

# The Hop Leaf Gazette.

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

*Edited by CHARLES H. PERRIN.*

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1926.

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**Mr. FRED SIMONDS**

one of our senior Directors, is a keen yachtsman, and in his earlier days was renowned as a figure skater and could often be seen on Whiteknights Lake.

## EDITORIAL CHAT.

## OUR SECOND NUMBER.

The second number of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE proved as popular as the first and the demand for it was greater than ever. It is gratifying to those who had to do with its production to know that their efforts are so much appreciated. Many readers have expressed their pleasure at seeing so fine a photograph of our Managing Director (Mr. F. A. Simonds) which appeared on the front page. That was evidently a very popular feature. We hear, too, that the article "In Central America" appealed to a very wide circle, several parents reading it out to their children as they considered it of great educational value. The Cricket reminiscences also proved highly interesting and resulted in many wielders of the willow fighting their battles over again.

## A MIGHTY HIT:

The article reminds us of an incident which occurred in village cricket years ago. Not only was Mr. Shea-Simonds one of the best amateur Soccer backs in the country, figuring in some of the greatest matches, but he could put up a fine game of cricket. He was batting once out Compton way on the Downs. A fast bowler was at the other end and he sent a full toss down to leg. Biff! and Mr. Shea-Simonds caught the ball fairly and squarely. It went hurtling down a slope for a great distance—so far indeed that before the ball had reached the wicket-keeper, the batsmen had run ten runs.

## A GOLD WATCH.

While on the subject of cricket, we recall an incident that occurred last season, only a few miles from Reading. During an interval a gentleman pulled out his gold watch to see the time of day. "Let me have a look at that watch," said the Squire. "Certainly," replied the owner. The Squire examined the time-piece closely and with evident interest. Then he asked, "How much did you give for it?" He was told, and then added, with a twinkle in his eye, "Good! That used to be my watch!" Whether the Squire had given away the watch for charity or how it got out of his possession did not transpire.

## ARMISTICE DAY.

Of course all at The Brewery and all connected with it, paid homage to our glorious dead on November 11th. The hushed scene in Bridge Street, where at other times there is so much activity, was very marked. It has been well said by the Prime Minister of Australia that, "If we as private citizens in peace are as worthy as our soldiers were in war there are no problems

we cannot solve, no heights of destiny to which we cannot climb." During the war, there was a wonderful camaraderie existing between all classes, which was a great factor in bringing about so glorious a victory. We want to have that same camaraderie in industrial life and then we shall soon see the dawn of a brighter day.

## ANGLER AND THE GREAT SILENCE.

One of The Brewery anglers was out fishing for pike on Thursday. He kept an eye on the time so that he might not forget the two minutes' silence. There were just a few seconds to go before eleven o'clock when away went his float like a flash and his winch sang merrily. But during those two minutes there were higher and deeper things on which to dwell than angling. So the fisherman walked away from his rod and, bowing bareheaded, joined in the Great Remembrance. When he returned to his rod the pike had left the bait and, judging by the way in which the roach had been mauled, the fish was evidently a big one. This was the only "run" the angler had all day, and, had he struck at the proper time, doubtless the jack would have been his. He did not mind missing the fish, but he would not have missed the two minutes' sacred silence for all the world.

## THE WAY TO WIN AT RACES.

It was at the last meeting but one of the Newbury Races when two friends happened to meet. Mr. T— was generally "in the know" concerning likely winners, but Mr. P— was not at all well informed. "I have something really good to-day, P—," said T—, "I am going to put ten bob on for you." "You will have to run for your ten bob if you do," replied P—. T— turned to the bookmaker and laid on the money. The race was run and T—'s horse won. "There you are, what did I tell you!" exclaimed T— when he rejoined P—. "The horse came in seven to one and here's your £3 10s. od." P— protested strongly, but T— would take no refusal and so at the bar they celebrated their victory with a bottle of the best. You don't meet sportsmen every day of the fine type of T—.

## THE TRUE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT.

By the time the next issue of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE appears, Christmas, 1926, will have come and gone, and so we hasten to wish one and all of our readers the old, old wish: a very Happy Christmas and a Bright and Prosperous New Year. Let us look at Christmas from the point of view of old Scrooge's nephew. He said, "I am sure I have always thought of Christmas time, when it has come round—apart from the veneration due to its sacred name and origin, if anything belonging to it can be apart from that—as a good thing, a kind, forgiving, charitable pleasant time ;

the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow-passengers to the grave and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys. And, therefore, though it has never put a scrap of gold or silver in my pocket, I believe that it *has* done me good, and *will* do me good; and I say, God bless it!"

#### A MILKMAN AND MILK STOUT.

A milkman on his rounds, called, as was his custom, at an hotel in Witney District for an "S.B.," leaving his milk float outside "unattended," writes our Oxford Branch traveller. Staying a little longer than was his custom for an extra one, the milkman's friends thought they would play a little prank on him. Espying several Milk Stout advertisement cards, they tied them to this cart. Out came the milkman and continued on his rounds. Not noticing the Milk Stout advertisements he was so inundated with fresh customers that he wondered what was the cause. Then he suddenly noticed the reason of his increased popularity.

What he said then is best left to our readers' imagination—it was not "S.B.!"

#### ACCIDENT TO MR. SHRIMPTON.

We were very sorry to hear of the accident which befell Mr. F. L. Shrimpton, our Salisbury Plain District Manager, when he slipped and sustained a bad cut over one eye and dislocated his shoulder. We hope he has now shaken off the ill effects and will soon be his old self again.

Those crepe rubber soles are very comfortable in dry weather, but if ever you are caught in the rain, it would be better to take them off and go home in your socks.

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I used to think I knew I knew,  
 But now I must confess  
 The more I know I know I know,  
 I know I know the less.

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DOCTOR: Well, Mrs. Jones, did you test your husband's temperature, as I told you?

MRS. JONES: Yes, Doctor. I put the barometer on his chest, and it went round to "very dry," so I gave him a pint of beer, and he's been to work this morning.

### MRS. F. A. SIMONDS HONOURED.



One of the largest and most enthusiastic audiences that have ever met in the Large Town Hall assembled there on November 12th to do honour to Mrs. F. A. Simonds, the wife of our esteemed Managing Director. For five years Mrs. Simonds has been the Chairman of the Reading Women's Conservative and Unionist Association, a post which she recently resigned. Never did anybody have a better chief. Indefatigable herself, her enthusiasm was infectious, with the result that the Association under her ægis was a very thriving concern. But Mrs. Simonds was far more than active and enthusiastic; her kindness of heart and generous nature won the affection of all and the women vied with each other as to who could serve her best. No task was too great and none too small so long as it was done for Mrs. Simonds.

When it became known that Mrs. Simonds was resigning many expressed the wish that she should be given some tangible token of their high regard. This took the form of a very nice Queen Anne walnut bureau, with silver inkstand, pen and blotter. The bureau was suitably inscribed and it was accompanied by an album with the names of the subscribers. The pen, which was

supplied by Messrs. Bracher & Sydenham, was the one used by the Prince of Wales and Princess Mary when they signed the Visitors' Book at the Royal Berkshire Hospital. Mrs. Simonds was also presented with a lovely basket of flowers supplied by Miss George of The Arcade, one of the original members of the Association.

They were handsome gifts, but nothing could have touched Mrs. Simonds' heart more than the spontaneity with which they were given or the wonderful warmth of her reception as she rose to receive them.

No gifts have been more readily given. None were ever more thoroughly deserved.

#### MR. F. A. SIMONDS NOMINATED A SHERIFF.

The ancient ceremony of nominating the Sheriffs for the English and Welsh Counties recently took place in the Lord Chief Justices' Court.

Those nominated for Berkshire include Mr. F. A. Simonds.

#### A NATURE NOTE.

Whether the fish are on the feed or not matters little to the angler if he is also an ardent naturalist. I have just had a week's fishing (writes our Nature correspondent) and I will give you a few incidents which I witnessed inside one hour. As I walked across the meadows to a likely looking eddy in the river, I disturbed half-a-dozen snipe, flushed a small covey of partridges, passed close by a hare squatting in his form and drove numerous moorhens before me. By the way, it is the female moorhen which wears the gayest colours. Approaching the river, five wild duck rose from the water, circled round and round until they reached a great height, and then made off straight away. Sitting down on my camp stool, I leisurely put my tackle together, keeping close observation on what is happening around me in the meantime. Near by where I sit is a cobweb. It is bejewelled with dew diamonds which scintillate in the sun (when King Sol *does* deign to appear) while at regular intervals are bigger drops of dew having the appearance of priceless pearls. Were I a silversmith I should go to Nature for designs for here surely was a perfect piece of workmanship.

A kingfisher utters his plaintive note as if to tell me he is coming. I keep a look-out, and he passes quite close to me—a winged jewel of azure blue and amber. He flies to a coign of vantage, a dead twig jutting out over the water, remains there for several minutes and, as I watch him through my field glasses, I see him turn his head first in one direction and then in the other

on the look out for fish for dinner. Suddenly he ascends in the air a few yards from his perch, hovers over the water like a hawk and then dives down. He returns with a little fish which soon proceeds down that lane whence no traveller ever returns. The performance is repeated several times. But I must get on with my fishing, and, as I throw out a jack bait, the bird sees me and is off like a flash!

I am sitting almost hidden by a bush and tall rushes. A couple of dabchicks pass within a few yards, suddenly see me and as suddenly disappear below the surface. These little feathered submarines soon reappear on the other side of the river, some distance down stream, and don't they chuckle as if to say, "We did you that time, mister."

Blackbirds, missel-thrushes and song-thrushes are making a hearty meal off a berry-laden tree. Having had his feed, one thrush flies to an adjoining tree and sings his grace like a good little boy. It is a delightful song and makes one wonder whether we are still in mid-November. Then a field-fare arrives and he, too, dines off the berries. He only comes to us in the winter and there is no mistaking his note, *yack chuck*. The song of the thrush and the arrival of the field-fare—just a little mixture of summer and winter and typical of the weather.

Then I had a bite! But not from a fish, from a big hunk of bread and cheese, with a big Spanish onion and real hunger as the sauce.

I said "S.B.!" and drank it—how refreshing!

But my time and space are up, Good-day!

#### THE LIGHTER SIDE.

##### FROM THE FRONT.

SCENE: Brigadier-General visiting trenches comes across a gentlemanly private.

B.-G.: What is your name, my man?

G.P.—Montmorency, Sir!

B.-G.: I take it you were not a soldier before the war?

G.P.: No, Sir!

B.-G.: What was your vocation, may I ask?

G.P.: Well, Sir, I spent four years at Clifton and had nearly finished at Clare College, Cambridge, and if it had not been for this damned war I should have been in Holy Orders by now!!

## OUR SECOND NUMBER.

## MORE PRAISE FROM THE PRESS.

The second number of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE met with quite as much success as did the first, and we are gratified to see it again won high praise from the Press.

This is what *The Reading Standard* said :—

“ The November issue of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE, the monthly journal of Messrs. H. & G. Simonds, Ltd., is, like the first number, a very bright and readable production. ‘Editorial Chat,’ the product evidently of a facile and cherry pen, is replete with good things and stories that will bear retelling. The news side of the publication is admirably presented, and furnishes an interesting and comprehensive record of the varied social activities at The Brewery and at its branch establishments in other parts of the country. The pictorial features include a photograph of Mr. F. A. Simonds, the Firm’s Managing Director, and a group of five of the Company’s employees all of whom have over half a century’s service to their credit.”

*The Berkshire Chronicle* contained the following :—

“ The first issue of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE, the monthly journal of Messrs. H. & G. Simonds, Ltd., met with considerable success, there being a great demand. This month’s issue sustains the good promise of the first, and includes many matters of interest to the employees of the firm, not only in Reading, but in the many branches. Amongst the special features are reminiscences of the Seven Bridges C.C., an appreciation of Mr. A. Lock, who for 45 years has been a knight of the road, acting for Messrs. H. & G. Simonds, and an interesting sketch of a visit to Central America. Quite a readable issue. There is an excellent portrait of the popular Managing Director, Mr. F. A. Simonds.”

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A visitor from the country to the House of Commons, addressing constable on beat as the Chaplain passed through the hall : “ What does the Chaplain do, constable ? Does he pray for the Members ? ”

Policeman : No ; he just goes inside, looks round the lot, and then prays for his country ! ”

## NEWS FROM OUR TENANTS.

On behalf of all the members of the Tenants’ Society we congratulate all concerned in the production of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE. We hear nothing but praise from all quarters. It has undoubtedly had a good send-off and should prove of great value in cementing the “ Bond of Union ” among all connected with the great Firm of H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.

## GAMES TOURNAMENT.

Through the kind invitation of the Hon. Secretary of the Social Club (Mr. Walter Bradford) a games tournament was arranged for Thursday, October 21st, between the Tenants’ Society and the Club.

A goodly number of landlords accepted the challenge, duly invaded the Club on the occasion, and received a very hearty welcome. We were also pleased to have that fine sportsman Mr. Shea-Simonds with us. Altogether a very pleasant and enjoyable evening was spent. We would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Hon. Secretary and the Committee of the Club for their very kind hospitality.

This is only the second meeting we have had. May we have many more.

## GRAND DANCE.

On Wednesday, November 3rd, the Tenants’ Society held a very successful dance at “ Olympia,” the attendance far exceeding all anticipations. The brothers Messrs. “ George ” and “ Bill ” Smith again excelled themselves as M.C.’s, introducing several interesting items, such as the “ Excuse Me ” fox trot, the Charleston, also the Lancers, etc. Mr. Alf. Baker’s Orchestra again supplied varied and up-to-date music, which was appreciated by all present. Prizes were given for lucky balloons, lucky spots and lucky chairs. The Committee are indebted to Messrs. Achille Serre, Ltd., Broad Street, for kindly placing their window at their disposal for the display of the prizes. This proved an excellent advertisement. Dancing continued until 2 a.m., during which period the Bar(n) dance received several encores.

We should like to extend our thanks to donors of prizes which were gracefully presented by Mrs. A. Wheeler of “ Blue Lion ” fame.

Altogether it proved a very enjoyable and successful event.

## THE SOCIAL CLUB.

## SOME OF ITS MANY ACTIVITIES.

Principal among the many interesting events that have lately taken place at the Club was without doubt the Tournament of Games with the Tenant's of H. & G. Simonds Ltd. Licensed Houses on Thursday, 21st October. This contest had been most eagerly looked forward to by the Club members, and the evening's entertainment did not fall short of expectations. Very keen interest was displayed in all the games right throughout and to such an extent that the impromptu concert arranged to conclude the programme received but very meagre support.

Excitement ran high as to the result of the Tournaments and reached its climax when the "Captains" announced that points were equally divided and a draw was finally declared. The air rifle match was not included in the Tournaments, the honours of which went greatly in favour of the home team.

During the evening Mr. S. V. Shea-Simonds paid us a visit and was most enthusiastically received. The popularity of the Directors of the Firm was made manifest by the numerous challenges to him to compete in almost every kind of game with which the Club is provided. Mr. Simonds rose nobly to the occasion to the utmost of the time at his disposal, thereby adding greatly to the success of the evening.

The concluding minutes were devoted to expressions of appreciation for a most enjoyable evening ably expressed by Mr. Albert Froome on behalf of the Visitors, who, in the course of his remarks, complimented the Hon. Secretary of the Club, Mr. Walter Bradford, on the admirable arrangements made. Mr. Bradford suitably responded and announced that the replay would take place in February next. The Steward and Stewardess (Mr. and Mrs. King) were not forgotten in the Vote of Thanks, and were complimented on the able manner in which they had conducted their part towards making the evening a success. Toasts for the continued success of the Firm and the health of the Directors were drunk, and the singing of the National Anthem concluded the programme.

The Tournament of Games with the Reading Borough Police Club, announced in our November issue as taking place on the 19th of that month, has unavoidably been postponed until Friday, 3rd December. Will all members please bear this date in mind so that we have a large company to entertain them.

## DEPARTMENTAL TOURNAMENTS.

These Tournaments are proving far more interesting than one anticipated, and competition and excitement increase as the games proceed. Two more contests have been played since our last publication and resulted as under:—

FRIDAY, 5th NOVEMBER, 1926. BUILDING *v.* TRANSPORT.

BUILDING.			TRANSPORT.		
Games.	Name.	Points.	Name.	Points.	
Billiards	... W. Hinton	... 1	J. Champion	... 0	
"	... G. W. Cook, Junr.	... 1	D. Gilbey	... 0	
"	... — Ayling	... 1	H. Bell	... 0	
Dominoes	... J. Gough	... 0	C. Green	... 1	
"	... E. Tate	... 0	J. Embling	... 1	
"	... A. Mills	... 0	E. Hopkins	... 1	
Crib (Single)	... A. Sewell	... 0	A. Grove	... 1	
"	... W. Bunting	... 0	T. Streams	... 1	
"	... N. L. Wells	... 1	G. Shipton	... 0	
Shove Halfpenny	A. Mills	... 0	— Hinxman	... 1	
"	C. Dobson	... 1	D. Witts	... 0	
"	T. Stacey	... 0	D. Hutchins	... 1	
Darts	... B. Eymore, Junr.	... 0	T. Tame	... 1	
"	... E. Tate	... 0	A. Sherlock	... 1	
"	... A. Mills	... 0	J. Champion	... 1	
Shooting	... A. Baldwin	... 0	J. Champion	... 1	
"	... H. Mitchell	... 1	W. Taylor	... 0	
"	... E. Tate	... 0	S. Whiting	... 1	
		6		12	

FRIDAY, 12th NOVEMBER, 1926. THE REST *v.* THE CELLARS.

THE REST.			THE CELLARS.		
Games.	Name.	Points.	Name.	Points.	
Billiards	... A. Dalton	... 1	W. Curtis	... 0	
"	... G. Benford	... 0	A. Croome	... 1	
"	... S. Bird	... 0	G. Moss	... 1	
Dominoes	... A. Comley	... 1	H. Nickless	... 0	
"	... T. Osborne	... 0	W. Wheeler	... 1	
"	... H. Standbrook	... 0	F. Mason	... 1	
Crib (Single)	... C. Thatcher	... 1	J. Benford	... 0	
"	... F. Edwards	... 1	A. Simpkins	... 0	
"	... T. Osborne	... 1	H. Nickless	... 0	
Shove Halfpenny	A. Nash	... 1	J. Gough	... 0	
"	J. Kirk	... 0	A. Simpkins	... 1	
"	F. Edwards	... 1	F. Mason	... 0	
Darts	... T. Weedon	... 1	A. Chilton	... 0	
"	... A. Comley	... 0	A. Shiers	... 1	
"	... A. F. Nash	... 0	J. Wetherall	... 1	
Shooting	... J. Croft	... 0	J. Cannon	... 1	
"	... H. Prater	... ½	J. Salisbury	... ½	
"	... A. J. Nash	... 1	J. Randall	... 0	
		9½		8½	

The positions of the Departments to week ending 13th November are as follows:—

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Points.
Building ... ..	18	6	12	0	6
Cellars ... ..	36	17	16	3	18½
Coopers... ..	18	11	6	1	11½
Offices ... ..	18	7	9	2	8
Transport ... ..	18	12	6	0	12
Rest ... ..	36	15	19	2	16

### BILLIARDS LEAGUE.

Since we last went to Press four more matches have been played, and appended are the scores:—

MONDAY, 25th OCTOBER.

DIVISION I.—H. & G. SIMONDS' SOCIAL *v.* PANGBOURNE, at the Pangbourne Club.

<i>H. &amp; G. Simonds' Social.</i>		<i>Pangbourne.</i>	
A. Howard ... ..	93	<i>v.</i> K. C. Basden ... ..	150
R. Clement ... ..	144	<i>v.</i> R. Nicholls ... ..	150
A. Griffiths ... ..	130	<i>v.</i> E. H. Stone ... ..	150
G. Boddington ... ..	143	<i>v.</i> J. Harper ... ..	150
R. Broad ... ..	150	<i>v.</i> F. Nicholls ... ..	139
F. Braisher ... ..	148	<i>v.</i> P. Stone ... ..	150
Handicap ... ..	150	Handicap ... ..	100
	958		989

On the same day our 2nd Division Team visited the SALISBURY CLUB, the latter Club being victors with a margin of 29 points.

<i>H. &amp; G. Simonds' Social.</i>		<i>Salisbury Club.</i>	
H. Davis ... ..	76	<i>v.</i> F. Nicholson ... ..	100
J. Rumens ... ..	98	<i>v.</i> F. W. Rider ... ..	100
C. Weller ... ..	37	<i>v.</i> A. D. Breach ... ..	100
W. Curtis ... ..	64	<i>v.</i> C. E. Smith ... ..	100
W. Sparks ... ..	86	<i>v.</i> F. Haynes ... ..	100
A. Jacobs ... ..	100	<i>v.</i> C. E. May ... ..	60
Handicap ... ..	170	Handicap ... ..	100
	631		660

On NOVEMBER 1st the 2nd Division Team met the BEACONSFIELD CLUB at home.

<i>H. &amp; G. Simonds' Social.</i>		<i>Beaconsfield Club.</i>	
J. Rumens ... ..	86	<i>v.</i> W. Wilson ... ..	100
W. Sparks ... ..	64	<i>v.</i> C. H. Westcott ... ..	100
H. Davis ... ..	100	<i>v.</i> R. Bryant ... ..	66
C. Weller ... ..	100	<i>v.</i> J. Deacon ... ..	77
A. Jacobs ... ..	100	<i>v.</i> J. Choles ... ..	68
G. Benford ... ..	100	<i>v.</i> B. Locke ... ..	97
Handicap ... ..	170	Handicap ... ..	175
	720		683

On NOVEMBER 8th our 1st Division Team was again in action, our opponents being the CENTRAL LIBERAL CLUB, from whom we missed the late Mr. H. C. Chignell. The honours went to the home team (H. & G. Simonds' Social), as shown by the following:—

<i>H. &amp; G. Simonds' Social.</i>		<i>Central Liberal Club.</i>	
A. Howard ... ..	108	<i>v.</i> H. Lampe ... ..	150
A. Dalton ... ..	150	<i>v.</i> A. Coombs ... ..	112
R. Griffiths ... ..	73	<i>v.</i> A. Anderson ... ..	150
G. Boddington ... ..	117	<i>v.</i> L. Jennings ... ..	150
R. Broad ... ..	150	<i>v.</i> E. C. Taylor ... ..	110
H. Davis ... ..	147	<i>v.</i> R. Booth ... ..	150
Handicap ... ..	150	Handicap ... ..	Scratch
	895		822

### BILLIARDS HANDICAP.

This Handicap, which is held annually for the prize given by Mr. C. W. Stocker, is well in hand. The event is always awaited with keen interest by all billiard enthusiasts and is the medium of some very exciting contests. Several "dark horses" have come to light in the course of these handicaps and Billiards League Captains watch the games with interest, hoping to find prospective players for the League Teams.

### CHILDREN'S XMAS TREAT.

This annual Treat will take place on Saturday, 1st January, 1927. It is always interesting to provide pleasure for children, more especially so at Christmas time which is the Children's Festival, and when we see them depart with happiness written on their faces we feel amply repaid for the trouble taken. It is also an event in which all members can take their share. The care of the children falls of course to the ladies, but it is left to the members of the Club to get together the necessary wherewithal to provide the presents, teas, etc., which are the essential factors in a function of this nature. The cost is by no means light, when we take into consideration that approximately 100 children participate in the Treat, and unless a sufficient sum is forthcoming by voluntary subscription the Treasurer of the Club is called upon to meet the balance.

Collection books are issued to all Committee members, who are pleased to receive contributions however small or large they may be, and we would like to remind members that, although our young days are past, Christmas Treats to children are great events, so remember that when the books come round we must pay, pay, pay.

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 CLUB DINNER.

The date of the Annual Dinner is definitely fixed for Monday, 24th January, 1927. Tickets will be on sale from January 1st; all who anticipate attending are advised to make early application as the number is strictly limited.

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 ORCHESTRA.

A suggestion has been made that an Orchestra be formed by Club members. This idea is without doubt an excellent one. We already have a Concert Party which can compare very creditably with any other Party in the neighbourhood, and the prospects of additional musical evenings and perhaps a combination of the two certainly appears very pleasing. Volunteers for the Orchestra will be very welcome (first class experience is not essential) and application should be made without delay to the Secretary of the Club. Violinists are required, also drums and wind instruments; in fact all applications will be favourably received and considered.

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 CHALLENGE CUP.

The Challenge Cup, given by the Directors for the Departmental Tournaments, is now on view in the Club. It is a very handsome piece and well worth a visit to see. Such a splendid gift as this, far beyond our expectations, must necessarily create keener rivalry amongst the Departments engaged, as it can readily be understood that the honour of holding the Cup for the first season will be a coveted one.

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 THE SEVEN BRIDGES CONCERT PARTY.

(H. & G. SIMONDS, LTD.)

After having had experience with Concert Parties in the Army the above was formed by its present male members in 1919. With the business side of the organization in the capable hands of Miss E. M. D. Fleet rapid strides were made, and, under professional instruction, the Party came in for much favourable comment from Press and Public.

One of its first achievements was to fill the Large Town Hall to the utmost capacity with a concert on behalf of the local unemployed, when a cheque for nearly £100 was handed over.

There is hardly a village round Reading at which the Party has not performed, and they have travelled as far as Farnborough (on at least four occasions), also to Newbury and Basingstoke. At the latter town the Company were pleased to have the honour of giving an entertainment on the occasion of the opening of the War Memorial Park by General Seely.

It is regretted that many of the Firm's Branch Stores are situate in towns far too distant to be visited, but it is thought that perhaps Slough, Oxford or Woking could be quite possible journeys.

The Party has always tried to give of its best and to supply a clean, bright and entertaining programme. The present members are Miss F. Palmer (soprano), Miss G. Burnett (soubrette), Miss V. Merwood (pianist), Mr. S. Hinton (baritone), Mr. R. Kelly (light comedian) and Mr. G. Weait (tenor), and assistance is rendered when required by Mr. H. Goatley, the original pianist of the Party. A contralto is needed, and should these lines catch the eye of anyone willing to join the Company in that capacity, a most enjoyable time is promised. It is hoped that in a future publication of this GAZETTE a photo of the Party may be inserted, all the male members of which are on the Brewery Staff.

The secretarial business is now carried on by Miss A. M. Prosser, to whom all communications as to bookings, etc., should be addressed.

The Editor of this Journal recommends all those who are arranging Concerts to book this Party.

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 S.O.S.

## NOT A SIGNAL OF DISTRESS.

Please do not run away with the idea that the above is a signal of distress. Far from it being this, it is intended to be a message of encouragement to those who may not yet have realised the benefits to be derived from the National Savings Association.

At The Brewery, in August, 1924, the H. & G. Simonds Ltd. Savings Association was formed under the Chairmanship of Mr. F. C. Hawkes, and shortly afterwards became affiliated to the National Savings Association.

Since its inception, this Savings Scheme has met with great success; starting in quite a small way, it has now grown to such an extent that in the present "cycle" (the third) no less than 240 16/- National Savings Certificates are being subscribed for.

The many advantages to be gained by being a member of such an Association are too numerous to enumerate here. It cannot, however, be too highly commended as an excellent means for practising thrift.

There are eight different schemes which may be adopted by Savings Associations, we at The Brewery having chosen Scheme No. 8 as being the most suitable, and a few words as to the *modus operandi* may here be of interest.

The scheme in question provides for the purchase of National Savings Certificates (value 16/-) by instalments extended over a "cycle" of 32 weeks.

Each member pays a regular weekly subscription of 6d. per Certificate subscribed for, the sum paid in being used for the weekly purchase of Certificates, any balance of cash left over being carried forward to the following week.

A ballot is held each week to determine the allotment of Certificates purchased, each member having one chance in the ballot in respect of every Certificate subscribed for.

At The Brewery "Ballot Day" is eagerly looked forward to, and each Friday it has now become the usual thing for the Secretary or Treasurer to be greeted with the query, started by a member with a sense of humour, "Who's won the "bike" this week?"

The foregoing is only a brief outline of the working of our Savings Association, full details however may be obtained from The National Savings Committee, Princes' House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, regarding formation and running of a Savings Association on these or similar lines.

In conclusion, the Secretary (Mr. A. H. Hopkins) or Treasurer (Miss A. M. Prosser) will be pleased to receive the names of anyone on the Reading Staff desirous of enrolment as new members for the next "cycle" commencing January 21st, 1927, and will also be interested to hear that similar Associations have been formed at some of our Branches or by our subsidiary Companies.

To one and all, let the following be the New Year's resolve, to  
 "Save Our Shillings."

JUDGE: Have you ever seen the prisoner at the bar?

WITNESS: Never, your honour. But I've seen him when he's coming away from it, staggering something awful.

## "WITH ROD AND LYIN."

COD, POLE AND PERCH.

I think for the many readers of this bright and breezy monthly, who are unacquainted with Caversham Bridge and Mapledurham, it might have been made a little clearer if it had been stated that these two places are several miles apart. The reference in the last issue headed "A Monster Pike" would then have been more readily understood.

This is all by the way and gives rise (to the writer) to a few thoughts of fishing. All of us at The Brewery know our Editor is a doughty wielder of the rod that may spare the child, but certainly not the fish.

To a number of people fishing seems a sport, to others a habit and, perhaps, to the critic, a disease. Whatever it is, no doubt, as minors we've all fished for "minners."

A COLD "BLEAK" DAY.

Have you ever on a cold "bleak" day watched the "Sports" in a match? Their "plaices" are chosen for them, they sit on boxes or stools and make their "perches" as comfortable as possible. They fish with baited hook and bated breath, a line of blue noses in the bulrushes.

A leisurely gentleman once watched for hours a fisher (Bradbury's are not out of date) and came to the conclusion that fishing was a waste of time, little thinking of the time he had himself spent watching it.

A golfing friend of ours is always complaining of the "bad lies" he has had during his games, but says, "Thank goodness there are worse lies in fishing."

Of course fishing (coarse fishing) is a harmless sort of sport (except for the fish), but by no means armless. Have you ever heard of a one-armed fisherman?

There are many tales about fishing, and although the following may have been told before they may quite likely be new to some of our readers.

WATCHING THE FLOAT.

A learner of the pastime (it passes the time certainly) was shown all that he had to do by a veteran sitting beside him, whose final words of advice were, "Be sure and watch your float." After a while the learner rose in disgust and threw his rod and tackle into the river, saying, "Fishing's a mug's game."

"Hello, what's the matter?" asked the veteran.

"Well," was the reply, "I watched the float as you told me to do, but the blessed thing wouldn't keep still, and when it kept going under the water I got fed up."

Another sat for hours on the river bank, but without a bite of any sort. Along came a friend, who greeted him with the usual query, "Any luck, mate?"

"No," was the reply of the fisher and, referring to his bait, continued, "I don't believe my worm's trying!"

You've all heard of the "whoppers" he caught, or nearly did, but what of the "whoppers" he tells. I'm afraid a lot of fishing yarns end in "a little bit of cod," don't you?

NEMO.

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#### MR. W. CROCKER.

It is regretted that ill-health has caused the absence from The Brewery of a very familiar and popular figure, viz., Mr. William Crocker, affectionately known to most of us as Bill Crocker, our respected foreman of the Union Room. Mr. Crocker joined the Firm in 1883, and has proved himself a very trusted worker. Being of a sociable and genial disposition he was always good company and his presence a welcome one, but unfortunately bronchial trouble of recent years has prevented him from joining in our lighter activities.

One and all wish him the very best for a speedy recovery.

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#### IN THE WINE STORES.

It is sometimes considered that a wine cellar must of necessity be a wet place, but this is not so. A well-ordered cellar is scrupulously clean, tidiness and order are essential, and, above all else, everything must be dry. Casks, jars, cases, bottles, etc., must undergo frequent and the closest examination, for in this way alone can success be achieved in the direction of being sure that only wines prepared under best circumstances and in the best condition go out to the public.

H. & G. Simonds' wine cellars are of great interest. Here you may find sherry from sunny Spain, claret from the many valleys of the Gironde, and champagne from the mountain slopes of Rheims and Epernay.

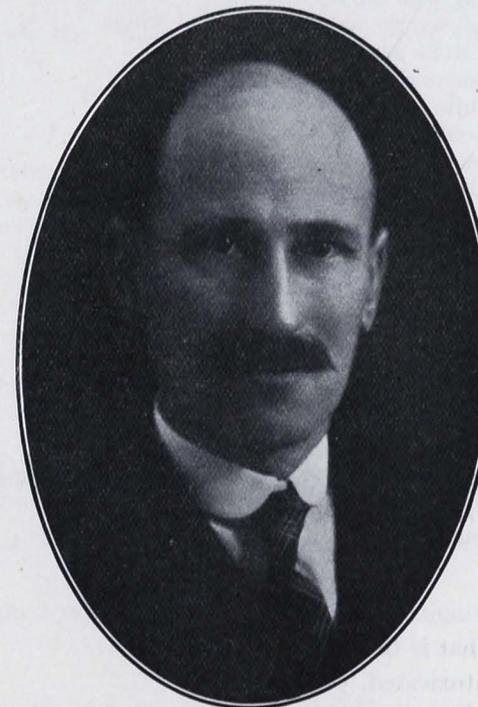
What tales of interest and adventure could these wines unfold were speech possible. We must take stock of those hidden glories and perhaps may return to this entertaining subject in a future issue.

#### MR. G. W. COOK.

Mr. G. W. Cook, for four years Vice-Chairman of our Social Club, has always taken a keen interest in public affairs. For a score of years he has been a member of the Reading Board of Guardians and was elected to the Vice-Chairmanship of that body for the fourth year in succession by a unanimous vote. He is Chairman of the Political Council of the Curzon Club.

Now he has gone one better, for last month he succeeded in being returned to the Town Council for Castle Ward.

Congratulations, Mr. Cook!



*Cameo Studio.*

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#### A GREAT THOUGHT.

I shall pass through this world but once,  
Any good thing that I can do,  
Or any kindness that I can show any human being  
Let me do it now and not defer it,  
For I shall not pass this way again.

## ADVENTURE.

Some day  
 I shall not smell the new mown hay  
 Nor see the honeysuckle spray  
 Sway in the wind ;  
 Nor hear the wren's small jet of song  
 Behind the ivy wall.  
 But then I shall not mind  
 For all those lovely things  
 Will be for other ears and eyes.  
 Someone will gaze at ring-doved skies  
 And hear the cuckoo call.  
 Will see the shining speckled wings  
 Of little azure butterflies.  
 Someone will smell the wet,  
 White flowers of elder. Why  
 Should I regret ?  
 For I—Who knows ? Shall find  
 Adventure when I die.  
 Pippings of strange sweet birds to thrill  
 My heart ; new roads to twist and wind  
 And lure me still  
 To climb the sun-crowned hill ;  
 Flowers I have not known  
 Mirrored in happy streams  
 Deep ledges overgrown  
 With the wild rose of dreams.  
 Then if we meet, I shall feel no surprise  
 But only smile  
 To find you waiting at the mossed old stone  
 Whose legend runs—To Paradise  
 One mile.

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J.P. : What is the charge ?

P.C. : Intoxicated, your Worship."

J.P. (to Prisoner) : What is your name ?

PRISONER : William Gunn, Sir.

J.P. : Well, Gunn, I shall discharge you this time, but you musn't get loaded again.

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SHE : What is the best Malt Extract ?

HE : Why, Simonds' of course.

## GAMES TOURNAMENTS.

"LEOPOLD ARMS," READING, *versus* "THE SWAN," ARBORFIELD.

Home and home games, comprising darts, shove half-penny and cribbage, took place recently between these two houses. The first meeting was held on Mr. A. Blake's "ground" at Arborfield, where an enjoyable evening was spent, the results being :—

"SWAN" ...	Darts, 3	Shove Half-penny, 4	Crib, 3=10
"LEOPOLD" ...	" 6	" 4	" 1=11

A week later the return matches were played on Mr. G. Lawrence's "pitch" where another pleasant couple of hours were enjoyed by all, the "Leopold Arms" again being victorious. The results were :—

"LEOPOLD" ...	Darts, 6	Shove Half-penny, 8	Crib, 2=16
"SWAN" ...	" 3	" 0	" 2=5

An outstanding feature of the matches was a remarkable score by two players of the "Leopold." Playing partner, at darts, these two scored 801 in six "throws," averaging 133 each "throw."

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 OUR CEREAL STORY.

Only the best barley is used at H. & G. Simonds'.

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At a New York restaurant, the coloured waiter was handing round the cakes.

"Waiter," said a fair young damsel, "I will have that chocolate éclair."

"Madam," replied Sambo, with offended dignity, "dat's ma thumb !"

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The special prize presented by Mr. Morgan of the "Duke's Head" to the Reading Schools Athletic Association has this year been awarded to Miss N. Skinner (Tilehurst Norcot).

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Little Wits are often great talkers.

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If thou art a master be sometimes blind ; if a servant, sometimes deaf.

## MEMORIES.

## INCIDENTS DURING THE PAST THIRTY YEARS.

Much water has passed under the bridges since the year 1896, when the writer first became associated with the great Firm of Messrs. H. & G. Simonds, Ltd. Many changes have taken place since then, and, alas, many old friends have joined the great majority. In quieter moments one recalls with pleasurable interest some outstanding incident, or an old colleague who is no longer with us.

No lumbering trams disturbed the serenity of Bridge Street in those days, and the motor car was in its infancy. The imposing block of offices now possessed by the Firm was not then built, the Staff occupying portion of a large building facing the main gates on the site of the new stage, the late Mr. J. Suddaby living over the offices. At the side was situated the house of Mr. R. Goodall, familiarly known as Dick, a trusted and devoted servant of the Firm, who presided over the bar, which was then in the cellars. Mr. Fretwell, the Firm's Vet., lived in a house adjacent to The Brewery. He had a great knowledge of horses and his advice was sought far and wide. Mr. Fretwell was most devoted to the horses in his charge and would never go off duty until the last one from the country rounds was safely stabled for the night.

## LOCAL PUSSYFOOT AGITATION.

About this time, an agitation was started in Reading by the local Pussyfoots—O, yes, we had them in those days, too—to close the public houses on Sunday. A meeting in the Town Hall was arranged, and duly held, but, alas, it was a dismal failure, the citizens of Reading rightly resenting the unwarrantable attack on their liberty. They refused to listen to any speeches from the platform and cheered with enthusiasm the late Mr. Blackall Simonds when he mounted a chair in the body of the hall and addressed them. The chances of Prohibition then were as remote as they are now. The average level-headed Englishman will have none of it, whatever they do in America. It is a great legitimate industry giving employment to vast numbers of citizens and adds an immense amount of money to the revenue of the country.

## A GREAT DEMONSTRATION.

The incident of the Town Hall meeting reminds one of the great protest against the Licensing Bill held some years later in Hyde Park. It was probably the greatest demonstration which has ever taken place in the Capital. From all over the Kingdom

contingents of brewery workers and sympathisers marched with bands and banners to the park. The employees of H. & G. Simonds, Ltd., made the journey to London in special trains, and composed as they were mainly of ex-Service men, elicited favourable comment from the huge crowds which had assembled, as they marched with military precision on their journey to the park.

To show the gigantic nature of the demonstration, the last of the contingents, that from Tamworth, was actually entering the park as the meetings had finished, and the great crowds were leaving.

## WELCOMED HOME FROM THE BOER WAR.

Another incident worth recording, not wholly unconnected with our Firm, occurred in 1900, at the close of the Boer War, when dense crowds assembled in the vicinity of the station and the adjoining streets to welcome home the Berkshire Volunteers, who, after suffering hardships and privations in South Africa, returned to their native heath. As they marched from the station, bronzed with the hot African sun, they looked a fine body of men, and were greeted with loud cheers. With his men marched Lieut. F. A. Simonds, soon to join the directorate of the Firm, and whom we now know as Mr. Eric.

## A GREAT LOSS.

In February, 1905, the Firm suffered a great loss in the death of Mr. Blackall Simonds, who commenced his career as an Engineer, and as such was associated with the late Sir Benjamin Baker for some years before he joined the Firm. The present Mr. George Blackall-Simonds is famed as a great sculptor. Two of his finest works adorn the town of Reading, the statue of the late Queen Victoria near the Town Hall and the Lion in the Forbury Gardens. The last named was erected to commemorate the gallant stand of the Berkshires at Maiwand, and ranks amongst the finest sculptures in the country. People from all parts make a point of visiting the Forbury to see this great work.

The days of the war were eventful ones at The Brewery. Large orders for the troops in training were received daily and, although working with a sadly depleted Staff, the Firm managed to cope with the abnormal rush in a praiseworthy manner.

## COMMENDED BY HIS CAPTAIN.

An incident stands out during these dark days. News had arrived at the Firm that the *Formidable* had been mined in the Channel. It was grave news indeed, for it was known that Lieut. H. D. Simonds, now Commander, was on the doomed ship; but

later the welcome tidings came through that the gallant officer, after some hours in the water, had been saved. For his heroic efforts on board before the great ship foundered, he received his Captain's commendation in probably the last words he uttered before going down with his ship, and which meant so much, "Well done, Simonds!"

#### A SAD DAY.

The passing of that great gentleman Mr. Louis de Luze Simonds on December 2nd, 1916, was a sad day for the Firm. Of brilliant business attainments, he was keenly interested in all his employees, and would stop and have a little chat with even the humblest of them. His strict sense of justice and kindly smile will live in the memory of all those who had the privilege of serving him.

During the days of the war three brilliant soldiers connected with the Firm made the supreme sacrifice, Major John Simonds, Major St. John Quarry and Major Prescott Simonds.

Major Shea Simonds, for his work during the war, was twice mentioned in dispatches. Many will remember Major Shea when he used to play a dashing game at back for Reading in their amateur days. Football was more strenuous then than it is at the present time, and a good old-fashioned shoulder charge was given and taken in the best of spirit, without an irritating toot on the referee's whistle for a foul. Reading played good football then and they once were only defeated by the margin of a goal by probably the best Corinthian side of all times. It was a fine performance, as the Corinthian team included such giants of the games as Raikes, Lodge, Ingram, B. O. Corbett, Stanborough and the greatest centre-forward England has ever known, G. O. Smith.

#### DECORATIONS.

A good many of the employees at The Brewery won decorations for bravery during the war. Some of the recipients one calls to mind are Sergt.-Major Aust and Corporal Tigwell of the Wine and Spirit Department, who were both awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. W. Curtis of the Cellar Department, an old Regular, won the Military Medal, being severely wounded. Private Hiscock of the Transport Department was awarded a French decoration for bravery in Belgium. A number of our friends, alas, made the great sacrifice.

#### AN AUTHORITY ON HORSES.

In June, 1918, Major H. Caversham Simonds passed away. A great sportsman, he was one of the leading authorities on horses in the country.

#### OPENING OF THE SOCIAL CLUB.

There are many other incidents one could enumerate, but space will not permit. One outstanding event though is worth recording; the opening of the Social Club. The Directors have always been interested in the welfare of their employees and spared no expense or trouble in making the Club one of the best equipped in the South of England. H.R.H. The Prince of Wales, on his recent visit to The Brewery, although pressed for time, made a special effort to inspect the Club. He was much interested in what he saw and signed the visitors' book. Needless to say, that signature will be treasured for all time.

The success of the Club is mainly due to the able Chairmanship of Mr. F. C. Hawkes, assisted by the Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. Bradford, and the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. S. Bird. Mr. Bradford, who has held the position since the Club's formation, is a real live Secretary and gives of his leisure time ungrudgingly. Visiting Clubs always speak in high terms of the arrangements made for their comfort and invariably ask for a return visit. Mr. Bird is most popular with the members, and nothing gives him greater pleasure than to be working hard for the success of the different functions held at the Club. He comes up smiling at each annual meeting with a balance at the bank.

#### THE LATEST INNOVATION.

In concluding this somewhat rambling article, one cannot forget the Firm's latest innovation, THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE. With many helping hands it has blossomed out into one of the most up-to-date and interesting little publications in the Kingdom.

F.K.

#### TWO GOOD COMEDIANS.

##### A HURRIED EXIT AND THE RESULT.

Messrs. J. Maxwell and J. Champion of the Forwarding and Transport Departments respectively, are blossoming out into a pair of real good comedians. They have lately been appearing at different charity concerts in the town, and, on November 12th last, scored a great success at the concert held in connection with the Schools' Football Association Committee at the West Street Hall. In their number 'Pensylvania' they were extremely good. J. Champion was great in his song, "Moths," and J. Maxwell, in his weird and wonderful make-up as "The Lighthouse Keeper," vastly entertained his hearers.

Mr. Maxwell, when serving with the 1st Royal Berkshires, in which his partner also served, was in great demand at the Regimental concerts, and he tells a good story of a little episode which occurred at Grahamstown, South Africa, just prior to the South African War. He was appearing at a local hall in a double turn with Private Lunn. They had finished their show, and Maxwell left the stage by the side as usual. Lunn, a man of small stature, was not quite quick enough, and, as the curtain was rising for the next performance, hurriedly sprang through a window at the back of the stage. As the next artiste was singing, loud cries for help came floating through the window. Lunn's comrades ran round, and discovered that the unfortunate artiste in his exit had jumped into a large tank of water, from which his head just appeared above the surface.

Needless to say there was much good-humoured chaff in the canteen the following day.

#### WEDDING.

On October 30th, at St. Giles' Church, Reading, Mr. W. Clinch, of the Coopers' Department at the Brewery, married Miss Whichello. Mr. Clinch was apprenticed at the Brewery, where his father has also served for many years. The bridegroom was presented with a clock and spoons by his colleagues, many of whom attended the ceremony. Members of the Brewery Band were also present, but they left their instruments at home as it was thought that such music was not suitable for the occasion.

A butcher, walking down the street, passed a dairy and read this sign: "Milk from contented cows."

He was impressed with the idea, and decided to adopt it to his line of business.

The following morning this sign appeared in his window: "Sausages from Hogs that died happy."

TRAMP: I've asked for money, begged for money and cried for money, lady.

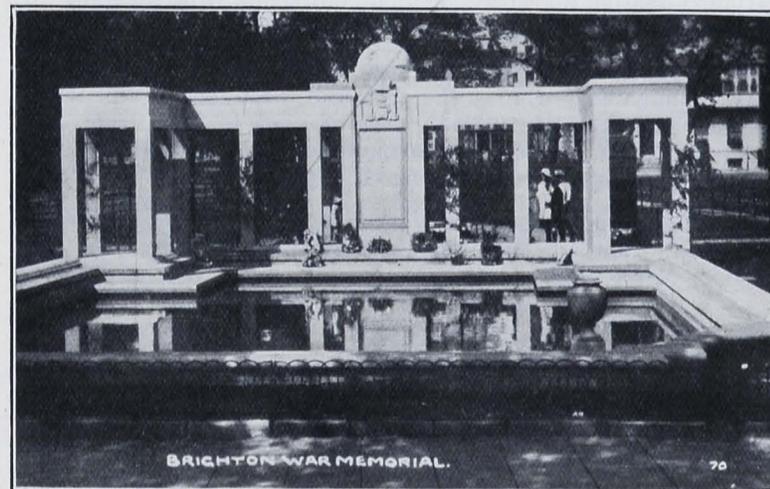
LADY: Have you ever tried working for money?

TRAMP: No lady, I'm doing the alphabet and I haven't got to "W" yet.

## BRANCHES.

### BRIGHTON.

Brighton, in common with thousands of other towns, villages and hamlets, commemorated the signing of the Armistice eight years previously, on November 11th. Thousands of inhabitants of all grades assembled round the War Memorial in the historic Steyne, and took part in a short Service until the hour of 11 was sounded on a ship's bell, which was once on H.M.S. *Temeraire*, the famous old "Fighting *Temeraire*." The loud reports of two maroons at the end of the impressive two minutes' silence came as a relief to the tension, but it was some hours before the locality assumed its ordinary aspect.



Brighton's Fine War Memorial.

A very flourishing Club in Brighton is the Oddfellows' Club, I.O.O.F. (M.U.), which held its fifth annual meeting on the 13th November. Started five years ago by a few members occupying one room only with a billiard table, it has now grown with a membership of 150, and occupies the whole of the basement of the Oddfellows' Hall, Queen's Road. It has now two full-sized billiard tables, table tennis and card rooms, and a nicely fitted bar, where all the "Hop Leaf" specialities can be obtained at a reasonable cost. Our Chief Clerk, P.G. W. H. Cotton, would welcome the opportunity of introducing into the Club any member of the Order who may be visiting Brighton, and could also arrange for a friendly

billiard match with a visiting team. The two Club teams compete in the Brighton Billiards League, as also a team in the Whist League. H. & G. S. have had the privilege of supplying the bars since its inception, and "S.B." is particularly popular with the members; in fact some train on it.

There are some sportsmen at our house at Shoreham-by-Sea, the "Ferry Arms," which is the Headquarters of the Shoreham and District Whist and Cribbage League. After being the winners for three successive years, the "Ferry Arms" team are the proud possessors of a handsome cup. They are also well in the running to be top again this year.

And now, what about football? Have you seen that at the time of writing "Brighton and Hove Albion" are at the top of Division III? We are rather proud of this, and have high hopes that next season we shall meet our old rivals from Reading in Division II.

On our staff here we have a very keen foreign stamp collector in W. Summarsell, who is the Assistant Secretary of the local Philatelic Society. He will be very pleased to hear from any readers of "Our Gazette" who have stamps to exchange, sell, give away, or any would-be purchaser.

Brighton Staff send hearty greetings to all their confreres at home and abroad, and wish the Firm, and all employees and friends, a Merry Xmas.

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#### SALISBURY.

With this contribution to the December issue of THE GAZETTE we would like to express our best wishes to all readers for a very Merry Xmas and a Prosperous New Year.

The dining and "wine-ing" season comes round year by year with unfailing regularity here, and many "jolly good fellows" are now commencing their preliminary training for the numerous "open events" which are due to take place in and around the City during the months ahead. (Events which, as a rule, cast their "shadows" after them, by the way. Future pains however are rarely a bar to the joys of the present, so why look ahead?)

The Boscombe Working Men's Club was recently the scene of one of these "pipe-openers," and Mr. T. R. Garland well filled the Chair during the proceedings.

An early item in the programme of course was the "Opening Chorus," well rendered by the famous "S.B." choir, who perhaps

having seen a spare kilderkin of the world-famous liquid rolling up the hill towards their Club during the afternoon, were there in large numbers to toast the Firm's health and to lift their glasses towards each other in a happy evening together.

The party from Salisbury on the outward journey successfully negotiated the hair-pin bend at St. Thomas' Bridge, but only the driver was altogether clear about the return voyage. Therefore, who can blame the local P.C. (who found the stonework of the bridge a trifle bent when making his early morning rounds) for his solicitous enquiries on their behalf?

Happily he was unable to find any "clues" on the bodies of the car or its occupants, who therefore now agree that they passed through the bridge without harming it.

It is helpful to record, for their own peace of mind, that the traction engine responsible for the damage has been traced. It however added a pinch of unnecessary spice to an evening which is now a pleasure to recall.

One feature which we have pleasure in recording also was the presentation to an old friend of ours, Mr. G. Warrener. Since the inauguration of the Club three years ago he has, as its Chairman, worked hard to achieve the results which are so apparent to-day, and we join with all its members in wishing him the best of health and luck in the future. It is pleasing to know that he intends to take his part as "one of them" still.

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#### ECHOES FROM RHINELAND.

"Sehr Gut!" This comment was heard in the Sergeants' Mess of the Royal Berks after the first issue had been read. (How our troops have picked up the language!)

When I took two copies of the first issue of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE into the Sergeants' Mess of the Berkshires on the Rhine, they were eagerly snapped up and one heard "after you please" in all directions. It must be remembered that nearly all the members of this Mess know Mr. Eric Simonds, as such he is known to them, also many of them know various employees at The Brewery and one of them actually worked at the Brewery. If they do not receive the second issue I dare not enter the Mess. By the time this is in print the Berkshires will be quartered in Wiesbaden.

The 1st King's Dragoon Guards, who move from here to Aldershot the beginning of December, have again chosen us to supply them. I was present at the farewell banquet and ball

given by the Masonic Lodge of this Regiment to their Brethren on the Rhine. This was held at the Kurhaus, Wiesbaden, and was a great success in every way.

The 2nd Batt. of the Worcester Regiment held their annual Gheluvelt Ball on the 29th of last month, which was very largely attended, everybody thoroughly enjoying themselves.

The "Vat" of "Ye Ancient Order of Froth Blowers" on the Rhine is the Sergeants' Mess of the R.A.S.C. The membership is a large one.

Football and hockey are now the order of the day, especially at the outlying stations, such as Idstein and Konigstein, two small villages about two hours by train from Wiesbaden. Most units are arranging a series of whist drives and dances, so the winter season will not be a dull one for the troops.

What a splendid send-off the Royal Ulster Rifles had on their departure for home! I can imagine a rough time a certain Manager had if the Sergeants' Mess was improperly stocked. He is well known to the R.S.M.

I was more than glad to get a message from Mr. Wigley and Mr. Davis through the members of the Sergeants' Mess, Royal Fusiliers, who have just arrived.

F.A.E.

#### THE TAMAR BREWERY, DEVONPORT.

We feel quite sorry for Brighton that they had "no lorries in the sea, or anything exciting of that sort" to record in the November issue. Unfortunately we cannot afford to oblige again, and our driver concerned wonders if it was looked on as a joke, as in his opinion he doesn't think it was a "Bright-un."

The West Country is noted for a lot of uncommon things, but even here we are beaten by the "uncooked live pink lobster." They have been seen here but not caught, usually they are seen after the last "Nip" of XXXXX on Christmas Eve, together with green dragons and various weird and wonderful apparitions (and not in an aquarium at that).

Our recently formed Sports Club has been launched with every prospect of success, thanks to the generous support and encouragement received from Headquarters.

The football team arranged a match with the Devon Athletic Club and undoubtedly would have won had their opponents turned

up and the weather been a little more favourable. The referee was a friend of ours and was well primed with "S.B.," so well indeed that he hardly knew whether it was "To all stations" or "Saved." However the trainer assures us all the team are now in a fit state to "Say S.B."

A dance has been arranged for November 27th, and at the time of going to press a good number of tickets has] been sold. At any rate the Treasurer will not divulge the amount he has already collected, but he hopes to considerably augment the funds by the proceeds of the dance.

The G.W.R. Poster and Slogan, "Visit the Cornish Riviera," are very appropriate for November. The weather here has been ideal for the past fortnight, so much so that the manufacturers of oilskins and sou'westers are faced with a serious shortage of stocks. However, Cornwall is still just holding on to the mainland, thanks to the united efforts of the Torpoint and Saltash chain ferries.

The departure on trials of the new Cruiser Mine Layer, H.M.S. *Adventure*, was delayed owing to the rough weather, but she managed to leave the Port on the morning of November 15th, well stocked for the cruise with draught and bottled beers.

We have not noticed a "Hatched, Matched and Despatched" page in THE GAZETTE yet. As regards the latter state, we do not wish to see any entries under this heading, but with regard to the other two we think it would be interesting. Our Mr. R. E. Wright has contributed an item for the first state, as he is now the proud father of a bouncing son and heir, the presentation having taken place on October 26th.

#### FARNBOROUGH.

A successful and enterprising Billiards League is run in this district called "The Border Billiards League." It is confined to Clubs within a five miles' radius of Farnborough South-Western Station, and therefore includes Clubs in Berkshire, Hampshire and Surrey. The idea of the League emanated from the Camberley Working Men's Club, who sent out a circular letter to Clubs in Camberley, Farnborough and Cove, in fact all Clubs within a 15 miles' radius of Camberley, convening a meeting to discuss the formation of the League. Unfortunately at two meetings held at the Camberley Working Men's Club no scheme for running the League was forthcoming, so the representatives of the Jubilee Hall Club, Farnborough, undertook to form the League. The next meeting was therefore held at the Jubilee Hall Club and a

scheme with a set of rules was brought forward by Mr. G. Harper, Jubilee Hall Club (Mr. Harper is now the energetic Secretary of the Cove Social Club and Institute). These were accepted and the League commenced, formed by the following Clubs:—

A.S.E. Institute, South Farnborough (now South Farnborough Social Club).

Camberley Working Men's Club.

Cove Ivy Leaf Club.

Jubilee Hall Club, Farnborough.

Sandhurst Working Men's Club.

South Farnborough Working Men's Club.

For the first season a Cup purchased by the League was competed for and was won outright by the South Farnborough Working Men's Club.

The next season H. & G. S. presented a Silver Cup called the "Border Billiards League Cup." Camberley Working Men's Club (semi-finalists in *The News of the World* Snooker Competition, 1924-25) were the first winners of H. & G. S.'s Cup. It was presented by Mr. A. Goodall, our Manager, at a well-attended meeting at the Jubilee Hall Club. Farnborough British Legion Club have been the winners of the Cup during the other two seasons it has been competed for.

The League is now in its fifth season and has increased from six to twelve Clubs, and has also expanded by running a Reserve League and Darts and Shove Half-penny Sections, these two last being in their first year.

The League generally appears to be popular, and it has increased the standard of billiards in all Clubs as well as the fraternal spirit in which the League is run.

C. Hockley, one of our bottlers, competes in this League. He plays for the Jubilee Hall Club, Farnborough, and has so far had a fairly successful season. He is the holder of a St. Dunstan's Billiards Medal which he won in 1923 in a district tournament which was played off at the "Imperial Arms," Farnborough Street.

#### FARNBOROUGH MILITARY BRANCH.

Things are pretty quiet appertaining to Military trade. The Military Relief Season is now in full swing and Units changing stations. This causes a lot of extra work and little to show for it. These moves are not at all favourable to us at Aldershot. We

are handing over to other Branches very much more business than we are receiving. We can only keep trying to improve our position.

Many troops are now on leave, others saving up for Xmas and leave. Also the coal-less grates in Messes, etc., does not add to the general comfort.

A very important event took place here on the 13th instant in the presence of the Dominion Prime Ministers and other Imperial visitors. This refers to the assembly of armoured fortresses on wheels, nothing approaching which has been seen before in this or any other country. The Press have reported on the various types of Tanks then on parade. The demonstration clearly indicated the value of new mechanical means of transport for uses other than for war purposes. The mechanising of the Army is only a matter of time, and rapid progress is being made. It is most unlikely that our buff-coloured tilted vans will ever again be seen behind troops on Army Manœuvres. Mobile transport has arrived.

Mr. W. T. Sanders left us on October 23rd to take up duty as Chief Clerk at Oxford Stores, and we wish him every success in his new undertaking. Whist congratulating Mr. Sanders we much regret the sad event which occasioned his removal.

In R. Herrington, who has been recently added to our Office Staff, we hope to have a promising recruit for our Cricket Club. He was second in the bowling averages this summer for the Farnborough Secondary School, and the previous season was top of the batting averages.

During the twelve months ending September 30th T. Kent, who is the "Branch Doctor," rendered first aid on 134 occasions. His extreme usefulness to us was again demonstrated recently when G. England, one of our bottle washers, met with a somewhat serious accident. England had a very bad cut which Kent "doctored" quite successfully. England had severed the leaders of his left thumb and had to be operated on at the Farnborough and Cove War Memorial Hospital. He is now progressing favourably and hopes shortly to resume work.

The Staff of Farnborough Civilian and Military Departments wish the Directors, Heads of Departments and all employees and readers of THE GAZETTE a large measure of happiness at Christmas and throughout the New Year.

## COVE.

The "Anchor" Inn, kept by Mr. G. Gosden, is geographically in the centre of this rapidly growing parish, and Mr. Gosden contrives also to make it a hub of the social intercourse of the parishioners. An excellent games club is run by the house each winter and teams compete in the leagues organised for trophies presented by local licensed victuallers for darts and shove half-penny. Last winter the "Anchor" team won the handsome Cup for the latter game and were also well up the table in the Dart League. A Slate Club, run on the best lines, caters for sick patrons through the season; it always has a good "share out" accompanied by song and supper. Another contributory cause to the popularity of the "Anchor" is the flourishing "Empress Lodge" of the R.A.O.B. This Lodge is deservedly one of the most prosperous in the Province. Keen and able brethren keep the good work going according to the very best "Buff" traditions. From a social and philanthropic point of view the "Empress" is a leading Lodge of the district. The recent "Buff Rally" for the whole Province, the first of its kind held in the neighbourhood, was held in the "Anchor" meadow and largely organised by the "Empress Lodge."

Generally speaking "George" has a reputation for catering and entertaining that needs some living up to. Since the erection of the "Anchor Hall" some five years ago, concerts, dinners, harvest homes, club suppers and even parish elections have taken place there, not to mention many big "Buff" ceremonies. In all cases one hears of just that happy degree of satisfaction given that ensures a "repeat order."

## LONDON STORES.

As with the first issue of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE, No. 2 was in great demand and none were available the day after issue.

The Brewers Exhibition this year was—to judge by the crowds that were there when we looked in on the Tuesday evening—a great success. Our beers were on sale at all bars and as usual were in perfect condition.

Smithfield Cattle Show will be held at The Royal Agricultural Hall from December 6th to the 10th. This is a Show worth seeing, and we advise any of our friends who are in London about this time to look in for an hour and they will be interested.

Following the above is that old annual event, "The World's Fair," held from the 24th December to the 5th February.

Tommy Benham's boxing samples are getting nicely matured and are anxiously awaiting an invitation.

Four of our young men paid a visit to Reading to witness the football match with Chelsea on the 13th November. They were very much struck by the enthusiasm of the Reading supporters, especially when the winning goal was scored by Reading just before time.

Afterwards they were kindly escorted round the Social Club and given a good time. They were greatly impressed with the way the Club was furnished and how everything was arranged for the comfort of the members.

Thanks to the hospitality of Driver Champion, they were well catered for, and it was overheard in the Men's Messroom that although Driver Champion's vocal efforts improved their appetites and made them laugh so heartily, they were unable to cope with the great spread which was put before them. Doubtless, Driver Champion was estimating their cubic capacity by his own, but they found the pressure too great.

They were grateful and delighted with the outing and the splendid way they were treated and are, of course, anticipating a future visit.

As this will be the last issue of THE GAZETTE before Christmas, the London Staff take this opportunity of wishing all the "good old wish"—a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

## LUDGERSHALL.

Ludgershall like most places is feeling the effect of the crisis in the coal industry. The outlook is now somewhat brighter and we are looking forward to the return of troops now on strike duty.

Our old friends, the 14/20th Hussars, shortly leave to take up their new Station at York and will be replaced with the 3/6th Dragoon Guards from Colchester. On November 22nd the members of the Sergeants' Mess, 14/20th Hussars will hold their Annual Ramnuggur Ball, which is an event always looked forward to by the Garrison. This year from all accounts it will be a bumper, seeing it will be the last they will hold in Tidworth for many years.

Five members of the Staff were successful in the first round of the Ludgershall Sports Club Billiards Handicap.

We offer our congratulations to Foreman Flemington on his approaching marriage in December, and wish him every happiness in the "great adventure."

The Staff send Christmas Greetings to the Directors and all employees.

## OXFORD.

Our latest arrival, His Imperial Highness Princess Chichibu of Japan, has made himself at home with Alma Mater in his first term. What would his royal relations in the Land of the Rising Sun have said had they seen him (as we did) one day last week, careering up the historic "High" on a bicycle? Worse and worse (or better and better according to the school of thought), this scion of an ancient line was clad only in the conventional rowing shorts, sweater, etc., affected by his brother "wet bobs" when bound riverwards. Far from being peeved, as the Yankies say, by our Oxford brand of weather, his face was wreathed in smiles and there was quite a twinkle behind his "Harold Lloyd" glasses. Now he has commenced training, we wonder if he can write his orders for Berkshire XXXXX in his native language.

Mr. P. L. Bickerton, a junior member of our clerical staff, was included in the side which represented Oxfordshire against the "Varsity" last week at hockey. We learn that he acquitted himself well in his debut for his County.

Mr. W. T. Sanders, our newly appointed Chief Clerk, informs us that he is glad to be back in his native city, despite the weather. Farnborough's loss is our gain, as we welcome the return of Mr. W. T. Sanders to the High Street Staff.

Another strengthening addition we have in Mr. W. Mercer.

With enthusiastic pleasure, and many of us understanding, we applaud the cricket reminiscences, and more recent averages. At the same time there is the keenest desire in Oxford to form a team next season, and this appears possible with the inclusion of Messrs. Sanders and Mercer. To meet The Brewery team in a healthy afternoon's game may yet materialise if the worthy Secretary can spare us a date.

For a whole week the Oxford Town Hall has been thrown open in the cause of trade. Trades exhibitions vary very little. In the colour scheme—red, white and blue in this case—special effort has been made to emphasise the idea of the British Empire and to foster pride in the great commonwealth of nations to which we belong. The exhibits are British, and many manufactured by local firms. The attendance of the Band of the 2nd Batt. Gordon Highlanders completes a fine, picturesque and valuable Exhibition.

The prolonged illness of the Cashier, Mr. A. Kingston, is anxiously watched. We hope for news of his speedy recovery to good health.

Through the medium of these columns we would like to convey to all those who serve under the "Hop Leaf" banner a very Happy Christmas and all prosperity in the New Year.

## THE "NEW INN."

The Secretary of The Falcon Rowing Club, Oxford, has written to Mr. H. Organ, our tenant of the "New Inn," as follows:—

"Dear Mr. Organ,

The Officers and Members of this Club are greatly indebted to you for your kind consideration in our interests, also for the use of the most pleasant and comfortable room you place at our disposal, which we all very much appreciate.

The caterings undertaken by you on the occasion of our dinners, suppers, etc., are worthy of praise and at our recent dance held at the 'Masonic Buildings' (although not so successful as was anticipated) where the 'Bar' was catered for by you, was very satisfactory to all present.

Signed on behalf of the Officers and Members,

Yours faithfully,

A. L. NORMINGTON,  
*Hon. Secretary.*"

## THAME.

Although only on its third venture of monthly productions THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE has met with approbation from its readers who frequent the only house the Firm possesses in Thame, "The Birdcage." Naturally, at the outset, the outstanding features of THE GAZETTE must be more concerned with matters directly affecting the more important distributing stations the Firm possesses, but it is nice to know that the Editor appreciates and welcomes correspondence from those who occupy their houses in various localities.

Just recently "The Birdcage" has been outlined in keeping with its great age, and, but for the fact that the modern building line shows a recedence, it would undoubtedly be the most conspicuous house in Thame. However, with the lofty Westminster Bank on one side and the International Stores on the other, those who like the premier ("S.B.") beers find their way there.

The streams just around are noted for their super-abundance of cray-fish and not a few of our Oxford friends on the Firm have taken advantage of their Sunday relaxation to spend a few hours

with a dozen nets, and bag a thousand. The season is now just finished, but if any readers of THE GAZETTE would only care to enjoy a day in this direction, "The Birdcage" would be a good rendezvous.

Allied to the Radcliffe Infirmary at Oxford is the Thame Victoria Nursing Home, and a more estimable and useful institution it would be hard to find. Its open doors to accidents or other emergencies fills that gap in agricultural districts which have not the immediate facilities provided by larger towns.

In aid of this worthy institution, at the time of writing we are holding in the Town Hall a concert and tableaux vivants. One of the chief items on the programme will be a representation of the Firm's famous poster of Milk Stout. We had intended to stage the "S.B." raft advert., but the intricacies of the sea arrangement proved a little too difficult. Mr. Alan Watts of the well-known firm of florists, Messrs. John Walker of Thame, is ever indefatigable in this direction and success is assured.

We are anxiously looking forward to No. 3 of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE.

#### PORTSMOUTH.

These notes are being penned on the eighth anniversary of Armistice Day. The scene in the Guildhall Square at Portsmouth, this morning, was again a most impressive one. A Service was conducted by the Mayor and Chief Officers of the Navy, Army and Air Force in the Port. In the Square, on the north side of the imposing Guildhall, is Portsmouth's fine War Memorial. This was covered with many beautiful floral tributes, and a long queue was formed by thousands of people, who slowly passed by to pay their homage. The crowd of people in the Square has been estimated at 20,000. Before proceeding to the Service at the Guildhall, many people, including the Commander-in-Chief, placed wreaths at the Naval War Memorial on Southsea Common.

The battle-cruisers *Renown* and *Repulse* arrived at Portsmouth on Monday, November 8th, after taking part in the recent battle practice and subsequently being inspected by the Dominion Premiers at Portland. The *Renown* is berthed alongside the Dockyard, and arrangements are now being made for the work that is to be carried out on her, for the tour of Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of York to Australia and New Zealand, early in the New Year. As the aircraft-carrier *Furious*, and the battleships *Benbow*, *Royal Sovereign* and *Queen Elizabeth* are also now at Portsmouth, we have an unusual number of big ships here for this time of the

year. One of the results of this gathering will be that local football enthusiasts will have a particularly fine opportunity of seeing "Jack" at play. Arrangements have been made for football matches for the King's Cup to take place on local pitches. This is the first time that King's Cup matches have been played at Portsmouth. Games between Naval teams are always sure to produce, besides real skill and much vigour on the part of the players, a fine display of enthusiasm and good-natured raillery on the part of the various groups of team supporters. H. & G. Simonds have the privilege of supplying all of the ships mentioned above. Evidently it is found that "S.B." or Milk Stout is a fine tonic for those called upon to sail the sea, and that it helps to keep steady the hand that holds the "joy stick" in the aircraft, thousands of feet above the sea.

Mr. W. Toms reciprocates the greeting of Mr. Tommy Benham of London Branch, and expressed himself as being very glad to hear again of one of his "boys."

Before another number of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE is printed Christmas will again have passed. It is hoped that more people than ever before will this year realise that the products of H. & G. Simonds, Ltd., besides helping one to attain that exhilarating feeling which breeds goodwill, also greatly aid the digestive organs which are apt to be overtaxed when so many good things are around.

The members of Portsmouth Staff, through the medium of this Journal, take the opportunity of wishing the Directors of H. & G. Simonds, Ltd., all employees of the Firm, and readers of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE at home and abroad, a very Happy Xmas.

#### SWANSEA.

Swansea Staff extend to all members of the Firm at home and abroad the old but ever new message, a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. We were all delighted with the November number, which maintained, if it did not actually excel, the October number with its witticisms and articles, and we are sure that all readers of the article (by C.E.G.) must have felt almost like being on board with him; also "Cricket of the Past" and "A Visit to the British Army on the Rhine," amongst other contributions, were especially enjoyed.

Of course you all must be aware that, at the time of writing, our local football team, the "Swans," lead the way in the Second Division of the English League, and we all realise that it is but a mere step into Division I. (Reading and Portsmouth readers

please note). We think it may also interest Plymouth readers, although we readily admit here that "Plymouth Argyle" have been so near but yet so far for some seasons past. May they have better luck this season!

We extend to all sick members of our Firm our sincere wishes for their speedy return to good health.

#### INNS OF OLD ENGLAND.

Christmas Eve and a real rollicking good old Dickens' Christmas Eve at that. Can't you picture it?

Around the log fire, seated in different postures upon rickety chairs drawn up to equally rickety benches, upon which scattered and mixed in wild confusion are "flying elbows," elbows in repose, stretching hands, clutching hands, dirty dog-eared, fingered and thumbed playing cards, running trickling little streams of good beer wasted, overturned tankards, and upon the high-backed settle near the open hearth sit or sprawl the cronies of the village, old and young; perhaps in a far corner some stranger, a traveller, a thief, a robber, a highwayman, who knows?

From the oak rafters, hung in precarious suspension, is a flitch of bacon, perhaps a brace of pheasants or partridges. A spaniel dog forages among the sawdust and tossed caps about the stone floor, and noses dangerously near a fire barrel gun (I had nearly written blunderbuss as more fitting to the period though less euphonious).

Probably the novelist to write most about taverns and inns was Charles Dickens. I can trace the mention and connection of as many as eighty-six, some immortally connected and others more picturesquely described with their comfortable attributes to the extent of inspiring you with the desire to spend a cold winter's night at one of them. Inns in which we can imagine the jolliest cheeriest Christams dinners were partaken, consisting of the roast beef of Old England, and a plum pudding, brought in piping hot proudly vaunting the inevitable sprig of red-berried holly, fills us with the same delight as spurred the little heart of Tiny Tim at a similar sight.

In Pickwick alone fifty-five such "Refreshment Houses" are mentioned.

[Mention of some of these Inns is held over till our next issue.—*Editor.*]

#### WOOLWICH STORES.

As this is the last issue of THE GAZETTE before Yuletide, we take the opportunity of wishing everybody a very Merry Xmas and hope trade will be up to last year's standard.

November is the month of memories, and very impressive scenes were witnessed in this district during Armistice celebrations. The film "Mons" was being shown at the "Hippodrome" during the week, and on Thursday night the Mayor and Mayoress of Woolwich, together with Major-General H. D. de Pree, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Brigadier-General F. C. Massey, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., R.A., also Colonel H. S. De Brett, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Colonel-Commandant, R.A., Woolwich, and many other distinguished people were present.

Major-General H. D. de Pree, supported by Colonel H. S. de Brett, inspected the British Legion Ex-Service Men outside the "Hippodrome" before the performance.

The Band of the Royal Artillery accompanied some 200 soldiers of the Garrison to the "Hippodrome," and, when the show was over, played them back to Barracks.

The British Legion Band was also in attendance.

On Sunday, the 7th November, the 92nd London Brigade, R.A. (T.A.), also the members of the British Legion, together with the regular troops, took Service at the Garrison Church, after which they marched past on the Parade Ground.

A greater number of people than usual turned out to witness this parade.

A woman was in the waiting-room of a hospital when a young man entered wearing a white jacket. Turning to him, she said, "Excuse me, are you the doctor?" "No, madam, was the reply, "I am a student passing out as a doctor." Shortly afterwards another man came in, was asked the same question, and gave the same reply. She got rather annoyed at this, and made up her mind to say something different next time. Not long after yet another man in a white coat entered, and the woman said to him, "Excuse me, I suppose you are a student passing out as a doctor?" "No, ma'am," came the reply. "I am a painter passing out for a pint."

## WOKING.

The Woking Branch Staff again gladly welcomed the arrival of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE, and we are all especially pleased to note that the high standard of the October issue was well maintained in the November number. Many of our friends speak of the keen interest such a publication has aroused, and the new vistas thus opened up have added a zest to the happenings of the time, and a zeal to our powers of observation and recollection. We were much impressed by the entertaining article by "C.E.G." and his experiences in the wholesale fruit market.

The members of the Woking Branch Staff send fraternal Christmas greetings to their fellow employees on the Firm and to all who claim relationship with the large family of readers of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE.

We are now in the throes of reconstruction, and our Stores present a most unsettled appearance. "Business as usual," the early war-time slogan, has had to be recalled and applied under all sorts of conditions. We have even indulged in *al fresco* bottling. It has been a difficult and trying time for the contractors (Messrs. Harris & Son) as well as ourselves. Three-quarters of the accommodation ordinarily available has been rendered "temporarily unfit" (Category "D" we called it in the Army), and now we have been forced to give up bottling altogether for two-and-a-half weeks, and rely upon our very good friends at London Branch, under Major F. J. Johnson, to come to the rescue and see us through. During the month we have made heavy demands on the Building Department, and the Engineering Department, as well as London Branch, and everybody has responded wonderfully well and the pre-arranged Time Table is working out exactly, thanks to the loyal co-operation of all concerned. "The Hop Leaf" flag is thus being kept flying in these parts. At times we have been uncomfortably crowded, but our Foreman (E. Pritchard) is patient and persevering, and muses upon and parodies some of the best epics. His parody of Tom Moore, the Irish poet, in his sad yet sweet lines, "Oft in the stilly night," would run something like the following:—

Oft in the stilly night, ere slumbers chains have bound me,  
I see the posts and poles spring up in forests all around me,  
The hopes and fears of boyish years; the words of love once  
spoken,  
Mid muddy drains, improved(?) by rains, are sorely bent or  
broken.

Whene'er I think of all the "friends" who later have to leave  
us,

I feel like one bereft, condemned to walk alone.  
Yet, ere slumber's chains in stilly night have bound me,  
Methinks I see the light of brighter days around me.

Any Council in search of a design for a Canoe Lake can see some specimens gratis. Ornamental water fowl are not being reared.

LADY (to car driver): Take care! take care! that car in front has got quick stoppers on!

To the uninitiated it should be explained that this refers to four-wheel brakes and has no reference to power-driven crown corking machines.

Our excellent friends at the Queen's Royal Regiment Depot, Guildford, celebrated the twelfth anniversary of the Battle of Ghulevelt on October 29th, when 500 officers, other ranks and visitors were present, including Mr. W. R. Pullinger, the Mayor elect of Guildford, and several of the Town Councillors. The arrangements were in the hands of the Sergeants' Mess as regards the catering, and, under R.S. Major Tedder, D.C.M., everyone was well satisfied with both catering and the dance programme. All present voted the occasion a great success, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and carried away pleasant memories of the celebration.

Re PORTSMOUTH NOVEMBER NOTE:—Before the error mentioned is likely to become serious or widespread some "Harlene" drill will be necessary.

## HYTHE.

## THE DOINGS OF THE CRICKET CLUB.

The Brewery Cricket Club played twelve matches, winning five of them, losing six, the remaining game being left unfinished with The Brewery team in a favourable position. For the first year of its existence, we consider the Club did very well, as many of its members had not played for a number of years. Several of the youngsters showed great promise. Mr. Cole ably captained the team. So far as averages go, Middleton tops the batting with an average of 12.7 runs, his best knock being a sound 47 against Lympne. Dray and Rose follow with averages of 10.6 and 10.2 respectively. Blackman, our youngest player, came out with an average of 8.7. He also did very well with the ball, taking in all 36 wickets at an average of 5.0 runs per wicket. Dray, however, was our star bowler, taking 25 wickets for 119, his average being 4.8. Mr. Cole and Tugwell follow closely with averages

of 6.2 and 6.3 respectively. A game with the Reading team has been suggested by all our players, and we all hope it can be arranged next year.

Whilst giving these few details of the past season, a rather more detailed account of the Police match would not be out of place.

A. P. F. Chapman won the toss and, after both sides and the umpires had been to see if the barrel of beer, which was reported to have been sent down, was a report or not, The Brewery took the field. We presume our Captain put them in in the hope that the Police batting would definitely prove that it was *not* a rumour. In this, however, he failed, for the Police batted steadily against some good bowling by Blackman and Rose. The score mounted slowly, for whatever hard hits were made, all went straight at C. Dray at mid-on, and instead of making runs only proved that his shins were still as hard as they were last year. He never winced once the whole afternoon—no higher praise can be given. The first wicket fell at 11, and R. Munds came in. It was unfortunate that he had to play as he is the local professional and not in the Police, who were one short. He was the only one on their side to play with confidence and scored 62 before being clean bowled by H. Cole. Their innings closed for 99. Blackman, Rose and G. Dray all bowled well, and H. Cole proved himself a second Maurice Tate taking six wickets for six runs. Since this match we notice that he has not been seen to go faster than ten miles per hour in his car as he is so much sought after! The Brewery fielding was good. S. Middleton kept wicket well all through. W. Gubbins, a tower(!) of strength in the deep; G. Wood, a second Hendren anywhere; and last, but by no means least, C. Dray, a veritable Rock of Gibraltar on the leg side.

W. Gubbins and H. Rose opened The Brewery batting, but Gubbins soon left for 1, and Middleton immediately after for 0. A. Tugwell and A. P. F. Chapman both were failures, and it was left to our only Reading representative, Mr. F. A. Simonds, and G. Dray to show us that we had got at least two bats on the side. Undismayed by the "rot" that had set in they did their best to pull the game round and caused the bowling to be changed.

Both, however, were out together, and no one else looking like stopping, the whole side were dismissed for 42.

We had the melancholy satisfaction of knowing that, not counting their substitute (Munds), The Brewery had topped the Police score.

The matches now stand at one all, and it is understood that the Police are already undergoing an intensive system of training of which the chief item is Milk Stout, to enable them to win the rubber next year.

The largest crowd seen on the Cricket Ground during the season watched the match, which was greatly enjoyed by both the players and spectators. Our most grateful thanks are due to Messrs. Mackeson & Co., Ltd., for their hospitality to the wives and families of both sides and Mr. Mackeson for the use of the ground.

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P.S.—It is a pity that none of our Foremen are playing members. If they did play, however, we do not think they would be quick scorers as, on going in after the game was over, they were all seen to be sitting on the barrel! We suppose they got this from sitting on the "splice" in their earlier cricket days.

#### POPULARITY OF THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE AND HYTHE'S FUTURE(?) MAYOR.

To bear out all our Editors have said with regard to the widespread interest taken all over Europe in THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE, comes the excitement taken everywhere in connection with the possible election of Mr. Whiting as Mayor of our Borough. With truly incredible speed a radio message was received at Hythe only 2½ minutes after the publication of our second copy. It came from Gibraltar, where Mr. Whiting so long represented us, and read as follows:—

"Whiting Brewery Hythe.

Just read your possible appointment in Hopleaf Town Council and self send heartiest congratulations.

GOVERNOR OF GIBRALTAR."

The above cable goes to prove two things:—(1) H. & G. Simonds' employees have won their way into the hearts of all, all over the world, and (2) that "S.B." really does stand for Simultaneous Broadcast.

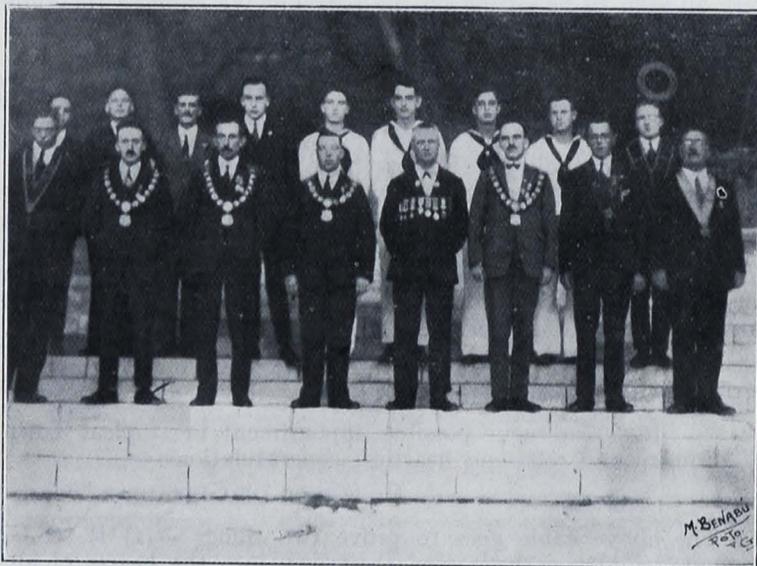
To celebrate the event fittingly, a week's holiday was asked for, for the whole Brewery, but, unfortunately, the Hythe Managers could not see their way to granting the request, but we hear on the best authority that a brew of 50 X is being pushed through with all speed, and we hope it will be ready in time.

If so it will be a truly vintage year.

We want to know if Reading or any other branch can compete with this:—"Can you put six Blackmans on your Pontifex filler to bottle one Hogshead of Stout and each be a Blackman?" We can.

### GIBRALTAR.

In forwarding these, the first notes from what is aptly described the "Gateway of the Empire," may we offer our sincerest wishes for the success and prosperity of the latest venture of our well-known Firm, namely THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE. To the Staff abroad it will attain a most desirable end in forming a connecting link with old friends at home and elsewhere, so we toast the newly arrived "baby" in the only beverage appropriate to the occasion and may the "baby" live to a hoary old age.



A group of members representing British and American Friendly Societies, taken at a Church Parade held at South Barracks Garrison Church, Gibraltar.

In sending notes from Gibraltar it must be remembered that our Staff is small, and we are therefore driven to rely on our Service friends for news. One item from this source is worth recording. In the Command Rowing Regatta held recently a Gig Race, open to crews from Officers and Sergeants' Messes was held. Four entries were received and all were at once nicknamed by the Service

onlookers according to their Mess Brewers. Thus we had in the first semi-final Simonds (R.E.) *versus* McEwans (Suffolk Regiment) and in the second Ind Coope North (R.A.) *versus* Ind Coope South (R.A.). To be brief, the result was that Simonds "BOTTLED" up McEwan, and, in the final, fairly "CORKED AND LABELLED" Ind Coope North, to the very evident delight of the Simonds devotees.

Now, we must not be too prosy in these our initial notes, but in our next perhaps some of our Staff at other Stations would welcome a few historical notes anent this Station. It is observed that our Chairman, in his preface to the first number, mentioned that historical notes might be of interest. One such event occurs to our mind at this time of the year. In Gibraltar we hold a general holiday on November 29th annually to celebrate the famous sortie of the historic Garrison during the Great Siege of Gibraltar, 1779 to 1783. This day has been observed as a holiday without intermission since 1782. Can any other Station quote a similar local holiday in commemoration of a feat of arms that has survived without interruption over such a period as 144 years.

ODDFELLOWS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17th, 1926.

A Church Service was held at the South Barracks Garrison Church by the Rev. F. Yates, C.E. This Service was attended by representatives of the following British and American Societies:—

- Independent Order of Oddfellows (Manchester Unity).
- Independent Order of Oddfellows (American Unity).
- The "Elks" (American Order).
- The "Eagles" (American Order).
- R.A.O.B.

The Gibraltar District M.U.I.O.O.F. were present as well as members of the Spanish Lodges. All Societies represented wore full regalia. They assembled on the Alameda Parade and from there marched to the Church.

### OBITUARY.

We regret to have to report the death of Mr. F. Perez, Foreman at this Branch. Mr. Perez died after a painful illness of several months; he had been an employee of the Firm for some 35 years, succeeding his father, Mr. L. Perez, as Foreman in 1920. Mr. L. Perez had over 50 years' service with the Firm; he is now 78 years old and is still in moderately good health.

We send our Christmas greetings and best New Year wishes to all members of the Firm at home and abroad.

## MALTA.



GOZO BOAT.

The boat that takes our Beer to Gozo, the sister island of Malta, a distance of some 13 miles. These boats, with the assistance of two steam launches, supply all the needs of some 22,000 souls in Gozo.

Our hearty Christmas and New Year greetings to the Directors and all employees of the Firm.