

GIRLS' SCHOOL OPENED

H.E. The Governor Pays Tribute To Sir Robert Ho Tung's Generosity

PREMISES AT CAUSEWAY BAY

Tribute to the generosity of Sir Robert Ho Tung, one of Hongkong's most distinguished Chinese residents, was paid by H.E. the Governor, Sir Alexander Grantham, GCMG, when he opened the Ho Tung Primary School and the Ho Tung Technical School for Girls before a large and distinguished gathering at Causeway Bay yesterday.

Sir Alexander said that the new school which bears Sir Robert's name, would be a credit to the Colony and also to Sir Robert who had contributed \$200,000 towards its construction.

Sir Robert said that he had at all times placed a high value on education and it had been a great pleasure to him to have the opportunity, "in my small way, of providing a few bricks for some of the educational institutions of the Colony. It is very pleasing to know that these two schools bear my name."

Lady Grantham, who was to have attended the ceremony, was unavoidably prevented from doing so.

His Excellency, accompanied by his ADC, Mr D.A.R. Colborne,

Sir Robert is that of wisdom, and wisdom means balance. From this we can draw a lesson and apply it to the educational world. There must be a balance between boys' and girls' education, and that we are striving for. There must, too, be a balance between primary education and secondary education.

"We find that well exemplified in these two schools, one of which will be a primary and the other a secondary school. They occupy the same premises. The primary school will function in the morning, and the secondary



At the opening of the Ho Tung Girls' School at Causeway Bay yesterday, Sir Robert Ho Tung (second from left) is delivering his speech in reply to H.E. the Governor, Sir Alexander Grantham (third from left). Others present were the Hon. and Mrs D. J. S. Crozier, Dr the Hon. S. N. Chau and Dr Irene Ho Cheng.—(Staff Photographer).

arrived shortly before 3 p.m. and was met on arrival by the Director of Education, the Hon. D.J.S. Crozier, and Mrs Crozier, Dr the Hon. S.N. Chau, Mrs W.M. Cheung, Headmistress of the Technical School and Miss E. Chaw, Headmistress of the A.M. Primary School.

The party then proceeded into the School Auditorium and mounted the platform where Sir Robert Ho Tung had already arrived, accompanied by his daughter, Dr Irene Ho Cheng.

The entire gathering then rose as the National Anthem was played by Mr D.J.F. Fraser at the piano.

Mr Crozier calling upon His Excellency to declare the school open said that they were greatly honoured by Sir Alexander's presence, his only regret being that Lady Grantham was unable also to be present.

The Governor's Speech

His Excellency said: "Sir Robert was a great citizen and a man of generous heart long before I was born, which was in the last Century; actually in the last year of the Century. In those days the accent was on boys' education more than on girls' and Sir Robert, in accordance with the spirit of the times, gave his educational benefactions for boys in preference to girls.

"We think differently now, and it is appreciated throughout the world that girls have as good a claim to education as boys, and provision must be made accordingly. Sir Robert has always been a man who moves with the times, whilst his charitable instincts remain as strong as ever, so he has now contributed half the cost of these two girls' schools, to be known as the 'Ho Tung Primary School' and the 'Ho Tung Technical School for Girls.' We are indeed grateful to him.

"Another of the attributes of

in the afternoon. The site of the school is sufficiently large to allow for a good-sized playground together with volley-ball and basket-ball courts. The primary school will have primary classes I to VI, with accommodation for 480 pupils.

"The Ho Tung Technical School for Girls will provide a three-year secondary course which will include specially selected vocational subjects such as dress-making, cookery, laundry-work, house-craft and commercial practice. Thus a wide choice of subjects will be available, and it is clear that a school with such a practical vocational basis will fill a vital role, fitting girls not only to earn a living before marriage but also to be better housewives afterwards.

Break From Tradition

"The Technical School will thus be a break away from the traditional type of secondary education, and should be of great value to those children wishing to go beyond the primary stage but who are unsuited to the more scholastic type of instruction given in secondary grammar schools. To assist girls from poor homes the fees will be as low as possible, that is \$120 per annum. In addition 30 per cent of the places will be free as in other Government secondary schools.

"Once again I come back to the importance of balance. We must not overdo the technical side, for practical or vocational training alone at the tender age of 12 to 16 years without intellectual, athletic or social development would result in a very lop-sided product. Consequently ordinary academic subjects, such as English, Chinese social studies, arithmetic, art and physical

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education, etc., will also be taught in the Technical School.

"These two schools will be a most useful addition to the educational establishment in the Colony. They will be a credit to Hongkong and also to Sir Robert, whose name they bear. Once again, let me express to him our heartfelt gratitude." (Applause).

His Excellency then declared the school open.

Sir Robert said that he regretted very much that Lady Grantham was unable to be present, "because as you all know she takes a deep interest in the education of girls in this Colony."

Sir Robert's Reply

Continuing, Sir Robert said: "I wish first of all to say how very happy I am to see so many well-wishers here to-day.

"I am most grateful to Your Excellency for your very kind words and for the great interest you have taken in this school. This is my home and I have always deemed it my privilege to have been able to be of some service to the Colony.

"I have at all times placed a high value on education and it has been a great pleasure to me to have the opportunity, in my small way, of providing a few bricks for some of the educa-

will do your best to promote the education of others.

"Before I conclude I have one more important thing to say. I wish to express to Mr Crozier my admiration and respect for his unflinching enthusiasm, and my heartfelt gratitude for his untiring interest and assistance in bringing about this happy fulfilment of one of my dreams." (Applause).

Sir Robert then called for three cheers for His Excellency who in turn asked the gathering to give three cheers for Sir Robert.

His Excellency and the official party then visited the school premises after which tea was served.

Those Present

Seated at the platform were H.E. the Governor, Sir Robert Ho Tung, the Hon. and Mrs D.J.S. Crozier, Dr the Hon. S.N. Chau, Dr Irene Ho Cheng, Mrs W.M. Cheung and Miss E. Chaw.

Among the large gathering present were the Hon. and Mrs R.R. Todd, the Hon. and Mrs T.L. Bowring, Dr the Hon. and Mrs K.C. Yeo, the Hon. Ngan Shing-kwan, Mr E.S.K. Ho Tung, Lady Lo, Bishop Hall, Mr and Mrs B.C.K. Hawkins, Mr and Mrs Kwok Chan, Mrs John Keswick, Mr J.H. Ruttonjee, Mr Dhun Ruttonjee, Dr and Mrs F.I. Tseung, Mrs Lawrence Kadoorie, Miss S.H. Ho, Mrs Doris Ho, Mrs Arthur Woo, Mrs Ho Wing, Miss L. Ho, Miss Helen Ho, Miss Shirley Lo, Dr L.T. Ride, Mr L.G. Morgan, Mrs K.M.A. Barnet, Mrs Li Shu-pui, Lt Col H.B.L. Dowbiggin, Mr G.P. Ferguson, Mr F.P. Franklin, Mr F.K. Leung, Mr K.H. Yuen, Mr and Mrs S.J.G. Burt, Miss E.G. Stephen, Miss K.D. Cherry, Mr and Mrs Wong Kwok-fong, Miss Lu Hui-ching, Mr D. McLellan, Mr and Mrs S.W. Liang, Mr J.W. Cockburn, Dr H.N. Wong, Mr Fung Ping-fan, Miss Mary Cheung, Miss Elsie Cheung, Mr R.C. Lee, Mr and Mrs G.D. Smart, Mr Li Po-kwai, Mr Tang Shui-kin, Mrs S.L. Cheung, Mr Wong Hok-yan, Mrs Grace Liang Yapp, Mr Chan Ching-to, Mr and Mrs Albert Fung, Mr Ho Sai-kim, Mr Lee Ying-san, Mr Ho Sai-wah, Miss Lu Hui-ching, Mr Lam Chi-fung, Dr Yi Ying Ma, Miss Ho Chung-chung and Mrs C.J. Symons, Headmistress of the Diocesan Girls' School.

tional institutions of the Colony. It is very pleasing to know that these two schools will bear my name.

"In line with improved standards, education has passed through remarkable changes. I often look back on my boyhood days when I attended a co-educational school. At that time, girls going to school were generally accompanied by their amahs, carrying umbrellas, even on fine days, to shield their faces from the sight of enquiring eyes. (Laughter). A screen was also placed across the schoolroom to separate the boys from the girls. (Laughter). I need not tell you of modern conditions: they speak for themselves.

"Owing to my strong desire for improved education for girls I have, in recent years, given them the highest priority in what I have been able to do, because they will be the future wives and mothers and as such they are entitled to every assistance and consideration. I feel sure that these two schools which are being opened to-day will do much towards this object and I have every confidence in the staff which, I understand, will be led by women graduates of the Hongkong University.

"To the girls I would say Congratulations on your good fortune for having been selected as scholars in these schools. I hope you will do your best to learn all that the schools can teach you so that you will become useful members of society. I further hope that whenever you are able to do so in your future years you