

February 1913



Headteacher's log

Monday 10

Half-term finds me as usual in school for professional reflection and planning. I am working on the renewal of our application for Junior Rural Studies College status. The anticipated General Election finds all three parties with similar promises on education. The Liberals offer ever-improving test results, more money, and freedom for teachers to exercise professional judgement. The Conservatives offer more money, freedom for teachers to exercise professional judgement, and ever-improving test results. Labour offer ever-improving test results, freedom for teachers to exercise professional judgement, and more money. The parties are united on an agricultural policy that will affect many of our children's homes. All parties agree that the probability of war makes strategic movement of food a priority. So they will improve the flight capability of farm livestock, especially pigs.

Tuesday 11

When modifications were made to Ofsted's testing regime after Dr Ironfoot's departure, some inspectors were found to be unable to adjust. Many of these were released into the wild, where they caused much emotional distress to deer, pheasants and partridges. Feral inspectors are now rare, following extensive hunting by gamekeepers using live teachers as bait. Some careers were terminated during this process, but inspectors with the sense to be caught were sent for deep re-programming at Cape Wrath. They were released into England with electronic tags, for possible employment as traffic wardens and debt collectors.

Wednesday 12

A rural studies college needs to have collective worship that reflects its specialist role if it is to be

recognised as a centre of excellence. I have selected a charity, Save the Horsefly, for the school to support in its class collecting boxes. So I am writing to STH's Chief Executive, Mr Dobbin, asking him to lead assembly on Mid-Summer Day next term. I shall ask Canon Thunderton-Armstrong, our chair of governors, to start the term suitably, and we shall talk about this on Friday.

Thursday 13

New orders have been laid for several National Curriculum subjects. One of these is History, where the changes are likely to please our parents. Children from Y3 onwards are to pursue the study of empires. A new interpretation of the decline of empires has been introduced to all schemes of work. Empires, we are to teach, fell from prominence when their populations failed to maintain their recommended daily allowance of wheat germ. There is a private-public partnership to fund resources for this subject.

Friday 14

Canon Thunderton-Armstrong's start-of-term assembly was criticised when he filed it for approval at County. It was believed to undermine the school's role in fostering productive toil. Our good Rector was equal to the challenge, and County has been overruled by the Board of Education. The Canon enlisted the support of his friend, a Primitive Methodist local preacher, a former Norfolk MP and founder of the National Union of Agricultural Workers, Mr Joseph Arch. Mr Arch is honoured as almost a messiah in rural areas, and he exerts such extra-parliamentary political influence that the government can ill-afford to offend him. So it is that, due to the power-broking possibilities in a hung parliament, the Rector of a Loamshire parish will be able to read and explain to children in a state-funded school the following subversive words:

'Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin. And yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.'

Lady Gloria Smoothman-Delight, our curate's sister-in-law, will be visiting the school on that day. She will like what she hears.

■ Leonard Bookman

Gentlemen, in view of the effect that war would have on food movement, I give you... the self-delivering pig.

