

The Wilderness.  
Aug. 10, 1968.

Dear Sir:

When Mr. Tucker had the Training school on Nonsuch Island, I don't know the statistics on how many returns he had. Nor do I understand what the controversy between Mr. Veira and Mr.

Raymond-Bond is about.

But this I do know. Mr. Tucker had one whaleboat, whose power was a sail and oars. The pupils were taught to row. No thought was given to the little darlings of over-taxing their strength or forcing them to labour: Mr. Tucker had an ever-ready rod to check cheekiness and freshness. Many boys left the Island with a great respect for Mr. Tucker.

As far as I can gather from Mr. Raymond-Bond's letter the corrective training school is now on Paget Island, and the head of it is a retired army officer, who is accustomed to writing out requisitions with no thought of economy, as evidenced by the large fleet of boats. As every owner of a boat knows, a single boat is quite expensive to keep up, considering metallic paint alone costing 33/- per quart. The necessity for such a large fleet of boats, I do not know, when Mr. Tucker got by with one boat, with an equal number of inmates. I will not be as kind as Mr. Dill in coming to the head man's rescue. What Mr. Raymond-Bond writes is true; it is high time facts should be investigated.

Mr. Raymond-Bond need not feel like me, a voice crying in the wilderness, for I

don't feel my letters to the press have been in vain. For the things I have written about in the past, I have lived to see them come to pass.

I will not weary the readers of this letter with things I have accomplished in the past, but I say to Mr. Raymond-Bond, if he considers too many boats being such extravagance, hammer this point home until an investigation takes place. Don't write one letter and then retire behind it.

Sincerely yours,

EARLE OUTERBRIDGE.

September 24, 1968.

Dear Sir,

When Mr. Earle Outerbridge is defeated with logical arguments one can always depend on him to be insulting. His derogatory remarks about me only exhibit his own ignorance of how political parties function. In one of his recent Monday-morning letters, about the Junior Training School, he stated that "it cost £1,480.0.0 to repair a boat." This is typical of how careless he is with the truth. That figure is approximately the annual total cost of all boat repairs, petrol and insurance etc.

It appears that Mr. Outerbridge gets very misty eyed when he reflects on the good old days. The reason the present government has had to spend so much money today, is because former members of government like Mr. Outerbridge were so tightfisted and lacking in foresight.

Now Sir, I have no intention of engaging in sterile correspondence with Mr. Outerbridge or his mentor Mr. E. R. Raymond-Bond, (I expect more letters of futile grumbling) as I believe the people of Bermuda recognise them for what they are — old men with nothing else to do but create mischief under the guise of having the public good at heart.

I take no credit for the good work being done at Paget Island. The credit is due to the enlightened ap-

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proach of the erstwhile chairman, the governing body, Headmaster and staff. Bermuda is fortunate to have such dedicated people.

Yours faithfully,

HARRY VIERA

P.S. Mr. Outerbridge repeatedly mentions that Mr. Tucker operated the school with a very small staff. It can be confirmed that when Mr. Packer took the headship from Mr. Tucker in 1958 the school had 14 boys and 10 staff.

St. George's.  
Sept. 25, 1968.

Dear Sir,

With reference to Harry Viera's letter in today's Royal Gazette wherein he states in his postscript: "It can be confirmed that when Mr. Packer took the headship from Mr. Tucker in 1958 the school had 14 boys and 10 staff."

I'm afraid that Mr. Viera has been misinformed, therefore, much as I dislike becoming involved in what I consider a futile argument, I feel I must risk doing so in trying to put the record straight.

During my three year as 1st officer under Mr. Tucker's administration, we had as many as 52 inmates and as few as 28 being controlled by a staff of 10.

When I took over command from Mr. Tucker in 1958 we had 28 inmates and a staff of 3.

The number of inmates gradually decreased until on my retirement on pension in 1961 there were only 14 inmates and a staff of eight.

Hoping this will shed some light on this subject,

I am, sir,

Yours faithfully,

JOHN R. PACKER.

not interest myself concerning a subject such as this, and I do not recall seeing him there.

Having worked at the Junior Training School for a period in order to make up the full complement of four officers prior to Mr. Tucker's formal retirement, I am in the possession of a photograph, dated September, 1958, by Kodak Laboratories which clearly shows 23 boys on board a 35 feet lifeboat. In truth, I am in the possession of records which establish the number of boys at the Junior Training School when Mr. Tucker retired at 29 and not 14 as Mr. Viera suggests.

On the subject of boats, perhaps there is some justification that public property might receive a little less care than may be warranted. This does not necessarily occur at the present, but very definitely has existed in the past.

During a period of two or three years after Mr. Tucker's retirement the Junior Training School was staffed by persons who included several expatriate (I find that term very disconcerting and am not sure I will ever use it again) "Experts." The Department of Education must have felt very proud as it was quoted concerning their new acquisition, "he has had experience in this type of work in the past, having been the deputy headmaster of an approved school for junior boys in England for some time."

During a period to follow no less than four boats were destroyed, through active or passive negligence at Paget Island. They were the very fine lifeboat, once on the decks of the Queen of Bermuda and put in A.I. condition, with a mechanical device, hand operated, which

turned a large brass/bronze propeller. This beautiful diagonal mahogany planked boat was used for recreation purposes including fishing, and had been donated to the school by a local businessman. The second was a 25 feet centreboard whaling gig, the only one of its kind in Bermuda, and of very great historical interest. This lovely carvel planked boat, loaned by another Government Department for Training purposes, was allowed to rot away and was finally burnt. The third was a clinkerbuilt runabout powered by a 25 h.p. Gray Marine engine in top running order. This boat was turned over to the school also by another Government Department for use as an officer's liberty boat. The fourth, was of course, the "Sea Horse," built in 1936 specifically for the school and used to teach all facets of seamanship. She was lost on the St. David's shoreline opposite Paget Island.

Needless to say the staff present during this period of destruction of Government property has since departed our fair shores.

Concerning the present Junior Training School, I know little other than that which I have read; but if statements are to be made in public or otherwise which are significant to the school prior to 1958, then I shall make it my duty that they be correct.

It is to be hoped that the present school should have a degree of success approaching that of Nonsuch Training School under Mr. Tucker.

Mr. Editor: I thank you for your space.

Yours very truly,

ARTHUR T. TUCKER

Paget.

September 26, 1968.

Dear Sir:

It has long been a belief that when one knows not what he is talking about he should refrain from putting his foot in the proverbial mouth. No doubt those "old men" would attest that the correct facts should be ascertained before ridiculous utterances are made.

With regard to Mr. Viera's statistics concerning the Junior Training School in the June of 1958, I feel obliged to correct him. At the time of the retirement of Arthur St. George Tucker, M.B.E., Superintendent of Nonsuch Training School, or the Junior Training School as it was then being called, there was a permanent male staff of four persons, a matron, the late Elsie Tucker, a night-watchman who lived off the island and a schoolteacher who also lived off the island. Thus the permanent established staff numbered five and not 10.

Further, it was not until the early to mid-1950s that the staff was increased beyond three established male officers. During the years prior the two or three male staff responsible for as many as 46 boys usually included a qualified schoolteacher.

It indeed makes one wonder where Mr. Viera obtains his information. He was too young to have visited the Island in 1958 in an official capacity and I am sure he did