

## 1933 Proposal for RHS Prep School to become Co-Educational

If the newspaper reports shown below are to be believed, many of us may never have attended the Royal High Preparatory School, which was to become Co-Education fee paying, given that our parents seemed to prefer a boys only establishment. That would probably have been extended to the Senior School, which would probably have hastened its exit from Regent Road much sooner. It didn't come to pass however, and it was to be forty years before females were to be seen in Royal High colours. The school had only opened two years prior, and was designed for boys only, so this cock-eyed proposal never stood a chance. One wonders if our sister school, Gillespie's, was in the frame for a similar fate?

### Educational News

#### ROYAL HIGH SCHOOL

#### The Preparatory Department

#### MIXED SCHOOL PROPOSAL

Edinburgh Education Committee yesterday discussed the future of the Royal High preparatory school. The General Purposes Sub-Committee recommended that the question of the future development of the preparatory school should be remitted to the sub-committee on Reorganisation of Educational Arrangements, with the recommendation that the possibility of developing the school as a fee-paying primary school for girls as well as boys should be considered, and that it be remitted to the City Architect to report as to the possibility of adapting the school buildings for this purpose. Councillor P. H. Allan, chairman, presided.

Monsignor Miley said it would be quite premature to talk about bringing girls into that school. It was against the age-old tradition of the school. The population in that part of the town was growing very rapidly and there was only one vacant room in the school. He deprecated the idea of a girls' school in the meantime. He preferred recruitment in the area, and improved transport from distant parts of the town, and possibly some revision of fees.

Councillor Adam Millar said the proposal arose owing to financial considerations. Since they had invested a great deal in the school and were not getting a return, they should not dismiss the proposal meantime.

Councillor Gorman proposed that the matter be delayed until October, when they would get the new enrolment figures for the school.

#### "A REVOLUTIONARY PROPOSAL"

The Rev. J. Rossio Brown, who seconded, said it was a most revolutionary proposal to make this preparatory department into a 'mixed school. There were other avenues that could be explored. The headmaster had, in fact, already suggested one when he said that if buses were provided to take the boys direct to school the enrolments might be increased. In dealing with the history and traditions of the Royal High School, they should go slowly. They might be tempted to do something foolish and regret it afterwards.

Miss M. G. Cowan said there was no doubt that such a proposal would break the tradition of the school. Parents who wished to get a separate education for their sons would not be willing to support them in a mixed school. They should get new transport facilities for the school and advertise them in the prospectus. It made a difference to parents to know that their children would be taken from a certain point in their own district to the school door.

The Rev. William Ross said the situation was pretty serious. They must look to the future, and he differed entirely from the view of Monsignor Miley. He thought the parents of a boy and a girl would be very pleased to think that their children could go to the same school. It was a good thing for the boys to have girls in a school, and good for the girls to have boys in a school. If proper arrangements were made it was all to the good that these young people should mix together. As to the suggestion to have special buses running to the school, he thought they had had too much grandmotherly legislation.

Canon Mackay said it was quite obvious they could not have a mixed school as a Royal High preparatory school.

Councillor Gorman's proposal to delay the matter until October was accepted.