

# The Hop Leaf Gazette.

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

*Edited by CHARLES H. PERRIN.*

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MR. A. G. RICHARDSON, A.C.A.

## MR. A. G. RICHARDSON, A.C.A.

Upon the acquisition of the controlling interest in Ashby's Staines Brewery Limited, with its subsidiary Company, Wheeler's Wycombe Breweries Limited, in 1930, the ramifications of this Company, with its other subsidiary, the South Berks Brewery Company, Limited, and all its Branches, including the sub-Brewery at Devonport, became so complex as to warrant the institution of a separate department to handle the accounts under the control of a qualified accountant. Out of over six hundred applicants, Mr. A. G. Richardson was appointed to our staff on 1st September, 1931, as Chief Accountant. His masterly handling of the accounts has fully justified his appointment and the precedent in the role which he has set up will be difficult to uphold by any successor.

Mr. Richardson was born at York and at the early age of eighteen months went to reside at Ilkley, a place made world-famous by that well-known ditty "On Ilkla Moor baht 'at." Although he justly claims to be a hundred per cent. Yorkshireman, it is confidently anticipated that the characteristics of the North will eventually succumb to the mellowing influences of the South.

Educated at the Ilkley Grammar School, he finished his scholastic career as Head Boy of the Upper Sixth, Senior Prefect and House Captain, and having passed the Joint Matriculation (Higher Papers) of the Northern Universities was about to proceed to Leeds University when war broke out in 1914.

Sacrificing his university career he went with the first wave of enthusiasts, enlisting in 1914 in the ranks of the local Territorial Artillery and, at the age of 18, proceeded to Flanders with the 49th (West Riding) Division (T.F.) in April, 1915. After serving nearly two years overseas he was granted a commission on the field, in the Royal Garrison Artillery. Disappointed with the results of many "shoots" by means of aerial observations, Mr. Richardson volunteered to carry out observation from an aeroplane. After several weeks' liaison work with the R.F.C. he was accepted to take duties as Artillery Observation Officer and was subsequently promoted to Lieutenant and graduated as Flying Officer. His duties were, naturally, extremely hazardous and thrilling experiences were his everyday lot. He possesses a unique collection of aerial photographs of the Ypres salient and wonderful diaries of his own compilation.

Upon demobilisation in May, 1919, he decided to enter the accountancy profession and commenced to serve articles with Mr. Alfred Greaves, F.C.A., of Bradford. Mr. Richardson passed his Inter. C.A. in November, 1920, and Final C.A. in May, 1922, and thus qualified in the minimum time, being elected an Associate of

the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales in August, 1922. This was an extremely fine performance after a gap of five years at the war.

Mr. Richardson served on the staff of Messrs. Lee & Greaves, Chartered Accountants, Bradford, from being first articled in 1919 until joining the staff of this Company in 1931. During his twelve years' service in the profession he gained a very wide experience in all branches of accountancy. As a Managing Clerk he had complete charge of a very large number of audits varying from all sections of the textile industry to breweries, theatres, engineers, etc. He also undertook many liquidations, receiverships, bankruptcies and deeds of arrangement, and dealt with executorship and trust accounts, company formations, etc., whilst he has also undertaken several important investigations in connection with excess profit duty and income tax fraud cases where large amounts have been involved.

It was whilst in Bradford that Mr. Richardson accumulated his wide knowledge of brewery accounts. There he had charge of the audits and income tax settlements of Messrs. Hammond's Bradford Brewery Company, Limited, the Ilkley Brewery and Aerated Water Company, Limited, and the Springwell Brewery Company, Limited, of Heckmondwike. He often refers in very eulogistic terms to Messrs. Hammond's Bradford Brewery Company, Limited, and acknowledges with gratitude his great indebtedness to Mr. Alfred Greaves, F.C.A., for the many facilities given in gaining such valuable experience in the West Riding.

Mr. A. G. Richardson's many responsibilities to-day and his persistent will to "burn the candle at both ends" necessitate his curtailment of sport. He is, however, more than an average golfer, having partaken in the royal and ancient game since early recollections. At school he excelled at cricket and in his day was pronounced the fastest bowler ever turned out by the Ilkley Grammar School. He is an excellent shot, and before the war was Secretary of the Ilkley M.R.C. He once created a club record by scoring eleven "possibles" in succession and is the proud possessor of the N.R.A. Donegal Badge, whilst he was a member of the team which won the N.R.A. competition in November, 1913, himself scoring 99. A keen fisherman, he received a diploma from the Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh, when he presented the Institution with a record golden tench caught in the lake at Denton Park, Yorks. His devotion to music forms another diversion when leisure permits. With his diverse attainments and sociability and keen sense of humour, he has won a popularity amongst his new friends which the passing of time can only increase and cement.

## EDITORIAL.

## OUR NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE.

Try and keep the Christmas spirit going right throughout the year.

## AN UNFANATICAL TEETOTALER.

I have been a teetotaler for fifty years, but I suppose that I am the most unfanatical teetotaler that ever lived. When I see my friends take a glass of beer or wine, instead of hoping it will choke them, I hope it will warm the cockles of their hearts. I know that alcohol is in itself a narcotic poison, but when I think of the dearest old lady I have ever known—my mother—taking her glass of claret every day, one at lunch and one at dinner, no more, no less, and living to be hale and hearty at 96, then I think that alcohol must be a very slow poison.—*The Bishop of London*, speaking at the Church Assembly in London, November 17.

## DRINKING KING'S HEALTH.

It is not generally known that if you wish to drink the King's health in anything but alcohol it is necessary to first obtain permission. The Lord Chamberlain recently had to grant permission for it to be drunk in tea at a public luncheon in London. The custom, it seems, dates back to the time of Charles II, when to drink his health in water was the sign that one was hoping to see the return of the King across the English Channel. Hence, even now, one is not supposed to drink the health in water, although other beverages may be used with special permission. An echo of the above-mentioned "sign" is found to this day in connection with the Scots Guards. Being suspected of disloyalty to the Cromwellians, the officers were not allowed to employ finger-bowls, lest they secretly drank Charles' health while holding the wine over their bowls. Therefore, even to the present time, no finger-bowls are found in the officers' mess.

## RECTOR PRAISES BEER.

In a speech delivered at the annual dinner of the "King's Head" Bowls Club, Hethersett, Norwich, the Rector (Rev. J. M. La F. McAnally) gave various reasons for the popularity of bowls. One of them, he said, was the most nourishing refreshment which could be obtained at places like the "King's Head." He thought there was an awful lot of nonsense talked about the evils of beer drinking. No doubt it could be poison if drunk to excess, but he thought it good if drunk in moderation. There was more good in it than in many minerals. "Let us clear ourselves of cant and

humbug on this matter," said the rector. "I sometimes deplore the ridiculous criticisms that are made by our officials in this matter. What the Church would do without the support of some of the leading brewers in this country I do not know."

## CRICKET LONG AGO.

Dear Mr. Editor,

Many thanks for your article about "Notches for Cricket." We Hampshire people are proud of the acknowledged fact that cricket was first played in England in our county. Hambleden is a small village about 12 miles outside Portsmouth and the team you mention in your article were country lads living in and around that village. In their day they were able to meet and beat all-comers. The first recorded century was scored by a Hampshire man, John Small of Hambleden. He was ball-maker to the club and outside his shop hung his sign with these words:—

"Here lives John Small, sells bat and ball,  
And will play any man in England."

Notches were cut in a stick because most people were unable to read or write, and the whole team's score was thus recorded, every tenth notch being deeper cut than t'others.

Next time you are out this way give me a look in and I'll show you several interesting cuttings referring to Hambleden and Hampshire cricket; also a replica of the memorial stone which stands on the original pitch on Broad-halfpenny Down. Shall be pleased to see you. Till then

Yours faithfully,

T. H. S. BELLCHAMBER,

The Crown Inn,

Burchett's Green,

Nr. Maidenhead.

December 8th, 1933.

## ILLNESS OF MR. R. PAICE.

Mr. R. Paice, a popular member of our travelling staff, spent his Christmas in hospital, having to undergo an operation for appendicitis. He has put in a lot of hard and successful work since he has been on the road and we all sincerely hope he will now soon be "on the road" to complete recovery. He is making excellent progress and we are looking forward to having his genial presence with us again before long. Many very kind and sympathetic inquiries have been made concerning him.

## THE LOCH NESS MONSTER.

Whether this extraordinary creature really exists or exists only in the imagination is a matter of opinion. Mr. Louis Simonds suggested to me that if the monster *is* discovered it would be a good idea to stamp "S.B." on its tail! We are therefore offering a handsome reward to the gentleman or lady who performs this feat. The stamp must be indelible and the reward will only be given if the creature measures at least 30 feet in length. Easy!

## AN OLD STATUTE.

People who try to persuade others to be teetotalers are liable to imprisonment, according to an old Act mentioned by Mr. Leslie Park when he applied to the Bristol Licensing Bench for an hour's extension on the Saturday before Christmas and for New Year's Eve. He said: "I discovered in a book"—[evidently THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE.—*Ed.*, H.L.G.]—"that there is on the Statute Book an Act, passed in the reign of Edward VI, which says that any person who attempts to make any of His Majesty's subjects teetotal shall be guilty and subject to imprisonment. That Act is still on the Statute Book."

## BEER SOLD IN CANS.

American beer drinkers will soon be obtaining their beverage supplies in bottles made of tinplate instead of glass, according to advices received from New York. The new "bottles," which have just been put on the market by a can-making firm, will, it is stated, enable brewers to effect considerable savings in freightage charges, since the rate on glass bottles is much higher than that on can containers, and the rate for returning empty bottles is almost as high as that for the outward journey. The can beer containers cannot be refilled, and so the total cost of returning "empties" will be eliminated.

## REMEMBERING THE SPARROWS.

A picnic party sent one of their number to the nearest village to purchase provisions. He returned with a bottle of whisky, half-a-dozen bottles of beer, a corkscrew, and a loaf of bread.

His party greeted him with a roar of laughter.

"Great Scott!" one of them cried, "he's even remembered the sparrows!"

## BREWERS' SOCIETY AND U.S. BREWERS.

The Brewers' Society, on the motion of Sir William Waters Butler, Bart., seconded by Mr. F. P. Whitbread, have unanimously passed the following resolution, which is to be sent to the United States Brewers' Association:—

"That the Brewers' Society of Great Britain, realising that the failure of the experiment of Prohibition in the United States of America has convinced all thinking peoples of the world that prohibition of the reasonable use of alcoholic beverages, being unnatural and impossible, can only result in national resentment and bring contempt upon such restrictive laws, records satisfaction at the termination of the Prohibition laws in the United States; and believes that this will result in greater contentment of the people and the return to prosperity of the brewing industry of that great country with the consequent increase in employment, agricultural production, and national revenue."

## A REAL CHRISTMAS DRINK!

In many a home and at many an old English inn this Christmas "Punch" was served to visitors and guests. The most famous English punch bowl ever recorded was that made at a grand entertainment given at Alicant, in Spain, by Admiral Edward Russell in 1694, then Commander of the Mediterranean Fleet. A marble fountain was converted for the occasion into a gigantic punch bowl, and into it was poured four hogsheads of brandy, one pipe of Malaga wine, twenty gallons of lime juice, twenty-five hundred lemons, thirteen hundredweight of fine white sugar, five pounds of grated nutmeg, three hundred toasted biscuits, and eight hogsheads of water. In a boat built for the purpose a ship's boy rowed round the fountain to assist in filling cups for the six thousand persons who partook of it.

## VERY NICE, TOO!

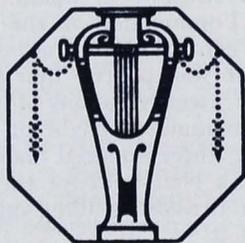
On Christmas Eve a young man driving a sports car was forced to brake very suddenly in a London suburb, with the result that the car got out of control for a moment and ended its dance within an inch of a lamp post on the other side of the road.

A policeman strolled up. "Well," he said to the driver, "you got a nice skid there, Sir."

"Pardon me, officer," said the young man haughtily, "this lady is my wife."

## A CUE-RIOUS MISUNDERSTANDING.

That great billiards player, Mr. Inman, was due to visit the Salisbury Club, Reading, the other evening, but went to a club, or clubs, at Salisbury, instead. A few days later, however, he came to Reading and showed us how to play the game. I noticed that when he lit a cigarette he took his match from a little box with the "Hop Leaf" engraven on it. During an interval there was a great rush to the bar and I was amazed at the prompt and proficient manner in which Mr. and Mrs. Hancock supplied the needs of the crowd. It was a fine combination of competence and courtesy. I do not think we always appreciate as we should all that the stewards and stewardesses of our clubs do for us.



## H. &amp; G. SIMONDS LTD.

POSITION OF THE BREWING TRADE.

BENEFITS OF REDUCED TAXATION.

MR. S. V. SHEA-SIMONDS'S SPEECH.

The Annual General Meeting of H. & G. Simonds, Limited, was held on December 11th at the Reading Chamber of Commerce, 156, Friar Street, Reading.

Mr. Stephen V. Shea-Simonds (the chairman of the company) presided.

The Secretary (Mr. E. S. Phipps) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said :—Ladies and gentlemen,—The report of the directors and the balance-sheet and accounts for the past financial year which ended on September 30th, 1933, have been in your possession for several days ; you have, no doubt, perused them with much interest. May I therefore ask you to take them as read? (Agreed.)

The first item to which I must allude, and to which reference is made in the directors' report, is the issue of £73,280 Four per Cent. Mortgage Debenture Stock, being the balance of the authorized issue, it being thought advisable, while the market was so favourable, to take advantage of the powers we held to become possessed of these additional cash reserves.

## TOTAL OF RESERVES.

Shareholders will observe that this year the reserves of the company are set out in the balance-sheet in a different form, and are so grouped as to show a grand total of £831,844 1s. 9d.

The past year has been a memorable one in the annals of the brewing trade by reason of the reduction of the duty on beer to such a figure as has enabled the public to buy their beer one penny per pint cheaper and at the same time to consume an article which was agreed by the brewers with the Chancellor of the Exchequer to be stronger by at least two degrees than that which they had been drinking in the past year or more.

Since the date of the last Budget there has been a marked increase in our bulk sales, due, in the main, to this reduction in price, but the increase in employment and the prosperity in trade generally have contributed somewhat to this result ; also one

cannot lose sight of the fact that we have enjoyed an exceptionally fine summer in the Thames Valley and in those districts in which we trade.

#### TRADING CONDITIONS.

The gross profits have decreased by £20,450 10s. 5d., this being largely due to the very bad trade during the seven months prior to the Budget. To go into details, during the first seven months of our financial year we were still trading under the penalties imposed by what I may call the notorious "Snowden Budget," and we only began to reap the benefits of the reduced taxation under the "Chamberlain Budget" for the last five months of our financial year; since then there has been only a slight increase in the gross profits owing to the fact that the readjustment of prices, particularly on the lighter gravity beers which are now in vogue leaves a much smaller margin of profit than heretofore. There was a very considerable loss on stocks at the brewery and at branch stores at the date of the alteration of the duty—namely, £10,183 9s. 1d.—which has been taken from the reserve created to meet that contingency. On the other hand adequate allowances were made on stocks held by retailers and a charge made against revenue in the accounts of the year under review.

Turning to the other side of the profit and loss account, there has been a considerable saving in the charge for income-tax due to the diminished profits of the previous year, and the charges for depreciation and sundry expenses have been reduced. The result is an increase in the net profit of £1,353 3s. 3d., which, in all the circumstances, may be considered satisfactory. It is proposed to allocate out of the profits £8,905 to the pensions reserve, thereby increasing that fund to £82,500; to appropriate £7,494 for the service of the Six per Cent. Debenture redemption reserve; to augment the property improvement account by the sum of £14,972, which is £5,000 in excess of expenditure from the fund for improvements during the past year; and to pay a final dividend on the Ordinary shares of 9 per cent., less income-tax, and to carry forward the balance of £98,145 3s. 8d.

#### PROGRESS OF THE SUBSIDIARIES.

Our subsidiary companies—namely, The South Berks Brewery Company, Limited, Ashby's Staines Brewery, Limited, Wheeler's Wycombe Breweries, Limited, all show an increased turnover, and the mineral water business at Messrs. Ashby's Brewery, Staines, to which we have paid particular attention, has made remarkable progress during the past year, and we hope will shortly become an important feature in our business.

Our associated company in Malta, Messrs. Simonds-Farsons, Limited, also continues to make satisfactory headway in the face of severe competition, and is now producing beer in quantities far in excess of two years ago, and we have little doubt but that before long it will justify the confidence which we have placed in that business and give us a satisfactory return for the money we have invested in Malta. We continue to receive good reports of the quality of the beer brewed there.

The cider factory at Paignton, where we trade under the name of Messrs. N. P. Hunt & Son, has been enlarged once again to cope with the great demands made upon this article, which is becoming more and more popular, and I should like to take this opportunity of thanking our many friends among the brewing trade and retailers who have drawn their supplies in increasing quantities from this factory.

The wine and spirit side of the business continues to contribute its quota of profit; both sections disclosing a considerable increase in turnover.

#### MODERNIZED PROPERTIES.

We have continued our policy of modernizing our licensed premises and have expended very considerable sums thereon during the past year; and we are on all hands congratulated on the many great improvements we have effected, and the general appearance of our properties compares most favourably with those of other brewery companies in the South and West of England.

The demand from our tenants for our well-known "Hop Leaf" sign continues unabated, a sure indication of the popularity of this sign and the power of attraction which it exercises over the travelling public, to whom it is a symbol of comfort, service and quality.

Once again I have to tender to Mr. Stocker, our head brewer, and all the staff, operative, managerial, and clerical, both of the parent company and its subsidiaries, the warmest thanks of the directorate and the shareholders for their unceasing and unflinching efforts during a very trying and difficult year to maintain the excellent traditions of the firm. (Hear, hear.)

Our tenants during the 18 months prior to the Budget have experienced a period of severe anxiety and depression, and I am glad to think that they may now anticipate at least a considerable recovery of the prosperity which they so well deserve.

## THE OUTLOOK.

In conclusion may I sound a warning note as regards the near future. It should be common knowledge that the brewing trade made a solemn pledge to the Chancellor of the Exchequer in connexion with the reduction of the beer duty in the last Budget, that they would increase the proportion of home-grown barleys in their beers in order to render the maximum assistance to British agriculture. The undertaking has been strictly adhered to and we are confident that it has brought much extra cash into the pockets of the British farmer, and we are glad to know that this is the case. At the same time the cost of so doing has imposed upon all of us a severe financial burden, and the cost of the barleys which we are now buying is considerably above that of previous years, and unless there is a very marked advance in turnover this factor must militate against the profits of the current year.

A similar position has arisen as regards hops, the price of which article has reached an abnormal figure by reason of the operations of the Hops Marketing Board, the justice of which is being hotly contested by the brewing trade, and it is hoped that next year's crop will be bought at a much more reasonable figure.

## THE RESOLUTION.

I now beg to move the following resolution:—"That the report of the directors and statement of accounts for the year ended 30th September, 1933, be received and adopted; and that, having already paid or provided for the full year's dividend on the Five per cent. and the Six-and-a-Half per cent. Preference shares, less tax, and an interim dividend at the rate of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., less tax, on £540,240 Ordinary shares, and having appropriated £7,494 to Debenture redemption reserve, the directors now recommend a final dividend of 9 per cent., less tax (making a dividend of  $11\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., less tax, for the year); that £14,972 be carried to property improvement account, that pensions reserve be increased by allocating thereto the sum of £8,905, and that the balance of £98,145 3s. 4d. be carried forward to next year."

Mr. J. H. Simonds, in seconding the adoption of the report, congratulated the chairman on his very exhaustive and clear review of the situation.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

## WORTHY DIRECTORS.

In moving the re-election of Mr. J. H. Simonds to the Board of Directors, Mr. F. A. Simonds paid a tribute to his efficiency and loyalty, and said they could not do without him on the Board.

Mr. A. J. Redman seconded, and this was approved.

Mr. J. H. Simonds, in responding, said it was a great privilege to sit on the Board of such a company as this.

Messrs. Collins, Tootell and Co. were re-elected auditors.

Mrs. Caversham Simonds moved a vote of thanks to the chairman and managing director, remarking that they could not be too grateful for all they had done in the past.

Mr. W. M. Colebrook seconded, and congratulated both on the very happy state of the affairs of the company.

The chairman, in reply, said although they were all doing their best, the one who deserved the vote of thanks most was the managing director. He had had on his shoulders not only the management of the company's affairs, but he had been chairman of the Brewers' Society in a most difficult and trying year. They were glad to see him looking so fit and well, because he had had a most responsible year, probably the most responsible year that any chairman of the Brewers' Society had ever had in the history of the trade.

Mr. F. A. Simonds said it certainly had been an extraordinary year for the brewing trade, but they trusted that the arrangements which they had made with the Chancellor of the Exchequer would prove satisfactory to the brewers, to the retail trade, and to the public at large.



## A GREAT THOUGHT.

*There is no wealth but life, life including all its powers of love, of joy, and of admiration. That country is the richest which nourishes the greatest number of noble and happy human beings; that man is the richest who, having perfected the functions of his own life to the utmost, has also the widest helpful influence, both personal and by means of his possessions, over the lives of others.*

*When we build, let it be such a work as our descendants will thank us for; and let us think, as we lay stone on stone, that a time is to come when those stones will be held sacred because our hands have touched them, and that men will say as they look upon the labour and wrought substances of them, "See! this our fathers did for us."*

*Let every dawn of morning be to you as the beginning of life, and every setting sun be to you as its close; then let everyone of these short lives leave its sure record of some kindly thing done for others, some goodly strength or knowledge gained for yourselves.—John Ruskin.*

## ANCIENT PROVERBS.

Patience is the key of glory.

Think of going out before you enter.

The cat though blind is still hankering after mice.

Do not order the tree to be cut down which gives thee shade.

Where the mind inclines the feet lead.

Occasions, like clouds, pass away.

There are no fans in hell.

God does not pay weekly, but pays at the end.

One coin in the money-box makes more noise than when it is full.

Hearsay is half lies.

Silence is the best answer to the stupid.

The one-eyed person is a beauty in the country of the blind.

The heart is the treasury of the tongue.

## ASHBY'S STAINES BREWERY.

After providing for interest on the Debenture stocks and making ample allowances for depreciation, repairs, and the various expenses of the business, including taxation, the net profit amounts to

£30,405 17s. 1d., which added to the amount brought forward from September 30th, 1932, viz., £34,674 10s. 8d., makes a total of £65,080 7s. 9d. available for appropriation. The sum of £5,008 17s. 2d., which includes interest on stock cancelled, has been set aside for Debenture redemption reserve, and after providing for payment of the full year's dividend on the 5 per cent. Preference shares (less income-tax), and an interim dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. (less income-tax) on the Ordinary shares, the directors now recommend a final dividend on the Ordinary shares of 2½ per cent. (less income-tax) (making a dividend of 7½ per cent. for the year), that £5,136 be carried to property improvement account, and that the balance of £32,435 10s. 7d. be carried forward.

## LICENSING STATISTICS.

## THE GROWTH OF CLUBS.

The official licensing statistics for England and Wales for the year 1932, just issued, show that the total annual convictions for drunkenness decreased from 42,343 in 1931 to 30,146 in 1932—a reduction of 12,197, or over 28 per cent. The number of persons convicted for offences in registered clubs increased from 911 to 964, and the number of clubs struck off the register (which may include clubs struck off merely because they ceased to exist) increased from 255 to 417.

Convictions reported to be due to drinking of methylated spirit showed a slight increase, but the number recorded—596—continued to be trifling as compared with the total number of convictions—30,146. The number of on-licences in force on January 1st, 1932, in England and Wales was 76,886—a decrease of 449 as compared with 486 in the previous year. The total decrease of on-licences since 1905 has now reached the figure of 22,592. The number of justices' off-licences was 22,105, showing a decrease of twenty. In addition, 1,594 licences for off-sale by retail were held by wholesale dealers, who do not require a justices' licence, as compared with 1,674 in 1931.

The number of registered clubs was 14,377, an increase of 430, as compared with an increase of 421 in the previous year. The increase was not confined to any particular localities, but was generally distributed over the country as a whole. The total increase of registered clubs since 1905 is 7,788. Of the new on-licences granted by justices during the year, fifty-seven (including three wine licences) were in respect of premises not previously licensed, and of these twenty-seven were granted for hotel and/or restaurant purposes.

## SALES FROM OFF-LICENCES.

## THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LAW.

It is scarcely a matter for wonder that there is some confusion in the minds of the general public, and even of licence holders themselves, regarding the limitations that, in practice, operate in respect of some Off-Licences, whilst leaving others with a measure of greater freedom, and still others with, apparently, no restrictions beyond those imposed under the heading of "permitted" hours. These differences are explainable as follows:—

## (1) EXCISE OFF-LICENCES (WITHOUT JUSTICES' LICENCE).

The holder of a "Spirit Dealer's" or a "Wine Dealer's" Licence may, without a Justices' Certificate, take out direct from the Excise, a "Spirit Retailer's" or a "Wine Retailer's" Licence, and these are familiarly known as "Bottle Shops." The restrictions are:—

- (a) The premises must exclusively be used for the sale of intoxicating liquors and mineral waters or other non-intoxicating drinks.
- (b) There must be no internal communication with the premises of any person carrying on any other trade or business, so these licensees may not sell grocery, tobaccos or commodities of any description other than those mentioned in (a) above.
- (c) The concession granted to some Off-Licences in the Finance Act, 1933, to sell a single half-bottle of spirits does not apply to this class of licence.
- (d) No fancy containers (attache cases, etc.) may be given away at these shops, as such action is held by the Excise authorities to be contrary to the spirit of (a).
- (e) No extension of hours, or exemption from the afternoon closing, is possible, not even to meet the needs of Christmas trade.
- (f) Minimum quantities that can be sold—  
Spirits—one full bottle (reputed quart).  
Wines—one half bottle (reputed pint).  
\*Beer—4½ gallons in cask (or crates), 3 dozen pints or 6 dozen half pints.

\* A "Beer Retailer's" Licence cannot be taken out without a Justices' Certificate under any circumstances.

## (2) OFF-LICENCES (WITH JUSTICES' LICENCE).

It is not necessary for these Licensees to take out Dealer's Licences, unless the class of trade they handle demands same, such as a sale, at one time, of more than 2 gallons of spirits, 2 gallons of wine, or beer in excess of 4½ gallons at one delivery. The restrictions marked (a), (b), (c) and (d) for Excise Licences do not apply here.

A single half-bottle of spirits can be sold. Restriction (e) is effective again for these licences there being no machinery in law to enable any extension of the hours, or exemption from the closing hours. Minimum quantities that can be sold:—

Spirits—one half bottle (reputed pint).

Wines—one half bottle (reputed pint).

The restrictions on beers, as regards most old Off-Licences, are very few, but in more recent times we sometimes get conditions attached to new licences, such as (a) no sale in open vessels, (b) no sale on Sundays, (c) not less than a certain quantity, say, one dozen, or a half dozen pints, (d) to close at a certain hour at night, say, 9 p.m.

Some Off-Licences, of course, operate under a Justices' Certificate for beers but have to rely upon Excise Licences (with their restrictions) for the sale of wines and spirits.

## (3) SHOPS RUN AS OFF-LICENCES UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF A PUBLICAN'S LICENCE.

In these cases practically the only limitations are those of "permitted" hours. Quantities of beer can be as low as a half pint (except for children) and wines or spirits can be retailed from a "Miniature" upwards. Such shops have great freedom, including the right to apply for extensions, or exemptions from the closing hours to meet the needs of holiday business.

The above explains the wide difference of treatment experienced by the public at different shops carrying on business as Off-Licences.

Conditions of Distribution.—An order taken during "permitted" hours can be delivered at any time, but an order taken during prohibited hours must be held up until the next session of "permitted" hours as appropriation cannot take place except during such periods. Although

appropriated goods can be "despatched" during prohibited hours they cannot be "taken" away at those times. This is important and several convictions have recently been recorded under this heading.

**Children.**—Attention is called to the special article respecting "Sale to Children" which appeared in "The Hop Leaf Gazette" for the month of May last.

**Compensation.**—No Levy is payable for Off-Licences and no compensation is obtainable in the event of compulsory closing.

**Highway.**—The holder of an Off-Licence is liable to be summoned if, with his knowledge or consent, a customer purchases liquor and then consumes it on the highway near his premises.

C.B.

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#### LICENCE HOLDERS AND MUSICAL COPYRIGHT.

##### IMPORTANT.

It is understood that the negotiations between the Performing Rights Society and the National Trade Defence Association, on behalf of Licence holders, have not been successful and, consequently, have been discontinued. It is hoped that it may be possible to renew discussions at a later date.

Meanwhile, it must distinctly be understood that Wireless cannot be made audible to the public on licensed premises without the special licence issued by the Performing Rights Society and for which a substantial fee is asked.

Licensees are advised to discontinue the use of wireless in bars where this is possible, but if they are unable to do so without detriment to their trade, and, therefore, decide to continue its use for the entertainment of customers, they must communicate with the Performing Rights Society and make their own terms, individually, to obtain the Society's licence. Failure to do this will render tenants liable to be proceeded against in the courts.

C.B.

#### WORDS OF WISDOM.

Trust not to each accusing voice  
As most weak persons do ;  
But still believe the story false  
Which ought not to be true.

---

One kind of hypocrite is a man who pretends to be busy when he isn't.

---

Through weal and woe life's ebb and flow  
Go on and on for ever,  
Yet you and I need only try,  
With present, brave endeavour,  
To every test to bring our best  
To-day and not to-morrow,  
To learn and teach, love all and each,  
And minister to sorrow.

---

Often noticed, haven't you ?  
Those who have the most to do  
Always have the time to lend  
Helping hand to needy friend,  
Time to say the word that cheers,  
Time to help dispel grim fears,  
Time to sing, time to smile,  
Time to make the world worth while.

---

Be slow to judge your fellow men,  
Be swift to do the right,  
Be modest if some praise you gain,  
Be good with all your might,  
Be blind to faults of other folks,  
Be mindful of your own,  
Be faithful over little things,  
Be brave when all goes wrong,  
Be careful of the words you speak,  
Be kind, be just, be strong.

## A NATURE NOTE.

(BY C.H.P.).

## SOME DETAILS OF A WINTER'S WALK.

## BIRD BATTLE IN THE AIR.

During a winter's walk you may learn much of what goes on in the summer. In the leafless trees and hedgerows you will find nests innumerable where you would least expect to see them. Some of the old nests of the blackbird and thrush are now being used as larders by weasels and stoats and on them you may find freshly killed rats and mice and, alas! some of our song birds.

And the extra nests of the wrens are serving a useful purpose now. These birds build some in which to lay their eggs and rear their families and others for sleeping purposes. If you know the whereabouts of one of these bedrooms visit it at dusk and out will fly half a dozen or so of these little birds. But it is a shame to disturb them when cuddled up, O, so comfy!

Blue-tits are partial to a moss-covered hole in a wall as their sleeping quarters.

Soon we shall be able to look forward to the warmth of the re-invigorated sun when all nature will seem to awaken from its winter's sleep. The buds will soon begin to swell; the earth will crack and make way for the tender shoots of the snowdrop and the crocus, and then the fruit trees will begin to put forth their buds and shoot into blossom. What wonders are being worked above and below the earth even now. There is, gauging by our own standards, completeness and incompleteness, good and evil, peace and war. After a life-long study of wild nature's ways how little we know.

Behold! we know not anything;  
I can but trust that good shall fall  
At last—far off—at last, to all,  
And every winter change to spring.

## COB AND PEN.

During that bitterly cold spell of weather I came across a dead swan by the side of the towpath not far from Keel's boathouse. The swan had apparently been frozen to death. Some of them had rather a rough time when the Thames was frozen over in many places and I felt very sorry for them as they "breasted" their way through the ice, progress being exceedingly slow. Food was scarce, too, and these birds, with many others, must have welcomed the warmer weather.

By the way, the male swan is known as a cob, the female as a pen, and the young, as everybody knows, are called cygnets.

## FIGHTING FOR FOOD.

There have been some very fierce fights for food amongst the birds during the severe weather. I watched a crow and a seagull having a rare aerial battle; both got in some damaging blows which made the feathers fly. I thought the crow hit the harder, but the gull was the cleverer aerial evolutionist, and I wondered which would eventually get the better of the argument when both, apparently having had enough, parted, and as I was acting as referee I pronounced the verdict a draw.

Anyhow the fight was well worth watching and I enjoyed it, perhaps better than the birds.

A score or so of wagtails were creating a great din and I wondered what all the excitement was about. Proceeding in the direction of the noise a hawk rose from the meadow. The wagtails were mobbing him. And they evidently had good reason to be angry for there in the grass were bunches of feathers which told their own sad story—that hawk had done a little wagtail to death and made a meal of him.

## THE END OF THE ROAD.

When I come to the end of the trail,  
And for the long, long rest lie down,  
With the heavens above me gleaming,  
Like an illumined celestial town,

My feet may be weary and aching,  
My body may be worn and ill-clad,  
But if none I have scorned in his sorrow,  
My heart will be peaceful and glad.

It is not the gold I have gathered,  
It is not the fame I have won  
As I travelled the long, long road,  
That brings peace when the journey is done,

It is the load of a weaker I've carried,  
It is the souls I have helped on the way;  
These are the things that will cheer me,  
At the end of the trail, some day.

## BREWERY JOTTINGS.

(BY W. DUNSTER.)

*A Happy New Year to all our Readers.*

CHRISTMAS, 1933.

A better feeling of hopefulness was abroad this year and depression was banished from our thoughts (we all hope for good). We also hope that figures will show that the Firm has had a good Christmas from a trade point of view. Mr. F. C. Hawkes had a letter from our old Office friend, Mr. J. V. Evans, now at the "Old Ring of Bells," Plympton, who wrote as follows:—

"Very many thanks for your kindness and also for your Xmas greetings.

"I have been here at the 'Ring of Bells' nearly a year now and feel quite settled down. I am looking forward to a very busy week.

"Will you please convey 'The Compliments of the Season' to all my friends in the Office and also accept the same yourself."

Many Departments of the Firm were working at full pressure and the Wine and Spirit Stores were particularly busy.

### FOOTBALL.

Reading having survived two rounds of the F.A. Cup are eagerly looking forward to their next match with Oldham (this time at Elm Park) and the feeling is that they will win. At the moment Reading are playing very well and consistently, so we have hopes of promotion.

The reference in the Brighton Branch notes as to the sporting activities of the men (and women) of Sussex is duly noted. Personally I have vivid recollections of "needle" matches of Sussex *v.* Kent playing cricket at Hastings and they are sporting matches in every sense of the word. Both counties play fairly and sportingly against one another even if the local fervour is "red hot." Believe it or not, I once saw Frank Woolley (at Hastings) hit a "six" clean out of the ground and some men on top of a pantehnicon, watching the game, ducked their heads as the ball went past and hit a wall behind them.

### DEATHS.

I am sorry to record the following deaths during the month of December:—

Mrs. Kellaway, "The Shears," Sunbury (Ashby's Staines Brewery, Ltd.), who had been at this house for many years.

Mr. J. T. Adams, who died on the 9th December, was well known among members of the licensed trade in Reading and at one time was Secretary of the Licensed Victuallers' Association. At the time of his death he was Steward of the Reading Stadium Club. Mr. W. Bowyer represented the Firm at the funeral and a wreath was sent by the Directors of H. & G. Simonds Ltd.

Mr. G. J. Lewis, who was a tenant of the Firm at the "Horn-castle," Bath Road, Reading, for twenty-seven years and at the "Toll House," Oxford Road, Reading, for two years. Mr. Lewis was a Town Councillor of Reading for a number of years.

Mr. H. Mayne, of the "Criterion," Windsor (Messrs. Ashby's Staines Brewery Ltd.), who died on the 12th December, at the age of 59. At the age of 17 or 18 years he went to the "Criterion" and later became Manager to the late Mr. Ash, at that time proprietor of the house. He took over the proprietorship in 1903. For many years he was Secretary of the Windsor and District Licensed Victuallers' Protection Association. Generally known as "Harry," he was a friend of everybody and a man of strict integrity.

Mrs. Attwood, wife of Mr. A. Attwood, of the "New Inn," Thatcham. Mrs. Attwood at one time used to work at The Rectory, Caversham, during the time of the late Mr. H. Caversham Simonds.

Mrs. Abery, wife of Mr. W. Abery, of the "Plough," Tilehurst.

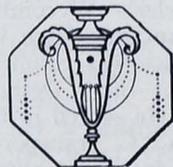
Mr. Walter Griffiths, of the "Desborough Arms," High Wycombe (Messrs. Wheeler's Wycombe Breweries Ltd.). Mr. Griffiths was at the "Fountain," High Wycombe, for twenty-four years and when that licence was voluntarily surrendered he took over the proprietorship of the "Desborough Arms," where he had been for two years. He served in the Army during the war, being attached to the R.A.S.C. Transport. He was a well-trained athlete and up to the last enjoyed running and boxing bouts. He was recognised as an authority on bulldogs. He had possessed animals that had won hundreds of prizes.

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

## CHANGES OF TENANTS.

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

- “The Crown Hotel,” York Town (Ashby’s Staines Brewery Ltd.)—Mrs. M. A. Pearce.
- “The New Inn,” Sunninghill (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—Mr. H. A. Coff.
- “The Swan,” Wycombe Marsh (Wheeler’s Wycombe Breweries Ltd.)—Mr. C. F. Johnson.
- “The Crown and Anchor,” Slough (Ashby’s Staines Brewery Ltd.)—Mrs. M. J. Daws.
- “The Rising Sun,” Burghfield (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—Mr. F. Dyer.
- “The New Inn,” Postcombe (Wheeler’s Wycombe Breweries Ltd.)—Mr. C. F. Hounslow.
- “The Carnarvon Arms,” Whitway (South Berks Brewery Co. Ltd.)—Mr. D. P. R. C. Foulerton.
- “The William Fourth,” York Town (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—Mr. H. W. Jackman.
- “The Gun Inn,” Wash Common (South Berks Brewery Co. Ltd.)—Mr. H. H. Durrant.
- “The Ibex,” Chaddleworth (South Berks Brewery Co. Ltd.)—Mr. H. S. Kempster.



## THE SLOUGH GREYHOUND RACING CLUB.

Something new in the nature of clubs has come into being in the Slough district. This is the Slough Greyhound Racing Club, attached to the newly opened Slough racecourse.

The popularity of the club is easily proved by the already very large membership, as it has not yet been open three months. This is easily understood as the club room is excellently installed and most attractively decorated, every possible arrangement being made for the comfort of its members.

Naturally its principal function is to provide refreshment and club premises for those following the sport of greyhound racing, which takes place three times a week at night. But there is generally a steady coming and going of members during the opening hours of the club, which are not only during greyhound racing, but every morning and afternoon and early evening during the week, with the exception of Sundays, when the opening hours are only in the morning, the hard-worked staff receiving a well earned rest.

On arrival at the club one is first of all confronted by a magnificently attired porter in a blue and gold uniform enhanced by various medals. Probably the next person encountered who presides behind the bar, assisted by white coated barmen, is Mrs. Fay Tilley, the widow of the late Jack Tilley, so well known in London music hall circles a few years ago. There is no doubt a good deal of the success of the club is owing to the efficient manner in which it is managed by Mrs. Tilley, and her unfailing cheerfulness and charm of manner.

Not only is every kind of liquid refreshment provided but in another corner of the club room a snack bar has been installed where members can regale themselves on various kinds of snacks, and where light meals can be served.

One original and attractive feature of the club is that an extension of the loudspeaker provided for the greyhound track has been fixed in the club and not only music but the announcements from the stewards' box is also at the disposal of members who do not wish to leave the club during racing.

The most popular form of beverage in the club is “S.B.” Ale, which is an easy winner.

It would be hardly fair to the greyhound track to pass it over in this article as it is really owing to that that the club has

come into existence. The present management of the track have made other improvements besides constructing the club and have no doubt tremendously added to the social amenities of the stadium. A large kennel of dogs has been got together and excellent sport is being provided. The racing side and kennel management of the venture is now under the charge of Captain David Melville, M.C., who has had long experience of greyhound racing.

Last but not least in stature or importance is Colonel J. B. Batten, D.S.O., Managing Director, who is a popular and conspicuous member of the club about which these notes are written.



The Slough Greyhound Racing Club.

Don't let Beer get the best of you :  
 Drink H. & G. Simonds and get the Best of Beer.

## THE LIGHTER SIDE.

A girl's features may be stamped on a man's heart, but it's her complexion that shows on his coat collar.

\* \* \* \*

Many a man has lost his good name by having it engraved on the handle of an umbrella.

\* \* \* \*

HE : " But, darling, we arranged to keep our engagement secret."

SHE : " Yes, love ; but I could not help it. Yesterday Doreen said no idiot would ever marry me, and I had to contradict her."

\* \* \* \*

MRS. NOBBS : " I was a fool when I married you."

MR. NOBBS : " I suppose you were, but I was so infatuated at the time I didn't notice it."

\* \* \* \*

A man is a bachelor until he marries, then he is whatever his wife calls him.

\* \* \* \*

MAID : " Your laboratory has blown up, sir."

PROFESSOR : " Good ! That means that my experiment has succeeded."

\* \* \* \*

" Another glass of lager, waiter. I am expecting a lady to join me in a moment."

" Yes, sir. Light or dark ? "

" What business is that of yours, you impertinent fellow ? "

\* \* \* \*

At the rear of the house of a lonely spinster there arrived a seedy-looking person who, after being given food, asked :—

" Missus, ask your husband if he ain't got an old pair of trousers to give me ? "

The spinster, anxious not to expose here solitude, replied confusedly :—" I am sorry, but he—er—never wears such things."

Sambo, when offered a ride in an aeroplane, said : " No, suh. Ah stays on terrah firmah, and de more firmah, de less terrah."

\* \* \* \*

FAIR YOUNG THING (to friend) : " Not only has he broken my heart and wrecked my whole life, but he's messed up my evening !"

\* \* \* \*

When returning from listening to a sermon more or less on the Devil, one small girl said to another, " Is there really a Devil, do you think ?"

" No," replied the other little girl, " not really. It's like Santa Claus. It's father !"

\* \* \* \*

YOUNG HUSBAND : " I mean exactly what I said, Ethel. I call a spade a spade."

RECENT BRIDE : " But you don't call a club a club. You call that working at the office."

\* \* \* \*

" Does this novel end happily ?"

" Don't know. It only says they married."

\* \* \* \*

TEACHER : " How is the earth divided ?"

BOY : " By earthquakes, sir."

\* \* \* \*

The bachelor's meal was over, and he rang for his butler.

" Jeames," he said, " in my wardrobe there are——"

" Cigars, sir," put in the servant.

" Oh," said the bachelor, somewhat surprised, " how did you find them ?"

" Excellent, sir," replied Jeames.

\* \* \* \*

Some men who aren't homeless are home less than they should be.

EMPLOYER : " Jackson, I wish you wouldn't whistle at your work."

JACKSON : " I wasn't working, sir."

\* \* \* \*

The scene of this little yarn was an Indian up-country railway station where, amid the jostling crowd of Indians, an English official saw, to his regret, upon the platform a corporal and a private of a certain regiment somewhat the worse for liquor and inclined to be noisy. Close by on a bench, taking no notice whatever, sat two more men of the same regiment looking as quiet and respectable as it was possible for men to be.

" Can't you get hold of those noisy comrades of yours, and keep them quiet ?" asked the official ; and the reply was : " Very sorry, sir, but we can't do nothing."

" But it will bring discredit on the regiment," he persisted, " why can't you do anything ?"

Then came the amazing answer : " Beg pardon, sir, but yer see, it's like this. We're two loonatics, and them's the escort !"

\* \* \* \*

The landlady ushered her new tenant up four flights of stairs and threw open a door.

" Well," she said brightly, " What do you think of it as a whole ?"

He turned a gloomy face to her.

" Well, I suppose it's all right as holes go," he said, " but it's a bedroom I wanted."

\* \* \* \*

" I 'ear that your old man's getting better after all, Mrs. Smith."

" Yes, dearie ; and it's put me in a bit of a 'ole. I've sold all 'is clothes to pay for an 'ead-stone."

\* \* \* \*

The old countrywoman with her basket made herself comfortable in a first-class carriage.

" Are you first-class, my good woman ?" asked a porter.

" Begor, I am, an' thank you ; an' how do you feel yerself ?"

A Frenchman went to London to learn the language, and soon got into difficulties with his pronunciation, especially with the group comprising "though," "plough," and "rough."

When the film of "Cavalcade" began its run and one newspaper review was headed, "Cavalcade Pronounced Success," the Frenchman went back home.

\* \* \* \*

GOLFER: "You must be the worst caddie in the world!"

CADDIE: "'Ardly. That'd be too much of a coincidence."

\* \* \* \*

A German boy who had been brought to live in England, was asked to write an essay on frogs. This is what he wrote:

"What a wonderful bird the frog are. When he stand he sit, almost. When he hop he fly, almost. He ain't got no sense, hardly. He ain't got no tail hardly, either, when he sit, he sit on what he ain't got almost."

\* \* \* \*

COUNSEL: "Are you sure this is the man who stole your car?"

PLAINTIFF: "I was until you cross-examined me. Now I don't know if I ever possessed a car."

\* \* \* \*

Taxi-drivers in New York are charging a special reduced rate for women. Fair's fare.

\* \* \* \*

POLICEMAN: "When I saw the defendant she was entering a saloon."

MAGISTRATE: "Bar or car?"

\* \* \* \*

The motorist from London had stopped to replace a tyre in a desolate part of the highlands. A native chanced along and helped.

"I suppose," said the stranger, busy with his wheel, "that even here the bare necessities of life have risen tremendously in price?"

"Aye, ye're richt," replied the native, "and it's no worth drinking when you get it."

"Just think! His wife has run away with his chauffeur. It is a hard blow for him!"

"Yes, it's a great blow for him. I don't suppose he'll get such another good chauffeur!"

\* \* \* \*

An attempt was being made to arrest a man in a theatre, but unfortunately the culprit escaped. The country constable was endeavouring to explain matters to the inspector.

"Got away, has he?" asked the inspector. "Did you guard all the entrances?"

"Yes," replied the country constable, "but we think he must have left by one of the exits."

\* \* \* \*

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

\* \* \* \*

A well-known London bank manager, deservedly popular as a raconteur, considers the following as the pick of his repertoire:

Two lunatics were airing their grievances in the asylum grounds. Said one: "It's an outrage. I've been in here ten years and I'm as sane as anybody."

"So am I," chimed in the other, "and I've been here for twelve years. Let's go and tell the Governor."

"Wait a minute," said the first, "I'm going to test you first."

Then, putting his hands behind his back, he said: "What have I got in my hand?"

"A tram-car," promptly answered the second.

"You cheat!" was the heated retort. "You saw me pick it up!"

\* \* \* \*

ERRATIC LADY DRIVER: "I presume I am entitled to half the road, am I not?"

MAN (politely): "Certainly, madam, but you seem undecided as to which half you prefer."

A man, after visiting the Show, was having a trial run in one of those very small cars. They started off through the streets of London. Suddenly the light of day vanished, to reappear a few seconds later.

"Hallo," said the surprised passenger, "was that the Thames we went under?"

"No," replied the demonstration expert nonchalantly, "that was a General omnibus."

\* \* \* \*

The motorist was going at night through a town that was in darkness because of an electrician's strike. Something went wrong with his batteries. He was pulled up by a policeman, who, pointing to his darkened lamps, asked his name and address. The motorist did some quick thinking.

"Of course my lights are out," he said. "They're out all over the town."

"That's right. I forgot," said the policeman. "Go ahead."

\* \* \* \*

An American motorist who was speeding through a small village famous for its "S" bends, was stopped by the local constable.

"Didn't you see the warning board?" asked the policeman, referring to the usual "Dead Slow" sign placed at the outskirts of the village.

"Sure I did," replied the offender, "but I thought it referred to this little village of yours."

\* \* \* \*

A young man took a girl for a ride in his new car. On a particularly deserted stretch of road the engine went dead."

While waiting for help the young man began to make love to his companion.

"My kisses," he said passionately, "will put new life into you."

"Then for goodness sake kiss the car," said the girl, practically, "and let's get home."

\* \* \* \*

"Did you go to the character reader?"

"Yes."

"Did he know anything?"

"Well—he made me pay in advance."

A motorist was being charged with driving his car while in a state of intoxication, and the police witness was giving evidence.

"When I came upon the scene, your worship," he said, "I found accused engaged in a heated argument with the Minister of Transport about the condition of the road."

"Well," commented the magistrate, "that proves nothing against the defendant, does it?"

"No, your worship," admitted the witness gravely, "only, you see, the Minister of Transport wasn't there."

\* \* \* \*

A small, neatly-gloved hand protruding from a highly polished car ahead of you means that the driver is—

1. Knocking the ashes off her cigarette.
2. Going to turn to the right.
3. Telling her friend to stop smoking all her cigarettes.
4. Going to turn to the left.
5. Pointing out where her sister lives.
6. Going to reverse the car.
7. Saluting a passing friend, or going to stop.

\* \* \* \*

The bore was rambling on about his attainments as a pianist.

"I can play the piano wonderfully by ear," he informed his listeners.

"That's nothing," one of them said. "Why, old Simpkins here can fiddle with his whiskers."

\* \* \* \*

ROBINSON: "Who was that man you just raised your hat to?"

GREEN: "That? Oh, that was my barber. He sold me a bottle of hair-restorer a month ago, and whenever I meet him I let him see what a fraud he is."



## RETIREMENT OF MR. J. WEBB.

HANDSOME PRESENTATIONS FROM HIS COLLEAGUES.



Mr. J. Webb, foreman of the Building Department, has been in indifferent health lately and retired on pension on December 7th last after over forty years' service. Known everywhere as "Jimmy," he was universally popular both on the Firm and outside. His activities took him in many districts where the Firm have houses and in consequence he had a very widespread knowledge of our tenants and among them very many friends. I feel I am

voicing the sentiments and wishes of his innumerable friends when I say we all hope he will be spared for many, many years and will enjoy his well earned rest. He may be sure we shall always welcome him at the Brewery and we hope now that his health will improve and he will be his bright and cheery self once again. So "Good Health, Jimmy!"

When it was known that he was about to retire his colleagues were naturally anxious to give him some tangible tokens of their esteem and affection.

As Mr. Webb was not well enough to come to the Brewery to accept the handsome gifts they were presented to him at his home on Saturday, December 23rd.

## LETTER OF THANKS.

In acknowledging the gifts, Mr. Webb wrote as follows:—

South View,  
Henley Road,  
Caversham.

27th December, 1933.

To my Colleagues at The Brewery, Reading.

Gentlemen,

I should like, through the medium of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE, to express to you all my sincere and grateful thanks for the very beautiful and acceptable gifts which you have so kindly presented to me.

I need not tell you how great a wrench it is to have resigned my position at the Brewery after so many years, and I am deeply touched by this generous expression of your regard for myself.

I wish you all and the Brewery every success and much prosperity in the coming year.

Again thanking you,

I am,

Yours very sincerely,

JAMES WEBB.

## BRANCHES.

## BRIGHTON.

The pictures and letterpress relating to Sangers' elephant, "Alice," being housed in the brewery premises when at Reading, have been very interesting, especially as this revue came on to Brighton, and "Alice" had to pass our office en route from her lodgings to the Hippodrome. On one occasion she was noticed to stop and look up at our premises, evidently recognising the name of the firm that had given her shelter when at Reading.

Many years ago money was lost by an enterprising builder who constructed a railway from Brighton to Rottingdean, with the rails built on cement blocks resting on the sea bed, which blocks were covered by the sea at high tide, and in the winter were washed adrift. Consequently, the novelty did not last for long.

Below is an interesting photograph of the old "Spider" Seagoing Car which was run by Volks from Black Rock to Rottingdean many years ago. Note the attire of the holiday-makers, dressed in the height of fashion as then in vogue! Also observe the almost entire absence of the "flapper" element!! Can any of our readers recognize Aunts or Uncles in the group? We think a suitable title to the picture would be "The Old Volks at Home."



Reproduced by kind permission of Messrs. Deane, Wiles & Müller, Brighton.

Now the Brighton Corporation, which owns Rottingdean, have linked the two places up with an undercliff walk, which has now been

opened. This makes a most enjoyable promenade, particularly at this time of year, being protected from the North winds, and catching all the sun's rays, of which we get a goodly number of hours. The primary cause for the construction of this walk was to save the cliffs from erosion, but it has also given work to hundreds of men who would be otherwise unemployed. This wall is to be extended as far as Saltdean, the eastern boundary of Greater Brighton.

The ventilating chimney opposite Roedean School is now being demolished; thus another well known landmark vanishes under the heading of "progress."

We hope the New Year will bring an increasing measure of business and prosperity to the Firm.

## THE TAMAR BREWERY, DEVONPORT.

It was with very great regret that we read in the December's Gazette of the passing of that old friend and confrere of ours, "Sid" Turner—especially in so tragic a manner—and we hasten to add our small but sincere tribute to those of our Reading contributor. On the several occasions when he came to us on relief duties at 6, The Octagon, he was always the essence of cheerfulness, and many pleasant hours the writer and he had together, when work for the day was done. A real good sport was our old friend, and our world is the poorer to-day for the loss of so cheery and gallant a soul.

## THE RISING SUN HOTEL, TORQUAY.

On December 11th an old friend and patron of ours, Mr. J. W. Wood, late of the Cambridge Stores, Torquay, became mine host at the above popular SIMONDS House, and under his guidance we are optimistic enough to feel that an even greater measure of support will be ours than hitherto. Both Mr. Wood and his very efficient wife are full of energy, and we can recommend all Gazette readers to give them a call when next in the neighbourhood.

We wish both Mr. and Mrs. Geldard the very best of health and good luck in their retirement from the cares which all licensed premises carry nowadays, and thank them for so firmly planting and nurturing the "Hop Leaf" tree in this flourishing garden of the West.

## THE BRIDGE INN, IVYBRIDGE.

Only a few miles out of Plymouth, on the main Exeter road, stands the above House, and although maybe, it is at present a little backward from the tourist's eye as he or she passes by, it is well worthy of attention nevertheless. We are hoping that one day one particular "eyesore" and traffic danger may be removed, and that this retiring member of the "Tamar" family may come into its own. Meanwhile, our new tenant, Mr. C. Willshire, late of the Royal Navy, is making many new friends by his attention to their comforts, and by ensuring that only the best is good enough for those who patronise the "Bridge." "Cleanliness with quality" is his motto. So here is another name to put in your diaries for the summer holidays. Large or small families catered for, and plenty of room.

## THE KING'S ARMS, TAMERTON.

A little off the beaten track, this one perhaps, but well worth the delightful trip down to those famous "treacle" mines of our childhood days! Both Mr. F. Tweed and his wife are full of ideas for brightening up this old world inn, set in the valley of the Tamar, and if present appearances count, are going to succeed.

The short cut from the main Exeter and Tavistock roads to Cornwall, passes right by the door, and many new friends have already entered its portals in search of a cheery word and an accompanying draught of warming nut brown ale, not in vain in both cases. Coming to us from the borders of North Devon and Cornwall only a few weeks ago, Mr. Tweed and his family have soon settled down, and bid fair to enter upon a tenancy which should be to our mutual satisfaction; we wish them all good fortune in it.

## GIBRALTAR.

Our correspondent on the Rock wrote us just before Christmas as follows:—Christmas is nearly on us and everybody is busy getting ready for the Christmas draws, children's parties and the usual festivities. We have had more than our fair share of rain so far and it is hoped that, as we cannot have snow for Christmas, we shall have sunshine.

Many old friends have recently left us, including R.S.M. W. B. Fife, D.C.L.I., Master Gunner W. E. Jacobs, R.A., S.M. P. F. Vigar, R.E., L/Sgt. "Dolly" Gray, R.A.M.C. and others; they will all be greatly missed.

The news has just come through of next year's moves and, although it is inevitable, we shall be very sorry to lose the 2nd Bn. D.C.L.I. who have justly made themselves so popular on the Rock. They are being relieved by the 1st Bn. K.O.Y.L.I. from Tidworth who have been following them around for many years. Consequently, both battalions are great friends and I am sure that the K.O.Y.L.I's. speak as well of the D.C.L.I. as the D.C.L.I. do of them. However, it is not the time of the year to be dwelling on sad things and the departure of the D.C.L.I. does not take place for many months.

We have had the 4th Destroyer Flotilla in for a month and this has bucked things up generally and many new friendships were made.

The inter-unit billiards tournament has given us an opportunity of seeing many good matches, besides which, visiting another Unit's Mess for the matches always cheers everybody up.

The R.E. W.O. and Sergeants' Mess has held a series of excellent whist drives and dances and the large attendance on each occasion has shown how popular and well run they have been. S.M. F. Giles is to be congratulated on his efforts.

The Military Foot Police Mess has also had several good shows, including a farewell party to two old members. The writer of this article looked in one night and saw "Mac" very busy behind the bar. These shows at the Red Caps' Mess are deservedly very popular and always go with a swing.

The R.A. Mess have at last received their new wireless set which has been out to India and back again, but apparently is none the worse for the trip. Great hopes are held out that, as a result of this set, the Mess attendance will be so great that a new wing will have to be added.

An old custom has recently been revived here and it is thought that a short description may be of interest to readers of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE, especially to those who have been stationed on the Rock. Years ago a "time gun" was fired at sunset and at 9.30 p.m., and half an hour after the sunset gun the gates at Ragged Staff, Waterport and the Landport tunnel were locked by the Key Sergeant and nobody was allowed to enter or leave the fortress after this without a special permit. The Key Sergeant was escorted on his round by a Corporal and two Privates with fixed bayonets and by the music of the Unit on duty at the Main Guard outside Government House.

Once again this has come into force, and on Wednesday of each week the following ceremony is carried out :—The Drums of the Unit on duty parade in the Alameda before "Retreat," the buglers sound the "Long Dress" which takes the place of the Sunset gun and, after a short programme of music, they march off towards Casemates Square. When they arrive outside Government House the Key Sergeant and his escort fall in and are played to Casemates. On arrival at Casemates the buglers sound "Retreat" and the Key Sergeant locks the Landport Tunnel gate only, as Waterport Gate is no more and Ragged Staff Gate is now the southern entrance to Reclamation Road. The Keys are then played back to Government House and handed over by the Key Sergeant to His Excellency the Governor for safe keeping.

Everybody is of the opinion that the unwonted exercise will be of lasting benefit to our popular Key Sergeant, and I hear that several bets, including one or two bottles of beer (S.B. of course), were offered him that he would not be able to keep pace with the D.C.L.I.'s quick step all the way to the Casemates. Nobody knows whether he took the bets up, despite the attraction of the S.B.

Another interesting ceremony which takes place weekly is the changing of the Main Guard with musical ceremonial, at which His Excellency is present.

By the time this is published we shall be into the New Year and I take this opportunity of wishing all readers the best of luck for 1934.

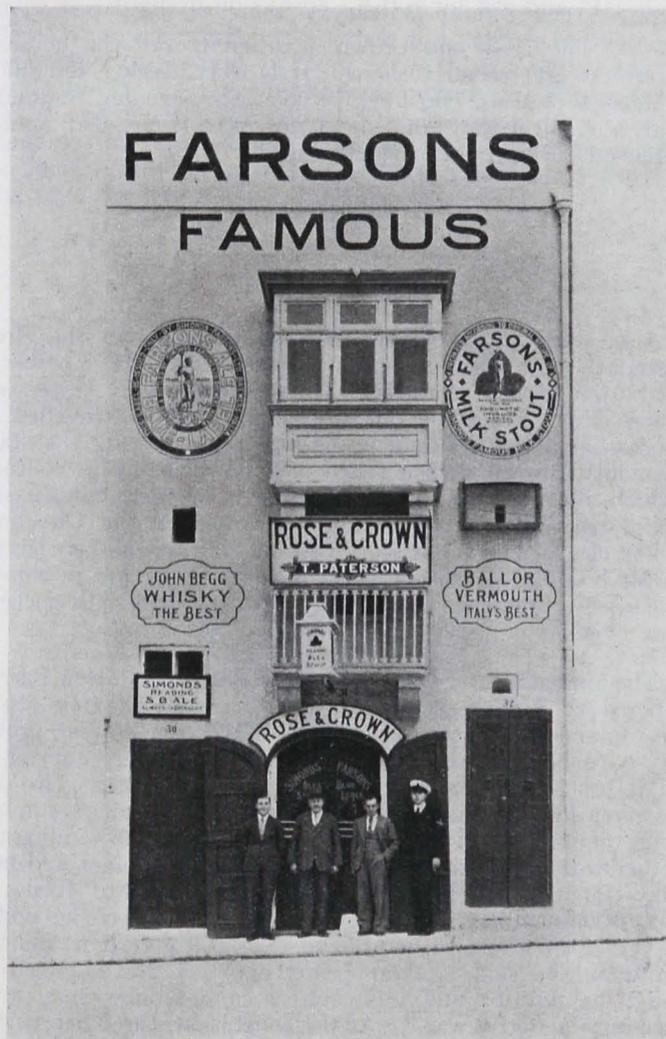
#### MALTA.

The accompanying photograph of Mr. Tom Paterson and the Rose and Crown has reached us in the form of a Christmas card, on which the following lines appear :—

Let's sing the song of Auld Lang Syne  
Should old friends be forgot?  
For friendship cannot change with time  
Though time may change our lot.

Mr. Tom Paterson came to Malta in 1886 with the Royal Engineers and commenced business in 1891. He has one son who is shewn on the left hand side of the photograph and who is studying motor engineering. Mr. Paterson is a popular figure in Malta and a man of great-heartiness and with a good business head. He has a smiling welcome for all and his readiness to oblige customers,

with whom he is always pleased to chat, has built for him a large circle of friends in the Services and in civil life. There is no doubt he is one of the most important personalities in Floriana (just outside Valletta) where his house is situated.



Here is a message as received direct from Malta :—

“Wines, ales and spirits. You can rely on the quality and measure of these when obtained from Tom Paterson's, Rose and Crown, Floriana (established 1879).

“If you want to save money and enjoy a good drink call on T.P. and ask for S.B.A., always on draught.

“The Rose and Crown is different and the house and comfort are second to none. It is worth seeing and the one object is to please you and give you a good evening's enjoyment at a small cost. And don't forget S.B.A., also Simonds-Farsons' Blue Label and Milk Stout.”

#### PORTSMOUTH.

After some 26 years' loyal service travelling for the Firm at Portsmouth and the surrounding district, Mr. H. Comber has retired from his active duties. He was universally respected by his large circle of customers in the district which he travelled. On the occasion of his retirement, he was presented by the staff of Portsmouth Branch with a token of goodwill from his colleagues, to which all subscribed both from the inside and outside staffs. He also received a letter of appreciation from the Directors at Reading of which he is naturally very proud. We all here sincerely wish Mr. Comber health and happiness and long life to enjoy his well-earned retirement. We also wish Mr. G. J. Whittle success on taking over Mr. Comber's large district.

The annual inter-divisional boxing contest at Forton Barracks, composed of boys representing the forecastle, the fore-top, the main-top and the quarter deck of the H.M.S. *St. Vincent*, provided many good bouts. After the finals the results were quarter deck 48, fore-top 45 and fore-castle and main-top 40 each. Two points were given for a win and one for a lose. At the conclusion of the boxing the inter-divisional cup was presented to the winning team, together with silver medals for each individual winner and bronze medals for the losers, by Vice-Admiral W. Munro Kerr, C.B., C.B.E. (Commanding Reserve Fleet). In his speech he said “It is a very good thing to be able to take and give hard punches.” Continuing, he said, “Your primary object is to defend your country by fighting and this country cannot do without a navy either in peace or in war.” At the conclusion, three hearty cheers were given for Admiral Kerr.

We congratulate Superintendent H. L. H. Fisher on his recent appointment to Deputy Chief Constable of Portsmouth which has been recommended by the Watch Committee. The new Deputy Chief joined the Portsmouth City Police Force in February 1912, and eight years' later, after his return from active service, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. He served in the Royal Garrison Artillery during the war and reached the rank of Acting Captain. In March 1924 his efficiency qualified him for promotion and he was appointed to the rank of Inspector. In 1931 he became Chief Inspector and in September 1932 he was promoted to Superintendent to take charge of “A” Division with headquarters at the Guildhall. At the same time he was made responsible for the Police prosecutions in the court, and licensing matters. He is a native of Portsmouth, having been born in Portsea on Xmas Day, 1890.

