

The Hop Leaf Gazette.

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

Edited by CHARLES H. PERRIN.

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No. 4.



MR. W. H. COTTON.

MR. W. H. COTTON.

For our frontispiece this month we reproduce the portrait of Mr. W. H. Cotton, another member of our Staff who has seen many years' service with the Firm.

In earlier years, Mr. Cotton had a variety of experience which equipped him for the appointment of chief clerk at Brighton, which he now holds.

Mr. Cotton commenced his service at Hastings Branch in May, 1897, and was transferred to Brighton in November, 1899. After qualifying for promotion, he was sent to Worthing to take charge of that Branch Office, where he remained until 1904, when he returned to the main Brighton Office. In 1905, Mr. Cotton was chosen to carry out relief work at Sandgate and Dublin Branches. In consideration of the responsible work which he then successfully carried out he was transferred, later in the same year, to the Head Office at Reading, where he was employed in the Home Department. After remaining at the Brewery until 1910, Mr. Cotton again returned to Brighton to fill the office of Chief Clerk. In filling this appointment, Mr. Cotton has fully justified the confidence placed in him.

During the Great War Mr. Cotton enlisted under the Derby Scheme and upon being called up in June, 1916, was posted to a Reserve Brigade of R.F.A. stationed at Forest Row. Being marked for Home Service he was chiefly employed in the Quartermaster and Pay-Sergeant's offices, attaining the rank of Bombardier. He was demobilised in February, 1919, and returned to his duties at Brighton.

Mr. Cotton is an active member of the Manchester Unity of Odd Fellows, and has passed through the various offices of his lodge. He is one of the founders of the Grand Lodge of Past Grands for Brighton district, of which he was assistant secretary for two years. As one of the founders of The Odd Fellows Social Club, Mr. Cotton has served on the Committee since its formation about 10 years ago and has held the secretaryship for two years.

As befits a man of sedentary occupation, Mr. Cotton's chief outdoor recreation is gardening and bowls. During the winter months he plays billiards, snooker and badminton, and had the honour last year of winning his club's snooker championship.



EDITORIAL.

MR. F. A. SIMONDS AND THE BREWERS' SOCIETY.

A wide circle of readers at home and abroad will be deeply interested and gratified to learn that Mr. F. A. Simonds has been elected to the office of Vice-Chairman of the Committee of the Brewers' Society for the ensuing year, 1931-32. As one of the leaders of policy in the brewing world, Mr. F. A. Simonds' experience should prove a valuable asset during the period ahead, which is calculated to be fraught with vital issues to the industry and allied trades. Our congratulations, Sir, on this signal mark of preferment!

—

A HEALTHY, HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR
TO ALL.

Which shall it be?

Great joy for thine own self, or blessedness
Of healing, helpful life, and power to bless?

Which shall I ask for thee?

Life's very best

Be thine! Whether it come as Joy or Pain,
So it should work thy good,

'Twere wholly gain.

God bless thee—for the rest!

—

XMAS TRANSPORT.

The demands on our Transport Department at headquarters was, as usual at this season, exceptionally heavy, and as the area over which direct deliveries from Reading were made had considerably increased since Xmas 1930, it is a matter for congratulation that all the deliveries (over 4,000) were effected in record time and not a single bottle or cask went astray. The Brewery yard presented a lively scene all through the days preceding Xmas, but the whole organisation, under the able direction of Commander Simonds, R.N., worked with a will and early on the afternoon of Xmas eve the "all clear" was sounded.

—

LIABILITY OF LICENSEES.

Judgment, with costs, was given by Judge Harington, at Kingston-on-Thames County Court in favour of Mr. Charles W. D. Chinnery, a motor dealer, of Hammersmith Road, who sued Messrs.

G. M. and M. W. Richards, of the Bear Hotel, Esher, for £11 15s. od., the value of a pair of binoculars lost from a motor car parked outside the hotel. The plaintiff stated that he called at the hotel for refreshments, leaving his car on the road in front of the hotel. He asked the uniformed hotel attendant if it would be all right, and the man replied that he would look after it. The binoculars were in a "cubby hole" in the dashboard. On leaving the hotel he found that his car had been moved into a yard at the side and the binoculars were missing. When questioned, the attendant admitted that he moved the car because of other cars pulling up outside. Judge Harington said he came to the conclusion that the binoculars were lost through the negligence of the defendants' servant, who had undertaken the care of the car while the plaintiff was in the hotel. The attendant had failed in his duty, as he had no business to move the car into the yard adjoining the hotel without first informing the owner, whom he knew was in the hotel. Again, if the glasses were stolen while the car was in front of the hotel, it was due to the negligence of the attendant, who had undertaken to look after the car which was left in his charge by the plaintiff, who remained in the hotel for about forty minutes.

PALINDROMES.

The following original palindromes* were among those submitted in a recent competition in *Everyman* :

Step on no pets.
Smart moods doom trams.
Vera saw I was a Rev.
Pay on time, emit no yap.

The last of the above, the editor commented, might adorn the walls of an American business firm.

(* Palindromes may be read either backward or forward.)

OTHER WAYS.

No one wants to encourage drunkenness. But there are other ways of dealing with it than by petty rules and restrictions. If public houses were put back on a pre-war footing it would put tens of thousands of people in work in all directions—surely worth considering in these days of endless unemployment. A good thing the beer tax *has* been a failure!—*Mr. M. Millar*, Willoughby Lane, Tottenham, N.

THE CAUSE OF CRIME.

Indictable offences are increasing in the country at the rate of thousands a year. When I reflect from time to time upon the cause of crime I come to the conclusion that drink has very little to do with the serious crime of to-day; nor has poverty. The main causes are fundamental. They spring from the defects of human nature—from greed, lust, vanity, and anger. The number of prisons steadily grows less, but the number of crimes steadily grows from year to year.—*Mr. Justice McCardie*, at Leeds Assizes.

SIMILITUDE BETWEEN LIFE AND THE GAME OF BOWLS.

Life, like the Game of Bowls, is but an end,
Which, to play well, this moral verse attend.
Throw not your bowl too rashly from your hand,
First let its course by reason's eye be plann'd,
Lest it rolls useless o'er the verdant plain
Like heedless life that has been lived in vain.
Know well your bias—here the moral school
Scarce needs a comment on the bowling rule.
Play not too wide, with caution eye your cast;
Use not extent of Green, or Life to waste;
Nor yet too straight—in Life observe the same—
The narrow minded often miss their aim!
Bowling too short, you but obstruct the Green;
Like him who loiters on Life's public scene,
Whoe're at Bowls—or business causes strife,
Will rubs on Greens receive—and eke in Life.
One bowling trick avoid in moral play,
Ah, never—never block your neighbour's way!
These rules observ'd, a Man may play his game
On Bowling Greens—or thro' the World with fame.

POISON DRINK IN AMERICA.

A wave of blindness, paralysis and death swept the United States on December 28th as the result of drinking poisoned liquor over the Christmas holidays. From all the large cities come reports of hospitals admitting a large number of persons suffering from alcoholism, and when the final figures are obtainable there will be an alarming record of deaths or permanent injury caused by poison sold as whisky or rum. The police are endeavouring to trace the poisoned liquor (most of which chemical analysis shows to consist of methylated spirits, burnt sugar, and water, and even embalming fluid) to a ring of New York bootleggers.

NEW YEAR EVE RAIDS.

Public clamour against Prohibition has been intensified by the long list of victims, and demands are made to national and local authorities to bring those responsible to justice. Police-Commissioner Mulrooney promised city-wide raids on thousands of speakeasies in the effort to make New York safe for New Year's Eve, but the task was admittedly hopeless. New York's record of drinking casualties during Christmas is nine deaths. Dorothea Clarke, a nineteen-year-old Brooklyn girl, will be permanently blinded, physicians fear, as the penalty of taking one drink of spirits on Christmas Day.

NOURISHING FOOD.

At the recent Slough Fat Stock Show Mr. F. Sheppard of "The Barley Corn," Cippenham, gained 1st prize for the best Fat Sow. For eighteen months she was regularly fed on beer and thrived on it.

LORD DEWAR'S JOKE.

"Whisky Tom," as the late Lord Dewar was affectionately called, was fond of playing practical jokes on his friend, "Tea Tom," the late Sir Thomas Lipton. On one occasion he went into one of Lipton's shops in Yorkshire and said he was an inspector from the head office. He was shown all over the premises, he examined the books, and, on leaving, said he was so satisfied with the way the shop was run that he would give everybody on the staff an increase in their salaries of one pound per week. He was easily the most popular "inspector" that had ever visited Harrogate!

And after that, Sir Thomas says that he had not the heart to stop the "increases," and went on paying them!

Sir Thomas was almost as well known in America as he was in England, and Lord Dewar used to tell a story to the effect that an American tourist once paid a shilling to inspect the famous old cottage at Chalfont St. Giles, Buckinghamshire, in which Milton wrote some of his immortal poetry. The guide showed his visitor all over the cottage until he came to the poet's chair and then he exclaimed dramatically: "In this very chair sat Milton!" "Who did you say?" asked the visitor, a look of disappointment suddenly taking the place of the keen interest he had been displaying. "Milton? I thought you said Lipton! Give me back my shilling!"

A GOOD RESOLUTION.

During the New Year make up your minds to ask always for the

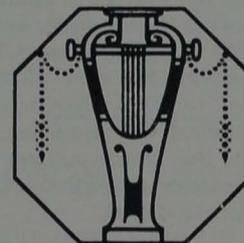
SUPREME
BEVERAGE

FOREDOOMED TO FAILURE.

Every minister of religion who advocates an Act of Parliament to make men sober is admitting the bankruptcies of centuries of religious teachings.

When a thing is wrong in principle, neither laws, court decisions, majorities, nor all the sentimentalism of paid agitators can make it right.

Prohibition is foredoomed to failure because it is wrong in principle.



A NEW YEAR RESOLUTION.

There are few, if any, of us who do not make periodic vows to turn over a new leaf. Tied as we are by material customs, it is not surprising that these attempts invariably become widespread at the beginning of a new time period such as a year. Since, however, human nature almost always follows the line of least resistance, the manner in which these efforts die a speedy death has become nothing more than a popular joke. Despite the inevitable failure it is more than likely that New Year Resolutions are at the moment as popular as ever they have been before, so that indeed these remarks may not be entirely out of place.

One of the most tragic outcomes of the wide sweep of evolution during which man has advanced from primitive savage to a more or less civilised state of existence is the net of environment wherein he has become enmeshed. Those wide, free stretches of ownerless country where formerly he could roam at will, mothered by nature in the justest manner, are disappearing, particularly where the population is most dense, and, superimposed, the machinery of civilisation has arisen. Few men now find it possible to live amidst wholly natural surroundings. Man has wrested secrets from nature which enable him to produce the intricate mechanism of "artificial livelihood." No longer, in a material sense, is he his own master. He now finds himself dependent upon, perhaps even a slave to, that vast organisation of his own making.

One outcome of this evolved system is the appearance of mutual dependence. The individual's work has now become specialised and co-operation is essential for the unity of the whole. The natural tendency is for the individual to follow a groove, unable to avoid contact with those unpleasant barriers to contentment and happiness which daily fall across his path. Herein lies the tragedy. No two persons are ever alike and few can live in perfect peace, untroubled by the idiosyncracies of their fellows. Domestic eruptions are of everyday occurrence and have but a local effect. Yet in precisely the same manner as these minor disturbances occur, so do greater tragedies arise and culminate not infrequently in wholesale bloodshed.

It is commonly said that it is the little things that count and it has proved to be very true. The raising of such a point now shows up the importance of domestic peace. If only the individual could sufficiently submerge his own petty emotions to avoid friction with his immediate companions the total effect would be so far-reaching as to produce universal contentment.

Undoubtedly it is far easier to suggest certain lines of behaviour than to actually carry them out as all who have attempted to carry out resolutions will agree. Yet here at least is a suggestion worthy of attempting. Do try to control hasty temper and petty desires to "hit back" to the extent of producing a sense of peace and friendliness in our own immediate surroundings, at least. There is no surer way of international relationships becoming settled and secure. The sense of personal happiness, too, which is developed in this manner makes the attempt altogether worthy for its own sake. Some militant or more robust spirits might possibly suggest that such a line of behaviour would merely succeed in producing a "sloppy" type of individual. Here the obvious answer is that providing due care is taken to ensure this idea of Brotherhood being carried out in a well-balanced manner, then he who makes the attempt can only congratulate himself upon developing a strength far in excess of that which accrues to the hard-headed materialist.

Perfect Love casteth out Fear, and again Love is Strength.

E. W. KIRBY.

 THE QUEEN'S HOTEL, FARNBOROUGH.

Over a hundred past pupils of the Hillside Convent School spent a happy time in the Queen's Hotel ballroom recently at their annual reunion dance. The "Felix" band supplied the music and the arrangements were made by the Hon. Secretary, Miss P. Pickett, of London. The ballroom was gaily decorated and arranged on cabaret lines and the catering and refreshments were excellently served and supervised by Mr. Maitland Dods, the newly-appointed hotel manager.

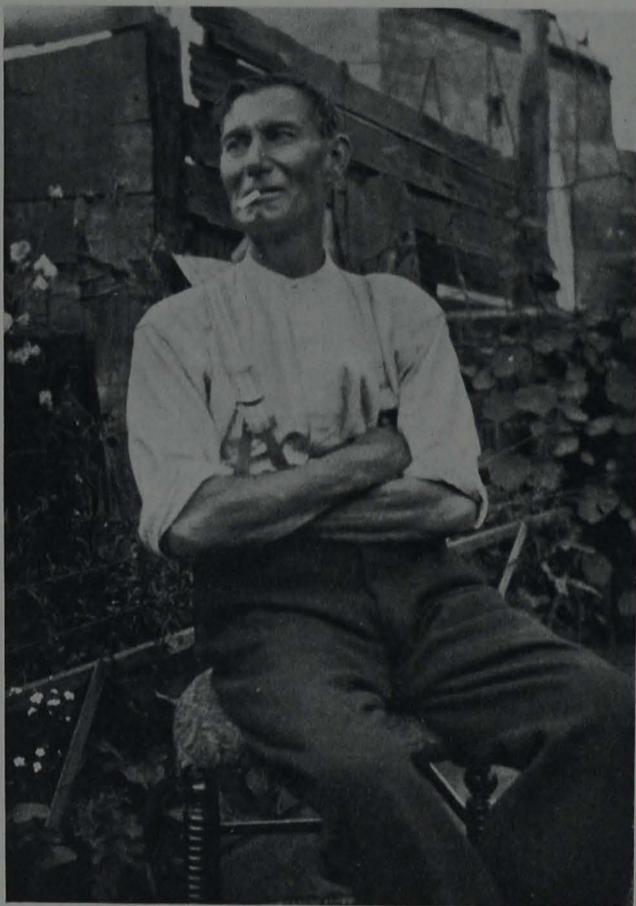
 DEATH OF MR. THOMAS CRIPPS.

We regret to report that another of our respected workmen, Mr. Thomas Cripps, passed away at Park Hospital on December 9th, aged 51 years.

The interment took place at the Reading Corporation Cemetery on December 16th after a short service at St. Saviour's Church. Four of his fellow workmates carried him to his last resting place.

He was much respected by his mates and particularly by Mr. Drury, under whom he worked as head carter since 1916.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to his widow and family in their bereavement.



The late Mr. Thomas Cripps.

Mr. R. Potter of the Delivery Department died rather suddenly on December 29th.

LICENSED VICTUALLERS' BANQUET AT TORQUAY.

RECORD ATTENDANCE AT ANNUAL FUNCTION OF TORQUAY AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

FAILURE OF EXTRA BEER TAX.

NEED FOR LATER OPENING HOURS IN SEASIDE RESORTS.

A record company greeted our Managing Director, Mr. F. A. Simonds, on Thursday, November 26th, at the St. James' Hotel, Torquay, the occasion being the Annual Banquet and Dance of the Torquay and District Licensed Victuallers' Association, at which he was the guest of honour.

Mr. Eric's unfailing gift of saying and doing the right thing was never more cheerfully exemplified. From the first stroke of the hammer all present were entirely at their ease, and, we know, highly esteemed such a pleasing insight into the incisive, yet good-humoured personality of their Chairman, of whose inherent qualities we are all so highly conscious.

Undoubtedly his presence enhanced very considerably his Company's prestige throughout the wide area which was represented at the gathering. As that popular journal, *The Mid-Devon Advertiser*, so aptly put it, "His sparkling wit and wonderful geniality added much to the success of the function."

We cannot do better than include in our GAZETTE records the happenings of the evening in *The Advertiser's* own excellent words:—

The annual banquet and dance of the Torquay and District Licensed Victuallers' Association proved the most successful on record, the attendance being much larger than on any previous occasion. Admirable arrangements were made by a hard-working committee under enthusiastic and capable officials in Councillor W. H. E. Edworthy (president), Mr. A. E. Bibbings (vice-president) and Mr. R. E. Farley (hon. treasurer). Councillor T. H. Frost (secretary) carried out his arduous duties in an extremely efficient manner and to the satisfaction of everybody concerned.

The distinguished guests included the Mayors of Torquay and Totnes, Commander C. Williams, M.P. for Torquay, Mr. J. L. Elms, J.P. (chairman Newton Abbot Urban District Council), representatives of other local authorities and of practically the whole of the Licensed Victuallers' Associations of Devon and Cornwall, also the women's auxiliaries. During the proceedings a programme of music was provided by the St. James' Hotel Band, under Mr. Len Taylor.

GENEROUS DONATIONS.

Following the loyal toasts, proposed by the Chairman, the secretary (Councillor Frost) announced that among the apologies for non-attendance were those from Mr. Alfred Adams (last year's chairman), Major S. E. Harvey, M.P., and the Mayor of Dartmouth. In regard to the chairman's list Messrs. H. & G. Simonds Ltd. had sent 50 guineas, Messrs. N. P. Hunt & Sons, Paignton, 25 guineas, and Mr. F. A. Simonds (their chairman) a personal donation of 25 guineas, the grand total being £166 8s. 6d. (Applause). On behalf of the committee he thanked the subscribers most sincerely and particularly the chairman for the generous donations given by himself and on behalf of the firm. (Applause). Practically all those connected with the trade had subscribed, and they were deeply indebted to them. It was more essential now than at any other time for the wholesale trade to back up the retail trade, and he was sure the retail trade would do their best for everybody concerned. As to the Association they had much propaganda work to carry on.

TRADE GRIEVANCES.

Proposing the toast of "The Imperial Parliament," Mr. C. H. Field Fisher, solicitor to the Association, observed that the National Government had been sent back to do one job, and that was to put the finances of the country right, and so far as they could see at the moment they had started in the right way. The job was such a colossal one, however, that he believed it would take years to accomplish, and therefore they must have patience.

ACTION WANTED.

In reply, Commander Charles Williams, M.P., who was very cordially received, said that if he had any encouragement from the new House of Commons it was from the rank and file of the members. The new members he had come across had a different point of view to those in the previous House of Commons, and that was that they wanted to get down to the business of reorganising and rebuilding British trade and industry. (Applause). As far as the branch of British industry represented by the licensing trade was concerned, moderation was its chief asset, and the man who took too much was its chief enemy. (Hear, hear). In dealing with the laws which affected the trade it was obvious that those who were called upon to deal with such matters must consider both sides of that very important question. He believed that there was a very clear and a very definite difference between a factory, and a business which was serving the public. In the factory articles were manufactured for distribution, but the members of the licensing

business were serving a very great public which desired to be served at very many hours of the day, and it was quite obvious that people wanted to be served at hours other than those now permitted. (Hear, hear).

CHAIRMAN'S PRAISE.

"Success to the Torquay Association and the Licensed Trade" was proposed by the Chairman, who referred to the activities of the Torquay Association and of its officials. He had a wide knowledge of the work, but there was no Association for the benefit of the trade which was more efficient or better inspired than the one for the Torquay district. (Hear, hear). The success of any Association of that kind rested entirely upon the officials, and he knew they were extremely well led by Councillors Edworthy and Frost. (Applause). Their annual report gave a summary of the Association's activities, and it was an example to similar trade organisations throughout the country. He congratulated the licensed traders of the district on having such a very live and successful organisation.

He considered that the address made by Commander Williams, M.P., was an augury of better legislation in the House of Commons, and he knew that in the Mayors of the neighbourhood they had sympathetic gentlemen with broad minds. In his opinion the outcome of the Royal Licensing Commission would be some agreement that this country should not be mollicuddled as it had been in the past, and that there should be a wider outlook in licensing matters. He was very friendly with Lord and Lady Astor, and although he did not agree with their views in certain matters he did think that in these days they should approach with sympathy rather than antipathy the views of those ladies and gentlemen who were not altogether friendly to them in licensing matters. They would find greater opportunities in the future of sympathetic agreement on many points of policy with the opposition.

MONSTROUS TAXATION.

With regard to the recent monstrous taxation imposed upon the trade by Viscount Snowden and others concerned, it had been usual in the past for the administration or the officials to consult in confidence the leaders of the trade in order to arrive, if possible, at some agreement as to fresh taxation. That was not done in September, and as the result this abominable increased taxation was conceived in panic, born in abysmal ignorance and suckled on the sour milk of the envy, malice and hatred of Pussfootism. Mr. Snowden had a coronet, but most of those in the trade would soon have to send for the Coroner. (Laughter). The battle

against the common enemy was not going to be won by any hostility among sections of the trade. At the moment they were face to face with the common enemy of ignorance, prejudice and hatred, and he only hoped that gatherings like they were holding that night would ensure peace and happiness among them, and a common ground of agreement, inspiration and earnest desire to do what they could for the best interests of the licensing trade. (Applause).

NEED FOR UNITY.

Councillor Edworthy replied, and thanked the chairman for his kind remarks concerning the activities of the Torquay Association. They had a live Association, and he was pleased to be able to say that he had executive officers and a committee who were of tremendous help to him. Councillor Frost was a host in himself. (Applause). They also had to thank the firm, and the chairman, for their generous contributions, and he could assure the chairman that the fund would be used very carefully for propaganda work. At the present time there was a pressing need for unity among the wholesale and retail trade. They were up against some very hard things, but they were hoping for better times. In regard to Torquay they had been very persistent in their efforts to obtain the extra half hour during summer time. It was a matter they had been pursuing for years, and they had not given it up yet and intended to make a further application at the next Brewster Sessions. (Hear, hear). Of late the magistrates had not seen fit to hear their application, but had dealt with it behind closed doors, and he hoped that in the future, if it was to be considered behind closed doors, that they would have the courtesy to call in two or three of the licensed victuallers of the town so as to hear their side of the case. (Hear, hear). Torquay was not an industrial town and it had to be supported by visitors. If they were going to attract visitors to Torquay they had to give them a little bit of freedom. For instance, visitors wanted to stop to the end of band concerts and other amusements until 10 o'clock and then walk home in comfort and have a drink in comfort. At the present time it was a disgrace to see the Torquay hotels so congested just before 10 o'clock, and at such times it was impossible for the licensees to conduct their houses properly. (Hear, hear).

TAX FAILURE.

In regard to the extra beer tax, Councillor Edworthy urged them to avoid panic. They should hold on for their time was coming. This was the first time an extra beer tax had been enforced and it had failed. The licensed victuallers were doing all they possibly could in the matter, but they wanted the support of the

public. The freedom of the public was being pinched, but they had not shouted until now, and he believed that at the present time the trade had the public behind it. (Applause). He did not know what the object of the Chancellor was, whether he thought he would raise more money or whether it was intended to bring forth partial prohibition. In any case, the money expected from it had not been realised, and they were down to the extent of £5,000,000. They knew that whisky taxation was now 72s. 6d. as against 14s. 9d. in 1914, but when it was 50s. the revenue was £6,500,000 more than it was to-day.

Mr. J. Squire, the representative of the Licensed Victuallers' Defence League, also replied, and said they appreciated that the Torquay Association had executive officers second to none in the country and that the Association was very much alive. They hoped the membership would increase considerably in the near future. The tax which had been referred to was a pernicious tax which they could hardly bear, and they hoped that Commander Williams would support them when the proper time came to propose a repeal of that tax. He believed that if they had an Advisory Committee they would very quickly come to an amicable solution whereby the retailers would work in a sympathetic manner with the wholesalers.

With reference to the position of Torquay it was one of the most beautiful spots in the country, but to make it attractive to visitors they must have increased facilities. (Hear, hear).

DRUNKENNESS.

"The Magistrates and Municipal Authorities" was proposed by Mr. W. Major (Devon and Cornwall representative National Trade Defence Association) who referred to the fact that figures of drunkenness in the district were very much below the average, and also much below those of Carlisle, supposed to be the only place where licensed houses were properly conducted.

Councillor F. Callard, J.P. (Mayor of Torquay), replied, and said the Torquay Town Council were very anxious for the welfare and prosperity of Torquay and in that prosperity they included the licensed trade and its interests. Their points of view would be considered, and he hoped with satisfaction to all concerned.

Councillor J. G. Kellock, J.P. (Mayor of Totnes), also responded, and observed that a lot of their complaints were due to the fact that an increasing majority of the Benches were becoming teetotal. (Hear, hear). If a man was a teetotaler it was very difficult for him to understand what good some stronger refreshment could be to people. He realised that the Association was accomplishing very good work and also that the excessive drinker was their worst

enemy. (Applause). It was largely due to the Association and to the excellence of the police force that the licensed houses were conducted so satisfactorily.

THE CHAIRMAN.

Proposing "The Chairman," Councillor J. L. Elms, J.P., said to his knowledge the extra tax had made a difference of £20 per week to one licensed house in Newton Abbot. He did not see why teetotallers should escape all the time. (Hear, hear). With regard to their chairman he served with distinction in the Boer War, had been High Sheriff of Berkshire and had been chairman of the Conservative Party at Reading for 16 years. (Applause). They thanked him for his great kindness in coming to preside that night, and they heartily appreciated his generosity and his genial conduct in the chair. (Applause).

The toast was accorded musical honours and cheers, and Mr. Simonds suitably replied, observing that he was very deeply interested in everything that happened in the licensing trade.

"Our Guests" was proposed by Councillor T. H. Frost, who referred to the kindness of Commander Williams and the representatives of local authorities in attending that gathering. They also greatly appreciated the presence of representatives of the various trade organisations throughout Devon and Cornwall and hoped to reciprocate. His best thanks were due to Messrs. McIntyre and Tranter, of the firm of Messrs. H. & G. Simonds Ltd., who had been very helpful in bringing about the success of the gathering. (Applause).

Mr. A. J. Leach, chairman of the Barnstaple and North Devon Association, responded, and stated that Ilfracombe was also hit by the short hours and restrictions. He hoped that all the little grievances between the wholesale and retail trade would be settled and that they would soon have a rebate in the abominable tax which they now had to pay.

During an interval in the proceedings Mr. Will Hill, of Birmingham, entertained with songs and stories.

A successful dance followed, the music being provided by Mr. Len Taylor and his band. In addition to those mentioned the local committee responsible for the organisation consisted of Messrs. W. Lockyear, G. A. Horton, H. L. Richardson, T. A. McCarthy, C. E. Lewis, A. Edworthy, P. W. Davey, G. W. Pike, F. Brown, A. V. Steart, A. Lakin, S. J. Bellchambers, D. T. Cannings, R. E. Bowden and W. Heal.



Annual Banquet of the Torquay and District Licensed Victuallers' Association.

Progress of H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.

CHAIRMAN AND THE NEW TAXATION.

COLOSSAL SALE OF BOTTLED BEER.

The serious effect of the emergency budget of September last on the brewing industry was referred to by Major S. V. Shea-Simonds, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Messrs. H. & G. Simonds Ltd., at the annual meeting of the Shareholders, which was held in the Chamber of Commerce Room, Reading, on Monday, December 21st. In addition to the Chairman of the Company there were present Mr. F. A. Simonds (Managing Director), Mr. J. H. Simonds (Vice-Chairman), Commander H. D. Simonds, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Simonds, Mrs. C. M. Simonds, Major G. S. M. Ashby, Major J. H. Simonds, Mr. L. A. Simonds, Mr. St. John Quarry, Mr. G. W. Smith, Mr. R. A. Walker, Mr. C. F. Corbould Ellis, Mr. H. Callas, Mr. S. Motion, Mr. W. H. Burton, Mr. C. Fry, Mr. C. Bennett, Mr. H. L. Chaplin, Mr. H. Hobson, Mr. R. G. Franklin, Mr. F. D. Ashdown, Mr. E. S. Phipps (Secretary), etc. Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. G. Blackall-Simonds, Mrs. F. A. Simonds, and Mr. Gavin T. Simonds, K.C.

The Chairman proposed the following resolution:—"That the report of the Directors and the balance sheet for 1930-1931 be received and adopted, and that, having already paid or provided for the full year's dividend on the 5 per cent. and 6½ per cent. Preference Shares less tax, and an interim dividend at the rate of 3 per cent. less tax on £540,240 Ordinary Shares, and having appropriated £6,000 to Debenture Redemption Reserve, the Directors now recommend a final dividend on the Ordinary Shares of 9½ per cent. less tax (making a dividend of 12½ per cent. less tax for the year), that £10,000 be appropriated to Investment Reserve, that £26,072 13s. 11d. be carried to Property Improvement Account, that Pensions Reserve be augmented by allocating thereto the sum of £15,100, and that the balance of £94,672 13s. 9d. be carried forward to next year."

MR. FREDERICK SIMONDS' RETIREMENT.

The Chairman said: "Before making any comment on the report I would like to refer to the retirement of Mr. Frederick Simonds from the office of Secretary on December 31st last, an office which he had filled faithfully and efficiently for some 35 years. Mr. E. S. Phipps, who had for 10 years filled the office of Assistant Secretary to the complete satisfaction of the Directors, was appointed to fill the vacancy. Mr. Frederick Simonds, who has been associated with the Company for some 51 years, and

has been a Director for 28 years, does not offer himself for re-election on this occasion, and is retiring from the Board to the great regret of his colleagues. Mr. Frederick Simonds feels, and I think rightly, that he is entitled to enjoy a greater measure of ease and leisure than has been open to him during the last few years of his long service to the Company. I am sure, however, that the Shareholders will be very glad to know that Mr. Frederick Simonds will retain his chair in the office, and has generously offered his services in an honorary and advisory capacity whenever called upon so to do. (Applause.)

"The past financial year has been one of marked progress in the development of the affairs of the Company and its subsidiaries, and the net profits disclose an increase of £24,325 8s. 2d., which is a matter for congratulation. This has been achieved very largely by a continuation of the policy of eliminating unprofitable business, chiefly connected with the supplies to the Services, which business is becoming a most expensive one to maintain and supervise. The economies which we have been able to effect in the centralisation of our bottling stores and distribution from fewer centres are now bearing good fruit.

THE SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES.

"A considerable amount of money has been spent in rebuilding and reconditioning the licensed properties connected with our recently acquired subsidiary companies, Ashby's Staines Brewery Company, Ltd., and Wheeler's Wycombe Breweries, Ltd., and we trust that in due course these companies will prove profitable investments. As mentioned to you at the last General Meeting, we have acquired the business of the Newbury Brewery Co., Ltd., and that concern has now been liquidated and their properties merged into the freehold and long leasehold estates under the heading of 'Assets' in the balance sheet. We have now completed the remodelling and re-equipping of our cider factory known as Messrs. N. P. Hunt and Sons, Crabbs Park, Paighton, and the produce of this factory has met with much approval and, with a reasonably fine summer, we can look for a good profit from this purchase.

"Since the date of the last balance sheet we have issued the balance of the authorised, but unissued, share capital, viz., 90,040 Ordinary Shares of £1 each, at a premium of 5s., and we have also issued the balance of the authorised 6 per cent. Redeemable Debenture Stock, viz., £50,000, also at a premium, and both these premium, amounting to £22,685 8s. 11d., have been added to the Reserve Fund. We have been able, owing to the prudent policy of the past years, to draw an increased profit from our subsidiary

company, The South Berks Brewery Co., Ltd., on whose properties there has been much money spent during the last ten years since we assumed control. Our allied company in Malta, Messrs. Simonds-Farsons, Ltd., has again made marked progress, despite much obstruction from local authorities and futile competition. There are indications that we shall, ere long, be able to draw profits from this source consistent with our outlay.

FORTY-SIX MILLION BOTTLES.

"The quality of our beers during the past year has continued to give the utmost satisfaction, and the trade in bottled beer in particular has shown a marked increase, and the output of this company and its subsidiaries, etc., amounted to the colossal figure of 46 million bottles. I like to give this figure year by year as on previous occasions many readers of our report have expressed their amazement.

"We have continued our policy of altering our licensed houses to meet modern conditions, and we have, in the year under review, expended on the improvement of properties the sum of £26,072 13s. 11d., apart from a very large sum expended in current repairs and redecorations. It is proposed to augment the Pensions Reserve by allocating from the profits of the year £15,100, bringing that reserve to the substantial round figure of £65,000. Reserve for taxation is now shown separately at £46,746, instead of being aggregated as heretofore with the item of sundry creditors, and it includes a special reserve of £18,246, which is available for future liability. We have extracted from the item shown as 'Sundry Creditors and Credit Balances' several special reserves, which we have now merged under the title of 'Contingencies Reserve Account.' This item now stands at the considerable figure of £100,000 which, as the name implies, will be available to be drawn upon in the future if and when the appropriate occasion arises. The Debenture Redemption Reserve is £5,613, greater by reason of the yearly allocation to the Sinking Fund, which is now increased to £6,000 per annum, consequent upon the issue of the balance of the 6 per cent. Redeemable Debenture Stock.

SERIOUS EFFECT OF TAXATION.

"You will not have lost sight of the fact that this report carries us only as far as the end of September. Since that date our position has been one of continual anxiety owing to the monstrous taxation imposed upon the beer producers under the emergency budget of last September, and our turnover has been very seriously diminished in consequence thereof. Our position is only similar to that of many other companies. Lord Snowden's

parting shot at an industry which he has always openly disliked, savours of fanaticism rather than of finance. (Hear, hear.) I can only express the fervent hope that the Government will see the folly of this tax before irremediable harm has been done. In the meantime, they are 'breaking up' for their holidays, callously indifferent to the loss to the revenue created by this tax owing to loss in profits to the producers and retailers, and the indirect losses which fall upon the shoulders of the vast interests of the allied traders, such as case and bottle makers, cask makers, engineers, builders, decorators, and last but not least, the as ever unfortunate farmers, hop growers and distributors, to say nothing of the increase in unemployment. Never was there a tax which so totally defeated its own object or proved that you can reach the saturation point by such impositions. I do trust that our Shareholders will use their influence with Members of Parliament to insist upon an immediate modification of the present tax, which apart from the loss to the revenue and others, is causing intense irritation among the working classes of the country.

"In conclusion, may I once again, on behalf of the Directors and all of you, express our thanks to Mr. Stocker, our head brewer, for successfully maintaining the quality of our beers, and all his staff for their loyal co-operation, and also that of the various heads of departments and their staffs, during what has been a most difficult year. And may I extend to our vast body of retailers our sympathy with them in the difficult and anxious time they have experienced since the emergency budget and to assure them that we are, naturally, anxious to co-operate with them in agitating for an alleviation of our mutual troubles." (Applause.)

Mr. J. H. Simonds seconded the resolution, which was carried.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

The Chairman moved a resolution, having the effect of altering the Articles of Association of the Company, to permit of the Board of Directors consisting of not less than four nor more than eight.

Mr. J. H. Simonds, in seconding, said the Company had now become a very large holding company, with ramifications over a large area, and the business had, of course, become more and more complex. The Board had for some considerable time felt that they would like to have the power of increasing the size of the Board if the occasion ever arose. There was no suggestion at all at present that the Board should be increased to a total of more than six, but it was very desirable, in the opinion of the Board, that they should have a little latitude in order to co-opt additional members if and when the need arose.

The resolution was carried.

Mr. F. A. Simonds, in moving that Major G. S. M. Ashby be elected to the Board in place of Mr. Fred Simonds, said Major Ashby had won his spurs on one of the subsidiary companies, and had shown great ability. He was born in a brewing family, and was allied by marriage to the great brewing family of Simonds. His election to the Board would re-establish a link with that branch of the Henry Simonds' family which did so much to establish and continue the fortunes of that great company. The present Directors would welcome the alliance.

Commander Simonds seconded, and the resolution was carried.

Major Ashby, in responding, said he would do his best to assist the Company by all the means in his power.

On the proposition of Mr. F. A. Simonds, seconded by Mr. G. W. Smith, Messrs. Collins, Tootell and Co. were re-appointed Auditors. Mr. W. W. Collins responded.

TWO ABLE LEADERS.

Mrs. C. M. Simonds proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman of the Company and the Managing Director, two people whom she said could not be dissociated from the firm of H. & G. Simonds.

Mr. C. Bennett, in seconding, said the staff very much appreciated the kindness of the Directors, whom they held in the warmest regard. He could assure them on behalf of the staff of the largest measure of loyalty and support during the coming year.

The resolution was carried with applause.

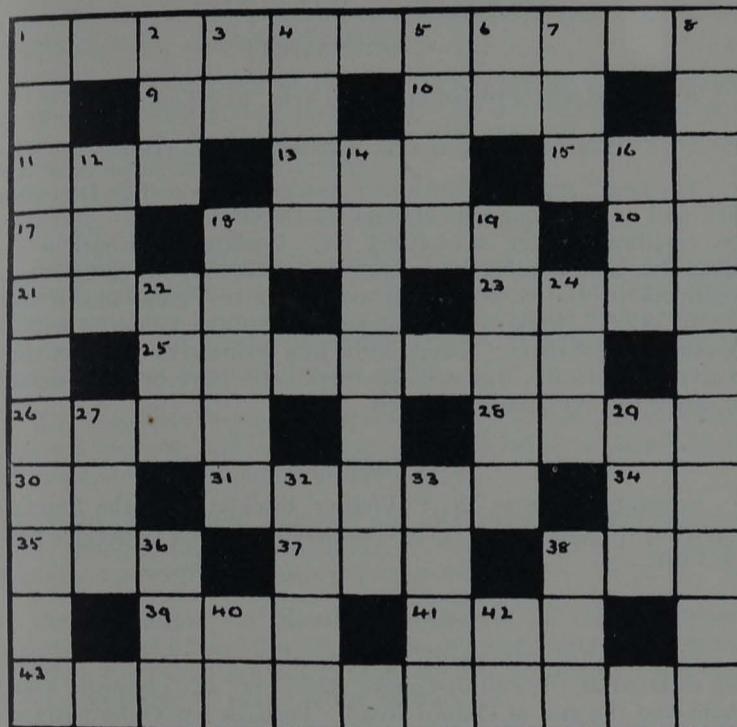
The Chairman, in reply, said he did not suppose any firm had got a more loyal staff than their Company. He expressed on his own behalf and that of the Board their very high appreciation of their loyalty. Their Managing Director carried the lion's share of responsibility of the business on his shoulders.

Mr. F. A. Simonds also replied.

This concluded the meeting.



OUR CROSS WORD PUZZLE,



ACROSS.

1. Arrested.
9. Attention.
10. Anaconda.
11. Spoil.
13. Beake.
15. Stake.
17. Belonging to.
18. Rigid.
20. Else.
21. Porch.
23. Indian Princess.
25. Unlawful.
26. Healthy.
28. Withered.
30. London Postal District
31. Spigot.
34. One.
35. "Bolshie."
37. Freeze.
38. Liable.
39. Convenience.
41. Stray.
43. Tending towards the centre.

DOWN.

1. Of the air.
2. Through.
3. Sun-God.
4. Bird.
5. Recedes.
6. Refusal.
7. Fish.
8. Injurious.
12. Astern.
14. Tropical Fever.
16. Eternity.
18. Stories.
19. Rub out.
22. Lubricate.
24. Beverage.
27. Airman.
29. Knock.
32. Jetty.
33. Part of a Castle.
36. Colour.
38. Skill.
40. Saint (abb.).
42. Anent.

BREWERY JOTTINGS.

(BY W. D. DUNSTER.)

A Happy and Prosperous New Year to all our readers.

H. & G. SIMONDS LTD. SAVINGS ASSOCIATION.

The last "cycle" of the above Association ended on December 11th and another one was started on December 18th. Just over 300 certificates were subscribed for. Weekly contributions for about the same number have again been started, but should there be anyone on the Brewery who would like to "come in," if they let Mr. A. H. Hopkins (Correspondence Office) know he will be pleased to enrol them. I hope to be in a position in our next issue to give some details of how many certificates have been subscribed for since the Association started.

STILL THEY COME.

Congratulations to Mr. T. Poulter, bricklayer, of the Building Department, who has recently completed 50 years of service with the Firm.

TWO QUERIES.

In my notes last month I wrote that the Reading Stadium was situated at the end of Oxford Road and was promptly asked where was the end of Oxford Road. Perhaps our Oxford Branch friends can enlighten us? However, I did not intend to convey that the new Greyhound Racing Track is situate at Oxford or wherever the end of Oxford Road is, but that it is in Reading at the Oxford Road end of the town. Hope that is quite clear.

The other query was as to how eels migrate from the ponds. However, Mr. C. H. Perrin tells me that what he wrote is quite correct. So that's that.

CHRISTMAS, 1931.

This was a rather busy time, but the extra taxation imposed on beer had an ill-effect on supplies. Naturally, we all hope that an early opportunity will be taken by the Government to remove this imposition on our trade. The extra revenue hoped for is not being realised and unemployment is being increased by the continuance of this tax.

However, the holiday was a lengthy one and the weather really splendid, so that everyone at the Brewery seems to have had

a good time. At the moment of writing there seems an undue amount of colds amongst the staff.

The Christmas Draw at the Social Club caused a considerable amount of interest amongst the staff. By a coincidence (or was it luck?) Mr. J. M. HAMMOND won two HAMS. There's a lot in a name sometimes, apparently.

FOOTBALL.

Reading are displaying somewhat "in and out" form although a fairly good position is held in the League. If the team could strike a consistent patch possibly they might cause a considerable amount of trouble to the teams higher up. Whether this can be done this season is a rather moot point.

The wonderful form by Plymouth Argyle this season shows what can be done, and we all hope that this happy state of affairs will come about at Reading in due course.

Personally I have followed the doings of the Argyle very closely owing to the kindness of Mr. W. Giddy and Mr. J. V. Evans supplying me with Plymouth papers weekly.

Congratulations to Mr. W. J. Venner, of our Transport Department, who has been playing for Reading Reserves, on being chosen for the Berks and Bucks team against Middlesex. May this be the forerunner of many more honours.

A SAD MONTH.

December has been an unfortunate month as regards the loss of a number of our tenants, no less than five having passed away, viz. :—

Mr. G. Surch, "Walter Arms," Bear Wood.

Mr. F. Wootton, "Shoulder of Mutton," Play Hatch.

Mr. G. E. Sharp, "Fox," Winkfield Row.

Mr. C. Butler, "Pheasant," Cold Ash (South Berks Brewery Co. House).

Mr. F. W. Bargery, "Royal Oak," Broad Street, Reading.

To all their relatives we extend our sincere sympathy in their sad loss.

Mr. Bargery had been in indifferent health for some while; nevertheless his end was very sudden. He was often at The Brewery and I am informed he was in the Offices on Christmas Eve. He had been a tenant of the Firm for very many years. *R.I.P.*

A NATURE NOTE.

(BY C.H.P.).

THE STORY OF THE STICKLEBACK.

Fancy, spring will soon be here! Of all the seasons I think spring is the one that fascinates me most and I am looking forward to finding that first bottle-tit's nest, to seeing the first swallow or to hearing the cheery little chiff-chaff once again.

Though you may not see the little stickleback in the Thames you will have no difficulty in finding him in the smaller streams such as the Pang. And a charming little fellow he is to watch. What the kingfisher is among birds, the stickleback is among fishes, with his gorgeous colouring of green and scarlet and silver. He will soon be preparing his home and once he has chosen the site, woe betide any intruder! Many terrible battles have taken place among rival sticklebacks and it is no unusual thing for the weaker to be "speared" to death with those formidable curved spines. No quarter is asked, and none is given. The victor sets to work building a nest of water-weeds, rootlets, etc. The nest is roofed in and the front "door" is left open. His gay colours become still gayer, and thus smartly dressed he goes in search of a bride. When he has found the lady of his choice he escorts her to his home in which she lays a few yellow eggs and then works her way out at the other end of the nest. Mr. Stickleback then enters and pays the necessary attention to what is left behind. A similar performance is repeated the next day, but I have very grave doubts as to whether it is always the same lady that Mr. Stickleback escorts to the premises. Once the full clutch of eggs—sixty to eighty—are laid, the master of the house dismisses his harem and closes both the front and back doors of the house. He then keeps guard outside and allows no one on the premises, not even his wives. Now and again he enters the house himself just to see that all is in order. When the baby sticklebacks are hatched, father takes sole charge of them, finding their food which he masticates before feeding them with it.

When about a fortnight old the little sticklebacks develop spines and fins and shortly afterwards may be seen setting forth to take their part in the great battle of life.

A GREAT THOUGHT.

*Blest Statesman He, whose Mind's unselfish will
Leaves him at ease among grand thoughts : whose eye
Sees that, apart from magnanimity,
Wisdom exists not ; nor the humbler skill
Of prudence, disentangling good and ill
With patient care. What tho' assaults run high,
They daunt not him who holds his ministry,
Resolute, at all hazards, to fulfil
Its duties ;—prompt to move, but firm to wait—
Knowing, things rashly sought are rarely found ;
That, for the functions of an ancient State—
Strong by her charters, free because imbound,
Servant of Providence, not slave of Fate—
Perilous is sweeping change, all chance unsound.*

—William Wordsworth.

DEATH OF MR. F. W. BARGERLY.

THIRTY-NINE YEARS IN THE LICENSED VICTUALLERS' TRADE.

The death occurred suddenly at the "Royal Oak," on Monday, December 28th, of Mr. Frank William Bargerly, at the age of 58 years. Mr. Bargerly, who took over the licence of the "Royal Oak" in 1920, had been in the trade for 39 years, having started in Maidenhead and then moved to the "Wynford Arms," King's Road, Reading. He was connected with the Reading and District Licensed Trades Protection and Benevolent Association and also with Messrs. H. & G. Simonds' Retailers' Association. He was a member of the Philanthropic Institution, the Ancient Order of Druids, the Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes, and the Odd Fellows, and took a keen interest in their activities. His wife died three years ago and he leaves no family.



THE LIGHTER SIDE.

One of the crew of a big liner chanced to pick up a menu card and seeing at the top, "Table d'hote," turned to his pal and inquired: "What does this 'ere mean, Joe?"

"Well," said Joe, "It's like this. Them swells in the s'loon have some soup, a bit of fish, a bit of this, a bit of that, and a bit of summat else, and calls it 'table dottie.' We have 'table dottie,' only we mixes it all together and calls it Irish stew."

* * * *

FRIEND: "Is the water here good for fish?"

WOEFUL ANGLER: "It must be. None of them wants to leave it."

* * * *

WRITER: "Do you think I should put more fire into my poetry?"

EDITOR: "No; quite the reverse."

* * * *

Auctioneers are always of a more-bid disposition.

* * * *

WIFE: "I shall never forget how foolish you looked when you proposed."

THE OTHER HALF: "It was nothing to how foolish I really was."

* * * *

The young wife was heartbroken.

"What's the matter?" asked a friend.

"Oh, my husband is so absent-minded. After breakfast he left a tip on the table, and when I handed him his hat he handed me another tip."

"Well, that's nothing to worry about. It's just force of habit."

"That's what worries me. He kissed me when I gave him his coat."

DINER (in restaurant, looking at the dish the waiter has just brought): "What's that, waiter?"

WAITER (thinking he refers to the music): "It's a portion of 'The Merry Widow,' sir."

* * * *

GENERAL ELECTION CANDIDATE: "I am now going to ask myself a question."

A VOICE FROM THE HALL: "And you will get a d—d silly answer."

* * * *

A MISPRINT:

For Sale—Ford Car. Second-Hand. No reasonable slum refused.

* * * *

SCHOOL HUMOUR:

The chief use of cowhide is to keep the cow together.

Masculine is the name of a famous conjuror.

"Who said, 'I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him?'"
"Please sir, the undertaker."

* * * *

POLICE COURT HUMOUR:

"Shure, 'e aimed a blow at me, and if 'e'd 'it me, Oi'd 'ave been dead for the rest of me loife."

"I'm not so big a scroundel as yer washup, if I may be allowed to say so, takes me to be."

"Say that again, and a little differently."

* * * *

"Yes, he's a distant relation of mine. He's the eldest and I'm the youngest of fifteen children."

WORDS OF WISDOM.

Begin the New Year well, with confidence and courage.

Men do not succeed by chance.

Before you invest—investigate.

The first point in salesmanship is—be keen and courteous.

Every customer hopes for keen, courteous, personal attention.

Gentle words, quiet words, are, after all, the most powerful words. They are more convincing, more compelling, more prevailing.

In the meanest hut there is a romance, if you knew the hearts there.

Let us try what esteem and kindness can effect.

Monday religion is better than Sunday profession.

Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.



BRANCHES.

CRABBS PARK, PAIGNTON.

We are now at the end of the 1931 cider making, and although we have experienced a somewhat trying season, due to the apple crop, we have been fortunate enough to obtain a good share of excellent fruit, and the juice is again full standard quality, ready for the new year's trade from which we expect a busy time.

Five very pleasant hours were spent at The Public Hall, Paignton, on Friday, December 11th, by a very large gathering of people on the occasion of a dance which was held by the Paignton Conservative Club, in aid of the local Hospital and Nursing Association. Every praise is due to the committee for the arrangements, which must have entailed a great amount of work. The orchestra seemed bent on obtaining a repeat order, and, while passing, it would only be fair to congratulate them upon their very fine performance and help towards a successful dance. The necessary occasional licence was obtained by Mr. H. A. Carter of The Commercial Hotel, Paignton, who kept the company well supplied with refreshments. There was great excitement when Commander Williams favoured us with his presence and expressed remarks upon the success of the evening.

The annual fat stock show was held at Churston Market on Monday, December 14th, when an unusual large gathering of local farmers were present to witness an increased and very keen competition in the cattle classes. There was a full company for the dinner, catered for by Mr. and Mrs. Dodge of The Manor Inn, Yealmpton, and presided over by Sir Alfred Goodson, Bt.

Following the loyal toast Mr. C. Elliott proposed the success of Churston fat stock show. Sir Alfred Goodson, Bt., made a most interesting reply and said he was certain that in 1932 we should see the beginning of improvement in trade and some return from money invested in agriculture. Mr. A. Searle proposed a toast to the judges remarking on the difficult task they had had.

A toast to the exhibitors was proposed by Mr. S. J. Fish who said the good point about the local farmers was that they exhibited the cattle they had bred themselves.



The above photograph is of the wine shop now opened in Dartmouth Road, Paignton and which, we hope, will prove a help to the sales of the "Hop Leaf" brands of Simonds' ales and stouts, the demand for which is ever increasing in this district.

We extend to Mr. A. E. Harris our heartiest wishes for the success of his department, and have every confidence that Miss Elliott will be of valuable assistance to him.

We were sorry the recent match at Elm Park between Reading and Torquay United was so one-sided, according to the result, but have heard from an eye witness that luck was not at all favourable to the Devon team. We are endeavouring to console ourselves with this information, and await the next meeting.

BRIGHTON.

FOOTBALL.

Brighton & Hove Albion are now drawn to play at home to Port Vale in the next round of the English cup. In the first two rounds, against Folkestone and Doncaster, they have had easy victories. Considering Doncaster were called upon to play three cup tie matches in one week, they put up a gallant fight against our local team. With regard to divisional football, we hope Brighton & Hove Albion will climb the table as the season progresses.

By the time this appears in print we shall be in 1932. We therefore send greetings to all readers and best wishes for a Bright and Prosperous New Year.

"CUPID'S MESSENGER."

"Say it with flowers" is an apt slogan. I once fell into the job of a florist's assistant through the kind offices of a girl who was leaving the work for the glare of the film camera. As a mere assistant, I did not receive a princely salary. It takes four to five years to become a fully-fledged florist, and five to ten to become a floral artist, always providing you have the flair for the job. Besides being expected to be a genius in floral colour schemes, your work takes you to all sorts of big social functions, even to the homes of Royalty. I was once taken on for the busy season only, which is autumn and winter, since there are no flowers growing in private gardens at that season, and consequently more are bought. Behind the counter, where most beginners start, learning to wire and helping with the regular orders, I came into touch with some unusual characters among the customers. There was the young business man with the Royalty complex, who came in four or five times a week for a Prince of Wales buttonhole. One old lady bought flowers every day for her pet Pekinese. A walk into the "Floral Hall," seemed to be part of her daily routine, and if her dog hadn't an eye for colour, he certainly liked the perfume. After a few weeks I was sent out with an experienced florist to assist with decorations. We went into some of the best houses in London, and saw some of the most beautiful interiors and furnishings, as well as several of the famous West End clubs. But the jaunt that I shall remember the longest was to a liner in Tilbury Dock. Our firm had received a cabled order from Boston for fifty-pounds worth of flowers to be used in the decoration of a cabin suite. We journeyed down to the dock in the early morning with our big crates of freshly-cut flowers, went straight on board and got to work. We were very conscious that it was an affair of romance, and we put our hearts into the job, enjoying it immensely. When we had finished, that cabin suite was a perfect picture for the gods. In the sitting room we filled bowls with the finest roses obtainable. The walls we festooned with clematis, asters, scented stock, and carnations. And there were rare orchids in the table vases, with a bowl of Duchess of Atholl roses in the centre, and a splash of vivid orange and deep bronze foliage. Just as we completed our work, the girl who was to spend a week at sea in this lovely bower, came to the door of the suite. It took her breath away. She stood there gazing at all those flowers, the flush of happiness on her face. I have never seen anyone look so bewilderingly happy. It was too much for us and we disappeared as quietly as we could.

QUAINT MESSAGES.

Tears and laughter are very near together in a flower shop. Flowers are such mysterious messengers at times. Often we packed them with quaintly worded cards. One in particular has always stuck in my mind. It read, "To laughing brown eyes who will laugh with me no more." I used to muse for hours on that queer message and build up all sorts of tragic broken romances round it. In a flower shop you are never far from romance. I saw the beginning and—tragic word—the end of several. If I were lucky enough to get in at the beginning of one, I could watch its development by studying the messages. One, I remember, began with this couplet:—

"Every woman loves a mystery,
Pray! Who sent you these?"

A few days later the boy tried again with another bouquet, and this message:—

"To me you are the sweetest flower,
Be kind and spare me just one hour."

This rhyming lover became the talk of the shop, and nearly every girl in the place became interested in his romance. There were enquiries as to whether he had been in that morning—what was the message, and so on. Morning after morning he came in, selected his flowers, and then wrote his message in what soon became familiar handwriting. The day came when he wrote a very simple line, but it told its own tale; it read thus:—

"Dearest, wear white to-night, and these."

"Say it with flowers" is an apt slogan!

ANON, BRIGHTON.

PORTSMOUTH.

PRESENTATION OF COLOURS TO THE ROYAL MARINES BY PRINCE GEORGE.

The disappointment felt when it was known that the Prince of Wales, who had arranged to visit Portsmouth to inspect the crews of two of the Atlantic Fleet ships in H.M. Dockyard and afterwards to present new colours to the Royal Marines of the Portsmouth Division at Eastney, was unable to carry out the programme owing to a sudden illness, was somewhat allayed by the fact that His Royal Highness Prince George was able to undertake the Eastney ceremonial. The weather which at first was very wet improved and the parade was able to be held in the open. It

was an impressive ceremony commencing with the guards marching in the parade ground headed by the Divisional band, at whose head was the tall and athletic drum major, to the strains of the "Soldiers Chorus" (Faust) which was the old march past of the Royal Marine Artillery. The Prince was received with the Royal Salute and the playing of "God Save the King." During his inspection of the guards the band played "South Australia." The new colours were consecrated by the Chaplain of the Fleet, the Venerable Archdeacon Walter Kendrick Knight-Adkin, O.B.E., B.A., K.H.Ch. The Prince advanced and presented the new colours to the two senior Lieutenants, the colours having been handed to him by the two senior Majors. The Prince addressed the parade and the Commandant replied. When the Prince and Chaplains returned to the saluting base the Battalion reformed line and a general salute was given to the new colours which were marched into the line at slow time of the National Anthem. The Battalion marched past His Royal Highness in quick time; the line was then reformed and advanced in review order and gave the Royal Salute. Three hearty cheers were given for the Prince and the Battalion marched away in columns of four, with the old colours cased in the rear, to the stirring strains of "A life on the ocean waves." The photos are of the Marines giving three cheers for H.R.H., and the Old Colours at the beginning of the ceremony.



Three cheers for H.R.H. Prince George.

Reproduced by kind permission of Messrs. J. C. Lawrence & Son,
22, Elmhurst Road, Gosport.



Old Colours.

*Reproduced by kind permission of Messrs. J. C. Lawrence & Son,
22, Elmhurst Road, Gosport.*

At the annual dinner of the Southsea Waverley bowling club we heard from the Lord Mayor (Alderman F. G. Foster) how the Portsmouth City Council is facing up to its financial difficulties by proposing to cut down possible expenditure to the extent of more than £1,000,000. "Some in Portsmouth think possibly that this financial crisis may only be a 'bogey'" said Alderman Foster, "but I can assure you from inside information that it is nothing of the kind. There is real danger and danger which we must meet as Britons and do the best we possibly can." Alderman Foster made these remarks in responding to the toast of "The Lord Mayor and Corporation," proposed by Mr. Ben Isaacs. "The President" was proposed by Mr. F. P. Spicer and Councillor F. J. Hooper (President) in reply said that after 36 years the club could claim with some degree of pleasure that it had become a pioneer in the local bowling world and had had the pleasure of seeing the rapid advance of the sport in Portsmouth.

At the annual dinner of the Licensed Victuallers' Association, Chichester and District, some interesting speeches recalled the time when happy people could obtain beer at 8d. and 1/- per gallon, contrasting this with the modern beer consumer who groans under a heavy load of taxation. In spite of the grave concern felt about

the latest impost on the licensing industry, the large company present contrived to spend a pleasurable evening. It was a very representative gathering, the strong company of those interested in the wholesale and retail sides of the licensing industry being augmented by the majesterial and municipal representatives and by gentlemen associated with kindred trades. After the loyal toast had been honoured, Mr. B. Pannell proposed "The Mayor and Corporation" which was responded to by Alderman Aylmore in the unavoidable absence of the Mayor. The Alderman spoke of the licensing business in 1802, when there were 34 licensed houses within the city of which 16 still survive. The rates were then 6d. in the £ as compared with 12/- to-day, and he found that the assessment of the Dolphin Hotel was then only £24. He gave other assessment figures, one as low as £8, of other houses which still survive. He claimed that beer was one of the staple foods of the working man and compared the present position to that existing in 1802, to-day beer being the highest taxed food in the country. From the records of the Guardians he found that in 1802 inmates of the Workhouse were allowed a half-pint of beer for breakfast and supper and a pint for dinner, and the children had a quarter of a pint at each meal. The records of the hospital shewed that beer was regularly given to the patients and the contract price was 8d. and 1/- per gallon. The Guardians of that day found that some of the poor were making a constant habit of drinking tea and as some were very ill they passed a resolution that in order to stop this "pernicious habit" no tea would in future be allowed to be drunk in the precincts of the house. He hoped the Government would see the mistake they had made in putting the recent extra duty on beer.



THE TAMAR BREWERY, DEVONPORT.

Welcome 1932! And to you, Mr. Editor, and all readers of, and contributors to, the pages of our valuable little monthly, "A Happy New Year"—a fresh page in our Empire's and our Company's history. One that will not bear too many smudges when Christmas again comes round. At present we are negotiating the tricky bends that lead to the channel and the open sea, but soon the tugs will cast off and we shall turn our steps and faces to the trade winds of the Seven Seas, an even keel beneath us, and the vibration of ever-increasing power around us.

Knowledge is power and, as 1931 faded out, so a new era was born out of the knowledge which it gave. We are still looking for a system of national accountancies whereby, year by year, the old leaves are filed away from our eyes!

Unfortunately for our peace of mind, great minds do not think alike on this question, and the old pages clog our ledgers and offend our eyes. Most of us, however, are cheery optimists nowadays despite the many "Demands" which reach us, and believe that the end of the tunnel is in sight. In this hope we commence our contributions for 1932 to our GAZETTE's pages, confident of its ultimate fruition.

Therefore, in the words of an old friend of ours, "Parade! Forward—by the right!"

Another link with the "wooden walls of old England" has been severed by the death at Plymouth of Lieut. James John Mills, R.N., at the remarkable age of 98 years!

Mr. Mills, who claimed to be the oldest commissioned officer in the country, joined the Navy 84 years ago, and was on the active service list for 40 years. Such was his health that when the Great War broke out he felt that he was not too old to offer his services once again to his country.

The Admiralty thanked him most cordially for his patriotism, expressing the opinion that "by volunteering at this stage in your career you have set a splendid example to the younger generation, and have more than done your duty."

A true descendant of the old Vikings, Mr. Mills saw active service in many seas, and his experiences, could they have been

published, would have made a wonderful tale. We salute the memory of a very gallant officer and gentleman.

Most of the Units in the Garrison were represented at the inter-unit boxing competitions for the Wessex Area (West), held in the Garrison Gymnasium, when naval officers acted as officials. At the close Brigadier C. G. Liddell (commanding the Eighth Infantry Brigade) presented the championship cup to the 2nd Rifle Brigade, the 1st Worcestershire Regiment being the runners-up.

Once again, well done the Rifles! Are there any more worlds for you to conquer?

THE ROYAL ENGINEERS.

The Plymouth Branch, Royal Engineers Old Comrades' Association, recently held a church parade at Mount Wise Barracks, Devonport, whence the Old Comrades and veterans, headed by the band of the Devon (Fortress) Royal Engineers and accompanied by officers and detachments from the Regular and Territorial Royal Engineers, marched to the Garrison Church.

Among those present were Major-Gen. R. J. T. Hildyard (Commanding Wessex Area), Brigadier D. S. Collins (Chief Engineer, Southern Command), Brig.-Gen. G. H. Boileau, Lieut.-Col. H. A. L. Hall (C.R.E., Wessex Area (West) and President, Plymouth Branch, R.E.O.C.A.), Col. R. St. J. Gillespie (retired), Lieut.-Col. W. C. Macfie (retired), Major J. N. Cash, Capt. R. H. B. Longland, Capt. R. Chalmers, Capt. H. J. McCaffery, Lieut. P. Fitt, Lieut. W. Cooper and Lieut. G. Denison (all R.E.), Capt. G. Shirley, R.E. (retired), Major A. C. Rolston, Capt. E. A. Stedman and Lieut. W. E. Wright (Devon (Fortress) R.E.).

Very old friends of ours, the R.E.'s, are deservedly popular throughout the Garrison, and old and new comrades will always find us amongst their most ardent supporters in any object which is theirs.

There were in the port during Christmas more naval ships than have been seen here for some time. Those belonging to the Atlantic Fleet number more than twenty, including three battleships, three cruisers, six destroyers and as many submarines. Among the

last to arrive were the battleship *Rodney* and the cruisers *Dorsetshire*, *Exeter* and *Norfolk*. All were berthed at the Dockyards. January 6th is the date on which they are due to leave for Gibraltar to commence the spring cruise.

We have again had the honour of serving most of these Units during the past few weeks, also for their stocking orders of "S.B." Ale and Milk Stout for the cruise. Both these famous beverages are well-known and appreciated throughout the senior service for their consistent qualities in all temperatures and under all conditions.

It is extremely gratifying to us to know how highly esteemed these "Hop Leaf" productions are when our Navy is on the high seas under a tropical sun. We bid them "God speed and a safe return home."

With the Cup-ties now due our local fans are taking daily breathing exercises so that the prolonged vocal support necessary on January 9th shall not impose too great a strain upon their c(h)ords.

We rather fancy our chances against Manchester, but in Cup-ties form is apt to be upset. The best team often "misses the boat," and one goal (the first) is worth several league goals in value when playing in such games; so who can tell?

Our hopes still turn towards meeting Reading in the National Tourney next year, so please do not disappoint us on that day. Here's to ye!

OXFORD.

We hope that everyone whose eye is caught by this has enjoyed a very Happy Christmas and that the output has reached expectations at headquarters and all branches.

DEPOT OXFORDSHIRE AND BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY,
COWLEY BARRACKS, OXFORD.

Friday, December the 11th was the occasion of a farewell dance at Cowley Barracks which we attended on the very kind invitation of our very good friends the President and members of the Sergeants' Mess. The proceedings were graced by the presence of

the Commanding Officer Bt. Lieut.-Col. B. C. T. Paget, D.S.O., M.C., and his lady, the Officers and Staff of the Depot were also present.

The arrangements were in the capable hands of R.S.M. H. Lay, D.C.M., M.M., and with the rest of the large and good company there we enjoyed our evening very much indeed.

Something we would like to know:—

Who was the member of a certain Sergeants' Mess who knocked the caterer up at 11.30 p.m. and asked for his nightly glass of MILK?

WOKING.

WALTON COMRADES CLUB.

Inaugurated last year, the second annual supper of the Walton Comrades Club was held on Friday, 4th December, when a large assembly of members was present. Mr. A. Bennett presided, being supported by Mr. J. Maguire (Hon. Secretary), Mr. C. Skeet (Hon. Treasurer) and members of the committee.

A cold repast was greatly enjoyed, after which the loyal toast was duly honoured on the submission of Mr. W. Woodroff.

The chairman then proposed the toast of the "Walton Comrades Club." He said it must be very gratifying to the founders of the club to find to-day an institution so well established, and enjoying such excellent traditions that every member could feel a sense of pride in being associated with it. Good team work had been rewarded by good results. We should need that team spirit in greater measure during the coming winter season in order to tide over the difficult time of the National emergency and the burdens imposed upon the shoulders of the people under the emergency budget. It was a happy coincidence that the annual supper should fall due at that season of the year when the whole nation had been thinking of fallen comrades, and giving a most noble response to help forward the work of assisting the disabled and the dependents of ex-service men. He hoped Poppy Day would increase in popularity and usefulness year by year. The spirit animating the nation this year had been simple but fundamental, expressing the true character of its citizens and the real soul of the people. He paid a tribute to the work of the officers and committee, and also to the Secretary who, he said, was all day and every day brimming

over with enthusiasm for the welfare of the club and the members generally. A special word of praise was also due to the Steward (Mr. E. G. Smith) who was entirely responsible for the catering that evening, and who had been a stalwart of the club from the time of its inception.

In responding to the toast, Mr. J. Maguire said that the present club, which was established in 1923, originated from a branch of the "Comrades of the Great War." They had their difficult times during those earlier days, particularly in their first venture in The Broadway, but since they had occupied their Russell Road headquarters the club had never looked back. He gave an interesting account of their social activities, and considered they might well feel proud of their commodious premises. He hoped the members would stick to the club, as they were anxious not only to provide for their present comfort, but to leave behind for their sons a very real heritage.

Mr. J. R. Leggett proposed the health of "The Chairman" in a very cordial manner, to which Mr. Bennett in reply said it was always a pleasure to come to such a centre of comradeship and goodwill.

A series of presentations followed, gifts being handed to Messrs. A. W. Johnson, N. Norris and A. Bishop who formed the club's jazz band, and also Mr. W. Woodroff, the late entertainment's secretary.

The remainder of the evening was devoted to harmony, and a popular programme was much enjoyed.

