

# The Hop Leaf Gazette.

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

*Edited by CHARLES H. PERRIN.*

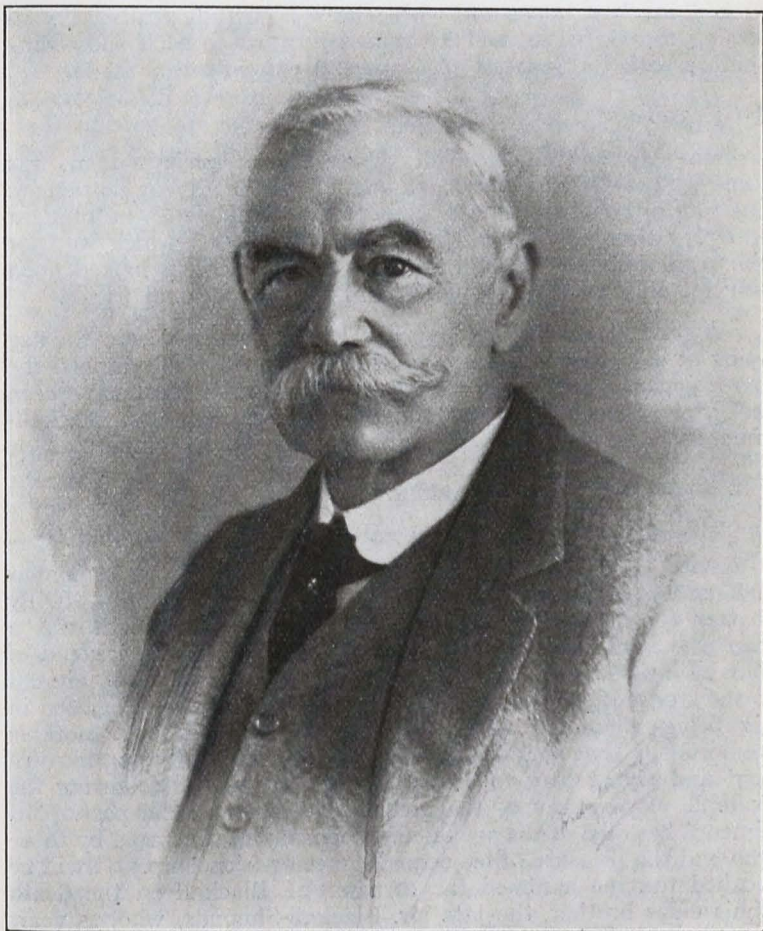
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THE LATE MR. G. BLACKALL-SIMONDS.

## EDITORIAL.

## THE LATE MR. G. BLACKALL-SIMONDS.

Monday, December 16th, 1929, will ever remain a memorable date at the Brewery, for on that day there passed from our midst Mr. George Blackall-Simonds, our revered Chairman. He took a great interest in THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE and in the first number I was privileged to print his greetings and good wishes. He hoped the GAZETTE would prove "a very useful bond of union between us." On the first anniversary of its appearance he very kindly wrote "my best hopes and wishes have been fully realised" concerning the GAZETTE, and he looked forward to each succeeding number with the greatest pleasure and enjoyment.

## A GREAT GENTLEMAN.

Our departed chief, besides being a good business man, was a fine sculptor, a keen sportsman and, above all, a great gentleman. The soul of honour, in his dealings with his fellowmen he brought into play those great qualities of mind and heart which won for him such wide respect, and all of us at the Brewery looked upon him not only as a model employer but as a personal friend.

A great gloom was cast over the Brewery when we saw the flag flying at half-mast and knew what it betokened. We deemed the loss a personal one and if we felt thus how great must have been the grief of his much-loved and devoted partner, Mrs. Blackall-Simonds! To her our hearts go out in deepest sympathy.

## THE ARCHITECT OF HIS CAREER.

The following paragraph appeared in *The Berkshire Chronicle* :—

With the death of Mr. G. Blackall-Simonds a career of honour and usefulness has come to an end. There is a good deal of silly chatter about the "idle rich." Mr. G. Blackall-Simonds was a man who might have had a life of comparative ease. Instead of that he insisted on designing his own career, surrendered himself to the study of art, and his ability as a sculptor was recognised in his being entrusted with several of Reading's most notable memorials. That is a striking example of a man following his own bent and giving play to his own personality—thus following the example of so many of the great Englishmen of the past. Mr. Simonds has died at the age of 86, esteemed and venerated by those who had the pleasure of his acquaintance or friendship. It will be recalled that he assumed the surname of Blackall on the death of his elder brother, the late Mr. Blackall-Simonds, who, 35 years ago, was closely identified with the Conservative cause in Reading and was also a man of strong personality.

## A MODEL MEETING.

All who had to do with the annual meeting of Messrs. H. & G. Simonds Ltd. are to be congratulated on the excellent manner in which it was conducted. It was a model meeting. The speech from the chair was an admirable example of lucidity and all the other speeches went right to the point. Not one word that should have been said was left unsaid, while on the other hand, not a superfluous phrase was used.

## STRIKING FEATURES.

There were some very striking features in Major Shea-Simonds' speech which is fully reported on another page. That Simonds' bottled beers are more popular than ever was demonstrated by the fact that during the year under review there had been an increase of no less than nearly two million bottles as compared with the previous year, the sales amounting to 32,774,000 bottles. All the world knows that Messrs. H. & G. Simonds are ideal employers and there was further evidence of their thoughtfulness for those who work for them in the fact that no less a sum than £20,000 was added to the pensions fund.

## THE PERSONAL TOUCH.

Sympathetic reference was made to the death of Mr. G. Blackall-Simonds, whom Mr. Eric described as "of all loyal subjects the most loyal in the realm." And there was another personal touch when Major Shea-Simonds made mention of Mr. Eric's recent illness and his restoration to his former health and vigour. "It was, perhaps, not realised by everyone," he said, "to what extent the success of the Firm depended on him"—a sentiment that was very heartily endorsed by all present.

## OUR NEW CHAIRMAN.

As was hinted at this gathering by Mr. Eric, Major Shea-Simonds was unanimously chosen to succeed Mr. Blackall-Simonds, at a meeting of the Directors held the same afternoon. That Major Shea-Simonds is well qualified for this important post goes without saying and all are confident that he will fill it "with dignity and good purpose." The appointment has certainly met with general approval. In the *Financial News* of December 28th, Major Shea-Simonds' photograph appeared under the heading "Men of the Week." He can rely upon the loyal support of all ranks who hold him in very high regard.

## WHAT HE SAID.

The other day a Perthshire friend witnessed what might have been a fatal motor accident.

A young man, going "all out" on his sports model, collided with a telegraph pole at my friend's gates. In one moment the telegraph pole lay flat on the ground, the owner-driver occupied a similar position, while the car looked like a rather poor collection of spare parts.

My friend, accompanied by the lodgekeeper and his wife, rushed to the rescue. For ten minutes they strove in vain, but at last the victim's eyes opened. He tried to disentangle a hand from the festoons of telegraph wire, smiling and speaking to himself the while.

The good samaritans bent down to catch the message. It was, "Thank God they've given me a harp!"

## A SEMI-COMMUNIST.

The following remarkable story is related in *The Morning Post*:

The mistress of the house had been away on a holiday, and on her return noticed a shortage in the linen cupboard. Four sheets were missing. On being asked if she knew anything of the matter the servant replied, "Oh, yes. I am a Communist. You had more sheets than I had, so I took some home."

"Indeed!" replied her astonished mistress, "and pray did you give some to your next-door neighbour, who had less than you?"

"Oh, no," replied the maid, "I kept them for myself. They are mine now." So it would seem that even Communism has its limits. The Communist was dismissed at short notice, but apparently no steps were taken to recover the "shared out" property.

## WHY THEY ARGUED.

In a bar parlour of a country inn in Surrey hangs a portrait of Mr. Lloyd George. The landlord is a strong Conservative. He was asked to explain why he thus honoured the ex-Premier. He was quite willing. "You see," he said, "as soon as people see that picture they begin to argue and that makes them thirsty. And they go on arguing—and drinking—until closing time."

## A CANADIAN VARIANT.

A Canadian edition of "Ten Little Nigger Boys." (In Canada rye whisky is usually drunk.)

Ten tired Yankee boys,  
Feeling rather dry,  
Went across the border  
To get a drink of "rye"!

When the "rye" was opened  
The boys began to sing,  
"Who the h——l is Coolidge?  
God save the King!"

## PROHIBITION PROBLEMS IN UNITED STATES.

Almost every phase of the work of enforcing Prohibition increased in the United States in the year ended June 30th last, according to the Annual Report of the Attorney-General. The aggregate of fines, forfeitures, and penalties imposed under the prohibition law totalled 7,476,300 dollars (£1,495,200).

Included in the Report is a statement by the Superintendent of Prisons, who says the problem of coping with the "tremendous increase in the number of persons committed by the Federal criminal courts" has reached a climax.

Emphasising the crowded condition of Federal penitentiaries, he says the Atlanta Prison, "even with the questionable practice of placing two or more men in a cell, might house comfortably 1,712 persons, but it now has 3,777. The Leavenworth Prison, with a normal capacity of 1,560, has 3,723."

## THE EXPERT.

A young friend, who is an authority on cocktails, received a visit from her old nurse, whom she hadn't seen since her nursery days.

Around six o'clock several people dropped in for cocktails, and Nannie watched the mixing with the greatest interest.

At first she refused to have one, but was finally persuaded to try what they were like. "How do you like it?" she was asked, after the first cautious sip.

"Well," was the reply, "for a mixture of gin and vermin, Miss, I don't think it's half bad."

## SEASONABLE "BENELEPHANCE."

A little Newbury boy was sent by his mother to pay a Christmas benevolent fund subscription. In the window of the house where he was to call he had for some time seen a number of ornamental elephants and his familiarity with these objects had an amusing sequel. Tendering the money to the treasurer he said: "Please, mister, muvver says will you put this in your benelephant fund?"

## ALL QUIET ON THE BUSINESS FRONT.

Business generally was very quiet during November and the early part of December. A landlord, not many miles from Broad Street, tells me that one morning the first five persons who called asked to be served as follows:—

- Customer No. 1: A pint of beer on trust.
- No. 2: A glass of stout for two empty bottles.
- No. 3: A glass of stout for 1½d. and one empty bottle.
- No. 4: Two shillings for a florin.
- No. 5: Change for sixpence.

## "MY DOG AND YOURS."

This is the title of a book of verse by Joe Walker. It is well worth reading. Here is an extract:—

Somebody's left the garden gate ajar;  
He won't run out. No need to back the car  
So carefully because . . . And in the hall  
You will not trip against that much-chewed ball  
(I bought a new one, just a week ago,  
For his birthday. He will never know).  
We've cleared up everything; there's not a trace—  
Lead, collar, basket—yet his wistful face  
Peers round each corner; halfway down the stair  
One turns expectant . . . surely he is there?  
Then we remember, and the silence drear  
Answers our question. "No, he is not here."

The verses are not all in this sad vein, but whether they deal with jolly, mischievous, pensive, lively, sporting, or wistful dogs, they show an acute understanding of our favourite four-footed friends.

## DEATH OF MR. J. D. CARTER, SLOUGH BRANCH MANAGER.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Mrs. Carter and the relatives of the late Mr. J. D. Carter in their sad bereavement.

Mr. J. D. Carter passed away after a very short illness and an urgent operation. His wonderful record of service with the Firm is one of which his relatives may well be proud, but it is rather sad that Mr. Carter did not avail himself of the offer of retirement some time since, which would have enabled him to follow his fascinating studies and possibly have left a written record of his beliefs. The world is the loser by his untimely demise but theosophical circles will feel assured that one of their greatest exponents and supporters will continue his work elsewhere.

An appreciation of Mr. Carter appears in the contribution from Slough Branch and we endorse every word. We sympathise with the Staff who have lost as their Chief the embodiment of all those good qualities that go to make up the perfect English gentleman.

## A VERY HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO ALL.

## A GREAT THOUGHT.

*No surrender! A stirring war cry when the occasion demands unswerving devotion to our highest principles. In ordinary affairs, however, compromise is far more valuable and effective. There is a type of person who clutches his prejudices as he would his honour—in fact, as a rule, he is incapable of distinguishing between them. He would have peace, Oh, most certainly!—but only on his own conditions.*

*Distrust is the arch enemy of compromise. How hard it is to give our opponents the credit of being as honest and earnest as we are ourselves! At times, indeed, we find that after all we have been but quibbling over words, for has it not been pointedly, though somewhat sardonically, said—"Language was given to man to conceal his thoughts"?*

*To yield often needs more courage than to hold out, and it involves the appreciation of what is essential as well as the possession of that inestimable gift "sweet reasonableness." A broad-minded tolerance, not weak-kneed vacillation, instinctively realises that "many men" necessitate "many minds."*

## DEATH OF MR. G. BLACKALL-SIMONDS.

FAMOUS SCULPTOR AND KEEN SPORTSMAN.

It is with profound regret we record the death of our revered Chairman, Mr. George Blackall-Simonds, which occurred on Monday, December 16th, at his residence, Bradfield House, Bradfield. Aged 86, Mr. Blackall-Simonds was the son of the late Mr. George Simonds, of The Brewery, Reading. He was educated at Bradfield College, being No. 19 on the register. Instead of going into the old-established family business of Messrs. H. and G. Simonds Ltd., brewers, Reading, on leaving school, he preferred to cut out a career for himself in art. He was a student at the Royal Academy of Arts, Dresden, from 1858 to 1863. Thence he went to Brussels and for some time worked for a famous sculptor. After this he started practising as a sculptor and lived in Rome for upwards of twelve years.

The lion in the Forbury Gardens—that famous memorial of the Royal Berkshire Regiment—is one of his works, another being the Queen Victoria statue outside the Town Hall, Reading. The George Palmer statue, formerly in Broad Street and now in Palmer Park, is another example of his work. This statue has been the subject of much criticism on account of its daring departure from the conventional. Nevertheless it is a strikingly characteristic likeness of Mr. Palmer, and the idea and style have been imitated by other well-known sculptors.

In 1877 Mr. Blackall-Simonds married the only daughter of the late Mr. William Prescott, of Boston, U.S.A. When he returned from Rome he practised in London. Retiring in 1903, he joined the Board of Directors of H. and G. Simonds Ltd. He was elected chairman of the company in 1910 and occupied that position until the time of his death.

He was a keen Mason, was an officer of Grand Lodge and founder of the Arts Lodge and the Old Bradfieldians Lodge. For more than fifty years he was a member of the Club Lodge.

In politics he was a Conservative and for many years occupied the position of president of the Reading Conservative Association.

He took a great interest in all kinds of sport, in which his wife shared, and particularly in that ancient form of sport, falconry, on which he was probably the oldest surviving authority. He was a member of the Falconers' Club, which for many years had its headquarters at Shrewton, on Salisbury Plain. Quite recently he presided at the annual Falconers' Feast in London.

Very keen regarding small river craft, he could handle one of the racing boats with outstanding skill.

He retained his activities of mind and body to the end. At the age of 84, in company with his wife, he paid a visit to Sir Leslie Wilson, then Governor of Bombay, who arranged a tour for him, and owing to the hospitality of one of the ruling princes he had ample opportunity of taking part in his favourite sport of falconry.

He lost his only son, Lieut. George Prescott Simonds, of the 2nd Batt. South Wales Borderers, in the first few weeks of the Great War.

Mr. Simonds' charm of manner and old-world courtesy won for him numerous friends, while his goodness of heart made him beloved by all at the Brewery.

## THE FUNERAL AT BRADFIELD.

The funeral took place at Bradfield Parish Church on Friday, December 20th, when many people in all walks of life attended to pay their tributes of respect to one who was so greatly loved. It was in this little Church that Mr. Blackall-Simonds worshipped as a boy and Bradfield owes much to him, for he was always ready to give his generous support to any deserving cause. Owing to the illness of the Rector, the Rev. R. M. Mayes, the service was conducted by Rev. Canon F. J. C. Gillmor, Rural Dean of Reading, and the Rev. R. D. Beloe, late headmaster of Bradfield. Mr. A. E. M. Brooker was at the organ and played "Blest are the departed," from Spohr's "Last Judgment," and "O rest in the Lord" (Mendelssohn). There were two hymns, "Now the labourer's task is o'er" and "Nearer my God to Thee." The choir and clergy met the cortege at the gates of the churchyard. The interment took place in the family vault, which was lined with moss and evergreen.

The family mourners were Mrs. Blackall-Simonds (widow), Mrs. Caversham Simonds, Mrs. Maurice Cassidy, Major Shea-Simonds, Mrs. Shea-Simonds, Patrick Shea-Simonds, Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Simonds, Commander H. D. Simonds, R.N., and Mrs. Simonds, Mr. John Simonds, Major Maurice Simonds, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Simonds, Lieut.-Col. W. Barrow Simonds, Mrs. Shea, Miss Shea and Miss Bowman.

Others present were Sir Leslie Wilson, Mr. Herbert Blatch, General E. A. de Brett, the headmaster of Bradfield and Mrs. Whitworth, Mr. F. St. G. Caulfeild, Major G. S. M. Ashby, Mrs. Carrington, Mrs. Fryer, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. P. Stevens, Mr. J. Martin Routh, Mr. and Mrs. Lindsay Bury, Mr. and Mrs. Steele,

Miss Steele, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Waterhouse and Miss Waterhouse, Colonel A. F. Poulton, Colonel F. R. Hybart, Mr. C. E. Hewett, Mr. C. H. Illingworth (representing Globe Lodge), Captain La Trobe, the Rev. Alec Hopkins, Captain K. R. Palmer, Mr. Hugh D. Knight (representing the British Falconers' Club), Mr. H. T. Bradford, Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Newall, Mr. W. J. Cumber, Colonel Blunt, Major Hartung (representing Old Bradfieldians), Mr. Guy Hemsley, the Rev. J. E. Gun (Stanford Dingley) and Mrs. Gun, Mr. and Mrs. N. Wise, Mr. Henry Jordan, Rev. H. C. Wilder (Rural Dean of Bradfield), Mr. R. R. Thackeray (representing the Reading Conservative and Unionist Association), Mr. O. F. Dahne, Mrs. Muller, Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Watham, Mrs. Redford, Miss Watney, Miss Chawner, Mr. E. G. W. Wilson (churchwarden), Mr. A. E. Robinson (representing Bradfield Church Council), Capt. A. E. Reeves (representing Bradfield Parish Council), Mr. R. A. Walker, Mr. C. W. N. Sharp, Mr. Frank Jackson, Mr. Hugh James (representing the G.W.R.), Mr. W. G. Stanbrook (representing Bradfield Comrades' Club), Mr. W. J. Lambdin (representing C. and G. Ayres), Mr. E. Duncan Fraser (representing Wellington Club, Reading), Mr. Herbert H. Belsey (representing Royal Insurance Co.), Mr. Samuel Milburne.

#### BREWERY REPRESENTATIVES.

Representatives from Messrs. H. & G. Simonds Ltd. and the South Berks Brewery Co. included Mr. H. F. Lindars (Estate department), Mr. C. W. Stocker (Head Brewer), Mr. C. E. Gough (Branch department), Mr. E. S. Phipps (Assistant Secretary), Captain A. S. Drewe, Mr. C. Bennett (Home Trade Manager), Mr. W. A. Burton (Secretary of South Berks Brewery Co.), Major F. J. Johnson (London Branch), Mr. A. Goodall, Mr. F. J. Gilbert, Mr. C. G. Adams and Mr. H. W. Colson (Brighton Branch), Mr. F. L. Shrimpton (Ludgershall Branch), Mr. H. J. Timms (Oxford Branch), Mr. T. R. Garland (Salisbury Branch), Mr. W. H. Davies (Farnborough Branch), Mr. H. L. Chaplin (Wine department), Major H. Kaye (Transport department), Mr. A. R. Bradford, Mr. R. Biggs, Mr. F. Josey, Mr. C. H. Perrin, Mr. J. Webb, Mr. F. Jefferies, Mr. J. Stone and Mr. F. Drury.

There were also present representatives of the Parish Council, Church Council, British Legion, household staff and estate staff, with Mr. J. Cripps, manager.

#### THE FLORAL TRIBUTES.

There were many beautiful floral tributes including those from Mrs. G. Blackall-Simonds; Eve; Edie; Cootsie and the girls; Mrs. Shea-Simonds, Stephen, Pat and Vickie; Dr. Herbert Watney; Miss Watney; Mr. and Mrs. Lindsay Bury; Household staff and estate employees, Bradfield House; Mrs. Henrietta Radford; Maurice and King Simonds; John and Betty; Mr. and

Mrs. F. St. G. Caulfeild; Frank and Nell; Sir William and Lady Mount; Mrs. Quarry; Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Simonds; Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Simonds; Dolly; Sir Leslie and Lady Wilson; Mr. T. Bate; Mr. W. J. Cumber; Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Stocker; Mrs. W. J. Muller; Marie and Guy Ashley; Rev. and Mrs. J. E. Gun; Mrs. L. de L. Simonds, Mary Louise; Mr. and Mrs. Michael Waterhouse; Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Walker; Harry and Molly; Mary and Gavin; E. Brett; Sir Hugh and Lady Bell; Mrs. Norman Cookson and Sybil; Laurence and Anna Alma Tadema; Henry, Alice and Beatrice Bowman; Surgeon Lieut.-Col. W. Campbell; Mr. and Madame Ernest Le Grand; Mr. and Mrs. Wheale and family; Mrs. Cripps and Mrs. Reynolds; Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Wathen and Mr. A. C. Wathen; "An old friend"; Mrs. Stanley Carrington and Mrs. G. Fryer; Elspeth and Kenneth Grahame; Percy and Blanche; Lady Rose; Mona and Dannie; Rev. Alec. H. Hopkins; Lady Maryon Wilson and Miss Maryon Wilson; Mrs. W. Simonds, Mr. G. P. Simonds and Mr. V. P. Simonds; Miss E. and Miss S. Fife, Lady Horwood and Mrs. S. Rawson; The Building Operatives, Bradfield House; The Old Bradfieldian Society; Master, Warden and Brethren of Old Bradfield Lodge; Officers and members of Bradfield Comrades' Club; Reading Conservative and Unionist Association; British Legion, women's section, Bradfield and Stanford Dingley branch; Bradfield Church Council; Staff of the Village House; British Falconers' Club; St. John's Wood Arts Club; The Globe Lodge, No. 23; The Worshipful Master, Officers and Brethren of the Arts Lodge, No. 2751; The Arts Workers' Guild; Head department, The Brewery, Reading; Staff of branch department, H. and G. Simonds Ltd.; Department of foremen at the Brewery, H. and G. Simonds Ltd.; South Berks Brewery Co., Ltd., Newbury; Home department staff, The Brewery, Reading; Manager and staff, Brighton branch, H. and G. Simonds Ltd.; Manager and staff, Woolwich branch, H. and G. Simonds Ltd.; All departments, Tamar Brewery, Devonport; Engineer department, H. and G. Simonds Ltd.; Union room and copper stage, H. and G. Simonds Ltd.; Cooperage department, H. and G. Simonds Ltd.; Scald department, H. and G. Simonds Ltd.; Stable department, H. and G. Simonds Ltd.; Mechanical and loading departments, H. and G. Simonds Ltd.; Brewery room staff, H. and G. Simonds Ltd.; Staff of Ludgershall branch, H. and G. Simonds Ltd.; Staff of Farnborough branch, H. and G. Simonds Ltd.; Staff of London Stores, H. and G. Simonds Ltd.; Branch managers, H. and G. Simonds Ltd.; Beer cellars, H. and G. Simonds Ltd.; Mrs. William Campbell, Two Oaks, Walton-on-the-Hill; Miss Easton.

The funeral arrangements were carried out by Messrs. Heelas, Sons and Co., Ltd., under the personal supervision of Mr. W. B. Fordham.

## H. &amp; G. SIMONDS LTD.

ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS.

OVER 32 MILLION BOTTLES SOLD.

£20,000 FOR PENSIONS FUND.

The annual meeting of Messrs. H. & G. Simonds Ltd. was held on Monday, December 23rd, and was of a highly satisfactory nature. Major S. V. Shea-Simonds presided and other directors present were Mr. F. A. Simonds, Mr. Fred Simonds, Major J. H. Simonds and Commander H. D. Simonds. The shareholders present included Mrs. F. A. Simonds, Mr. G. T. Simonds, Major M. H. Simonds, Major G. S. M. Ashby, Mr. C. E. Gough, Mr. C. Bennett, Mr. A. S. Drewe, Mr. F. Drury, Mr. F. Jefferies, Mr. J. Ford, Mr. G. F. Irwin, Mr. G. W. Smith, Mr. R. Walker, Mr. A. G. Rider, Mr. E. S. Phipps and Mr. J. H. Wadhams. Mr. W. W. Collins, one of the auditors, was also present.

## THE ANNUAL REPORT.

Mr. Fred Simonds (Secretary) read the notice convening the meeting, and the report of the auditors which stated:—

“After providing for interest on the debenture stocks and making ample allowances for depreciations, repairs, and the various expenses of the business, including taxation, the net profit amounts to £85,384 os. 2d., which, added to the amount brought forward from September 30th, 1928, viz., £72,404 6s. 1d., makes a total of £157,788 6s. 3d. available for appropriation. Having already paid the full year's dividend on the 5 per cent. preference shares, less tax, and an interim dividend at the rate of 3 per cent., less tax, on £450,200 ordinary shares, the directors now recommend a final dividend on the ordinary shares of 7 per cent., less tax (making a dividend of 10 per cent., less tax, for the year), that £5,000 be appropriated to debenture redemption reserve, that £13,299 should be carried to property improvement account, that pensions fund should be augmented by allocating thereto the sum of £20,000, and that the balance of £76,745 6s. 3d. be carried forward to next year. The company's holding in Mackeson and Co., Ltd., has been realised, and the profit on sale has been added to the reserve fund.”

## AN IRREPARABLE LOSS.

Mr. Shea-Simonds, in moving the adoption of the report, stated:—“Although this company is no longer quite the same close family corporation as in former years, I feel I cannot on this occasion omit a personal note on an event which is not only painful to me, but to all my fellow-directors, inasmuch as we have

so recently sustained the irreparable loss of our revered kinsman and chairman, who for upwards of twenty years presided with such tact and distinction over our weekly board meetings, and who was at all times the successful arbiter in any small differences of opinion as might have arisen amongst—I think I may claim without exaggeration—the most united board that ever sat round a table. I am sure our shareholders will sympathise with us, and at least we may all console ourselves with the thought that only ten days before the date of his death our chairman presided at an important board meeting in connection with the annual accounts and report; the signing of the report was our late chairman's last act in the Brewery which he loved so well, before leaving that afternoon for the last time; it may indeed be said that he retained his interest in our affairs to the end.

## A SIGNAL HONOUR.

“I would like to inform you all that at the beginning of this year the company received the signal honour of being accorded the Royal Warrant as brewers to His Majesty, an appointment which is most gratifying to all of us.”

Referring to the balance sheet, Mr. Shea-Simonds remarked: “I would like to call the attention of those shareholders who have not studied it closely to the fact that under the heading of assets there are detailed ‘Treasury bonds and other investments’ which, together with ‘cash at bank and in hand,’ amount to a total sum of £495,360 16s. 7d. This figure is almost double the amount shown under liabilities as representing ‘sundry creditors’ and ‘deposits payable,’ viz., £260,356 14s. 10d. This, I think you will agree, displays a very satisfactory liquid position. You will also notice that no figure is mentioned for goodwill. Under the Companies Act, 1929, any value for goodwill has to be disclosed, but in this company the whole of the goodwill has been written off.

## PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL FEATURE.

“The principal financial feature during the past year was the sale of our interest in the business of Messrs. Mackeson and Co., Ltd., Hythe, Kent, to our friends and neighbours, Messrs. Jude, Hanbury and Co., Canterbury. They made the board an offer which they did not feel justified in your interests in refusing. We believe that while in control of Messrs. Mackeson's we made a number of improvements in their business, and likewise a host of friends. We trust the cordial relations which existed between that company and its customers may be maintained and strengthened under the new proprietors. The profits arising from that sale have been transferred to the reserve fund.

"Another important feature has been the acquisition by your company of a large interest in a brewery company in Malta—Messrs. Simonds-Farsons, Ltd. Your directors have realised for some years that it was impossible to continue an importing house in Malta solely for the purpose of selling English beers, owing to the fierce competition and insensate price-cutting which has long prevailed. They, therefore, availed themselves of an opportunity to link up their interests with those of Messrs. L. Farrugia and Sons, who had lately built and organised a successful brewery in Malta, and there is every justification for believing that, with efficient management and a continuance of prosperity in Malta, combined with a measure of protection for local industry on the part of the legislature, this company may eventually turn out to be a profitable venture.

"Since the date of the balance sheet we have concluded negotiations for the purchase of the old-established business of Messrs. N. P. Hunt and Son, Crabbs Park, Paignton, with about thirty licensed houses; this will make an important addition to our brewery at Devonport. We shall be manufacturing at Crabbs Park the cider requirements for our own houses and developing this line throughout our districts.

#### OVER 32 MILLION BOTTLES SOLD.

"The quality of the company's beers, both as brewed at Reading and Devonport, has been more than maintained during the past year, and I may mention there is again a marked increase in the output of bottled beers, the sales last year having amounted to 32,774,000 bottles, an increase of nearly two millions over last year. The licensed properties of the company have been kept in their usual excellent state of repair. It has always been the anxiety of your directors to keep these up to date, and I think you will agree, when going round areas served by us, that they compare more than favourably with those of our competitors.

"The net profit for the year has been increased by the sum of £6,011 7s. od., largely owing to the savings which have been effected by the elimination of unprofitable business in connection with the Army canteen trade. The subsidiary company, the South Berks Brewery Co., Ltd., Newbury, has likewise had a successful year, and under careful management has maintained its usual standard of prosperity. Our wine and spirit department has also contributed its quota of profit.

#### LOYAL ASSISTANCE OF STAFF.

"I do desire to place on record, on behalf of the directors, the loyal assistance rendered to the company by the head brewer, Mr. C. W. Stocker, and the whole of the staff, both of the parent company

and the allied companies, and to express our warmest thanks to them. I should like to take this opportunity of expressing the thanks of the directors to that large body of free customers, viz., caterers, clubs and free houses, who, in increasing numbers, have placed their confidence in us; I believe that they can congratulate themselves on their association.

"The future, not only for this company but for the entire brewing trade, is somewhat obscured at the moment by the possibilities of legislation, arising from the inquiries and deliberations of the Royal Commission on Licensing which is now sitting. I can only express the hope that as a result of these deliberations the consumer of beer may be able to shake off some of his fetters and be allowed to drink his beer, not only at times when it suits him, but under conditions which he deems suitable, and may be freed from the humiliation of being treated as though he were not a grown-up man but a child in the nursery."

#### THE NEW CHAIRMAN.

Mr. F. A. Simonds, in seconding the resolution, said: "I would like to add my tribute to the late chairman of the board. Ever since I joined the board, and certainly ever since I was appointed to the general managership of the company, I received nothing but devoted support from him. About seventeen days ago, on the occasion of his last visit to the Brewery, the last item of business which we discussed was the drafting of the report, and he asked me to emphasise particularly the granting of the Royal Warrant, which I think was the crowning happiness of our late chairman's business career. He was of all loyal subjects the most loyal in this realm.

"I am perhaps anticipating the event which will take place later to-day when I allude to the election of a successor to Mr. George Blackall-Simonds. Unless I have made a grievous miscalculation, Mr. Shea-Simonds, our deputy chairman for the moment, will be elected to the office—an office which has been filled in the past by most successful and well-known members of the Simonds family. (Hear, hear.) I am sure you will as shareholders wish him every success in that office, which I am also sure he will fill with dignity and good purpose. (Applause.)

"The year has been a difficult one. I will not elaborate it beyond telling you, from a personal point of view, that I most highly appreciate the support which I received, and the sympathy which was accorded me during a somewhat long and trying illness, throughout which my colleagues and all the staff combined to carry

on the business as successfully as, or more so than it had been carried on whilst I was there. We have certainly difficult times ahead, but I have no doubt that with the continued co-operation of my colleagues, of the managers, and of all ranks, we may still keep the Hop Leaf flying as high as ever." (Applause.)

The report was adopted.

#### APPOINTMENTS.

Commander H. D. Simonds was re-elected to the board, on the proposition of Major G. S. M. Ashby, seconded by Mr. G. W. Smith.

Mr. C. E. Gough proposed the re-election of Messrs. Collins, Tootell & Co., of Queen Victoria Street, E.C.4, as auditors. He mentioned that he had to prepare figures for them and one had the satisfaction of knowing that when they passed figures as correct they were correct. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. R. Walker seconded and the proposition was carried.

Mr. W. W. Collins, responding, associated himself sympathetically with the remarks which had been made in regard to the late Mr. George Blackall-Simonds. He had only been privileged to know him closely for the last ten or twelve years, but on all those occasions on which he came in contact with him in regard to matters connected with the accounts, he had always experienced unfailing courtesy and affection, and he would always retain a pleasant memory of his association with him.

Mr. Gavin Simonds proposed a vote of thanks to Major Shea-Simonds for presiding, and expressed the hope that on many occasions in the future he would be able to preside over their meetings, and to present as satisfactory a report as he had done on that occasion.

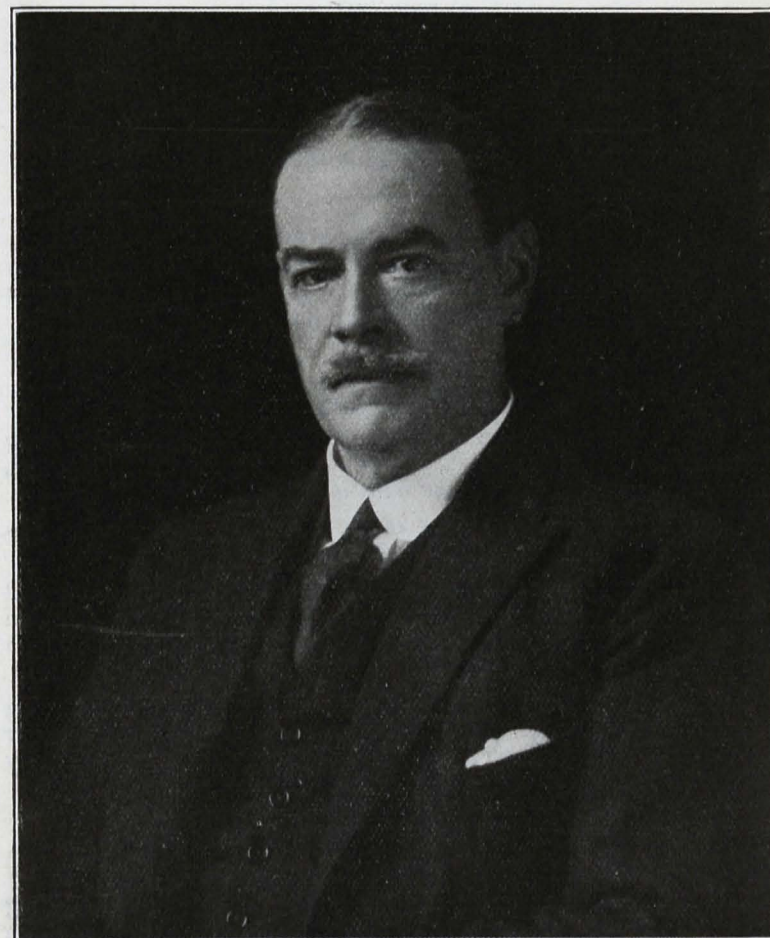
Mr. C. Bennett seconded, and said that those on the staff knew, apart from that meeting, the good qualities of Major Shea-Simonds. They respected him and had a great affection for him and he might be assured from the point of view of the staff that they would give him every possible support.

The resolution was carried.

#### TRIBUTE TO MR. F. A. SIMONDS.

The chairman, in reply, said they were to be congratulated on seeing Mr. F. A. Simonds that day, as they were credibly informed, restored to his former health and vigour, and able to resume his

manifold activities as general manager of the company. It was, perhaps, not realised by everyone to what extent the success of that company depended on him. (Applause.)



Mr. S. V. Shea-Simonds—Our New Chairman.

## WORDS OF WISDOM.

True valour

Lies in the mind, the never yielding purpose,  
Nor owns the blind award of giddy fortune.

Music is a kind of inarticulate speech which leads us to the edge of the infinite, and lets us for moments gaze into it.

Talents are received ; but they must be coached into abilities.

On the whole it is patience which makes the final difference between those who succeed or fail in all things. All the greatest people have it in an infinite degree, and among the less the patient weak ones always conquer the impatient strong.

## FAR FROM THE CROWD.

However endeared we may be to those about us, it is necessary at times to go "into retreat," for we cannot fully taste life's joys unless we are sometimes alone with our thoughts.

Our minds require change of air and sustenance precisely as do our bodies.

When we are faced with problems to be solved, uninterrupted companionship prevents us from examining carefully the situation in which we find ourselves, and consequently of formulating a solution.

Solitude acts either as a sedative or a stimulant, according to the reason for which it is sought, and we return from our temporary isolation with a greater zest for our everyday surroundings—ready to translate thought into act.

## A PRAYER.

The day returns and brings us the petty round of irritating concerns and duties. Help us to play the man ; help us to perform them with laughter and kind faces ; let cheerfulness abound with industry. Give us to go blithely on our business all this day ; bring us to our resting beds weary and content and undishonoured, and grant us in the end the gift of sleep. Amen.

*Robert Louis Stevenson.*

Sunshine is delicious ; rain is refreshing ; wind braces us up ; snow is exhilarating : there is really no such thing as bad weather—only different kinds of good weather.

Responsibilities gravitate to the person who can shoulder them, and power flows to the man who knows how.

Don't make promises—make good.

System is crystallised common sense.

No man is damned eternally so long as he tries.

An ounce of loyalty is worth a pound of cleverness.

Requisites for an all-round education are :—Ambition, Aspiration, Application, Respiration and Perspiration.

The eagle suffers little birds to sing !

Hope is the companion of power and the mother of success, for whoso hopes strongly has within him the gift of miracles.

Often the fear of not accomplishing what is before us, is the only thing in our way.

It is a friendly heart that has plenty of friends.

Courage ! What if the snows are deep,  
And what if the hills are long and steep,  
And the days are short and the nights are long,  
And the good are weak and the bad are strong.  
Courage ! The snow is a field of play,  
And the longest hill has a well-worn way,  
There are songs which shorten the longest night,  
There's a day when wrong shall be ruled by right,  
So Courage ! Courage ! 'Tis never so far  
From a plodded path to a shining star.

## BREWERY JOTTINGS.

(BY W. DUNSTER.)

A Happy and Prosperous New Year to all.

## A SAD NOTE.

At the Brewery, when we knew of the death of the revered Chairman of the Company, Mr. George Blackall-Simonds, we all experienced a sense of personal loss of a true friend. It is indeed a sad blow for the Directors. Many of us recall Mr. Blackall mentioning that he was born at the Brewery and that he was weighed in the malt scales. The messages of sympathy received at the Firm have been almost overwhelming.

MR. J. PHELAN.

Having occasion to call on the above gentleman at his house recently I found him to be ever so keen on Brewery matters and he informed me he always reads THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE with considerable interest. It keeps him in touch, so to speak. He wished to be remembered to all his friends at the Brewery, so I am carrying out his wishes *via* the medium of our monthly journal. Owing to the state of his health he is compelled to take things steadily and stop indoors. His hobby is clocks and he has a considerable and varied collection in which he takes great pride.

## XMAS RUSH.

As is usual at this time of the year, we have been having a particularly busy time and some, on a few occasions, have been wending their way home not long before the morning milk has been delivered. They will have had the satisfaction of knowing they well earned their Christmas respite from duty. We all hope that the Firm will have had a good Christmas from the trade point of view.

## A GOOD NUMBER.

The Editor's inevitable monthly query as to what do we think of the last issue of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE was answered in all sincerity "Ever so good." On the 12th December he reminded the writer that only eight days were left before this month's "Brewery Jottings" were required. As however our printers are having an extended Xmas holiday, contributors have been given a little more time in which to prepare their "copy," which is all for the best as the festive season is hardly the easiest time for writing.

## FOOTBALL.

Reading are tumbling from their earlier exalted position in the League and at the moment of writing are in the danger zone. This is naturally disheartening to all the supporters of the Club for better things were hoped for this season, and the way in which Reading started off even promotion was thought of by some ardent enthusiasts. Now the critic is in his element, but it is generally the opinion that unless some goal-scoring forwards are obtained the outlook will be far from hopeful. Possibly the New Year will see a change in the fortunes of the Club. The luck in the draw for the Cup has deserted Reading this time and they will be meeting a particularly good team in Aston Villa away from home. If Reading should win or even draw on January 11th, 1930, this will be one of the sensations of the day; nevertheless, sensational results have always happened in the past so why not again in the case of Reading? It is one of the writer's joyful football memories that he saw Reading draw with Aston Villa at Villa Park in the 1911-12 season in the Cup, when Reading had not an "earthly" chance according to "form." Also in the 1926-27 season Reading played Manchester United at Villa Park in a replayed Cup Tie and won, so here's hoping for the best.

MR. L. BROWNE.

It was very unfortunate for the above member of the General Office Staff just a week or so before Xmas to have to immediately undergo an operation at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, but it is satisfactory to know he made a splendid patient and was able to resume business just before Xmas; also he was able to enjoy his Christmas Dinner which at one time seemed highly problematical.

## ITEMS IN BRIEF.

Both Mr. A. C. Kingston and Mr. S. Murton called in at the Brewery just before Xmas and in response to enquiries both said they were feeling better and certainly looked it.

The Club Draw caused considerable excitement when it took place. This does not come under the heading of "Xmas Rush" for it was the fairest draw ever.

Most of us now have received our bound copies of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE and this handsome volume, the third by the way, in its nice blue covers, makes an excellent addition to every book-case and we know the contents are good.

We always start the New Year well downstairs by commencing quarterly balancing and overtime for a week or so takes place.

It is to be hoped that our New Year resolution of balancing first time will be duly carried out.

Oxford is well known as being a seat of learning and from the Oxford Branch notes of last month it would appear also to be a seat of modesty.

During the summer, owing to the drought, orders were received at the Brewery for barrels of water, so just to balance matters during the floods, men with pumps have been requisitioned to empty flooded cellars of some of our Houses close to the river.

### I'D LIKE TO WANDER.

I'd like to wander, till my days are done,  
Quit my house-door, pass through my city's gate,  
And take the road that round the world doth run—  
The long strong road, so like a stream in spate.  
It well may be that best things nearest lie,  
That goodliest fruits in sheltered gardens grow,  
And wanderers find nought new beneath the sky—  
Still, wandering is the surest way to know.

I'd like to greet the sun in every land,  
To hear the wind in every forest roar,  
To break a trail through steppe and snow and sand,  
Cross every sea, and touch on every shore.  
Beneath the stranger-roofs be warmed and fed,  
Drink and make friends in stranger-company,  
Lay, on each chance-found couch, a nomad's head,  
And bend, in every shrine, a nomad's knee.

Great towns that are the glory of the world,  
Lone lands that make the loveliness of earth—  
I would see all before my sail is furled,  
And learn their ways of love and grief and mirth!  
So keeping still the road that turns not back,  
I'll come full circle, ere the dark quite fall,  
Then light the lamp, undo the traveller's pack,  
And say "At Home!" when friendly Death doth call.

### THE LIGHTER SIDE.

Naval recruiting officers have just received from the Admiralty strict orders not to accept candidates for training unless they are fully up to the intelligence standard. Soon it will be necessary to be a B.A. before you can become an A.B.

\* \*

An ex-colonel was playing a round of golf. He was playing very badly, and presently noticed a man watching him.

"What the deuce are you looking at?" thundered the colonel.

"Looking at?" answered the man. "I'm not looking. I'm listening."

\* \*

### SEX APPEAL.

At the congress of the Incorporated Association of Organists a speaker declared that it was degrading the organ to use it as an accompaniment to the hectic love-films now so popular. We certainly think that a sex-ophone would be a more appropriate instrument.

\* \*

A workman who fell 30 feet from a building in course of erection was fortunately uninjured. On being picked up he very probably felt that another little drop wouldn't do him any harm.

\* \*

JIMMY: "Is a taxicab anything to do with a taxidermist, father?"

FATHER: "No, my son. A taxidermist only skins the lower animals."

\* \*

"Well, gentlemen of the jury, are you unanimous?"

FOREMAN: "Yes, your honour; we're all alike—temporarily insane?"

\* \*

"Yus, I'm a ver-ry, ver-ry unhappy married man."

"Wot! Is there any other kind?"

\* \*

An elderly lady was visiting the University Hospital in Oklahoma City. "Poor boy," she said to an ex-soldier who had been wounded, "you must have gone through some tight squeezes."

"Well, ma'am," he stammered, blushing a violet pink, "the nurses here have been pretty good to me I must admit."

Have you heard the story of how the sea captain kept the Scotsman from getting sea-sick?

He tied the Scotsman to the rail with his hands behind him and put a sixpence in his mouth.

\* \*

While engaged filling up his pipe the other day an Aberdonian was approached by a boy with "Matches, sir?" The Aberdonian took a box, opened it, took out a match, lighted his pipe, and handed the box back to the boy with the remark: "Thank ye, my lad, London's a wonderful place."

\* \*

A bird in the car is worth two on the bus.

\* \*

"How much beer is it safe to take daily?" has been the basis of a recent discussion. I am of the opinion that if merely taken before, after, between, and during meals no harm can result.

\* \*

Nitre is said to be used in the concoction of Pussyfoot cocktails in the United States. There must be some dreadful morning after the "nitre" before.

\* \*

"U.S. will be dry for ever," predicts an American writer. Well, I'm glad it's U.S. and not US.

\* \*

At Northampton a horse dashed into a public house and, falling through the floor, had to be shot. The result of taking a drop too much.

\* \*

HOTEL GUEST (to Aberdonian at washhand basin): "Excuse me, sir, but that's my tooth brush you're using. I left it behind by mistake."

ABERDONIAN (handing it over): "Oh, that's a' richt, I thocht it belonged tae the hotel."

\* \*

ABERDONIAN (to friend who had been called in to admire the wallpaper) ! An hoo dae ye like the pattern ? "

FRIEND : " The pattern's all right, but why hae ye put it on wi' tacks ? "

ABERDONIAN : " Ye surely dinna think I'm to bide here a' my life ? "

A lady entered the smoking compartment of a train and, feeling particularly uncomfortable in the atmosphere being created by the pipe of a fellow-passenger, hinted that she might soon be overcome by sickness. "Losh, woman," he exclaimed, "dinna be sick here. See that notice: 'Spitting forbidden—Penalty two pounds.'"

\* \*

A ship captain came into Aberdeen Harbour to recruit two seamen for his crew. One Scot presented himself with a sheaf of excellent testimonials, and the other offered his services without possessing a single credential. Before the voyage had gone far, the two new "hands" were put on to swab the deck, when one of them and the pail were washed overboard. The other rushed to the captain's cabin and surprised him by asking: "D'ye remember the fellow wi' the great bunch of characters ye signed on?" "I do," replied the captain. "Weel, he's awa' wi' yer bucket?"

\* \*

A man is known by the company he keeps  
And the cigars he gives away.

\* \*

#### UNKNOWN CROSS ROAD.

At Trangie a man was knocked down by a motor car and seriously injured. Subsequently an action for damages was instituted. A doctor giving evidence stated, when asked where the car hit the complainant, "At the junction of the dorsal and cervical vertebræ."

The foreman of the jury stood up and said: "Your Honour, I've been living in this part of the country for over fifty years, and I never heard of such a place."

\* \* \* \*

Now what country did this one come from? Have a guess:—

"You coming to our party to-night?"

"Don't see how I can. Got a case of diphtheria in the house."

"Bring it along; bring it along. We'll drink anything."

\* \* \* \*

"I shay, conshtable, whish of these two carsh ish mine?"

## OUR LADIES' PAGE.

## THE OLD YEAR AND THE NEW.

Another year has dawned in the history of the world and as we stand on the threshold we wonder what the days, weeks and months have in store for us—whether joy or sorrow. Of course, the natural hope is that good fortune may still be our lot, but it must follow that we should have our share of disappointments and perhaps sorrows, if only that they help us to appreciate to its full value the brighter side of life.

With the advent of the New Year it used to be the general custom to lay in a stock of good resolutions, but one does not hear quite so much of this nowadays. It may be that we find it rather difficult to live up to these rules which we set ourselves, and rather than we should let others see us fall we prefer not to broadcast the fact that we have set ourselves a standard.

And whilst looking forward, I think that at this time of the year no harm is done if we also take a look in the opposite direction. Many events must have occurred in the course of the year which have left their mark in some way or another, and the lessons learnt will stand us in good stead for the future. It is also very pleasant to recall happy events which have fallen to our lot and to live again in thought those hours when it seemed that everything conspired to give us pleasure and such things as disappointments were unknown.

It is also necessary that in these days of rapid progress we should keep ourselves in touch with important events in the history of our country and also in the world at large. The vast strides made year by year in the realms of science, and the tremendous advance in the manufacture, one might almost say creation, of machinery of every kind, so that we travel faster and faster by land, sea and air, are perhaps those which fascinate us most and we can hardly conjecture what improvements the coming year can make in these directions. We were all thrilled by that magnificent contest for the Schneider Trophy, we followed with deep interest the flight of the Graf Zeppelin round the world, and we have hopes that the British airships, which have lately been taking trial trips, may eventually surpass the achievement of the German craft.

I'm afraid that in my articles for THE HOP LEAF the weather has a habit of creeping in, but on this occasion, when taking a survey of 1929, I think mention of it is not amiss, for as a year of extremes, embracing heat, cold, gales and floods, it must be almost

a record. In February and March we experienced intense cold, then followed a summer outstanding for its heat and sunshine and drought, when streams, lakes and wells dried up, so much so that we thought that floods this winter could not possibly happen, but we judged far from correctly for in November such tremendous quantities of rain fell that in the south of England in particular, and in Wales, many, many homes were ruined and their occupants suffered terribly by the flow of water into their houses.

And now, standing on the brink of 1930, with the blessings vouchsafed to us in 1929 still fresh in our memories, we look forward with renewed hope to the days ahead, determined to do our best under any circumstances which may fall to our lot.

## A NATURE NOTE.

(BY C.H.P.).

By the time these lines appear the rivers should be in an ideal condition for fishing. Most of the fishes' ordinary food has been swept away by the great rush of water and they are now hungry. If you can find a quiet eddy you should bag some big roach. Let your bait lie on the bottom of the river and attach a running lead to your trace. A shot fixed on the gut about a foot from the hook will prevent the lead running too far in that direction. The great idea of a running bullet is the fact that when the fish bites, the line passes gently through the lead and he does not feel the "drag."

As to perch and pike, a good way to obtain minnows for bait is as follows: Fix a funnel into a glass jar containing some bread and then lower it into the water. Minnows will soon find their way into the jar and be unable to find their way out.

You cannot do better than paternoster for perch or pike. Tie a bullet to the end of your trace and then fix a couple of hooks with minnows about a foot apart. Why this mode of fishing is termed paternostering I do not know.

Well, my New Year's wish to all brother anglers is: Many tight lines.

After all, what is more enjoyable than a day spent in the bitter cold or wet so long as you are well shod and warmly clad?

Such weather conditions seem to generate a great appetite which can be well satisfied with a crust of bread and cheese, a big onion and—you've all guessed right—a bottle of "S.B."!

## SOCIAL CLUB.

The Committee take this opportunity of wishing all members of the Club a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

## ANNUAL DINNER.

The Ninth Annual Club Dinner will be held on Monday, 13th January, at the Olympia, London Street. This function offers a unique opportunity for all members of the Club to meet together for a social evening. This year, owing to the generosity of the Board of Directors, the price has been put within the reach of all. It is now up to us to show our appreciation by turning up in full force. Already it is estimated that 250 will be sitting down to dinner, but there is heaps of room for more, and those who have not yet booked their seat are advised to do so at once, as the sale of tickets will cease on Monday, 6th January. Mr. F. A. Simonds has kindly promised to preside, also Mr. S. V. Shea-Simonds, and we sincerely hope all the other Directors and the Heads of Departments will be there to support the Chair. As near as possible the members of the various departments will be seated at the same table, and to facilitate the seating arrangements tickets for the respective tables are of different colour. All are requested to arrive at the Olympia at not later than 7.15 p.m. in readiness to be seated at the tables by 7.25 p.m., and when ready to sit down to report to the following officials (according to the colour of their ticket) who will direct them to their seat:—

Blue tickets	...	...	Mr. W. Sparks.
Pink	..	...	C. Weller.
Mauve	..	...	S. Bird.
Red	..	...	G. Marsh.
White	..	...	H. Shepherd.
Yellow	..	...	W. Curtis.

For further guidance, a ticket of the same colour will be put at the end of each table. Members can sit anywhere at their respective tables, unless the place is previously labelled. The dinner will be followed by a concert, and the following artistes are among those who will appear:—Miss Margaret Rex, Messrs. Teddy Pare, S. Hinton, George Smith, J. Champion and P. James. The bar will remain open until midnight. All are earnestly requested to remain seated at the tables during the concert; a good staff of waiters will be in attendance to eliminate as far as possible the annoyance caused by a continual moving about.

## BILLIARDS HANDICAP.

The final of the billiards handicap was played off on Friday, December 20th, when Mr. Couzens of the Maltings department was successful in winning the first prize, given by Mr. C. W. Stocker;

Mr. E. Taylor of the Cooperage department being the runner-up thereby winning the second prize. The game was keenly contested, the result being a very small margin between them.

## DEPARTMENTAL TOURNAMENTS.

The following departmental tournaments have been played off and, as can be seen by the table given below, it is very doubtful which team will be successful in winning the Directors' cup.

## DEPARTMENTAL TOURNAMENTS.

FRIDAY, 13TH DECEMBER, 1929.

Games.	OFFICES.		TRANSPORT.	
	Name.	Points.	Name.	Points.
Billiards	H. Davis	...	G. Winslet	...
"	H. Davis	...	A. Dalton	...
"	A. Rider	...	L. Mulcock	...
Dominoes	H. Davis	...	J. Jones	...
"	W. Bradford	...	A. Hutchins	...
"	H. Osborne	...	A. Dalton	...
Crib	W. Bradford	...	W. Witts	...
"	H. Shepherd	...	F. Adey	...
"	F. Josey	...	F. Hamilton	...
Shove Halfpenny	W. Wild	...	D. Witts	...
"	J. Wadhams	...	F. Adey	...
"	C. Cox	...	H. Taylor	...
Darts	W. Wild	...	H. Price	...
"	H. Davis	...	G. Boniface	...
"	H. Davis	...	H. Taylor	...
Shooting	A. Rider	...	A. Dalton	...
"	H. Osborne	...	L. Mulcock	...
"	H. Shepherd	...	A. Dalton	...
		11		
		—		
		7		

FRIDAY, 20TH DECEMBER, 1929.

Game.	COOPERS.		CELLARS.	
	Name.	Points.	Name.	Points.
Billiards	A. Weight	...	W. Kibble	...
"	C. Weller	...	A. Rumens	...
"	R. Griffiths	...	W. Curtis	...
Dominoes	C. Latimer	...	W. Wheeler	...
"	E. Carpenter	...	A. Waller	...
"	H. Plank	...	F. Freeman	...
Crib	C. Latimer	...	W. Wheeler	...
"	T. Bartholomew	...	A. Simpkins	...
"	W. Sparks	...	J. Benford	...
Shove Halfpenny	F. Middleton	...	F. Freeman	...
"	W. Sparks	...	W. Kirke	...
"	E. Carpenter	...	W. Curtis	...
Darts	G. Kelly, Junr.	...	W. Maskell	...
"	A. Weight	...	A. Shiers	...
"	A. Read	...	W. Curtis	...
Shooting	T. Bartholomew	...	W. Hamblin	...
"	H. Clements	...	A. Joyce	...
"	F. Middleton	...	W. Kibble	...
		8		
		—		
		10		

## DEPARTMENTAL TOURNAMENTS.

Result of games played to week ending December 21st, 1929 :—

Team.	No. of Tournaments played.	No. of Games played.	Won.	Lost.	Drawn.	Points.
Cellars ... ..	4	72	36	35	1	36½
Transport ... ..	4	72	22	39	—	33
Rest ... ..	3	54	32	33	—	32
Coopers ... ..	3	54	21	33	—	21
Offices ... ..	2	36	20	16	—	20
Building ... ..	2	36	19	16	1	19½

## BILLIARDS LEAGUE.

## DIVISION I.

MONDAY, 28TH OCTOBER, 1929.

*H. & G. S. Social.**West Reading Liberal.*

R. Clement ... ..	150	v.	J. Young ... ..	149
A. Dalton ... ..	150	v.	R. Adams ... ..	128
G. Boddington ... ..	104	v.	H. Snow ... ..	150
F. Braisher ... ..	59	v.	H. Webb ... ..	150
R. Broad ... ..	100	v.	J. Ellis ... ..	150
R. Griffiths ... ..	150	v.	A. Jones ... ..	95
	713			822

Winning Team, West Reading Liberal by 109 points.

MONDAY, 4TH NOVEMBER, 1929.

*West Reading Liberal.**H. & G. S. Social.*

J. Young ... ..	143	v.	R. Clement ... ..	90
R. Adams ... ..	150	v.	A. Dalton ... ..	101
H. Snow ... ..	86	v.	F. Braisher ... ..	150
H. Webb ... ..	150	v.	R. Griffiths ... ..	78
J. Ellis ... ..	150	v.	R. Broad ... ..	71
A. Jones ... ..	150	v.	J. B. Doe ... ..	112
	829			602

Winning Team, West Reading Liberal by 227 points.

MONDAY, 25TH NOVEMBER, 1929.

*H. & G. Simonds Social.**Central Liberal.*

R. Clement ... ..	90	v.	A. Taylor ... ..	150
A. Dalton ... ..	94	v.	A. Anderson ... ..	150
G. Boddington ... ..	150	v.	H. Lampe ... ..	148
F. Braisher ... ..	99	v.	— Coombes ... ..	150
R. Broad ... ..	93	v.	— Bright ... ..	150
R. Griffiths ... ..	115	v.	— Dowse ... ..	150
	641			898

Winning Club, Central Liberal by 257 points.

MONDAY, 9TH DECEMBER, 1929.

*Y.M.C.A.**H. & G. Simonds Social.*

E. Adkin ... ..	150	v.	R. Clement ... ..	137
G. Nicholson ... ..	150	v.	A. Dalton ... ..	72
F. Mead ... ..	110	v.	G. Boddington ... ..	150
E. Campin ... ..	150	v.	F. Braisher ... ..	117
A. Adamson ... ..	150	v.	R. Broad ... ..	124
J. Davis ... ..	150	v.	R. Griffiths ... ..	133
	860			733

Winning Club, Y.M.C.A. by 127 points.

MONDAY, 16TH DECEMBER, 1929.

*H. & G. Simonds Social.**Y.M.C.A.*

R. Clement ... ..	143	v.	G. Nicholson ... ..	150
A. Dalton ... ..	89	v.	E. Adkin ... ..	150
G. Boddington ... ..	84	v.	F. Mead ... ..	150
F. Braisher ... ..	125	v.	E. Campin ... ..	150
R. Broad ... ..	90	v.	A. Adamson ... ..	150
R. Griffiths ... ..	150	v.	J. Davis ... ..	148
	681			898

Winning Club, Y.M.C.A. by 217 points.

## BILLIARDS LEAGUE.

## DIVISION II.

MONDAY, 4TH NOVEMBER, 1929.

*Comrades Club.**H. & G. S. Social.*

L. Jennings ... ..	100	v.	H. Davis ... ..	46
P. T. Cooper ... ..	89	v.	W. Curtis ... ..	100
F. D. Durman ... ..	69	v.	J. B. Doe ... ..	100
A. H. Berry ... ..	58	v.	C. Weller ... ..	100
F. Palmer ... ..	79	v.	G. Poole ... ..	100
F. Belcher ... ..	100	v.	W. Sparks ... ..	79
	495			525

Winning Team, H. &amp; G. Social by 30 points.

MONDAY, 11TH NOVEMBER, 1929.

*H. & G. S. Social.*

J. Doe ...	...	100	v.	L. Jennings ...	...	—
W. Curtis ...	...	100	v.	C. Smith ...	...	—
H. Davis ...	...	100	v.	W. H. Berry ...	...	78
C. Weller ...	...	100	v.	W. H. Parsons ...	...	73
G. Poole ...	...	92	v.	E. F. Durman ...	...	100
W. Sparks ...	...	100	v.	F. Belcher ...	...	62
592				313		

Winning Team, H. &amp; G. S. Social by 279 points.

MONDAY, 18TH NOVEMBER, 1929.

*Curzon Club.**H. & G. S. Social.*

H. Beech ...	...	100	v.	J. Doe ...	...	55
R. Bedding ...	...	100	v.	W. Curtis ...	...	71
E. Britten ...	...	63	v.	H. Davis ...	...	100
G. Harrison ...	...	84	v.	C. Weller ...	...	100
H. North ...	...	100	v.	W. Sparks ...	...	98
F. Bartholomew ...	...	100	v.	G. Poole ...	...	43
547				467		

Winning Team, Curzon Club by 80 points.

MONDAY, 2ND DECEMBER, 1929.

*H. & G. Simonds Social.**Y.M.C.A.*

J. Doe ...	...	100	v.	W. Bilbey ...	...	75
H. Davis ...	...	61	v.	L. Gordon ...	...	100
W. Curtis ...	...	100	v.	F. Attwood ...	...	58
C. Weller ...	...	68	v.	W. Banger ...	...	100
W. Sparks ...	...	36	v.	J. Rowe ...	...	100
E. Taylor ...	...	46	v.	R. Sackley ...	...	100
411				533		

Winning Club, Y.M.C.A. by 122 points.

MONDAY, 9TH DECEMBER, 1929.

*H. & G. Simonds Social.**Curzon Club.*

J. Doe ...	...	98	v.	H. Beech ...	...	100
W. Curtis ...	...	100	v.	R. Bedding ...	...	85
H. Davis ...	...	100	v.	E. Britten ...	...	80
C. Weller ...	...	68	v.	G. Harrison ...	...	100
G. Poole ...	...	—	v.	H. North ...	...	100
E. Taylor ...	...	85	v.	F. Bartholomew ...	...	100
451				565		

Winning Club, Curzon Club by 114 points.

We all very deeply regret the loss of one of our Vice-Presidents (Mr. George Blackall-Simonds) ; also of Mr. J. D. Carter of Slough who has been a subscriber since the Club's inception.

## OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS LIFE.

In a recent article which appeared in a certain well-known weekly paper, a famous film-star, Miss Constance Talmadge by name, expressed several of her views on the attitude one should bear towards life. It was stated that they could be summed up in the words: "Have a real good time all the time," whilst her motto, taken from Voltaire, was "If nature had not made us a little frivolous we would be most wretched . . . I look upon solemnity as a disease."

Now these, in common with every other opinion, are of course subject to criticism, and since one's views on the correct attitude to take up towards the world are of importance, they might well be discussed and commented upon.

The first thing that might strike a critic is the fact that the opinion in question is rather a selfish one. Where would self-sacrifice come in? An unselfish person must, to a certain extent, at least, have a rather beautiful character, and an egotist the reverse. A man out to get every pleasure from the world would not be found continually at the bedside of a crippled or sick friend. He would be away "having a real good time all the time," whilst the unfortunate invalid would be in all probability pining for the attentions of a sympathiser. No! In this case it is obvious which is the right or wrong course, but the fact must be remembered that this is the extreme view. A much better one is that expressed in the motto from Voltaire: "I look upon solemnity as a disease." This is far more well-balanced and sane than the one which previously concerned us. In effect it tells us to keep up our spirits and present a smiling face to our neighbours. This is totally different from extracting every pleasure from life. Self-devotion may be practised here without altering the maxim concerning the "smiling face"! Apart from the baseness showed by practising self interests and amusements here is a virtue, that of optimism and cheerfulness. In circumstances of tragedy the pleasure-hunter would fail miserably unless he possessed a certain low courage, whilst the man who practised the alternative doctrine would come through with colours flying.

Summed up briefly it may be said that the former view is, of course, crude fibre, whilst the latter is one of finer texture, and consequently there is a world of difference between them.

In one case it is a fault, in the other a virtue, and choice between them is easy.

In this world we want not the mean, selfish spirit but one of cheerfulness under all conditions.

KIRBY, JUNR.

## THE FELLOW WHO THINKS HE CAN.

If you think you're beaten, you are ;  
 If you think you dare not, you don't.  
 If you'd like to win, but think you can't,  
 It's almost a cinch you won't.  
 If you think you'll lose, you're lost,  
 For out in the world you find  
 Success begins with a fellow's will ;  
 It's all in the state of mind.

Full many a race is lost  
 Ere ever a step is run ;  
 And many a coward fails  
 Ere ever his work's begun.  
 Think big, and your deeds will grow ;  
 Think small, and you'll fall behind ;  
 Think that you can, and you will.  
 It's all in the state of mind.

If you think you're outclassed, you are ;  
 You've got to think high to rise,  
 You've got to be sure of yourself before  
 You can ever win a prize.  
 Life's battles don't always go  
 To the stronger or faster man,  
 But soon or late the man who wins  
 Is the fellow who thinks he can.

## THE LIGHTER SIDE.

LADY (to her partner) : "Have you any prominent men in your family, Mr. Dumleigh ?"

MR. D. : "Yes, one of my forefathers was an admiral. At one time he led the world's combined fleet."

LADY : "How interesting. What was his name ?"

MR. D. : "Noah."

\* \* \* \*

"What have you against Arthur, Dad ?" asked his daughter May.

"I do not consider him a good match for you, my dear."

"But why ? He's a beautiful artist, you know."

"He may be, my dear ; but the trouble is he cannot draw cheques."

## BRANCHES.

## ALDERSHOT.

## COMMAND BOXING.

On November 22nd the 2nd Battn. King's Shropshire Light Infantry won the Aldershot Command Novices Boxing Competition by defeating the 2nd Battn. The Buffs in the final by a margin of 25 points to 15 points.

They had a trying time in the semi-finals on the previous evening, only defeating the 1st Battn. King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry by the odd point.

At the conclusion of the competition, Lieut.-Col. J. Crookenden, D.S.O., Commanding 2nd Battn. The Buffs, presented the trophy and medals to the K.S.L.I., and Lieut.-Col. R. E. Holmes a Court, D.S.O., Commanding the K.S.L.I., presented runners-up' medals to the losers.

The K.S.L.I. are also playing some exceptionally good football at the present time and we wish them all good luck.

## A PROFITABLE COMPLAINT.

"Our Major—he's an officer and gentleman," said a soldier to several companions in a railway carriage. "The other day he comes into the canteen, and, says he, 'Any complaints ?' And I says, 'Yes, sir ! Beg your pardon, sir, this beer ain't fit to drink.' So he says to the bloke who'd served us, 'Give me a glass of it.' And when he'd tasted it, says he, 'Swipes !' and he says to the bloke, 'Line these men up,' and when he'd done that, he says 'And now give them back their money.' And I'd never paid."

## RAMNUGGAR BALL.

Aldershot was the scene of a brilliant event when the 14/20th Hussars gave their Ramnuggar Ball on the 22nd October.

This year the Wellington Lines Gymnasium was utilised. Same had been attractively decorated with flags and evergreens, and lighted by hidden lights of many colours.

On one side of the hall was the word "Ramnuggar" and alongside the orchestra stand was the Ramnuggar Cup, guarded by two troopers, one in the uniform of 1715, the other of 1914, together with a photograph of T/Sergt.-Major Stratford, the only survivor of 1848.

At midnight R.S.M. S. W. C. Piper made a short speech and gave a brief history of this gallant cavalry charge as is the usual annual custom, afterwards asking the Commanding Officer,

Lieut.-Col. C. G. Darley, D.S.O., to drink from the Cup to fallen heroes. Afterwards all guests were permitted to drink the same toast.

A distinguished company of officers and civilian friends was present.

Congratulations to S.S.M. C. Scarr and his Committee on the magnificent arrangements made for the large number of guests present, some 600.

As in past years we erected a large marquee for liquid refreshments, which was appreciated.

#### THE GREEN HOWARDS.

The W.O.'s and Sergeants of the above Sergeants' Mess held their annual ball on the 27th December, 1929, at the R.A.S.C. Theatre, Aldershot, and merriment reigned throughout the whole evening.

The ballroom was very tastefully decorated and the music was exceedingly good, so much so that dancing continued until 3 a.m. under the control of that excellent M.C., C.Q.M.S. Warren, who, we regret to state, performed his last duty in that office, as he leaves the Army next week on retirement into civilian life.

Amongst the company of 350 who attended were nearly all the Officers of the Battalion and representatives from all Units in the Command.

C.S.M. Scott, President of the Committee, and the Committee who supported him, are to be congratulated on the fine manner in which everything was arranged to make the ball such a successful and jolly affair.

#### GIBRALTAR.

##### RANDOM REFLECTIONS IN AN "S.B." GLASS.

The photograph on next page is of Mr. "Dolly" Gray, ex-Master Tailor in His Majesty's Army, and now Range Warden at North Front Rifle Range. "Dolly," as he is known to all his friends, can also be described as one of the features of the "Rock." For twenty-one years he has weathered both "wet" and "dry" seasons, and, while people may come and people may go, "Dolly" remains on for ever. He has seen sappers grow into sergeants, and destroyers grow into battleships, but "Dolly's" serene countenance remains unchanged by the passage of time, although he has often been heard to lament the unfortunate decease of one of his oldest friends—to wit, Gunner Brown.

Young in heart and ideas, if not in actual years, he is always to be seen where the "Red Hop Leaves" are thickest. Here's to him.

By the time these lines are in print the Fleet will be upon us. No longer shall we walk along an almost deserted Main Street at 9.0 p.m., and the unruffled existence of our placid lives will be rudely awakened. Even so, the inhabitants of this little colony of well under two square miles, with its 17,000 people, say with all sincerity: "Thank God we've got a Navy." I would not suggest, of course, that the café proprietors and Indian bazaars say it loudest. In our next issue, and providing the typewriter will stand the strain, I will endeavour to portray a scene in Main Street "when the Fleet comes in."

Let me, on behalf of all the devotees at the shrine of the "Red Hop Leaf" in Gibraltar, wish you all the very best for 1930. More power to your elbows.



Sergeant F. Gray.

## BRIGHTON.

The sad news has just reached as of the death of our Chairman, Mr. G. Blackall-Simonds, and those who knew this kindly English gentleman will regret his passing away. No doubt someone more able than the writer will chronicle in the GAZETTE more of the feelings of appreciation of this gentleman's goodness.

Also we regret the death of the oldest Branch Manager, Mr. J. D. Carter, of Slough, which takes away still another link with the past.

The steward of the West Tarring Working Men's Club, Mr. A. Mitchell, has furnished us with an interesting photo of a memorial tablet which was found behind an old fireplace when doing repairs at "Ye Olde Six Bells" Inn, Billingshurst, Sussex. It is presumed that Thomas Gaynsford was buried within the inn, which stands on the site of an old brewery. Mr. Mitchell tells us that his grandfather used to deliver beer from the brewery in 3-gallon casks by means of a donkey cart.

Since our last issue Brighton has been swept by a succession of violent gales, the like of which have not been known for a number of years, and some days it was next to impossible to walk on the seafront.

These gales, of course, disturb the shingle, and after a storm "beachcombers" search the shore for treasure trove dropped in the summer by visitors lying on the beach, but big finds are not ever heard of. Despite the rough weather the all-the-year-round bathers have braved the elements for their morning dip.

Brighton is looking up as regards football, having beaten Peterborough and Barry and are now drawn against Grimsby at home in the English Cup. This is the third home game, but the gates have been extremely poor. Look out, Plymouth; Brighton is not far away in the League table! We wish Reading the best of luck in their match against the Villa.

We are hoping to see more of Mr. A. Goodall than in the past, as he has decided to come to Hove to settle down; and that is the next best place after Brighton.

Our lorry drivers have had a rough time during the wet weather we had so much of during November. One coming home from Littlehampton recently, and negotiating a flooded road, got into some soft ground and we had to send next morning and tow the lorry out. Fortunately no damage was done.

We are busy with Christmas business, as we hope the Firm are generally, and we conclude this year's notes with best wishes to the Firm for a prosperous new year.

## PORTSMOUTH.

## PRINCE ARTHUR OF CONNAUGHT'S VISIT TO PORTSMOUTH.

H.R.H. Prince Arthur of Connaught, K.G., was a distinguished visitor to the City of Portsmouth on Monday, December 9th. His visit was in connection with the coming-of-age celebrations of the Portsmouth Municipal College. The Prince was the guest of the Lord Mayor, Councillor J. E. Smith, J.P., at a luncheon in the Lord Mayor's banqueting room, and afterwards he made a speech in the Municipal College, of which he made a tour. A guard of honour was provided by ex-Service men who are members of the British Legion or the Old Contemptibles Association. The guard gave the Royal Salute and the British Legion Band played the National Anthem. The Prince then entered the Guildhall to the sound of hearty cheering, and in the Mayor's apartments the members of the Council and other guests were received by the Prince and Lord Mayor.

The banqueting room was well filled, all phases of civil life being represented by the guests. During luncheon a programme of music was performed by the Band of the Royal Artillery under Conductor G. Landrock, L.R.A.M. The toast of "The King" was proposed by the Lord Mayor, and also that of "The Queen and Members of the Royal Family." He expressed the delight of the City at being able to have the Prince with them on such an auspicious occasion. "His Royal Highness," he said, "had done Portsmouth a signal honour and they had all been looking forward to his visit with great expectations." In reply, Prince Arthur thanked the company for the charming manner in which they had signified approval of the toast. He mentioned, amid applause, that he was an old Portsmouth resident, having lived here for three years.

The Prince before his departure made a tour of the College and afterwards joined the assembly at tea in the Guildhall. He also paid a visit to his sister, Princess Patricia, wife of the Commodore of the Royal Naval Barracks.

## SARISBURY WORKING MEN'S CLUB DINNER.

Mr. G. E. Parker, J.P., the President, presided at the Annual Dinner over a record attendance. He was supported by Rear-Admiral H. Smith, Colonel Byrne, Mr. C. T. Keen, J.P., C.C., Dr. Leishman, Dr. Kingdon, Dr. Mackie, Mr. K. Jewell, Mr. A. Yates, Lieut. Buckland, Mr. Palmer and Captain Pike. The loyal toasts having been duly honoured, Mr. Palmer in a rousing speech

proposed the "Imperial Forces and Mercantile Marine." Admiral Smith, replying for the Navy, said he hoped the Navy would not be reduced beyond the margin of safety. He also spoke of the splendid work of our Mercantile Marine during the Great War. Colonel Byrne, for the Army, viewed with alarm the many reductions, considering our many commitments. Captain Pike, who commanded a "Q" Ship in the War, said that if the need ever should arise men of the Mercantile Service would always be found ready. The Chairman gave the toast of the Club and its Officials. He eulogized the work of Captain Long, the Hon. Treasurer, and said that Mr. F. J. Gingell was an indefatigable and courteous Secretary. Mr. A. Toulson, Chairman of the Committee, and all his colleagues, Messrs. B. Braddon, E. Hayes, C. King, N. Bevis, G. Hickson, W. Dollery, H. Eps, R. Moss and F. Loader, all worked energetically on behalf of the Club. He also said that in Mr. J. Goulter, the Steward, they had an ideal man for the position. The first three named suitably replied. Mr. Letheren, Vice-President, in a neat speech proposed "The Visitors." Mr. V. T. Keen, J.P., Dr. Kingdon and Mr. Powell in brief speeches acknowledged the compliment and wished the Club continued success. "The Chairman" was given by Mr. Palmer. Mr. Parker, in reply, said he had been associated with the village for thirty-five years and was always ready to render service. Mr. Walsh's string band was in attendance and during the evening songs and community singing made the function a great success.

#### SIR WILLIAM PORTAL GRANTED THE FREEDOM OF WINCHESTER.

In the presence of a very distinguished gathering at the Winchester Guildhall on Tuesday, December 10th, Sir William Portal, Bart., of Laverstoke, Vice-Lieutenant of Hampshire and Chairman of Quarter Sessions, was presented with the Honorary Freedom of the ancient Capital of England. The honour is a strictly preserved one, for the "roll" of living Freemen even now contains only four names: H.R.H. The Prince of Wales, H.R.H. The Duke of Connaught, The Right Hon. Stanley Baldwin and Sir William Portal. The impressive and dignified ceremonial took place at a state meeting of the Council in the large hall, where the Freeman-elect took the chair on the right of the Mayor, and places of honour were assigned to the Lord Lieutenant (Major-General Seely) and Mrs. Seeley, Lady Portal and the Mayoress, etc. The Mayor (Councillor Harry Collis) entertained over eighty representative guests at luncheon, where the health of the new Freeman was drunk. Sir William Portal replied and asked the City's acceptance of a very large and handsome silver-gilt Georgian cup to adorn the municipal table on suitable occasions. On the

call of the Bishop of Winchester the company drank with enthusiasm to the health of the Mayor.

The Portsmouth Branch Staff beg to wish the Directors of H. & G. Simonds Ltd., all employees of the Firm and readers of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE a happy and prosperous New Year.

#### WOOLWICH.

We at this Branch trust all have had a very busy and successful Christmas, and wish the Directors and all every prosperity and happiness throughout the New Year.

We have not a lot to register on this occasion so will give you below a few details of our games tournaments with the N.C.O's. Mess, Military Police, Woolwich, also the Army and Navy Veterans Club, Thomas Street, Woolwich.

At the Military Police Mess, which we visited on November 26th, the result was 12 points each. To decide the winners an extra game of darts was played, and the Police managed to win this and so claimed victory.

We can do no better than give you below a copy of the Military Police report regarding the games:—

"All games played during the evening went with a gusto, accompanied by plenty of merriment. The tit-bit of the evening was the billiards which was played 11 up, stroke for stroke, the winner being a member of Messrs. Simonds. At the end of the tournament the result was a draw, so to decide the winners an extra game of darts was resorted to, this being won by the Police. Our next tournament takes place early in January, and then we hope to beat Messrs. Simonds decisively.

"The caterer, L/Cpl. Maytum, being a sport, served us magnificently during the evening. The ale was in splendid condition, being rather 'more-ish' and bubbled like champagne."

We attended the Army and Navy Veterans Club on the evening of December 10th, and are pleased to report a very happy time, and to inform our readers that we have at long last won a games tournament. We hope now, that we have broken our "duck," to report many more successes in the future.

It is very sad to hear of the passing of another of the Firm's respected servants in Mr. J. D. Carter, Manager of Slough Branch, and the report in the Slough paper, kindly sent by Mr. W. J. Munday, shows how the deceased gentleman was respected by all.

## WOKING.

All members of the Woking Branch Staff desire to express regret at the passing of the esteemed and venerated Chairman of the Company, Mr. George Blackall-Simonds. On the few occasions that the writer had the pleasure of seeing him, he was impressed by the fine qualities of mind and character which the Chairman exhibited, and his utterances stamped him as a great Englishman. We shall all feel inspired by his example, and gladly pay our tribute to one who, in a large-hearted way, lived a beautiful life of honour and usefulness.

We also regret to record the passing of Mr. Henry Thomas Churchill, one of the oldest members of the Woking Transport Staff, which took place at the end of November last, after twenty-one years service with the Firm. He had been ailing for nearly twelve months, and through the medium of the Woking Working Men's Club he spent a short period last summer at the Pegwell Bay Convalescent Home of the Club & Institute Union; despite the general care and attention which he received, his condition gradually grew worse. He was a very silent sufferer and bore his long illness with wonderful patience. He actively identified himself with the local Clubs and was well known throughout the district.

It is also our sad duty to record the death of Mr. Michael Driscoll, late Secretary of the Guildford Ivy Leaf Club and the Guildford Branch of the British Legion. Of Irish descent, although born in England, "Mickie," as he was affectionately known to many, was a zealous worker in the interests of Ex-service men, and spared no effort to secure proper recognition where it was deserved. His passing early in December, following an attack of pleurisy and bronchitis during September, was lamented by a wide circle of friends throughout the Guildford and Woking areas.

In conclusion, we heartily wish a very Happy and Prosperous New Year to all readers of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE.

## THE TAMAR BREWERY, DEVONPORT.

The sad news of the death of our revered Chairman, Mr. G. Blackall-Simonds, which reached us but a few hours since, has filled our hearts with profoundest sorrow, and our necessarily brief notes this month are deeply tinged with the knowledge that a real friend has departed from our midst.

We stand to-day, December 20th, in silence to his memory, paying homage to our venerable chief, whose passing is mourned

not only by those who had the privilege to know and serve under him but by many who only knew him from afar. A very wonderful life his! Our poor pen cannot attempt to express its value, or measurably describe its fulness.

May we, however, humbly offer our sincerest sympathy and thanks to all those, bound to him by closer ties, who by constant care and loving thought, nurtured to such a fruition that life which was such an inestimable blessing to so many.

We also have to lament the loss of one of our oldest friends, Mr. J. D. Carter, who for a generation set such an example of loyal service. A very faithful ensign was our old colleague! One of our "Old Warriors." Mr. Carter's death severs yet another of those fragrant links in our memory's chain upon which we all love to dwell. He, and his like, were true metal, and though often tested in the fiery flames of competition, were seldom found wanting. Our sympathies go out to those near and dear to him, in his family life, and to those in the wider sphere of his business relationships, who, with us, revere his memory.

We are still able to say "Well done 'Dukes'." Their Army Rugby Cup Tie with those old foemen, the 5th Tank Corps, led by that great tactician of England fame, Lieut. A. T. Young (who is due soon to leave these shores for service in the East) demonstrates their undoubted fitness to proceed still further towards the annexing of that (to them) most elusive trophy. To defeat the Tanks by 35 points to nil takes a lot of doing. On that form, Colonel Wellesley's "boys" should atone for the disappointments of the past two years. With "Horsey Browne" as a threequarter, things looked strange. As to his part in the victory—ask the Tanks! One run, from the halfway line to between the posts, with two "fliers" vainly endeavouring to overhaul him, was worth going a long way to see. The will to win was the keynote of the victory. In the next round they meet the South Wales Borderers at Portsmouth, and we can promise our Portsmouth friends a very hot time before the final whistle is blown. May the better fifteen win and may it be the "Dukes" is our keenest wish.

The whist drive at the end of November was a most enjoyable, though rather small, affair.

The following were the prizewinners:—

*Ladies*:—Mesdames Memory, Loughlin and Pierce.

*Gents*:—Messrs. Luscombe, Pudner and Pierce.

Our billiards folk have also found the way and the will to win, and the victories in the last two matches will help to make up for the recent run of bad luck, and give them confidence for the future.

Results :—

NOVEMBER 26TH.

<i>Simonds' Social Club.</i>					<i>St. Peter's.</i>				
E. Webber ...	...	...	...	125	v.	Bradshaw ...	...	...	108
J. H. Law ...	...	...	...	125	v.	Gill ...	...	...	74
F. Pierce ...	...	...	...	96	v.	Dodridge ...	...	...	125
P. Tucker ...	...	...	...	125	v.	Strange ...	...	...	121
471						428			

Remaining game won owing to St. Peter's representative's non attendance  
Simonds' won by four games to one.

DECEMBER 10TH.

<i>Simonds' Social Club.</i>					<i>Adult School.</i>				
E. Webber ...	...	...	...	115	v.	Maunder ...	...	...	125
A. E. Ellis ...	...	...	...	121	v.	Bartlett ...	...	...	125
J. H. Law ...	...	...	...	125	v.	Higsdon ...	...	...	81
S. W. Naish ...	...	...	...	125	v.	Beall ...	...	...	49
F. Pierce ...	...	...	...	125	v.	Baptic ...	...	...	105
611						485			

Simonds' won by three games to two.

## SLOUGH.

It is with the deepest regret that we record the death of Mr. J. D. Carter, our esteemed Manager. He was taken ill on Saturday, November 30th, and on the following Wednesday it was found necessary to operate. He entered a private ward of the King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor, where the operation was performed. Although this was successful, Mr. Carter unfortunately had not the necessary strength to effect his recovery and he passed away during the evening of Sunday, December 8th.

He was laid to rest on Wednesday, December 11th, in St. Mary's Churchyard, Slough, where a large number of his friends and business associates assembled to pay him their last respects. The mourners were: Mrs. J. D. Carter, Mr. G. Carter, Mrs. W. H. Bowles, Mr. S. V. Shea-Simonds, Mr. C. E. Gough, Mr. H. F. Lindars, Mr. A. W. C. Bowyer, the Staff of the Slough Branch and also three retired members, and representatives from the Slough and Maidenhead Theosophical Society Lodges, the Slough British Legion Club, the Southall British Legion Club, the Slough

Working Men's Club, the Southall Working Men's Club, the Southall Labour Hall Club, the Hanwell Labour Hall Club, the Hedsor and Bourne End Sports Club, and the tenants of a number of various licensed properties in the district. Among the numerous floral tributes received were those with the following inscriptions attached :—With sympathy from the Directors of H. & G. Simonds Ltd.; with deepest sympathy from the Branch Managers of H. & G. Simonds Ltd.; with deepest sympathy from the Staff of H. & G. Simonds Ltd., Slough Branch; "Happy Memories," Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Gough, Reading; with deepest sympathy from Mr. Frank Lindars, South Bank, Mansfield Road, Reading; with deep sympathy from Capt. A. S. Drewe, Reading; with deepest sympathy from friends at the Brewery, Reading; deep sympathy from Mr. and Mrs. V. W. Mundy, Slough; with deepest sympathy to a sincere friend from the Lady Haig Club of the British Legion, Slough; with deepest sympathy from the President, Vice-Presidents and Members of the British Legion Club, Bridge Street Branch, Maidenhead; with deepest sympathy from the Members of the British Legion Club, Southall; with deepest sympathy from the Committee and Members of the Southall Working Men's Club; in memory of an esteemed friend, with deepest sympathy from the Officers and Committee of the Southall Labour Club; At Rest— with deepest sympathy from Members of the Hanwell Labour Club; with deepest sympathy from the Chalvey Working Men's Club; with deepest sympathy from the Members of the Hedsor and Bourne End Sports Club; with deepest sympathy from the Slough Working Men's Club; a token of affection and esteem from the Herschel Chapter No. 1894; with deepest sympathy from the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of the Herschel Masonic Lodge No. 1894; with deepest sympathy from the Worshipful Master, Past Masters and Brethren of the Herschel Mark Lodge and the Brownrigg Royal Ark Mariners Lodge; to the dearly beloved President of the Maidenhead Lodge of the Theosophical Society from all its members in token of love and sweet memories of his example and teaching; with affectionate remembrance and appreciation from the Co-Masonic Lodge; with deepest sympathy from the Slough T.S. Lodge; with deepest sympathy from Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Bowyer, "The Two Roses," Slough; with deepest respect from Mr. and Mrs. Overbury, "North Star," Langley; with deepest sympathy from Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Vallis; from Mrs. Sullivan and family, "Ferry Hotel," Cookham; and many others.

Mr. Carter had served the Firm in various positions for nearly fifty-three years, the last thirty-nine of which he had been Manager of the Slough Branch. During this period he had endeared himself to everyone with whom he came in contact, notably to his staff to whom he gave all help and showed every consideration, and to the

many Clubs in the district. For some years past Mr. Carter had devoted his attention to club life in the large area over which he presided, and his great knowledge of, and sympathy with, the worker has helped many new clubs to attain success.

Much of his free time he gave up to Freemasonry and Theosophy the latter being his especial study and hobby. He was highly respected in the order and, in addition to being President of the Maidenhead Lodge, was instrumental in the foundation of the Slough Lodge.

He will undoubtedly be missed by all who knew him, but by none more than his staff.

We would take this opportunity of offering our colleagues the old wish of this season—a Prosperous New Year.



The late Mr. J. D. Carter.

## OXFORD.

All at Oxford were very grieved to learn of the death of our respected Chairman, Mr. G. Blackall-Simonds.

Thus passes one more eminent link with the past. We hope that the Reaper will be lenient with us for a period, as His hand has been very heavy lately, and many fine and valuable servants of the Firm are no longer with us.

We would now, despite the sombre note previously struck, like to wish all our colleagues and customers a very Prosperous and Happy New Year, and while on the subject of customers we give below three unsolicited testimonials which have come our way during the past year, and which go to prove that politeness, though it costs nothing, is a little more than its own reward :—

Boars Hill House,

Boars Hill,

Nr. Oxford.

May 13th, 1929.

Messrs. H. & G. Simonds Ltd.,  
Oxford.

I shall be leaving the district in a few weeks and should like to take this opportunity to thank you for the invariable courtesy received from your Staff.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) H. C. WOOLDRIDGE.

Brasenose Ground,

Abingdon Road,

Oxford.

December 20th, 1929.

Dear Sir,

I should like to thank your "Staff" for the courtesy shewn to me and the prompt way in which they deliver the goods.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) E. KING.

Steward to South Oxford Cricket, Bowls and Tennis Club.

*Xmas, 1929.*

The Home Bursar of Balliol College presents  
his compliments to  
Messrs. H. & G. Simonds Ltd.

He expresses his thanks for services rendered during the year now ending ; his Cordial Greetings at this Season of Good Will and his Sincere Wishes for Prosperity throughout the New Year.

*Oxford.*

