

# The Hop Leaf Gazette.

*The Monthly Journal of  
H. & G. SIMONDS, Ltd.*

*Edited by CHARLES H. PERRIN.*

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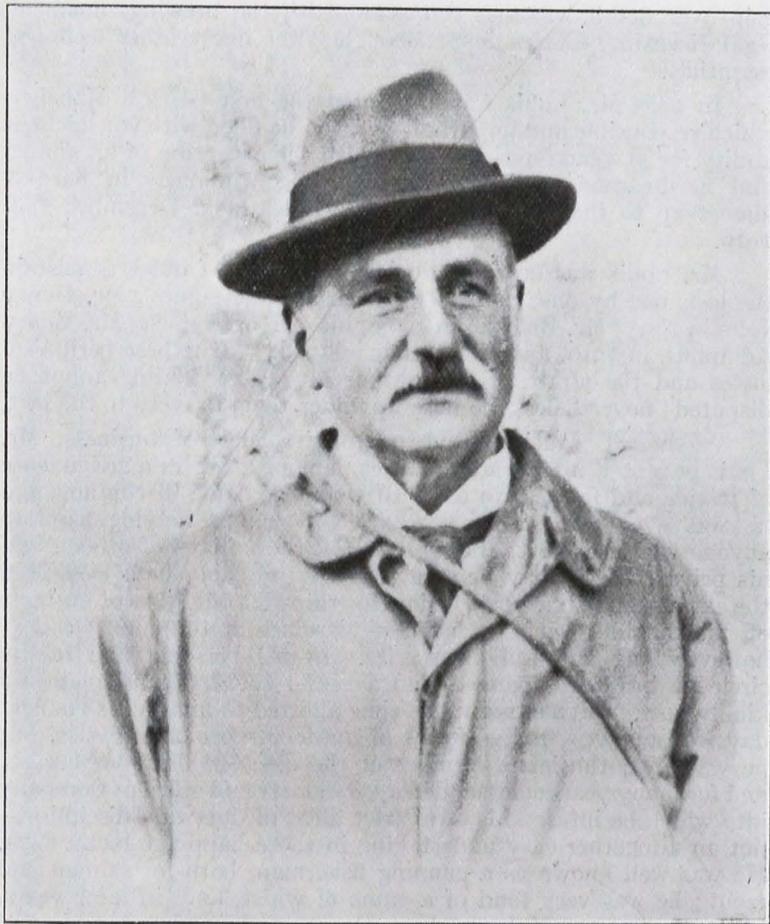
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1927

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THE LATE Mr. L. de L. SIMONDS.

*(See next page).*

## EDITORIAL CHAT.

MR. L. DE L. SIMONDS.

Our frontispiece is taken from a portrait of the late Mr. L. de L. Simonds, the father of our present Managing Director. Mr. Louis, as he was always called, was born and educated in America; he came over to England and joined the Firm in 1872 and forthwith set himself strenuously to learn and master all the ramifications of the business. In this he was entirely successful, and probably no one connected with the Firm has ever attained such an all-round grip over detail, whether connected with the brewing, financial, legal, licensing, estates department, and the many other technical essentials.

In 1885 Mr. Louis was appointed the first General Manager, which responsible and important position he filled with conspicuous ability for 31 years, during which, with the exception of an annual and hard-earned holiday, he remained continuously in harness almost up to the date of his untimely death on December 2nd, 1916.

Mr. Louis was destined during his period of office to sustain the loss, one by one, both of kinsmen and colleagues; Mr. Henry John in 1895; Mr. Blackall in 1905; his own aged uncle, Mr. Henry Adolphus, in 1910, and Mr. Arthur in 1916. That these periodical losses and the strain of the war deeply affected him cannot be disputed; nevertheless, he bore up under them bravely to the last.

A shrewd, cautious, but progressive man of business, Mr. Louis possessed many rare qualities; amongst others a strict sense of justice and fairness to all with whom he came in contact, and he was ever ready to give advice and lend a helping hand to anyone who needed it, and to overlook the failings of others. Of his private life it may be said that few probably have possessed the extraordinary capacity he had for throwing the cares of business off his shoulders once he had left his office at the end of a day, however long and full of worries. In his personal and family circle he instantly changed into a genial country gentleman and kindly host. He had not much time allotted to him in his younger days for any very active forms of outdoor sport or athletics, but he was an enthusiastic member of the old Berkshire Volunteers, and for many years commanded a very smart and efficient Company into which he infused his own strict ideas of duty and discipline—not an altogether easy undertaking in those happy-go-lucky days. He was well known as a cunning fisherman, both for salmon and trout; he was very fond of a game of whist, and, in later years, bridge: also a very keen chess player, and no mean performer with the billiard cue. His memory lives. His eldest son reigns in his stead to carry on the old traditions.

ALL BROTHERS.

It is some time now since Lord Leverhulme passed to his rest. The following wise words of his are, however, well worth repeating: "Nature has dealt to us in our world-wide British Empire a winning hand. All she asks of us is to play that winning hand to the best of our ability, and then the game shall be ours. If we do this, then the twentieth century will become the golden age for labour, and we shall see labour enjoying a degree of comfort, welfare, and happiness produced by less exhausting work in fewer hours and paid for with higher wages than our wildest dreams to-day could foresee. And the foundation on which this prosperity will firmly rest must be efficient service by all, founded on a full recognition of the solemn duty resting on each of us, capital, labour, and the consumer, to remember our duty of service and the human side of industrial pursuits. Let us never forget that the men engaged, whether as organizing capitalists or as labour, are not mere machines, but 'men in a world of men,' that we are all brothers and all members one of another."

IN DAYS GONE BY.

The name of Josey is one well known and much respected at The Brewery. Mr. F. Josey, who is now enjoying well earned retirement, joined the Brewery in 1864 when things were very different to what they are now. He retired in 1917.

In Mr. Josey's early days only four men were employed in the Union Room and one in the stables. There were twelve draymen, three coopers, three in the cellars, three in the scalds, four in the brewing department, three in the bottling and two in the wine and spirit stores. There were three maltsters and a few odd men in the yard, etc. Mr. Josey served the Firm faithfully and well "inside" for eight years, and then, as traveller, for the long period of 44 years. His brother, William, was at the time first traveller, Mr. Miles second, and he himself third. His brother, James Josey, went to Slough Branch for 42 years, 32 of which he spent as a traveller. Mr. Josey's close attention to business and courtesy to all won for him many friends, and one is always hearing kind enquiries concerning him. We are glad to think that two of his sons, Mr. Frank Josey, Manager, Cask Department, and Mr. S. Josey, as Wages Clerk, are following worthily in their father's footsteps.

REMINISCENCES.

Mr. Josey has many good stories to tell. On one occasion, one of the draymen at Slough was asked if he knew what had happened to a  $\frac{1}{2}$ -gallon jar of finings which had been sent with

the beer by rail. "Finings!" he exclaimed in amazement, "I thought it was beer and drank the lot!"

We hope at some future date to have a longer chat with Mr. Josey, who must have a wealth of information to impart concerning the days that are gone.

#### ALL DRESSED UP!

Who was the vocalist who "got himself up regardless" on a recent Friday night and came down to the Social Club, where he expected to find the other artistes in readiness for the journey to a certain village club, in order to give a concert? He got into conversation with the ubiquitous Hon. Secretary (Mr. Bradford) and expressed surprise that the other performers were so late in turning up. "You will have to wait a good deal longer I'm afraid," said Mr. Bradford, with a twinkle in his eye, "for this is Friday night and the concert does not take place until Saturday!" And Mr. — simply said "S.B." No, it was not the other.

#### AND A GOOD SOURCE TOO!

In the course of one of his country rambles, the Editor recently called at an inn for refreshment. Of course, it was one of Simonds' houses. As he ate his bread and cheese, drank his wholesome beverage, and rested after a long tramp, he chatted with the landlord. One told the other jokes, and the Editor said to the landlord, "My word! where did you get your jokes from; they are certainly good?" "Oh!" replied the landlord, "I get them out of a book which I don't suppose you have ever seen. It is called THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE." Smiling inwardly, the Editor said he would certainly endeavour to obtain a copy!

#### A KISS FOR MR. CHAPMAN.

We would refer our readers to the highly amusing letter, published in another page, which Mr. A. P. F. Chapman has received from Mustapha Belo, of Accra, Gold Coast. The writer saw Mr. Chapman's name in the paper, sends him "a loving kiss" and requests him to forward, among other things, a cricket cap, badge, and shirts. As a result, Mustapha Belo will receive a blazer with a badge of two Milk Stout bottles rampant on a field of Oatmeal, and each member of his team will be sent caps with the advertisement "More S.B." emblazoned thereon. But don't forget to read the letter, it is really funny.

#### A SPLENDID RECORD.

The fact that twelve men have been in the service of H. & G. Simonds Ltd. for an aggregate of 639 years speaks for itself. Eleven have each served fifty years or over. Mr. H. F. Lindars is top scorer in this direction, having been with H. & G. Simonds Ltd. for no less than 61 years. We wonder how many firms can beat this record. Here is the list, of which both H. & G. Simonds Ltd. and those concerned have good reason to be proud:—

H. F. Lindars	...	...	...	61	years.
C. Pearce	...	...	...	57	"
Tom Howard	...	...	...	57	"
C. Thatcher	...	...	...	55	"
J. Beck	...	...	...	54	"
C. Carpenter	...	...	...	53	"
E. J. Burrett	...	...	...	52	"
R. Sherwood	...	...	...	52	"
J. D. Carter	...	...	...	50	"
A. Goodall	...	...	...	50	"
W. J. Roberts	...	...	...	50	"
J. A. Hammond	...	...	...	48	"
				<hr/>	
				639	"
				<hr/>	
Average	...	...	...	53 $\frac{1}{4}$	"

#### ESPRIT DE CORPS.

A good illustration of the meaning of these words is to be found in the Reading Football Team. True, our splendid half-back line has done much towards making Reading go so far in the football world. There is, too, the brainy work of Eggo, the brilliant dash of McConnell and the safe goal-keeping of Duckworth. But we think that what has contributed more than anything else to the success of the Club has been the *esprit de corps* of the players. They have been pulling together in a way that is bound to spell success, and in work as in play this is the spirit that leads us on to victory and can seldom know defeat. So let us all pull together. The fact that Reading were beaten by Cardiff makes no difference to the foregoing remarks. To take defeat in so sportsmanlike a manner only adds to our admiration of the team.

#### KINGS ON PLAYING CARDS.

Though most of us play cards few know the meaning of what appears on them. The hearts on playing cards stand for choir men, or ecclesiastics (*gens de chœur*); diamonds for the order of merchants

and tradesmen ; clubs for clover grass, otherwise the order of peasants ; and spades for the nobility, as the spade represents the end of a lance. In Spain this is a sword.

The kings are David, Alexander, Cæsar and Charles or Charlemagne (representing the Jews, Greeks, Romans and Franks) ; and the queens Argine, Esther, Judith and Pallas. "Argine" is an anagram for Regina.

To labour at the work we are fit for is the chief source of life's happiness.

The greater men are, the humbler they are, because they can conceive of a greatness beyond attainment.

### WORDS OF WISDOM.

The invariable mark of wisdom is to see the miraculous in the common.

The knowledge of thyself will preserve thee from vanity.

The last drop makes the cup run over.

The less men think, the more they talk.

The light of friendship is like the light of phosphorous—seen plainest when all around is dark.

The majority have no other reason for their opinions than that they are the fashion.

The little man is still a man.

The noblest vengeance is to forgive.

The small courtesies sweeten life ; the greater ennoble it.

Above the cloud with its shadow is the star with its light.

Everyone thinks his own burden heavy.

The deepest rivers flow with the least noise.

No man succeeds long in being what he isn't.

### A GREAT THOUGHT.

No gospel founded on hate will ever seize the hearts of our people. There are four words of salvation for this country and the whole world—and they are *Faith, Hope, Love, Work*.

No Government in this country that has not faith in the people, hope in the future, love of its fellow men, and that will not work and work and work, will bring this country into better days.—  
MR. STANLEY BALDWIN, *Prime Minister*.

### THE PENALTIES OF FAME.

MR. A. P. F. CHAPMAN RECEIVES AMUSING LETTER FROM THE GOLD COAST.

Mr. A. P. F. Chapman has received the following letter :—

" 71, Selwyn Street,  
P.O. Box 165,  
Accra,  
Gold Coast.

A. P. F. Chapman, Esq.,  
C/o England Cricket Club,  
England.

Dear Captain,

I have the honour most respectfully to inform you that I saw your name in a certain newspaper called 'The Cricketer' and found that you are the Captain for Kent Eleven and have the honour to keep a correspondence with you. I am one of the selected team whom are coming down to England next year Season 1928 (? *Ed.*) so I therefore appointed here as a bowler last year 1926 I—we went to Kumasi there I took 5 wickets for 10, these men are the stronger players whom their team know that each of them will played 160 or more etc. So therefore as you are a Captain for Kent Eleven you can give my story to your bowler just to write me the secret way in bowling and to forward me his photo with cricket news and you also may forward me your photo with the cricket rules and news for this years season, end my letter with a loving kiss.

I remain your confidentially,

(Sgd) MUSTAPHA BELO.

P.S.—Captain Sir, I beg you also just to try and forward me a cricket cap and also badge. The badge should be printed as follows M.B.C.C. (Mackeson's Brewery again you see.—*Ed.*) and your secondhand white Polo shirts which you have already used and what you like from Gold Coast. Please let me know when sending these materials thanking anticipation."

[We understand that the Hythe Brewery Cricket Club are sending Mustapha Belo a blazer with a badge of two Milk Stout bottles rampant on a field of Oatmeal, whilst the Kumasi team are receiving caps with the advertisement "More S.B." emblazoned thereon, which they obviously want to withstand the frenzied attacks of Mustapha, whom we quite hope will pay us a visit when he reaches England in 1928.—*Editor, Hop Leaf Gazette.*]

## POSTED TO THE DEPOT.

### FAMILY LIKENESS CAUSES MISTAKEN IDENTITY.

Had one been in H.M. Army there would have been a brief order something like the following :—

POSTING. No. 239966—C. Bennett is posted to the Depot for a tour of duty with effect from 11/2/27. He will proceed by the—train from—Station.

Authority FAS/F dated 20/1/27.

A few appropriate words in the Mess the evening before departure and some cheery farewells in the morning, and the change of Station is complete.

It is not so easy to hand over a large Branch business of H. & G. Simonds, Ltd., especially at what might be termed the Manœuvre Season so far as Club life is concerned, which is at its highest point of activity, both socially and from a business aspect, as the annual meetings and elections are largely taking place in January and February. The writer was more or less deeply rooted and involved in the business side of many social Institutions as they were commenced during his tenure of office at Woking, and a number had suffered severely during the slump of 1921-22 and early 1923, and had also experienced disasters from other causes which need not be enumerated here ; consequently, the touch was close and personal.

### COULD TELL BY HIS VOICE.

The first intimation of a change left many men doubtful, and they said, "But what are *we* going to do?" The arrival of Mr. A. Bennett a few days after soon allayed all fears. He arrived in a deluge and on an inky black night, and, stopping a cyclist, enquired for my house at Horsell, and was astonished to find the direction given him and a cheery word added, "You're Mr. Bennett's brother." An enquiry as to how he knew this in the darkness drew the remark, "I could tell by your voice." Things were easier forthwith and at once began to veer from a sad to a glad aspect. Cases of mistaken identity were frequent and at times were embarrassing. Apparently there is a similarity in physical proportion, mental outlook and even intonation of voice, and it made the introduction smooth and pleasant, and left the customers quite happy. A few incidents may perhaps be permitted :—

- (1) A.B. was approached by a lady resident, who addressed him thus : "I'm so sorry you are going away, Mr. B." A.B. replied that he was not leaving. "But you are Mr. Bennett," the lady insisted. "Yes!" replied A.B., "but I'm the arriving and not the departing one!"

- (2) A railway official said to C.B. : "Ha! ha! how are you? I've been warned about you, my pals said if I saw a man like Mr. B. it would not be him, but his brother. Ha! ha! ha! ha! welcome to Woking." C.B. replied, "That's all right, Tommy, I appreciate your welcome and now let me introduce you to my brother who is succeeding me," and, looking around, Tommy exclaimed, "Well I'm blowed! I've made a mistake after all!"
- (3) A.B. visited a Military Mess alone. The likeness, yet indescribable difference, again asserted itself. One member came in saying, "Hullo! you're not looking so well," and the next arrival said, "Been on your holidays?" A third said, "You're thinner," and a fourth, "You're putting on weight"; and one keen observer said, "You've clipped your moustache!"
- (4) Another Military Mess visited jointly brought a remark from the R.S.M. ; "Hullo! Mr. B.," and, looking towards A.B., said, "And this is your spare part I suppose?"

The President of the Woking British Legion fairly summed up our experiences. He commenced by saying he was sorry C.B. was leaving and he welcomed A.B. because he was his brother's brother and later added, "Now we have seen him and heard him speak, we welcome him for what he is himself."

C.B.

## THE LIGHTER SIDE.

STRANGER : Ah, Mrs. Mudge, one-half of the world is ignorant how the other half lives.

MRS. M. : Not in this village, miss.

BENEVOLENT LADY : Now, then, what should a polite little boy say to a lady who has given him a penny for carrying her parcels?

SMALL BOY : I am too polite to say it, madam.

LAWYER (to witness) : Did you say that an incompetent man could keep an hotel just as well as anybody.

WITNESS : No ; I said an inn experienced man could.

MOTORIST : Where do the old cars go?

DEALER : They don't.

## BUSINESS IS BUSINESS.

Business is Business, but men are men,  
 Working, loving, and dreaming ;  
 Toiling with hammer, brush or pen,  
 Roistering, planning, scheming.  
 Business is Business, but he's a fool  
 Whose business has grown to smother  
 His faith in men and the Golden Rule,  
 His love for friend and brother.

Business is Business, but life is life,  
 So we're all in the game to win it ;  
 Let's rest sometimes from the heat and strife,  
 And try to be friends a minute.  
 Let's seek to be comrades now and then,  
 And slip from our golden tether,  
 Business is Business, but men are men,  
 And we're all good friends together.

## THE LIGHTER SIDE.

"ONCE A SAILOR——"

The new play was a failure, although the cast had given of their very best. After a long and tedious first act, many people left the theatre. Promptly the management closed all the aisles except one ; at this they stationed an attendant, an ex-sailor.

At the end of the second act, a stream of people rushed for the only exit. The attendant awaited their coming.

"Wait!" he commanded in a lusty voice, "the women and children first."

GERTIE: Mamma, when people are ashamed they always get red in the face, don't they?

MAMMA: They generally do, dear.

GERTIE: Then I wonder why Uncle Jim only gets ashamed in his nose.

"Hallo, Smith, suppose a man marries his first wife's step-sister's cousin, what relation is he to her?"

"First—wife—step—cousin—er—let me see. Oh! I don't know."

"He's her husband."

## TIPS ON TENNIS.

## SOME ASPECTS OF THE POPULAR GAME.

The tennis season is with us once again. It is now the chief national recreation from the point of view of the number of its devotees. And the reason is not far to seek. A very vigorous recreation, a good "four" at tennis will give the fittest physique all that it requires in the way of exercise, while after a couple of hours of "singles" only the most ardent athlete will ask for more. From the point of view of physical exertion, therefore, tennis meets all demands.

But the game has many other good qualities to recommend it. By means of the telephone you can fix up a friendly "four" in as many minutes. You can commence play when you please and you can end when you like. Old men and maidens, young men and children can play and equal enjoyment can be got out of the game alike by good, bad and indifferent wielders of the racquet. The number of tennis players in Reading must run into thousands and the progress some of them have made is really remarkable. And nowhere has this improvement been more marked than in regard to some of the members of the Seven Bridges Tennis Club, so ably organized by Miss Prosser, the energetic Hon. Secretary. By carefully studying the methods of good players, and in a humble way adopting those means myself, I find it pays to observe the following rule of three:

- (1) Be sure to get the ball over the net.
- (2) Place it as awkwardly as possible for your opponent.
- (3) Pace.

Many players give precedence to Rule 3, but it is obviously no use getting a great pace on the ball or even sending it in the right direction unless it goes over the net. Most players would be fifty per cent. more effective if they viewed pace as a third-rate instead of a first-rate power in tennis.

## NO HARD AND FAST RULES.

No hard and fast rules can be laid down as to where one should stand in the court. Some prefer to play at the net, while others choose the base line. But my view is that it all depends upon what the other fellow is doing, what are his strong and weak points and where he takes up his position. If he is poor at back-hand strokes, play on his left for all you are worth. Should he be good at volleying at the net, starve him to death. If, in the case of a "four," he frequently trespasses on his partner's court, send the ball hurtling back to the space he has left vacant before he

has time to return. Again, in the event of your opponent receiving a soft shot near the net it is useless for you to be close up to the net too, for he is sure to smash it by or straight at you, and in either case you stand no earthly chance of dealing with the shot. On the other hand, if you can drive your opponent back to the base line with a difficult ball, advance swiftly to the net and in nine cases out of ten the ball comes softly to your racquet and all you have to do is to "kill" it.

A good deal of nonsense is talked about poaching. Supposing a man is really good at the net he is fully justified in leaping across into his partner's court and hotly volleying the ball directly it has passed over the net, if he is sure of his shot. But if he bosses half his shots then his partner has indeed good reason to complain.

#### A GOOD PLAN.

You will find it a good plan to vary your serves. If it is your practice to adopt the screw service and the ball usually twists away to the right of the striker, he will no doubt go well to the right of the court and then receive your service with ease. By way of varying his diet, therefore, drop him a straight smart service to the left now and again before he is aware of your intention.

Remember, in tennis as in most other things, steadiness and consistency in a moderate degree in the end prove superior to spasmodic flashes of brilliancy. The man who makes sure of getting the ball over the net and places it well is bound to gain the ascendancy over the player who now and again sends back a brilliant drive, but more often than not bangs the ball into the net. Speed will be sure to come with accuracy, but accuracy does not necessarily come with speed.

#### GOOD COURTS NECESSARY FOR GOOD PLAY.

A cricketer never learns good cricket on a bad wicket. And it is the same with tennis. If the court is such that the ball continually "kicks" or breaks of its own accord, one will never make headway under such conditions, for as often as not the truer his strokes the more disastrous the results. For example, if you go to take a ball at the half-volley and you make a perfectly correct stroke only to find that the ball has shot high into the air nothing is more disheartening. You think you are no good at half-volleying and endeavour to return the ball by other means, when a half-volley is the only chance of effecting a return. A good ground, good balls and a good racquet are essential to good tennis.

Above all, play the game.

C.H.P.

#### A NATURE NOTE.

Once again the great book of Nature is open at one of its most interesting chapters for, during Spring, on every hand there is something to please the eye or delight the ear. What a fascination the first primrose and the first violet have for all of us. And, to my mind, nothing excels our sweet and fragrant little wild flowers. Then there are the songs of birds. The lark winds and unwinds his silver chain of song as he soars aloft and then descends to earth again. Legend has it that the larks learned to sing so sweetly by reason of the fact that long years ago one such bird ascended right into heaven, heard the voices of the angels, and reproduced their songs.

Many of our little feathered foreign friends have arrived. The chiff-chaff was the first to come, and his note "chiff-chaff-chiff-chaff," must be familiar to all; then there is the wood wren and the willow warbler, three dainty little birds of striking similarity. To my mind nothing is more delicately sweet than the song of the willow warbler. It is like a little silver stream of song trickling from the tree-tops.

So much is there of beauty and gladness all around that one hardly knows where to begin or end. As Richard Jefferies says: If we had never before looked upon the earth but suddenly came to it, man or woman grown, set down in the midst of a summer mead, would it not seem to us a radiant vision? The hues, the shapes, the song and life of birds, above all the sunlight, the breath of heaven resting on it; the mind would be filled with its glory, unable to grasp it, hardly believing that such things could be mere matter and no more. Like a dream of some spirit-land it would appear, scarce fit to be touched lest it should fall to pieces, too beautiful to be watched lest it should fade away. There is an unconscious happiness in finding wild-flowers—unconscious and unquestioning and therefore unbounded. I do not want change. I want the same old and loved things, the same wild flowers, the same trees and soft ash-green, the turtle doves, the blackbirds, the coloured yellow hammer sing, sing, singing, so long as there is light to cast a shadow on the dial, for such is the measure of his song, and I want them in the same place. Let me find them morning after morning, the starry-white petals radiating, striving upwards to their ideal. Let me hear the humble bees and stay to look down on the rich dandelion disc. Let me see the very thistles opening their great crowns, the reed grasses hiding the moorhen; swifts passing through the air with outstretched wings like crescent headed shaftless arrows darted from the clouds; the chaffinch with a feather in her bill: all the living staircase of the Spring, step by step, upwards to the great gallery of the Summer—let me watch the same succession year by year.

## AT THE TOP OF THE HILL.

There is an old couple in our village who are past work. The married daughter has made shift to take her mother and the parish half-crown, but there is neither room nor food for the father, and he must go. If husband and wife went together they would be separated at the Workhouse door, writes Michael Fairless.

The parting had to come; it came yesterday. I saw them stumbling lamely down the road on their last journey together, walking side by side without touch or speech, seeing and heeding nothing but the blank future. As they passed me the old man said gruffly, "'Tis far eno'; better be gettin' back"; but the woman shook her head, and they breasted the hill together.

At the top they paused, shook hands and separated; one went on, the other turned back; and as the old woman limped blindly by I turned away, for there are sights a man dare not look upon. She passed, and I heard a child's shrill voice say, "I come to look for you, Gran"; and I thanked God that there need be no utter loneliness in the world while it holds a little child.

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 "TELL ME MORE."

Workers like to know what they are doing a job for. They work harder when the job interests them.

Once a foreman asked two Italian labourers, in an American factory, to dig a hole in the yard.

When it was dug he looked into it and said—"No. Dig another hole over here."

They dug the second hole. He looked into it and said again—"No good. Dig over there."

The two labourers threw down their spades. "No dig any more," they said. They thought he was making fools of them.

Then he explained that he was hunting for a lost water-pipe, and they picked up their spades and made the dirt fly.

They wanted to know what they were doing.—*Efficiency Magazine.*

## RANDOM BREWERY REFLECTIONS.

(Continued.)

The daily checking of the Beer Book, known humorously as "calling off the tubs," was a "joy for ever" for those with Pelman memories. One of the staff from the Delivery Office arrived every afternoon armed with his book ready for his *vis-a-vis* in the General Office. Over this duty, done expeditiously and well, was waged a battle of wits (*sotto voce*), for of the time about which I am writing the two contestants were really witty. If at the "end of a perfect day" they did not balance first time, you might have heard, if you had been passing, "You've added in the date." As a matter of fact I believe part of the date was added in once, naturally it was soon found out. Then some of those Welsh names were puzzlers, and we have heard, "What's that! Let's have that one again, and call it out *right* this time." Also a fly that had been crushed between the pages was supposed to have been added in to swell the daily total. Perhaps this fly, on exploration bent—being bent also in the process—was trying to find out where they went in the winter time.

## THE ANNUAL OUTING.

Once a year, on an early Saturday in July, The Brewery closed down for the Men's Annual Outing, so we of the staff used to have one on this day as well. Several river trips we had, and a journey to Dorchester by steamer was a happy and jolly affair; another one to Goring and Streatley was even better. On this latter occasion Mr. E. T. Hatt at Streatley invited us to be his guests and we had a right royal time. A cricket match was played between Married and Single, in the grounds, the Single team winning. The war put a stop to these outings, and although we have had several little "joy rides" since—half-day ones—for the last year or so they have unfortunately been dropped.

A Social Society was formed—I forget its exact designation—and, during the winter months, whist drives were held and concerts at the "Crown Inn," Crown Street, Reading, took place. Several singing contests were held and prizes awarded. The real tit-bit was a match between two of the staff, one of whom claimed to sing soprano and the other falsetto. Brewery history doesn't reveal who won; it may have been a dead-heat.

## GREAT DEED OF BRAVERY.

Mr. Sydney Turner, one of the Estates Office staff, performed a great deed of bravery that was the talk of The Brewery and elsewhere for a long while. Divesting himself only of his jacket,

he jumped from the office window into the water—correct title "The Kennet and Avon Canal"—which flows underneath, in an endeavour to save the life of a youngster who had fallen in. The river was very high and flowing swiftly owing to heavy rains, and, although he succeeded in getting the child to the side—nearly losing his own life in the attempt—unfortunately the child was beyond human aid.

For this act of heroism he was presented by the Directors of the Firm with a gold watch suitably inscribed, and we of the staff subscribed and gave him a gold chain. He also received the Royal Humane Society's Certificate.

#### A REAL GENTLEMAN.

The late Mr. St. John Quarry joined the Firm from Portsmouth Branch some little while before the war, and went through all Departments in order to learn as much of the business as possible. He was for a while in "our" office and learned to manipulate the typewriter. A real gentleman in every way, very keen, fond of horses and open-air life. Always when 'phoning to his home at Fareham he would ask, "How is Ginger?" this being a favourite horse of his. It was a great loss to The Brewery when he was killed in action in France, and thus perished a "gallant English gentleman."

*(To be continued.)*

W.D.

#### BREWERY JOTTINGS.

First item of interest: THE HOP LEAF GAZETTES coming to hand a day or so later than usual (through quite unavoidable causes) naturally there were anxious enquiries for them. The whole issue was quickly distributed, and an extra quantity had to be printed, so popular is our lively monthly publication becoming. However, it was such a good number that it was well worth the little extra wait.

This time of the year is the "hush-hush" period, when we begin to think what the forthcoming Budget has in store for The Trade, for, as a rule, our industry receives "honourable mention" in every Budget.

On Saturday, March 5th, a certain liveliness could be observed on the "Home Front," for it was the day on which Reading Football Team played Swansea in the English Cup, and how well they covered themselves and the old town in glory is now a matter of history. On our staff we have had for many years faithful followers

of the old Club, who can remember wonderful things in the past; now we have many more newcomers who seem to be enamoured with the football played at Elm Park by the blue and white shirted boys. Maybe the name of H. & G. Simonds, Ltd., has acted as a "tonic" to the Club, for, as is well-known, through the generosity of the Firm, the new Grand Stand has become an accomplished fact this season, so apparently the players decided to show their appreciation and see that it was filled up every week. It has been well patronised throughout the season. Again the players may have heard of some of those "buffet talks," that take place soon after 11 every morning, and taken them to heart. One never knows.

A telegram was sent to Bert Eggo (the R.F.C. Captain) at Swansea from some of the Office Staff, reading: "Every success to-day and best of luck for Wembley"—after this encouragement the team set about Swansea in no uncertain fashion.

What a day is Friday: pay-day. Having received your salary in that well-known coloured little bag it seems as if it is "pay out" day as well. First, we have someone—he shall blush unseen—round for the National Savings (that which provides for the rainy day), then the Holiday Fund (when we hope it will not rain), the Farthing Club, the Burial Club, now and again, the Hospital Contributory donation, and Magazine Club subscription once a month. There are other contributions, but we will not mention them here. After having survived this ordeal you take home the rest with the self-satisfying feeling of "What a good boy am I," and, like the Village Blacksmith, you "Can look the whole world in the face and owe not any man."

The following members of our Staff, etc., have recently appeared at the Royal County Theatre, Reading, in an opera presented by the Berkshire Operatic Society entitled "Utopia, Ltd.," and were very successful, full houses being the order of the week. Mr. G. V. Weait took one of the principal parts as Mr. Blushington, the others taking part being Mr. E. H. Kelly, Mr. G. F. Irwin, Mr. A. Wilkinson and Miss M. Hayter. The Royal Berkshire Hospital will benefit considerably from the result of their endeavours.

W.D.

SHE (at athletic meeting): Well, where's your angry farmers?

HE (baffled): Why—er—er, what angry farmers?

SHE: Didn't you say we were coming to see the cross-country men?

## MR. A. DUNKINSON.

EXPERIENCES IN CANADA OF FORMER PORTSMOUTH BRANCH CLERK.

Mr. Dunkinson was for many years on the Clerical Staff at Portsmouth Branch and a year or two ago left for an outdoor life in Canada. In a letter dated 23rd January, 1927, from Rockglen, Sask., he records his recent experiences, which will possibly interest the readers of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE.

The letter reads as follows:—

“ It's a hard job, up at 5.30 a.m. and sometimes not finished till 8 p.m. We have 2,000 sheep, quite a handful to look after and feed, etc., besides six horses and a colt, a cow in the barn, pigs and chicken.

I had an experience on Sunday last that I shouldn't care to have repeated. We have another fellow here—a Cowboy—Jack by name. He went out with the sheep for grazing about a mile away at 8 a.m., a nice morning, about 20 degrees *above* zero. At ten o'clock I was at the straw stack getting a load of straw and the wind rose quickly, in about ten minutes or less it was blowing a blizzard. I could see that Jack was having difficulties with the sheep so I went out to try and help him get them home. By the time I got to him it was difficult to see more than five feet ahead; I could just see the horses' heads. We started off all right, but had only gone about a quarter-of-a-mile before we lost ourselves and the sheep too. I didn't know where I was or which way to go for home. I wandered around for ten minutes or so, hopelessly lost, but had a stroke of luck in finding Jack once more. The two of us then resumed our search for a clue to the direction of the house and after rambling around some time struck a barbed-wire fence and followed it, luckily it led to the barn, and we were home. It froze my ears and chin and I was about 'all in' by this time, but our troubles had only just begun. Rather than Bill (the Farmer for whom I'm working) should lose all his sheep we piled on all the clothes we could get on us (it was 20 degrees *below* zero now), and the three of us set out together to try and find some of them at least. To cut a long story short we found six different bunches and got them altogether in the shelter of a big hill, but it took us till 6 p.m. to do so. Jack and I then came home, leaving Bill to watch them, had some supper, loaded the rack with feed for the sheep, took spades and materials for a fire, and out we went again. We nearly got lost again going back, but did eventually arrive, to find Bill nearly frozen. We fed the sheep and Bill went home to 'thaw.' We next built a snow

house and lit our fire and prepared to stop the night. Gee-whiz! it was cold. We just sat over that fire and shivered, but only until 2.30 the next morning, when the wind died down and Bill came out again, and we put the last sheep in the shed at 4 a.m., thankful that we were all alive and able to 'down' some hot cocoa, etc. I just can't tell you what a time we had, I sure had the 'wind-up' at times. I consider I got off very lightly with only frozen ears and chin and a cold. It was a dreadful time, just hell for sixteen hours on end; it sure made us all wonder whether we should come out of it alive.

It's been very cold weather ever since; how would you like to get up at 5.30 when it's 30 degrees *below* zero? Sheep ranching might be all right in the Summer, but I believe I'd prefer sitting on a stool pushing a pen by a gas fire in Winter. We didn't lose one sheep so our labours were not in vain; some satisfaction anyhow. A fellow wears a lot of clothes in Canada in winter. I wonder what would happen if I turned up at the Office in all my war togs. My ordinary day's wear is, thick underwear, thick shirt, woollen sweater, two pairs of overalls, leather jacket, one pair of trousers, lounge coat, scarf, sheepskin coat, sheepskin hat, felt shoes and overshoes. It takes quite a time to put it all on. I'll send you a snap one day. I look at least twice as broad as I used to, but I must have about six inches thickness of clothes all round, even then on a really cold day (30 degrees below zero and a wind) one has to keep moving to keep warm.

The Reading Magazine (HOP LEAF) is very interesting—I'd like one often if there are any to spare, or I will become a regular subscriber if I may.

Best wishes for 1927 to all friends on the Firm.”

## THE LIGHTER SIDE.

Carpet is purchased by the yard and worn out by the foot.

CUSTOMER: My wife has very sore feet. What would you suggest?

ASSISTANT (politely): Well, rubber heels.

CUSTOMER: What with?

## MR. C. BENNETT.

## MORE TRIBUTES FROM WOKING.

Mr. C. Bennett, who recently left Woking to take up new duties at Reading, has received more tributes concerning the services he rendered to public bodies and private residents at Woking. Whilst congratulating him on his promotion his numerous friends at Woking evidently greatly regret losing him for business and personal reasons.

At the half-yearly meeting of the Woking Branch of the British Legion the President (Major A. C. Watkins, D.C.M.) referred at some length to the departure from Woking of Mr. C. Bennett and, on behalf of the members, thanked him for all he had done for the British Legion in Woking.

Briefly replying, Mr. Bennett made reference to the opening of the hut in 1920 and the work done since. Any help he gave was given with pleasure and he thanked them for the support given him.

Mr. A. Bennett spoke of the excellence of the building which he described as "a monument to the dead and an inspiration to the living." As an Ex-Service man he would be only too pleased to do anything he could to promote the cause.

Mr. Bennett also belonged to the Horsell Musical Society, the members of which regret his departure. Mrs. Parnell, the Hon. Secretary of the Society, in a letter to Mr. Bennett, says: "I am more sorry than I can say that we are going to lose you from the Horsell Musical Society. You have been such a keen and loyal member that we can ill afford to lose you."

## THE LIGHTER SIDE.

A well-known Scottish comedian, who had previously broadcast and who was booked for another engagement before the "mike" received a letter from a friend of his at Glasgow, which read as follows:—

"Dear Pat,

We enjoyed your recent broadcast very much especially the one joke we had not heard before and were so very pleased to hear you were appearing in the London Programme on the 18th. We shall most certainly tune in on that date to—Germany.

Yours,

SANDY MCPHERSON.

P.S.—If there is no stamp on this letter, you will know it has fallen off in the post."

## THE SOCIAL CLUB.

## PRESENTATION OF CUPS AND PRIZES.

On Friday evening, March 11th, a very interesting event was held at the Club, when a Presentation of Cups and Prizes was made.

Mr. S. V. Shea-Simonds occupied the Chair and a good muster of members was present, including Messrs. C. W. Stocker, H. F. Lindars, F. C. Hawkes, S. Bird, J. Webb, A. Grove and W. Bradford.

Mr. Shea-Simonds presented the "Directors' Challenge Cup" awarded to the Team winning the Departmental Tournaments, and this Cup was received by Mr. A. O. Taylor, who had successfully captained the Transport Workers to the top of the League.

Mr. Taylor was most enthusiastically received, and made a happy little speech on behalf of his supporters.

The team scoring the second highest number of points was that known as "The Rest," captained by Mr. S. Bird and drawn from small Departments of The Brewery.

Mr. H. F. Lindars, the donor of the Cup for the "runners-up," made the presentation and was received with acclamation.

After receiving the Cup, Mr. Bird was subjected to a considerable amount of witty criticism from the Chair, as to the exact definition of the meaning of "The Rest of The Brewery," and many suspicions were expressed as to his limitations in picking his team. Mr. Bird, however, did his best to justify himself, and the whole affair caused great amusement.

Mr. Shea-Simonds said how very pleased he was to see Mr. H. F. Lindars with them on this occasion, and reminded the members that Mr. Lindars had given the Cup to the Club to commemorate the anniversary of his 60 years' service with the Firm. The Chairman remarked that this was a wonderful record, and that, in his opinion, Mr. Lindars was becoming younger and more insubordinate every day!

The Chairman then called upon Mr. C. W. Stocker to present the prize, which he gives annually, to the winner of the Billiard Handicap of 150 up. Mr. W. H. Wild, the winner, was the recipient of a handsome clock. The fact that Mr. Wild had won the first prize was very popular and recognized as a good achievement inasmuch as the Great War has deprived him of an arm and a leg.

The second prize, awarded by the Club, went to Mr. W. Wheeler, Foreman of the Beer Cellars, and was presented by Mr. Shea-Simonds, who noted that although it was a biscuit barrel, it was, however, quite water-tight.

Both winners suitably acknowledged the receipt of the prizes.

After these presentations, a series of games and amusements took place, the most notable being the gala arranged by the members of the Building Department Team, who, sadly disappointed at not being the winners of either Silver Cup in the Departmental Tournaments, had made themselves a Cup.

Mr. Shea-Simonds, in his usual sportsmanlike manner, consented to present this "loser's cup" to the team.

Mr. H. E. Mitchell, Captain of the Building Department Team, then duly arranged his supporters in the Games Room, and Mr. Shea-Simonds was informed that all was ready for the presentation. The spectacle presented to him was most amusing: one member could be seen arrayed in a silk hat of uncertain date, another with a grotesque beard, and parsons' hats, horn-rimmed spectacles, coloured toppers, etc., etc., were used in the way of "make-up." This presentation over, various songs, dances and ditties were rendered, to say nothing of the medley of "community singing."

Needless to say the various Cups were frequently filled, when the success of the respective teams was toasted. Merriment ran high all through the evening and to such an extent that the Tournament of Games arranged to follow the presentations was overlooked. It was indeed a jolly night.

DEPARTMENTAL TOURNAMENTS.

FRIDAY, 18TH FEBRUARY, 1927. CELLARS v. TRANSPORT.

CELLARS.			TRANSPORT.		
Games.	Name.	Points.	Name.	Points.	
Billiards	G. Moss	0	W. Gilbey	1	
"	W. Curtis	1	T. Streams	0	
"	A. Croom	0	J. Champion	1	
Dominoes	W. Wheeler	1	E. Hopkins	0	
"	H. Holloway	0	J. Embling	1	
"	H. Nickless	1	C. Gunn	0	
Crib	J. Benford	0	A. Grove	1	
"	A. Simpkins	1	G. Marsh	0	
"	H. Holloway	0	W. Curran	1	
Shove Halfpenny	H. Nickless	0	D. Witts	1	
"	J. Gough	0	F. Adey	1	
"	T. Freeman	0	H. Hinxman	1	
Darts	A. Maskell	1	H. Hiscock	0	
"	J. Cannon	0	T. Tame	1	
"	J. Benford	0	F. Adey	1	
Shooting	A. Maskell	0	J. Champion	1	
"	J. Cannon	1	A. Taylor	0	
"	J. Salisbury	0	S. Whiting	1	
		6		12	

FRIDAY, 4TH MARCH, 1927. COOPERS v. OFFICES.

COOPERS.			OFFICES.		
Games.	Name.	Points.	Name.	Points.	
Billiards	R. Griffiths	1	R. Broad	0	
"	A. Weight	0	H. Davis	1	
"	C. Weller	1	A. Jacobs	0	
Dominoes	C. Latimer	1	H. Davis	0	
"	J. Morriss	0	A. G. Rider	1	
"	R. Sloper	1	F. Josey	0	
Crib	G. Kelly	1	W. Bradford	0	
"	F. Sipton	0	H. Shepherd	1	
"	E. Carpenter	0	R. Broad	1	
Shove Halfpenny	G. Kelly	1	A. Jacobs	0	
"	A. Weight	1	W. Wild	0	
"	C. Weller	1	C. Cox	0	
Darts	W. Newport	1	W. Bradford	0	
"	J. Morriss	0	W. Wild	1	
"	R. Sloper	1	F. Josey	0	
Shooting	R. Collins	1/2	H. Osborne	1/2	
"	G. Winslett	1/2	H. Shepherd	1/2	
"	F. Sipton	0	A. G. Rider	1	
		11		7	

These Tournaments for this season are now finished and the following shows the position of the respective teams:—

Number taking part.	Department.	Points.
21	Transport	53 1/2
24	The Rest	49
13	Coopers	48 1/2
18	Cellars	41 1/2
21	Building	40 1/2
16	Offices	37

BILLIARDS LEAGUE.

DIVISION I.

TUESDAY, 22ND FEBRUARY, 1927.

H. & G. SIMONDS' SOCIAL v. CURZON CLUB.

H. & G. Simonds' Social.		Curzon Club.		
A. Howard	135	v.	G. Row	150
R. Clement	131	v.	J. Smith	150
A. Dalton	147	v.	R. Davis	150
R. Broad	150	v.	R. Bedding	135
F. Braisher	78	v.	F. Perrin	150
R. Griffiths	88	v.	P. J. Rose	150
	729		885	

CURZON CLUB winning by 156 points.

MONDAY, 14TH MARCH, 1927.

H. &amp; G. SIMONDS' SOCIAL v. GLADSTONE CLUB (away).

<i>H. &amp; G. Simonds' Social.</i>		<i>Gladstone Club.</i>	
A. Howard	109	v. A. Allaway	150
R. Clement	150	v. F. Howman	93
A. Dalton	150	v. B. Franklin	90
R. Broad	133	v. R. Leaver	150
F. Braisher	150	v. A. Marshall	63
R. Griffiths	150	v. F. Parsons	79
		Handicap	50
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	842		675

H. &amp; G. SIMONDS' SOCIAL winning by 167 points.

## DIVISION II.

MONDAY, 21ST FEBRUARY, 1927.

H. &amp; G. SIMONDS' SOCIAL v. CAVERSHAM CONSTITUTIONAL (away).

<i>H. &amp; G. Simonds' Social.</i>		<i>Caversham Constitutional.</i>	
H. Davis	80	v. E. Hall	100
A. Jacobs	83	v. W. Fenton	100
C. Weller	63	v. J. Carr	100
G. Benford	100	v. R. Draper	95
E. Palmer	96	v. T. Hinton	100
A. Weight	91	v. S. Crane	100
Handicap	75		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	588		595

CAVERSHAM CONSTITUTIONAL winning by 7 points.

MONDAY, 28TH FEBRUARY, 1927.

H. &amp; G. SIMONDS' SOCIAL v. CENTRAL LIBERAL.

<i>H. &amp; G. Simonds' Social.</i>		<i>Central Liberal.</i>	
H. Davis	55	v. P. Bright	100
A. Jacobs	82	v. E. Taylor	100
C. Weller	77	v. R. Booth	100
G. Benford	100	v. S. Dowse	99
E. Palmer	100	v. W. Theobald	65
A. Weight	85	v. C. Caws	100
Handicap	170	Scratch	—
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	669		564

H. &amp; G. SIMONDS' SOCIAL winning by 105 points.

MONDAY, 7TH MARCH, 1927.

H. &amp; G. SIMONDS' SOCIAL v. WEST READING LIBERAL (away).

<i>H. &amp; G. Simonds' Social.</i>		<i>West Reading Liberal.</i>	
H. Davis	100	v. J. Bedwell	70
A. Jacobs	100	v. J. Evans	63
G. Benford	100	v. G. Taylor	60
C. Weller	66	v. J. Brooks	100
E. Palmer	52	v. C. Webb	100
A. Weight	100	v. H. Butler	89
Handicap	20		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	538		482

H. &amp; G. SIMONDS' SOCIAL winning by 56 points.

MONDAY, 14TH MARCH, 1927.

H. &amp; G. SIMONDS' SOCIAL v. WEST READING LIBERAL (home).

<i>H. &amp; G. Simonds' Social.</i>		<i>West Reading Liberal.</i>	
H. Davis	99	v. J. Bedwell	100
A. Jacobs	100	v. J. Evans	44
G. Benford	100	v. G. Taylor	88
C. Weller	86	v. J. Brooks	100
E. Palmer	100	v. C. Webb	95
W. Weight	95	v. H. Butler	100
Handicap	20		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	600		527

H. &amp; G. SIMONDS' SOCIAL winning by 73 points.

## BRADFIELD COMRADES' CLUB.

On Saturday, March 12th, we had the pleasure of a visit from the Bradfield Comrades' Club, and a series of games was played. A most enjoyable evening was spent and our members are looking forward to the return match at Bradfield in the near future.

## RETAILERS' SOCIETY.

The return match with the H. & G. Simonds Ltd. Retailers' Society was held on Thursday, March 24th, when another pleasant evening was provided. This is an event always keenly anticipated by both parties and plenty of fun is in evidence. Mr. S. V. Shea-Simonds honoured the company with his presence, and, although unable to stay very long, participated in the games. The Social Club members were the victors by 6 points.

At the conclusion, Mr. J. T. Adams, the Hon. Secretary of the Retailers' Society, proposed a vote of thanks to the members of the Social Club for the very enjoyable evening and expressed the hope that other similar events would be arranged.

Mr. A. Froome seconded the proposition and spoke of the good feeling which existed between the Firm and their Society.

Mr. W. Bradford replied on behalf of the Social Club and said the Retailers' Society had his sincere sympathy; much had been heard about the great defeat that awaited the Social Club, but despite the fact that they (the Retailers) had scoured the district for help, not only amongst their own members but outside also, the Social Club had inflicted a defeat upon them which would take a considerable time to forget. However, he hoped that similar Tournaments would be arranged for the next season.

The singing of the "Froth Blowers' Anthem," "Auld Lang Syne" and the National Anthem brought a very happy evening to a close.

### RETAILERS' SOCIETY.

#### DANCE AND GAMES TOURNAMENT.

The good feeling which exists between the members of Messrs. H. & G. Simonds Ltd. Retailers' Society was amply demonstrated at the Olympia, Reading, on February 24th, when, under the Society's auspices, a further successful dance was held.

There was a large gathering present, and the excellent selection of music rendered by Mr. Alf. Baker's popular orchestra considerably enhanced the enjoyment of the proceedings.

There were numerous competitions organized, such as lucky balloons, lucky spot dances, lucky tickets, and lucky chairs, for which valuable prizes were awarded. This undoubtedly lent added interest to the function, besides assisting in creating a spirit of merriment, which was uppermost throughout the evening.

Messrs. G. and F. Smith successfully carried out the duties of M.C., and much credit is due to them.

The prizes were graciously distributed by Mrs. H. Smart of "The London Tavern," Broad Street, Reading.

Messrs. Achille Serre, Ltd., exhibited the prizes prior to the event.

On Thursday, March 24th, the Committee were again very active in organising a Tournament of Games with Messrs. H. & G. Simonds Ltd.'s Social Club, which was referred to in the last issue of this journal.

A very enjoyable evening was spent, and, after a terribly hard struggle, we were defeated by 24 points to 18.

The popularity enjoyed by Tournaments organised by this Club is undoubtedly due to the fact that so much attention is paid to every detail by Mr. W. Bradford, the energetic Hon. Secretary.

The rendering of "The Froth Blowers' Anthem" and the National Anthem at the conclusion was very effective and quite a feature of the evening.

### "GENTLEMEN, RAISE YOUR GLASSES."

#### ORIGIN OF THE CUSTOM.

The custom of touching glasses before drinking had its origin in the same idea of safety which led men to shake hands with the right hands—as an assurance that they were concealing no weapons—and to raise the helmet to women or others whom they respected.

In the days when duelling was at its height it was customary for the combatants to pause for a moment before taking their positions and drink a glass of wine supplied by the seconds. In order to make certain that this wine had not been tampered with, one glass was filled to the brim and then half of its contents was emptied into the glass of the adversary, so that if any attempt had been made to poison the wine of the duellists, each of them would be equally affected.

The practice, reminiscent of the days of the Borgias, passed out with the custom of the duel, but the habit of touching glasses, or holding them up as if preparatory to touching them, remained as a silent reminder of the time when no man dared trust anyone, but went always armed and prepared for trouble.—*The Licensing World*.

### IN PRAISE OF BEER.

#### BETTER THAN ANY VEGETABLE INFUSION.

The following interesting article is by Eve, the lady correspondent of *The Isis* :—

Strict sobriety is the one virtue to which the women students of Oxford can lay sole claim. The drunken undergraduette is never found in garden street or college quad, trailing her degraded gown through the mire. In consequence she is apt to look with a slightly superior eye on the potations of her brother student. Intoxication is a peccadillo due to an unhappily flippant view of life, and will be grown out of when these foolish boys come to a proper sense of their responsibilities. A slightly priggish attitude, perhaps? No, only one which is held by every really nice woman. One's own brother, of course, never gets drunk.

#### WHAT REVOLTS US.

But it is a question whether it is the excessive self-indulgence or the perversion of mental balance which makes drunkenness abhorred. In overeating it is not the congested feeling, the urgent desire for sleep, that revolts us; it is the fact that we have wasted

good victuals on an interior already replete, and for no other reason than that these victuals happened to be, as the negro said of the lizard, "sweet past all." In the same way it may be supposed that intoxication is unpleasing to our moral sense only because it implies that good liquor has been drunk after the drinker was no longer in a fit state to appreciate it properly. Therefore this pride in our sobriety is not really justified: for if the men have "blinds," the women have cocoa parties. Nightly, in the women's colleges, occur disgusting orgies with a saucepan, sugar and the products of Bourneville. And over-indulgence in cocoa has such disastrous results! It produces an unhappily bloated sensation inside, a congested look on the face and a slightly acidulated mentality, owing to excessive physical discomfort. Whereas beer, though it may have an unusual effect upon the legs of the too-willing toper, produces a generous and bold outlook on life, a feeling that the drinker walks a very king upon the earth. Surely, then, beer is a far, far better drink than any vegetable infusion? Would that beer were still regarded as a polite beverage for gentlewomen! Happy the generations who knew the women it nourished. The Wife of Bath, Mistress Quickly, Nell Gwynne, Mrs. Jordan—beer drinkers all, and all women of a large kindliness of heart, a broad humour and a tolerance rarely or never found since the reign of Victoria the Great and Good and the ensuing decline of ale.

#### THE MOST NOBLE DRINK.

Bishops have waxed lyrical over this most noble drink. The beer that builds bonny Britons, and has made us what we are; but who could lift up the voice in praise of such a comfortless liquid as cocoa?

It is good sometimes to feel oneself great and powerful and a person of worth, and since we women also indulge in our cups, and therefore should not lay claim to sobriety, let us with one accord lift up our voices and cry that slogan old in story . . .

GIVE ME MY B\*\*\*

#### READING LICENSING SESSIONS.

##### THE TRADE COMPLIMENTED.

The Reading Licensing Sessions were held recently, and the Chief Constable, in the course of his report, stated: No proceedings were taken against any licensee during the year. Forty-nine persons were proceeded against for drunkenness, an increase of one compared with 1925. Of the 49 persons proceeded against, 29 were non-residents, and the figures are again extremely creditable to the residents and the trade.

#### A WARNING.

Part IV. of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, in relation to public music and dancing, is now in operation within the borough, and 64 licences have already been granted to various persons for the purpose of allowing premises to be so used. In many cases licences have been applied for and granted to persons who desire to hold them as a precautionary measure, but in others regularly organised concerts are held in rooms on the licensed premises. To the holders of the licences of the latter premises I desire to utter a word of warning, for, although the Act has only been in operation a short time, it is noticed that, in the houses where these concerts take place, young females constitute a large proportion of the customers. This, to my mind, is not desirable and the conduct of any licensee who habitually encourages this class of trade will certainly be brought to your notice. The premises used for dancing have been regularly visited by the police and it is satisfactory to report that no infringement of the rules has been observed.

The comparative table of drunkenness of 30 large towns showed that Reading was seventh in the list for soberness.

The Chairman (Mr. F. A. Sarjeant) congratulated the Chief Constable on the report, and also the licence holders on the fact that no proceedings had been taken against any of them. In a town of the size of Reading that showed the licence holders were carrying out their duty. The drunkenness too was very low, for although Reading had dropped from sixth to seventh, this was not in consequence of Reading people being concerned. Last year of the 48 brought before them, 23 were strangers to Reading, and this year there were 29 strangers out of 49.

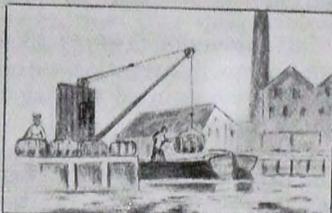
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There was an old skinflint of York,  
Who ate all his beer with a fork,  
As it went down too fast,  
He now makes the stuff last,  
By inhaling the fumes through the cork.

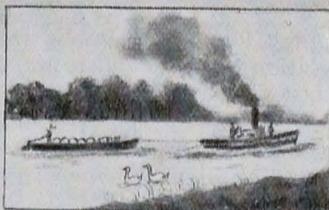
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If you wish your children to think deep thoughts, to know the holiest emotions, take them to the woods and hills, and give them the freedom of the meadows; the hills purify those who walk upon them.—*Richard Jefferies.*

## OUR EXPORT TRADE.



LOADING AT BREWERY.



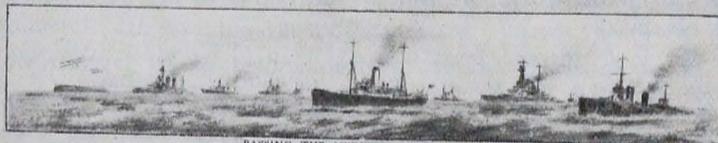
PROCEEDING via KENNET AND THAMES TO



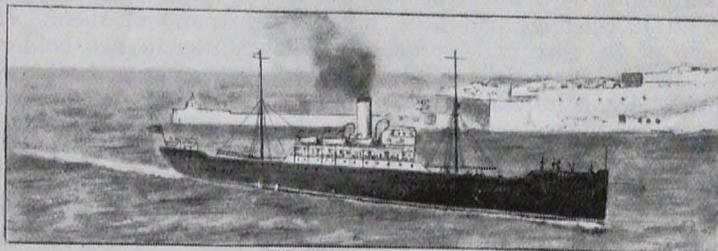
LONDON DOCKS.



AT GIBRALTAR.



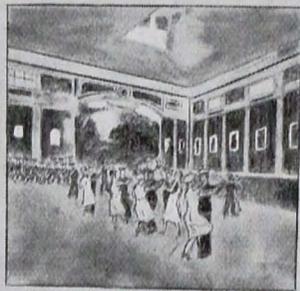
PASSING THE MEDITERRANEAN FLEET.



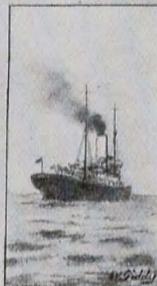
THE GRAND HARBOUR, MALTA.



THE EMPIRE HOTEL IS ONE OF MANY SUPPLIED WITH OUR BEERS.



AND, AS SAILORS KNOW SIMONDS' BELL THE BEST THE STOCK IS SOON CLEARED.



AND THE STEAMER SAILS FOR FURTHER SUPPLIES.

## BRANCHES.

## WOOLWICH STORES.

To our way of thinking the March issue of THE GAZETTE equalled all others, the "write ups" by C.E.G., C.G.A. and F.L.S. were especially appreciated. No doubt many will take the advice of the first two gentlemen and spend their vacations in the way suggested.

Regarding F.L.S.'s remarks, these gave us young 'uns a topping insight into the pre-war manœuvres and, although there was plenty of hard work to do, some of the remarks give us the impression that there must also have been a certain amount of pleasure in hard work. The Manœuvre and Canvas experience is very essential to one's training, and we young members here are hoping one day that we shall be given an opportunity of at least helping in this interesting work. Our Mr. Bowyer is an able tutor, and often tells us of his camp experiences.

As a diversion we would like to impart a little of the war history of this Branch.

The present Office, a view of which is published herein, was rebuilt in 1921, the old premises being demolished on 16th February, 1918, by a bomb from a German aeroplane during an air raid.

We were much more fortunate than the two adjoining shops, as these were completely destroyed, and three persons lost their lives, although Mr. H. H. Fish had a very narrow escape, he and his family leaving the office for the beer cellars, a little way away, ten minutes before the occurrence.

During this raid considerable damage was done to the Garrison Church, and to-day the marks caused by the shrapnel are still visible, especially on the marble pillars at the entrance to the Church.

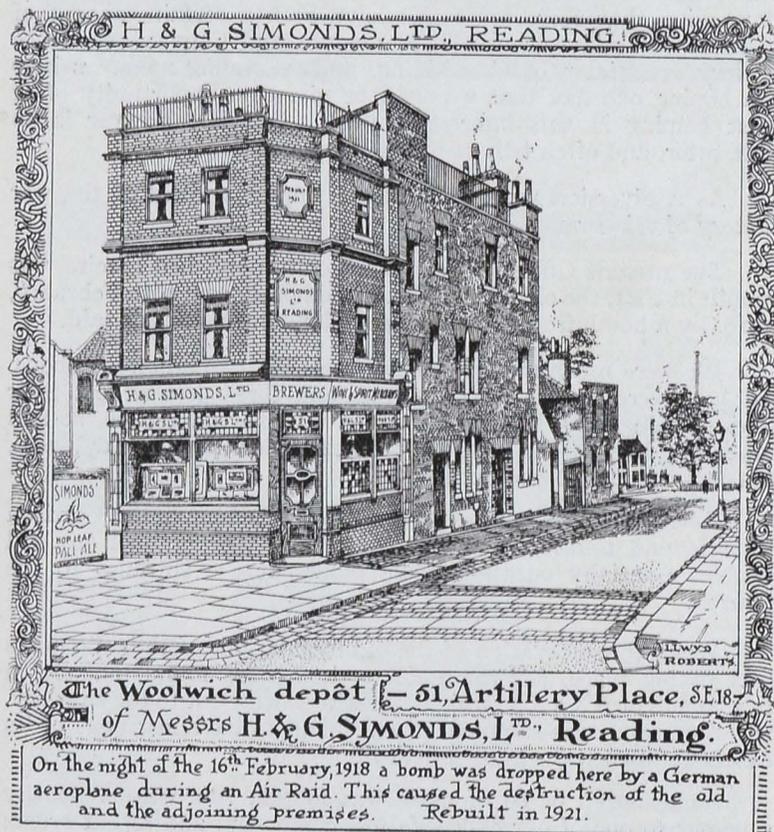
When the excavation of the old foundations of these premises was taking place, several useful articles were found, namely, a few bottles of XXXXX, which were afterwards sent to the Brewery, as, when same was sampled, it was found to have lost none of its excellent qualities, rather it had improved.

Some dozen or so of cider was found; this was eventually sent out to one of our Officers' Mess customers, and repeat orders for this cider were soon forthcoming, so it would appear that this also had improved.

The most remarkable thing found was a policeman's truncheon ; we leave our readers to form their own conclusions on this subject. Of course policemen were very necessary on these occasions.

Our Traveller, Captain S. G. Fletcher, late R.A., was present at the Seventh Annual Dinner of the 52nd Kent Medium Brigade, R.A., Erith, he having the honour of proposing "The Brigade," to which the Brigade Commander, Lieut.-Colonel W. C. Hale, O.B.E., M.C., responded.

Captain Fletcher reports a very successful evening.



#### HYPHE BREWERY EMPLOYEES' ANNUAL DINNER.

The Annual Staff Dinner of the employees of Messrs. Mackeson & Co., Ltd., was held at the Town Hall on Wednesday, February 23rd, when a gathering numbering about seventy sat down to enjoy an extremely happy occasion. It is a pleasing portent in these days when employers and employees assemble together when the calls of duty do not actually insist upon it, and there is no doubt that The Brewery Annual Dinner furnishes an admirable instance of how real camaraderie can exist between the various departments of an institution or firm.

Mr. W. H. Vicary presided, and those supporting him included Mr. S. V. Shea-Simonds, Mr. J. C. Mullin, Mr. A. P. F. Chapman, Mr. H. Cole, Police-Sergeants E. Burren and H. Smith, Mr. A. J. Beattie and Mr. A. Chipperfield.

The meal was prepared and served by Mr. J. E. Summerfield of the "White Hart" Hotel, with all taste, and to the satisfaction of everyone present. Dinner was a complete success throughout.

At the conclusion of the meal the Chairman stated that Mr. G. L. Mackeson had that morning sent Mr. Chapman a wire from Monte Carlo, which read: "Greetings and happy evening to all. Please arrange Port for assembly. Sing Froth Blowers' Anthem and get at the Beer." (Applause.) Mr. Mackeson's health was drunk with enthusiasm. The Loyal Toast, "The King," was honoured with all sincerity.

The Chairman proposed the toast of "The Guests," and expressed the regret of everyone there that Mr. Eric Simonds was not able to be present, but it had given them the opportunity of becoming better acquainted with Mr. S. V. Shea-Simonds. The speaker proceeded that the guests comprised various people that night. They had Mr. Chapman, who they all knew and were beginning to love ; the Secretary they had known for a good many years, and realized his sterling worth more year after year ; and they also had Mr. Mullin, their new Brewer. He thought he was voicing the opinion of all in saying that the last-named change had done them all good (applause), and they hoped that Mr. Mullin's first birthday with them would be followed by his coming of age. (Applause.) He did not think that any firm in Great Britain came together more than the Hythe Brewery, and if all other firms did that there would not be so much industrial trouble in the country to-day. No firm improved more than they did. Speaking of consumption, they had two members of the police force with them that night, and if there were better consumers than they

he did not know of them. (Laughter.) A very great benefit was engendered by such gatherings as those. In putting the toast, the Chairman coupled with it the name of Mr. Shea-Simonds. (Applause).

The toast was accorded musical honours.

In responding, Mr. Shea-Simonds said he came there almost as a stranger and he wished he could have been there on many more occasions. (Hear, hear.) He would like to say, however, that he knew a good deal more about the Firm than might possibly appear. He (the speaker) was the spy who came down years ago looking round all the Pubs disguised as an Insurance Agent (laughter) with a view to the possibility of buying The Brewery. Ever since they had decided to do so he believed that the Firm of Messrs. Mackeson had continued to prosper, and that was due to the loyalty of the Staff. He would like to take that opportunity of paying a tribute to Mr. Cole for his conscientious and loyal work. He was very glad to hear the reference made by the Chairman to Mr. Mullin; from their experience at Reading of Mr. Mullin they had been absolutely confident that his appointment to Hythe would be thoroughly justified. He was well known to them as an energetic man, who had his heart in his profession, and an all-round good sportsman; he was sure to be popular anywhere. (Applause.) He thanked them all very much; he had never seen a more loyal and cheerful collection of fellows, and they could take it from him that Messrs. Mackeson with their old traditions and Messrs. H. & G. Simonds Ltd. with their old traditions were very much together. (Applause.)

The "Froth Blowers' Anthem" was sung, and Mr. Simonds then stated that he had received a message from Major Johnson, who regretted that he was unable to be present that night, but he would be with them in spirit.

Mr. A. P. F. Chapman then presented a cricket bat to Mr. S. Middleton, the Brewery Cricket Club's most successful batsman during the past season.

Mr. A. J. Beattie proposed the toast of "The Chairman," and said that he was the right man in the right place. (Applause.) The toast was enthusiastically honoured, and the Chairman suitably responded.

Police-Sergeant H. Smith, in presenting a framed photograph of the Elham Police and Brewery Cricket Elevens to Mr. Chapman, said it gave him great pleasure to stand there that night on behalf

of both Clubs and to ask Mr. Chapman to accept the photograph as a small token of their appreciation. Words from him could not express the pleasure they received when the yearly match represented by that photograph was played, and the pleasure it was to have Mr. Chapman with them. Not only was the match the attraction of the year for the two teams, but he thought he could safely say that it was a great attraction for the public, considering the crowd they had at the last match. Of course, it was not the first-class cricket on their part they came to see, but to see Mr. Chapman give the Police some leather-hunting. He (the speaker) asked Mr. Chapman to accept the photograph and hoped they would continue to have the pleasure of his presence in Hythe, and that when he looked at the photograph he would know that of all the cricket in Hythe none gave so much pleasure as the match between The Brewery Eleven and the Police when Mr. Chapman was there. (Applause.)

Accepting the photograph, Mr. Chapman expressed his appreciation in suitable terms.

Other toasts, interspersed by some capital musical items, followed, and a very successful and enjoyable evening concluded with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne," and the National Anthem.

#### LUDGERSHALL.

Sorry, Mr. Editor, we have very little of importance to report to you this month.

The R.A. Bulford Harriers held their Point-to-Point Meeting on Wednesday, March 9th, at Shipton Bellinger. The weather was ideal, and the racing excellent. In fact it was a most enjoyable meeting.

The Final of the Cavalry Cup was played at Tidworth on March 11th, the 7th Hussars defeating the 11th Hussars by 2 goals to 1. The 7th Hussars are stationed at Tidworth, and we understand this is the first occasion they have won the Cup.

We offer them our congratulations.

## BRIGHTON.

By the time this number is published, we hope to have had the honour of a visit to Brighton by H.R.H. The Prince of Wales, who is coming primarily to open The Brighton Boys' Club, in which he is greatly interested. This Club, which is being fitted up on the most up-to-date lines, has created quite a strong local interest, and the Brighton Police have undertaken the fitting out of the gymnasium.

The object of the Club is to train both the bodies and minds of lads who have poor homes, and to endeavour to bring them up as good citizens.

The Prince will also visit the Royal Sussex County Hospital, which is this year celebrating its centenary, and also the Brighton and Hove British Legion Clubs.



West Tarring Working Men's Club War Memorial.

The members of the Sergeants' Mess of the 8th Field Brigade, R.A., having made many friends in Brighton, have instituted monthly Whist Drives and Dances at Preston Barracks, to which they very kindly extend a welcome to members of our Staff.

For the second year in succession, the Whist Team at the "Ferry Arms," Shoreham-by-Sea, has won the local Cup for Whist.

The Brighton Oddfellows' Club held their second Annual Dinner at their headquarters in Queen's Road, on Friday, the 11th March. The Chair was occupied by the Club's Chairman, Bro. L. Kemp, and 66 members and friends, including three of our Office Staff, sat down to an excellent repast. Speeches and an exceedingly good musical programme passed away an enjoyable evening. Our Mr. W. H. Cotton is Hon. Secretary of the Club.

Many years ago, in two small rooms, the West Tarring Working Men's Club opened, and, by steady progression, with a succession of good Committee-men, a very much alive President and Secretary, and a genial Steward, it is to-day perhaps as flourishing a Club as any in the South of England. It has extended its boundaries from time to time, and now has most commodious premises, including an airy billiard room with two full-sized tables and plenty of surrounding space. It was in this room that recently the Mayor of Worthing honoured the Club with a visit to unveil their War Memorial. This is an elegant tablet affixed to the wall, on which are inscribed the names of the Club members who gave their lives for King and Country during the Great War.

## OXFORD.

March this year came in "like a lion," so we venture to hope that it will go "out like a lamb," to use an old saw.

Some fine weather is about due, we have had little so far in our corner of the Thames Valley.

We have to congratulate our Chief, Mr. H. J. Timms, on his election to the membership of the Oxford University Musical Club and Union. For anyone not connected with the University to be thus elected is a great honour, and puts the hall-mark upon Mr. Timms' ability as a musician. The Oxford University Musical Union has upon its books the name of some of the greatest British musicians.

We welcome Mr. J. V. Hasker on his appointment to our clerical staff, and feel sure (to use a hackneyed phrase) that Woking's loss will be our gain.

We are reluctant indeed to announce that we shall shortly be losing the services of Miss D. G. Morris, occasioned by her approaching marriage. Miss Morris has been a member of our clerical staff since the early days of the late war, and will be greatly

missed. As we are afraid that she will not take Mr. Punch's advice, we can do no less than wish her every happiness in the future; hoping to be remembered when the cake is cut.

We are sorry to hear that Farnborough Branch Staff has been badly hit by the 'Flu epidemic. We hope that they are all now convalescent and able to sit up and take their 11 o'clock doses. They should be safe enough with the "doctor" in attendance.

#### THAME.

The past month has been a somewhat busy one in the shape of amusements, dances and concerts forming the chief items.

On March 3rd the Annual South Oxon Hunt Point-to-Point Steeplechase took place at Poppets Hill and a large crowd was present. Most of the races produced exciting finishes. The Prince of Wales was present and rode in the Welsh Guards race, in which he was a good second. The tenting arrangements were in the hands of Messrs. H. & G. Simonds, Ltd., and were very capably carried out. We at the "Birdcage" had the pleasure of managing the public refreshment tent and had a very busy time. We were pleased to receive a visit from Mr. H. J. Timms, the Oxford Branch Manager, during the day.

The annual meeting of the War Memorial Club was held last week and was well attended. It was announced that the Club was in a flourishing state and had a good membership.

The annual meeting of the Sports Club was held at Stiles' Café on March 9th and was well attended. After some discussion, a resolution was passed authorising the establishment of a bar on the Club premises, for the use of members and visiting teams.

It may be of interest to the readers of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE to know that the original flag which floated over the famous Cloth Hall at Ypres during the bombardment was in Mr. Gaunt's possession for some considerable time. It was captured by a brother of Mr. E. Jones, of the well-known outfitting business of F. H. Hawkins & Co., of Thame, and measured 20 feet by 18 feet, and carried the well-known Belgian tri-colour of red, yellow and black. Its texture was a mixture of silk and wool and was in perfect condition. Mr. Gaunt wrote to the Burgomaster of Ypres asking if they would care to have the flag returned, and he replied that they would be gratefully pleased to receive it. Mr. Gaunt duly

despatched it and has since received the following letter of acknowledgment:—

"Ypres, Feb. 5th, 1927.

Dear Sir,

I have the honour to let you know I duly received your letter of January, 1927, and also the Belgian Flag which floated from the Cloth Hall at the time of its bombardment and was secured by Lieutenant Willis Jones. My most cordial thanks to you and the brother of the killed Lieutenant, Mr. E. Jones. The flag will be kept in custody as a precious 'Souvenir' of the sorrowful days which our martyred town has suffered. My best thanks, too, for your wishes for Ypres' future and I beg you to transmit my greetings to the Chairman in Thame.

Kindest greeting from The Burgomaster.

To Mr. S. H. Gaunt,  
'Ye-Olde Birdcage,'  
Thame, Oxon,  
England."

#### WOKING.

Wednesday, February 23rd, is a date that will live in the memory of the staff at Woking Branch.

At the invitation of Mr. C. Bennett, 31 persons, including nearly all the staff, sat down to a substantial repast at the "Rendezvous," Woking. In our notes last month we referred to the transfer of Mr. C. Bennett to Reading and the appointment of his brother, Mr. A. Bennett, to Woking, and it was to enable us to formally say good-bye to the former, and welcome the latter, that this happy gathering took place.

In wishing Mr. C. Bennett every success in his new undertaking, Mr. F. J. Garside touched upon his career with the Firm (going back some 32 years to the time when they were boys together at Farnborough Branch), and the subsequent promotions that had led to his present responsible position at Headquarters. Mr. J. Holloway also spoke of his length of service under Mr. C. Bennett, and was pleased to say that they had always worked together in perfect harmony.

Mr. Bennett was then presented with a handsome clock, suitably inscribed, as a token of esteem from the Woking Staff.

In replying, Mr. C. Bennett treated at length his association with the Firm, and said it would always be with a feeling of affection that he would remember Woking Branch. He was deeply touched by the expressions of regret at his departure, and of good wishes for the future, both for Mrs. Bennett and himself. He referred to the Firm as a "family firm," and was gratified to know that it was recognised at H.Q. that this tradition was upheld at Woking.

Mr. F. J. Garside then extended a hearty welcome to Mr. A. Bennett on behalf of the whole staff, and was sure that he could rely upon the whole-hearted support of them all.

Mr. A. Bennett suitably responded, and said that on leaving Portsmouth he did not expect to find a staff on such good relations with each other as he had experienced there, but he was happy to observe that the same conditions existed at Woking, and it would always be his endeavour to promote good feeling amongst his staff. He said he was particularly pleased to find that evening several members of the staff with whom he had co-operated when he was formerly attached to the Woking Branch, and which he left over 21 years ago to take up his duties at the Farnborough Depot, subsequently being transferred to Portsmouth. He also said that if for the first year he was compelled to make larger demands upon them, consequent upon the changes, he was sure that it would meet with a whole-hearted response from everyone, whatever his position at the Branch.

Mr. A. Bennett gave an interesting review of the Firm's activities at Naval Ports, mentioning Portsmouth, Devonport, Chatham, and Portland, among several others, and also touched upon our large associations with ships from the Mediterranean, African and Chinese Stations.

We have to record another change in the staff at Woking, this time affecting Mr. J. V. Hasker, who has been transferred to Oxford Branch. He takes with him the very best wishes for his future success and welfare from all associated with the "Hop Leaf" at Woking. We shall always treasure a very warm corner in our hearts for Mr. Hasker, because of the excellent and painstaking work which he has performed at this Branch.

The Bennett Brothers ("Father" and "Son") acknowledge with sincere thanks the kind congratulations received from Farnborough Branch through the March GAZETTE. They will always remember with gratitude the thorough training and good ground-work received at that Branch, which has always stood them in good stead in their subsequent diversified experiences. They send warmest greetings and best regards to their colleagues at that Branch.

#### GUILDFORD AND DISTRICT CLUBS GAMES LEAGUE.

The presentation of trophies in connection with the above took place at Woodbridge Hill Club, Guildford, on Friday, March 18th. There was a goodly attendance of members from various Clubs in the town. Mr. George Reading, President of the Guildford Trades and Labour Social Club, occupied the Chair. He said he regretted that the entries to the League had not been up to expectations this season and earnestly appealed for wider support next time. He said that engaging in such tournaments was all to the good and produced much fun and enjoyment, and tended to create a better understanding between the Clubs as well as between individuals. He congratulated Woodbridge Hill on having won the Shield, and promised that Club a good run next winter if they wished to retain it. He also thanked the members of his own Club (Guildford Trades) for their support, and said they appreciated the honour of taking home the Cup as "runners-up." He then called on Mr. C. Bennett to carry out the presentation of the Shield and Cup. Mr. Bennett warmly thanked the members of the League for the honour they had conferred on him in asking him to be present and for the opportunity thus afforded him to renew his acquaintance with his many friends in Guildford and District. He said the dominant thought that evening was that of prizes, but he ventured to say that that word involved a much more important word, viz., "contest." He said that contest had been and remained one of the prime factors in human development, and, although in the past it had been accompanied by a certain amount of bad feeling, we had now added good faith, good temper and goodwill, in fact, a spirit of sportsmanship. He associated himself with the congratulations extended to Woodbridge Hill Club, also to the Guildford Trades Club, and hoped that next season would see many entries from Clubs in the district, with keen contests and much enjoyment to all who participated. Mr. A. Chandler replied on behalf of the Woodbridge Club, and Mr. Jack Towers suitably acknowledged the proceedings on behalf of the Guildford Trades Club. Mr. A. Bennett was invited to address the gathering, and thanked the company for his welcome to the district and assured the members he would endeavour to maintain the traditions set up, and that the League contests would receive his interest and support on all occasions. Mr. C. Bennett was thanked for his services, and suitably replied, and Mr. George Reading was accorded thanks and musical honours for presiding.

## SWANSEA.

The long anticipated match between Reading and Swansea in the English Cup Competition ended disastrously for the "Swans." The result of the draw was very encouraging from our standpoint, and we fully expected to reach the Semi-final again this year, but we had a great surprise when Reading came down and not only won, but won handsomely. Unfortunately, the weather was very unkind to both teams, the field being in a deplorable condition, which made football very hard and trying to the players, but, nevertheless, we were treated to a splendid exhibition, fought out in the best of spirit, and, although naturally disappointed at the result, heartily congratulate Reading on their splendid achievement.

Reading's display under the bad conditions was great and the score was a very just award to a fine team.

We regret to announce the death of Mrs. Jackett, which took place last month at the ripe age of 75.

Mrs. Jackett is the mother of our present tenant at the "Gwindy Inn," Pentrechwyth, and has been connected with this house for over 27 years.

We are very glad to say that trade in general is rapidly improving, and that ere long we hope to see business back to normal.

## GIBRALTAR.

With the annual advent of the visit of the Atlantic Fleet to Gibraltar has this year been added that of a visit of the Mediterranean Fleet, so for the time being we have come into our own, for it has been many years since the combined Fleets have thought fit to honour us with their presence. For the past twelve months the Naval Harbour has certainly looked a forlorn and neglected one, as, but for the very infrequent passing of a Service ship, staying possibly a day or so, it has been practically empty. But a very different spectacle greets us now, for, at the time of writing, there are over 80 ships in harbour and more expected shortly. At night time this seems to strike one more forcibly, the Harbour assumes a massed glare on the lighting up of the ships and is a very pretty sight from shore, but especially prominent, and more easily picked out, are the Flag Ships of the two Fleets, these being one blaze of light. This is quite understandable, for

it is on these two ships that the brunt of the entertaining takes place, so much so that almost nightly there is "something doing" of a social nature, for most officers and men on board have a few friends ashore, who still have a craving for visiting the present-day bulwarks of the British Empire.

All the big ships have been berthed alongside the South and Detached Moles, the Light Cruisers buoyed in the centre of the Harbour, and the Destroyers and smaller craft crammed into the pockets at the North Mole and other spare places, full to completion. The Submarines are lying alongside their parent ship and appear very miniature against the great war vessels in the near vicinity.

Then, again, the continuous blowing of bugles and the sounds of the numerous bands playing take one's mind back to the days when the might of Great Britain had to be felt in all quarters of the Globe, and bucks us up with the feeling that we are still far from being a down-and-out nation. A visit to one of the big ships enhances the fact more forcibly, because the "close up" is the only remaining factor to further instil into our already proud breasts, those stronger ties which might possibly become stagnant through lack of personal and frequent contact with these "hall marks" of safety.

From a citizen's point of view these visits of the Fleet are impatiently looked forward to, and not from a social side, but from the fact that most of the business houses are affected in some iota and business generally puts on its "Sunday clothes" to brace itself against the dull days likely to follow for the rest of the year.

Even the streets of the town seem also to put on holiday attire for when "Jack" is ashore the hand of fellowship is held out to him for the "sport" he is, and the community, generally speaking, is more than pleased to receive a welcome visitor.

Apart from the added sporting events that he brings with him, such as races, regattas, boxing tournaments, football and other matches, socials and dances, he is a doubly welcomed guest, for the town usually wakes up from its long sleep to do their best for the boys from the Old Country and incidentally themselves.

Whilst the ships are in port the streets and narrow confines of the town assume a very animated spectacle, but especially so at night time and the week-ends, when it would be a practical impossibility to enter a café or "pub" to obtain a draught of the ever-refreshing "Hop Leaf," which appears, as usual, to be the general favourite beverage with the "Boys in Blue." Also the local headquarters of the same brew seem to be the special

rendezvous of members of the Fleets, and especially those that have passed initiation in the A.O.F.B., where they know that their immediate wants will be attended to.

Since our last "write-up" the 2nd Battalion East Surrey Regiment have arrived at this Station, and we hope their stay here will be a happy one.

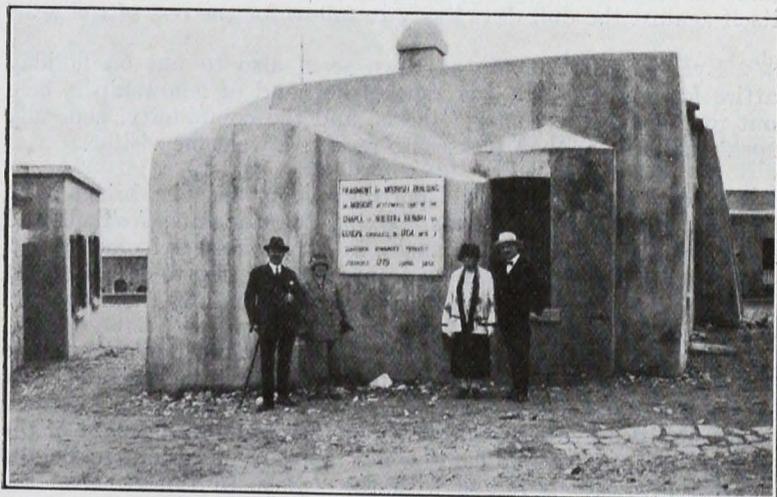
It is with regret we have to report the death of Sergeant Cager of this Battalion on March 9th. We sincerely sympathize with the Regiment on this sad event.

During the latter part of January we had the pleasure of a visit from Mr. C. E. Gough, who, although unfortunately not able to make a stay of long duration, made the utmost of the time at his disposal. We hope he had a pleasant visit and that we shall have the pleasure of seeing him out here again next year.

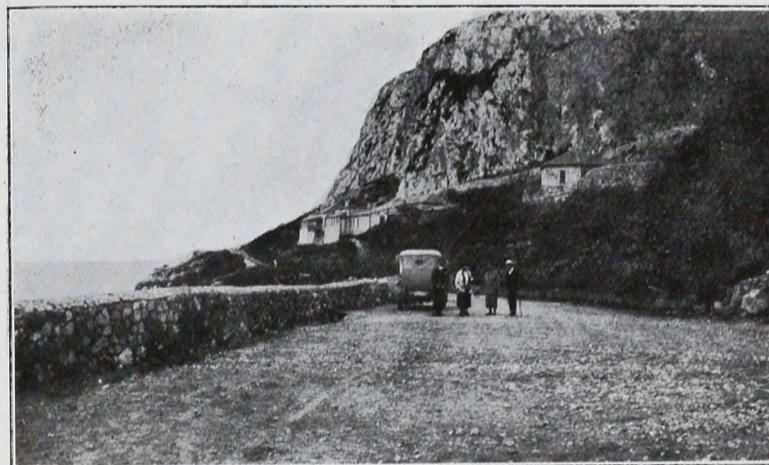
In submitting these few notes for this month's insertion, it was thought better to postpone the historical "write-ups" promised in the March issue. But with the Editor's approval they will be continued in the future.

#### MR. C. E. GOUGH'S VISIT TO GIBRALTAR.

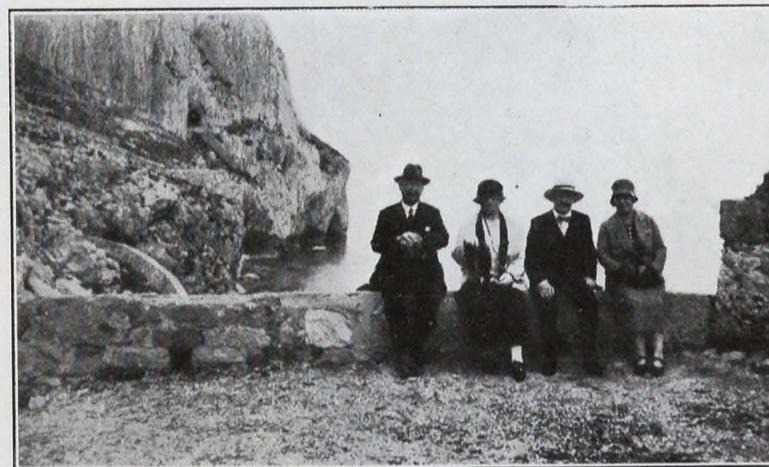
#### INTERESTING PHOTOGRAPHS.



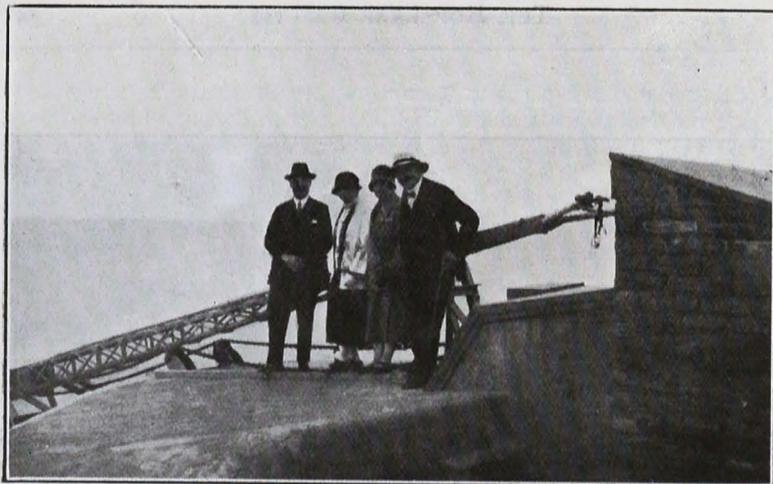
Moorish Mosque, Europa. ☞ Dates probably from about 1200 A.D.



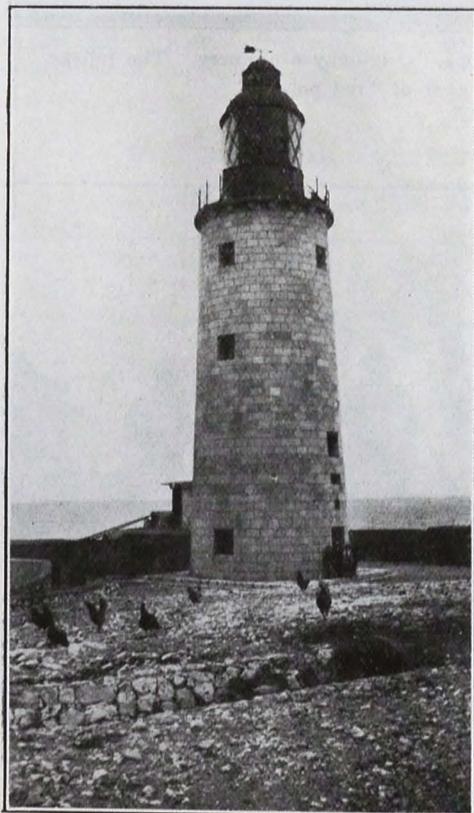
Governor's Cottage, Europa. Originally a nunnery. The foliage seen is that of "red pokers."



Old Europa Advance Battery, showing smugglers' caves at sea level.



Fog-signalling Apparatus, Europa Lighthouse. Actually the most south-easterly point of Europa.



Europa Lighthouse.  
The most south-easterly  
point of Europa.



East side of Gibraltar, showing the old  
smugglers' caves.

#### MALTA.

#### CORDIAL RECEPTION OF MR. F. A. SIMONDS.

Mr. F. A. Simonds, Managing Director of Messrs. H. & G. Simonds, Ltd., was most cordially received by his many business and private friends at Malta on the occasion of his recent visit. Mr. Simonds has been to Malta on eleven previous occasions. He told a representative of *The Daily Malta Chronicle* that his Firm began importing beer into Malta about eighty years ago, and the writer adds, "We wonder how many pints of 'Hop Leaf' ale have refreshed the weary since then." Members of the Firm have made it a point of constantly visiting the island so that they might

be in personal touch with the staff and hear the suggestions of their customers for improving their businesses and meeting the changing tastes of the island. "It is due to this," says *The Daily Malta Chronicle*, "that they occupied such an enviable position in Malta."

Mr. Simonds, who enjoyed beautiful weather during his stay at Malta, subsequently left for Gibraltar in the S.S. *Odin*, via Marseilles, and he is now home again.

MR. F. A. SIMONDS IN MALTA.  
(From our own Correspondent).

The visit of a popular Director is always one of the big events in a Branch; pleasurable expectation commences about a month beforehand. Perhaps at home, being more or less in touch with the Firm's Directors, this is not so fully realized. Mr. F. A. Simonds has become a popular figure in Malta, so well known, in fact, that we are kept busily occupied answering personal calls and the telephone. Social engagements galore!—it is no wonder that he had no time at his disposal to satisfy his many friends, and perforce had finally to resort to a notice in our leading daily. During his short sojourn the work he had to get through was considerable and we expect that he quite agrees with us when we state that his visit as "but a dream." Our Office historian informs us that Mr. Simonds has been to Malta on eleven previous occasions (his first visit was in 1904), but never remembers such a cordial welcome as on this occasion. Mr. Simonds left for Gibraltar in the Maltese boat, S.S. *Odin*, via Marseilles—we sincerely hope that he is a good sailor as our local packets are not remarkable for their seaworthiness and size.

Mr. N. C. Fosbery thanks all his old friends at the Farnborough Branch for the kind message in the February issue, and, in return, sends them all his best wishes.

#### PORTSMOUTH.

The Earl of Birkenhead, P.C., Secretary for India, visited Portsmouth on Monday, the 6th March, and opened the new Club formed in connection with Portsmouth North Conservative and Unionist Association. The Club is situated in Kingston Crescent. There were many distinguished people present, including the three members of Parliament for Portsmouth, accompanied by their wives, with many other prominent people in the town. His Lordship afterwards addressed a large meeting at the Regent Kinema, London Road, Portsmouth.

Followers of football in Portsmouth are pleased to see that Reading Football Club has reached the Semi-final in the English Cup Competition. Well played, Reading! It is some consolation to "Pompey" for their defeat, that Reading has gone so far in the Cup Competition. "Pompey" are fighting hard in the League Competition, and, at the time of writing, they have a good chance of gaining promotion to Division I. As a matter of fact, keen local supporters are sure of this objective being gained.

In order to effect economy, the Government are reducing the expenditure in its Naval Programme this year. Unfortunately, Portsmouth will feel the effect of this by many hundreds of men being discharged from the Dockyard, which will greatly add to the already large number of unemployed in the City.

Before another issue of THE HOP LEAF is printed, Easter will be with us again. It is hoped that, as in recent years, many visitors will come to Southsea for this holiday, and special attractions are sure to be provided for their entertainment on the Piers, especially on the South Parade Pier.

The largest submarine in the world, *XI*, recently left Portsmouth for service in the Mediterranean Fleet. She is 300 feet long, has a displacement of 3,600 tons, and carries a crew of 120.

The Atlantic Fleet will begin to return to this Port for Easter leave at the end of this month, and it is expected that most of the ships will send out the request for "More S.B."

#### LONDON STORES.

THE GAZETTE grows more popular month by month and the March number, with its fine articles, is the most interesting yet issued.

It is with regret that we heard of the passing away of the late Mr. W. Hughes, Sandgate. For some time during the war, when the staff was greatly depleted, Mr. Hughes did duty at London Stores, and it came as a shock to those who knew him here to learn the sad news of his death.

The Justices at the Licensing Sessions have made but little alteration in the selling hours round the London Boroughs, and the migration of the population still continues, from one Borough—where early closing is the order—to an adjoining district, where selling is allowed to an hour later. Most noticeable is this on a Sunday evening in the Wandsworth district, where nothing is obtainable after 9 p.m., and a general stampede is made for the opposite side of the river, where, until 10 p.m., every licensed house is crowded out.

London Branch congratulates Mr. C. Bennett on his promotion to Headquarters, and also Mr. A. Bennett on his appointment to the Managership of Woking Branch.

Our friends at the Cosmo Hotel inform us that large numbers of Americans are booking up for the coming season, but, as their favourite beverage appears to be ice-water, we cannot look to them to assist in our trade boom.

Recruited mainly from the Guards, Royal Navy and Royal Marines, members of the L. & N.E. Railway Police Sports Club at King's Cross have had a long association with H. & G. Simonds' beers and the photographs in the March issue of THE GAZETTE, of Malta and Gibraltar, proved highly interesting to many of them. We have the pleasure of the sole supply to their canteen which, under the capable management of Mr. Sam Budd, is doing good business.

The "King's Cross Kops" Band, as it was termed, is unfortunately at present out of action, but the instruments are still intact, although a little tarnished, and we hear the Club members occasionally "practising" (?).

A strong Vat of Froth Blowers has been formed, and Blaster Brown continues to annex fresh members week by week.

They are asking for a cricket fixture with The Brewery team, but we are afraid—by this time—that the Reading fixture list must be complete.

#### SALISBURY.

"OH, TO BE IN ENGLAND."

Spring is calling! and young and old feel its fascination. Renewing that hope, which springs eternal from the human breast, and which the spirit of winter has done its best to take from us, the "flannelled fools" and others of a like species eagerly count the days ahead, and anticipate the delights of the road or the joys of the fields.

It is good for us to be optimistic in everything. Even the allotments and broader acres are shewing new signs of life, where for so long the earth has been almost "without form, and void." A speck or two of moving humanity can nowadays be noticed on its surface by the distant wayfarer.

In the City, a few hardy souls sally forth with their hearts and their spades in the right places, to deal old Mother Earth a few "hands," and if we find them later on replacing the resultant

evaporation with a little I.P.A. or S.B.A. at one (or more) of the fourteen local Clubs where these beverages are obtainable, well, what of it?

Their thanks to the kind "Mr. Hopleaf," who sent them such pleasures, is worth recording. And if, among the two or three that are gathered together, tales of such crops arise that the story of the grain of mustard seed seems too small to mention, who is there among us who shall cast a stone? The first gardener, by all accounts, had his faults. So what can one expect? It all creates a healthy thirst!

"NON-STARTER," 6 YEARS OLD, BY JAMES—LOTTERY.

A member of the office staff a few weeks ago won a "Motor cycle and sidecar, in going order" in a local draw, and refused an offer of £10 made to him before he had viewed it. Needless to say, he was the recipient of much congratulation.

So far, it has absolutely refused to "go anywhere, or anyhow." In fact, we fear it has almost "gone off altogether," but the lucky member is emphatic that there is "life in the old dog yet." A 1921 model, 5½ h.p., and quite used to any traffic; maybe some reader can find a good home for it. A bid up to £8, and it is theirs. Quickly please. Any offers?

We fear the Oxford staff have not a 100 to 1 chance of getting a poster prize. We must acknowledge that it has a reputation as a seat of learning, but Oxford will have a lot to learn when it comes to 1927 advertising methods. Keeness has however achieved much in the past, and we shall be the first to say "good luck" if they win a prize. Our pre-war memories of Oxford, with its towers, its wonderful meadows and streams, are such that it seems to be a reproach to want any other prize than the one of being there. Be satisfied Oxford!

As we have now decided to enter, the subject is closed.

T.R.G.

#### FARNBOROUGH.

Farnborough Branch Cricket Club held their second Annual General Meeting on March 10th, the Chair being taken by Mr. F. Howlett.

The Balance Sheet, which was adopted, showed pleasant reading. Commencing the season with 17/6½ the Club finished up with a balance in hand of £3 10s. od. This speaks well for the

management during the 1926 season. The following officials for the coming summer were elected:—Captain, Mr. R. Paice; Vice-Captain, Mr. B. Lancaster; Hon. Secretary, Mr. E. Gosney; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. J. D. Hammond; Committee, Messrs. E. Crutchley, G. Davis, C. A. Hayton, F. Howlett, T. Kent, G. Laney and G. Smith.

The fixtures for 1927 are now well in hand and the Farnborough Branch cricketers are looking forward to another successful season.

At the Cricket Meeting a motion was put forward and carried unanimously, that a meeting be called in the near future with a view to forming a Football Club to be run in connection with this Branch. We hope to give the May number of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE a full report of this meeting.

We regret to record the death of Mr. W. Smith, the popular Steward of the Cove Social Club. He died rather suddenly, after a short attack of influenza, through getting about again too soon. He leaves a widow and four young children, for whose assistance a fund has been started, to which our Manager, Mr. A. Goodall, subscribed £1 1s. od. Up to the present this fund has been generously responded to.

“Simonds’” Border Billiard League Cup has this winter been won by the Cove Social Club. This is the first time it has found a resting place in Cove. This Club also won the Reserve Section. We congratulate them on achieving the “double.”

#### THE TAMAR BREWERY, DEVONPORT.

The Social and Sports Club have been successful in obtaining the Club Room of the “Barley Sheaf,” Catherine Street, Devonport, and an opening gathering was held on Monday, February 28th, at which Mr. W. F. McIntyre took the Chair.

Mr. McIntyre in declaring the room open to the Club hoped the good fellowship and social intercourse, which he felt sure would be encouraged by the staff having a common meeting ground, would do much to further the interests of the “Hop Leaf.”

The Club Chairman (Mr. A. B. Beasley) replied on behalf of the Members and said that their best thanks were due to the Presidents and Vice-Presidents for the help given to the Club, which had enabled it to become the success it was now, and which he hoped it would be in the future.

The membership at present is over 60 and a Billiards Handicap and Shove-halfpenny Match are being arranged.

The Billiards Team played the following matches, with the results as shown:—

MARCH 2ND, 1927.

#### ANTONY v. H. & G. SIMONDS' SOCIAL CLUB.

<i>Antony.</i>				<i>H. &amp; G. Simonds' Social.</i>			
Sloeman ...	...	...	125	v.	Tucker ...	...	77
Squance ...	...	...	100	v.	Balkwill ...	...	84
Carn ...	...	...	100	v.	Lewis ...	...	76
Harris ...	...	...	100	v.	Ellis ...	...	61
Hocking ...	...	...	100	v.	Pierce ...	...	66
Goodman ...	...	...	100	v.	Pearce ...	...	55
			625				419

MARCH 7TH, 1927.

#### STONEHOUSE CORINTHIANS. v. H. & G. SIMONDS' SOCIAL CLUB.

<i>Stonehouse Corinthians.</i>				<i>H. &amp; G. Simonds' Social.</i>			
Dewdney ...	...	...	100	v.	Ellis ...	...	71
Sleeman ...	...	...	56	v.	Rymell ...	...	100
Clemits ...	...	...	53	v.	Lewis ...	...	100
Thurston ...	...	...	88	v.	Pierce ...	...	100
Francis ...	...	...	74	v.	Tucker ...	...	100
Gibson ...	...	...	45	v.	Balkwill ...	...	100
			417				571

MARCH 10TH, 1927.

#### KEYHAM BARTON CONSERVATIVE CLUB v. H. & G. SIMONDS' SOCIAL.

<i>Keyham Barton</i>				<i>H. &amp; G. Simonds' Social.</i>			
Lawrence ...	...	...	150	v.	Pierce ...	...	86
Bain ...	...	...	150	v.	Mills ...	...	46
Jenkin ...	...	...	150	v.	Rymell ...	...	103
Truscott ...	...	...	150	v.	Ellis ...	...	89
Sanders ...	...	...	136	v.	Lewis ...	...	150
Beaton ...	...	...	150	v.	Ellis ...	...	54
			886				528

The fortunes of Reading in the English Cup are followed with great interest in the West Country.

“Argyle” see little hope of their being able to come “up” to Reading next season, and, as the Cup aspirants cannot undertake to come “down,” their acquaintance must lapse for the time being, but “Argyle” fondly hope to renew it in the future (perhaps).

## HISTORY AS TAUGHT AND RECOUNTED IN BIRMINGHAM.

A teacher in a Birmingham School was taking a class in English history, and chose for her subject the knighting of Sir Walter Raleigh, which she related to the children somewhat as follows:—  
 “Queen Elizabeth was walking down the street one day when she came to a pool of mud. As she stood hesitating as to how she would cross it a gentleman came along and taking off his cloak placed it over the mud, saying, ‘Walk over this Queen Elizabeth and you won’t get your feet wet.’ When she got to the other side she took his sword and, lightly tapping him on the shoulder, said: ‘Arise, Sir Francis Drake, thou art knighted.’” A few days later the teacher asked the class if they remembered her last history lesson and asked if any of the children could repeat the story. One bright little lad wrote: “Lizzie was walking down the strate one day and ’er cum to a great big gob-o-slush. While ’er was wondrin ow ter git over it a bloke jumped out of an entry, took off his weskit and placing it over the gob-o-slush said, ‘Walk over this Lizzie and you won’t git yer socks wet.’ When ’er got to t’other side, ’er took hold of his stick, clumped him on his nut an’ said ‘Yo’ can werk on nights next week.’”

## DEVON A KINGDOM.

In the later history of the ancient British Kingdom of Damnonia (Devon and Cornwall) the successor of Geraint II was probably Blederic, after whose death in about 607 or 613 the name of the next King known is Geraint III. Aldhelm died in 709, leaving no one to keep the peace between Geraint and the King of Wessex, Ina, and, according to the meagre record of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, war broke out.

The Britons were evidently pressed back for in a short while Taunton was founded as a frontier town by Ina and the Britons apparently lost all Somerset. Welsh Chronicles state that Rhodri Molwynog of Gwynedd help the Damnonians, and a battle was fought at “Heil,” in Cornwall, in 721, the Saxons being defeated. No mention is made in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle of this defeat. Soon after Ina abdicated and went to Rome, where he died in 728.

From 755 to 784, during the reign of Cynewulf of Wessex, the Britons were pushed further and further back into Devonshire, but the names of the Kings and the battles are not recorded. Egbert, in 863, devastated West Wales, and a battle was fought between the Britons and Saxons at Gafulford (which is probably Galford at Lewtrenchard in North Devon) in the year 823.

In 835 a mixed army of Britons and Danes fought against Egbert at Hengesles Dun, held to be Hingston Down, near Callington, but all through the name of any British King is not mentioned. In the *Annales Cambrai* and the *Welsh Chronicle* of the Princes, under 875, an entry appears to the effect that Dungarth, or Dwrngarth, King of Cornwall, was drowned in that year. According to local tradition this King held his Court at Lis Kerruyt (which means the fortified Court), now Liskeard, and that he was drowned near Redgate, St. Cleer, in the River Fowey during a hunting expedition. Richard Carew, in his survey, says that he was the son of Caradoc. King Alfred it is said visited him as a friend, and it may have been on the occasion of that hunting in Cornwall when, as we are told by Asser, Alfred visited the Shrine of St. Gueri the Hermit, where now stands St. Neot’s Church.

During the reign of Alfred, who himself owned lands in Cornwall, peace seems to have been established between the Saxons and Cornish.

In the Fifth and Sixth Centuries Kings in or of Cornwall who do not seem to have belonged to the House of Constantine of Cornwall are mentioned. King Feirdar, the persecutor of St. Gwinear, St. Ia, St. Petroc, and St. Kea, is one, Gorlois another, a third is Mark of the Tristan romance, and a fourth Dinan of Pendenis, who granted land to St. Ia at St. Ives.

Probably the House of Damnonia, which was also that of Downmonia and Cornubia of Armorica, was more civilized than any of the other British Royal families, and retained a great deal of Roman civilization for centuries after it had been wiped out by the Saxon invaders elsewhere.

There was said to have been an Earl of Cornwall, who belonged to the Celtic Royal House at the time of the Norman Conquest, and Cornwall, centuries after, was a separate appanage to the Crown and not counted as a County of England.

The Earldom of Cornwall was granted to Richard Plantagenet, son of King John, in 1227. Edward III created his eldest son, Edward Prince of Wales (known as the Black Prince), Duke of Cornwall in 1337, granting the Dukedom to him and to the eldest sons of his heirs, the Kings of England, in hereditary succession.

Since then there have been, including the present, 24 Dukes of Cornwall. The present Duchy of Cornwall presumably exists now because there was once a Kingdom of Damnonia.

## OXFORD.

HA! GIVE ME ALE.

When as the chill Charokko blows,  
 And Winter tells a heavy tale ;  
 When pyes and daws and rooks and crows  
 Sit cursing of the frosts and snows ;  
     Then give me ale.

Ale in a Saxon rumkin then,  
 Such as will make grimalkin prate ;  
 Bids valour burgeon in tall men,  
 Quickens the poet's wit and pen,  
     Despises fate.

Ale, that the absent battle fights,  
 And frames the march of Swedish drum,  
 Disputes with princes, laws, and rights  
 What's done and past tells mortal wights,  
     And what's to come.

Ale, that the plowman's heart up-keeps  
 And equals it with tyrants' thrones,  
 That wipes the eye that over-weeps,  
 And lulls in sure and dainty sleeps  
     The o'er wearied bones.

Grandchild of Ceres, Bacchus' daughter,  
 Wine's emulous neighbour, though but stale,  
 Ennobling all the nymphs of water,  
 And filling each man's heart with laughter—  
     Ha ! give me ale.

*Anonymous.*

*From Oxford Book of English Verse.*