

The Hop Leaf Gazette.

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

Edited by CHARLES H. PERRIN.

Vol. VII.

DECEMBER, 1932.

No. 3



MR. LOUIS ADOLPHUS SIMONDS.

MR. LOUIS ADOLPHUS SIMONDS.

After a period of two years' preparation in the various Departments of the Brewery, including a course of actual brewing and bottling, Mr. L. A. Simonds has been appointed a member of the Staff.

Educated at Eton and subsequently spending a year at Chillon College, near Territet on Lake Geneva, for the study of languages, where he acquired a fluency in French, Mr. Louis sojourned in New Zealand for twelve months to learn farming, as practised in that wonderful agricultural country. Thus, in the "University of the World," Mr. Louis completed the education which was to equip him for a business career.

Possessed of command, chivalry and a keen perception, he is of the type which is required to deal with the demands of a new age, where courage, resource and vitality are the dominating qualities. Imbued with the enthusiasm of youth, he is ready and able to pull his weight at any job which is given to him.

Mr. Louis has already exhibited a trait which indicates that he has learned not to consider his own interests so important as those of the Firm he serves. He has also inculcated the belief, which, normally, is only born of long association and service, that the ideals and business of the Firm must be paramount, that everything must be subjugated to those ideals and that the reputation of the House must be zealously guarded and upheld and not suffer in his keeping.

The criticism which from time to time has been made that public schools bred class consciousness was never more thoroughly exploded than in the product of Eton as exemplified in the disposition and personality of Mr. Louis. His friendly and charming manner is the absolute negation of the superiority which the public schoolboy is alleged to feel when he has to deal with people from another social stratum. It is this special quality which is admired by all with whom he has come into contact.

It would be unusual for a man of Mr. Louis' mentality not to be a devotee of sport. He has taken a keen interest in the Brewery Sports Clubs and particularly tennis, in which he is a formidable opponent. He is also a powerful swimmer and a motorist with a passion for a fast run, as the Managing Director and various members of the Staff have discovered.

This outline would not be complete without a reference to "McNab" who shares the frontispiece with Mr. Louis. Those who have made the acquaintance of "McNab" cannot fail to understand Mr. Louis' attachment to this lovable bit of dog, so incongruously short of limb in comparison with his master, with a fondness for errand boys' legs and a fascination for the front tyres of fast moving cars.

EDITORIAL.

A Happy Christmas to all readers of "The Hop Leaf Gazette," and a Bright and Prosperous New Year.

NO USE TO GRUMBLE.

It ain't no use to grumble and complain ;
It's just as cheap and easy to rejoice ;
When God sorts out the weather and sends rain,
W'y rain's my choice !

LAST WISHES OF LORD FISHER'S BUGLER.

Three years after his death the will of John Harding, a former bugler to Lord Fisher, the famous Sea Lord, has been revealed at Melbourne, where he spent his last days.

Shortly before his death, at the age of 73, Harding called at the offices of the Victorian China Naval Contingent Association to which he belonged, and drew up the following document :—

"Having passed the allotted span, and feeling that the call will not be long, I forward the following requests to members to carry out after my death.

"Do not let any long-faced undertaker grab the last few quid I leave behind. Knock up a box yourselves and cover with the Union Jack. Hire a truck and follow in a couple of taxis, and bury me with my shipmates in our own graves at Fawkner.

"Stop on the road at the nearest pub, and have a drink, for which I leave the sum of £5. I will be waiting outside. Then carry on.

"When reaching the cemetery, ask a Sky Pilot to say a few words.

"Then when I am secured in the locker, get the bugler to sound the Last Post as hard as he can, and put another notch in his bugle. I leave him £1 for his expenses.

"After this I request you all to proceed back to the club, and drink to the memory of your old shipmate."

Mr. Andrew Curren, secretary of the China Contingent Association, told the British United Press that the instructions of the will were carried out to the letter.

BEWARE OF THE "CLUB."

Mr. W. J. Yeo, of The Castle Inn, Hurst, has the following notice exhibited in his bar :—

Don't tell me you own a



Or say put it down on the slate.

Although I may have a good



My Brewer is not willing to wait.

There is always a man with a



Ready to dig my grave if I bust ;

So behind the bar I keep a big



For all who ask me to trust.

THE MODERATE USE OF ALCOHOL.

It may be taken as true that science is on the side of the moderate drinker of alcohol. For the average healthy Englishman there is no better drink than beer or stout in moderation ; not only are they tonics, but they have a definite food value from the carbohydrate they contain.—Dr. Lennox Wainwright, M.D., in the *Ideal Home*.

HEALTHY CHILDREN.

"In your interesting article on 'Healthy Children,' it is stated 'that the children of the father who was a moderate drinker and smoker were the healthiest,'" writes Mrs. Eleanor Winston in the *Daily Telegraph*. "I am the eldest of nine—five boys and four girls. Five of us are over 50, two are over 60. One only is missing, and the rest of us are a very healthy crowd. Our only illnesses were the ordinary childish complaints. When we were growing up there was always a barrel of 'bitter,' and we had a small dose every day, and very little milk. I never remember my father without his pipe and glass, but he never overstepped the line."

THE FIRST CIGARETTES.

The origin of the cigarette, as we know it, is far from certain. We do know that as far back as the seventeenth century the natives of the south-west of North America smoked tobacco rolled in maize leaves, and their Spanish conquerors adopted this habit. Paper was substituted for maize by these Spaniards on their return to Spain, for we know that the "papelito" was smoked in Spain in the eighteenth century. Nothing definite can be stated about cigarette smoking in England until about 1843. The real vogue of the cigarette began at the time of the Crimean War (1854-56), when English officers learned the habit from our Turkish allies and introduced it to the clubs and messrooms on their return to England. It is curious to note that the next great impetus to the cigarette habit was the world war of our own time, just as the spread of pipe-smoking throughout Europe was induced by the Thirty Years' War of the early seventeenth century. It is indeed a notable fact that wars not only determine the destiny of men, but even influence many of their personal habits.

WINTER BIRDS.

I watch them from the window,
While winds so keenly blow ;
How merrily they twitter,
And revel in the snow ;
In brown and ruffled feathers
They dot the white around,
And not one moping comrade
Among the lot I've found.
Ah, may I be as cheerful
As yonder winter birds,
Through ills and petty crosses,
With no repining words ;
So, teaching me this lesson,
Away, away, they go,
And leave their tiny footprints
In stars upon the snow.

BLINDING THE DEVIL.

In the East to "eat salt" with one's host is an important social function, and to spill any, even accidentally, is an insult to the house. As the devil is watching all actions over the left shoulder a pinch of the spilt salt is thrown with the right hand over the left shoulder, thus blinding the watcher until the salt can be replaced in its appointed vessel.

QUEER BIRDS.

Bird life on Lord Howe Island, a dependency of New South Wales, is dying out because, according to one authority, the birds are deliberately limiting their families.

The island was once a bird paradise. An Australian scientist, Mr. P. Ireland, declares that it is because life for the birds on the island was so easy that they are dying out. They have become lazy, he declares, and it is now the universal practice of the birds to limit their "families" to one. Instead of laying five or six eggs they now lay only one.

Mr. Ireland described their degradation as one of the strangest phenomena in natural history.

GEESE AT WINDSOR.

After "command" performances it is customary for His Majesty to send a special letter of thanks to the principals, and doubtless this is done now-a-days with more precision than when, in Queen Victoria's time, the duty fell to Sir Henry Ponsonby.

That model secretary, the soul of politeness, sought to avoid invidious distinctions by drawing up a form of letter to serve on all such occasions. On the whole, the plan worked well, but it was rather a surprise to the proprietor of a troupe of performing geese, "commanded" to Windsor to amuse the Royal children, to receive next day a letter from Sir Henry :

"Sir,—I am instructed by the Queen to thank you for your visit of yesterday, and to express the hope that the ladies and gentlemen of your company arrived safely in London, and in good health."

TOOK A TANKARD.

At the Swan Hotel, Pangbourne, there is a notice to the effect that "if the *gentleman* who stole the tankard will call again he will be presented with the other five to complete the set."

A QUERY.

T.G. wishes to know who was the landlord who went from Reading to Wokingham to learn "Rummy"?

THE ALPHA AND OMEGA.

The beginning and the end of all that is best in alcoholic beverage is the drink that is

SUPERB.

MR. "BUNNY" AUSTIN.

I was privileged to dine with Mr. "Bunny" Austin on the occasion of his visit to Reading recently to speak at a League of Nations meeting. He was accompanied by his wife (Miss Phyllis Konstain, the actress). Asked how he came to be known as "Bunny," Mr. Austin said that some people thought he looked like a rabbit, others knew he ate a lot of green food; but apart from that he could not say why he is known as "Bunny."

By the way, the dinner, which was held at the White Hart Hotel, was excellently served by Mr. Tom Crisp.

TEETOTAL FANATICISM.

A pulpit attack on teetotalism interested the crowded congregation at the morning's civic service in the Congregational Church at Sandwich, which the Mayor and Corporation attended. The Rev. Raymond E. Young, the minister, said that after each succeeding Government had denied the man in the street more and more liberty, the professional moralists robbed him of this last vestige of freedom. "What right," he asked, "have busybodies to exalt total abstinence into a cardinal Christian virtue? There is no support for teetotalism in the Bible. I have lived in America, and seen something of the consequences of Prohibition. Why prevent everyone drinking because a few drink too much? I decline to tell people they are violating the law of Christ if they take an occasional glass of something or other. How can I, when our Lord, performing his first miracle at a wedding feast, replenished a shortage of wine? The 'temperance' movement is fighting an extinct bogey. Drunkenness is not one of our national evils."

DOG SENSE.

An extraordinary example of canine sagacity was vouched for by Sir James Carmichael at a recent function held in connection with the Bolingbroke Hospital, in South London. One morning a large dog pushed open the front door of the hospital and made his way straight through the hall to the out-patients' department. Arrived there, he held up an injured paw to the nurse on duty, who promptly fetched the casualty officer. The wound was cleaned and bandaged and the dog—whose bloodstained footmarks were subsequently traced to a point 200 yards from the hospital—was sent away. The only thing that worried the authorities, Sir James added, was that he did not return next day for a fresh dressing!

ALCOHOL AND DISEASE,

Sir James Crichton-Browne, in "Alcohol Reviewed," writes :—

"Alcohol is still the premier drug in the pharmacopœia. It has in many cases been superseded by newly-discovered preparations, but in all the ills that flesh is heir to it is still more extensively resorted to than any other remedy. It was formerly far too copiously and indiscriminately employed in the treatment of disease. . . . but it may be questioned whether now under teetotal terrorism there is not an excessive timidity in its use."

The cheering announcement was recently made by Dr. Ducamp, Public Health Department, Lille, that medical investigations prove that "cancer never appears among the causes of death among young employees in the brewing industry."

U.S. BEER BILL.

That Americans will celebrate the New Year with good beer rather than poor wine is the confident prediction of Representative Fred Britten, the Republican "Wet" leader, following a conference recently with President Hoover. Mr. Britten gave the assurance that President Hoover would not veto any bill passed by Congress to legalise beer provided that the measure safeguarded the States which wished to remain "Dry" and prevent the return of the saloon. Mr. Britten said that he will call a conference of "Wet" leaders of both major political parties and draw up a bill which, he believes, can be speedily passed through Congress by December 10th. The legal beer, he said, will contain 3.46 per cent. of alcohol by volume, and will be taxed at 1½d. a pint, which will permit it to be retailed at 5d. a pint. Government revenues will, he anticipates, be increased by £7,000,000 monthly.



READING TOWN COUNCIL,

COMMANDER SIMONDS TO STAND AGAIN,

ELECTION HELPERS ENTERTAINED,

It was kindly thought on the part of Commander H. D. Simonds, R.N., to entertain those ladies and gentlemen who rendered him support at the recent municipal election in Katesgrove Ward, Reading. The gathering took place in the Foresters' Hall and there was a large company present. There was a highly enjoyable entertainment, and the Commander's two "turns" brought down the house. Refreshments were also served. Councillor G. W. Gale, who presided, said that the gathering was not, as some hoped, to rejoice in victory, but to rejoice over the fact that they had put up such a wonderful fight in Katesgrove Ward. (*Applause.*) The candidate was present to personally thank all who took part in the election. Katesgrove Ward was one of the most difficult wards in Reading to fight, and Commander Simonds was well aware of the fact when he undertook the task. The magnificent fight he put up won the admiration of them all. (*Applause.*)

Commander Simonds, who had a great reception, thanked all for their kindness in coming forward to help him during the recent elections. He felt he must pay particular tribute to the work of the ladies. He looked at the election as a preliminary skirmish preparatory to a great victory in the future. (*Applause.*) He assumed they wished him to stand at the next election. (*Applause.*) He hoped they did as he wanted to cure the disease of Socialism in Katesgrove Ward. They must set to work at once and stick to it all the next election,

Mr. Gale said he was sure they were all very gratified to know that Commander Simonds had decided to fight the seat again and was determined to win it. (*Applause.*)

Councillor Cook added a few words, and the remainder of the evening was devoted to harmony, etc,

Mr. P. James mystified the company with his wonderful conjuring tricks and Mr. L. Buckingham was brilliant at the piano. Others contributing to the programme were Messrs. S. Hinton, G. Canning, R. Bunting, J. Champion and W. Cropp.

A GREAT THOUGHT.

Let us not confound the politeness of worldly self-interest with the politeness of Christian charity.

The former is merely a veneer, a pose, a mask, or a formality. It is spasmodic and has no depth. The latter is rooted in solid virtue and comes straight from the heart—from the love of God overflowing to love of our neighbour. It is consistent and admits of no exceptions.

If you have to say "No," why do so sharply and dictatorially? The sting and the pain are taken out of a refusal if it is made politely and kindly. If we are kind towards animals and pets, why not be considerate towards one another, especially towards domestics and tradespeople?

It is sometimes said that politeness costs nothing, but this is not altogether true. Punctuality, for example, is one of the many forms of politeness, which often involves a generous degree of self-sacrifice.

SUCCESS.

It's doing your job the best you can,
 And being just to your fellow man ;
 Not making money—but holding friends,
 And staying true to your aims and ends ;
 It's figuring how and learning why,
 And looking forward and thinking high,
 And dreaming a little and doing much ;
 It's keeping always in closest touch
 With what is finest in word and deed ;
 It's being thorough, yet making speed ;
 It's daring blithely the field of chance
 While making labour a brave romance ;
 It's going onward despite defeat,
 And fighting staunchly, but keeping sweet ;
 It's being clean, and its playing fair ;
 It's laughing lightly at Dame Despair ;
 It's looking up at the stars above,
 And drinking deeply of life and love ;
 It's struggling on with the will to win,
 But taking loss with a cheerful grin,
 It's sharing sorrow and work and mirth,
 And making better this good old earth ;
 It's serving, striving through strain and stress,
 It's doing your noblest ; that's success.

THAMES BED AS PREHISTORIC ARMOURY.

The painted savages of Kingston-on-Thames of 3,000 years ago were a careless set when they went on the River. Spears and other dangerous weapons were always falling in, and sometimes they threw each other's swords after them as an Early British joke.

The Thames Conservancy is now finding more prehistoric weapons each year in the neighbourhood of Kingston and Hampton Court than it used to find in the whole of the River Thames.

Among the "lost property" recently recovered there are a flint cell of about 2,500 B.C., a bone spearhead of 2,000 B.C., a small rapier and an axe-head, both of 1,500 B.C., a Norman spur, a pagan Anglo-Saxon's spearhead, and a bronze sword of 900 B.C.

"Since the deepening of the channel between Shepperton and Teddington began in connection with the big Thames Improvement Scheme," a Thames Conservancy Board official told a *Morning Post* representative, "finds have been coming in almost every month."

REWARDS FOR FINDERS.

"Every now and then as a bucket of material comes to the surface the workman, if he is on the look-out, sights a strange worn metal blade, and presently the ancient spearhead reaches us, and a few shillings for noticing and reporting it are given him in reward.

"After two years of the scheme so many relics had been added to our small existing collection that one was in danger of tripping over prehistoric swords in odd corners of our offices and it was decided to send them to Reading Museum as a museum of the River Thames. They went about a month ago."

A mediaeval pike-head, a roasting spit of the Seventeenth Century, an Anglo-Saxon spearhead, a Roman pewter vase and part of a Romano-British pot, all from Cliveden and Boulter's Lock, were inspected by the Conservancy Board recently and sent on to Reading.

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT.

CONCERT IN AID OF ST. DUNSTAN'S BLINDED SAILORS,
SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN.

The READING CONSERVATIVE PRIZE CHORAL SOCIETY is giving a GRAND CONCERT in aid of the above charity in February next, and asks every reader of this magazine for their valued support to make this season's effort a huge success.

Full particulars will be given in our January issue.

HELP US TO HELP THEM THAT HELPED US.

A NATURE NOTE.

(BY C.H.P.).

PEARLS OF GREAT PRICE.

THE INTELLIGENCE OF DOGS.

"Consider the seasons, the joy of the spring, the splendour of the summer, the sunset colours of the autumn, the delicate and graceful bareness of winter trees, the beauty of snow, the beauty of light upon water, what the old Greek called the unnumbered smiling of the sea. In the feeling for that beauty, if we have it, we possess a pearl of great price."

So wrote that great statesman and gentleman, Lord Grey of Fallodon. And it is a pearl of great price, isn't it, to possess that feeling of beauty which appears to me to be intensified if you take an early morning walk?

I generally go for such a walk on Sunday mornings and what puzzles me is how my dog knows when Sunday comes round. But know he does, and no sooner am I up than he is dancing round me saying, as plainly as he can, "you *are* going to take me for the usual walk, aren't you, master?"

How could I refuse! No, we humans have not got all the intelligence. I know of another dog that goes out of a morning regularly to meet the butcher. He travels along the road about half a mile and is given a lift back in the butcher's van.

TIT BITS.

A friend of mine feeds the tits regularly and the board on which he places pieces of meat has become soaked with the fat. Now the tits may be seen pecking at this board and their little beaks have removed very much of the wood. It has all disappeared and if it formed part of their food I do hope they have not suffered from indigestion. But perhaps they only do it just for mischief. I have often watched them at it and the tap, tap, tapping can be heard many yards away.

What charming little ways they have!

A FOX FAMILY'S LARDER.

A fox is often killed by hounds but I often wonder how many "kills" a vixen and her cubs are responsible for during a season. Near such a family's earth there was recently discovered the remains of ten different kinds of fur and feather including pheasant, chicken,

rabbit, rat, moorhen, duck and hare. Several dead moles were lying around and apparently these had been killed more for fun than for food. And these foxes were none too clean in their habits. How different is the badger. I doubt if any wild animal is more particular in his domestic habits. Every day he cleans out his home and makes it spick and span. And yet the badger will eat food when it is about as "high" as it can be. But there is no accounting for tastes. I know of some human beings who would not think of touching hare or pheasant until it was in a very "lively" condition. Ugh!

ONLY GONE TO SLEEP.

The season of winter is at once the close and the commencement of the year. Like the natural sleep of man, and the night which succeeds the day, it includes the closing period of rest after labour, and the awakening dawn of refreshment after repose. While the body of man reposes, and the mind is chained in healthful inactivity, or dallies with some pleasing fancy in its dreams, the restorative physical operators are busily at work: the blood is circulating through the frame, the lungs are fulfilling their important vital functions, the digestive organs are busy in their appointed task, and the slumberer arises in the morning a new man. So, too, with nature, after winter's sleep. The bare trees are but an indication of this peaceful and necessary rest. The cold winds, frost and snow, of which we have had very little at the time of writing, are means of Life rather than Death, for

He marks the bounds which winter may not pass,
And blunts his pointed fury; in its case,
Russet and rude, folds up the tender germ
Uninjured, with inimitable art;
And, ere one flowery season fades and dies,
Designs the blooming wonders of the next.

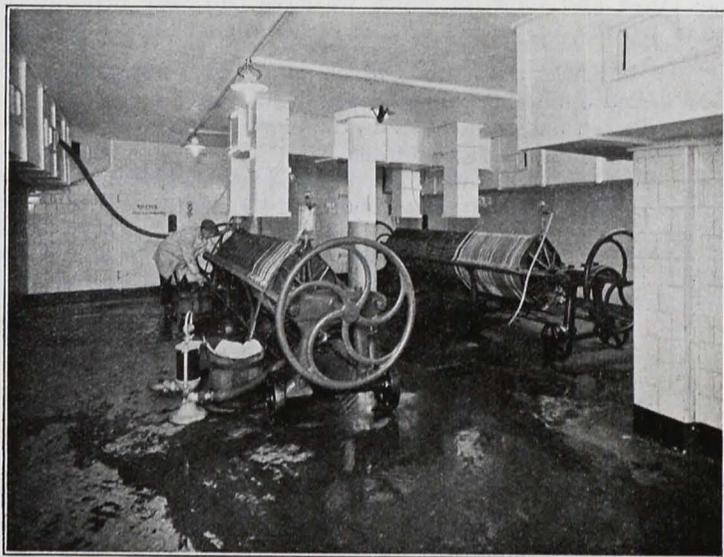


A VISIT TO H. & G. SIMONDS, TTD. THE BREWERY, READING.

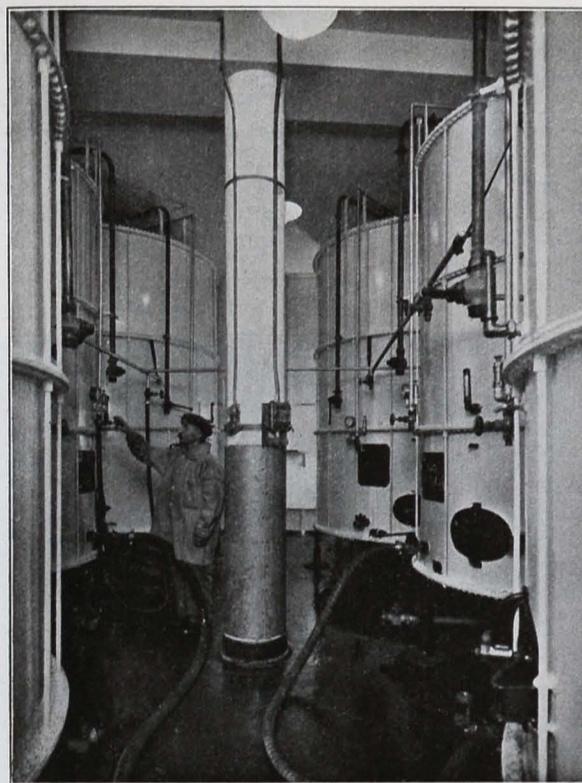
(Reproduced from "Bottling" by kind permission.)

(Continued.)

These bottling stores differ from most in that female labour is entirely dispensed with. Mr. Stocker looks upon the bottling stores as a recruiting ground for the brewery, and there is a good deal to be said for such a point of view. A boy soon shows what he is worth in bottling operations, and those who survive satisfactorily an apprenticeship of this sort are likely to prove very valuable in the brewery later. One of the disheartening things about bottling in the old days was the fact that the employment took after the nature of a cul-de-sac, and that was one of the reasons why the employment of females seemed to be desirable; but if an avenue of progress can be opened it rather alters the nature of the problem, and we would venture to suggest to Messrs. Simonds that they might try the experiment of training on some of the best of their brewery employees for work in their licensed properties, first as cellarmen and potmen, later as managers and tenants. It has always seemed to us that a good brewery man would make an ideal tenant for a small licensed property, and his knowledge of beer and trade conditions, together with the knowledge that the firm should have of his character and antecedents, should be of far greater consequence than his being able to raise £200 or £300 to go in. By



The Two Enzinger Filters in a Separate Cold Room.



Another of the Cold Rooms.

this means young, keen men in the brewery would have something definite to look forward to and to work for, which would help to foster a good spirit in the concern, and at the same time the inside and outside interests of the brewery would tend to become more homogeneous. However, no doubt Messrs. Simonds have considered this question themselves.



Beer Delivery Tanks from Brewery.

Owing to the overwhelming beer duty, the sales of bottled cider have increased enormously during the last few years, and Messrs. Simonds, together with several other breweries in the country, have acquired cider interests and are undertaking the bottling operations in the most up-to-date manner. As much as eighty to ninety hogsheads per week are bottled during the summer months, and the sales have increased four times since the last Budget. The cider arrives in hogsheads and is passed from these through quick chillers into tin-lined carbonators.



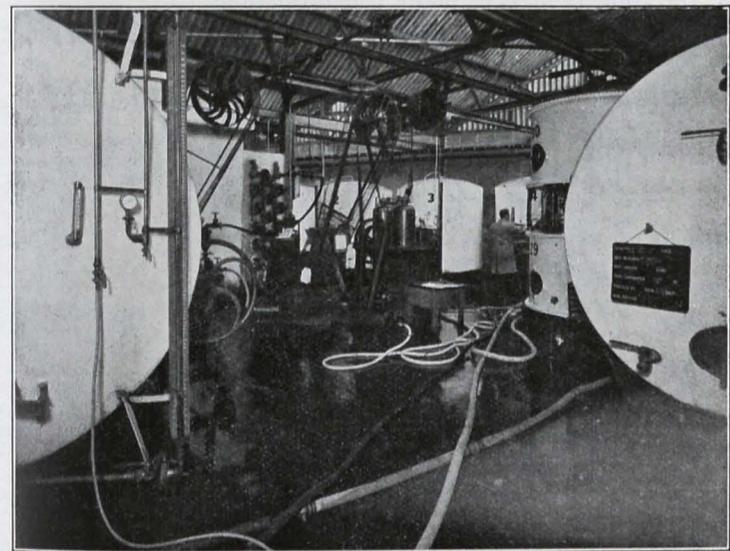
A General View of the Bottlery.

The plant itself of the whole installation may be said to be thoroughly up to date in every way. Refrigeration is effected by Hall's direct coupled compressors. The plant in the brewery includes one of Hall's most modern type vertical twin cylinder high-speed ammonia machines equipped with all safety appliances and forced lubrication to the bearings, and direct coupled to a 120 b.h.p. B.T.-H. motor running at 365 r.p.m., the plant being capable of chilling fifty-two barrels of beer per hour continuously, and also cooling two cold stores fitted with beer tanks, a yeast room, a cold store for casks, and a filter room. It is interesting to note that the plant operates on the latest dry compression system, which not only gives extreme ease of control, but also exceptional efficiency, resulting in a great saving in running costs.

The ammonia condenser is of the atmospheric type situated in a steel tray on the roof of the conditioning room, and the evaporator is of the shell and tube type arranged inside a large brine storage tank, which supplies the counter-current beer cooler and also the yeast room, which is fitted with thermostatic control.

The cold stores, apart from the yeast room, are served by the latest type of wet air coolers arranged in galvanised steel casings.

(To be continued).



Bottling Stores Tanks.

THE LIGHTER SIDE.

WIFE (who has caught her husband squandering a penny on a fortune-telling machine): "H'm! So you're to have a beautiful and charming wife, are you? Not while I'm alive, Horace—not while I'm alive!"

* * * *

"Please, I want a tooth pulled out," said the small boy.

"And what do the others want?"

"Oh, they're my pals. They're paying me a penny each to see it done."

SOCIAL CLUB.

SATISFACTORY START IN TABLE TENNIS.

We have entered a new sphere in the social activities of the town by competing in the Reading and District Table Tennis League. A good number of enthusiasts have signed on for the Club and a team made their initial efforts on November 10th and 24th, with the following results. It was a very satisfactory start and the winners deserve many congratulations.

Practice matches are held on Monday evenings and we should like to see more in attendance.

H. & G. SIMONDS *v.* FACTORY. At Social Club on November 10th, 1932.

					Games.		Points.	
	Coleman	Jacob	Sutton	Ager	W.	L.	W.	L.
P. Hendy ...	W 21-14 21-6	W 21-14 21-17	W 21-14 21-14	W 21-15 21-15	8	—	168	190
M. Adams ...	W 21-16 21-16	W 21-16 21-17	L 11-21 21-23	W 21-16 21-16	6	2	158	141
M. Rickards ...	L 21-23 12-21	L 12-21 15-21	L 15-21 10-21	D 21-19 8-21	1	7	114	168
F. Clark ...	W 21-15 21-8	W 21-14 23-21	L 11-21 19-21	L 23-25 15-21	4	4	154	146
				TOTAL ...	19	13	594	564

H. & G. SIMONDS *v.* Y.M.C.A. "C." At Social Club on November 24th, 1932.

	P. Thatcher	I. Yorks	H. Austin	C. Stacey	Games.		Points.	
					W.	L.	W.	L.
P. Hendy ...	W 21-11 21-17	W 21-15 21-11	W 21-9 21-12	W 21-8 22-20	8	—	169	103
M. Adams ...	D 21-16 11-21	L 23-25 21-23	W 21-10 21-18	W 21-13 21-13	5	3	160	139
F. Clark ...	L 9-21 15-21	L 14-21 17-21	L 17-21 9-21	D 19-21 21-14	1	7	121	161
M. Rickards ...	L 9-21 14-21	D 21-25 14-21	L 12-21 16-21	D 21-18 18-21	2	6	125	159
				TOTAL ...	16	16	575	562

W=Won. L=Lost. D=Drawn.

DEPARTMENTAL TOURNAMENTS.

The following matches have been played off:—

FRIDAY, 4TH NOVEMBER, 1932.

Games.	COOPERS & BUILDING.		TRANSPORT.	
	Name.	Points.	Name.	Points.
Billiards ...	Sparks, W. ...	0	Nimmo, J. ...	1
" ...	Weller, C. ...	1	Gardner, J. ...	0
" ...	Bartholomew, T. ...	0	Kaye, Major H. ...	1
Dominoes ...	Dobson, C. ...	0	Hinxman, H. ...	1
" ...	Oliver, F. ...	0	Marsh, G. ...	1
" ...	Ayling, A. ...	1	Hutchins, D. ...	0
Crib ...	Newport, W. ...	1	Hamilton, F. ...	0
" ...	Mills, A. ...	0	Champion, J. ...	1
" ...	Ayling, A. ...	1	Grove, A. ...	0
Shove Halfpenny ...	Sparks, W. ...	1	Canning, G. ...	0
" ...	Stacey, T. ...	0	Jones, J. ...	1
" ...	Weight, A. ...	0	Adey, F. ...	1
Darts ...	Mills, A. ...	0	Hiscock, A. ...	1
" ...	Weight, A. ...	0	Boniface, G. ...	1
" ...	Sewell, W. ...	0	Price, H. ...	1
Shooting ...	Holmes, T. ...	0	Taylor, A. O. ...	1
" ...	Mitchell, H. ...	½	Blake, A. ...	½
" ...	Sewell, W. ...	1	Pickett, H. ...	0
		6½		11½

FRIDAY, 11TH NOVEMBER, 1932.

BEER CELLARS & BREWERY.			THE REST.		
Games.	Name.	Points.	Name.	Points.	
Billiards	Curtis, W.	1	Dalton, A. J.	0	
"	Wheeler, W.	0	Mileham, H.	1	
"	Benger, F.	0	Mulcock, A.	1	
Dominoes			Mulcock, A.	1	
"	Wheeler, W.	1	Braisher, F. H.	0	
"	Croft, J.	0	Bird, S.	1	
Crib	Simpkins, A.	1	Clarke, S. V.	0	
"	Curtis, W.	0	Winterbourne, S. G.	1	
"	Osborne, T.	0	Lott, G.	1	
Shove Halfpenny	Kirke, W.	0	Comley, A.	1	
"	Freeman, F.	0	Lott, G.	1	
"	Simpkins, A.	1	Eaton, W. H.	0	
Darts	Osborne, T.	1	King, G.	0	
"	Kirke, W.	1	Eaton, W. H.	0	
"	Freeman, F.	0	Dalton, A. J.	1	
Shooting			Prater, H.	1	
"	Joyce, A.	1	Douce, W.	0	
"	Croft, J.	$\frac{1}{2}$	Whiting, S.	$\frac{1}{2}$	
		<u>7$\frac{1}{2}$</u>		<u>10$\frac{1}{2}$</u>	

FRIDAY, 18TH NOVEMBER, 1932.

TRANSPORT.			MALTINGS.		
Games.	Name.	Points.	Name.	Points.	
Billiards	Gardner, T. H.	1	Everett, A. J.	0	
"	Nimmo, J.	1	Couzens, S.	0	
"	Green, A. H.	1	Nunn, F. C.	0	
Dominoes	Hinxman, H.	1	Stanbrook, H.	0	
"	Marsh, G.	1	Everett, J. E.	0	
"	Hutchins, D.	1	Day, T. J.	0	
Crib	Groves, A.	1	Gilkerson, W. S.	0	
"	Palmer, A. C.	1	Bowyer, A. R.	0	
"	Hamilton, F.	1	Streams, B.	0	
Shove Halfpenny	Jones, J.	0	Taylor, J. G.	1	
"	Pickett, R. J.	1	Howells, T.	0	
"	Adey, F.	0	Streams, B.	1	
Darts	Price, H.	0	Streams, J.	1	
"	Canning, G. A.	0	Boyles, G.	1	
"	Huse, T.	0	Gibson, H.	1	
Shooting	Taylor, A. O.	0	Lailey, G. A.	1	
"	Champion, J.	$\frac{1}{2}$	Boyles, J.	$\frac{1}{2}$	
"	Blake, H.	0	Couzens, S.	1	
		<u>10$\frac{1}{2}$</u>		<u>7$\frac{1}{2}$</u>	

League table up to and including 18th November, 1932 :—

Department.	Tournaments played.	Games played.	Won.	Lost.	Drawn.	Total Points.
TRANSPORT	3	54	32	19	3	33 $\frac{1}{2}$
COOPERS AND BUILDING	2	36	19	16	1	19 $\frac{1}{2}$
MALTINGS	2	36	17	17	2	18
THE REST	2	36	16	18	2	17
BEER CELLARS	2	36	12	23	1	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
OFFICES	1	18	7	10	1	7 $\frac{1}{2}$

FOOTBALL.

This month's report is rather short owing to matches being postponed for cup-ties, so that our first team has played only two matches.

We entertained Shinfield on Prospect Park and although the result was 4 goals to 1 in our favour it was not an inspiring display of football until the second half, when the Brewery team woke up and showed some of their old form. On this occasion our new trainer, Mr. Nimmo, was with the team. He has taken up the bag, as it were, where our old friend Joe set it down. Joe has been compelled to take a complete rest owing to ill-health, but we hope to see him again in the near future, encouraging our lads from the line, and ready to render his usual prompt assistance to any mishap. While he is away the team will be in very capable hands, and everybody wishes him a speedy recovery.

Our last match, with Didcot on their ground, turned out disastrous for us, recording our first league defeat of the season. This was entirely unexpected, as we had beaten them fairly easily on Prospect Park this season. I suppose defeat had to come sometime to us, and so with the result of Didcot 1, Simonds' Athletic 0, two points were lost. Seldom have our forwards played so badly and, although the ground was like a mud heap more than a football pitch, several chances were literally thrown away. All that remains to be said is that credit is due to our defence for keeping the score down to one goal against us. Benger made some very smart saves, and handled the greasy ball in great style.

THE RESERVES.

The Reserves have put up a very good show this last month. After their victory against Shiplake Institute, they entertained Thornycroft's team on Prospect Park and drew with them, 4 goals each. As it happened the following match was the return game at Caversham, but this time our second string went one better and annexed *both* points, winning by 5 goals to 3. On top of this we record another win for them against the much improved Royal Engineers' team, beating them by 6 goals to 1.

This is very gratifying progress in the right direction and a glance at the following figures will show that up to now there is a tremendous improvement on last season:—

Games played, 10; won, 5; drawn, 1; lost, 4. Points, 11.

Keep it up, there is still a chance to climb the ladder to the top.

PROHIBITION.

TRAGEDIES OF THE "DRY" LAW.

Mr. James W. Gerard, G.C.B., was America's Ambassador in Germany during the war, and left Berlin when America went to war in 1917. He now devotes a great deal of his time to fighting the chimera of Prohibition in the United States; and here, at the request of *The Evening News*, he speaks of some of the effects of the dry law upon American life—effects amongst which are the gangster outrages and consequently the kidnapping of Colonel Lindbergh's baby. Disrespect for all laws is bred, says Mr. Gerard, by the disastrous and ridiculous Prohibition law.

Peoples, like individuals, are subject to fits of hysteria. In the enthusiasm created by war, the members of our Congress and of the State Legislatures of these United States, forgetting the fact that this question had never been submitted to the people and that millions of our young men were serving in our armies without a chance to vote or even express an opinion, amended the Constitution, enacted the Volstead Act, and surrendered our liberty to one of those waves which—like the witch craze in New England, the tulip mania in Holland, the Florida land boom, the 1929 Stock Exchange craze in New York, the Inquisition in Spain, the South Sea Bubble in England, the Flagellants in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, and the Mississippi Bubble in France—from time to time sweep over whole communities and nations. All these waves have passed and broken, but this Prohibition craze, embodied in our Constitution, remains to destroy alike respect for religion, fear of the law, and the flower of our youth.



Members of the Sergeants' Mess No. 33 (Bomber) Squadron, R. A. F., Bicester.

This photograph was taken on the occasion of a visit to the Brewery on the 23rd November. Headed by Sergeant-Major W. Scott the party made a tour of the various departments and appeared greatly interested in the brewing process.

THE LIGHTER SIDE.

SAMMY : " If you want a thing done properly, you must do it yourself."

PERCY : " What about a hair-cut, old chap? "

* * * *

" Our Willy got meritorious commendation at school last week."

" Well, well! Ain't it awful, the number of strange diseases that's ketched by school children? "

* * * *

DISGUSTED DINER : " You ought not to have killed this fowl."

RESTAURANT PROPRIETOR : " Why not, sir? "

DISGUSTED DINER : " You've robbed it of an old age pension."

2010 MILES THROUGH ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND

(continued).

MONDAY, JULY 18TH, 1932.

The Fair City of Perth, as it is often called, is worthy of the name—fine streets and noble buildings. The Fair Maid's House is open to the public. From the Kinnoull Hill on the eastern side of the river Tay a commanding and magnificent view of the surrounding district can be obtained. The hill is 800 feet high. St. John's Church is worth a visit also, for it was here that John Knox preached his famous sermon in 1559 against the Roman Church. The recreation ground is a fine open space bounded on one side by a shallow fast flowing river and boating is popular, but it appeared to be hard work pulling against the stream.

Leaving Perth by Isla Road we proceed via Old Scone, Guildtown, Bridge of Isla, Blairgowrie (here is situated large canning works of local products, chiefly fruit, and we saw men washing casks in a fast flowing stream, a very cheap method, truly Scottish). We get going again on to Rattray, Westfield, Bridge of Cally, Strone, Milton, Drumfork to Lair. From this place we really commence to climb through Spittall of Glenshee over the Devil's Elbow to Cairnwell. This is a magnificent run, a long hard ascent over the famous elbow, the maximum gradient being 1 in 5, to the summit at Cairnwell, 3,059 feet above sea level, roughly 9 miles of continuous climbing. The scenery is very wild and wonderful.

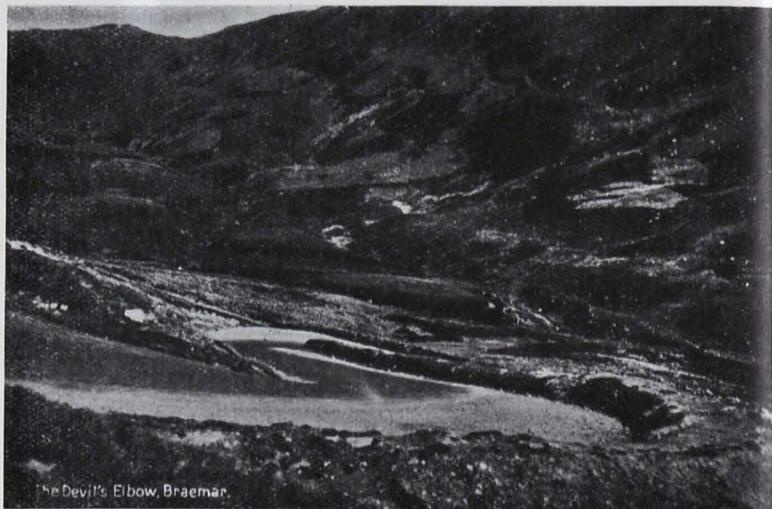
Reading from the *Times* on the 29th October it stated there were 3 inches of snow on the hills and the road very difficult. We, however, experienced no difficulty in reaching the top, although we had to change into lowest gear to do so. On leaving Cairnwell, after a " breather," we descend through Auchallater to Braemar; the extra petrol used in the ascent was partly balanced by long stretches of " free wheeling " as opportunity offered.

Arriving at Braemar, 5.50 p.m., our first impulse was to look round for some place to stay, but everywhere seeming busy, we decided to push on a little further. Braemar is famous for the gathering of " The Clans " for the annual games, all classes of people attending from every part of Scotland, members of our Royal Family often being present. Mar Lodge is another landmark, it was for many years the residence of the late Duke and Duchess of Fife; also, within a few miles, are the famous waterfalls of Corriemulzie and Linn of Dee. From Perth to Braemar, although only 49 miles apart, constituted the most picturesque part of our trip so far and one must visit the country to fully appreciate the varied scenery in so short a journey. The road only classed as " secondary " is good throughout, of course not so wide as the " first class " or " A " roads, and one need not have any fear in attempting to travel by it.

We decide to push on a little further and after a short run sight a small wayside hotel, the " Invercauld Arms," small but very comfortable and modernised, standing by itself away from other habitation. After a real Scotch evening meal (fresh caught Dee salmon included) and feeling very satisfied with ourselves we decide to stay the night. I might add we both of us still have pleasant memories of a very enjoyable evening spent midst congenial company, including two Dutch ladies who were school teachers and two other guests from Lancashire.

U.D. 1692 still going strong, engine running perfectly, we decide to give the bright parts a little polish; this task being completed, the car is put away for the morrow. Being a glorious night we ramble for a while—although mid-July there is quite a nip in the air and at 9 p.m., with a hearty " guid nicht " from a few local inhabitants, we retire inside, to be greeted with a blazing log fire, over which with other guests we sample the wine of the Scots and listen to tales well told by our Host, a most affable man. From a corner in the room the old clock warns us the hour is midnight, so after a " Wee Deoch and Dorris " with our newly-made friends, to bed.

Our daily reading is :—day's run, 99 miles, petrol consumption 5 gallons=19½ m.p.g. Total mileage, 524 miles.



Two views of the Devil's Elbow, described on page 132.

THE BREWERS' EXHIBITION, 1932. THE INAUGURAL LUNCHEON.

At the judges and press luncheon, Sir Edgar Sanders, chairman, and a director of the Brewers' Society, in a scathing indictment of the beer tax, said :—

One cannot help admiring your pluck in holding the Exhibition this year when the Brewing industry, groaning under the weight of taxation, can hardly be expected to place considerable orders for plant and equipment supplied by the Allied Traders, whose exhibits form such a large and attractive portion of the display. The Exhibition shows how economies can be effected by the use of the improved equipment to be seen here, and it demonstrates how in brewing and in all its subsidiary processes, it is necessary to keep up-to-date and to take advantage of all that science teaches the Trade.

There is one aspect of the high taxation of beer (about which I shall have more to say later) which should not be forgotten, and that is that if the beer duty is continued on anything like its present scale, the movement for the improvement of public-houses must be brought to a standstill from lack of funds. This would be deplored by everyone, whether connected with the Trade or not. But it cannot be too often stated that there must be surplus profits available to carry out these expensive improvements, which in my opinion are essential as much in the interests of the owners of the houses as of the public.

The cost of these improvements must be measured in millions of pounds over a period of, say, 25 years, and has been especially heavy since the War. The cost has been practically all provided for out of accumulated profits which otherwise might have been distributed, and I doubt if any brewer has sold a single extra barrel of beer because of this huge expenditure.

To many of the Allied Traders a cessation of this work would mean ruin in that they supply the modern fittings and equipment which are so highly appreciated by the public and add so much to the hygiene of the houses and to the health and comfort of those who are employed in them.

Happily we have arrived at a time when all right thinking people are now agreed that our public-houses must assume a character in keeping with the times. Go into any town or village in the country and you will find that the church and the public-houses are the two chief landmarks, and the village pub is the social centre where there is an equality and freedom which is rarely found elsewhere, and where good fellowship has always been the accepted order.

It would be a national calamity if by reason of the excessive beer duty the customer could no longer afford to buy the beer, the profits from which alone enable the house to be kept open and to play its part in a manner which has never been equalled by any substitute.

I foresee the day when neighbouring Benches of Licensing Justices will vie with each other as to the excellence of the licensed premises in their areas, and I am certain that the Justices, no less than the Brewers, feel dismayed at the prospect of the work of public-house improvement having to be held up because the reserves available for such work are becoming exhausted.

It would probably be a popular move if I closed my remarks now with a verse I heard many years ago, which seems appropriate to the occasion :—

Let Princes revel at the pump
And Peers enjoy their tea,
Whisky and wine, and even beer
Are good enough for me.

But you will expect me to say something about the effect of the present beer duty upon the consumer, upon the brewing and allied trades, and upon the national revenue.

As everyone in this hall knows (but I mention it because if my remarks should be reported it is well to remind the public of the facts) the beer duty to-day, at 114s. net per standard barrel of 36 gallons, is nearly 15 times as heavy as it was before the War, with the obvious result that the consumer has had to be content with a weaker beverage and to pay a price for it which he can ill afford. I doubt if politicians realise the sullen resentment with which the working classes particularly regard this burden they are called upon to bear.

Last autumn they accepted the additional duty with what cheerfulness they could muster, being convinced of the necessity for obtaining revenue to balance the Budget ; but when they realised that their beer had been specially selected by Mr. Snowden, as he then was, for such an unbearable impost, when other beverages were hardly affected at all, their feeling settled down to that serious aspect of men who have the conviction that they have a special grievance, wholly undeserved and simply put upon them because in the past they have been inarticulate.

I wonder what would be said if the duties on tea, coffee, and cocoa were to-day nearly 15 times their pre-war figure? For my own part I have no hesitation in saying that the vast majority of housewives in this country would have seen the justice of a duty on tea double what it is to-day (which would have meant an addition of less than one-fiftieth of a penny per cup) and also a higher duty

on many other household commodities, if thereby their menfolk could have continued to enjoy their hard-earned glass of beer at a reasonable cost. Why should the beer drinker be so heavily punished? And why should beer be singled out for such harsh treatment?

I venture to suggest that in justice not only to the working man but to all consumers of beer, the time has arrived when the question of the fair amount of Customs and Excise duties on all beverages should be examined with a view to a more equitable division of the total burden which those articles of food should bear. For instance, is there any reason why cider, which frequently contains as much alcohol as beer, should be exempt from duty altogether? And there are many other beverages which should bear their fair proportion.

So much for the consumer's aspect of this question. That of the brewing trade and the revenue can really be taken together, because of the fact that on every barrel of beer of average gravity the revenue takes in duty half its sale price. In this way the Government are sleeping partners with the brewing trade in every sense of the word.

The rapid increases of the beer duty during the War were accepted with stoic submission, as our position as a nation was then at stake, and we fought with our backs to the wall for our very existence. When in 1923 a rebate of 20s. per bulk barrel was granted on the then duty of 100s. per standard barrel it had the anticipated effect of increasing the standard barrelage for the year ending March, 1924, to 19,890,000. We may assume that this relief was given because in the previous year the standard barrelage had dropped to a figure of 18,564,000 which (with the exception of the last two years of the War when output was compulsorily restricted) was the lowest figure which had been reached in our generation. It was evident then that taxation had reached a point when Parliament considered it to be economically unsound to keep the duty at the excessive figure of 100s.

If, therefore, we take the output for the U.K. and N. Ireland for the year ending March, 1924, of 19,890,000 as representing 100 per cent., we find that the output thereafter was as follows :—

In 1925 it represented	105 per cent.
In 1926 it	106 per cent.
In 1927 it	99 per cent.
In 1928 it	100 per cent.
In 1929 it	97 per cent.
In 1930 it	98 per cent.
In 1931 it	93 per cent. (3s. extra duty put on April 13th, 1930).
In 1932 it	78 per cent. (Duty raised from 103s. to 134s. September 11th, 1931).

Working from the official figures given to the end of August, 1932, we may assume that for the year ending March 31st, 1933, the figure is not likely to exceed 13,000,000 standard barrels, or 65 per cent., a drop of practically one-third in the last three years.

In his Budget speech the Chancellor estimated that the beer duty for the year ending March 31st, 1933, would yield £80,000,000, or £4,800,000 more than the previous year. His reply to a question in the House of Commons last week showed that, for the year ending September 30th, 1932 (the first twelve months following the imposition of the new tax) the number of home-brewed standard barrels charged with duty was 13.6 millions, and the duty chargeable thereon was £72,400,000 or £4,200,000 more than the corresponding amount for the previous year.

It is true that this figure represents a different period of 12 months from the financial year, but as each 12 month period will have been entirely on the additional duty basis, from a cursory glance this figure might suggest that the Chancellor's Budget estimate may be approximately fulfilled. But is this so? The Chancellor omitted to state in his reply to the question that the amount of duty given is subject to a refund of the duty on approximately 286,000 standard barrels of beer exported during the period, and amounting to £1,487,000.

There is another factor that will affect the amount of duty receivable in the year ending March 31st, 1933, and that is the alarming decline in the consumption of beer. If we estimate this falling away at only 10 per cent. (and it will probably be more) and allow £6,750,000 for the Customs duty receivable during the year, which is likely to be the maximum, we arrive at an estimate for the duty receivable in the year ending March 31st, 1933, of £74,000,000, against the Chancellor's estimate of £80,000,000; in other words he will get £6,000,000 less from beer than he budgeted for. Admittedly he will receive £2,000,000 more on the above figures than he would have done if he had remitted the 31s. additional duty imposed by his predecessor, but this £2,000,000 is all he can hope for as against the £8,000,000 he prophesied.

This falling off will continue, but, in an exaggerated form, the sequence of budget disappointments from the yield of the beer duty, as the receipts have never reached the estimates in any year since 1925.

It is tedious to dilate on figures on an occasion like this, but when a considerable part of the profits of the wholesale and retail licensed trade are in jeopardy and the very existence of the allied brewery traders and of the barley and hop growers of this country is at stake, it is necessary to look at the whole picture in order that

we may see, and that we may enable the public to see, how this crushing tax on beer has outreached itself and can only bring the trade, and with it the revenue derived from it, to a point of exhaustion.

Should the Chancellor get the £4,800,000 he budgeted for from the extra duty he will be an extremely fortunate man. I fear he will be far short of it. But assuming he gets anywhere near it, at what a price the additional revenue will have been obtained! It will have been at the cost of a serious diminution next year in the income tax derived from the wholesale and retail profits of the trade; it will be felt in the Surtax; in death duties caused by the depreciation of shareholdings; it is increasing unemployment in every branch of the trade and in the allied trades; it has added to the weight of the millstone already round the necks of those farmers who grow barley and hops; it is ruining the maltsters; it has helped to depreciate the value of all existing stocks of raw materials; it will certainly curtail the improvement of licensed premises and so add to the unemployment in the building trades; it will have reduced the demand for transport, making itself felt in turn in the railway and transport industries; and it is causing a loss in Schedule A tax and in licence duties and local rates through the reduction of the assessments of public-houses, many of whose tenants are faced with bankruptcy.

Can any Chancellor say that whatever extra revenue there may be is real revenue? Can anyone suppose that such extra revenue will not be more than counterbalanced by the losses I have enumerated? Fortunately we know that Mr. Neville Chamberlain must be fully alive to the anxiety of the position, for he has said—"I see in beer one of the great sources of revenue to the State. . . . I do not want to see such a source of revenue permanently undermined." That word "permanently" shows us that he knows the difficulties which face the Trade and will be ready to give sympathetic consideration to the position as soon as circumstances permit.

If, therefore, we can bring home to the public that it is bad national business to tax beer so heavily that its consumption is falling away to such an alarming extent, we shall make it very much easier for the Chancellor to formulate in his next Budget that policy which he evidently wishes to pursue, and we may hope that that Budget will contain a really bold reduction in the present duty which will be the first step towards the re-establishment of beer as our great national drink. (Great applause.)

BREWERY JOTTINGS.

(BY W. DUNSTER.)

The November issue of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE by a coincidence came to hand on Armistice Day, a little late in appearing perhaps, but very welcome nevertheless. It so happened that the writer, when the hour of eleven struck on the 11th November, had his hands full of HOP LEAF GAZETTES, for he was in the middle of a quick distribution of our magazine at that time. It's an extraordinary thing that all ex-service men seemingly at 11 a.m. on the 11th November throw their minds back to what they were doing at this hour on 11th November, 1918. From what one reads in the newspapers it would appear that some seem to think the Two Minutes Silence should not now be observed. However, this does not appear to be the general opinion and the answer would appear to be that on each armistice day anniversary the Two Minutes Silence is more impressive than ever. It would be a good plan, I think, to have a series of letters (another year) from our ex-service men on the Brewery, Branches and Allied Companies, giving us details of where they were and what they did on Armistice Day, 1918. Some little while after the armistice, with a friend, I was walking round a large cemetery near Boulogne and we were both very impressed at the number buried there who *died* on the 11th November, 1918.

IS "THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE" READ?

There is no doubt that the GAZETTE is read with considerable interest and should a little error creep in (they do with all the best regulated gazettes) you are soon reminded of it. Last month's issue contained this illuminating phrase from the writer, viz. :—"The Annual Yearly Balancing." Naturally I was soon asked what this meant. It is surprising when someone, presumably of a Sherlock Holmes nature, spots a little detail like this, how soon the glad tidings are passed round. My answer to one gentleman, who asked exactly what I meant by this phrase, was that it was to distinguish it from the Annual Quarterly Balancing. Collapse of aforesaid gentleman!

FOOTBALL.

Things have been going on fairly smoothly for the Reading Football Club and the record so far this season has been particularly good, although Brentford have a fairly long lead. There is a feeling that Brentford will (perhaps I ought to say may) crack before the season is out and that promotion will be won by Reading. We have a fairly long way to go yet and many unexpected things will happen before May 1st, 1933, the end of the present season.

The Firm loaned the Reading Football Club 1,200 feet of seats (for ring seats) at the Reading v. Brentford cup-tie match, so you will see H. & G. Simonds Ltd. are doing their bit.

The Brewery football teams are doing very well and the 1st XI. remarkably so. Everyone will feel sorry for Mr. "Joe" Benford, the trainer, who has recently had a breakdown in health and all wish him a speedy recovery.

It would seem also that the doings of the M.C.C. team in Australia are arousing a considerable amount of interest at the Brewery. Our Chief Accountant, Mr. A. G. Richardson, who comes from Bradford in Yorkshire, is following with great interest the doings of his fellow county men, viz. :—Sutcliffe, Leyland and Verity, all of whom by the way are doing very well. Mr. Richardson was particularly pleased after the splendid bowling by Verity in one of the matches. For those who are followers of the game of cricket I give below the results of the last series of test matches in Australia, the M.C.C. team being captained by Mr. A. P. F. Chapman :—

Brisbane—England won by 675 runs.
 Sydney—England won by eight wickets.
 Melbourne—England won by three wickets.
 Adelaide—England won by twelve runs.
 Melbourne—Australia won by five wickets.

CHANGES OF TENANTS.

The following changes and transfers have taken place during the month and to all we wish every success :—

The Jolly Sandboy, Englefield Green (Ashby's Staines Brewery Ltd.)—Mr. H. D. Barrett.
 The Wheatsheaf and Pigeon, Staines (Ashby's Staines Brewery Ltd.)—Mr. K. S. McBrearty.
 The Hen and Chickens, Bisley (Ashby's Staines Brewery Ltd.)—Mr. F. T. Ames.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Every month I send a copy of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE to a friend in America and quite recently in a letter this friend wrote : "Thanks for THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE. Father and the boys like it because it has a 'kick' in it."

Mr. V. Saunders, who has recently been laid up, is now back to duty and says he is felling much better after a "rough" spell of illness.

It is surprising to me the number of people you meet who think America is now going "wet" and, in consequence, British brewing will benefit considerably. I'm afraid we must look to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to give our trade relief in the next Budget. It seems to me its considerably overdue.

Mr. A. H. Hopkins and the writer have worked together in the same office for well over 20 years, so naturally we were all pleased to see such a splendid reproduction of his photograph in the November HOP LEAF GAZETTE.

The Editor is on the warpath and asking all contributors to let him have copy early so that THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE can appear nearer the first day of the month.

Mr. J. J. Chaplin, of Messrs. Collins, Tootell & Co., our auditors, has been very busy at the Brewery recently and impresses everyone by his genial personality.

A young boy who has recently taken to playing football at school, the other day was very anxious to eat an apple before he went back to school. As he was playing football that afternoon his mother told him not to eat an apple. Turning to his father he said "Dad what *do* footballers eat?"

The overtime due to the Annual Balancing was a fairly lengthy spell this year and fourpence, which had to be found, proved to be very elusive before being eventually run to earth.

THE LIGHTER SIDE.

MOLLY: "And what did your poet do when you turned him down?"

DOLLY: "Oh, he threw himself into the wastepaper basket."

* * * *

HE: "Husband and wife cannot, by the nature of things, be equal. There must in every family be a strong commanding, dominating personality."

SHE: "Yes, but that one is generally the cook!"

* * * *

HE (on the telephone): "Hello, darling, would you like to have dinner with me to-night?"

SHE: "I'd love to, dear."

"Well, tell your mother I'll be over at seven o'clock."

WORDS OF WISDOM.

To flare up whenever anything goes wrong indicates neither temperament nor genius—it is just bad temper.

There is nothing sweeter than shared happiness.

The secret of polite conversation is never to open your mouth unless you have something to say.

It is a pity when my mirth is another man's misery.

The man who thinks life's a joke sometimes wonders where the laugh comes in.

Give the world the best you have and the best will come back to you.

Many of the greatest misfortunes in life arise from neglecting to attend to some little circumstance or fact, which was regarded as so insignificant as to be beneath notice.

When the second man appeared on earth the rights of the first were cut in half. Now divide yours by the total population and that explains everything.

To succeed in business, work as if you owned the business.

You'll notice that a fish never gets caught if he keeps his mouth shut.

Disarmament is like a social function. Everybody wants to be the last to arrive.

What people think of you is not half so important as what you know about yourself.

Remember that every experience of life, bitter or sweet, gives us a chance to learn a lesson.

There is always a sure comfort about attempting good ; delight if you succeed, and consolation if you fail.

Vandals are people who rob an ancient grave before archæologists get around to it.

Doing little things well, hour by hour, constitutes a great life.

Having a woman to hold him down often helps a man to get up in the world.

THE QUEEN'S STANDARD.

The personal flag of Her Majesty the Queen, known as the Queen's Standard, is rarely seen, as it is only flown when she is residing at, or paying official visits to, certain places, unaccompanied by His Majesty the King, says "Our Empire." In this connection, it will be recalled that after the death of his late Majesty King Edward VII, Queen Alexandra's Standard flew continuously over Marlborough House during the whole time of her residence there.

The authority and instructions for the use of the Queen's Standard are contained in King's Regulations, in which it is stated :

"When Her Majesty the Queen is embarked in any ship or vessel, her Standard shall be hoisted at the Main, and it shall be treated with the same respect, and saluted in the same manner, as the Flags denoting the presence of the Sovereign."

(This, of course, requires the firing of the Royal Salute when Her Majesty goes aboard or leaves the ship.)

Queen Mary's Standard bears her own Arms impaled with those of His Majesty. The Royal Arms are in the hoist and in the fly are the Arms of the Duke of Cambridge, her maternal grandfather (hearts on the outer points of the label) quartered with those of Wurtemberg

The most recent occasion on which the Queen's Standard saw flown was during Her Majesty's visit in October to Norwich, when it proudly waved over the Norwich Guildhall and in the grounds of the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital.

THE LIGHTER SIDE.

TEACHER : "A train leaves Dublin travelling thirty miles an hour. It is followed, thirty minutes later, by a train travelling sixty miles an hour. At what point will the second train run into the first train?"

BOY : "At the end of the rear car, ma'am!"

* * * *

She stood, hanging on to a strap in the crowded tram car. The man seated nearest her, rose and offered her his seat.

She fainted.

When she came to she thanked him.

He fainted.

* * * *

"I don't know whether to be a barber or an author."

"Toss for it—heads or tails."

* * * *

PRETTY GIRL (in art gallery) : "I believe you have a very beautiful Constable here?"

NEW ATTENDANT (thoughtfully) : "Well, I don't know, miss. Perhaps it's 'Erbert ; 'e's on duty at the main entrance. 'E ain't so bad looking."

* * * *

"Yes," said the knowing one, "since entering the firm of Weather and Wether young Bertram Trance has advanced step by step through every department."

His fair young listener sighed happily.

"How wonderful!" she replied. "He must be chairman or president of the firm by now."

"No, just a shopwalker," said the knowing one.

* * * *

SMALL BOY IN CHEMIST'S SHOP : "Please, I want some powder for my sister."

CHEMIST (jokingly) : "Something that goes off with a bang?"

SMALL BOY : "No, something that goes on with a puff."

* * * *

"If you love work, why don't you find it?"

TRAMP (sadly) : "Alas! madam, love is blind."

MR. DOWN AND OUT : " I wish something would turn up, don't you, my dear ? "

MRS. DOWN AND OUT : " I certainly do ! What about starting on your sleeves ? "

* * * *

TEACHER : " What did Juliet say to Romeo when she met him on the balcony ? "

PUPIL : " Couldn't you get seats in the front ? "

* * * *

DINER : " Two eggs and a piece of ham, please. "

WAITER (shouting down speaking tube) : " Send up two cackles and a grunt ! "

* * * *

BRIDEGROOM : " I thee endow with all my wordly goods. "

HIS FATHER : " There goes his bicycle ! "

* * * *

" Those spoons Aunt Mary gave us are not silver, but white metal, " said the bride.

" But do you know silver when you see it ? " asked her husband.

" No, but I know Aunt Mary. "

* * * *

PARK-KEEPER : " Can you lend me a pencil ? "

MAN : " Here you are. "

PARK-KEEPER : " Now give me your name and address. I saw you pick a flower. "

* * * *

" Come home with me, old chap, and take pot-luck. "

" Oh, but your wife might — "

" That's all right. If her cooking's a success, she'll be pleased to have you eat it, and if it isn't—I shall ! "

* * * *

BIOGRAPHER : " A rich American has commissioned me to write up her family tree, but I am finding it rather difficult. One of her ancestors died in the electric chair. "

FELLOW AUTHOR : " Just say he occupied the chair of applied electricity in a public institution. "

KITTY : " It must be five years since I saw you last. How much older you look. I should hardly have known you. "

CATTY : " Yes, it is a long time. If I had not remembered your coat, I should not have recognised you. "

* * * *

A gentleman was put sorely out of patience by some blunder of a new groom. " Look here ! " he cried in anger. " I won't have things done in this way ! Do you think I'm a fool ? "

" Sure, sir, " said the groom, " I can't say, sir. I only came here yesterday ! "

* * * *

" Why have Smiths changed their doctor ? "

" Doctor Brown treated their daughter quite wrongly. "

" How was that ? "

" He married White's daughter. "

* * * *

Referring to George Washington, an American said to a Scotchman : " He was a great and good man, sir. A lie never passed his lips. "

" Weel, " the Scot replied, " I presume he talked through his nose like the rest o' ye ! "

* * * *

PROSPECTIVE MOTHER-IN-LAW : " My daughter can play the piano, sing, dance, act, swim, paint, pilot an aeroplane, drive a car, and what can you do ? "

PROSPECTIVE BRIDEGROOM : " Well, I can cook, darn, and possibly do a little spring-cleaning. "

* * * *

Riding through the lanes, a motor-cyclist met an old man and asked him : " Where does this road go to, gov'nor ? "

" It doesn't go anywhere, " replied the old man. " I leaves it here every night and it's always here in the morning, sir. "

* * * *

POST OFFICE ASSISTANT (having completed some knitting and a long conversation with a colleague) : " What do you want ? "

PATIENT CUSTOMER : " Well, I came originally for a three-halfpenny stamp, but I think I'd better have an old age pension application form as well ! "

JONES : " How do you spend your income ? "

SMITH : " About 30 per cent. for shelter, 30 per cent. for clothing, 40 per cent. for food, and 20 per cent. for amusement. "

JONES : " But that adds up to 120 per cent. "

SMITH : " *Don't I know it !* "

* * * *

" How did you like the wind-up to my speech ? "

" Excellent—but it should have come sooner. "

* * * *

" I'll never get over what I saw last night. "

" Why, what was it ? "

" The moon ! "

* * * *

Two friends met and after the customary salutations, one remarked : " I hear you've given up singing. Why ? "

The other replied mournfully : " Well, I was absent from the choir one Sunday, and three people wrote to the Vicar saying how pleased they were the organ had been repaired. "

* * * *

The editor walked into his room beaming and said to his secretary : " I have some glorious news for you ! Peggy has promised to be my wife ! "

His secretary replied : " So that's what you call news ! A month ago she asked me to be her bridesmaid. "

* * * *

Two barristers were engaged in a heated argument. Finally one exclaimed : " Is there any case so low, so utterly shameful and crooked that you'd refuse it ? "

" I don't know, " said the other, pleasantly. " What have you been doing now ? "

* * * *

" Good morning, madam, " said the serious-looking stranger who had called. " I represent the Society for the Suppression of Profanity. It is our object to take strong language right out of your life. We—"

" Come here, Dad, " called the lady of the house. " Here's a man wants to buy our old car. "

An innkeeper suspected his cellarman of helping himself to liberal quantities of beer and he determined to put a stop to it.

" Bill, " he said one day, " can you whistle ? "

The man nodded.

" Very well, then, " said the innkeeper ; " I want you always to whistle when you're working. "

" Why so, master ? " asked the cellarman.

" Because when you're whistling I'll know you're not drinking beer, " replied the innkeeper.

Next day he saw a boy come out of the cellar.

" What are you doing here ? " he asked.

" I've been helping Bill, " the boy replied.

" Helping Bill ? " repeated the puzzled innkeeper.

" Yes, " said the boy ; " I've been whistling while he's been drinking the beer ! "

* * * *

A recent big sweepstake prize winner bought a big place in the country and determined to devote himself to rustic pursuits. To a friend he confided some of his ideas.

" I'm going to have a big lake and breed salmon. "

" Oh, " said his friend, " you can't do that, old man. Salmon have extraordinary habits, you know. They've got to go down to the sea every year, or something like that. "

" What ? " cried the rich man ; " I don't mind taking the wife and the kids down to the seaside each year, but I'm darned if I'm going to cart a lot of salmon as well ! "

* * * *

A lady with a huge brown paper parcel came out of a chiropodist's establishment. She was furiously angry, and said to the friend awaiting her : " Calls himself a chiropodist, and can't stuff a dog ! "

* * * *

Two big game hunters were in the heart of the jungle when suddenly a native dashed out from the bushes followed by a gigantic leopard.

" Well, " said one the hunters, " he's certainly making a race of it. Do you think you can spot the winner ? "

" You're too late, " replied his companion, " the winner is spotted. "

The squire's son was at home on holiday, and, in his usual friendly fashion, dropped into "The Three Pigeons" for a drink and a chat.

One of the villagers said to him: "Well, Master Stephen, and how be you gettin' on in Lunnon?"

"Well," came the reply, "I'm getting along pretty well, thanks. I've just been called to the Bar, you know."

There was silence for a moment, and then the inquirer said, with a shake of his head: "You didn't use to need much callin' when you lived 'ere."

* * * *

BUILDING FOREMAN: "Excuse me, but are you the lady wot's singing?"

THE LADY: "Yes, I was singing. Why?"

BUILDING FOREMAN: "Well, might I arst you not to 'old the 'igh notes so long like? One of my blokes 'as knocked off twice already thinking it was the mid-day hooter."

* * * *

A man stood in front of a dental display window. "I think I'll get a pair like that," he mused.

"Hush," said his companion. "Don't you know it's impolite to pick your teeth in public?"

* * * *

A Frenchman quarrelled with a Scotsman and challenged him to a duel. The challenge was accepted, and, in order to keep the affair as quiet as possible, they both took a train into the country. The Frenchman took a return ticket, but his opponent only booked a single.

"Sapristi!" exclaimed the former. "You expect not to come back, eh, *mon ami*? I always take a return!"

"Och! I never do," replied the Scot. "I always take the return half of my adversary."

* * * *

A man who was making a long train journey to the place where he intended to spend his holidays began to feel thirsty.

"Say, porter," he said, as the train pulled up at a station, "can I get any liquid refreshment here?"

"No, Sir," replied the porter, "only tea and coffee."

MAGISTRATE (severely): "Horse-whipping is the only suitable punishment for you. The idea of a man your size striking a weak woman like that!"

PRISONER: "But, your worship, she keeps irritating me all the time."

MAGISTRATE: "Why does she irritate you?"

PRISONER: "Why, she keeps saying: 'Hit me! Beat me! Just hit me once, and I'll have you hauled before that bald-headed, idiotic, old reprobate of a magistrate and see what he'll do with you.'"

MAGISTRATE: "Discharged."

* * * *

FORTUNE-TELLER: "Do you want to know about your future husband?"

CLIENT: "No. I want to know something about the past of my present husband for future use."

* * * *

The village carpenter was out for trade when he called at the week-end cottage of the Tired Business Man, who was resting after one of the most unfortunate deals of his commercial career.

He wanted the contract for the new dog kennel which he understood the Business Man would be needing, and he was careful to explain how he came by his information.

"I did hear tell, zur," he said, "as how one of they clever chaps in Lunnon had sold 'ee a pup."

* * * *

MILLY: "My aunt in Venice is sending me a gondola for my birthday. How am I going to play it?"

MILLICENT: "You don't play a gondola; you throw it over your shoulder like a shawl."

* * * *

TEACHER: "We borrowed our numerals from the Arabs, our calendar from the Romans, and our banking from the Italians. Can anyone think of any other examples?"

CHARLIE: "Our lawn mower from the Smiths, our sewing machine from the Joneses, and a pair of steps from Miss Evans."

* * * *

TEACHER: "Can anyone tell what a bridegroom is?"

SMALL BOY: "Please, miss, a thing they use at a wedding."

VISITOR : " Can you tell me if this tree belongs to the acanthus family ? "

DUBLIN PARK-KEEPER : " It does not—it belongs to the Corporation."

* * * *

DIGNIFIED SHOPWALKER : " And what can we show you to-day, madam ? "

OLD LADY : " If it is not troubling you too much, would you mind showing my little grandson where the burglar broke in ? "

* * * *

" Your ties are so loud, Alfred," said a young lady to her fiance, " that I am becoming quite——"

" Ha, ha ! Blind, eh ? "

" Oh, no ! Deaf ! "

* * * *

FIRST WAITRESS : " I say, Gladys, you'd better keep an eye on that old professor chap if he orders an omelette. Last week I took him one and he stuck it in his neck for a napkin ! "

* * * *

" THE DITCHER : " Sorry ; I'm afraid it was my fault."

THE DITCHED : " Not at all, madam, entirely mine. I could see you coming two miles away and might easily have turned up a side road."

* * * *

THE BORE : " Last summer in the mountains I was suddenly confronted by a masked man who said : ' Hand over your money or I blow out your brains.' "

THE BORED : " And did he do it ? "

* * * *

" By order," a notice reads. " Cows grazing on the roadside or riding bicycles on the footpaths is hereby prohibited."

* * * *

PARK ORATOR : " My friends, if we were each of us to turn and look ourselves squarely in the face, what should we find we needed most ? "

A VOICE FROM THE CROWD : " An indiarubber neck, mister ! "

* * * *

HUSBAND : " Do you mean to say there is only one course to-night ? Just cheese ? "

WIFE : " Yes, dear. When the chops caught fire and fell into the sweets I had to use the soup to put it out."

" Is this really the train for Oldcastle ? "

PORTER : " Ma'am, the board of directors, the stationmaster, the signalman, the guard, the driver, and myself think so. I can't say no fairer than that can I ? "

* * * *

" Bobby," inquired his pa, " did you wash your face before the music teacher came ? "

" Yep."

" And your hands ? "

" Yep."

" And your ears ? "

" Well," said Bobby, " I washed the one that would be next to her."

* * * *

" Yes," said Mrs. Newkind, " my husband is most awfully careless ; he's always losing the buttons off his clothes."

" Perhaps, my dear," replied Mrs. Oldstyle, gently, " it is because they are not sewn on carefully enough."

" That's just it ! He's most awfully slipshod with his sewing."

* * * *

MEAN MAN (as a train starts) : " I am very sorry I can't give you a tip ; I forgot to get change."

BOOTS (from the hotel) : " Yes, I'm a bit sorry myself, sir ; I ain't put yer luggage in ! "

* * * *

A. : " To-day, for the first time, I was really delighted to hear my neighbour's piano going."

B. : " Something worth listening to, I suppose ? "

A. : " I should say so. I heard the hire-purchase men taking it away ! "



BRANCHES.

LONDON.

STREATHAM AUTOMOBILE AND SOCIAL CLUB.

The Third Annual Dinner of the Streatham Automobile and Social Club, 278, Mitcham Lane, S.W., was held on Thursday, November 3rd, when Mr. F. Snelling (President of the Club) presided.

Mr. and Mrs. Griffin were assisted by Mrs. Green, Mrs. Clarke, Mrs. Morris, Mrs. Penfold and Mrs. Towers, who very successfully carried out their duties as temporary waitresses.

The important duty of chef was most ably filled by Mr. F. Campbell.

After the dinner the health of the President was proposed and carried in the usual manner. The President, in replying, moved a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Griffin for the admirable way in which the function had been arranged and carried out, and he made special mention of the thanks which were due to the lady helpers. A most enjoyable social evening was afterwards spent by the members, their wives, and friends.

Sincere thanks are due to the following who kindly gave their services in the entertainment :—

Mrs. Draper and Mrs. Penfold, whose rendering of songs was greatly appreciated as was shown by the applause which followed.

Mr. Holt gave songs at the piano, which the company thoroughly enjoyed.

Mr. Penfold gave several turns in his inimitable manner, and Mr. E. Crump and Mr. H. Groves rendered yeoman service to the pleasures of the evening.

Mr. Griffin and Mr. Smith also did their part to complete what was voted a most successful and enjoyable time.

Following the concert was a short dancing programme, and the evening closed with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" and the National Anthem.

E.G.

On Saturday, November 12th, the Old Comrades' Association of the Southfields Club and Institute held their twelfth Reunion Dinner in the Club's Concert Room. Once again I had the privilege of being one of the visitors. The menu, as usual, was an artistic

creation and contained an amusing drawing by Tom Webster. They gave us a right good dinner and concert, so much so that I nearly lost my last train, but with the help of a friendly guard and a few policemen I caught it!

The Chair was taken by Mr. B. Croxford, M.M. (Rifle Brigade), whose heart and soul are in the Association and anything connected with the Club, ably supported by Mr. G. Kinsey, Commander T. J. Farrell, D.S.O., R.N., Mr. R. E. Coombe (Worcester Regiment), Mr. T. Wood, D.C.M. (Inniskilling Dragoons), Major E. Rice (Royal Fusiliers T.F.), Mr. J. Peters (Devon Regiment T.F.), and an enthusiastic gathering.

In spite of bad times and a pessimistic, or some other, feeling that few would attend, a notice had to be put out, "Full house." This was owing, no doubt, to the Chairman and his lieutenants' enthusiasm.

As I sat there enjoying every moment I felt that under no other flag could such a gathering take place—and many such gatherings were taking place that night in honour of their fallen comrades—and like the quotation that headed the menu, "Our country—may she always be in the right—but our country, right or wrong," was the feeling that permeated that loyal gathering.

R.W.

SERVICES RENDERED CLUB (BATTERSEA) BRITISH LEGION CLUB.
BACK TO THE FOE.

A truly interesting evening was spent at the Services Rendered Club, British Legion, 11, East Hill, Wandsworth, S.W.18, on Wednesday, 9th November, upon which occasion between 60 and 70 ex-Service men, members of the above, spent a very enjoyable evening in true war-time style, the hall having been suitably arranged in dug-out fashion for the purpose of a trench supper, which consisted of bully beef, pickles, bread, cheese, cakes, beer and rum.

Many members appeared in their war-time uniform, the function being carried out in strict regimental order.

Lieut. E. A. Edwards, Officer Commanding, instructed Bugler Moss to sound the "Five minutes" promptly at 8.25 p.m. and at 8.30 the "Fall in," at which order all members fell in two deep, and upon being given the order "Right turn," proceeded from the adjoining room to the hut, having first reported their names to Sapper F. H. Broomfield and Pte. E. C. Stratton, orderly clerks. After experiencing difficulties of entry, the men eventually found

their way to their respective dug-outs, having first passed Quartermaster J. E. Martin's stores, in which H. Hill, assisted by G. S. Warner, issued the meal.

When the company were seated the O.C., accompanied by R.S.M. Smith and C.S.M. Donovan, proceeded to inspect the men. R.S.M. Smith having called the men "to attention," requested them to report any complaints they may have to make. Needless to say, this brought many, which rather bewildered the O.C. Having overcome his difficulties, and feeling satisfied that he had done the right thing by his men, he proceeded to a lower dug-out where his meal was awaiting him. There were still complaints forthcoming, to which R.S.M. Smith and C.S.M. Donovan attended, with evident satisfaction to the company.

Upon the order, "Beer issue," considerable stir was caused, which kept Corporal Bonwell and Pte. W. Potts well occupied for some time. At this juncture Postman W. McGiverin arrived, and the Bugler sounded "Mail up." Several men were by this time placed under "arrest." Orderly Clerk Broomfield aroused much enthusiasm by reading letters addressed to various ranks. Corporal S. C. Tarry requested a letter addressed to Gunner C. Dance be read out, this having been suitably worded for the occasion.

At a later period the announcement, "Rum issue," again aroused enthusiasm amongst the men, Q.M.S. J. E. Martin being given a very busy time.

Concluding the meal, old war-time songs were sung, Pte. G. England having broken in between many of the choruses by rendering some really good numbers.

At the men's request the old Army games, "Housie, housie" and "Crown and Anchor," were then commenced, Gunner Dance having charge of the former and Pte. F. C. Hayward the latter, both of which undertakings showing a margin of profit which was devoted to the Club funds.

It being felt that too many liberties were being taken, the O.C. was called upon by R.S.M. Smith and C.S.M. Donovan to take certain charges. Prisoners, with their hats off, duly appeared before the O.C., who inflicted fines in accordance with the offences, which was the means of raising a fair sum in support of our members' children's tea and entertainment fund. One charge which created most consternation was that made against Pte. J. King, canteen wallah, he having been charged with watering the beer and drinking the men's rum, thus shortening their issue. Shouts of "Shame," "Hang him," "Shoot him," etc., were forthcoming all round, and after some difficulty, Pte. King was called upon to pay a fine of 6d. to the kiddies' cause.

Further community singing followed, together with "Housie, housie," and the evening concluded with the National Anthem.

This being the first effort in such an undertaking, and in accordance with the general expression of opinion from our members, we not only propose continuing functions of a similar nature, but recommend to all ex-Service Clubs the adoption of same, which, in our opinion, may in future do much to foster the spirit of comradeship for which the British Legion exists.

C.D.

London staff send a message of Good Cheer to all friends at the Brewery, Branches and Allied Companies.

THE TAMAR BREWERY, DEVONPORT.

The homecoming of the Devonport-manned battleship, H.M.S. *Queen Elizabeth*, after an absence abroad of two and a half years, is a notable event which gives us a great deal of pride and pleasure. Achievements in the realms of sport have gained them many laurels, whilst their record in all branches of naval efficiency has earned the whole ship's company a name second to none. We give them a hearty welcome home.

Plymouth seems a brighter city and is certainly busier. "Jack's the boy for work" has now a dual meaning, as our tradesmen will acknowledge. Dockyardsmen also participate in a goodly share of the sunshine, as during her winter refit at a cost of nearly a hundred thousand pounds, many local homes will be freed from the spectre of the "dole."

The *Queen Elizabeth* will be ready for service about February next, when she is due to return to the Mediterranean. Meanwhile, we wish these very loyal friends of the Tamar every good wish for the coming festive season, and good health to enjoy a well-earned rest from duty among their own kith and kin.

THE "FISHERMAN'S ARMS."

Tucked away beneath the ramparts of old Devonport is an interesting link with the historic past of the Western boundary of this city—the above-named "Hop Leaf" house.

Within a few feet of the sea wall, and well preserved, despite its unmistakable air of antiquity, this attractive little rendezvous is still as welcome to the eyes of the local "salts" and hardy timbermen as it was in the "good old days" when a Marine guard was centred but a couple of hundred yards away. (Alas, now but an empty memory!)

Many yarns are still exchanged of the "Fisherman's" old-time habitues, and if the truth be told, even the haughty corporal of the guard was occasionally to be seen hurriedly taking the short cut down the ramparts, or cautiously retiring to his post after a "quick one." Indeed, in those democratic days of the naughty 'Nineties, it was the almost daily custom of the Commander-in-Chief himself, H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh, to take a stroll from Mount Wise to the inn for his morning cigar and liquid refreshment. His Royal arms to-day adorn the snug entrance where he relaxed from the cares of State, and one good story, which happened on a particularly dry morning is worthy of being "gazetted."

Several reliefs from the guard had rather overstayed their "leave," and the anxious corporal "came to look for them" (an excellent excuse!). Anyway, "stripey" soon got on the warpath. "Now then, you blokes, smack it about and hop it," said he, with true marine gusto, nodding at the same time to the presiding genius behind the bar for his own pot to be filled. 'Twas just at that moment that the dividing door opened and a figure only too well known to all at the bar stepped forth. But to their consternation and relief, H.R.H. merely threw half a sovereign on the counter and commanded his henchmen to "have one more drink and sling your hooks!" retiring as he ended the order to his den and slamming the door. How a gasping N.C.O. and a strangely subdued quartet of men managed to "splice the mainbrace" again, and as ghosts of their former selves reached for the door and gracefully, and gratefully, fulfilled the command, can be better imagined than described.

It is, however, a fitting conclusion to the tale to record that its present host, ex-Band Colour-Sergeant W. J. Baker, of the Royal Marines, is forging a modern link in the chain of associations connected with the "Fisherman's Arms," one which should please the minds of those who have the welfare of the old inns of England at heart, wherever they may be found.

—
"THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON."

"'Tis a poor heart that never rejoices," but as year succeeds year, and silver linings, good times, and the like are as difficult to discern as truth in a divorce court, only a 22-carat optimist can truthfully exchange these age-old good wishes with any degree of sincerity or hope. But, on the other hand, as there is small consolation in walking around in company with long faces and short tempers, we, in common with other patient ones of the earth, in these waning hours of the old year, can still hopefully end our 1932 contributions to our GAZETTE pages by loyally wishing the Directors

a joyous Christmastide and a New Year far happier in associations than its predecessor. Also the like sentiments to those "Hop Leaf" confreres at home and abroad who, in a far lesser degree, are bearing the burden and heat of the long days in which we live. To all a brighter era! Ring out the old, ring in the New!

A SEASONABLE HINT!

Don't
Imperil
New Year
Geniality!

Don't
Offer
"Neutral"
Generosity!

SAY
SIMONDS.

WOKING.

WOKING WORKING MEN'S CLUB.

CONCERT IN AID OF ST. DUNSTAN'S.

A splendid musical programme was presented at the Armistice celebrations held at the Woking Working Men's Club on Friday evening, 18th November, when the large Club room was filled with members and visitors. Mr. A. Bennett presided and was supported by Mr. A. Goree (Chairman of Committee) and Mr. A. Bailey.

In his opening remarks, the Chairman said they had just passed through that period when the nation as a whole had paid its tribute to those who made the supreme sacrifice during the Great War, and also made its appeal for those, who, although spared to return, were in need of sympathy and practical assistance. Some people desired the memories of the war to be obliterated, but that was impossible for most of us. Indeed, the commemoration of Armistice Day was designed to keep those memories alive. The maimed, the halt and blind would be with us for many years to come and would serve to remind us of our indebtedness in this respect.

As was usual at the Armistice season the Club Committee had arranged a concert that evening with the object of assisting the great cause of St. Dunstan's. It was estimated that over 10,000 soldiers and sailors had lost their sight in the war, and to that appalling total the forces of the British Commonwealth had contributed nearly 2,000.

One could not touch upon the work of St. Dunstan's without making a reference to its founder, the late Sir Arthur Pearson. During the war he established at his house, "St. Dunstan's," in Regent's Park, London, a hospital for our blinded heroes. Sir

Arthur passed away in 1921, but the great work to which he devoted his latter years still continues. At St. Dunstan's the blind had been given fresh hope and inspiration, and for the most part were now settled in their own homes. There was, however, a St. Dunstan's Home at Brighton, for those who were so seriously broken by the war that they would remain invalids until the end of their days.

Mr. H. V. Kerr, of St. Dunstan's, addressing the gathering, expressed his pleasure at again being invited to Woking. His Committee were faced with a declining revenue, but the need for their work was still great, and last year alone thirty-three new cases were admitted to St. Dunstan's. These were men who had been partially blinded during the war, but had since completely lost their sight. They were endeavouring to build up an endowment fund which would ensure adequate treatment being given to the very last St. Dunstanian, but the extent to which such an ideal could be fulfilled depended entirely upon the response received to their appeal. It was a task of great magnitude, but he was glad to say that the British public were still as warm-hearted and as generous as ever in their attitude towards the great cause for which he was pleading.

A collection was made during the interval, which realised the excellent sum of £4 3s. 3d., the whole of which, without any deduction for expenses, is being sent to St. Dunstan's.

The remainder of the evening was devoted to harmony supplied by the "First Army Follies" Concert Party. The songs and sketches brought back memories of war-time scenes and were highly appreciated by all present.

The evening was a great success and due expressions of thanks to all concerned were heartily accorded.

—
SERGEANTS' MESS, DEPOT, QUEEN'S ROYAL REGIMENT, GUILDFORD.
GHELUVELT BALL AT STOUGHTON BARRACKS.

The Gheluvelt Ball was held in the Depot Gymnasium on Friday, October 28th (writes R.S.M. S. Tedder). The interior of the hall had been artistically arranged by members of the Sergeants' Mess. Two marquees, kindly lent by our Brewers, Messrs. Simonds Ltd., had been erected in the vicinity of the hall for use as cloak rooms, so that the maximum of space was available for dancing. The fact that over four hundred people attended shows how much this piece of generosity helped us out of a difficulty.

In spite of wintry conditions outside, the hall warmed quickly. The floor was in excellent condition and everyone enjoyed the

varied programme. The Band of the 2nd Battalion played delightful music throughout the evening, and are to be complimented on their rendering of the old-fashioned airs.

There were two breaks for refreshments and the disciples of Bacchus were kept supplied with their "S.B." by waiters and at a bar installed at one end of the hall.

A spot-waltz was won by Sergt. Lambert, A.P.T.S., and Miss Heath. Dancing continued until 2 a.m., and when the "King" was played we had a "final one" and went home feeling that our first of the season had been a great success.

—
May we take this opportunity of wishing the Directors and all connected with the great firm of H. & G. Simonds Ltd. a very happy Christmas and a brighter and more prosperous New Year.

—
SLOUGH.

SLOUGH BRANCH OF THE BRITISH LEGION.
FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE.

An audience of over two thousand people, including H.R.H. Princess Victoria, sister to H.M. the King, was packed into the Adelphi Theatre on Sunday night, 6th November, to witness the "Festival of Remembrance," presented by the Slough Branch of the British Legion and the Old Contemptibles' Association. The second of its kind held in the town, the Festival was even more impressive than last year's, and spoke well for the organising ability of Mr. H. A. Hayes, of Taplow, by whom it was designed and organised, and of the Committee of ex-Service men assisting him.

An interesting little event took place at the conclusion of Part One, when Mr. Coleman, Chairman of the Slough Branch of the Legion, stated that Her Royal Highness had kindly consented to present to Mr. Hayes the gold medal of the British Legion in recognition of his services, and Mr. Hayes went up to the balcony where the Princess made the presentation.

The following were the members of the special Committee assisting Mr. Hayes:—Messrs. G. Coleman, W. Carter, B. Watts, F. Smith, C. Hancock, of the British Legion, and Messrs. R. E. Hing and B. Brent, of the Old Contemptibles' Association.

Special mention must be made of the Slough Police Force under Supt. E. Tucker, for the splendid and unstinting assistance they gave in regulating traffic and assisting in marshalling the crowds into the theatre.

The entire arrangements were, from every point of view, very efficiently carried out, and reflected most creditably on all responsible.

Unfortunately, pressure of space will not permit us to reprint the full report of the proceedings, which have been already chronicled in the local press.

EX-SERVICE MEN'S DINNER.

A SUCCESSFUL ANNUAL EVENT.

One of the most successful Dinners in connection with the Egham United Services Club was that held recently, when an attendance of upwards of eighty was presided over by the popular President (Sir Wm. Barber, D.L., J.P.). He was influentially supported by a large number of Vice-Presidents, Urban Councillors and others.

The Loyal Toast having been appropriately honoured, the Chairman submitted "The Club." It seemed, he said, but a short time since he had the honour of assisting in the formation of the Club, and in the erection of the building. Yet he found that it was twelve years ago that the famous Field-Marshal (Sir Wm. Robertson) came and opened it.

Continuing, the speaker said he would like, on behalf of the members, to extend a hearty welcome to the visitors. During the year the Club had paid its way, but in his (the speaker's) opinion that was due in no small measure to Mr. Alexander. It was good to find the Club continuing when many others, which had been formed under the happiest of auspices, had failed to survive. He thought the secret of the Egham Club's success was the esprit de corps amongst the members and the ex-Service men of the district.

The toast was acknowledged by Mr. Alexander, who said the Committee and members had done their best to carry on during the past year, though it had been a difficult one. The membership remained about the average, and the spirit and behaviour of the members had been of the best.

Mr. Alexander also referred to the success of the newly formed Quoit Club, and then went on to say that the success of the Club was really due to three people, the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Kennerell, the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. C. E. Marshall, and the Steward, Mr. Edser. Each in his particular sphere had rendered excellent service to the Club.

The Chairman next distributed the cups and medals won in the various competitions during the year.

The remainder of the evening was devoted to a concert provided by Mr. B. Bickley and his party, and a truly happy time was spent.

SLOUGH CRICKET CLUB DINNER.

Mr. W. B. Franklin, the Captain of the successful Bucks County Cricket XI, who this year carried off the Minor Counties Championship, presided at the Annual Dinner and Dance of the Slough Cricket and Bowls Club, which was held at the Adelphi Ballroom on Friday evening, 29th October.

A distinguished company was present, including the Bishop of Buckingham (the Rt. Rev. P. H. Eliot), Lady Nelson, the Rector of Slough (Canon A. G. P. Baines), Mr. H. M. Naylor (Captain of the Slough C.C.) and many other well-known and popular supporters of the Club. Mr. H. W. Colson represented the Firm.

After the Loyal Toast had been duly honoured, Mr. W. B. Franklin rose to propose the toast of the "Slough Cricket and Bowls Club," and followed with a speech which earned considerable applause. Mr. H. M. Naylor suitably responded and paid tribute to Mr. Frank Smith and other officials.

After the presentation of prizes by Mr. W. B. Franklin, and the proposal of other toasts, the tables were cleared and dancing was carried on until 1 a.m. to music supplied by the Adelphi Players.

LUDGERSHALL.

MR. F. L. SHRIMPTON.

EARLY PROMOTION TO MAYORALTY OF ANDOVER.

By a unanimous vote, Councillor F. L. Shrimpton was elected Mayor of Andover at the annual meeting of the Town Council.

The Council's choice is popular with the townspeople and especially among the sports organisations of Andover, in which Councillor Shrimpton has taken a great and active interest. Mr. Shrimpton is closely identified with the Andover Golf Club, and for some years has been chairman of the Andover Football Club. The honour of being elected to the Mayoralty comes to Councillor Shrimpton early, as he became a member of the Council only two years ago.

In proposing the election of Councillor Shrimpton, Alderman T. Webb said Councillor Shrimpton had been recognised in commercial life as a success. An indication of that was provided by the fact that the firm with which Councillor Shrimpton was connected had consented to his becoming Chief Magistrate. It was a challenge to other employers to encourage and help their employees to take part in civic life. Alderman Webb assured the new Mayor that he would have the help of his colleagues. It was no small matter to take on the position, but he was certain Councillor

Shrimpton would be an admirable successor to the other worthy citizens who had filled the office.

Councillor W. J. Armstead seconded.

The retiring Mayor (Alderman Humber), in wishing Councillor Shrimpton and Mrs. Shrimpton a prosperous and happy term of office, said Councillor Shrimpton was taking over the Mayoralty at a most important time in the life of the town.

The proposition was carried.

AN OPTIMIST.

The new Mayor, having been installed in office, thanked the Council for the honour conferred upon him. Little did he think when he first joined the Council, that in the short period of two years he would be called upon to fill the Mayoralty. If at times he had not quite got the grip of things that some of his predecessors had, he hoped the members would overlook it. The Council could rely on him at all times to do his best. He did not fear those duties because he knew he would have the support of the members of the Council, and was an optimist.

The retiring Mayoress (Mrs. Humber) placed the gold chain presented to the borough by the Andover Chamber of Trade last year on the shoulders of the new Mayoress, and wished Mrs. Shrimpton every happiness in her term of office.

Mrs. Shrimpton returned thanks.

The Mayor appointed Alderman Humber as Deputy-Mayor, and proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor.

Following the above proceedings a banquet was given in honour of the Ex-Mayor and Ex-Mayoress, when the new Mayor presided over a company numbering about 100. Various toasts were proposed and responded to in excellent vein. In asking the company to drink to the health of "The Mayor and Corporation and Borough Officials," Mr. H. T. Jones expressed the opinion that there was a great future for Andover and referred to the new factories coming into the Town.

The Mayor responded first, and reiterated much of what he said at the Council meeting that morning. He was pleased at the presence of his Managing-Director (Mr. F. A. Simonds), who had honoured him by coming, and he thanked the Firm to which he belonged for giving him the facilities for coming forward and being made Mayor. He mentioned that Andover now had a town planning scheme, by which they hoped to prevent any more beauty spots being blotted out with atrocious galvanised structures. They could rest assured that Andover Town Council did not intend to have

any more of that nonsense, and they were going to make a decent place of Andover before they had finished. Mr. Jones, with his experience of town planning, might do worse than give the Council the benefit of some of his knowledge.

Mr. F. A. Simonds proposed the toast of "The Town and Trade of Andover" and warmly congratulated the Mayor on the great honour accorded him that day. He had known Councillor Shrimpton longer than anybody else in the room. Councillor Shrimpton started with the advantage of brains, and being attached to a business firm of ability, he had assimilated their enthusiasm, and he thought he should make an excellent Mayor. Mr. Simonds added that forty-five years ago he lived at Red Rice, and he had watched Andover develop. He trusted that the trade of the ancient borough would greatly increase as the years progressed.

Responses were made by Councillor W. J. Armstead and Mr. Donald Lloyd.

An excellent musical programme was contributed by Mrs. John Wilson and Miss Irene Webb who sang delightful songs. Mr. L. Kendall was the accompanist and Mr. L. Webb added gaiety with ventriloquial sketches.

Ludgershall staff send best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all our old friends and readers.

HUNGERFORD BRANCH BRITISH LEGION.

DINNER AND CONCERT.

The first annual re-union dinner was held in the Town Hall on Wednesday, November 16th. The largest company of ex-service men congregated since the war, 150 men sitting down to a most excellent repast, served by Host and Hostess Dunsdon of the Plume Hotel. After the dinner they were given a toast by Mr. H. Hawkes and cheered by the assembly.

The chair was taken by Mr. F. E. Le Anderson, supported by Brig.-Gen. Rennie, Commander Hatton, Major Harvey, Rev. Pelham, Rev. Wardley King, Rev. Gotto, Rev. Waite and Mr. J. Seddon.

Before starting dinner the chairman asked for the minute's silence and Mr. Seddon gave the Legion exhortation.

After dinner the toast of "The King" was honoured. The next toast was "The Hungerford Branch, the Chairman and the Hon. Secretary," by Major Harvey. The Major said this branch

owed a great deal to the chairman (Mr. Anderson) and the Hon. Secretary (Mr. W. Kelly). Mr. Anderson had helped the branch both morally and financially, especially financially regarding the dinner. Mr. Kelly, he remarked, could not be thanked enough for his work; in fact, he thought when he passed over into the next world he would still be after members for the British Legion.

The chairman, in responding, regretted the absence of the President (The Hon. John Ward, K.C.V.O.) and Capt. Turnbull who were away from Hungerford.

Mr. Kunkler next toasted "The Visitors," coupling with it the name of Brig.-Gen. Rennie.

The company now settled down to a most excellent concert; the artistes were: Mr. W. J. Richardson of Swindon (comedian), Mr. W. J. Withers, Mr. E. Moon, Rev. Gotto, Mr. A. J. S. Slater, Mr. W. Thorne, Mr. W. Gibbs, Mr. B. Gibbs (conjurer) and Mr. P. Caulfield, who led the community singing in his usual breezy way. Mr. T. Rosier was at the piano. The local branch have a very able and efficient entertainment committee who carried through the dinner and concert to the complete satisfaction to all. The committee are Messrs. H. Hawkes (chairman), Major Harvey, W. J. Withers, A. J. Wilkins, A. J. S. Slater, D. F. Kunkler, A. G. Wyatt and a hard working secretary in Mr. D. Coker.

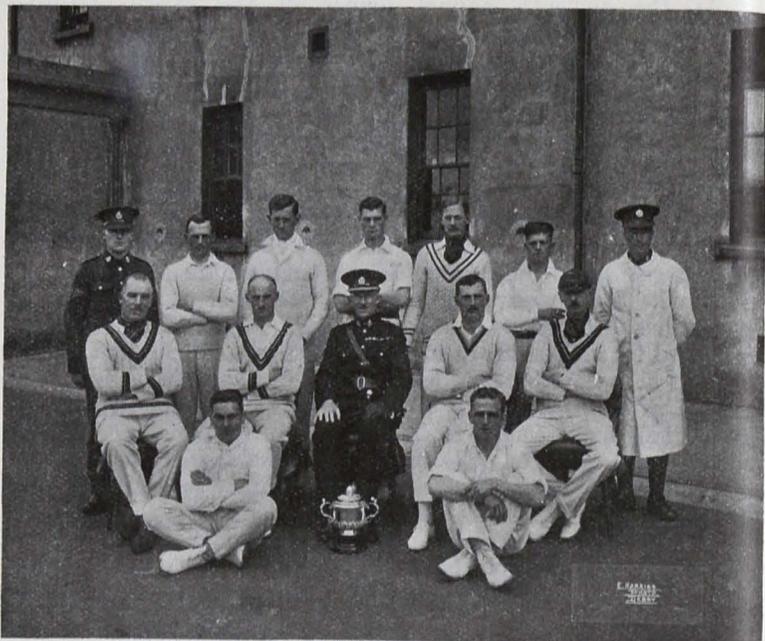
PORTSMOUTH.

Since the last issue of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE the 1st York and Lancaster Regiment have taken up their quarters at the Victoria Barracks, Portsmouth, relieving the 2nd Bn. The South Wales Borderers at this station. The 1st Battalion of the Yorks and Lancs. was originally raised as a second battalion of the 12th Foot in 1756 and two years later became a distinct corps under the title of the 65th Foot. The Regiment adopted the white facings of the 12th Foot, the regimental lace being white with a red and black worm and blue stripes. Although the Yorks and Lancs. had a wonderful military history previous to the Great War, like all English County Regiments they worthily upheld this reputation in the last war. In all, with the Territorial and Special Service Battalions, 22 Battalions took part. The following battle honours are emblazoned on the colours of the Regiment, "Ypres, 1915, 1917, 1918," "Somme, 1916-1918," "Messines, 1917-1918," "Passchendaele-Cambrai, 1917-1918," "Lys," "Selle," "Piave," "Macedonia, 1915 and 1918" and "Gallipoli." The Regiment has now seen 176 years of honour and distinguished service in all parts of the world. They came to Portsmouth from Londonderry and we sincerely hope that their period of service in this city will be a happy one for them.

At the eleventh annual dinner of the Royal Artillery Association, Hants and Isle of Wight Branch, held at the Portsmouth Guildhall, Col. J. Lindsay, who has for a considerable time combined so efficiently the duties of secretary and chairman, resigned both positions for private reasons. He will be succeeded by Lt.-Col. H. D. L. Brown, D.S.O., in the office of chairman, and by Capt. F. W. Lewis, M.M., in that of secretary. Another change was announced by Col. Lindsay during the evening which involved the departure of the Association's respected president, Col. F. W. Barron, O.B.E., who, early in the New Year, will take up an appointment with the Horse Guards at headquarters, Eastern Command. In proposing the toast of "The Visitors and Kindred Associations," the guest of honour, Col. Sir William Dupree, Bart., apologized for not having attended the last two annual dinners, but said that his recovery from his operation of two years ago was not as rapid as he expected. "Soldiering was a young man's game, but business men seemed to be able to go on for ever," said Sir William amid laughter. He mentioned that despite the slowness often displayed in settling down by military men after their retirement from the service, they usually made very good business men. At the commencement of the proceedings, the president, Col. Barron, read a reply from His Majesty the King, to a loyal expression of greetings sent from the members of the Association. The new chairman of the committee, Col. Brown, referred to Sir William Dupree's wonderful record in the Regiment, following the president's remark that Sir William would shortly be celebrating his 60th year of commissioned service.

The Lord Mayor and members of the City Council attended the annual memorial service, which was arranged by the Portsmouth Branch of the British Legion, to honour the memory of their comrades who made the great sacrifice during the war. Representatives of the different ex-Service Men's organizations in the city marched to the service. A wreath of laurels and Flanders poppies from the members of the Portsmouth Branches of the British Legion Clubs was placed on a stand at the entrance to the chancel by Sir Herbert Cayzer. An eloquent appeal was made by the Chaplain of the Fleet, the Venerable Archdeacon W. R. Knight-Adkin, and by kind permission of Brigadier G. R. S. Hickson, C.B.E., A.D.C., the "Last Post" and the "Reveille" were sounded by buglers of the Royal Marines.

As another Christmas will be over before the next issue of the GAZETTE, we should like to take this opportunity of extending to all readers our best wishes for a happy Christmas and a prosperous new year.



[Photo taken at Londonderry.
Cricket Team—1st Yorks & Lancs., Portsmouth.

BRIGHTON.

Our county town, Lewes, celebrated in hilarious style the anniversary of Guy Fawkes on the Fifth of November.

This town, which witnessed many years ago, the scene of the burning at the stake of martyrs for their religious ideals, is one of the few places to keep up, to any great extent, a yearly reminder of these events, by burning effigies in the streets. Bonfire societies of many years standing, properly organise torchlight processions in different parts of the town, bearing aloft effigies of past high church dignitaries, or some person who, at the time being, is in public evidence. This year De Valera had that honour. The procession makes for some centre where, after a mock sermon, the dummy, stuffed with fireworks, is put on to a funeral pyre and lit at a crucial part of the peroration, and the fun commences, with squibbs scattering in all directions.

Another old custom on the Fifth, is to drag a lighted tar barrel through the principal streets, and finally throw it over a bridge into the river Ouse.

Needless to say these celebrations, which draw visitors from all over Sussex and the adjoining counties, are carried out with a great danger of fire to property, so the shopkeepers and householders have their premises boarded up where facing the streets, and the fire brigade and the police are constantly on the alert. It was rumoured this year that this event was to be the meeting place of certain socialists who wished to lodge a protest against the amount of money spent on fireworks, etc., but no such disturbance arose. Incidentally, the Lewes Bonfire Societies contribute in no small manner to the funds of the local hospital, and the police courts reap a rich harvest in fines from those caught letting off fireworks in the public streets.

BRIGHTON CELEBRITIES : ECCLESIASTICAL.

Undoubtedly the greatest figure in the Anglican church of recent years is "Robertson of Brighton," who for four years was incumbent of Trinity Chapel. The same pulpit was recently held by Chancellor R. J. Campbell, who by the way, first started his clerical ministry in a small and obscure chapel in the Brighton Lanes. The most beloved of Brighton clerics, alas now departed, was the Reverend Edward Riley, who was for some years Vicar of St. John's Church, Carlton Hill, the poorest parish in the town. Edward Riley was six feet four, and proportionately built, and one day visited a rich widow in the hopes of coming away with a three figure cheque for his church's needs. He was invited to tea, and whilst waiting for his hostess to come down, sat on the only seat in the drawing room that would accommodate him. Immediately there was an alarming hiss, and he found that he had burst an air cushion. A bad start, he thought, for his begging, but he felt sure that an apology, accompanied by an offer to replace the cushion, would soon pave the way for a persuasive plea for the church funds. In due course his hostess arrived, and Mr. Riley at once explained what had happened, but before he could even begin his apologies the lady burst out into uncontrollable weeping. "But, Mrs. ——— protested the astonished Vicar, I shall be only too happy to replace the cushion." Indeed, he added, with the hopeful eye on the three figure cheque, "I will get you a very much better one." But no, the weeping continued, and it was some time before the mortified parson could learn its cause. "That cushion," sobbed the lady, "was given to me by my husband, and he blew it up with his last breath."

That is the point of the story; but to those who remember Edward Riley the real point is that half-an-hour later he got his hoped for cheque.

FOOTBALL.

After labouring through the preliminary rounds, Brighton & Hove Albion are matched with Crystal Palace at Selhurst. We wish them luck, as also the Reading team who are fortunate enough to draw at home to Brentford.

A Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year to all.

GIBRALTAR.



The above group, which was taken outside the new Rock Hotel, Gibraltar, shews (left to right) Mr. E. M. B. Cottrell, Mrs. Cottrell and Mr. G. T. Devonshire, the eminent London solicitor.

The photograph was taken by Mrs. Devonshire, who, with her husband, were on a visit to Gibraltar.

Mr. Cottrell, our Agent for Gibraltar, has recently carried out great extensions in his Beer Bottling Stores, including up-to-date plant for chilling and pasteurisation.

We consider ourselves very lucky this month in having had Mr. F. A. Simonds amongst us. His visit was unfortunately a very

short one and we all hope that the sea trip both ways and the week of wonderful weather he had out here will brace him up for the hard and busy winter he has before him.

Mr. Eric, after an absence from the Rock of about five years, was able to renew many old acquaintances and wherever he went he met old friends. He was a guest at the Jubilee dinner of the Gibraltar Chamber of Commerce and everybody was delighted to have him there amongst them, both as an old friend and as the Managing Director of Messrs. H. & G. Simonds Ltd., who have been associated with the Rock for so many years and who are incidentally very old members of the Gibraltar Chamber of Commerce. Excellent speeches were heard at the dinner including those of H.E. The Governor, the Admiral, and Mr. King (the President of the Chamber). He had a very full week whilst in Gibraltar and greatly regretted that due to lack of time he was unable to visit as many people as he had hoped to do.

Summer has come to an end and with it our thoughts turn to football, hockey, whist drives and dances; cricket and bathing are now a thing of the past. However, although in October, we are having such wonderful weather that in the mornings it is sometimes difficult to realize that we are not in the middle of summer.

This was specially brought home to me, writes our correspondent, this morning when walking down Europa Road I met many a weary man marching up the hill to barracks swearing at the powers that be which have put everybody into thick drab. The only consolation they must have had was that there was a good pint of beer or a bottle of "S.B." waiting for them.

We have had a very successful summer as far as sport is concerned, the standard of all games being very high.

The D.C.L.I. as was anticipated walked away with most of the prizes at the Command sports and are to be heartily congratulated on putting up such an excellent show. I overheard one spectator say "not only can the youngsters run, just look at Daddy!"

The Command rifle meeting also gave us a lot of fun and we had some very good individual and unit firing.

We were very lucky this year in getting a good cricket team out from home under the captaincy of Mr. H. D. G. Leveson-Gower. Three matches were played, all of which were drawn, and perhaps if the weather had not been so unkind we might have been able to tell a different tale. Large crowds were attracted every day and we had a very pleasant "cricket week."

Tennis as usual was very popular and there was keen competition in the matches for both senior and junior leagues. The R.A.O.C. team are to be heartily congratulated on winning the senior league cup this year, capturing it from the R.E.'s. who have held it for seven years. The junior league cup was won by the R.E.'s. after a series of very good matches.

The individual championship was again won by Sgt. Maj. Puleston, A.E.C., who played with his usual accuracy and skill, and a very pleasant afternoon was brought to an end by an exhibition match between Officers *v.* Other Ranks, which the former won after a very good game. H.E. The Governor very kindly presenting the cups at the end of the day's play.

The other day I met several rather disconsolate members of the R.A.S.C. Sergeants' Mess coming back from the fishing competition for the trophy. As everybody knows the members of this Mess have held the trophy as last year's runners-up and actually had it repaired in anticipation of holding it for a further year but their hopes were dashed to the ground by the R.E.'s. What could be expected, the total R.A.S.C. catch weighed 1 oz. ! Presumably the team did not consult with their expert captain, although he himself was a broken reed on the day of the competition, not even catching the 1 oz. !

Football is upon us again and judging from the reports of my confidential "sports expert," we should have some really good matches this year, and it is gratifying to hear that the civilian clubs are being re-organized, which adds interest to football in general.

At the time of writing the billiards league matches are in their critical stages, although it appears that the senior league will be won by the R.A. In the junior league, there are four teams who all stand a good chance of winning, these are the R.E., R.A.M.C., R.A. and R.W.F. The individual championship will soon take place and we hope to give the results of all these matches in our next letter.

A very Happy Christmas to all.

