

The Hop Leaf Gazette.

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

Edited by CHARLES H. PERRIN.

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No. 4.



MR. C. BENNETT.

MR. C. BENNETT.

On our frontispiece this month we reproduce the portrait of Mr. C. Bennett, who is now filling the office of Home Trade Manager at Reading, which he has occupied since 12th February, 1927.

Mr. Bennett commenced his career on the Firm as a junior clerk at Farnborough Branch on the 24th June, 1895, and after remaining there about ten years he was appointed Chief Clerk at Portsmouth Branch. At both Branches Mr. Bennett exhibited a capacity for solid work and in February, 1919, he was appointed to the management of Woking Branch. In that position he rendered excellent service and by his wonderful knowledge of Club Law he was able to assist in the formation of new clubs in the district. Indeed, there are few British Legion or Working Men's Clubs in Woking and the adjoining neighbourhood to whom Mr. Bennett has not rendered great assistance. It has been remarked that if such services as have been given by Mr. Bennett should earn a pseudonym, he would be known as the "Ace of Clubs." Mr. Bennett's early training for his later work in dealing with committees and clubs generally commenced with his appointment of joint Auditor to the Jubilee Hall Club, Farnborough, and his association with the Offices of Court Alexandra No. 4151, Ancient Order of Foresters, in which latter Society he held the position of Chief Ranger in 1902. He was also Court Auditor for several years and served a period as joint District Auditor for the Bucks and Middlesex District (29 Courts) and in addition served as District Delegate. In all these offices Mr. Bennett earned the appreciation of his fellow officers and there is no doubt that this early education has stood him in good stead in fathoming the numerous clubs which came under his supervision in conducting our Woking Branch business.

Mr. Bennett's early days on the Firm being spent in the vicinity of the Aldershot and District Camps, naturally created an interest in military matters and in later years he took part in conducting our business on Camps and Manoeuvres in the New Forest.

He recalls the first airship sheds being built at Aldershot and also the first hutments at Deepcut, Blackdown, Bordon, Longmoor, etc. The replacement of the old wooden huts at Aldershot Camp by brick buildings was also witnessed by Mr. Bennett.

At Portsmouth Mr. Bennett gained tuition in Naval trade and took a keen interest in all things appertaining to the Fleet. Whilst there he saw the launching and building of the Dreadnought and the early types of submarines, and his reminiscences of Royal departures and home-comings, as well as the great gatherings of naval and international warships, are interesting.

In the Great War Mr. Bennett served as a Private and N.C.O. of the Hants Volunteer Training Corps from 1915 to 1917 and enlisted in the R.F.A. in June, 1917, serving until January 31st, 1919.

Arriving in Reading equipped with the armour of actual experience in many spheres, it was inevitable that Mr. Bennett immediately should earn the esteem of leading men of the town and gain the confidence of the Trade and clubs in the district.

Mr. Bennett found a favourite pastime in change ringing and for many years was a performing member of the Winchester Diocesan Guild of Change Ringers. As a member of the Farnborough Parish Church Choir and the Winchester Diocesan Choral Union he visited many places such as Winchester Cathedral, Basingstoke, etc. At Woking he was a member of the Horsell Musical Society. Another accomplishment of Mr. Bennett's was his work in the St. John Ambulance Brigade, where he gained a medallion for passing the examination. As a member of the Portsmouth Swimming Club for about ten years, he often kept up winter bathing until December and even January.

EDITORIAL.

OUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION.

Never do we get a better glimpse of the real brotherhood of man than at Christmas time. The spirit of goodwill everywhere abounds and this old world does indeed seem a delightful place in which to dwell. Let us all make it our New Year's resolution to keep alive that spirit of love throughout the coming twelve months. Then we shall have played a worthy part in the fulfilment of the wish that one and all spend

A Very Happy New Year.

A CLEVER MASSEUR.

I don't know whether many people are aware of the fact, but Mr. Hanney, mine host of The Russell Arms, Oxford Road, Reading, is a very skilful masseur. I broke the Sabbath the other day by playing tennis and very nearly broke my neck. It was while trying to return an almost impossible ball that I tore a muscle in my leg. It was very painful, but thanks to Mr. Hanney's massaging the tear is now practically mended and I hope to be again knocking the ball over the net before long.

DERATING AND BEER PRICE.

The Brewers' Society have sent the following letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer :—

"The Brewers' Society, having considered the rating relief proposals of the Local Government Bill as they affect breweries, is of opinion that the estimated sum of £400,000 payable in respect of breweries under the scheme would be altogether insufficient to enable any alteration to be made in the price of beer, one penny per pint representing approximately £30,000,000.

"The Society recommends its members to pass on to their customers in some form suitable to the varying conditions of their business any advantage which will accrue to their breweries if the Government proposals become law."

MINE AS WELL AS YOURS.

The King's illness provides many instances of the public's concern and affection. Recently a business man took a taxicab to Buckingham Palace to read the bulletin. There was a queue of people waiting to do this ahead of him. He took his place, and it was not until several minutes later that he returned to the taxicab.

Here he found that the clock on the taximeter had stopped. "You are cheating yourself," he said genially to the driver, and pointed out what had happened. "I did that on purpose," replied the taxicab driver. "Do you think I'm going to let you pay while waiting to see the bulletin? Not on your life. He's my King as well as yours."

Which was a very decent thing to say.

BLACK CAT'S HIGH ENDEAVOUR.

There is a black cat in Oxford Road, Reading, which evidently has high ideals. The other day work was being carried out on the roof of a high house. Puss evinced considerable interest in the operations and passers-by were greatly surprised when they saw the cat walk up to the ladder and then climb right to the top, rung by rung. Having reached the height of its ambition our feline friend was apparently wondering how she was to descend—not such an easy matter. A workmen, seeing the cat's difficulty, promptly ascended the ladder and brought the little four-footed adventurer safely to earth.

A BONNY BOY.

Very great interest was taken in the glad news I was able to publish in last month's GAZETTE to the effect that Mrs. Simonds, wife of Commander Henry Duncan Simonds, R.N., had given birth to a son. It is a bonny boy and both are doing extremely well. Thomas de Luze will be the little fellow's name.

"THE ENGINE: SHE'S A LADY!"

"Why is an engine a 'she'?"

This question crops up every now and again, and has recently been revived as a subject of argument.

But it isn't only engines that are referred to in this way. Sailors have always spoken of their ship as "she," and the average motorist does the same with his car. On the other hand, it is interesting to note that winter is the only "he" among the seasons. Spring, summer and autumn are all "she." They, of course, are uncertain, but they can be pleasant, so that to make winter masculine, while they are feminine, is anything but complimentary to man.

SOME FINE LINES.

Tribute to Mr. S. G. Lubbock, who has been a House Master at Eton College for twenty years and is retiring this week, is paid in the *Eton College Chronicle* in a sonnet signed "C.A.A."—the initials of Dr. C. A. Alington, the Headmaster. It is as follows :—

To S.G.L.

On His Resigning His House.

Because for forty years you have not swerved
From the fair promise of an Eton name,
Self-dedicated to the school you served,
Unfaltering in singleness of aim :
Because by you the things we hold so dear,
Castle and river, bridge and pond and trees,
Are seen transfigured in a light more clear,
The vision which the artist-lover sees :
But most because unerringly you know
The thousand thoughts that fill the mind of boys,
Their moods that with the minutes come and go,
Their small absurdities, their griefs and joys—
Take, one long chapter of your service done,
Your Eton's thanks to a most loyal son.

LORD HEWART'S AMUSING STORY.

The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Hewart, tells the following amusing story.

There is a story of a Home Secretary—not the present one—who spent a week-end with a friend of his, the Governor of a convict prison. He was invited to address—what shall I say?—the residents—on the Sunday evening, and he was not quite sure how to begin.

Eventually he commenced: "Fellow-convicts—." Somehow that did not seem to him to be correct, so he tried again and said: "Fellow-citizens—." That again did not appeal to his legal mind as being correct, so in his despair he said: "Well, at any rate, I am delighted to see so many here to-night."

MISUNDERSTOOD.

I often think that many of us do not try as hard as we should to really understand one another. Emerson was undoubtedly right when he said "To be great is to be misunderstood." He who stands above the crowd knows too well the value of popularity, and in dignified silence he follows his own rugged and thorny, but clean, path. He is not self-righteous, for he acknowledges, even proclaims, the errors he has made—yet he does not stoop to beg for forgiveness. He knows that the multitude may be incapable, through no fault of its own, of understanding his thoughts and ideas and, though he may be aware of his own clear-sightedness he would not for worlds attempt to let others see it, being content to believe that if you "absolve you to yourself, you shall have the suffrage of the world."

BOTTLES BY MACHINERY.

There are some people, not Prohibitionists, who will be thrilled at the sight of a machine, weighing about twenty tons, which is now being installed in the Science Museum, South Kensington. For it makes beer bottles. It consists of a mighty revolving tower, a nightmare of arms, levers, and springs, which, as it turns, repeatedly makes a curtsey to the onlookers. Each time it dips an arm it picks up some molten glass which is turned into a bottle and tipped down a chute. These machines were first introduced in 1903, and that on view, which is one of the earliest type, takes about three seconds to make a half-pint bottle. The latest machines are, of course, more rapid than this. The specimen in the museum is being fitted with an electric motor so that visitors will be able to see it in motion.

TWO FINE YOUNG GIRL ATHLETES.

Mr. Tom Bartholomew, who shews such prowess behind the sticks at cricket, has two daughters who have been doing great things in the field of sport.

In May of last year, at their school sports, Phyllis won six first and one second prizes. Joan won three first and three second prizes. In June, at Palmer Park, Phyllis won two first and four second prizes; Joan three first, one second and a third. Phyllis came out School Champion and also Champion of Reading. Joan was runner-up.

Then in July, at the County Sports, Phyllis won two first and one second prizes; Joan two first and one second.

They both represented Berkshire at Stamford Bridge.

Phyllis holds two gold medals, four silver and eight bronze medals, together with various other prizes. She also received a special prize of half-a-guinea for being the best all-round athlete in Reading. She also won a shield for the school.

Joan holds one gold medal, one silver and four bronze medals. She also won a silver cup for the school.



Here are these two fine runners.

A.P.F.C.

More than one member of the staff at the Brewery have a shot for the big prizes *Answers* offers for "nuggets." Recently, to the example

"Hope of his side,"

the following "nugget" was sent :—

A Particularly Fine Catch.

Another example was

"The Dogs,"

and the "nugget" sent was

Greyhounds now electric "Hare-dales."

It was a thousand pities that such good efforts did not win the thousand pounds first prize.

SOLUTION TO A CROSSWORD PUZZLE.

He was a good-hearted sort of fellow and having had some refreshment himself he thought he would take home a bottle of beer for his wife. Instead of being pleased she expressed her displeasure very forcibly. Her cross words were a puzzle to him at first, but he solved the puzzle when she exclaimed : " You know I only drink Simonds' ! " He said : " Sorry, But you may rest assured that when ordering a drink for you again I shall not fail to say ' S.B.' ! "

THE VERY BEST.

A certain inn in a Gloucestershire village bears above its door the following legend :—

"When weary travelling, in your mind
Come thoughts of welcome beer.
Just step inside and you will find
'Tis England's best sold here."

The licensee is Mr. J. England.

RETURNED—C.O.D.

A Penarth angler has had a remarkable experience.

He was fishing from the pier when his gold watch fell into the water and was lost. Some days later he caught a cod, and when the fish was being cleaned for cooking his missing timepiece, still ticking, was found inside !

No-LITTER APPEAL IN VERSE.

In an effort to prevent litter in Midhurst, Sussex, metal plates have, at the suggestion of the Vicar, been fixed on public seats bearing this appeal :

"Good friend who to this seat repair,
Rest and be thankful ; but forbear
With sordid scraps the ground to strew ;
Others rest here as well as you."

A MUCH-HARASSED TRADE.

Speaking at the 63rd Annual Banquet of the Dewsbury and District Licensed Victuallers' Protection and Benevolent Association, Mr. John Arthur Dewar observed that it could truthfully be said that their Trade was the most harassed trade in the world to-day. He did not think they had a friend, and it was for them to claim the right to carry on their business without interference from fanatics and busybodies, whose only object in life seemed to be to upset the Trade. The Trade subscribed to the Exchequer something like £120,000,000 or £130,000,000 per year. Did they not think that was a good reason for claiming as much support as possible from any Parliamentary Party there happened to be in power ? If a person smelled of drink in New York harbour he was liable to be put in gaol, but within a few miles of New York he could get more bad liquor than he could obtain in a lifetime in this country—at exorbitant prices. " We don't want in England to brew and distil in our homes. The country to-day should not be judged by the number of square miles in it, but by the number of square people in it."

A HIGHLY SATISFACTORY REPORT.

At the Annual Meeting of H. & G. Simonds Ltd. shareholders, on Christmas Eve, the Directors were able to present a highly satisfactory report, published in full in another part of the GAZETTE. All were delighted to see the beloved Chairman (Mr. G. Blackall-Simonds) in the Chair, fully recovered from his recent illness and as alert and active as ever. A vote of thanks to him was proposed, in very gracious terms, by Mrs. Caversham Simonds and, of course, carried with acclamation.

PULLING TOGETHER.

As Mr. S. V. Shea-Simonds pointed out there was no firm in the world where the spirit of goodfellowship between employer and employed was more pronounced than at H. & G. Simonds Ltd. That camaraderie, fostered for one and a half centuries, had played a big part in the Firm's success and so long as that fine feeling continued they could look to the future with a quiet confidence.

PROHIBITION *v.* THE CHURCH.

SOME STRAIGHT TALK.

"Prohibition *versus* the Church" is the title of an article in a recent issue of the American publication *Plain Talk*, by Rev. Frederick Jerome Melville. Here are some extracts:—

"The Church—that is, the sections of the Church that have laboured so long and fanatically to make this country liquorless—still seems unwilling to admit that it has brought about a condition which is worse than any that existed in pre-Prohibition days. Furthermore, it realises that the cause is not a popular one any more. Can it even be said that the adherents of Prohibition are still enthusiastic about it? If anything, they are gloomy, disappointed, and afraid. Yet they hold on. They plead for support. They condemn, in language unbecoming followers of Jesus Christ, men and women who give expression to their honest opinions concerning Prohibition. What a travesty, when the people of this enlightened nation must be harangued to support one of the Amendments to the Constitution of their country!"

"Why are thousands of church pews empty? The radio is not the reason, the automobile is not to blame, the theatre has kept no one from church. If the Church wants to make an honest confession it will have to admit that among various causes for decreased Church attendance and lukewarm interest in Church affairs, the preaching of Prohibition in the pulpits of the Churches takes the lead as the outstanding cause for the condition.

"Congregations do not always vote as their ministers want them to. And most congregations that I know are not in agreement with their ordained leaders on the Prohibition question. I know of some congregations that would vote solidly for nullification or modification. Many lay leaders in Churches of all denominations are disgusted with the present state of affairs brought about by Prohibition. They prefer the day of the saloon a thousand times to the present day of the speakeasy. They are good men, the pillars of the Churches, the most industrious, intelligent, congenial, generous, public-spirited men in our communities. Their contributions to charities head the lists in community chess drives. And they have liquor as they have always had it. They have it because they want it—and they have a right to it. Liquor is not a fiend in their homes any more than money is. Were all the opponents of Prohibition in Westchester County to leave the county half the churches would be compelled to close."

THE LAND OF DREAMS.

Midway 'twixt life and death there lies a land,
As large as heaven—no man yet hath spann'd
Its shores and seas, nor found on earth so fair
A paradise as that which rested there.

There lived a man who enter'd it, and lo!
His eyes were filled with light; his thoughts did grow
Like flowers fed with rain, and on his sight
Strange visions floated in the dark, still night.

And in the radiant day his heart grew great
With wild ambitions, and he laughed at Fate,
And said, "Behold I will devise a plan
To prove the high nobility of man."

I will aspire to make the crooked straight,
To give the scales of justice juster weight;
To set the true up where the false stands now,
To place the golden crown on wisdom's brow.

All this and more—behold, my heart is great
To war with evil, and to conquer Fate."
Then he awaken'd to the world, and found
Thistles and thorns upon its stony ground.

And when he labour'd to establish truth
The old man mocked him, and the vaunting youth
Reviled him, saying, "He alone is wise
Who seeks no after-kingdom in the skies;

Who lets the bubble honour burst in air,
Who gives up truth and virtue in despair,
And lives for this world's glory and esteems
That man a fool who feeds his soul on dreams."

But, as the years rolled on, he nobly sought
To prove the deed was equal to the thought.
And often gave a flower for a thorn,
A word of kindness for a word of scorn.

He strove with vice, exalted virtue's name,
And touched the mocker with a sense of shame.
Sometimes his courage droop'd; his life fell short
Of truth—the deed proved lesser than the thought.

But still he toil'd along, with weary feet
Now numb'd with cold, now blistered with the heat.
The smile died from his eyes, and all the grace
Of youthful beauty faded from his face.

His heart grew sad, but, as a lover gropes
Among the phantoms of his wither'd hopes,
So dwelt he with his dreams, and still he wrought
The deed into some shadow of the thought.

He died—a few were gather'd at his grave ;
One said, " This man was true, his heart was brave,
His life was not unfruitful—let us strive
To keep the silent dreamer's dream alive."

A GREAT THOUGHT.

The true gentleman carefully avoids whatever may cause a jar or a jolt in the minds of those with whom he is cast ;—all clashing of opinion, or collision of feeling, all restraint, or suspicion, or gloom, or resentment ; his great concern being to make everyone at their ease and at home. He has his eyes on all his company ; he is tender towards the bashful, gentle towards the distant, and merciful towards the absurd ; he can recollect to whom he is speaking ; he guards against unseasonable allusions, or topics which may irritate ; he is seldom prominent in conversation and never wearisome. He makes light of favours while he does them, and seems to be receiving when he is conferring.

He never speaks of himself except when compelled, never defends himself by a mere retort, he has no ears for slander or gossip, is scrupulous in imputing motives to those who interfere with him, and interprets everything for the best. He is never mean or little in his disputes, never takes unfair advantage, never mistakes personalities or sharp sayings for arguments, or insinuates evil which he dare not say out. From a long-sighted prudence, he observes the maxim of the ancient sage, that we should ever conduct ourselves towards our enemy as if he were one day to be our friend.

He has too much good sense to be affronted at insults, he is too well employed to remember injuries, and too indolent to bear malice. He is patient, forbearing, and resigned, on philosophical principles ; he submits to pain, because it is inevitable, to bereavement, because it is irreparable, and to death, because it is his destiny.

If he engages in controversy of any kind, his disciplined intellect preserves him from the blundering courtesy of better, though less educated, minds ; who like blunt weapons, tear and hack instead of cutting clean, who mistake the point in argument, waste their strength on trifles, misconceive their adversary, and leave the question more involved than they find it. He may be right or wrong in his opinion, but he is too clear-headed to be unjust ; he is as simple as he is forcible, and as brief as he is decisive.—CARDINAL NEWMAN.

WORDS OF WISDOM.

An oiled feather will do more to ease a stubborn lock than great force.

Care to our coffin adds a nail, no doubt ;
But every grin so merry draws one out.

No noble task was ever easy.

Fair play's a jewel.

He who comes up to his own standard of greatness must always have had a very low standard of it in his mind.

Much corn lies under the straw that is not seen.

Prejudice is the child of ignorance.

The choicest thing this world has for a man is affection.

The day wasted on others is not wasted on one's self.

The fairest tulip's not the sweetest flower.

The snail sees nothing but its own shell and thinks it the grandest place in the world.

Where your will is ready your feet are light.

Write down the dream of him who loves you, though you like it not at present.

You cannot push a man far up a tree.

You can imagine thistle-down so light that when you run after it your running motion would drive it away from you, and that the more you tried to catch it the faster it would fly from your grasp. And it should be with every man, that, when he is chased by troubles, they, chasing, shall raise him higher and higher.

THE INSTRUMENTALIST.

By P. E. LUTHER.

He was a composer. He was convinced that the world eagerly awaited the latest impassioned outpouring of his soul.

Seated at his beloved instrument, he was working against time to give his latest work to lovers of his art.

His tireless fingers flew along the keys, his eyes were aglow with the almost fanatical light of the virtuoso. The sound of his passionate outbursts reached even to the street, where passers-by stopped and listened, wondering who this skilled performer could be.

The room, nay, the whole house was filled with the glorious cadences of the now quivering instrument, swelling higher and higher to the triumphant conclusion of an epoch-making composition.

With one resounding crashing fortissimo, he put the consummation to weeks of patient thought and study. To-morrow his masterpiece would be entrusted to the tender care of a master of his craft, whose opinion was valued amongst the highest in his profession.

Carefully and caressingly he placed his manuscript in its envelope, and, covering his typewriter, mused, "I wonder if this will be returned with 'The Editor's regrets,' like the other ten stories I sent him."

FINIS.

“GOD SAVE THE KING.”

God Save The King !
The Prayer of all the nation
Goes up to Thee in whom our trust we place.
Spare us this life, we kneel in supplication
To ask Thy mercy and Thy saving grace.

God Save The King !
The words take on new meaning
His Empire's prayer is borne upon the wind.
Grant hope to us, for on Thee we are leaning
O Lord of all Who art so wondrous kind.

F.K.

THE LIGHTER SIDE.

A man recently married had in his bachelor days a reputation for drinking too much. One day he said he had to go to a meeting to elect a new director. The young wife was distressed, and made him promise he would not touch a drop of anything all the evening. The voting at the meeting resulted in the election of a man named Hoops. All the evening the young husband had steadfastly steered clear of the proffered drinks, and at eleven o'clock—completely sober and filled with righteous pride—it occurred to him to phone his wife. "Hello, dear," he said, "it's Jim." "How did everything go?" she asked. "Whom did you elect?" "Hoops, my dear," replied Jim. "Oh, dear," said the wife, with a sob in her voice, "how could you? After all your promises!"

* * * *

They were waiting for one other person to complete the Christmas party. At last she arrived, breathless with her exertions to be in time. After the usual apologies and seasonable greetings, she shook hands with her host and hostess and their little son; but the host said to the boy:

"You'll kiss Miss Vereker, won't you, Jimmie!"

Little James looked up into the face of the exceedingly pretty girl standing before him, then he turned to his father.

"No fear," he replied. "I saw her slap you, daddie, for doing it."

* * * *

A cyclist was going along a country road, but before he had gone very far he got a bad puncture. He dismounted and began to repair the damage, but found there was no water with which he could test his tube. A boy happened to come along with a basket of groceries and a can of milk. The cyclist asked him to let him have a little milk for the purpose of testing the tube. Then the cyclist discovered that he had no French chalk, and asked the boy if he happened to have any cornflower in the basket. "Look here," said the boy, "is it a patch you're putting on that tyre, or a blancmange you're making?"

* * * *

Mary had a little skirt,
Diaphanous and airy;
It didn't show a speck of dirt,
But oh! it did show Mary.

The class had just been given a talk on fairies, and at the end of it, to find out how much they knew, the teacher asked : " What is a gnome ? "

One bright child answered, " Please, teacher, an 'ouse."

* * * *

CHRISTMAS GUEST (angry at being kept waiting at the station) : " So you had difficulty in finding me, eh ? Didn't your master describe me ? "

CHAUFFEUR : " Yes, Sir, but there are so many bald-headed old buffers with red noses."

* * * *

INSIGNIFICANT FATHER : " Isn't it time baby could say ' papa ' ? "

FOND MOTHER : " We decided not to tell him who you are until he gets stronger."

* * * *

The Squire, more noted for his knowledge of horseflesh than of theology, was not a frequent attendant at church, but decided that it being Christmas, he would for once set an example to the village. Awakening suddenly with a snort during a tedious sermon, his fuddled senses caught sight of the hymn number board above his pew. " Good Lord ! " he said in an audible whisper, and in tones of disgust, " only four runners ! "

* * * *

" To-morrow is my birthday, dear ; and I'm going to take a day off."

" Why, darling, you never took less than a year before"

* * * *

DOCTOR : " I'm afraid, Mrs. Hash, that your lodger is suffering from phlebitis."

LANDLADY : " Well, all I can say is that 'e brought 'em with 'im."

* * * *

A coloured preacher, taken to task by one of his elders for dealing with subjects which, the latter said, were inscrutable, replied, with dignity : " I am here, Sah, to unscrew de unscrewturable ! "

* * * *

FIRST REVELLER (after Christmas festivities) : " Jes pash man who looked strorinally like you."

SECOND REVELLER : " Strange. Lesh go back an' shee if it was."

It has been declared by a Michigan court unlawful to search a man's hip pocket for liquor. Will the Pussyfooters' next crusade be for a law prohibiting trousers ?

* * * *

HOUSE AGENT (to very stout client) : " Here, Sir, I think, is the style of house to suit you. You will notice that there is a bay window in every room."

* * * *

NORFOLK : " The doctor said he'd put me on my feet again in six weeks."

PRIOR : " And did he ? "

" Yes ; I had to sell my car to pay his bill."

* * * *

BLUE : " Do you think backing horses is wrong ? "

BLACK : " The way I back them it is."

* * * *

THE YOUNG WIFE : " How do you like the joint, dear ? "

HER HUSBAND : " Fine ; but where's the gravy ? "

" I wondered how soon you'd miss it, you absent-minded boy. You didn't bring a drop with the meat."

* * * *

STREET VENDOR : " Buy some 'olly fer yer wife, mister ? "

CRUSTY BACHELOR : " Haven't got a wife ! "

" Then buy a bunch to celebrate yer luck."

* * * *

Five bottles of beer, two bottles of water and one of spirits were found in the possession of a man charged at Croydon with begging. The poor fellow was probably only begging for a corkscrew.

* * * *

The smaller the fish the more it strains the veracity of the angler.

* * * *

A man and a pin are similar—neither is of much use after losing its head.

OUR LADIES' PAGE.

THE JOURNEY OF LIFE.

Another year has passed and once again we are on the verge of a new one, hearing on all sides the well-known words "A Happy New Year to you." The Christmas holidays are almost spent: we have all given and received our Christmas presents, and I feel sure that ours was the greater pleasure in giving rather than receiving, for is not Christmas the feast of giving; and with a lull in our festivities we look back over the year that has passed. One often hears "You should not look back, but forward," and yet, while these may be words of good advice, I doubt if there are many but cast a glance over the happenings of the old year. For, as the years pass by, we, too, are passing along the journey of life, our knowledge increasing year by year. And in our backward glance we recall many and varied occurrences perhaps within our home or the circle of our intimate friends, events, which though small enough, cannot be forgotten for many a day, because there was just one thing that impressed us, maybe a wrong decision or a wrong action on our part and the consequences of that error have taught us just what we should have done. We are therefore now prepared for other events of a similar character, even though it may be years before we are again faced with one; nevertheless, the knowledge is ours. And so we go on, learning much from year to year, one could almost say from day to day. Our resolutions, too, that we may have made at the last New Year: how many of these have been carried into effect right through the twelve ensuing months, or were they just a mere flash in our path only to be extinguished at the first provocation? And our diaries, for almost everyone likes to possess a diary. (I must confess that I do, for one.) For how long do we continue to record items of interest or importance in them? Then, departing from personal affairs, we give a thought to the events of the world or perhaps connected only with our country.

We recall that the summer of 1928 was on the whole fine and practically all large outdoor functions were more thoroughly enjoyed for this reason. In the field of sport in which one and all have some interest we recall our victories and failures, perhaps the principal item being the loss of both men's and women's championships on the Wimbledon tennis courts. But coming nearer to the present day our chief topic in the sports world is Cricket, and will England retain the "Ashes"? As I write these lines the third match has yet to be played, but we all realise that everything shows in favour of victory for the English team.

But the event which has touched us all, rich and poor alike, is the serious illness of our King. Anxiously and carefully we have read our papers and listened to wireless reports, gleaning all possible

information and praying earnestly that he may be restored to health. We took courage from the good example set us by members of the Royal family and we also followed closely that wonderful journey of the Prince of Wales from Africa to England, appraising that splendid spirit shown by those countries who did all in their power to expedite his arrival.

And so we come again to the New Year, innocent of all it may have in store for us but yet determined, each one of us, to do our share in the burden of the day.

M.P.

A NATURE NOTE.

We have entered upon another year and the great Book of Nature will once again be opened at one of its most interesting pages. On every hand, at every season, there is much that is wonderful and beautiful, but Spring appeals to many of us most. We could devote a life of study to the commonest things and still have much to learn about them. Take the aphid, or greenfly, for instance. How extraordinary is their rate of increase! Where there is one to-day there will be 25 to-morrow. Two days later 25 times 25 times 25 times. The greenfly seldom lays eggs, generally only towards the end of Autumn probably because eggs are better able to withstand the rigour of winter than perfect insects. All through spring and summer they propagate by a kind of budding process, little ones growing out from the bodies of their parents almost after the manner of Brussels sprouts. All these insects are females. Among aphides masculine sex is unknown except in the case of the final generation of each season. These insects also dispense with the grub and chrysalis states through which all their fellows have to pass; no time is lost in development. Infancy and motherhood begin almost simultaneously. Professor Huxley once worked out an elaborate calculation with the view of ascertaining the approximate number of the tenth generation of a single individual aphid, supposing that it could increase and multiply to its full capacity without being subjected to the ordinary checks supplied by nature. The result is startling and requires to be stated in a row of twenty-nine figures. The tenth generation of the single individual aphid would be equal in actual weight to more than one million billion stout men each weighing on an average between 20 and 21 stone!

Sparrows feast on the greenfly and thus do untold good. Therefore, if he tears your tulips to pieces out of sheer mischief, don't be too cross with him for he more than recompenses you in this other direction. He is a little labourer well worthy of his hire. Tits and other birds also devour the aphid by the thousand, while it is the ladybird's principal, if not only, food. C.H.P.

SOCIAL CLUB.

Friday, 30th November, 1928.—We paid our first visit to the Pangbourne Club and Institute for a tournament of all games and a very enjoyable evening was spent. It provided an opportunity of making many new friends, and we look forward to the return match at our own Club in the near future.

Friday, 14th December, 1928.—We had the pleasure of entertaining members of the Reading Trades Union Club for the first time when quite a happy evening resulted. Several of the officials accompanied the players, who were welcomed to our Club by our own officers and Mr. C. Bennett. The return match has yet to be arranged.

Billiards Handicap.—The Annual Prize for a Billiards Handicap, given by Mr. C. W. Stocker, was won by Mr. R. Broad, of the General Office, after some hardly-contested games. The semi-finalists were Mr. A. Rice *v.* Mr. J. Rumens and Mr. H. Davis *v.* Mr. R. Broad, and their respective games resulted in Mr. R. Broad contesting Mr. A. Rice for the coveted prize; as already stated, Mr. Broad was successful and his choice was a set of carvers and other cutlery, Mr. Rice deciding on a clock.

New Year's Eve.—Before the publication of this GAZETTE, we shall have held a New Year's Eve Dance, and we hope to be able to report that a good many members and their friends took advantage of this opportunity.

The Children's Annual Treat will be held on Saturday, 5th January, 1929, when all members' children are invited. Children unable to attend through illness will receive the same consideration if their fathers will notify the Secretary accordingly.

The Annual Club Dinner will be held on Monday, 14th January, 1929, when the Chair will be taken by Mr. S. V. Shea-Simonds. All members wishing to attend are advised to make early application as the number of tickets (owing to lack of accommodation) is strictly limited. Tickets 4/6 each.

Billiards League Matches and Departmental Tournaments.—The results of the games played during December will be given in next month's issue.

This opportunity is taken to wish all members and friends at home and away a very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

MESSRS. H & G. SIMONDS, LTD.

ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS.

A GOOD YEAR.

INAUGURATION OF PENSIONS FUND.

On Monday, December 23rd, at the Reading Chamber of Commerce the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of H. & G. Simonds, Ltd., was held. The Chairman of the Company, Mr. G. Blackall-Simonds, presided, and other Directors present were Mr. F. A. Simonds (Managing Director), Mr. S. V. Shea-Simonds (Vice-Chairman), Mr. Frederick Simonds (Secretary), Com. H. D. Simonds, R.N. (Retd.), and Mr. J. H. Simonds. The Shareholders present were Mrs. G. Blackall-Simonds, Mrs. H. Caversham Simonds, Miss Fleet, Major G. H. S. Ashby, Mr. C. E. Gough, Mr. C. Bennett, Mr. G. W. Smith, Mr. H. Cole, Mr. A. G. Rider, Mr. G. Weait, Mr. F. C. Hawkes, Mr. J. H. Wadham, Mr. R. A. Walker, Mr. J. Ford, Mr. F. Jefferies, Mr. Chamberlain, Mr. Hodgson and Mr. E. S. Phipps (Assistant Secretary).

DIRECTORS' REPORT.

The report of the Directors was as follows:—

"The Directors herewith have the pleasure to submit the accounts of the Company for the year ended 30th September, 1928.

"It has been considered wise to take steps to consolidate the floating indebtedness of the Company, and Messrs. Marks, Barley and Co. were accordingly instructed to make a valuation of the whole of the Company's properties as well as of those appertaining to the subsidiary companies of Mackeson & Co., Ltd., and South Berks Brewery Co., Ltd., for the purpose of making an issue of £350,000 of 6 per cent. redeemable debenture stock which took place in July last, the effect of which is reflected in the balance sheet now submitted.

"At the same time it was deemed desirable to modernise the articles of association in order to bring them into line with those usual in public companies, and to obtain a quotation for the shares of the Company on the London Stock Exchange.

"Having regard to the disproportion existing between the reserves and the share capital of the Company, a bonus issue of three ordinary shares for two of the then existing ordinary shares was made in July last, thus bringing the total ordinary share capital up to £450,200.

"The Reserve Fund now stands at £386,103 10s. 8d., as set forth on the balance sheet, having been augmented on the one hand by the net appreciation of the estates as re-valued and diminished on the other hand by writing off the book value of the goodwill, the valuation of the leasehold properties, as well as the whole of the expenses appertaining to the issue of 6 per cent. redeemable debenture stock, increase of capital, etc., and the sum absorbed by the creation of the bonus shares referred to above.

"After providing for interest on the debenture stocks and making ample allowances for depreciations, repairs and the various expenses of the business, including taxation, the net profit amounts to £79,327 13s. 2d., which, added to the amount brought forward from 30th September, 1927, viz., £65,820 12s. 11d., makes a total of £145,148 6s. 1d. available for appropriation.

"Having already paid the full year's dividend on the 5 per cent. preference shares and interim dividends at the rate of 7½ per cent. on £180,080 ordinary shares, the Directors now recommend a final dividend of 7 per cent. less tax on £450,200 ordinary shares (including the bonus issue), and that with a view to complying with the requirements of the trust deed for the 6 per cent. redeemable debenture stock the sum of £5,000 should be appropriated to a debenture redemption reserve, that £15,000 should be carried to property improvement account, that a pensions fund should be inaugurated by allocating thereto the sum of £10,000, and that the balance of £72,404 6s. 1d. should be carried forward to next year.

"The Auditors, Messrs. Collins, Tootell & Co., retire in accordance with the articles of association and offer themselves for re-election."

THE CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT.

The Chairman, moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—

"This is the first occasion that a chairman of this Company has been privileged to address at an annual meeting shareholders other than members of the Simonds family, and I take this opportunity of welcoming those new shareholders; it is gratifying to know that under the recent financial re-organisation a large number of our staff evinced their interest and confidence in the Firm by applying for shares in very large numbers.

"The financial re-organisation is dealt with in the report; I can only add that it was achieved after much care and thought on the part of the Board and their advisers, and I am confident that it will prove to the ultimate benefit of all concerned.

"The net profit for the year has been increased by nearly £30,000, and this has been due to a large extent to the saving effected owing to the completion of the rebuilding of the bottling stores at Reading and branches, the disturbances created thereby having reduced profits considerably in the previous financial year; there have also been savings in expenses in many other directions.

"The profits of the Company in recent years have been seriously affected by the severity of competition, and uneconomical cutting of prices, in the export business, as also by the conditions prevailing in the Army canteen trade, and steps have been taken and are still being taken to cut out barrelage which has been proved to entail loss.

"The policy of the Company in maintaining its licensed properties in an excellent state of repair has been strictly adhered to, and they compare, in our opinion, more than favourably with those of our competitors in the districts we serve. We have found licensing benches favourably disposed to any reasonable suggestions for altering houses to meet public requirements, and for many years past money has been lavished on rebuilding or reconditioning properties to this end.

"The high reputation of the Company's products both at home and abroad has been fully upheld during the past year, and there has been a marked increase in the sale of the Company's speciality, milk stout, which has now found a ready market in all parts of the world.

GROWING BOTTLED BEER TRADE.

"A marked feature of the trade of the year has been the enormous increase in the sale of bottled beers, and it may interest you to know that our output in twelve months amounted to no less than 31 million bottles. The public preferences for bottled beers as against beers drawn from the cask is daily becoming more pronounced and the Company has taken steps to meet this taste by putting on the market brands of the very best quality.

"There has been a gratifying increase in the sale of the Company's own blends of whiskies, the value of which as against the advertised brands is fully appreciated by our customers.

"The two subsidiary Companies, Messrs. Mackeson & Co., Ltd., Hythe, and the South Berks Brewery Co., Ltd., Newbury, have been carefully managed and have contributed their fair quota of profit.

"The Directors desire to acknowledge the loyal assistance and services rendered by our head brewer, Mr. Stocker, and the whole of the staff, not only of the parent Company, but also of the allied Companies, and to express their best thanks to them."

"I beg to move the following resolution:—'That the report of the Directors and balance sheet for 1927-28 be received and adopted, and that having already paid the full year's dividend on the 5 per cent. preference shares and interim dividends at the rate of 7½ per cent. on £180,080 ordinary shares, a final dividend of 7 per cent. less tax on £450,200 ordinary shares (including the bonus issue) be now paid, and that with a view to complying with the requirements of the trust deed for the 6 per cent. redeemable debenture stock, the sum of £5,000 be appropriated to a debenture redemption reserve; that £15,000 be carried to property improvement account, that a pensions fund be inaugurated by allocating thereto the sum of £10,000, and that the balance of £72,404 6s. 1d. be carried forward to next year.'"

THE RIGHT SPIRIT.

Mr. S. V. Shea-Simonds, in seconding the adoption of the report and balance sheet, said there was one point he would like to stress. He thought there was no company or firm where such close touch existed between the Managers, Heads of Departments, Staff generally, Foremen and Employees, and all the Directors, as existed at H. & G. Simonds, Ltd. (*Applause.*) He thought that spirit, fostered for nearly a century and a half, accounted for all the success they had achieved in the past. The continuance of that spirit would give them success in the future, and he felt quite sure that unless any unforeseen circumstances arose which would affect adversely, as a whole, the great trade in which they were engaged, they could look forward to the coming year with quiet confidence.

Mr. R. A. Walker proposed and Mr. C. Bennett seconded the re-election of the Auditors, Messrs. Collins, Tootell & Co., and warmly congratulated them on the lucid balance sheet.

The motion was carried, and Mr. W. A. Collins thanked the Shareholders for their confidence. He said: "It was his privilege to assist the Board in regard to financial reorganisation, and the issue of debenture stock, and he was certain the Directors had taken a wise step which would indubitably strengthen the position of the Company very considerably. Breweries required a good deal of capital to-day when the public naturally required that their comfort and convenience should be studied when they visited

licensed premises, and perhaps those who are not so closely in touch with the Trade as he happened to be hardly realised the amount of capital that was involved in the erection and improvement of licensed premises. The reorganisation of the business and the spirit which prevailed amongst all those connected with it would, provided legislation did not interfere, produce in the future the same, if not increased, prosperity.

Mrs. H. Caversham Simonds proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman, and referred to the admirable work which he and his co-Directors had performed in the reorganisation of the business.

Major Ashby seconded and expressed the hope that Mr. G. Blackall-Simonds would remain in office as Chairman of the Company for many years.

THE TENDENCY OF THE DAY.

In acknowledgment the Chairman said: "I have the great happiness of having on the Board Directors each of whom is an expert in his particular branch, and that is a very great thing. Without their assistance, advice and help I could not have done anything. I have certainly had in mind for years the conversion of the Company from purely a family business into a public company. That has been constantly in my mind for years past, but it has been made possible by the unstinted help and advice we have had from every member of the Board. When the war came to a close, instead of having seven members on the Board, as we had previously, there were only three. I had to find three other Simondses, and I think my selection was one that could not have been beaten. (*Applause.*) It was clear we could not go on as a purely private company. The whole tendency of the day is for the larger companies to eat up the smaller concerns, and the choice was before us of being eaten up by some bigger concern, or becoming a Company that would go forward. Big fishes eat up smaller fishes, and we thought it better that we should be counted among the big fishes. The result is this meeting to-day." (*Applause.*)

The Financial Times of Friday, December 28th, contained the following:—

"A PROMISING DEBUT.

"Hitherto the firm of H. & G. Simonds, the Reading Brewers, has been a family affair. The family has just been extended by the adoption, so to speak, of members of the staff, who took advantage of an opportunity to apply for shares 'in very large numbers,'

but, in addition, these are now available to the public through the medium of the Stock Exchange, permission to deal in them, as well as in the debentures, having been obtained during the past year. Prior to receiving visitors, the Company seems to have had a thorough house-cleaning. Its details and its effects are revealed in the Company's accounts, the first to be made public, and Mr. G. Blackall-Simonds had an encouraging report to make to the meeting on Monday.

"In connection with the issue of debentures made earlier this year, the properties were revalued and the surplus arising therefrom was added to reserve. This fund being out of proportion to the capital, bonus shares were allotted at the rate of three for every two existing ones. The whole of the goodwill and the valuation of the leasehold properties, as well as the debenture issue expenses, have been written off, and still the reserve amounts to £386,100, as compared with an issued capital of £618,400. Out of the net profits of £79,300 a final dividend of 7 per cent. on the £450,200 of Ordinary Shares is to be paid, an interim distribution of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the £180,080 then issued having been made previously. The profits, following the completion of rebuilding of the Bottling Stores, are up by some £30,000—a result which helps to emphasise the growing transfer of public demand from draught to bottled beers."

"BEING HATED, DON'T GIVE WAY TO HATING."

Kipling in writing the above words has grasped the whole esoteric meaning of the philosophy of life as affecting the individual, and has provided him with the key to that happiness, health and success for which man, with all the attributes of the Creator within himself, was himself created.

The person who hates, either with or without apparent cause, most surely hurls forth a boomerang which unerringly recoils upon himself, and NEVER does his hatred affect the person hated unless and until the latter allows himself to hate in return; then indeed has the hater succeeded in his malediction for his hate not only rebounds upon himself but he has infected the other with a like poison. For hatred *is* a poison more insidious than any other; it gives rise to the most hideous emotions, vindictiveness, jealousy, malice, etc., with their inevitable consequences.

There is a great deal more practical value in the injunction of the Teacher to "bless them that hate you" than appears on the surface, because that is the only effectual way to counter hatred; love is the only thing that confounds it, its poisoned arrows glide off a shield of love making no impression whatever. A man may do us any injury in the world, but if we *consciously* hold him in loving thought he cannot permanently harm us beyond arousing a feeling of sorrow that his vindictive attitude is against his own self-interest, because even if we have wittingly or unwittingly given him cause to hate us, two wrongs never yet made a right.

The time of enlightenment is at hand when men—even practical business men, and not the dreamers and the mystics—will realise that it is to their own personal advantage to "turn the other cheek"; that such an act is not one of weakness or sentimentality, but merely an intelligent recognition that the man who loves is the winner in the battle all along the line, the hater having lost his cause before the fight began.

"Love your enemies" is another very useful working principle advised by One Who knew that only thus can we transmute an enemy into a friend, and not only put him on better terms with ourselves but with his own higher self as well. Put this into daily use and see how quickly the soft answer turns away wrath, which the practice of "getting one's own back" only inflames.

Thousands of people to-day, even in an enlightened age like the present, are baffled by the existence of all sorts of indefinable, undiagnosable diseases, especially mental, neurasthenic and heart troubles, which the medical profession will one day recognise as being brought about solely by evil thoughts of hatred and malice against the individual or the race generally and then patients will be treated differently by being taught to heal themselves from *within* by overcoming these devastating thoughts.

Men who denounce progressive thinking may deny this obvious connection between disease and negative thoughts, but that does not alter the truth of the thesis one iota; if they prefer to live in their ignorance when the Truth would make them free from disease, that is the result of their own short-sightedness.

"What about the old law of an eye for an eye" asks the sceptic, "surely that is only common justice?" No, it is not; it is one of the many obsolete laws which the Word made Flesh came to rectify and disprove by example to the contrary, leaving with us a far better remedy for the loss of the eye than claiming the other fellow's eye—which wouldn't give us back our own, whereas

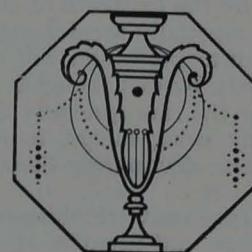
the Way shown us, not only compensates us for our loss, but gives both sight and insight to the eyes of the other fellow !

If you are a man with a nagging wife, or a woman with a nagging husband, or a servant with a nagging master or mistress (the latter supposition cannot be reversed as it would be an anomaly !) try repeating to yourself the following :—

" Peace like a river's flow, restful and calm
Flooding the soul with its heavenly balm ;
Faith upward-gazing, untrammelled, serene,
Grasping with boldness the Treasures Unseen."

This will bring about such a sense of calm and love that all feelings of resentment and hate will disappear—and so will even the nagging in time !

E.M.D.F.



BRANCHES.

BRIGHTON.

It is rather like the Irishman who arrived at a friend's house to tell him that he could not come, to write up and say there is nothing of interest to general readers to record from here. Owing to the King's illness no doubt, matters in general in Brighton have been extremely dull, for Brighton generally follows the aspect of the Metropolis.

Our friends at the West Tarring Club (which Club we have mentioned in a previous number started from a very small beginning) are again extending their premises to accommodate the increasing number of members, and further details of this prosperous Club will be forthcoming when the extension is finished.

As mentioned, there is nothing much to chronicle this month, but we must send something to wish our Directors, fellow workers, and all readers, a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

WOOLWICH.

Once again the Festive Season is past and we are on the brink of another year ; we trust it will be a prosperous and happy one for our Firm and all those connected with it, also all readers of our GAZETTE.

The members of the staff here spent a very enjoyable evening on Tuesday, November 27th, when we were entertained by the N.C.O.'s Mess, Military Police, to a round of games. Unfortunately we were beaten by rather a large margin, which is indicated by the scores shewn below :—

BILLIARDS.

<i>H. & G. Simonds Ltd.</i>			<i>Military Police Mess.</i>		
Mr. W. Bowyer	...	...	Won	G.S. Major E. W. Cook	Lost
Mr. Bates	...	...	Lost	Cpl. Clarke	... Won
Mr. Oram	...	...	Lost	Bomdr. Oliver	... Won

WHIST.

Mr. Spurling	L/Cpl. Jarvis*
Mr. Kingwell	Bomdr. Dair*
Mr. S. —————	,, O'Currie*
Mr. Thurston	,, Cooksley*

* The Military Police won both games of Whist.

DARTS.

H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.

Military Police Mess.				
Mr. W. Bowyer	...	200	v.	L/Cpl. Jarvis
Mr. T. Kingwell	...	235	v.	L/Cpl. Maytum
Mr. S. Kingwell	...	305	v.	L/Bdr. Davis
Mr. E. Bates	...	175	v.	Mr. Sherry
Mr. G. Skinner	...	225	v.	L/Cpl. Robinson
Mr. F. Thurston	...	180	v.	L/Bdr. Woodhead
Mr. S. Spurling	...	245	v.	Cpl. Clarke
Mr. W. Matthews	...	200	v.	L/Cpl. Carlton
Total ...	1765		Total ...	2005

DRAUGHTS.

Mr. S. Spurling	...	Won	L/Cpl. Robinson	...	Lost
Mr. S. Corlett	...	Lost	L/Cpl. Carlton	...	Won
Mr. S. Kingwell	...	Lost	Bomdr. Cullington	...	Won

RESULTS.

	Billiards	Whist.	Darts.	Draughts.	TOTAL.
H. & G. Simonds	5—3—6*	3—3	8	3—3—5	39
Military Police	3—5—10*	5—5	16	5—5—3	57

* Denotes a four-handed game.

However, we are eagerly looking forward to the return match some time in January and feel sure that with a little luck we might turn the tables in our favour. Of course we don't like to mention it, but we thought we would be sure of at least winning the game of Darts, but still the best of players have their off-day; it is perhaps tactful not to mention any names in particular.

The most interesting game of the evening was, without doubt, the Billiard match between Garrison Sergeant Major E. W. Cook and Mr. A. W. C. Bowyer, the latter winning by the narrow margin of eight points in one hundred up.

Our sincere thanks are due to the Garrison Sergeant Major Cook, Sergeant Harris and all other members for the very happy entertainment.

On November 28th, the 2nd Loyal Regiment left Gravesend for Aldershot; they were given a very rousing send-off by the inhabitants of Gravesend. We trust that by the time these lines are in print they will have settled down in their new station. We have certainly missed them very much although they only left recently.

The Barracks at Gravesend are now occupied by the Details of the 2nd Bn. The Gloucestershire Regiment, the main body being due on December 26th from Jhansi. The Firm have been given the trade of the Details Sergeants' Mess, and we hope that we shall obtain the permanent Mess trade on the Regiment's arrival; we think this would suit us admirably for a Christmas present. Let us hope our wishes are fulfilled.

We have had the nomination in our favour for the Canteen trade for some time now, so we are sure of at least keeping the Firm's name in the Barracks.

A very interesting ceremony took place on Sunday, 18th November, 1928, when Field Marshal Sir George F. Milne, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., D.S.O., D.C.L., LL.D., Colonel Commandant, Royal Artillery, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, unveiled the memorial in the Garrison Church, Woolwich, to the glory of the Old Contemptibles (Woolwich and District Branch), the Dedication being carried out by The Rev. F. F. S. Smithwick, B.A., Assistant Chaplain General, Eastern Command.

The Royal Artillery Band conducted by Captain E. C. Stretton, M.V.O., was in attendance, the music being admirably selected for the occasion.

LAWYER: "Then you say this man was drunk?"

WITNESS: "I do not. I simply said that he sat in his car for three hours in front of an excavation waiting for the light to turn green."

The sign on the outside of a Western Church: "Revival Meeting to-night. Subject: 'Hell.' James Wilson, tenor, will sing 'Tell Mother I'll be there!'"

HYTHE.

A Happy and Prosperous New Year to all readers of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE, is the wish of everyone at Hythe.

As we write, the old year is now nearly done for, and hope springs afresh in all of our minds that the new one will be better in every way. Considering all things, the year just drawing to a close has not been such a bad one ; it has given us one of the best summers as regards weather within living memory and this must have helped trade in the holiday resorts considerably.

Reviewing the past year as it affects the Brewery, nothing sensational has happened ; we have just jogged along in our old serene way. The only important change in the staff has been the passing of Mr. Chapman to other spheres of activity, and his replacement by Mr. Pike from Reading. In sport, our Cricket and Football teams have done very well considering the small number of players we have to draw upon, and the Minstrel Troupe has gone from triumph to triumph.

As regards the social side, everything is set fair for the year ahead, but trade, what of that ? Shall we be up or down at this time next year, is the more important point. Considering the serious state of the country, it behoves everyone of us to do our best so that we shall continue to hold our place as one of the most important Breweries in Kent.

During the coming year we are to have an election and we hear already talk of prohibition being one of the issues. Think what that will mean for us all should a party with that a prominent item of their programme be returned to power. What it would mean to a small town like Hythe with the Brewery closed can be easily imagined.

For all engaged in the Brewing world and subsidiary trades, politics must be a secondary consideration in the coming fight ; we must go for that party that promises us reasonable treatment. Charity begins at home.

Bravo	Chapman.
Bravo.	Reading.
Bravo	Hythe Brewery.

Milk Stout and " S.B. " Ale have had something to do with the development and improvement of all of them and like those two most popular brands they are going strong.

We must congratulate A.P.F. for the continued success of his small party down under. It is a team that will be remembered and compared when most of us living now are forgotten.

Reading, too, how they have come on ! It is confidently predicted here by those who study " Form " that they are going a long way in the Cup this season. We have some very staunch supporters of Reading on the staff at Hythe.

The Brewery team continues to do well. On Saturday, the 15th December, we played Lympne in the second round of the Ashford Charity Cup and won by 4 goals to 2. This is very gratifying as we had to knuckle under to them on two occasions last season. We are now in the semi-final and are hoping to be favoured when the teams are being drawn out of the hat.

We lost to Ashford Manor in the League by 4 goals to 2, but experienced the hardest of hard luck. We were leading at the interval by 2 goals to 1, but just before half-time were unfortunate in losing Chester, our brilliant centre half, and McCann, outside right, through injuries. We held our own for some time in the second half but the struggle with nine men was too much and towards the end our opponents put on three goals in a very short time. There is no doubt that we should have won this but for our misfortune.

As regards tournament games, we have met the Conservative Club twice during the past month, winning the first time by 15 games to 14, and losing on the second occasion by 17 games to 10. A pleasing feature of the second series was that we won all three games of billiards without calling upon one of our best and most consistent players, Mr. Whiting. Mr. Beattie captained our side on each occasion.

BREWERY MINSTRELS ENTERTAIN ODDFELLOWS.

On Tuesday, 11th December, the Management Committee of the " Fountain of Friendship " Lodge, Manchester Unity Order of Oddfellows, entertained, at the Hythe Oddfellows' Hall, the juvenile members of the Lodge.

About one hundred juveniles were present, in addition to whom several parents attended.

A sumptuous tea was provided, and then games followed. But the big event of the evening was a concert arranged by the Hythe Brewery Minstrel Troupe, which consisted of Messrs. W. H. B. Hoad, W. Wigg, Sherwood, F. Peacock, Cooper, Sanden,

Jones and Middleton. The efforts of this party thoroughly pleased the young guests, who signified their appreciation in no half-hearted manner.

The proceedings were happy and seasonable throughout, and congratulations are due to those who were responsible for the arrangements.

The evening following the above, we had another entertainment and dance at the Church House, kindly lent by the Vicar of Hythe, the Rev. Chastel de Boinville. This was in aid of the funds of the Sports Club, and, as there were about 100 present, the Club should benefit by a nice little sum. Mr. Whiting proved a very capable M.C. and deserves our best thanks for so kindly undertaking this duty. Mr. Wigg, who came into the troupe for the first time at the Oddfellows entertainment, was unfortunately prevented from being present on this occasion. He is an artist of no mean merit and will prove a very useful member. At both concerts we missed Messrs. Davison and McCann; we trust they have not given up as they were both really good, and cannot be replaced. At this point we give the following two quotations taken from speeches given last week which some of our minstrels, football and cricket players might take to heart:—

"If a man in the public eye cannot take a joke at his own expense, the sooner he goes out of the public eye the better."—

Sir W. Joynson-Hicks.

"If you are wrong, regret it. If you are wronged, forget it."—*Duchess of Northumberland.*

TOLD AT THE HYTHE BOWLS CLUB DINNER.

A man met a personal friend, looking very worried, in a street one day. "What is the matter, John?" he asked. "Why are you looking so worried?" "Wouldn't you look worried if you had received a letter like this?" retorted John. His friend took the letter, and read it. "Well," he said, "This only says: 'If you don't stop interfering with my wife I shall bash your head in.' That is not serious. It is easy to get out of it. All you have to do is to stop interfering with this man's wife." "That is easy to say," said John still more lugubriously, "but this letter happens to be anonymous."

Arising out of the Note from Newbury in the October number, regarding the platinum sovereign, we have been asked by several friends if any further particulars have been forthcoming as to how such a coin came to be made. Was it turned out by the Mint or

made by a private individual. If the latter, we presume he would be liable for coining just as much as though it was made of baser metal. We believe platinum is now about four times the value of gold and until quite recently was worth nearly six times as much. Can Newbury tell us more?

Hearty congratulations to Commander and Mrs. H. D. Simonds on the birth of a son and heir.

PORTRUSH.

ROYAL SCOTS FUSILIERS LEAVE PORTSMOUTH FOR BORDON.

On Friday, December 7th, the 1st Battn. Royal Scots Fusiliers entrained at the Town Station, Portsmouth, for Bordon. They were given a very hearty send-off. Three military bands of other local Units played them along the Terraces and Commercial Road from the Victoria Barracks, which they have occupied for about two and a half years. During the time the Regiment has been stationed at Portsmouth they have been twice visited by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, who is their Colonel-in-chief. The Royal Scots Fusiliers are being relieved by the 2nd Battn. of the South Wales Borderers, who will arrive from Aden in February. Details of the Battalion have already arrived at Victoria Barracks.

The *Portsmouth Evening News* under date of December 7th, 1928, publishes the following interesting account of the "Gallant 24th," (The South Wales Borderers):—

"It was during the troubles attending the abdication of the British Throne by James II. and the accession of the Prince of Orange that the 24th Regiment of Foot had its origin. The Regiment was one of several raised in Ireland and its origin dates from March 18th, 1689, its first Commander being Colonel Dering. Little is known of the early history of the Regiment, except that it served in the Irish Wars under King William III. and his campaigns in the Low Countries, which included the famous siege of Namur. The Fortress was held by a French Garrison under Marshal Bouffiers and although the place was captured, except the Castle, he refused to capitulate without an assault. This was undertaken at a cost of 2,000 men *hors de combat* and was the first instance of a great fortress surrendered by a French Marshal to a British General.

"In 1702 the great Duke of Marlborough was appointed to the Colonelcy of the 24th Foot, which he held until transferred to the Guards. The Regiment had been sent to Holland in 1701, and with the Allied Forces of English and Dutch Troops, under Marlborough, and an Austrian Force commanded by Prince Eugene, it helped to curb the ambitious designs of the French King, Louis XIV. The Regiment played a prominent part in succeeding campaigns and its services are denoted by the Battle Honours of 'Blenheim,' 'Ramillies,' 'Oudenarde' and 'Malplaquet,' borne upon its Regimental Colours. It also took part in the sieges of Menin and Lille and in the storming of Douai, names strangely familiar to us during the World War of 1914-18.

"Upon the conclusion of peace the Regiment returned to Ireland. It was employed in the Vigo Expedition of 1719 and in 1740 it proceeded to South America. It formed part of the Force before Cathagena in 1741 and was afterwards in Cuba the same year by which time only 219 men were serving out of the 1,000 who had embarked from England. It was transferred to Jamaica and returned home. Truly the mortality in the West Indies was great in those days.

"The 24th Regiment was in England during the troubles of 1745 but was afterwards employed for some years in the Highlands of Scotland road making.

"In 1751 the Regiment formed a part of the garrison of the island of Minorca, and when the seven years war broke out the efforts of the French were directed to its capture. The little garrison of British troops, consisting of only four Regiments (about 3,000 in all) made a gallant defence under General Blakeney and Admiral Byng's failure to relieve the garrison led to its surrender. The gallantry of the troops against an army of 20,000 French created such an impression that they were allowed to march out with all the honours of war, and were conveyed to Gibraltar and thence home, being sent to recruit at Derby and Nottingham. A second Battalion to the 24th Foot was raised at that time, which soon after was formed into a separate Regiment, the 69th Foot, now the 2nd Bn. Welch Regiment. The 24th Foot took part in the Expedition to St. Malo and Cherbourg in 1758 in an attempt to harass the French upon their own ground and two years later it made campaigns in Germany under the Marquess of Granby, where it fought at Corbach and Warburg and in other actions.

"On renewal of hostilities with the French after the Peace of Amiens the 24th Foot raised a second Battalion which represented the Regiment in the Peninsular War. The senior Battalion formed

a part of the force sent to recapture the Cape of Good Hope in 1806, which was effected without much opposition. The Regiment remained there until 1810 when it embarked in three East India ships for India. These fell in with a French Squadron, with the result that two of the ships were captured and the crews and troops taken to the Island of Mauritius. The remaining ship escaped and reached the river Hooghly safely. When Mauritius fell into our hands shortly afterwards, the troops were sent to join the remainder of the Regiment at Bengal. The Battalion saw much hard service on the Nepaul frontier in 1814-15.

"In 1881 the territorial scheme came into existence and under this the gallant old 24th became known as the South Wales Borderers, under which title they still maintain the old *esprit de corps* of the Regiment.

"In October, 1893, the 2nd Battalion were brought home from Aden and while still wearing their foreign service uniforms were allocated quarters in the forts on Portsdown Hill. On October 18th a severe blizzard burst over Portsmouth and in returning to the Forts in the evening several men lost their way and were overcome by the severe weather. Two of them were found on the slopes of the Hill frozen to death. The 2nd Battalion were sent out to the South African War with the Army of England, being allotted to the 7th Infantry Division, 15th Brigade, commanded by General Wavell. The Battalion accompanied the force which occupied Bloemfontein under Lord Roberts and took part in the action of Karee Siding, the advance on Pretoria, and the arduous operations which finally led to the surrender of the Boer forces and the annexation of the Transvaal.

"When the great War broke out the 1st Battn. South Wales Borderers was at Aldershot, forming a unit of the 3rd Infantry Brigade, commanded by General Landon. It crossed to France with the remainder of the 1st Division and was engaged in meeting the huge German Armies that swarmed through Belgium, and as was to be expected, the Regiment worthily upheld its reputation, as indeed the whole of the 18 Battalions raised for service during the war did not fail to do. The Battle Honours borne on the Colours are a record of their prowess : Mons, 1914; Marne, 1914; Ypres, 1914, 1917 and 1918; Gheluvelt, Somme, 1916, 1918; Cambrai, 1917, 1918; Doiran, 1917, 1918; Landing at Helles, Baghdad and Tsingtao."

SARISBURY AND DISTRICT WORKING MEN'S CLUB.

ANNUAL DINNER.

On November 8th last the members of the above Club held their annual dinner. About 120 sat down to an excellent meal, the Chair being occupied by Mr. G. E. Parker, J.P., C.C. (President), who was supported by Colonel Byrne, Major Henderson, Mr. V. T. Keen, J.P., C.C., the Rev. J. S. Danbury, Capt. Long (Hon. Treasurer), Mr. Buckland, Mr. Letheren, Mr. A. Toulson (Chairman of Committee) and others. Apologies for inability to attend were read from Sir John Davidson, K.C.M.G., D.S.O., M.P., Dr. Kingdon, Dr. A. Wilson, Mr. Oliver, J.P., Capt. C. Moore, Mr. L. Robinson and Mr. Ship.

After the loyal toasts Mr. Palmer in a very fine speech proposed "The Imperial Forces," to which Colonel Byrne and Major Henderson replied.

Capt. Long then read a statement shewing the Club's financial position, with a credit balance at the Bank.

The Rev. J. S. Danbury proposed success to the Club and Mr. A. Toulson responded. In his response, Mr. Toulson said the Club owed its position to the excellent feeling existing among the members, a good committee and the fact that in Mr. F. J. Gingell, their Secretary, they had an official who was untiring in his work for the Club.

Mr. Letheren, in proposing the "Visitors," said how pleased all were to see so many present, and hoped they would leave with a good impression.

Mr. Keen, in reply, said he was new to club life but such an institution, properly conducted, was undoubtedly a great asset to village life and he wished the Club every success.

Mr. Blake also replied.

The Chairman then proposed "The Committee and Steward." He said all appreciated the work done by the Committee, and in Mr. Jack Goulter they had a steward second to none.

Mr. Goulter suitably replied.

Mr. Braddon in a very eulogistic speech proposed "The President." This was received with musical honours and Mr. Parker in thanking all said the Club would always have his interest.

During the evening songs were sung by Messrs. Matthews, Burgess, Hudson, Swatton, B. Powell, A. West and Capt. Pike. Mr. West recited "The Execution" (Ingoldsby Legends).

The Committee consisting of Messrs. H. Epps, B. Braddon, E. Hayes, W. Pitt, R. Smith, W. Dollery, N. Bevis St. C. Eldridge, F. Loader, C. King, A. Toulson (Chairman), Capt. Long (Hon. Treasurer) and the indefatigable Hon. Sec., Mr. F. J. Gingell, deserve congratulations for the excellent arrangements made.

NOVEL CRICKET MATCH TO BE PLAYED ON NEW YEAR'S DAY AT HAMBLEDON.

A cricket match of quite a novel character is to be played on New Year's Day on the historic pitch at Broad Halfpenny Down, Hambledon, by permission of the Wardens and Fellows of Winchester College. Whatever the weather the match will be carried out between teams raised by Mr. J. C. Squire (Editor of the *London Mercury*) and named the "Invalids" and an eleven raised by Mr. G. H. Blunt of Beauworth, Alresford. The "Invalids" are a touring team of repute, and their opponents are to be known as the Hampshire Eskimos. A matting wicket will be used, also a red ball. A collection is to be made on the ground in aid of the Royal County Hospital and the Hampshire County C.C. The Hambledon Brass Band will be in attendance, and the spacious Club Room at the "George Hotel" has been engaged for an informal concert after the match, which is to start at 10 a.m.

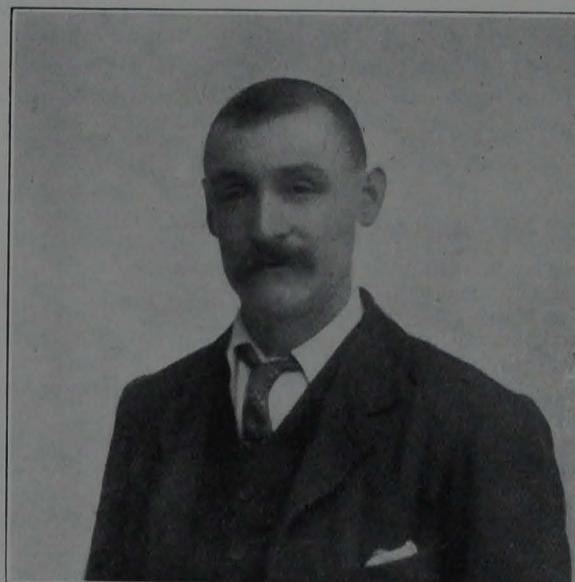
FARNBOROUGH (MILITARY DEPT.).

THE LATE MR. GEORGE BENJAMIN POULTER.

We regret to record the death of Mr. George Benjamin Poulter, which occurred at his residence, Frimley Green, on Saturday, December 15th. He had not been ailing, and was at work as usual on the Friday morning, 14th December. During the day he had a seizure, was taken home, and never rallied. Mr. Poulter had completed 32 years' loyal service with the Firm, having joined at South Farnborough (the old Military Branch) in 1896, under the late Capt. W. Batchelor. He had always been a conscientious worker and during the war period was foreman at North Camp. He joined us as a horse driver, and in the pre-war pair-horse transport days, when camps were moved from day to day, Poulter always took his part. Our pair-horse vans were then used as

canteen carts, and our waggon tilts were always eagerly looked forward to by troops at the end of a day's operations. The canteen vans travelled by night, and many discomforts had to be faced. "Georgie"—as he was known to troops—never failed and always "rolled" up to time. He was popular and highly respected by all who knew him. A quiet, inoffensive man, he was never known to make a complaint. He was one of the earliest members of the South Farnborough Working Men's Club, and a regular member to the day of his death. He had often expressed a wish to die in harness, and which he truly did. On the recent Army Trainings in Sussex, Poulter was responsible for the erection of canvas and equipment in the Petworth Area. He was a past master in canvas work and the last marquees he was responsible for were the recent 14/20th Hussars "Ramnuggar Ball." He then erected three marquees, which he kept on their legs during storm and stress for a whole week. Canvas Department, Reading, were surprised it was possible to do so. He was unmarried, and his dear sister, Mrs. E. Jenner, who "mothered" him, is left to mourn her loss. Poulter was of a type now unfortunately passing out.

W.H.W.



The late Mr. George Benjamin Poulter.

THE TAMAR BREWERY, DEVONPORT.

The Christmas rush, Mr. Editor, has not allowed our thoughts to converge into that smooth, literary channel which is best for you and our publication. The hours fly and are not long enough by half. We find ourselves overdue for once with the quota which we know you like to receive from your correspondents both at home and abroad.

So here goes.

"A HARDY ANNUAL."

From a customer in the vicinity of Land's End comes the following repeat order:—

"Please forward me again my annual allowance. That's a nine-gallon of your strong ale. Keep to your good name and see the barrel is full and good.

"Yours with a good thirst,
_____, Hayle, Cornwall."

We, talking "horticulturally," would prefer to call this customer our "hardy perennial" and take this opportunity of complimenting him on his discrimination in the selection of his "annual gargle."

* * * *

With the conveyor at work we find loading and unloading our transport a much simpler matter to deal with.

By the way, who "launched" at the official opening ceremony? And what sparkling wine was it that trickled across its bow as it slowly commenced to move forward on its endless flight. Perhaps in our next number we may be privileged to show you a picture of the whole scene, if the photographer will allow us to reproduce it in these pages. Its subject earmarked a definite page in Tamar Brewery history, and one which we hope to fill up as time passes.

* * * *

OUR SOCIAL CLUB.

We are now able to report satisfactorily on the year which ended on September 30th last.

The balance sheet clearly emphasises that distinct progress has been made financially at least. Quite a healthy balance in hand appears thereon. The help which the Firm and many of the

Heads of Departments at Reading and Devonport gave us when it was most needed is mainly responsible for such a happy state of affairs.

To get more members to join must be our effort, and to make the Club a cosy meeting place for all its members must be our aim. With such a keen committee and with such officers as at present we feel the roll of members will soon be a much longer one, and the Club spirit more apparent.

The Annual General Meeting takes place in January and much progress will be reported during the year now ended.

Unfortunately, our billiards "athletes" have, so far, no like progress to record, being still without a win in the First Division of the Plymouth and District League. They are all triers, however, and despite defeats are not abashed.

"When are you going to win one?" is loudly heard on all sides. Goodness knows what "bouquets" will be handed round when the ice is broken. By "James" and by "George" wait and see!

The final of a 150-up knock-out tournament (handicap) is also due to be decided early in the Near Year. The contestants are J. H. Law (scratch) and the winner of A. E. Ellis (rec. 20) and L. Loynes (rec. 60).

Furthermore, we are now in the early throes of a 200-up handicap, for which prizes including a cue and case, bottle of whisky and boxes of cigarettes have been presented, as well as prizes furnished by the entrance fees.

Perhaps regarding the second prize, it would be better for all of us should the donor win it himself. We should then all stand a good chance of sampling it.

Joking apart, it nevertheless shows that we are far from dull in our spare moments, and that sufficient backing of "the right spirit" is amongst us to make the Club the success it should be. We ask all "Tamarites" to do their share in a like manner and join up. We then have no fear as to its future progression.

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"THE GLORIOUS TWELFTH."

Here's the best to all our football "fans" who, in their spare moments, help to brew, bill or bottle "Hop Leaf" products.

Will the "Hotspurs" leave Reading without "taking all the biscuit"? We expect the wild enthusiasm of Elm Park-ites to fluster those pure-bred, one-time First Leaguers a little, as it did when Reading F.C. became a power in the Cup.

Our dictionary informs us that a "Hotspur" is a "violent, rash man." Forewarned is forearmed! We lift our glasses in company with all friends at Headquarters, in anticipation of him finding a peaceful rest in Elm Park.

We look to "Pompey" also to keep the flag flying. By their own efforts they have climbed to the top class in their branch of sport, and many admirers outside Hampshire would be sorry to see them decline. We had Charlton at Plymouth a week or two ago. They are a typical Cup eleven, a real ninety-minutes' side. Still, the "Pompey" chimes should ring out gaily when the final whistle blows.

What a pity we have to number our Brighton "fans" amongst the slain. Still, as the "Argyle" put paid to the account of their conquerors—Brentford—it undoubtedly amounted to the same thing in the end.

Loud cheers in the West! Better luck next time, "London-by-the-Sea."

Talking about ourselves, the posters tell us how much energising matter the Blackpool breezes are reputed to average to a cubic foot. Only Plymouth folk, however, know how much energetic mind can be packed into two football feet. We have no doubt but that many Lancashire lads will be sadder and wiser at four o'clock on the above day in January, and that the undoubted superiority of mind over matter by that time will have been fully demonstrated. At least, we hope so.

In conclusion, a Happy Year to you, Mr. Editor, and to all readers.



A Happy and
Prosperous New Year
to all.

READING FOOTBALL CLUB CUP TEAM
SEASON 1928-1929.



F. G. Webb

H. D. Chappell

W. H. Moore

J. Buckworth

E. Smith

J. Rimmo

Photo: Arthur Bennett, Reading.
W. Smith (President)