

BOOYAL

(Contributed).

December 28.

The annual breaking up celebration and prize distribution of the two schools, now established at Booyal, the old school and the new school, known as the Central school, took place at Booyal railway station goodshed on Saturday, December 15th. The Committee of both schools had decided to combine in their celebrations this year to avoid clashing with one another and make one huge celebration, which proved quite a success from an attendance point of view, but I could not help noticing the absence of sports and amusements for the young ones, which are so much appreciated by them. I would recommend the respective committees not to overlook this matter for their next annual celebrations. Plenty of all kinds of dainty refreshments and sweets were distributed among the children, and the older folks were not passed by. Councillor Rosenlund distributed the prizes. He thanked the Committee for the honour conferred on him. It gave him much pleasure to be among them and see such a nice gathering of children. The respective committees deserved credit for providing such an excellent number of prizes. Councillor Rosenlund proceeded to distribute the prizes to the happy recipients, having a cheery word of praise and encouragement for each scholar.

Books were presented to each scholar of both schools, beside special prizes for proficiency, which are as follows:—

OLD SCHOOL.

Specials for Proficiency.—Second class, Lauritz Larsen; third class, Pauline Larsen and George Eales; fourth class, Alfred Hayhoe; fifth class, Evelyn Hayhoe.

For money collection for prizes.—Emilie Reidel.

CENTRAL SCHOOL.

Special for Proficiency.—Third class, M. Robinson 1, H. Sherrington 2, P.

M. Robinson 1, H. Sherrington 2, P. Onoprienko 3; fourth class, A. Olion 1, M. Neubauer 2, E. Sherrington 3; fifth class, G. Sherrington 1, W. Moore 2.

For good conduct (donated by Mrs. C. Stockwell).—Girls, A. Oliver; boys, B. Workman.

Specials for spelling (donated by head teacher).—Third class, M. Robinson; fourth class, E. Sherrington.

For collections for prizes.—E. Sherrington 1, E. McLennan 2.

For Sewing.—First class, D. J. Skillington; third class, M. Robinson; fourth class, A. Oliver.

After the distribution of the prizes, Councillor Rosenlund asked all the children to show their appreciation of the nice prizes by giving three hearty cheers for the committee and the public, who had subscribed towards their prizes. These were heartily given. Councillor Rosenlund then wished them all a happy Christmas and prosperous new year. In concluding, he said that it gave him pleasure to see the progress that had taken place in education since the establishment of the Central School at Booyal. The teachers of both schools deserved special praise for the manner in which they had brought the scholars forward. He mentioned that he had now in hand the establishment of another school at the Good Night Scrub. (Cheers.)

The usual social and dance was held at the goodshed. Mr. B. D. McKenzie acted as M.C., and the music was supplied by Messrs. Rollings and Moller and others.

During the evening, Private Platonoff was presented with a gold medal in recognition for the services he had rendered to his King and Empire. Mr. W. H. Day (chairman of the Booyal Patriotic League), in presenting our returned hero with the medal, gave him a hearty welcome back. He mentioned that Private Platonoff had been wounded a couple of times and had

wounded a couple of times and had lost a finger. At the request of the speaker, she returned her mother, who was also accompanied by her husband, Mr. Stephan Platonoff, pinned the medal on her son's breast.

Councillor Rosenlund endorsed the remarks made by Mr. Day and expressed the hope that it would not be long before all the boys would come home with a victorious and lasting peace.

Mr. Wm. Moore also endorsed the previous speaker's remarks.

Private Platonoff feelingly replied.

Mr. B. D. McKenzie (on behalf of the old school committee) and Mr. Wm. Moore (on behalf of the Central School Committee) thanked all present for their assistance, which had enabled them to present the scholars with so liberal prizes.

Cane-harvesting is still in full swing at Booyal, but there is still a lot of cane to be harvested. I hear that the Isis Central contemplate continuing crushing up till 1st of March, weather permitting. There are many complaints among the cane growers at not being able to get their cane harvested before Christmas. Tons of dead sticks of cane have now to be left behind on the field to be burnt on account of the lateness in getting off their crop. I hear that the Gin Gin mill suppliers have approached the Booyal people with a view of connecting Booyal with Gin Gin mill by tramline, in order to get Booyal cane for the Gin Gin mill, the latter being under supplied with cane. As a consequence, some of the northern Queensland sugar growers have approached the Government with a view to removing it up north regardless of the fact that it will cause the ruination of the Gin Gin mill canegrowers, who have put there all into the planting of cane, made their home as canegrowers, and paid big prices for their sugar land. It certainly would be a sounder proposition to put down a few extra miles of tramline to Booyal than to shift the mill. If the tramline is

to shift the mill. If the tramline is extended to Booyal, that mill can be fully supplied with cane from Booyal. At least 30,000 tons can easily be grown annually at Booyal if tramway facilities are extended.