

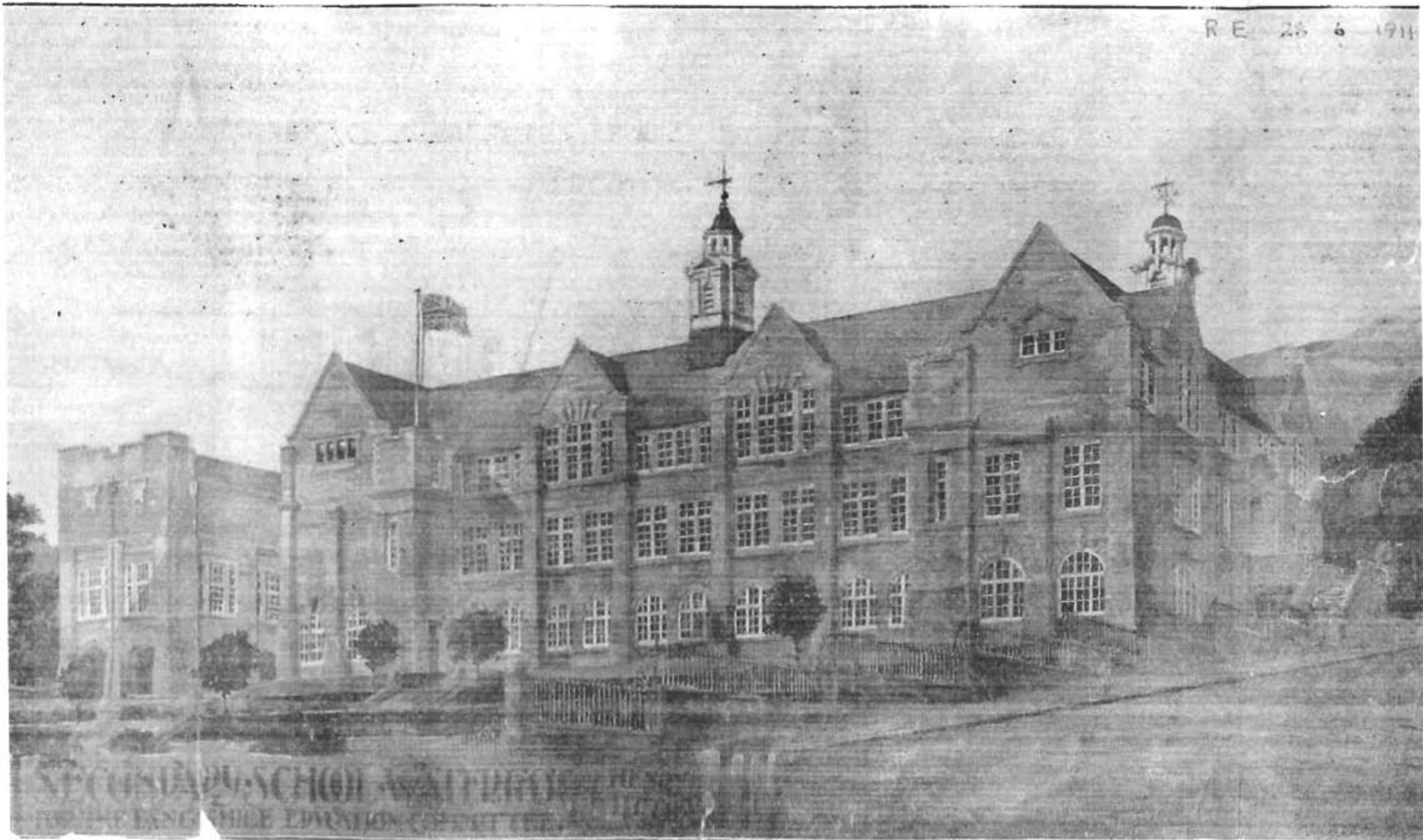
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NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL AT WATERFOOT.

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NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL AT WATERFOOT
DESIGNED BY THE EDUCATION OFFICER

The above is a representation of the new secondary and technical school which is to furnish provision for the higher educational needs of the boroughs of Bacup and Rawtenstall, the foundation stones of which will be laid by His Worship the Mayor of Bacup (Mr. Alderman J. H. Maden, J.P., C.C.), and His Worship the Mayor of Rawtenstall (Mr. Councillor J. Grimshaw J.P.), to-day (Saturday), the 1st July, at 2 p.m. The ceremony is to be presided over by the Chairman of the Joint Committee of Management (Colonel J. Craven Hoyle, J.P.).

The silver trowels to be presented as mementoes to the two Mayors are at present on exhibition, one at Mr. M. Barcroft's shop at Bacup, and the other at Mr. Joshua Wilson's shop at Rawtenstall.

The building is being erected at Miller Barn Lane, Waterfoot, from plans prepared by Mr. Henry Littler, the County architect. It is estimated that the cost of the land, buildings, and equipment, will be over £26,000, and will, when completed, rank as a first class school, and will be much more efficiently equipped than would have been possible if separate schools had been erected for the two boroughs.

Special arrangements are being made for classes in boot and shoe manufacture, cotton spinning and weaving, and painters' and decorators' work, etc.

By the erection of this handsome pile, which it is expected will be completed in the early part of 1913 the two boroughs will be brought into line with other up-to-date centres in regard to higher and technical training, and thus the youths of the districts embraced will be provided with those facilities for higher education which a modern institution of this character alone can bestow.

The Committee of Management of the new school consists of representatives from the boroughs of Bacup and Rawtenstall, the Lancashire County Council, the Newchurch Grammar School, and the Victoria University of Manchester. After the stone laying ceremony on Saturday, Colonel J. Craven Hoyle will entertain to luncheon in the Waterfoot Council School the members of the Committee of Management along with the members of the Town Councils of the two boroughs and the co-opted members of the Education Committees, and other persons interested in education.

DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING.

The following description of the building and its objects was presented at a meeting of the Higher Education Sub-Committee held at the County Offices, Preston, on the 1st of July, 1907:—

The new school has been planned with a view to providing accommodation as a Secondary Day School for 362 mixed scholars, but in addition to this the building will be used as a Technical Institute, and on this account special provision has been made for the teaching of weaving and spinning, boot and shoe manufacture, painting and decorating, plumbing, etc., so that altogether accommodation will be provided for some 600 scholars.

The ground floor contains four classrooms for 30 scholars each, and eight for 24 scholars each, grouped round a large central assembly hall. Also rooms for head master, head mistress, assistant masters and assistant mistresses, with the requisite lavatories, etc. In addition there is a waiting and secretary's room adjoining the main entrance, which is approached from the intended new street on the south side.

On the first floor there are three art rooms, facing north, accommodating 25, 22, and 18 scholars respectively, a cookery and laundry room for 25, dining room for 40, physical and chemical laboratories for 25 each, a lecture room for 50, and a technical drawing room for 30. All these rooms open off a gallery which runs round the upper part of the central hall.

Rooms for teaching manual training, boot and shoe manufacture, painting and decorating, and plumbing are situated in the basement which, on the west side, is above the ground level.

The main entrances for boys and girls are on the basement floor, and conveniently placed for these are the changing and cloak rooms, the lavatories, and the storage for bicycles for boys and girls respectively.

The heating chamber, stores for coal, coke, and timber, and girls' closets are also in the basement, the last named being near the girls' entrance. There is a caretaker's room containing sink, etc., on each floor. Two main fireproof stairs connect the three floors, while a third staircase in the annexe affords access to the weaving room above, and is connected with the main buildings by means

of an open covered way. The boys' closets and playsheds are placed in their playground, while the girls' playshed is obtained underneath the lower end of the annexe. There are asphalted playgrounds for boys and girls, and the latter, owing to the sloping nature of the site, is formed in terraces with flights of stone steps from one terrace to another.

The site will be enclosed by low stone boundary retaining walls and railings.

The buildings, which are to be of stone, will be faced externally with Yorkshire parpoints with ashlar dressings, and the roofs will be covered with best quality Welsh slates. The assembly hall, entrances, and class rooms, etc., will have a tile dado, and will be plastered above same, while the rooms in the basement, together with the spinning and weaving rooms, will be faced internally with Accrington bricks. The floors of the hall and teaching rooms generally, will be of pitchpine boards laid on concrete, the remainder being of concrete, finished smooth in cement. All floors will be of fireproof construction. The internal joinery will be of pitchpine, varnished. The buildings will be heated on the low pressure hot water

system, and the ventilation will be specially arranged to meet the particular need of the day and evening classes. All the windows will have double hung sashes, and the upper portion, above transoms, will open on centres.

The approximate cost will be as follows:—Cost of land, with legal and other expenses, £1,500; erection of school buildings, latrines, boundary walls, and formation of playgrounds, etc., £21,150; furnishing school and annexe, £2,500; total, £25,150.

In addition, there will be the clerk of works' salary and a sum to cover contingencies, so that the total approximate cost will be £26,000.

Although this is a very heavy expense for the County Council to undertake, it appears to be the most economical manner by which the educational needs of this district can be met. It is to be borne in mind that the school will serve the two boroughs of Bacup and Rawtenstall and the districts surrounding for day secondary, technical, and evening school purposes. The following are the present arrangements for the provision of higher education in the Rossendale Valley. Day secondary education is provided for boys by means of the Newchurch Grammar School. The school is small, and cannot be extended. No provision exists for the secondary education of girls, except that which is provided in the preparatory classes attached to a temporary Pupil Teachers' Centre, which has to meet in very inconvenient premises. For higher education in the evening there is a Technical School in each of the two boroughs. But in almost all of the applied science, technical, and advanced commercial classes held in the two towns, the numbers attending the classes in the respective subjects could be better taught in one

central class. Hence it is proposed that the accommodation and facilities which will be provided in the new school for day work should also be utilised for such evening classes for the whole of the Rossendale district. Duplicate staffs and duplicate administrative expenses will be saved. No other classes will be carried on in the evenings in the two boroughs other than those of the Evening Continuation Schools. These will be organised so as to supply well prepared pupils for the proposed Central Technical and higher classes. It may be added that the Technical Schools in the two boroughs are only being recognised by the Board of Education pending the adoption of some scheme dealing adequately with the whole of the higher education, day and evening, of the valley. The only alternative to the scheme suggested is to provide a Day Secondary School at Waterfoot and Technical Schools at both Bacup and Rawtenstall. This would be a much more costly arrangement.

The grants made by the Lancashire Education Committee to Bacup and Rawtenstall for the year 1906-7 were as follows:— Newchurch Grammar School, £520; Pupil Teachers' Centre (deficiency), £394; Bacup—higher education, £328; Rawtenstall—higher education, £367; total, £2,109. Experience of higher education in the other non-County boroughs shows that the cost of the proposed scheme to the Lancashire Education Committee would not greatly exceed this amount, and the facilities for education in the district would undoubtedly be greatly improved.

The local committee have recommended that the central hall of the new school should be wider than is shown on the plan, but in view of the cost of the building as planned, your sub-committee cannot see their way to recommend the

Lancashire Education Committee to accede to the request. The additional cost would be £500 or £600.

The financial arrangement between the County Council and the two local authorities is that, in the annual estimates for higher education to be submitted respectively by the Corporations of Bacup and Rawtenstall, the former authority will include a sum equivalent to five-elevenths of the charges connected with the new school and the latter authority will include a sum equivalent to six-elevenths of these charges.

The value of the local 1d. rate in the two areas is:— Borough of Bacup £314 10s., Rawtenstall £455.

Your sub-committee recommend that the plans as submitted be approved; and that it be a recommendation to the County Council that in order to enable the Corporations of Bacup and Rawtenstall to borrow a sum not exceeding £26,000 for the purchase of land and erection of the new Secondary School in accordance with the plans approved, the County Council undertake to guarantee any deficiency in the amount raised by the local penny rate within each of the boroughs of Bacup and Rawtenstall to meet the annual charge for interest on and repayment of the debt, on condition that to the extent to which it is required the proceeds of the penny rate are applied towards the payment of the interest on and repayment of the money borrowed, and that the seal of the County Council be affixed to the deed or instrument securing the money borrowed.

MARGARET ASHTON, Chairman.

County Offices, Preston,

17th June, 1907.