

Man Who Founded Nonsuch Training School Retires

The retirement of Mr. Arthur St. George Tucker, founder and Superintendent of the Nonsuch Training School for boys was announced yesterday.

Mr. Tucker, who is 62, retired at midnight last night for health reasons. He and Mrs. Tucker have been with the training school since they founded it in 1934 on Nonsuch Island at the southern entrance to Castle Harbour.

The Director of Education, Mr. D. J. Williams, under whose department the school falls, said last night: "Mr. Tucker was the school itself—he founded it and he and Mrs. Tucker have been there ever since."

Mr. Williams said that Mr. John R. Packer, the first assistant superintendent, now becomes acting Superintendent.

This was an interim appointment as the Board of Education had under consideration the whole future of the school and its composition. Mr. Williams added that the interim appointment had been made until a decision was taken by the board.

Mrs. Tucker has been matron of the school since it was begun and plans to continue there until September when her husband's three-month retirement leave expires.

Asked last night what he will do after retirement, Mr. Tucker said: "I'll probably take up some kind of social work—it's a bug you know."

Mr. Tucker said that a little over 80 per cent of their boys had not been repeat offenders. There was a bad period two years ago which lowered the average.

Altogether there have been 276 boys at the school since 1934 and there are 29 there at the present time.

Mr. Tucker said that, since the implementation of a new scheme in 1952 whereby the school was placed under a commission, there have been 113 boys at the school between the ages of 10 and 17. Previously they left the school at 16.

In 1948 the school was transferred from Nonsuch to Paget

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Island in St. George's Harbour. This provided increased facilities and allowed the boys to enjoy the facilities of St. George's which was not practicable from the more remote Nonsuch.

The boys are trained on the principles of naval discipline. Mr. Tucker served in the Royal Navy and Royal Canadian Navy during World War I. In between the war and going to Nonsuch in 1934 he served in the Merchant Marine.

THREE BROTHERS WITH M.B.E.s

In 1944 he was awarded the M.B.E. after ten years service at the school. It was bestowed on him by the late King George VI in recognition of his outstanding work at Nonsuch. He was also awarded the Coronation Medal at the time of the Coronation of the Queen. He received the M.B.E. 14 years ago last Sunday — June 8, 1944.

He is the son of the late Canon Tucker, rector of St. Peter's Church, in St. George's. His two brothers, Mr. L. N. "Dicky" Tucker and Mr. Edmund Tucker, of Montreal, also hold the M.B.E.

1/2/52