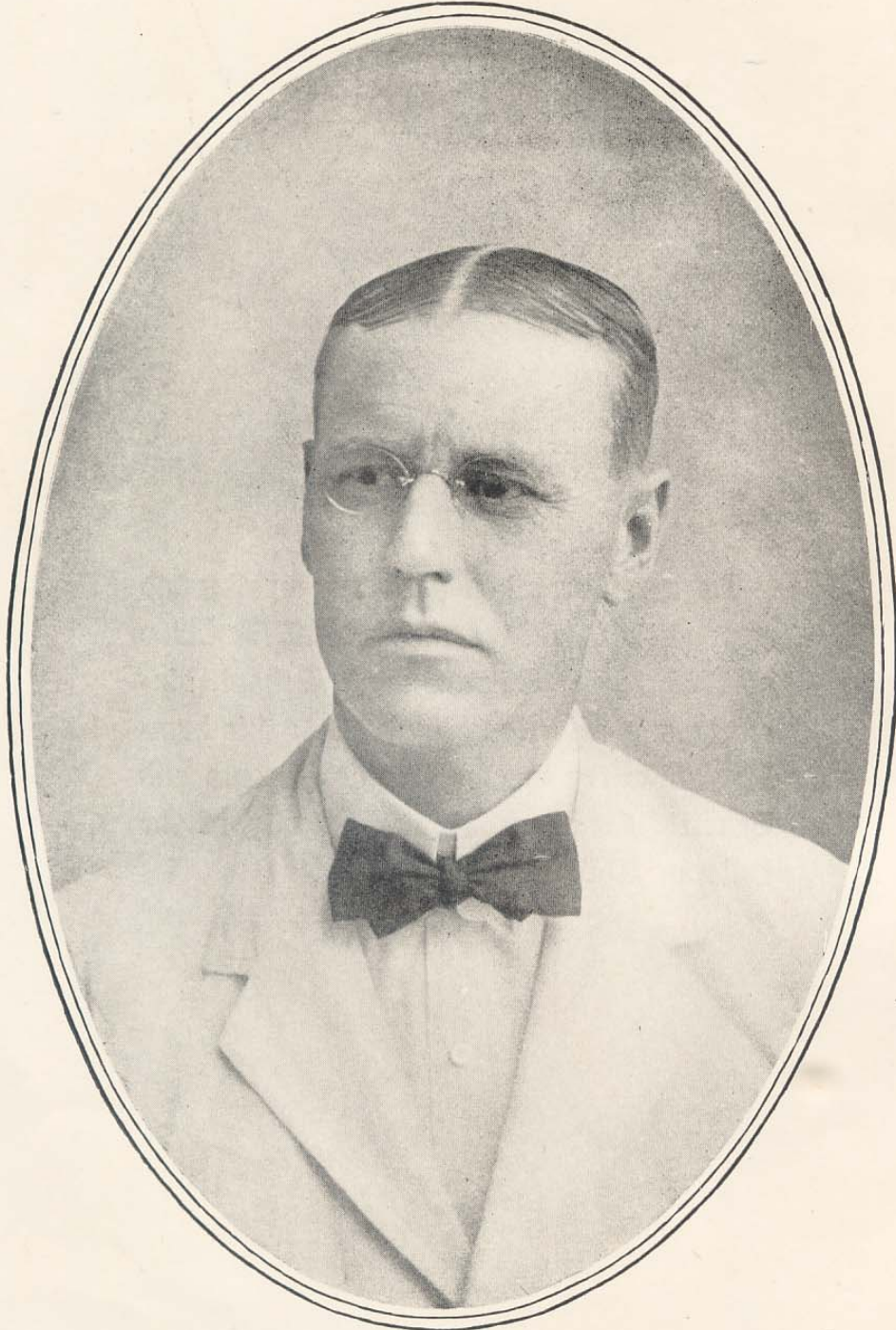


# Bulacan High School CY 1918



THE DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT

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# History of the Bulacan High School

By DAMASO FIGUEROA.

Our Provincial High School was established almost sixteen years ago. It had its beginning in the progressive town of Baliuag, where it was temporarily located early in 1902. Here a number of students, mostly boys, representing but a few towns of the province, together with a class of twenty who had made some progress in the Spanish schools, were placed in a room of a private dwelling under the charge of two American teachers. It was called a High School in order to induce the attendance of those pupils who had had some instruction in the Spanish "Colegios" and were unwilling to attend an elementary school under its true name. These young men being only beginners were assigned to Second and Third Grade work. At the end of the year the classes had eighty-seven members. During its short period of existence, it had accomplished much, for it had sent forth many young teachers to the province.

In 1903-4, there were about two hundred fifty pupils, and the number of teachers was increased to seven. Among the activities of the school was the organization of a literary society.

In 1904-5, there were two hundred twenty-seven pupils and six teachers. Two literary societies were organized and for the next three years were an important factor in building up the school and creating an interest in English. The pupils were classified as, Sections A, B, C, D, E, and F, and the work corresponded to our present Fourth, Fifth and Sixth grades. This year plans and specifications for a new ₱32,000.00 High School at Malolos were completed and the money for the building was appropriated from the provincial funds.

In June 1905, the enrollment reached two hundred eighty-six. The school was reorganized so as to give a full Intermediate course and the First Year of the Secondary course.

This marks the beginning of the High School proper. The first chorus work was done this year; and physical training and athletics were introduced in accordance with the plan of the Bureau of Education. A tennis court was made and a baseball team organized; also the first instruction in sewing was given this year, the girls furnishing their own materials.

The new building was completed at Malolos, the provincial capital, in 1906. It was erected on the Provincial Grounds and modeled after the Government building but smaller. The High School was formally opened in June 1906 when it was removed from its former home to the erstwhile capital of the Philippine Republic. The first principal was Mr. W. W. Pettit. The enrollment reached two hundred ninety including Intermediate and Secondary students and the number of teachers was increased to nine. There was a Sophomore class of eleven and a Freshman class of thirty-one. Spanish



was first taught in the school this year. About this time two more buildings of mixed materials were constructed. One was the Domestic Science building and the other a Girls' Dormitory. The Dormitory was opened in December, 1906 with twelve girls. Mrs. Cofren was matron. Other teachers who successively held the position of Dormitory matron were: Mrs. Mary O. McComb, Mrs. Petronila Guevara, and Miss Myrtle Cook. The library was also started this year by the purchase of ninety pesos worth of books, this fund being contributed by the teachers, the pupils, and their friends. The Provincial Board furnished a set of International Cyclopaedias, and a set of Harper's Historical Cyclopaedias of the United States.

As time passed, the lower grades were eliminated and Secondary classes were substituted. So in 1907-8 the Fourth Grade was dropped. The Secondary classes were called First, Second and Third Years. In athletics, the first basket ball team and the first track team were organized. The Provincial Board, whose strong support the school has always enjoyed, this year bought it a new piano. The enrollment was two hundred sixty intermediate and one hundred thirty secondary students. There were ten teachers.

The Fifth Grade was dropped in 1908-9 thus making room for larger Sixth and Seventh Grades. The first Senior class consisted of eight students, five of whom were graduated in March, 1909. This class rendered "A Midsummer Night's Dream," as a class day exercise. On the initiative of Bulacan, "The Central Luzon Inter-Provincial Athletic League," including Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, and Pampanga, was formed. The first meet was held at Malolos in February 1908. Bulacan was the winner.

The enrollment reached four hundred eleven in 1909-10 and the number of teachers twelve. Twenty-nine girls lived in the Dormitory. A Trade School was also maintained in connection with the High School. This year a class of twelve completed the High School course. Tarlac joined the Athletic League, but later withdrew.

Great enthusiasm in athletics was experienced in 1910-11. The enrollment in the Secondary course was the largest in the Islands, outside of Manila. A class of twenty were graduated.

In 1911-12 with Mr. David G. Gunnell as principal, the school was reorganized and several new courses were introduced. The Trade School was separated from the High School. The enrollment was one hundred eighty-three in the Secondary course and two hundred forty-two in the Intermediate. Two literary societies, made up of students from the two Legislative Districts of the Province, were organized. The athletics this year centered principally in baseball, but at the Inter-Provincial meet held in Nueva Ecija, Bulacan lost. A class of nineteen were graduated this year.

The year 1912-13 opened with an enrollment of 184 Secondary students and 110 Intermediate under the principalship of Mr. W. E. McVey. In August about two hundred left and the pupils of Malolos Intermediate



School were transferred to the High School. Only five students were graduated this year.

In the early part of 1913, the grandstand was constructed by the Trade boys. The enrollment was one hundred thirty Secondary and two hundred sixty Intermediate students, the sixth grade being the lowest. The Principal at this time was Mr. S. S. Milligan. Fourteen were graduated in 1913-14.

Mr. S. S. Milligan was again the Principal in 1914-15 but he soon left for the United States and the position of Principal was filled by Mr. Ayres. He was succeeded by Mr. O'Malley who was soon transferred to Manila and Mr. Oliver acted as Principal for the remainder of the year.

Mr. Charles E. Lucas became the Principal in 1915-16. Under his guidance the Bulacan High School Athletic Club was organized and a bathroom for the athletes was constructed. Twenty-one were graduated this year. In 1916-17, he was again the Principal. The increased number of Juniors for Laboratory work led the authorities to enlarge the Department of Physics and Biology. Of the Intermediate classes only the Seventh Grade remained. The graduating class consisted of twenty-three in 1917.

The school year 1917-18 began with Mr. Fay Charles Hare as Principal. He resigned, however, in October, returning to the United States where he is now a member of the Aviation Corps. He was succeeded by Mr. M. D. Flint thru whose help the dream of the Seniors to publish a Souvenir became a reality. The Intermediate classes were dropped, thus making the school purely a High School with an enrollment this year of three hundred ninety-four. The Dormitory was made a part of the High School as recitation rooms. Military Drill was introduced and the boys are now trained along military lines that they may be ready to do their bit in defending the principles of modern democracy. Class programs, both literary and musical, were introduced in lieu of the literary programs of societies organized in 1915. This year, the graduates number thirty-four, the largest and, naturally considered by its members, the best class ever graduated from the school.

This brings the history of Bulacan High School up to date, however its life is yet to come and each succeeding year will see more pages added to its history. May it long exist to educate Bulakeños. May it produce many more "fair hopes" of the fatherland and leaders of the rising generation.