

# The Hop Leaf Gazette.

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

Edited by CHARLES H. PERRIN.

Vol. IX.

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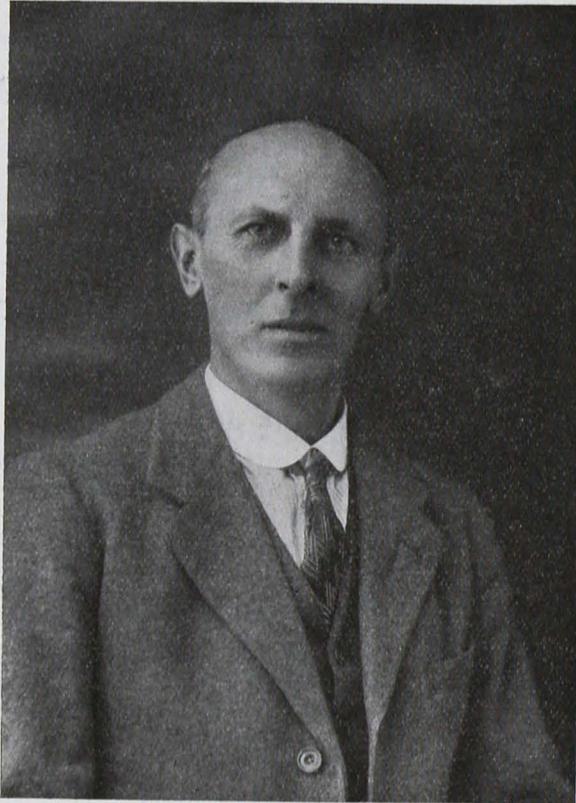


A Happy Christmas  
and a  
Bright and  
Prosperous New Year  
to all.

*MAY we all be imbued with the  
real Christmas spirit this Yuletide  
and may that spirit remain with us  
throughout the years to come.*

"I dreamt that every one of them  
Was kind to every other,  
And none, for greed, would e'er condemn  
A sister or a brother ;  
And though I woke from that fond dream  
To this sad world, I knew  
That heaven had sent me just a gleam  
Of what might yet come true."

THE BREWERY,  
READING.



MR. J. W. COOK.

## MR. J. W. COOK.

Turning to one of our subsidiary companies, The South Berks Brewery Company, Limited, for our frontispiece, we select the portrait of Mr. J. W. Cook, who is a Collector and Public House Traveller in the Newbury district.

Mr. Cook recently completed 30 years' service with the Firm, having joined direct from school in September, 1904. Commencing in the Cask Office and serving there for about seven years, he was transferred to the Delivery Department. After two years he was selected to fill a position in connection with the Queen's Hotel, Newbury, Agency. In this appointment Mr. Cook gained the confidence of a large clientele, amongst whom he was deservedly popular. After serving with H.M. Forces from January, 1915, to March, 1919, he returned to his duties at Newbury until in October of the following year, when the Firm obtained the controlling interest of The South Berks Brewery Company, Limited, Mr. Cook was transferred to the staff of the latter company. He was appointed to his present position and visits the licensed houses of The South Berks Brewery Company as well as those of the parent Company in Berkshire, Hampshire and Wiltshire. His duties were further increased by the purchase of the Newbury Brewery Company who owned many houses in the same area.

The happy business relationship between Mr. Cook and the tenants upon whom he calls is a marked feature and makes his duties very pleasant. He has a very large circle of friends in Newbury and is a member of the Conservative Club.

Mr. Cook had a distinguished war service with the Royal Engineers Signals in France and Belgium. He was sent overseas in January, 1916, and served through the Battle of the Somme, the Third Battle of Ypres and the big Retreat of 1918. He remained in France until the end of the war and was mentioned in despatches.

In earlier years Mr. Cook was a member of the Reading Athletic Club and a well-known runner. He won prizes at distances from 100 yards to 23½ miles and represented his club in the South of Thames and Southern Counties Cross-country Championships. He also won the Kendrick Old Boys' race of 200 yards, from scratch, a few years after leaving school. Running was not the only sport in which Mr. Cook excelled, as he played in the school first XI football and cricket teams and held the distinction of winning the bat (for the highest average) presented by the headmaster.

At the present day his favourite sport is fishing, and the growing of choice roses is his principal hobby.

## EDITORIAL.

## ALL HAPPINESS TO THEM!

The striking photographs, published in last month's GAZETTE, of Mr. L. A. Simonds and his fiancée, Miss Lang, created widespread interest and were greatly admired. Our simple, but heartfelt, wish is that Mr. Louis Simonds and his future wife will enjoy long life, good health, and all happiness.

## NOT MISSIN' MUCH.

"Mr. Chairman," said the speaker, "there are so many ribald interruptions I can scarcely hear myself speaking."

"Cheer up, guv'nor," said a voice, "you ain't missin' much!"

## GOOD GOLFING STORY.

One day on the links, Bill Jones went out by himself, teed his ball up and hit it a mighty swipe off the tee. He then walked after it, kicked it forward a few yards, took his iron and drove it manfully down the fairway. On reaching it, he again kicked it forward a yard or two, took his mashie and laid it well up to the pin. Walking forward, he touched it with the side of his foot so that it moved an inch or two, then with his putter rammed it well and truly home.

This performance he repeated for several holes, when his erratic behaviour attracted the attention of his friends who were playing behind him.

In the club house later they questioned him about it, and quite seriously he explained that he was practising.

"Practising?" they scornfully replied. "What kind of practice was that?"

"That was the best kind of practice for me," answered Bill. "You see, I'm playing with the wife in a foursome to-morrow!"

## THE FLANDERS POPPY.

The Flanders poppy which everyone wore on Armistice Day in memory of our heroic dead was associated with English soldiers long before the Great War.

Over two centuries ago, in 1693, was fought the Battle of Neerwinden, when the French, under the celebrated Duke of Luxemburg, Louis XIV's ablest marshal, gained a victory over the English led by William III, which involved a loss of 20,000 men.

The following summer the field of battle broke forth into millions of poppies which were regarded by the peasants as the spilled blood of those who had died there the previous year.

## SCHOOLBOY HOWLERS.

Here are a few quotations from "Latest Howlers," by Mr. Cecil Hunt (Harrap, 1s. 6d.) :—

As well as church you can now be married in an off-licence.

Members of Parliament meet at Westminster to disgust the nation and its problems.

Lloyd George saved his country like Joan of Arc saved France, but they haven't burned him yet.

The Romans left Great Britain quickly because they were afraid of the Gals.

A circle is a straight line drawn as curved as possible. It generally has a dot in the middle to show it is a circle.

Ether is a medium found everywhere except between radio programmes.

When a man has a wife and has got another living he is said to have committed boycott.

An undergraduate is a person not up to the mark.

Polygamy was practised by the Greeks, but monotony was the general custom with the Romans.

He heard a horn blown and was struck in the back. A lady was evidently trying to pass.

A swastika is a thing you kill flies with.

Divorce suits are special clothes worn when the wedding is all over.

Nowadays it is not so usual for a man to insult a girl's mother before he marries her.

A licentiate is an undergraduate who is sent down from his university for immoral behaviour.

A polygon is a man with more than one wife, but an Englishman is not allowed to be a polygon, for his wife brings him up for it.

A polygon with seven sides is called a hooligan.

A manor house is where they teach people manners. They don't build them now.

Infanticide is a powder for killing babies.

An art gallery is a place with pictures, some of them by artists.

From a girl's essay on the rules of netball: Girls are divided in two parts. One lot wears red ribbon and the other nothing at all. There are two parsons who stand between them.

## ANOTHER APPRECIATIVE LETTER.

Flat 27, St. Kevins Arcade,  
Auckland C.2,  
New Zealand.

To the Editor,

THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE.

15th October, 1934.

Dear Sir,—I would like you to know how much we enjoy reading the "Hop Leaf" this side of the world. It is sent regularly to me by my aunt, Mrs. Moore of "The Bugle," Reading. The family read it first and then pass it on to friends who equally appreciate the good reading. It is also interesting to see how the Brewery business is progressing. I know Reading very well having lived there when a girl and revisited it twelve years ago when on a trip to England. I then saw big improvements. Mr. Capper and myself would have been very pleased to meet Mr. Louis Simonds when he was visiting New Zealand, but knew of his visit just too late.

With best wishes to the "Hop Leaf,"

Yours faithfully,

F. M. CAPPER (Mrs.)

## OF CARNATIONS.

Specimens of this choice flower have been seen at the Brewery on various occasions, but never such an one as was worn by Mr. Eric recently—a perfect example of the Pearl White variety and surely the largest ever! The dimensions could not have been less than five inches across. A truly wonderful bloom!

## SIR THOMAS INSKIP AT READING.

The Attorney-General, Sir Thomas Inskip, visited Reading on Monday, November 26th, and addressed a great meeting organized by the Reading Conservative and Unionist Association. Mr. F. A. Simonds presided with his customary ability and good humour, and the striking address by the Attorney-General made a deep impression. "What right," he asked, "had Mr. Lloyd George or the Socialists to claim a monopoly of peace? They are not the only people zealous in this great cause." In proposing a vote of thanks to the Chairman, Mr. T. Vincent eulogised the great services which Mr. Simonds had rendered to Conservatism in Reading. He also expressed the pleasure, which was felt by all, at the presence of Mrs. F. A. Simonds. Mr. Vincent added that they were also delighted to see Mr. Louis Simonds and his fiancée on the platform.

## WHERE IS THE OTHER DAY?

There are seven days in a week and fifty-two weeks in a year. Multiply 52 by 7 and the answer is 364 days. And yet there are 365 days in a year. Where does the missing day come in?

## A PLEASANT REMINDER.

The marriage of our youngest Prince, now Duke of Kent, to Princess Marina of Greece, came as a pleasant reminder to us that youth and romance still exist in a distracted world. Our best wish for them, offered with our respectful congratulations, is that in a new-fangled world they may be and remain old-fashionedly in love. For us this great day of Romance is over but for them it is only the beginning:

And on her lover's arm she leant,  
And round her waist she felt it fold,  
And far across the hills they went  
To that new world which is the old:  
Across the hills and far away,  
Beyond the utmost purple rim,  
And deep into the dying day  
The happy Princess followed him.

## LITTLE WILLIE AND THE PENCILS.

TEACHER: "Now, boys, take up your pencils and put this down."

LITTLE WILLIE: "Please, teacher, I ain't got no pencil."

TEACHER: "You shouldn't say 'I ain't got no pencil'—I have no pencil, thou hast no pencil, he has no pencil, we have no pencils, you have no pencils, they have no pencils."

LITTLE WILLIE: "Then whoever has got all the — pencils."

## FINE MANGOLD CROP.

Mr. H. Bowyer, of Ashridge Farm, Wokingham, has added to his numerous successes in the growing of fine crops by gaining an award in Sutton's Mangold Fertiliser Competition. His crop was the heaviest in England or Scotland and weighed nearly 83½ tons.

Mr. Bowyer is a cousin of our esteemed Home Trade Manager, Mr. W. Bowyer.

## THE "PIG AND WHISTLE."

Various explanations have been given for the origin of the "Pig and Whistle." Some say that it is a corruption of the "pig and wassail bowl" or of the "pix and housel." Others think it may be of Danish-Saxon descent—from "pige-wishail," meaning "Our Lady's Salutation." Scotsmen tell us that pig means a pot and whistle means small change. Thus to go to the "Pig and Whistle" was intended to mean that a man "went to pot," or spent all his small change in a thriftless manner. The pig and whistle sign is sometimes found in churches. In Winchester Cathedral stalls a sow is represented sitting on her haunches playing on a whistle, while another plays on a violin and a third is singing. Another explanation is that the inn sign "Pig and Whistle" is a corruption of "peg and whistle." In the old days when innkeepers employed boys to tap or "peg" barrels, they would instruct the boy to whistle while working so that it would be known that he was not drinking.

## THE PERFECT MINE HOST.

A successful licensee must have the  
 personality of a Prime Minister, combined with the business acumen of a Gordon Selfridge ;  
 dignity of an Archbishop combined with the geniality of a George Robey ;  
 tact of a schoolmaster ;  
 hope of a company promoter ;  
 benevolence of a charitable institution ;  
 eloquence of a Cabinet Minister ;  
 cheek of a Parliamentary candidate ;  
 elastic conscience of an M.P. ;  
 knowledge of an encyclopaedia ;  
 legal knowledge of a lawyer ;  
 sporting knowledge of a sporting guide ;  
 smile of a film star ;  
 voice of a sergeant major ; and  
 skin of a rhinoceros.

These qualifications were given by Mr. H. Corbin, of Salisbury, at the annual meeting at Bristol of the Western District of the National Trade Defence Association.

## REDLANDS.

H. D. Simonds (Cons.)	...	1,036
Mrs. H. Corry (Lab.)	...	704
		<hr/>
		332
		<hr/>

No change.

Now, this is a jolly good result in the circumstances. Commander Simonds is no mean opponent and we should indeed be prejudiced if we shut our eyes to his capabilities. He is that most difficult type of opponent—a "good sort" whom one likes for himself if we disagree with his political views. Mrs. Corry had a stiff fight in her first adventure and has come out with distinct credit to herself . . . . A pleasing feature is that our opponents have been ready to pay high tributes to the personality of our candidate who gave them such a good fight.—*From the "Reading Citizen."*

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**N I P S**  
**INVARIABLY**  
**PREVENT**  
**SICKNESS**

But be sure they are Simonds X X X X X.



## TENNIS CLUB.

PRESENTATION OF CUPS BY MR. L. A. SIMONDS.

The annual meeting of Simonds' Tennis Club was held at the Social Club on Friday, November 9th. Mr. L. A. Simonds was in the chair, supported by Mr. R. St. J. Quarry. The chief business of the meeting was the presentation of the challenge cups to the successful players in the Ladies' and Gentlemen's Singles Handicap. Mr. M. Adams was the winner of the cup given by Mr. L. A. Simonds, and was loudly applauded when called upon to receive the trophy; a similar reception was accorded Miss C. Kaye on accepting the cup given by Mr. R. St. J. Quarry.

The chairman paid a tribute to the work of the committee and also to all helpers for the capable manner in which they had carried out their duties, and all present were unanimous in their opinion that the season had been a very successful and enjoyable one. He (the chairman) hoped that the club would continue to prosper for many years to come.

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. L. A. Simonds and Mr. R. St. J. Quarry for presenting the club with the handsome challenge cups and for the interest which they have at all times displayed in the welfare of the club.

A vote of thanks to the chairman, Mr. L. A. Simonds, for presiding at the meeting, followed by the filling of the cups in the usual manner, concluded the meeting.

**ANNUAL DINNER.**

**THE SOCIAL CLUB'S 14th ANNUAL DINNER**  
will be held in the **LARGE TOWN HALL, READING,**  
on **SATURDAY, JANUARY 26th, 1935.**

*Tickets will shortly be issued under similar conditions to previous years.*

Further information will be given in the January issue of this Gazette or obtained from T. W. Bradford, Hon. Sec.

## "WONDER BAR."



Local cinema fans were recently delighted at the presentation of the above film at the Central Cinema, Friar Street. Many thousands of patrons enjoyed this production during its run throughout the week and they will doubtless recall to memory the other "Wonder Bar," which was on view in the vestibule of the Cinema, a picture of which is reproduced above. The lighting and colour effects were much admired, and as this bar featured a pleasing array of "Simonds" products, naturally a good deal of interest was aroused, especially when the ladies gracing the bar in their beautiful evening gowns, appeared particularly alert when under the gaze of their admiring friends.

Attracted by the commanding presence of the "maid" in charge, one intrepid gentleman asked her for change for a pound note, "all silver, please." After a slight pause, a reply issued from a ventriloquial voice, as smooth as wax, which reminded him it was not a pound stall, that no change could be given, and that nothing could be turned to silver except his hair. After this icy declaration from the waxen maid there was no further flow of business.

We are greatly indebted to the very popular manager of the Cinema, Mr. Richardson, for the loan of appropriate space and "props" and for his painstaking efforts on our behalf, and we offer him our hearty congratulations.

Although neither indulgence nor "returns" were recorded in the vestibule bar, we sincerely hope a "bumper" was enjoyed in "Wonder Bar."

#### HARVEST THANKSGIVING AT "THE RAVEN."

A very unusual but interesting event took place on Saturday, 20th October last at "The Raven," Stokenchurch (Wheelers' Wycombe Breweries Ltd.) when the occasion was marked by a fully attended gathering of Slate Club members and patrons to celebrate their harvest thanksgiving.

A varied collection was on view in the "long room," including some very fine garden produce, cigarettes, tobacco, sweets, eggs, coal, canned fruits, cakes and a profusion of confectionery, etc., being the gifts of the club members and many others who were interested in the cause of charity. Appropriate harvest hymns were reverently sung and after this ceremony, other pleasantries were indulged in later. Not to be outdone, some very enthusiastic members gathered mine host's runner beans from his garden, all complete with sticks on which they were grown, and these were "processed" into the room, causing much merriment.

All the gifts were afterwards despatched to the Watlington and District Hospital, Oxford, and were in due course graciously acknowledged by the Matron, Miss Dickson. A fitting climax to an abundant year of first-rate earthly produce.

This is the first festival of its kind to be held at "The Raven," and proved so successful that it is quite probable that similar events will be held annually.

After regaling themselves with the Firm's well known products, the company dispersed at closing hour, after spending a very happy time.

A visit to this very well appointed house will be appreciated by the proprietor and his wife, who will always make callers extremely welcome. A delightful trip amidst beautiful country surroundings.

S.J.M.

## A NATURE NOTE.

(BY C.H.P.)

GREAT CRESTED GREBE ON THE THAMES.

A PERFECT DIVER.

It is not often that one sees a great crested grebe on the Thames but last year and again this winter I have had the great pleasure of watching one at work. The little grebes and the coots were there too. They are deft divers but I should call the great crested grebe the perfect diver. With a wonderfully graceful movement he seems to glide under the water and out of sight, hardly ruffling the surface as he does so. His legs, placed far backwards, perform at once the office of propellers and rudder and his satiny plumage throws off the water as easily as it falls from the glossy coat of the otter. Down he dips and you will see him reappear some thirty or forty yards higher up or lower down the river. He is an expert angler and you may frequently see him rise to the surface with a fish in his beak. A few vigorous shakes and that little fish has disappeared down that lane whence no traveller ever returns.

If you want a good diving lesson watch these fine fellows, the little grebes and the coots.

THE WEIGHT OF A FOX.

If you happen to have the pleasure of being present at a pheasant shoot you will sometimes hear the birds uttering notes of alarm or displaying other forms of agitation long before the beaters have approached near them. This means the presence of a fox who is moving in the covert with the intention of taking up other quarters without waste of time. As he steals out of the wood he proceeds within a few yards of several of the guns but is allowed to go unmolested. A fox is not only very deceptive in his ways, but with regard to his weight. A good-sized cat would weigh heavier than a fox. An average weight for Reynard would be only about ten pounds.

During a shoot you see much more than the pheasants that are occupying your immediate attention. A host of small birds are hurrying and scurrying out of harm's way. On this particular occasion I saw many cole-tits, bullfinches, greenfinches and chaffinches beating a hasty retreat. There were, too, a family of long-tailed tits, several goldcrests, the smallest of our British birds. In the earlier part of the day the blackbirds made a great fuss as they flew from covert to covert, and nine out of ten of them flew very low. It was noticed towards evening, when they left

a wood, that almost without exception they flew high overhead. This seems to be the rule among blackbirds, but why they fly low early in the day and high later I do not know.

#### THE LOADER WHO FORGOT TO LOAD.

As I have already said, on such occasions, there is on every hand something entertaining and instructive to the observant eye. I was more than interested in one fellow who was acting as loader to a crack shot. The beaters had given the signal that a woodcock was on the wing. In spite of the fact that this particular gentleman had just emptied two barrels, bringing down with the utmost ease two very difficult birds, the loader was much more interested in viewing that woodcock than in replenishing the empty gun. And that was not the only occasion on which he offended. But the gentleman—a gentleman in the truest sense of the word—was more amused than annoyed. I overheard him say, O! so gently and courteously: "Perhaps it would be as well if I carried a few spare cartridges in my pocket in case of emergency."

And with a knowing smile he filled his pocket.

#### PARTRIDGES ROOSTING WITH PHEASANTS.

Mr. Rouse Orlebar, Hinwick House, near Wellingborough, in the following interesting letter to *The Times* tells of French partridges roosting with pheasants. He says:—

"My keeper has just told me that last evening he was watching in a wood near a feed stack round which were several pheasants and two red-legged partridges. When roosting-time came he saw nine pheasants and the two partridges fly up to roost on the same tree. I know that red-legged partridges do occasionally perch on trees and walls, though I have never seen them do it, but I have never heard before of their actually roosting with pheasants. It is only by courtesy they are called partridges."

## BREWERY JOTTINGS.

(BY W. DUNSTER).

#### DEATHS.

We regret to announce a number of deaths during the month of November of old tenants, and to all relatives we tender our sincere sympathy:—

Mrs. K. F. A. Chapman, Weldale Arms, Reading, who died on the 9th November. Mrs. Chapman had been a tenant since the beginning of 1909.

Mr. J. O'Reilly, Red Lion, Whiteleaf, died on the 12th November and had been a tenant since 25th December, 1928.

Mr. E. Daubney, who was tenant of the Kennet Arms, Pell Street, Reading, from 28th February, 1905, to 9th August, 1928.

Mr. T. Sharpe, tenant of the Bedford Arms, Bedford Road, Reading, from September, 1911, to October, 1920, when he passed the business to Mr. E. J. Spong, his son-in-law.

Mr. A. W. Adams, who was tenant of the Old Elm Tree, Beech Hill, from April, 1916, to April, 1931, and then tenant of the Mole, Arborfield, from April, 1931, until his death on the 27th November, 1934.

Mr. Frank Hill, who was formerly tenant of the Three Tuns Inn, High Wycombe, for six years. He went in 1910 to the Railway Hotel, Newbury, and a few years later was elected a member of the Newbury Borough Corporation. For two years in succession he served with distinction as Mayor of Newbury. On November 1st last he was returned to the Council unopposed and at the time of his death was the senior member for promotion to the aldermanic bench. His son is tenant of the Three Tuns, High Wycombe.

#### CHANGES OF TENANTS.

The following changes of tenants have recently taken place and to all we wish success in their new undertakings:—

The White Lion, Cryers Hill (Wheeler's Wycombe Breweries Ltd.)—Mr. P. J. Search.

The Railway Arms, Wraysbury (Ashley's Staines Brewery Ltd.)—Mr. E. F. W. Barrett.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Caversham Road, Reading (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—Mr. E. J. Maynard.

Mr. Maynard I count as a friend of many years and he is universally liked by everyone. For many years he has been a popular figure on the river with his spick and span boats, viz., *The Britannia* and *The Queen of the Thames*. Both of these boats were fully licensed and our Firm's products have been on sale during the many trips made during the past summers. He has many friends, in many spheres, and ably supported by Mrs. Maynard, I feel he will make a great success of his new venture. I wish him and his all prosperity at the "Duke" for I feel "Charley" (everyone calls him that) will succeed.

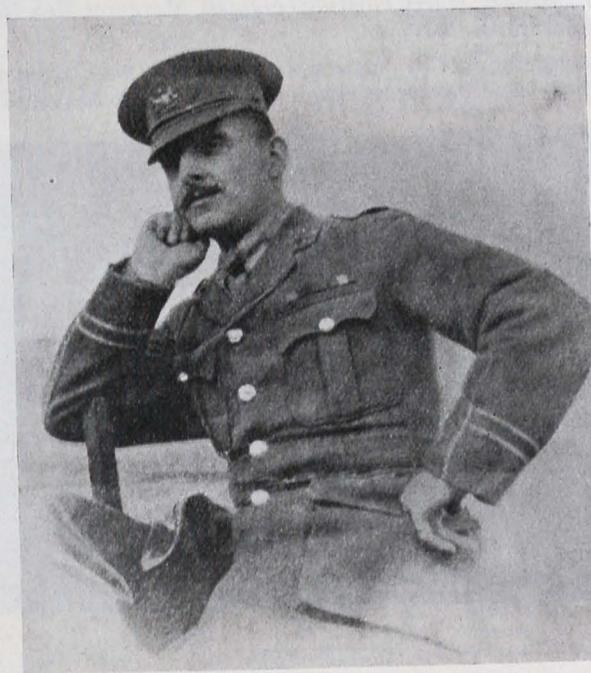
MR. S. CLARE OF THE "SARACEN'S HEAD," READING.



Mr. S. Clare of the "Saracen's Head," Reading, has had a very interesting career in the Army and as a publican. He has served in the 6th Dragoon Carabiniers, Grenadier Guards, Egyptian Army (gymnastic staff), Liverpool Regiment, Manchester Regiment, Cameronian Highlanders, Royal Air Force. He also served in the Omdurman campaign under Lord Kitchener, in the South African war as a member of the Guards Mounted Infantry and in France with the Royal Air Force.

It was in 1930 that he became landlord of the "Fox and Hounds," Binfield, and he has since had charge of the following houses:—"The Crown," Bracknell; the "Red Lion," Bracknell;

and the "Saracen's Head," Reading. He is still at the Saracen's where his great courtesy and prompt attention to business are winning him an ever-increasing circle of customers.



In the photographs he is seen in two of the many uniforms he donned.

#### HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

Nail varnish makes an effective "stop" for stocking ladders. A small dab on the running stitch will save it from further disaster.

Cabbage, when cooking, causes an unpleasant smell to emanate from the kitchen, and it is difficult to banish. It is a good plan to avoid this by placing a stale crust of bread in the water in which the vegetable is to be cooked. Boil the crust with the cabbage or cauliflower, and it will entirely absorb the usual odour.

## THE ARCADIANs.

Below is a photograph of "The Arcadians" who by their wholesome melody and mirth are gaining a high place in the public favour. From left to right:—Rollie Kelly (*light comedian*), Doris Hart (*comediennes*), Harry Goatley (*pianist*), Margaret Rex (*soprano*) and Gordon Smith (*baritone*).

A newcomer to the party since the photo was taken is Cyril Morris (*compère, a basso profundo*). He is a great acquisition.



## FOOTBALL DANCE.

A very successful dance was held at the Oxford Dance Hall on Friday, November 30th, under the auspices of the Brewery Football Club. The hall was well filled with dancers and is another testimony to the increasing popularity of the Brewery's social activities. The promoters are to be congratulated in providing a dance of such a high standard of sociability and good tone.

The following is the result of the competitions:—

*Waltz*—Mr. L. Atkinson and Miss R. Gibbs.

*Foxtrot*—Mr. R. Staniford and Miss W. Cousins.

*Lucky Spot*—Mr. G. Hamlin and Miss A. Ashwell.

*Lucky Ticket*—Mr. P. Froud and Miss I. Thomas.

The committee of the football club extend their thanks to all helpers and supporters who contributed so willingly towards the success of the event.

## SOCIAL CLUB.

## DEPARTMENTAL TOURNAMENTS.

NOVEMBER 9TH.		<i>Rest.</i>		<i>Maltings I.</i>	
Billiards	...	Dalton, A.	... 1 v.	Everett, J.	... 0
		Benford, L.	... 1 v.	Gibson, A.	... 0
Dominoes	...	Comley, A.	... 1 v.	Everett, A.	... 0
		Braisher, F.	... 0 v.	Day, T.	... 1
Crib	...	Osborne, T.	... 0 v.	Gilkerson, W.	... 1
		Clark, S.	... 0 v.	Everett, A.	... 1
Shove Halfpenny	...	Osborne, T.	... 1 v.	Taylor, F.	... 0
		Lott, G.	... 1 v.	Plumridge, A.	... 0
Darts	...	Eaton, W.	... 0 v.	Boyles, G.	... 1
		Benford, L.	... 0 v.	Everett, J.	... 1
Shooting	...	Prater, H.	... 0 v.	Laily, G.	... 1
		Croft, J.	... ½ v.	Taylor, F.	... ½
				5½	6½
				—	—
NOVEMBER 9TH.		<i>Transport.</i>		<i>Coopers and Scalds.</i>	
Billiards	...	Nimmo, J.	... 1 v.	Griffiths, R.	... 0
		Gardiner, F.	... 0 v.	Weller, C.	... 1
Dominoes	...	Hiscock, A.	... 0 v.	Plank, H.	... 1
		Rosum, F.	... 0 v.	Cholwill, R.	... 1
Crib	...	Adey, F.	... 1 v.	Plank, H.	... 0
		Hamilton, F.	... 1 v.	Sparks, W.	... 0
Shove Halfpenny	...	Adey, F.	... 0 v.	Kelly, G. Junr.	... 1
		Hamilton, F.	... 0 v.	Holmes, T.	... 1
Darts	...	Dainton, W.	... 1 v.	Weight, A.	... 0
		Pusey, A.	... 1 v.	Shipton, F.	... 0
Shooting	...	Dainton, W.	... 0 v.	Holmes, T.	... 1
		Hiscock, A.	... 1 v.	Sparks, W.	... 0
				6	6
				—	—
NOVEMBER 16TH.		<i>Maltings II.</i>		<i>Transport.</i>	
Billiards	...	Cousens, S.	... 1 v.	Gardiner, F.	... 0
		Parker, E.	... 0 v.	Nimmo, J.	... 1
Dominoes	...	Stanbrook, H.	... 1 v.	Marsh, G.	... 0
		Parker, E.	... 0 v.	Hamilton, F.	... 1
Crib	...	Gibson, H.	... 0 v.	Hamilton, F.	... 1
		Streams, B.	... 1 v.	Marsh, G.	... 0
Shove Halfpenny	...	Streams, B.	... 0 v.	Edwards, H.	... 1
		Heath, R.	... 1 v.	Jones, F.	... 0
Darts	...	Gibson, H.	... 0 v.	Pusey, A.	... 1
		Streams, J.	... 1 v.	Cannings, G.	... 0
Shooting	...	Cousens, S.	... 1 v.	Dainton, W.	... 0
		Streams, J.	... 0 v.	Champion, J.	... 1
				6	6
				—	—

NOVEMBER 16TH.

	<i>Building.</i>		<i>Offices.</i>	
Billiards	... Ayling, A.	... 0 v.	Paice, R.	... 1
	... Whitmore, W.	... 0 v.	Broad, R.	... 1
Dominoes	... Maynard, P.	... 1 v.	Langton, C.	... 0
	... Sewell, W.	... 0 v.	Treacher, S.	... 1
Crib	... Wells, N.	... 1 v.	Josey, F.	... 0
	... Ayling, A.	... 1 v.	Bradford, W.	... 0
Shove Halfpenny	... Dobson, C.	... 1 v.	Cox, C. B.	... 0
	... Maynard, P. G.	... 0 v.	Clay, J.	... 1
Darts	... Mills, A.	... 0 v.	Kent, T.	... 1
	... Whitmore, W.	... 0 v.	Saunders, V.	... 1
Shooting	... Sewell, W.	... 1 v.	Moore, S.	... 0
	... Mitchell, H.	... 0 v.	Osborne, H.	... 1
				—
				5
				—
				7
				—

NOVEMBER 23RD.

	<i>Rest.</i>		<i>Offices.</i>	
Billiards	... Dalton, A.	... 1 v.	Broad, R.	... 0
	... Benford, L.	... 1 v.	Paice, R.	... 0
Dominoes	... Wheedon, T.	... 0 v.	Treacher, S.	... 1
	... Pike, H.	... 1 v.	Langton, C.	... 0
Crib	... Osborne, T.	... 1 v.	Davis, H.	... 0
	... Clark, S.	... 1 v.	Bradford, W.	... 0
Shove Halfpenny	... Eaton, W.	... 0 v.	Cox, C. B.	... 1
	... Comley, A.	... 0 v.	Clay, J.	... 1
Darts	... Wheedon, T.	... 1 v.	Saunders, V.	... 0
	... Eaton, W.	... 0 v.	Kent, T.	... 1
Shooting	... Prater, H.	... ½ v.	Osborne, H.	... ½
	... Croft, J.	... 0 v.	Moore, S.	... 1
				—
				6½
				—
				5½
				—

NOVEMBER 23RD.

	<i>Coopers and Scalds.</i>		<i>Maltings I.</i>	
Billiards	... Griffiths, R.	... 1 v.	Everett, J.	... 0
	... Weller, C.	... 1 v.	Boyles, J.	... 0
Dominoes	... Plank, H.	... 1 v.	Day, T.	... 0
	... Sparks, W.	... 1 v.	Everett, A. J.	... 0
Crib	... Sparks, W.	... 0 v.	Everett, A. J.	... 1
	... Plank, H.	... 0 v.	Gilkerson, W.	... 1
Shove Halfpenny	... Holmes, T.	... 1 v.	Taylor, F.	... 0
	... Kelly, G. Junr.	... 1 v.	Plumridge, A.	... 0
Darts	... Weight, A.	... 0 v.	Boyles, G.	... 1
	... Shipton, F.	... 0 v.	Gibson, H.	... 1
Shooting	... Holmes, T.	... 1 v.	Laily, G.	... 0
	... Kelly, G. Junr.	... 1 v.	Boyles, J.	... 0
				—
				8
				—
				4
				—

NOVEMBER 30TH.

	<i>Transport.</i>		<i>Maltings I.</i>	
Billiards	... Nimmo, J.	... 1 v.	Everett, J.	... 0
	... Cook, H.	... 1 v.	Boyles, J.	... 0
Dominoes	... Hamilton, F.	... 0 v.	Day, T.	... 1
	... Hiscock, A.	... 1 v.	Everett, A. J.	... 0
Crib	... Hamilton, F.	... 0 v.	Everett, A. J.	... 1
	... Canning, G.	... 1 v.	Gilkerson, W.	... 0
Shove Halfpenny	... Blake, B.	... 1 v.	Taylor, F.	... 0
	... Adey, F.	... 1 v.	Plumridge, A.	... 0
Darts	... Cannings, G.	... 1 v.	Boyles, G....	... 0
	... Pusey, A.	... 1 v.	Gibson, A.	... 0
Shooting	... Dainton, W.	... 1 v.	Laily, G.	... 0
	... Hiscock, A.	... 0 v.	Boyles, J.	... 1
				—
				9
				—
				3
				—

NOVEMBER 30TH.

	<i>Building.</i>		<i>Maltings II.</i>	
Billiards	... Ayling, A.	... 0 v.	Cousens, S.	... 1
	... Whitmore, W.	... 0 v.	Nunn, G.	... 1
Dominoes	... Maynard, P.	... 1 v.	Stanbrook, H.	... 0
	... Dobson, C.	... 1 v.	Spackman, D.	... 0
Crib	... Wells, N.	... 0 v.	Streams, B.	... 1
	... Ayling, A.	... 1 v.	Nunn, G.	... 0
Shove Halfpenny	... Dobson, C.	... 0 v.	Streams, B.	... 1
	... Maynard, P.	... 0 v.	Heath, R.	... 1
Darts	... Sewell, W.	... 0 v.	Streams, J.	... 1
	... Mills, A.	... 1 v.	Gibson, H.	... 0
Shooting	... Sewell, W.	... 1 v.	Cousens, S.	... 0
	... Mitchell, H.	... 1 v.	Everett, J. Senr.	... 0
				—
				6
				—
				6
				—

POSITIONS IN THE LEAGUE UP TO AND INCLUDING NOVEMBER 30TH.

<i>Teams.</i>	<i>Games Played.</i>	<i>Won.</i>	<i>Lost.</i>	<i>Drawn.</i>	<i>Points.</i>
Transport	... 36	21	15	—	21
Coopers	... 24	14	10	—	14
Maltings I	... 36	13	22	1	13½
Offices	... 24	12	11	1	12½
Rest	... 24	11	11	2	12
Maltings II	... 24	12	12	—	12
Building	... 24	11	13	—	11



## READING AND DISTRICT CLUBS BILLIARDS LEAGUE.

## DIVISION I.

November 12th. H. &amp; G. SIMONDS v. HENLEY LIBERAL (home).

H. & G. S.		Henley Liberal.	
A. Dolton	...	100	v. E. Taylor ... 71
R. Griffiths	...	100	v. F. Short ... 97
R. Broad	...	52	v. W. Neate ... 100
F. Riden	...	96	v. A. Iridge ... 100
C. Weller	...	100	v. H. Hamilton ... 74
R. Paice	...	74	v. F. Dawson ... 100
		<u>522</u>	<u>542</u>

November 19th. H. & G. SIMONDS v. HENLEY LIBERAL (away).  
Postponed.

November 26th. H. &amp; G. SIMONDS v. TRADES UNION CLUB (home).

H. & G. S.		Trades Union Club.	
A. Dalton	...	59	v. B. Howard ... 100
R. Griffiths	...	95	v. R. Hardiment ... 100
R. Broad	...	58	v. E. Gingell ... 100
C. Weller	...	88	v. R. Brind ... 100
R. Paice	...	100	v. J. Cook ... 100
F. Riden	...	92	v. A. Hutchins ... 54
		<u>492</u>	<u>554</u>

December 3rd. TRADES UNION CLUB v. H. &amp; G. SIMONDS (away).

H. & G. S.		Trades Union Club.	
A. Dalton	...	62	v. B. Howard ... 100
R. Griffiths	...	100	v. E. Gingell ... 65
R. Broad	...	70	v. R. Brind ... 100
F. Riden	...	44	v. H. Palmer ... 100
C. Weller	...	59	v. R. Hardiment ... 100
R. Paice	...	81	v. T. Lovell ... 100
		<u>416</u>	<u>565</u>

Captain—S. Bird.

## DIVISION III.

November 12th. BALFOUR CLUB v. H. &amp; G. SIMONDS (away).

H. & G. S.		Balfour Club.	
S. Couzens	...	100	v. P. Robinson ... 84
J. Nimmo	...	94	v. C. Rothwell ... 100
L. Benford	...	100	v. K. Beasley ... 68
T. Holmes	...	95	v. T. Smith ... 100
W. Sparks	...	100	v. F. Freeman ... 93
T. Cholwell	...	100	v. C. Neale ...
		<u>589</u>	<u>445</u>

November 19th. H. &amp; G. SIMONDS v. BALFOUR CLUB (home).

H. & G. S.		Balfour Club.	
S. Couzens	...	83	v. P. Robinson ... 100
L. Benford	...	100	v. — Tillen ... 43
J. Nimmo	...	100	v. C. Rothwell ... 73
T. Holmes	...	100	v. K. Beasley ... 36
W. Sparks	...	69	v. F. Freeman ... 100
T. Cholwell	...	82	v. C. Neale ... 100
		<u>534</u>	<u>452</u>

Captain—L. Benford.

November 26th. BERKS MOUNTED TERRITORIALS v. H. &amp; G. SIMONDS (away).

H. & G. S.		Berks Mounted Territorials.	
S. Couzens	...	100	v. P. Dolton ... 94
J. Nimmo	...	100	v. C. Taylor ... 85
W. Curtis	...	81	v. C. Greasy ... 100
L. Benford	...	100	v. A. Henson ... 90
T. Holmes	...	85	v. J. Wheeler ... 100
W. Sparks	...	57	v. H. Dolton ... 100
		<u>523</u>	<u>569</u>

December 3rd. H. &amp; G. SIMONDS v. BERKS MOUNTED TERRITORIALS (home).

H. & G. S.		Berks Mounted Territorials.	
J. Nimmo	...	100	v. C. Taylor ... 62
S. Couzens	...	100	v. P. Dolton ... 67
W. Curtis	...	79	v. H. Dolton ... 100
T. Holmes	...	67	v. H. Creasy ... 100
W. Sparks	...	100	v. A. Henson ... 73
L. Benford	...	100	v. J. Wheeler ... 91
		<u>546</u>	<u>493</u>

Captain—L. Benford.

## A LITTLE STORY WITH A MORAL—THE DOCTOR AND A LISTENER IN.

Two maiden ladies lived together for a number of years and were very attached to each other. One of them was a partial invalid and had been attended for a long time by the local doctor. One day she said to her sister, "my dear, I think I shall ask Dr. Jones if he would object if I had some further advice." Her sister replied, "I don't think it would be of any use. You know what Doctors are. They always say 'ditto' to each other's treatment, and that what is being done is perfectly correct." But the invalid sister was not to be put off. So one day when her doctor came she said to him, "Oh, Doctor, of course I am perfectly

satisfied that you are doing your best to make me well. But do you mind if I have a specialist to see me?" He said, "Of course not. I will bring my friend, Sir — to see you." When the doctor had gone she said to her sister, "It's quite all right my dear. The doctor is going to bring his friend, Sir — to see me. Now my dear what I want you to do is, when they come go into the dining room and put the wine on the table and then hide behind the curtains and listen to what they say about me."

Two days after the doctor and the specialist arrived and the parlour maid showed them into the invalid's bedroom. The sister went into the dining room and put the decanter of wine and two glasses on the table and then hid behind the curtains.

When the doctors came down they went into the dining room and had a glass of wine each. Doctor — then said to the specialist, "Well Sir — and what do you think of my patient?" He replied, "Well she's about the ugliest woman I have ever seen."

The doctor added, "My dear Sir, you should see her sister."

#### TREES IN WINTER-TIME.

##### THE FIR-WOODS SPEAK.

Dear chestnut, ash, oak, elm, and beech,  
And all such trees that wear  
Soft raiment, winds are hastening,  
Alas! to strip you bare.

We loved to see your finery  
Make Spring and Summer gay,  
But most your rich Autumnal hues  
Now passing swift away.

Soon woods will be but drab and drear,  
Save for our evergreen.  
'Twill give us pride in varying tones  
To beauty-aid the scene.

All the black Winter we must fight  
'Gainst wind, hail, rain, and snow;  
Our spines, while you abide chill sleep,  
Shall slash and stab each foe.

Unless the tempest's master-might  
Flings us to earth, and slays,  
We'll give you gladsome welcome  
On your re-waking days.

JOHN HARTLAND.

#### DEATH OF MR. GEORGE POVEY.

We much regret to announce the death of Mr. George Povey on the 21st November. He will be well remembered by many of our readers as Mine Host of the "Cheddar Cheese," Broad Street, Reading. Originally, this house was called the "Boar's Head" and on it being altered by the Firm, one long bar taking the place of several small bars, a passage replaced by a staircase, which led to a dining room upstairs and a grill installed, Mr. Povey took over this house on the 11th November, 1912, and obtained permission of the Magistrates to alter the name to the "Cheddar Cheese." It was his wish and intention to run the bar on the lines of a saloon bar and after solid hard work, he built up a high class trade; also the grill room became a great success.

Port and sherry, kept in large casks, became a feature of this house; also the "Cheddar Special Scotch" was in great demand, this being kept in small casks in the bar.

Being well known to many commercial travellers and farmers, the house became a very popular rendezvous. During the war it was much frequented by officers and other ranks of the army. In fact, for a considerable time, the grill room was turned into an Officers' Mess. In consequence the fame of the "Cheddar Cheese" was known in many parts of the world. Of a genial and pleasant disposition Mr. Povey was well liked by everyone and a tenant whom the Directors held in high regard.

In addition, Mr. Povey did a considerable amount of catering at many big functions held at the Town Hall and elsewhere.

He was one of the early pioneers of snacks at the counter.

He left in 1922 and had since lived a retired life with his daughter and son-in-law (Mrs. and Mr. W. Dunster) at Caversham.

#### CONTENT

BY ROBERT GREENE  
1560—1634

Sweet are the thoughts that savour of content :  
The quiet mind is richer than a crown :  
Sweet are the nights in careless slumber spent :  
The poor estate scorns Fortune's angry frown.  
Such sweet content, such mind, such sleep, such bliss,  
Beggars enjoy when princes oft do miss.

The homely house that harbours quiet rest,  
The cottage that affords no pride nor care,  
The mean that 'grees with country music best,  
The sweet consort of mirth's and music's fare,—  
Obscured life sets down a type of bliss ;  
A mind content both crown and Kingdom is.

H. & G. SIMONDS RETAILERS' ASSOCIATION DART  
LEAGUE.

## LEAGUE TABLE FORTNIGHTLY SCORE SHEET.

## DIVISION A.

Clubs.	Matches Played.		Won.	Lost.	Drawn.	Total Points.
	H.	A.				
Brewery Tap, Broad Street New Inn (No. 1), Knowl Hill, Twyford ...	2	2	4	—	—	8
Jolly Brewers ...	2	2	3	—	1	7
Wynford Arms, Kings Road ...	2	2	2	1	1	5
Railway Hotel, Twyford ...	2	2	2	2	—	4
Waggon and Horse (No. 1), Twyford ...	2	2	1	2	1	3
Black Horse (No. 2) ...	2	2	1	3	—	2
Blue Lion (No. 2), Coley ...	2	2	—	—	1	1
	2	2	—	4	—	—

## DIVISION B.

Clubs.	Matches Played.		Won.	Lost.	Drawn.	Total Points.
	H.	A.				
Merry Maidens, Shinfield Road	2	2	2	—	2	6
Bedford Arms, Bedford Road	2	2	2	1	1	5
Tanners Arms, Orchard Street	2	2	2	2	—	4
The Bell, Oxford Road ...	1	1	1	—	1	3
The Shades, Gun Street ...	2	2	1	—	1	3
World-Upside-Down (No. 1), Basingstoke Road ...	2	2	—	—	2	2
Ye Walters Arms (No. 2) ...	1	1	—	1	1	1

## DIVISION C.

Clubs.	Matches Played.		Won.	Lost.	Drawn.	Total Points.
	H.	A.				
Rising Sun, Wokingham ...	2	2	3	—	1	7
Victoria Arms, Wokingham	2	2	2	1	1	5
Royal Exchange, Wokingham	2	2	1	1	2	4
New Inn (No. 2) ...	1	1	1	—	1	3
Black Horse (No. 1), London Street ...	2	2	1	2	1	3
Ye Walter Arms, Bear Wood	2	2	1	2	1	3
Fisherman's Cottage, Kennet Side ...	2	2	—	2	2	2
Waggon and Horse (No. 2), Twyford ...	1	1	—	2	—	—

## DIVISION D.

Clubs.	Matches Played.		Won.	Lost.	Drawn.	Total Points.
	H.	A.				
The Crown, Crown Street ...	2	2	3	1	—	6
Horse and Jockey, Castle St.	2	2	2	1	1	5
Blue Lion (No. 1), Coley ...	2	2	1	—	3	5
Jolly Brewers, Tilehurst Road	2	2	1	2	1	3
The Lamb, Theale ...	2	2	1	2	1	3
Cunning Man ...	1	1	1	—	1	3
World-Upside-Down (No. 2), Basingstoke Road ...	1	1	—	—	2	2
Fox and Horn, Three-mile-X	2	2	—	3	1	1



## IN BYGONE DAYS.



A photograph taken at the Brewery many years ago.

## "THE BRITISH EMPIRE."

(BY E. W. KIRBY.)

VII. *Conclusion.*

To finally sum up on the question of the British Empire, let us consider the present conditions and the future possibilities of this great united group of lands and peoples.

During the war years and those immediately succeeding the war, the admirable spirit of independent unity prevalent amongst Empire statesmen found expression in new political relationships which clearly indicated the trend of moral and economic development which was also undoubtedly largely fostered by the needs and trials imposed by war. Unflinching in their efforts to help the Mother Country by their priceless gifts of virile man-power, the Dominions had brought home to them the devastating effects of war and the vital necessity for the preservation of universal peace. Their war efforts had undoubtedly aroused feelings of national confidence and produced a high morale which could only be satisfied by allowing them to participate in that important field of foreign affairs which had hitherto been solely the concern of the Mother Country. In 1917 an appreciation of Dominion independence was indicated by the Home Government's invitation to the Dominion Prime Ministers to come to London and form an Imperial War Cabinet by which to control the whole Empire war effort. The most outstanding evidence of Dominion separateness though, was the fact of their individual participation in the signing of the Treaty of Versailles. Whilst still retaining the principle of unity they accomplished complete independence by asserting their right to be regarded as separate nations on an equal footing with any country. Furthermore this attitude was recognized officially and the Dominion representatives were empowered by the King on the advice of *Dominion* ministers instead of home ministers as previously. This step represented the sweeping away of the last barrier to complete national autonomy which has since been enjoyed by the Dominions. At the same time provisions were made for the appointment of ministers of external affairs in the various Dominions and it was arranged that they would conduct their own negotiations with foreign powers, concluding separate treaties as far as purely local matters were concerned but consulting each other upon all questions of common interest. So at last equanimity was assured and Dominion citizenship was on a par with that of Britain.

Having dealt with the last stages of political relationships within the Empire, let us turn our thoughts towards the future and the part we must all play in this unique brotherhood of nations. Nowadays we are confronted right and left with varied problems,

many of which appear to be of a critical nature. The more one dwells on matters of national and international importance the deeper one seems to sink into the mire of bewilderment and tangled thoughts. Everywhere we encounter conflict. In religious, social, economic and political fields alone we are deafened by the impassioned denunciation of one sect by the other. Now it is by no means surprising that the average individual should frequently find himself at a loss when casting about for a suitable policy upon which to mould his outlook towards life, and the object of these concluding notes is to endeavour to suggest a general principle of outlook and behaviour based upon the facts of our surroundings. Dealing as we have been with the subject of our own peoples, our thoughts may well have wandered in the direction of that kindred subject, Patriotism, which does not appear any too popular a principle amongst certain factions of to-day. What any thoughtful individual will undoubtedly appreciate however, is that Patriotism is not a mere crude glorification of one's own country to the dis-repute of others. Properly understood this subject stands for team-work and the will to serve mankind in general with a view to the ultimate benefit of the whole community. It has been constantly asserted and is undoubtedly true that we have everything to gain and nothing to lose in the blessed event of a world at peace. It is distinctly to our advantage that our neighbours should prosper and advance; as much in fact that we ourselves should progress, and the ideal of our working as a team and giving where possible a helping hand to others is not so extravagant a gesture as some would hold.

Perhaps the greatest of all the questions which have attracted attention since the conclusion of the Great War is that of world peace; for this is a subject which was so vividly and tragically brought home to all classes in practically every country. The appalling nature of war's tragedy was revealed not only in the loss of life and untold suffering but also in the fact that the economic chaos which resulted brought nothing but loss and in some cases absolute ruin to both victor and vanquished. War has appeared utterly futile and destructive and its ruthlessness has at last swamped its glory. It needs but little cogitation to appreciate that any advanced order of society develops its finer attributes in an atmosphere devoid of strife, but this brings us up against our material natures which fit us for this grossly material world and although when properly understood the sufferings of the human and sub-human races fall into a specific category of development, it is nevertheless extremely difficult to reconcile human failure with progression. Yet the fundamental idea underlying our existence here is that of evolution; everywhere around us from the very soil to the human mind it is possible to trace a sure but very slow development, but we must remember that as yet our limitations are

such as to appear insuperable obstacles on the path to perfection. This brings us again to the subject of peace. Whilst there are undoubtedly many people nowadays who recognise the tremendous importance of tranquil living, probably only an entirely negligible proportion are in any way suited to put such an ideal into practice. Firstly, let us realize as individuals how supremely difficult it is to maintain an atmosphere of amicability between ourselves. With the utmost good-will it is wholly impossible to remain on good terms with all around us for the simple reason that we do not all think alike. In addition, the balance is utterly upset by the fact that we are not all of the same degree of development. Advancing as we are along strictly individual lines of progression, the immense diversity of human character wholly forbids co-ordination to any pronounced extent and the policy of generalisation, though it answers up to a point, is hopelessly inapplicable when individual analysis is applied. The inevitable result of this tremendous, boundless diversity is the constant birth and growth of conflicting opinions, loyalties, likes, dislikes and so on. In view of this lack of uniformity it is only to be expected that clashes should occur between individuals, sects and eventually whole nations. The whole point about the peace question is one that likens it to modern road transport. A good driver with all his capabilities is very much at the mercy of the careless one and he must constantly keep an eye open for the vagaries of other road users. So with nations, for whereas we who enjoy the blessings of more advanced civilisations may succeed in remaining calm amid world turmoil, the risk of less advanced nations yielding to the animal promptings of destruction and physical force in order to settle disputes is one that cannot be disregarded. Our Empire possessions are so extensive and peopled by so many different races that the necessity for maintaining adequate armaments becomes obvious. A peaceful world is under present circumstances a desirable Utopia, and what our over-enthusiastic idealists must realise is that human character will have to undergo tremendous improvement before thoroughly satisfactory social and economic relations make a contented world possible. The human element remains supreme and the mere recognition of man's lack of uniformity should go a long way towards revealing the dangerous effects which might easily result from a neglect on our part to provide sufficient defence against the many potential risks varied countries of the Empire must run. Further, it is difficult to imagine any likelihood of such an attitude as militarism creeping into the British mind. The whole of our possessions are policed by ridiculously small forces and it will be noticed that cases where force is used are restricted to those instances of tribal raids and fanatical religious outbursts which sometimes occur amongst our less advanced subjects. Our present military forces are inadequate for use in other than these policing duties and any

attempts to curtail our already skeleton services betrays either a blind trust in human nature which human deeds do not bear out or else a purely criminal desire to reduce our greatness that other unscrupulous powers may benefit. The British race has an unequalled record for efficient and just administration, and when we consider the moral advance of our people which has resulted in general appreciation of that magnificent ideal to advance the welfare of those countless subjects who have come under our care as a direct result of British expansion, then the frequently bitter attacks of our anti-Empire enthusiasts reveal a misguided intolerance capable only of defeating this very ideal.

The most notable instance of our responsibility in this connection is that of our Indian Empire. Statistical facts show that roughly one out of every four persons in this world is a British subject and that three out of every four such subjects resides in India. We have attempted to deal with the Indian question elsewhere, but it is apparent that the subject is one of paramount importance which cannot be too frequently discussed. With a literate percentage of barely ten the vast bulk of the Indian peoples present a problem of responsibility which we cannot possibly disregard. In this connection we are faced with an inertia and numerous pitifully fanatical religious beliefs on the part of these people which arouses the profoundest sense of helplessness on the part of those responsible for their welfare. Nevertheless, when the gigantic task of educating and emancipating the inhabitants of India has assumed manageable dimensions it is clear that the country will form not only perhaps the greatest Empire unit but a power of first-rate importance in the world when viewed from political and economic standpoints. There are those, too, who having become acquainted with the mysticism of the East may hold that India has also a tremendous contribution to make to the Western world in the field of religion. The truths of India are not revealed by fanatical adherents of various sects for misinterpretation of religion has probably never reached such lengths as in that country; what we can discover for ourselves of the nature of her secrets gives us indication of a depth of knowledge alien but necessary to the average Westerner if he is to attain spiritual as well as material advancement.

To-day the Empire spirit of unity and co-operation is playing its part in endeavouring to formulate plans for assisting the Indian peoples to stand on their own feet and conduct their own administration; but it is the great lack of educational facilities, coupled with the somnolence of generations, which arouse the greatest difficulty in them granting full dominion status. Without digressing into a discussion on the White Paper Policy it yet remains obvious that our duty lies in promoting the welfare of India. It is

this particular Empire problem which holds the key to our future progress, so let us all extend our good wishes to our fellow citizens overseas and bear foremost in our minds the welfare of our Empire for the ultimate benefit of all mankind.

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### WORDS OF WISDOM.

Friendship is a plant of slow growth, but when it blooms it seldom fades.

Of all life's felicities, the most charming is a firm and gentle friendship.

It takes far more time to explain away a bad job than it does to do a good one.

We cannot all be heroes and thrill a hemisphere  
With some great daring action, some deed that mocks at fear.  
But we can fill a lifetime with kindly deeds and true.  
There is always noble service for noble souls to do.

"As you climb the ladder of success don't tread on the slower ones you overtake on the way up. You may meet the same people as you are coming down."

All empire is no more than power in trust.

I would rather suffer defeat than have cause to be ashamed of victory.

Of all beasts the man-beast is the worst;  
To others and himself the cruellest foe.

An' you've gut to git up airly  
Ef you want to take in God.

Life is not so short but that there is always room for courtesy.

If it is abuse, why one is sure to hear of it from one damned good-natured friend or another.

### THE LIGHTER SIDE.

The new servant answered the telephone, muttered something and slammed down the receiver angrily.

"Who was that?" asked her boss. "I was expecting a friend's call."

"That wasn't it, sir," said the girl. "Just a man saying, 'It's a long distance from London.' I told him we knew."

\* \* \* \*

The foreigner was trying hard to learn English. He struggled bravely when he came to "bough," "cough," "though."

But while passing a cinema one day he noticed on the board, "'Cavalcade,' pronounced success."

"Zis ees too much!" he groaned. "I geeve it up!"

\* \* \* \*

Murphy and his bosom friend O'Grady had gone on a super "burst," with the result that next day Murphy heard that O'Grady was in bed under the doctor's care. Murphy went round to see him and was shown up to the sufferer's room by the anxious Mrs. O'G. A few minutes later he came down, shaking his head gravely.

"And how did ye think Mike was looking, at all?" asked his hostess.

"Och, poor fellow, he'll never pull round."

"Saints! Phwat's this ye're saying?"

"The poor chap's sight has gone. Whilst I was with him, the doctor was after asking him could he see any snakes and alligators now. O'Grady—rest his soul!—says, 'No doctor,' and all the time, sure the room was full of them!"

\* \* \* \*

Jock was a very shy lover. One night he arrived at their trysting-place with a flower in his buttonhole, but alas, his wooing of Jean was still as cold as ever.

Presently the girl decided to take matters in her own hands. "My, but that's an awfu' braw flooer ye ha'e the nicht, Jock," she said. "I'll gi'e ye a kiss for it."

The exchange was duly made, and afterwards Jock got up and began to walk away.

"What's wrang the nicht that ye're in such a hurry?" asked the girl wonderingly.

"Nothing," said Jock, beaming all over his face. "I'm just awa' for more flooers."

SMALL BOY (in chemist's shop) : " I want some powder for my sister, please."

CHEMIST : " What sort of powder do you want—the kind that goes off with a bang? "

SMALL BOY : " No, sir, the kind that goes on with a puff."

\* \* \* \*

" Rachael," said her husband, " I think I've lost a pocket-book with fifty pounds in it. I've looked for it in all my coat pockets and in all my waistcoat pockets, in my trousers pockets and in one of my hip pockets—but I can't find it."

" Why don't you look in the other hip pocket? " asked Rachel in surprise.

" Because that's the last pocket I've got, and if I should look in that pocket and still it ain't there, then I drop dead."

\* \* \* \*

" What about coming up to my house to-night for a game of cards? "

" Right, it suits me, Tam."

" Well, when you come along, you can rap on the door with your elbows."

" Rap with my elbows? What's wrong with using my fist? "

" You're not thinking of coming empty-handed, are you? "

\* \* \* \*

Mike saw his friend Pat riding along the road on his new push-bicycle. " My, but that's a lovely bike ye have there, Pat," he said. " But why are ye ridin' it all lop-sided? "

Pat gravely shook his head. "'Tis the pedals," he replied. " I can't reach them properly."

" Sure, but that's easily put right," suggested Mike. " Let some air out of the tyres and all."

\* \* \* \*

A young man courteously offered his seat in the tram to a woman passenger. As the car started jerkily he lunged forward, clutching wildly for a strap. His hand closed firmly on the nearest one, which happened to be already held by a young lady.

Looking up, the charming young person said : " Evidently we must hang together."

And the young man, looking down at the owner of the little hand, replied : " Capital punishment! "

A Scotsman wishing to know his fate at once, telegraphed a proposal of marriage to the lady of his choice. After spending the entire day at the telegraph office, he was finally rewarded late in the evening by an affirmative answer.

" If I were you," suggested the operator, when he delivered the message, " I'd think twice before marrying a girl that kept me waiting all day for an answer."

" Na, na," retorted the Scot. " The lass who waits for the night rates is the lass for me."

\* \* \* \*

" I'm sorry," said the diner who hoped to get away with it, " but I haven't any money to pay for that meal."

" That's all right," said the cashier. " We'll write your name on the wall and you can pay the next time you come in."

" Don't do that. Everybody who comes in will see it."

" Oh, no, they won't. Your overcoat will be hanging over it."

\* \* \* \*

A Cockney music-hall performer was describing to a group of fellow professionals what had happened the night before to a brother actor whom he spoke of affectionately as "'Arry."

" Poor old 'Arry, 'e 'ad an awful time. They wouldn't even let 'im finish. Before 'e was 'arf through the first verse of 'is opening song they began giving 'im the bird proper. And when 'e finished, they 'issed him right off the stage. They 'issed and 'issed and kept on 'issing even after 'e was out of sight. Right after 'im I 'ad to go on."

" How did your act go? " inquired one of the listeners.

" Oh, I got over fine," said the Cockney. " But right in the middle of my act they started 'issing 'Arry again."

\* \* \* \*

A young man who had got his degree had been looking around successively for a position, for employment, and for a job. Entering an office, he asked to see the manager, and while waiting he said to the office-boy :

" Do you suppose there is any opening here for a university graduate? "

" Well, dere will be," was the reply, " if de boss don't raise me salary to t'ree bob a week by termorrer night."

The American pugilist and his manager had just returned from a successful visit to Europe, and the usual crowd of reporters met them at New York Harbour.

"Well, boys," said the manager, "Spike had a wonderful time in Europe. He was interjuiced to all the big nobs, like Lord Harry Preston, Sir Derby, the Oil of Westmorland, and the Dook of Lonsdale; met 'em all, didn't you, Spike?"

"Yeah," replied the pug, "an licked 'em all, too."

\* \* \* \*

The angry dock worker went up to his boss looking very ruffled and hot.

"Say, guv'nor," he bellowed, "they're loadin' cattle on that boat, an' I'm clearing off."

"Why," said the other, "what's the matter?"

"Well," went on the first, "I've been chased by a bull all along the quay; an' I'm a blinking stevedore, I am—not a blistering toreador."

\* \* \* \*

The customer carefully studied the restaurant menu. Then he called the waiter.

"Bring me a Welsh rabbit, a lobster and salad, roast pork and fried potatoes, a pint of Guinness, and some Camembert cheese—and an ice."

The waiter gasped, and hurried away. The next minute he returned with the manager.

"Would you sign this, sir?" asked the latter, presenting a list of the things ordered.

"Why?" asked the diner.

"So that we can show it to the coroner, and he won't blame the restaurant," explained the manager.

\* \* \* \*

"My dear," said the champion borrower, "when I returned Mr. Brown's mower with the blade broken, he swore at me!"

His wife sniffed. "We don't want that sort of thing to happen again, dear," she replied. "You'd better borrow from the Vicar next time."

During a dense fog the officer on the bridge was getting angrier and angrier. As he leaned over the side of the bridge trying to pierce the gloom he saw a dim figure leaning on a rail a few yards from his ship.

He gasped with rage. "What the blazes do you think you're doing with your ship?" he roared. "Don't you know the rules of the sea?"

"This ain't no blinkin' ship, guv'nor," said a voice, "this 'ere's a lighthouse."

\* \* \* \*

"Isn't it wonderful, too," she said, upon seeing H.M.S. *Nelson* in dock, "how they get those big ships up those steps."

\* \* \* \*

Out of Office a man is known by the Company he keeps, but at the Office he is known by the Company that keeps him.

\* \* \* \*

POLICEMAN (to Reveller): "How would you like to see our Jail?"

"Full of my wife's relatives."

\* \* \* \*

#### AN HISTORICAL HOWLER.

The task was an essay on the Normans, and a boy whose spelling was a bit weak, wrote:—"King William had a New Forest maid, and he killed everyone who chased his dear."

—"I.A.O.C. GAZETTE."

and some more schoolboy howlers:—

- (i) Belli Fortuna—Pot luck.
  - (ii) Rorke's Drift is one of the fences in the Grand National.
  - (iii) The Ballot Act was an Act passed so that people did not know whom they were voting for.
  - (iv) Description of the death of Ahab:—"A certain man drew a bow at a venture. He missed the venture and struck Ahab."
  - (v) Canterbury Bells are imported from New Zealand.
  - (vi) The tropical colonies of the Empire are very useful because we get worries from them which cannot be got elsewhere.
- From the "I.A.O.C. GAZETTE."

Two stories from Chester District :—

An American soldier, training in England at the time of the war, stopped a khaki-clad figure one dark night, and said to him, "Hae, Buddie, gimme a light." When the match was struck, the American discovered to his consternation that he had stopped a British general.

"I'm sorry, Sir," he said, "I didn't notice you were a general."

"That's all right, my boy," was the reply, "but you can thank your lucky stars I'm not a second-lieutenant."

—IMPERIAL CLUB MAGAZINE.

\* \* \* \*

"Which platform for the Liverpool train?" a lady at Euston asked a porter in a somewhat supercilious manner.

"Turn left and you'll be right," was the facetious reply.

But the lady was in no mood for pleasantries. "Don't be impertinent," she said.

"Oh, very well then," retorted the porter, "turn right and you'll be left."

—IMPERIAL CLUB MAGAZINE.

\* \* \* \*

The train was racing along at sixty miles an hour, and Robinson was dozing in a corner of his compartment when he was disturbed by a fellow-passenger rushing along the corridor.

"Excuse me," gasped this individual, "but is your wife a rather stout woman, wearing a brown costume and a red hat?"

"Yes," replied Robinson. "What's all the excitement about?"

"Excitement!" exclaimed the other. "The excitement is that she's just fallen out of the train."

"Good heavens!" shrieked Robinson. "Don't stand there doing nothing. Pull the communication cord. She's got the tickets."

—From "THE LONDON SCOTTISH REGIMENTAL GAZETTE."

\* \* \* \*

### CHILDREN'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREAT.

This annual event, under the auspices of H. & G. Simonds' Social Club, will be held on Saturday, 5th January, 1935.

The invitation is extended to all members' children of school age. The necessary forms can be obtained from the Steward of the Club

The names of all those wishing to attend must be handed in not later than Saturday, 29th December.

### A GREAT THOUGHT.

*The unveiling of a war memorial by the French Minister of Pensions a while ago recalls one of those grand deeds performed in the Great War.*

*The memorial itself says little about it, however.*

*Shortly after the War started, a French soldier, mortally wounded, was brought into the dressing-station behind the firing-line. He knew, poor fellow, that the end was near, and he pleaded to receive the Last Sacrament, according to his religious creed.*

*No priest could be found in the station, the only clergyman being the Jewish Army Rabbi, Abraham Bloch.*

*Realising that every moment was precious, Bloch, though transgressing every tenet of his religion, quietly went over to one of the walls of the hospital shed, and unhooked a crucifix hanging there.*

*Then he took it to the dying soldier, and gave him his blessing.*

*At that moment, a shell burst over the hospital, and both rabbi and soldier were killed instantly.*

*Truly Abraham Bloch possessed the spirit of a really great man!*



## BRANCHES.

## PORTSMOUTH.

A luncheon was recently held in the Lord Mayor's Banqueting Room at the Portsmouth Guildhall which was unique in respect that all the guests were over 60 years of age and had each more than 40 years' residence in Portsmouth. The Lord Mayor (Alderman Sir Harold Pink, J.P.) presided. On his right sat Mr. J. T. Read, who is over 80 years of age and was the initiator of the gathering, and on his left was Colonel Sir Arthur Holbrook, K.B.E., J.P., aged 84, the oldest person in the gathering, which numbered 68. The seventeen oldest members of the party sat at the top table and their total ages exceeded 1,400 years. The Lord Mayor announced after the loyal toast had been drunk that they were present to commemorate their ages and to tell tales about the past, forgetting the present and the future. The first speaker was Sir Arthur Holbrook, who the Lord Mayor described as a positive wonder. Sir Arthur said he was 84 last April and he would like to give some of them a recipe :—

"If you want to keep young," he said to the grey-haired assembly, "be active; always have something to do. Men get old when they retire, settle down and make up their mind they will do nothing. It is then they get their pains and ills and die."

The party drank the health of the Lord Mayor and Mr. Read (the organiser) on the call of Sir Arthur Holbrook, and the gathering concluded with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

At the fifth annual banquet and ball of the Portsmouth, Gosport & District Licensed Victuallers' Protection and Benevolent Society, Mr. John A. Dewar, of Messrs. John Dewar & Sons, Ltd., will be the President. The function is to be held at the Savoy Cafe, Southsea, on November 29th. The Society is in its ninety-eighth year and is rapidly approaching its centenary. During the meeting at which the arrangements for the banquet were being made, Mr. Harry Robinson, of Southampton, a councillor of the Licensed Victuallers' Defence League of England and Wales, made a speech and appealed for 100 per cent. membership in Portsmouth so as to equal the record of Gosport. He pointed out that the Extra Hours Bill recently passed would never have been thought of had it not been for the licensed victuallers' organisations up and down the country.

## THORNEY ISLAND AS AIR BASE.

It now appears very probable that Thorney Island will become in the near future an air base of considerable importance. It is stated that the Air Ministry has entered into negotiations for the purchase of the necessary land and if they are successfully completed an extensive depot will be established there for aircraft of the land type. This projected development of the R.A.F. ground establishment it is understood will be promised for coastal defence purposes. *The Weekly Hampshire Telegraph and Post* described Thorney Island recently in an article as follows :—

"Thorney Island has attractive features for a flying depot. It is low-lying and flat and forms a sheltered tongue piece on the eastern side of Chichester Harbour. Though the name is retained 'Thorney' is really no longer an island, as it is connected with the main Brighton-Portsmouth road by a tar macadam roadway leading right to the church. This church has been the loneliest in Sussex but its air of isolation will probably be ended before many months have passed. It has been known for some time that the Air Ministry were contemplating making an R.A.F. base on a very large scale at Thorney on account of the islands in close proximity to Portsmouth and the English Channel and also for its sheltered position. The greater part of the land which has been looked upon favourably by the Air Ministry is that of Mr. C. A. Lundy, the well-known racehorse owner and trainer. There is a possibility of other land at Southbourne (which is near the war-time aerodrome) being considered by the Air Ministry.

We all at Portsmouth very heartily congratulate Mr. L. A. Simonds and Miss R. A. Lang on their engagement.

As another festive season will be over before the next issue of the HOP LEAF appears, we should like to take this opportunity of wishing all its readers health and prosperity during the coming year.

## LUDGERSHALL.

We must apologise, Mr. Editor, for not having sent you monthly contributions to the GAZETTE the same as other Branches. Unfortunately, in our case we are tucked away in the wilds of Salisbury Plain and there is, particularly at this time of the year, very little news to report outside the various military social functions.

We regret losing the 11th (Prince Albert's Own) Hussars, who recently left Tidworth for Egypt. They will be relieved by the 12th Royal Lancers.

The 16/5th Lancers have left Tidworth for York, and have been relieved by the 3rd King's Own Hussars.

The 12th Lancers are not due in from Egypt until early in December, but the 3rd King's Own Hussars have already arrived from York.

The 12th Lancers are, of course, old friends of ours and have previously been stationed at Tidworth.

The 3rd King's Own Hussars have not previously been posted to Salisbury Plain, and we trust they will find their new station comfortable. We extend to them a very hearty welcome.

During the past summer we have had a considerable amount of canvas work, and during September our work in connection with the 1st and 3rd Divisional Exercises took us far away into North Wiltshire.

We have received nothing but praise from our various customers in regard to the quality of our goods, and also appreciation for the services rendered during the various camps.

In conclusion, Mr. Editor, the staff at Ludgershall ask you to convey to the Directors hearty Christmas greetings and further success to the Firm during the coming year.

The Ludgershall staff would also like you to convey their congratulations to Mr. Louis A. Simonds and Miss Rosemary Lang on hearing of their engagement, and they have our very best wishes for the future.

#### LONDON.

The staff at London Stores offer hearty congratulations to Mr. L. A. Simonds and Miss R. A. Lang on their engagement.

We are pleased to learn that Mr. C. W. Stocker is making progress towards recovery after his illness. It is hoped to learn by the December issue that he has quite recovered.

The November frontispiece, giving photograph of Mr. G. E. Roynon, gave great pleasure to members of the staff who know him. Messrs. A. Luscombe, E. Golds, A. Andrews and H. Ward send their best wishes to him.

#### MARRIAGE OF MR. S. COOK AND MISS E. M. PRINCE.

Yet another of our clerical staff has taken the plunge into matrimony, and Friday, October 19th, was the occasion of a little function when Miss E. M. Prince was asked to accept from the staff, as a token of best wishes and goodwill, a selection of cutlery. Mr. H. Ward, in making the presentation, said it was the hope of all the staff that Miss Prince, who had been with us some nine years, would, with her future husband, be blessed with the three essentials to happiness: health, wealth and prosperity.

The wedding took place on Sunday, 21st October, at Christ Church, Battersea. The bride, in white velvet and carrying madonna lilies, with three bridesmaids in mauve, made a charming picture. A reception was held at Chatham Hall, Battersea, where some 70 guests were entertained to complete a very happy affair.

#### GOLDEN WEDDING.

We publish with pleasure a photograph of Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Miller, who, on 7th December, celebrate their golden wedding, and offer them our heartiest congratulations.



Mr. and Mrs. Miller were married at St. John's Church, Clapham Road, S.W.4, on 7th December, 1884, and they look back with the calm philosophy born of the experience gained during perhaps the most eventful years in history and embracing three reigns.

Readers will remember the publication of Mr. Miller's record of service with the Firm, which now reaches the total of 46 years, and his reminiscences are varied and entertaining.

Apart from his very obvious duty as "Chief Assistant" to Mrs. Miller, Mr. Miller still finds great pleasure in a game of bowls or billiards.

Mrs. Miller has not been enjoying the best of health recently, but we hope she will soon regain her strength and that they will be spared many days so that we will be able to congratulate them on their diamond wedding celebration.

They have the blessing of a son and three daughters who complete a perfect picture of a long and happy married life.

ROCHESTER WAY (ELTHAM) SOCIAL CLUB.

The commemoration of the Armistice was marked at the Rochester Way Club by a Supper and Social Evening on Saturday, November 10th, with Mr. W. Mortimer in the Chair.

As last year, the function was a very popular success, approximately 80 members, mostly ex-Service men, and their wives sat down to an informal supper, after which they were entertained by an impromptu variety show organised by Mr. F. Ford, the Entertainment Secretary.

The evening ended on a very pleasant note with "Auld Lang Syne"; and thanks were accorded by all to the Secretary, Mr. G. Leer, Messrs. W. Mortimer and J. Chambers, and all members of the Games and Entertainment Sections for their hard work and organisation.

The Staff at London Stores extend the Season's Greetings to the Directors and to the Staffs of the Brewery, Branches and Allied Companies.

The following is an excellent tribute to the driver and mate on one of our lorries and which is considered worthy of space in our journal.

British Red Cross Society,  
Blood Transfusion Service,  
5, Colyton Road,  
East Dulwich, S.E.22.

Messrs. H. & G. Simonds Ltd.,  
516 Wandsworth Road,  
S.W.8.

23rd November, 1934.

Dear Sirs,

I should like to express the appreciation of this Society for the action of one of your drivers who on the night of the 19th November

when all traffic was stopped owing to fog, very kindly gave a lift to one of our blood donors who had been summoned to give a blood transfusion required at Guy's Hospital. But for the transport so courteously offered by your employee it is probable that he would have arrived too late to be of service.

We have already received the report from the hospital to the effect that the patient, a man of 43, now shows considerable improvement as a result of the transfusion, and I do not think it is exaggerating to say the kindly action of your driver was instrumental, no less than that of the donor, in saving the patient's life.

Yours very faithfully,

(Sgd.) P. L. OLIVER,  
*Hon. Secretary.*

To this letter we can add that the men concerned, Driver W. Dyson and Mate H. Douglas, politely refused a gratuity which was offered and also declined to give their names and addresses.

It is realized that the driver offended against the law in carrying a passenger, but knowing the "humanity" which frequently over-rides the law in many London Courts, we are confident that the "crime" will escape punishment.

THE TAMAR BREWERY, DEVONPORT.

May we be allowed to voice our admiration, with other GAZETTE readers, for that charming centrepiece which, by a happy thought, our Editor delighted us with in the November issue.

Mr. L. A. Simonds is by now quite a familiar figure to most of our West Country friends and neighbours, and many were the congratulatory messages received at the Tamar following the *Times'* announcement. We yield to none in the sincerity of our good wishes for the future happiness and wellbeing of our Managing Director's son and his bride-to-be.

"May love be ever clear, and life ever kind"!

Well done, Reading! Again you are knocking at the "early doors" of Division II, with the rising hope that the long queue behind may not be too hefty a crowd when the final rush takes

place. We hope by the New Year to see you firmly entrenched at the head of the attack and well on the way to a 1935 reunion with us. Our Head Brewer is even now thinking out a "Reading Special" edition for our Elm Park friends, so please don't disappoint him!

With Brighton also going "great guns" at the moment, and having an excellent chance of staking a claim among the early birds for a front seat for promotion, we look like having a real "Hop Leaf" struggle for the championship flag. What a pity there are not more seats available! Our boys, after at last deciding on their best eleven, are rapidly making up lost ground and coming along nicely. When Budget day comes round they should not be too far down the ladder. Our only excuse for such a poor showing to date is Anno Domini! An inexorable master always; and many Clubs each season find this the unknown quantity which no manager can quite provide against. That's why many famous Clubs are so near relegation in these days.

We hope to welcome many old friends again in 1935 at Home Park.

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PLYMOUTH AND DISTRICT "HOP LEAF" RING LEAGUE.

A great deal of local interest has been aroused by the formation of the above Winter Games League, and the weekly series of matches form a warm and even burning subject of conversation, and partisanship, in not a few of the Firm's licensed houses in and about the city.

Confined to H. & G.'s entrants only, the following teams are now going "all out" to win those trophies which the Board of Directors are so generously awarding to the victors and runners-up.

A "knock-out" Cup is also being arranged on the F.A. Cup system, and we visualise keen competition for the privilege of shewing these honours on the "sideboard."

*Plymouth.*—The "Mayflower" Hotel, the "Sydenham Arms" Inn.

*Devonport.*—The "Barley Sheaf" Hotel, the "Camel's Head" Hotel, the "Swan Hotel," Simonds' Social Club.

*Stonehouse.*—The "Longroom" Inn, the "Vine Hotel."

*Crownhill.*—The "Tamar Hotel."

*Plympton.*—The "Old Ring of Bells" Inn.

Anything which adds to the comfort and pleasure of our many patrons is of interest to those who direct the course of our great Firm at Reading, and with their strong support it is surely not too optimistic to record that the League has been well launched in our midst.

When match night arrives (Monday), it is necessary to be on the spot early to get a view of the games. "House full" is a common occurrence nowadays, whilst the scouts arriving during the evening report half-time and "stop press" scores of other "needle" matches. If final victory rests on the result of one of the closing fixtures not a quarter of the folk who will want to see it will be able to do so whichever house has the honour.

With the "Vine," "Mayflower," "Swan" and "Sydenham" all equal favourites at the moment, and running neck and neck, the eventual winners will have earned their rewards. All we ask is that good sportsmanship and good-tempered rivalry shall be its first golden rule. Narrow partisanship and self-interests should have no place in its counsels. Our hope is that in due course every "Hop Leaf" house in the city will be competing for its honours, and therefore it is more than essential that its foundations should be right well and truly laid.

We wish it a long and healthy life of steady and sure progress.

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With the financial year and its aftermath concluded, and our new year well on the way to ending its first quarter, we look forward to another solid step being carved in that precipitous pathway to abiding trade prosperity.

It is particularly pleasing to this part and branch of the "Hop Leaf" tree to find an optimistic outlook around, where but a few months ago no cheering ray could be seen, and in a much more congenial atmosphere to once again have the privilege of paying our respects to the Directors, who have so successfully piloted the Firm's destinies through another year, and wishing them and all our confreres at home and abroad a happier Christmastide, with good health to enjoy its many blessings, and a more successful year ahead, with strength to overcome whatever problems it may hold for us all.

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## BRIGHTON.

Although perhaps the ordinary holiday visitor to Brighton does not explore the historical aspects of the town, many people scattered up and down the country are acquainted with the Brighton Dome, used during the past half century as a concert hall, but originally built for the royal stables in the days of King George IV, when that monarch, as Prince Regent, inhabited the Royal Pavilion, of which estate the Dome forms a part, and was erected between the years 1817-1819.

Modern requirements for a larger concert hall in the town necessitate the reconstruction of the inside of this old building, and builders are now at work pulling down parts that were originally the stablemen's living quarters, to make more spacious the large hall.

This alteration requires the removal of a chandelier weighing over a ton, for which the Corporation would like a bid.

The Dome has been for the past seventy years the scene of the most important gatherings of Brighton citizens and visitors, and it may be interesting to recall memories of many famous people who have sung, played, and spoken from its platform.

Musical memories begin with Patti, who always gave us as a last encore "Home, Sweet Home." Albani, with her brilliant diamonds and feathers, who almost ran to the front of the stage acknowledging applause, sometimes dragging one of her fellow artistes with her. Once Santley in his old age tottered to and fro with the vivacious prima donna.

Patti, Albani and Melba gave concerts nearly every season, and the society leaders of that day paid their guineas to sit on narrow cane-seated chairs, whilst the approaches to the Dome were choked with carriages and pairs.

Tetrazzini sang there, as also very frequently Clara Butt and Kennerley Rumford, afterwards to appear as man and wife.

Instrumentalists included Paderewski with his great mane of golden hair, Pachmann with his grotesque grimaces and gestures, Kubelik pale and emotionless, Kreisler warm-hearted and sympathetic, Sarasate, Mark Hambourg, Solomon, Marie Hall, and many more great musicians too numerous to mention.

Lecturers on all subjects have appeared at the Dome, one, always popular, Sir Robert Ball, showing us with the aid of balls of cotton wool how planets were born, and how they revolve round the sun.

Great statesmen have addressed large audiences there. One remembers Mr. Lloyd George, young, slim, black-haired and moustached, fulminating against Tory iniquities in the early days of Tariff Reform.

Mr. Reginald McKenna had the most exciting time of all. He spoke at a Liberal demonstration in the early days of the votes for women agitation, and the Suffragettes elected to make a demonstration. Woman after woman rose to interject questions like minute guns, and were ejected by the stewards.

Ecclesiastical meetings included the Church Congress, with the then Bishop of Chichester (Dr. Wilberforce) in the chair.

Mr. G. K. Chesterton was prominent at one religious gathering.

Conferences and bazaars innumerable have brought royal and distinguished openers. Flower shows have filled the building with bloom and fragrance. And in more recent years Harry Preston's boxing tournaments have drawn crowds.

Will the new Dome house such a distinguished and interesting company as in the past? We wonder.

We are pleased to see Reading football team in so favourable a position in the league. May they have the best of luck in the F.A. Cup matches, besides giving of their best for league promotion.

Brighton and Hove Albion now know their opponents in the Cup round, and we hope for a good game against Folkestone.

Brighton Branch send a message of good cheer for Christmas to the Directors and all fellow workers and friends at the Brewery, Branches and elsewhere.

## OXFORD.

May we, the staff and employees at Oxford Branch and at Headington Sub-Branch, proffer our very best wishes to Mr. L. A. Simonds and to Miss R. A. Lang on the announcement of their betrothal. We hope that they will be spared to enjoy many years of happiness.

Further, we respectfully extend our very hearty Christmas greetings to the Directors of the Firm, wishing them a very prosperous new year.

We also send, through the medium of our HOP LEAF GAZETTE, sincere greetings and good wishes to all connected with Messrs. H. & G. Simonds Ltd. and the Allied Companies, both at Headquarters and at all the Branches.

May this Christmas season be thoroughly enjoyed by all, and the coming year be a record one, not only in regard to trade, but also for the worldwide extension of peace and goodwill.

The paragraph quoted below was taken from the *Oxford Mail* of the 26th November :—

EIGHT TO FIVE FOR BEER.

CHRISTMAS GLASS AT THE BANBURY INSTITUTION.

After the usual clash of opinions, the Banbury Area Guardians' Committee decided to-day by eight votes to five that Christmas beer should be supplied to the inmates of the Warwick Road Institution, Banbury, at the discretion of the Master, and several members gave donations.

Mr. F. W. B. Gubbins, supporting the view that beer should be supplied, said it was probably the only opportunity most of the inmates had of having a glass of beer, and he did not suppose many of them were teetotallers.

Seconding the proposition, Mr. W. Page said he remembered the days when men were brought up on beer, and he would be sorry if any inmates were debarred from a glass at Christmas.

Mr. J. W. Bonham, who opposed, said Mr. Gubbins had paid the temperance cause a great compliment.

Mrs. A. Ward said that at a season when there was so much talk of goodwill, she did not see how anyone could set themselves up to say that the inmates should not have beer. There was no question of compulsion.

#### SALISBURY.

Salisbury Staff wish the Directors, the Heads of the respective Departments and all Employees of the Firm a Very Happy Xmas.

*[We hope the New Year will bring in its train a few of the excellent cartoons which previously were subscribed by Mr. W. Giddy.]*

#### WOKING.

WOKING WORKING MEN'S CLUB.

ARMISTICE CONCERT IN AID OF ST. DUNSTAN'S.

There was a large assembly at the Woking Working Men's Club on Friday evening, 16th November, the occasion being the annual Armistice Smoking Concert in aid of St. Dunstan's. Mr. A. Bennett

presided and was supported by Mr. A. Bailey (Chairman of Committee) and Mr. W. A. Moore (Librarian).

The Chairman said the appeal of Armistice Day was as strong as ever, and indeed it seemed this year the celebrations were more solemn than usual and kindled a wider and more anxious thought concerning the future.

Pride was discordant with the spirit of Armistice Day, but we might well feel proud of our country on such occasions. Our achievements since the war, although disappointing in some respects, were an eloquent testimony to the real spirit of Armistice Day. Of all the monuments which this country had erected, there was none finer than the Institution and work of St. Dunstan's Hostel for our blinded heroes. They were all glad to observe that H.M. the King was sufficiently fit to brave the elements on Armistice Day and was able to pay his tribute to the fallen, as they knew that His Majesty regarded the wellbeing of the disabled, particularly the blind, with special interest. For sixteen years they had been striving to heal their wounds, but many inmates and members of St. Dunstan's could never be healed, although they could be helped to become useful members of society and thus take their part in the life of the community.

In addressing the members, Mr. H. V. Kerr, who was blinded at Ypres in 1917, said he wished to express the thanks of the Council of St. Dunstan's to the Committee of the Club for allowing them the opportunity of sending a representative to the gathering that evening. It was nearly twenty years ago that St. Dunstan's was founded by the late Sir Arthur Pearson at Regent's Park, London. There were 2,000 men under the care of St. Dunstan's, but applications were still being received from those who were only partially blinded in the war, but whose sight was gradually failing. Nineteen such cases were dealt with last year, largely due to the effects of poisonous gas, and these were receiving the same treatment as that given to those blinded outright on the battlefield. At their Brighton annexe, 90 beds were being maintained for the more serious cases, as well as providing a centre for convalescent patients. During last year 250,000 articles were produced by war-blinded men, including mats, baskets, trays, ornamental tables, etc. which he felt was a great tribute to the training they had received. Many people felt that blindness was a serious affliction, but St. Dunstaners regarded it as a handicap only, and capable of being overcome. Of all the lessons which the war had taught us, none stood out more prominently than the value of fellowship. A collection which followed resulted in £4 being sent to St. Dunstan's Headquarters.

Later in the evening a splendid musical programme was carried out by Dick Hobson's London Party, "The Ginger Snaps."

The arrangements for the evening were in the capable hands of the Club's Games and Entertainments Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. T. Baleham.

We at Woking Branch wish to take this opportunity of conveying seasonable greetings to our esteemed Directors and to all readers of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE both at home and abroad.

We were very pleased to see the photographs of Mr. L. A. Simonds and his fiancee in the last edition of the GAZETTE. The reproduction of the two portraits was beautifully executed and was much admired amongst our readers in this area. Through these columns may we add our congratulations to those which Mr. Louis will already be receiving.

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#### CRABBS PARK.

All at Crabbs Park hasten to send their congratulations to Mr. Louis Simonds and Miss R. A. Lang on the announcement of their engagement. May health and happiness be showered upon them in abundance is the wish sent from Devon.

Before the next edition of this journal is issued, this factory will have lowered the Hop Leaf flag and will be sailing under another banner. The news that the business would change hands came rather as a shock to the staff and employees at Crabbs Park. When it was fully realized that this meant the "parting of the ways," there was a feeling of great regret, kindled by the happy and close associations with the Directors and heads of departments during the past five years. Throughout the whole of this period the kindly encouragement and personal interest taken by the Directors in the growth of the business and the improvement in the factory had engendered a great regard for the parent firm. We know our associates will understand the rather sad note which is struck by this our farewell message.

The firm of Messrs. Whiteways Cyder Company Limited, who have acquired the business and have a great reputation for quality, are well-known throughout the whole Kingdom and the high standard which we have set up and the success which we have achieved in this area will, therefore, be maintained.

All at Crabbs Park desire to convey to the Directors and officials at Reading their best wishes for a continuance of the huge success attained in the past year. At the same time will headquarters and all branches accept our heartiest greetings for the festive season.