necessary that I retire. I would like to express my appreciation to my Committee for their contribution, support and assistance at all times, and I wish my successor every success during his term of office.