

Headmaster on long leave

THE Headmaster of the Mombasa European Primary School, Mr. C. J. Metcalfe, left Mombasa yesterday on board the Durban Castle for home leave.

Mr. Metcalfe, who has been Headmaster since the expansion of the school to K.A.P.E. level, will be away from Mombasa until March, 1958.

Since coming to the school in 1954, Mr. Metcalfe has guided the first class through the hazards of preparing for K.A.P.E. and had the pleasure of seeing 96 per cent pass in 1956, despite many criticisms on the wisdom of keeping children at the Coast until of secondary school age.

This year, the school again

did very well with 85 per cent pass out of a total entry of 36. In this connection, Mr. Metcalfe was anxious to point out that while he fully intended to maintain the present high standard of education at the school, he could not guarantee such results every year.

In addition to his duties as Headmaster, Mr. Metcalfe was for three years Hon. Secretary of the Kenya Sea Angling Club and helped to raise it to its present healthy status both as a deep-sea angling club and an official recording authority for game fish caught off all shores.

This year Mr. Metcalfe was elected chairman of the Club in recognition of his services. His weekly fishing notes signed "C.J.M." (appearing in the Mombasa Times) which have attracted attention beyond the Colony, will be continued in his absence by the Vice-Chairman of the Club, Mr. Colin MacGregor.

Mr. Metcalfe will be accompanied on home leave by his wife, Mrs. Olive Metcalfe, who is the Principal of The Aga Khan Girls' Secondary and Primary Schools and by his son, Shaun, and daughters Alison and Christine.

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Primary education not to be lowered in standard—Head

BEFORE going on long leave, the headmaster of the European Primary School, Mombasa, Mr. C. J. Metcalfe, speaking at the school open day, refuted "loose and ill-informed gossip" that the standard of education in primary schools in Kenya was to be lowered. "Nothing could be further from the truth. I would advise all our armchair critics to study examination results before prognosticating on the Colony's educational achievements," declared Mr. Metcalfe.

The headmaster told about 300 parents who visited the school that the educational level in Kenya was as high as anywhere in the world, and an endeavour was being made to improve, as far as possible, the present standards.

'Sincere and healthy'

Speaking of the school, Mr. Metcalfe stated that the record of acceptances for secondary education was as good as, if not better than, other primary schools in the Colony. These successes were due to the sincere and healthy devotion to duty of the staff, who taught in Mombasa under peculiar difficulties not apparent in other parts of the Colony.

Mr. Metcalfe urged parents to put the school first, regardless of what was happening outside the school.

One of the major problems of

the staff at the school was the bad language used by the boys, said Mr. Metcalfe.

He told parents that bad language was an inevitable problem in schools. "But," he went on, "I am most distressed at the positive complaints that are rightly levelled at some of our boys."

He thought the bad language was initially brought into the school either as a result of irresponsible talk at home in front of the children, by gossip or by boys talking among themselves.

He urged parents to do all they could at home to help suppress "this evil and iniquitous habit."

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Reverend P. D.

headline.

COLLECTED BY THE BUREAU OF STATISTICS AND CENSUS OF KENYA