

The Hop Leaf Gazette.

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

Edited by CHARLES H. PERRIN.

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No. 4



*Photo by Vandyk,
41, Buckingham Palace Road,
London.*

THEIR MAJESTIES KING GEORGE VI. AND QUEEN ELIZABETH.

Take a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine oft infirmities.—The Bible.

CHAT *from*



THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

(By C. H. P.)

MR. F. A. SIMONDS' 56TH BIRTHDAY.

On Saturday, January 9th, Mr. F. A. Simonds celebrated his 56th birthday and received the congratulations of his numerous friends.

FOOD VALUE OF ALCOHOL.

"Alcohol has a distinct place in medicine, for in anxious or febrile patients distressing symptoms can often be relieved and sleep secured by its judicious use. As a food alcohol has a real use, for it has a high energy value, and is readily absorbed without the need of previous digestion."—*The Practitioner*, July, 1936.

"Beer has undoubtedly a condimental value and often makes the simple meal attractive, if it is only bread and cheese. Thus regarded, beer, instead of representing a waste of food material from which it is made, may actually effect an economy in inducing in those whose custom it is to drink it a better appropriation of the food they consume."—*The Lancet*.

A TONGUE-TWISTER.

A young man named Cholmondley Colquhoun
Once kept as a pet a babolquhoun ;
His mother said, "Cholmondley,
Do you think it quite colmondley
To feed your babolquhoun with a spolquhoun?"

THE JOBBER.

One character in "Candid Escort," by T. B. Marle, says that "if the worst came to the worst, of course, I could go on the Stock Exchange as a half-commission man." A friend asks him if he knows what a jobber is, and Jackie replies that he has heard of a jobber "as a man who buys what he cannot afford from a man

who has not got it to sell." He is told by his friend that this is correct. The friend adds: "Then he sells what he has not bought to a man who hopes it will rise before he has to pay for it. And one talks about close-over-the-nine and the figure-to-over, and contango and backwardation, and wears a top-hat and drinks port at Moore's after lunch."—AUTOLYCUS, in the *Financial Times*.

THE LINE OF SUCCESSION.

With the accession to the Throne of her father, Princess Elizabeth stands next in the line of succession to the Throne.

No serious modification of the line of succession has been necessary since the Act of Settlement of 1701, which decreed that failing surviving issue being left by Queen Anne the Crown should pass to the heirs of Princess Sophia, Electress of Hanover, whose son became George I.

The Salic law which confines the succession to the male line has no force in this country.

After Princess Elizabeth, therefore, the line of succession is as follows:—

Princess Margaret Rose.
Duke of Gloucester.
Duke of Kent.
Prince Edward.
The New Princess.
Princess Royal.
Lord Lascelles.
Hon. Gerald Lascelles.
Princess Arthur of Connaught.
Earl of Macduff.
Lady Maud Carnegie.
Master of Carnegie.

The most immediate precedent for passing of the succession to the brother of an English monarch is the accession of the Duke of Clarence as King William IV on the death of King George IV in 1830.

On the death of William IV, in 1837, the Crown passed to Princess Victoria, daughter of the Duke of Kent, who had predeceased his brother by nineteen years.

On the death of Charles II, in 1685, the Crown passed to his brother, James Duke of York, who became James II.

PRECEDENCE.

The Queen is First Lady in the Land. After her, in order, are :—

Queen Mary.
Princess Elizabeth.
Princess Margaret Rose.
The Princess Royal.
The Duchess of Gloucester.
The Duchess of Kent.
The new Princess.

PALINDROMES.

Which is the longest English palindrome? * A correspondent quotes the words put into the mouth of Napoleon : " Able was I ere I saw Elba."

Further palindromes are :—

A recruit's soliloquy : " Raw & snug was I ere I saw guns & war."

This has the merit of having only five different letters : " Did I tar a rat at Ararat? I did."

" Repel evil as a live leper."

" Egad, a base tone denotes a bad age."

* *A word or sentence that is the same read backwards or forwards.*

INTERESTING TESTS.

Recent tests have shown that you traverse nine miles in a full evening's dancing, averaging 170 yards for a quick or 70 for a slow dance.

An ice hockey player covers 13-14 miles in a game, at an average speed of 27 m.p.h.

An average snooker player walks 720 yards during a game. A fairly good tennis player will cover as much as two miles a set. A squash player runs $1\frac{1}{2}$ -2 miles in a match taking about 25 minutes.

When I played my friend, Mr. Cyril Langton, in the final for Mr. Louis Simonds' Tennis Cup this year, I guess I covered a good two miles in that second set and I saw to it, you bet, that *he* didn't cover less!

BIRDS OF A FEATHER.

" Good morning, Professor," said the plumber on arrival at the house to which he had received an urgent summons. " I am sorry I shan't be able to start work right away. I have forgotten my tools."

" That's all right," replied the professor, " I have forgotten what it was I wanted you for."

NOT LIKELY!

The ardent temperance worker bravely followed the burly navvy into the public-house and watched while he ordered half a pint of bitter. Then, touching the man on the arm, she said :

" And do you think for one moment, my friend, that that horrible drink is going to quench your thirst?"

The navvy turned round slowly and smiled.

" Wot!" he said. " This 'ere one glass? Not bloomin' likely!"

HOW THE SCOT ESCAPED.

Two Scotsmen went into a public-house and tossed to see which should pay for drinks.

The winner called " Heads."

The loser called " Fire!" and escaped in the confusion.

WELL DONE, PAT!

Pat determined to pass his favourite tavern on his way home. As he approached it he became rather shaky, but after plucking up courage, he passed it. Then, after going about fifty yards, he turned, saying to himself : " Well done, Pat, me boy. Come back and I'll treat ye."

ECONOMICS.

The tourist spent the night at a small farm, and found himself obliged to listen to the grumbles of the farmer about being unable to make the farm pay.

" Well," said the tourist at length, " if as you say the farm has never paid for the past twenty years, I don't see how you can carry on at all."

" Ah," replied the farmer, " I employ a labourer. But I can't pay him any wages, so that in two years the farm becomes his property. Then I work for him for two years until I get it back again."

HIGH AND LOW.

It was at the annual regimental reunion, and one of the guests was looking for an old comrade. "Have you seen Sidney?" he asked.

"No," replied another comrade. "I've been looking high and low for him."

"Well, those are the places," the secretary chimed in; "he's been dead four months."

MAJOR ASHBY.

We are all pleased to know that our esteemed Director, Major Ashby, has recovered from his recent indisposition and has resumed his duties at the Brewery. He had a trip to Madiera to regain his strength and while there received THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE. It was read by many at the Savoy Hotel, where he stayed, and, he tells me, was very much appreciated.

KNOCK, KNOCK!

Who's there?

Gladys.

Gladys who?

Gladys opening time!

There's one thing that's certain to put 'flu to rout

And that is a bottle of Archangel Stout.

WELL-DESERVED PROMOTION.

Congratulations to Mr. G. S. Dunster, who has been appointed by the Directors of the Reading Gas Company as Secretary, to succeed the late Mr. A. B. Stedman. Mr. G. S. Dunster joined the Reading Gas Company in 1911 as a junior clerk and has been Assistant Secretary since 1933. This gentleman is a brother of our Mr. W. Dunster, writer of "Brewery Jottings."

GENEROUS RESPONSE.

There has been a prompt and generous response to the appeal for funds to relieve distress among the cast of the ill-fated "Robinson Crusoe" pantomime, who have been robbed of their employment by the disastrous fire at the Royal County Theatre.

ANNUAL DINNER.

The annual dinner will be held on Saturday, January 23rd, in the Large Town Hall, writes W.B. Mr. F. A. Simonds will preside and he will be supported by his Co-Directors. The Mayor (Alderman Mrs. A. Jenkins) has consented to attend, also many well-known local gentlemen. The tickets (5/-), as in former years, are 2/- to employees, the remainder of the cost being generously borne by the Firm. All attending are requested to be present at 6.30 p.m. and take their seats by 6.45 p.m. at the table as shown on their tickets for the commencement of the dinner at 7 p.m. sharp. It is most important that all are seated in good time to ensure the arrangements being carried out successfully. A good programme of music will be provided from 6.30 to 7 p.m. for the benefit of those taking their seats early. Music by an orchestra will also be played during the dinner and an excellent concert has been arranged to follow the meal. We can all contribute to a successful evening by observing the essential rule of giving order during the speeches and musical numbers. Several opportunities will be given for "letting ourselves go" during the community singing and the song choruses, but we must all resolve to give perfect order when called upon to do so.

Essential points :

- (1) Arrive and take our seats in good time.
- (2) Give order at the proper times.
- (3) "Let go" during the community singing and choruses.

SOCIAL CLUB'S FINE PERFORMANCE.

H. & G. Simonds' Social Club gained a splendid victory on Boxing Night at the Reading Skating Rink when a relay team, consisting of S. Cath (captain), Pidgeon, Busby and Jenkins, defeated their nearest rivals, the Pulsometer, after leading throughout the race by over a lap for the "Banford" Challenge Shield. Judging by the roar of applause when the shield and medals were presented to the winning team by Mr. Banford, the victory was evidently a very popular one.

DANCES.

Following the very successful dance held under the auspices of the Tennis Club, the Football Club are holding one in Palm Lodge on Monday, February 1st. Full details are advertised on another page. These dances are a great asset to the social life of the Firm and even greater support should be forthcoming from the employees. It is hoped that a record number will attend this dance, thus giving encouragement to the committee who work so hard to make these events successful.

HOW MANY BARRELS?

Mr. C. J. Manning, of Messrs. W. J. Rogers Ltd., writes,—I have often thought that a little problem in the GAZETTE might interest the staff and others. Here is one:

“A lorry driver was proceeding from Reading to Oxford, when he was asked by an undergraduate:

‘How many barrels have you in the lorry?’

“He replied, ‘If I had as many more, and $\frac{1}{2}$ as many more, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ barrels, I should have 104 barrels.’

“How many had he on the lorry?”

The answer will be found on page 187.

TRANSPORT FLEET'S FINE FEAT.

During Christmastide our Transport Department had an extremely busy time, but the work was carried out with the utmost promptitude and proficiency. The tonnage dealt with during the week December 18th to 24th, amounted to no less than 2,000 tons, and no less than 16,000 miles were covered. Our fine fleet of lorries were journeying here, there and everywhere, and in two days dealt with 900 tons. The 2,000-odd deliveries to public houses and clubs were all carried out to time and there was not a mishap anywhere. One hundred per cent. of the lorries were on the road, which meant, of course, that there was not one left in the workshops—a tribute to the efficient manner in which these lorries were turned out. The organization generally, under the supervision of Commander H. D. Simonds, was the acme of perfection and won the admiration of all.



H. AND G. SIMONDS, LIMITED.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR.

THE NEW CAPITAL STRUCTURE.

MR. STEPHEN V. SHEA-SIMONDS ON THE POSITION.

(Reprinted from THE MORNING ADVERTISER, December 22, 1936.)

The Annual General Meeting of H. and G. Simonds, Limited, was held yesterday at 19, Bridge Street, Reading.

Mr. Stephen V. Shea-Simonds, the chairman, first of all apologised for the absence through a chill of Mr. F. A. Simonds (managing director), and said he felt sure that all shareholders would wish him a speedy recovery.—(Hear, hear.)

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 30, 1936, have been in your possession for several days, and you have, no doubt, examined them with great care. May I therefore ask you to allow me to take them as read?—(Agreed.)

THE NEW CAPITAL STRUCTURE.

Since addressing you last year we have embarked upon a financial operation of a very important nature affecting the capital structure of this company.

The reorganisation of the share and loan capital of the company and the absorption of two subsidiaries have involved a most complicated scheme, but I am glad to say that the long and tedious procedure—necessitating the holding of nine separate meetings—which has extended over the last seven months—is now approaching completion, and early in the New Year the whole scheme will have been carried into effect.

Those of you who have received copies of the many circulars and forms despatched in connection with the scheme will, no doubt, be fully conversant with the alterations which have been, and are being, effected, but I think perhaps a few words on the subject at this juncture will be acceptable.

A TRANSITIONAL STAGE.

As you will have observed from the balance-sheet, the authorised share capital of the company now consists of £1,500,000

Five per Cent. Cumulative Preference stock and £1,000,000 Ordinary stock, whilst the amount of share capital in issue at the date of the balance-sheet was £696,610 Five per Cent. Cumulative Preference stock, £540,240 Ordinary stock, and 180,080 Ordinary shares of £1 each, of which 15s. per share had been called up. These Ordinary shares, I should explain, have since become fully paid and have been converted into stock.

Since the date of the balance-sheet, we have issued further Five per Cent. Cumulative Preference stock amounting to £264,000, which has been allotted to shareholders in our subsidiaries, Ashby's Staines Brewery, Limited, and the South Berks Brewery Company, Limited, in exchange for their holdings in those companies. The issued share capital at the present day is, therefore : £960,610 Five per Cent. Cumulative Preference stock ; £720,320 Ordinary stock.

I mention this fact because the balance-sheet in your possession sets out the position at a transitional stage in the scheme and the final result of the reorganisation will not be apparent to you until next year's accounts are placed before you.

DEBENTURE STOCK CONVERSION.

You will notice another new item on this side of the balance-sheet. I refer to the Three and a Half per Cent. Redeemable Debenture stock. During the year we have taken advantage of monetary conditions and converted the old Four per Cent. and Six per Cent. Debenture stocks into Three and a Half per Cent. stock and all stockholders were offered the option of converting their holdings into this new stock or accepting repayment in cash. The Six per Cent. stock, as you will see, has ceased to exist, whilst of the Four per Cent. stock there remains a balance of £99,290, which will be repaid at £110 per cent. on January 8 next.

The amount of Three and a Half per Cent. Redeemable Debenture stock in issue at September 30 last was £710,253, and there has been issued, since that date, a further £575,828 of this stock in connection with the liquidation of the subsidiaries already mentioned ; the majority of stockholders of these subsidiaries availed themselves of the offer to exchange their holdings into Three and a Half per Cent. stock of this company.

There is one more item on the liabilities side of the balance-sheet to which I should like to refer, and that is general reserve. Here again, the position as at September 30 last cannot be regarded as wholly indicative of the ultimate result of the reorganisation, since the liquidation of the subsidiaries and the consequent absorption of their assets and liabilities must of necessity entail considerable alterations in the company's balance-sheet. The subsidiaries,

Ashby's Staines Brewery, Limited, and the South Berks Brewery Company, Limited, you will recollect, went into voluntary liquidation on October 1 last.

OUTPUT WELL MAINTAINED.

The output of the company and its subsidiaries has been well maintained in all areas, and the trading profit has been increased by a substantial figure. This advantage, however, has been mainly off-set by a big advance in the charge for wages, salaries, and repairs to licensed properties and brewery premises. I may add that the increased cost of builders' materials and wages has contributed in no small degree towards this factor.

I think it is a matter of universal agreement that our licensed houses are maintained in a state of repair which renders them second to none in the South and West of England.

I am pleased to say that our beers have been excellent in quality and a credit to our brewing staff. There has been an increase in the trade of our licensed houses, and the tenants have loyally upheld the prestige of not only this company, but the whole of the licensed trade.

54,249,070 BOTTLES OF BEER SOLD.

As a matter of interesting statistical information, which I afford you every year, I am able to tell you that the output of bottled beers (including a small quantity of bottled cider) amounted, during the year, to 54,249,070 bottles.

The wine and spirit department has again showed excellent results with an increased turnover, and shareholders are once more asked to send to us and to our licensees inquiries for their personal requirements. I am sure they will find from our price lists that we have a selection which will compare favourably with that of any firm of wine and spirit merchants as to quality, variety, and terms.

ATTRACTIVE CATERING DEPARTMENT.

During the year our newly-established catering department has taken over several of our road houses and riverside houses, a list of which will be found at the end of the accounts. They have proved an attraction, and are being well patronised. I trust that our shareholders, whenever opportunity occurs, will pay them a visit. This department has also been of great assistance to many of our licensees in giving them practical advice in all matters affecting the catering side of their business.

We have had control of our latest acquisition in the West Country, Messrs. W. J. Rogers, Ltd., for one full year, and I am glad to report that this concern has shown a small working profit for the first time for many years. A large sum has been expended on repairing and rebuilding properties in Bristol and the surrounding districts, and we are systematically raising them to the high standard which obtains with our licensed properties elsewhere, and to which I have already referred. The Hop Leaf sign and Hop Leaf beers are now as welcome and popular in Bristol and neighbouring districts as in all other areas served by us. We cannot, however, report favourably on conditions in South Wales; but there are signs of some recovery in that area.

MESSRS. SIMONDS-FARSONS' SUCCESSFUL YEAR.

Our associated company in Malta, Messrs. Simonds-Farsons, Ltd., has again had a successful year, and the conduct of their business continues to be directed with much efficiency and foresight. They have been faced with grave problems, owing to the international complications in the Mediterranean, and many difficulties arising from local competition.

We have interested ourselves in the most recent introduction, viz., the canning of beers, and have endeavoured to keep abreast of this development, and have put on the market our well-known "S.B." ale in cans, and there has been a steady and increasing demand for this novelty.

BARLEY PRICES.

We have continued to honour the agreement made with the Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1933 with respect to the use of an increased proportion of home-grown barleys in the production of our beers, and this agreement has been universally observed by the whole of the brewing trade in this country, to the great advantage of farmers in the barley-growing districts. I fear that during the current year the cost of barley will be somewhat higher than in the past year. It is certain that the quality, owing to unfavourable climatic conditions, will not be so good as in recent years.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICIALS AND STAFFS.

I am sure you will wish me to express our thanks to the operative and clerical staffs for the loyal service they have rendered during the past year; in particular, the scheme for the reorganisation of the share and loan capital and the liquidation of our subsidiary companies, Ashby's Staines Brewery, Ltd., and the South Berks Brewery Company, Ltd., has thrown an enormous weight on the shoulders of our secretarial and accountancy departments, involving many months of continuous long hours of responsible and tedious

work, which they have carried out with the utmost efficiency and cheerfulness.

MR. C. E. GOUGH'S SERVICES.

Where all have supported us so loyally, it would be invidious to mention names; there is, however, an individual in another department to whom I feel it my duty to refer, and I am sure you will learn with regret that Mr. C. E. Gough is retiring at the end of this month after more than 55 years of conspicuous and meritorious service. During that period he has held his present position for 29 years, being responsible for the control of all our home and foreign branches and our extensive military trade—a very severe burden which he has most successfully sustained.—(Applause.) He carries our best wishes with him on his well-earned release from business worries of which he has experienced more than enough.—(Hear, hear.)

In conclusion, may I say that in spite of a few complaints as to our not increasing our dividend for the past year, shareholders may be satisfied that your board are merely carrying out the conservative and prudent policy which they have always adopted—and will still continue to pursue—of looking ahead and making provision for the future, especially in view of the fact that the whole world is living in such anxious and critical times.—(Applause.)

I now beg to move the following resolution:—That the report of the directors and statement of accounts for the year ended September 30, 1936, be received and adopted; and that having already paid dividend on 168,200 Cumulative Preference shares of £1 each at 5 per cent. per annum, less income tax, for the nine months ended June 30, 1936; dividend on 400,000 Cumulative Preference shares of £1 each at 6½ per cent. per annum, less income tax, for the nine months ended June 30, 1936; interim dividend on £540,240 Ordinary stock at 4 per cent., less income tax, and provided for interest on £696,610 Five per Cent. Cumulative Preference stock, less income tax, for the three months ended September 30, 1936, the directors now recommend that the balance of £223,076 13s. od. be appropriated as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
To add to Debenture Redemption Reserve	1,649	5	2
To pay a final dividend on £540,240 Ordinary stock at 14 per cent., less income tax (making 18 per cent. for the year)	57,670	12	5
To add to pensions reserve	6,350	0	0
To add to property improvement account	25,713	7	1
To add to contingencies reserve	22,000	0	0
To carry forward to next year	109,693	8	4
	<u>£223,076</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>0</u>

Mr. J. H. Simonds (vice-chairman) seconded the resolution.

HIGH QUALITY OF BEER.

Mr. T. Binsted spoke of the balance sheet as a splendid one, and said he was pleased to hear the chairman refer to the brewing staff, who deserved great credit for the beers which they turned out, reports the *Berkshire Chronicle*. Whether it was in Reading, Plymouth or the Bristol district, the beers were always of the one standard good quality. Conditions in South Wales were improving, and he hoped the company would gradually receive some of the benefit that would accrue as a result of that.

The resolution proposed by the chairman was carried unanimously.

DIRECTORS RE-ELECTED.

Mr. J. H. Simonds proposed the re-election of Mr. S. V. Shea-Simonds to the directorate. Their chairman, he said, gave his time to the welfare of the business in general.

Commander Simonds seconded, and the resolution was carried with acclamation, Mr. Simonds briefly responding.

Mr. A. J. Redman proposed the re-election of Mr. L. A. Simonds as a director. The other directors, he remarked, were delighted to have on the board a son of their managing director, and they regretted that both of them were unable to be present that day.

Mr. J. H. Simonds seconded, and this was carried unanimously.

On the proposition of the chairman, seconded by Major M. H. Simonds, Messrs. Collins, Tootell and Co. were re-appointed auditors to the firm, and Mr. Collins, in reply, said the balance sheet of the firm was as near a model balance sheet as anyone could wish to find.

A vote of thanks was accorded the chairman, on the proposition of Mr. G. W. Smith, seconded by Mr. T. Binsted.

Thanks were also expressed to the board of directors and the staff by Mr. Vere H. Smith, seconded by Major M. H. Simonds. The latter referred to the transport staff. He said, "These heavy lorries are driven all over the country, and I have never yet come across a case of bad driving or inconsiderateness."



RETIREMENT OF MR. C. E. GOUGH.

After a wonderful record of 55 years' service on the Firm, Mr. C. E. Gough retired to a well-earned rest on the 31st December. He has been Manager of the Branch Department for about 29 years.

Our readers will recollect that after completing 50 years' service an account of his business career appeared in the issue of this Journal for October, 1931. The success which he has achieved, during strenuous and eventful years and great changes and developments of the Firm, the control of Branches, the Naval and Military business, Canvas Department, Foreign trade and advertising, gives a glimpse of the extent and varied knowledge required in carrying out the duties of the department.

To mark the close of his business life and to give the Branch Managers and Departmental Chiefs at Reading an opportunity of saying farewell, the Directors kindly gave a luncheon party at the Ship Hotel, Reading, on the 1st January, when the Company's Chairman, Mr. S. V. Shea-Simonds, presided. Mr. F. A. Simonds, Managing Director, Commander H. D. Simonds, Major G. S. M. Ashby and Mr. R. St. J. Quarry, were also present. Regrets at the unavoidable absence of other Directors were expressed.

The speeches by the Chairman and Managing Director summed up the high esteem in which Mr. Gough was held by all with whom he came into contact and the tributes paid to his outstanding abilities and loyalty were in terms of which he must have been truly proud.

Mr. C. G. Adams and Mr. W. H. Wigley, the two senior Branch Managers in length of service, also spoke of their long association with Mr. Gough and the support and encouragement which he had always given to them all.

In replying to the toast of his health, Mr. Gough mentioned that he had served under four generations of the Managing Director's family and thanked the Directors for their kindness, courtesy and hospitality.

Towards the close of the luncheon Mr. F. A. Simonds proposed the health of Mr. A. R. Bradford, who succeeds Mr. Gough as Manager of the Branch Department, and who suitably responded.

To mark the occasion of his retirement, presentations were made to Mr. Gough by the Directors and by the Branch Managers, Departmental Chiefs, Staffs at Reading and Branches, and Overseas Agents and Representatives.

A further presentation was made by the Staff of the Canvas Department.

Where'er folks live, or work, or play
 Town, hamlet, North, South, East or West
 They always know and always say—
 That beer is best

When summer sun beats fierce and hot
 And man the toiler goes in quest
 Of cooling drink to ease his lot—
 Then beer is best

And when the game's been hard and fast
 With muscles tiring in the test
 The final whistle blows at last—
 Then beer is best

When lonely, sad or under par
 And welcome is a word, a jest
 A chat, a dart game in the bar—
 Then beer is best

For all occasions great or small
 A certain way to please your guest
 A tankard when the speeches pall—
 Then beer is best

When day is done and turmoil dies
 And peaceful eventide brings rest
 To aching limbs and weary eyes—
 Then beer is best

MY HOP LEAF STORY.

By "S.B."

("Even Fame Hath Her Torments.")

I'm a friendly sort of fellow, full of sunshine, deep and mellow,
 And I'm known from Singapore to Fairy Isles.
 If you seek me in the Strand, or by Afric's golden sand,
 You can bet your life you'll find me full of smiles.

But I'll hasten to explain lest you think that I am vain,
 That my life is but one long continuous round
 (Tho' I'm Berkshire's joy and pride, and was born at Kennet's side,
 While at Ascot and the "Royal"—well I'm renowned.)

But by literary worth, I'm a travesty from birth,
 Tho' I must confess I have my palmy days.
 Still my youth is one long fret with the exercise I get,
 Just to clear my head of all its "barmy" ways.

For I'm "mashed" and "hopped" about, then they run me in
 and out,
 Till I get all hot and cold—a sad admission
 And my reflections are not clear at this stage of my career
 But my trainers' rouse me up from this condition.

Then I'm hurried down below, for no reason that I know,
 Bunged and banged about so tight that I'm quite chesty.
 It's as much as I can do to keep on breathing through,
 For I feel that if I didn't—they'd just forget me.

It's a blessing no relation at this stage of incubation
 Can interpret my comments. For if they could
 I can tell you now I'm out (for it's much too tight to shout),
 That if they dared to interfere I'd bust the wood.

But they know I'm quite secure, so they leave me to mature
 In a corner dark and cold, without compunction
 And for many days I stay, too jammed up to run away,
 Tho' my name's on every lip—I cannot function.

When I feel a hand on me, I'm as quiet as can be,
 For my nature's now sedate and quite refined—
 So it's time that I began to assist the S.B. plan,
 And to fill up vacancies they have in mind.

After being whirled around, I'm repaid by being "crowned,"
Which is not a bad day's work for you or me
And my "process" is complete, with a label clean and neat,
Which is stuck across my chest for all to see.

For the name that I now boast, is one known from coast to coast,
And the happiness I feel quite fills my head;
Soon its "on the road" I'm sent for the Firm I represent,
With their mark of approbation, bright and red.

And I'm hurried here and there, for there's not much time to spare,
While my "calls" I fear are past my recollections,
Just to please those "SIMONDS" fans, who from bottles or from
cans,
Seal their friendships everywhere in my reflections.

Yes, my fan mail's quite a task—Reading, Plymouth, Bristol, ask
Tho' I must confess my life would make some frown—
For I've been "drunk" in every port, but I've many a friend at
court,
While the "coppers" I know best are slim and brown.

Now I'm "canned" from morn to night—that's no change, I'm
just as "tight,"
And I'm wondering what's the next thing on the slate,
What with Cans O' "S.B." Sales, throughout Bristol and South
Wales,
It would appear that I must still accelerate.

I've no time to stop and think, that's just why I've wasted ink
On a story which is literally true.
Yes, there's someone shouting now, so I think I'll make my bow,
With my S.B. "Cheerio"! and "Here's to you"!!

(“MOONRAKER.”)

The phrase "the King can do no wrong" means that in
cases of personal breaches of the law he is beyond the jurisdiction
of any court.

If a servant receives a month's wages in lieu of the customary
notice, she is not entitled to board wages in addition.

WORDS OF WISDOM.

He who becomes impassioned of a flower, a blade of grass, a
butterfly's wing, a nest, a shell, wraps his passion around a small
thing that always contains a great truth.—*Maeterlinck.*

For every winter there's a spring,
Oh, that's the beauty of the thing!
For every midnight there's a morn,
For every loss, a hope is born,
For every sultry day the dew,
For every old year there's a new.

One, two, three, four, five, six, seven,
The midnight bell calls out to heaven;
Eight, nine, and ten, eleven, twelve,
And all of you who dream and delve,
Say not "The Old Year now is dead,"
But "Happy New Year," cry instead.

Yes, buds for all the leaves that fall,
That is the beauty of it all.
New dreams for all the dreams that die,
For every night a dawning sky:
For every heartache, failure, tear,
Another chance, another year.

When you are stung by slanderous tongues comfort yourself
with this thought: it is not the worst fruits that are gnawed by
wasps.

When the sun is highest he casts the least shadow.

Your learning, like the lunar beam, affords light but not heat.

The word of a gentleman is as good as his bond—sometimes
better.

Few things are impossible to diligence and skill.

Gratitude is a duty which ought to be paid, but which none
have a right to expect.

Integrity gains strength by use.

Men's muscles move better when their souls are making merry
music.

Storms make oaks take deeper root.

Striking manners are bad manners.

The stone that lieth not in your way need not offend you.

The soul is not where it lives but where it loves.

May heaven ('tis all I wish for) send
One genial room to treat a friend,
Where decent *cupboard*, little plate,
Display benevolence, not state.

A GREAT THOUGHT.

Eugene de la Croix was one of the greatest of French painters. On a certain occasion he was worried about finding a model for a Roman beggar to fit into a picture he was painting.

One day he invited a great banker, James de Rothschild, to dinner. He found him just the figure suited for the model he needed. Having discussed the matter with him the banker gladly consented to sit.

Seated in the required position the millionaire looked a typical Roman beggar, and the painter was busy with the picture when a pupil of his arrived on the scene. The artist went into another room for something he needed, and as soon as he had gone the pupil, out of compassion for the model and believing he was in truth a beggar, slipped into his hands a coin which was gratefully accepted.

The banker, touched by this generous act of sympathy, privately asked the painter for particulars about the boy's circumstances, and soon after the incident the charitable pupil received the following letter: "Charity, my dear young man, bears interest. You gave a coin to one whom you supposed to be in need, and he now repays you with the interest your generosity deserves. You will find the sum of 10,000 francs lying at your disposal in the Rothschild's offices, and the beggar in the picture of Eugene de la Croix begs to hope that you will become as great as you are good."

This was certainly a quick return and a liberal reward for a generous action.

BREWERY JOTTINGS.

(BY W. DUNSTER.)

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL.

Football has been a more popular topic in Reading recently for with better play and better results hopes have again been raised. The promotion question at the moment—owing to the small number of points separating at least six or seven of the teams in the Third Division (Southern)—is very open. Even Reading have been hopefully spoken of. Many exciting games are promised for the second half of the season and it will be all for the good of the game (and gates) if the interest can be maintained until the end of the season. Reading have a stiff hurdle to negotiate in the Cup, but if a draw can be effected with Manchester United, the finances of the Club will benefit considerably and hopes of supporters rise accordingly. We shall see.

A new clock has been erected at Elm Park and is incorporated in the advertisement of the Firm on the front of the new stand. The clock is an electric one connected to the mains and fills the centre of the letter "O" in the name "Simonds." It was designed and erected by Messrs. W. Austin Balsom of Reading to the order of H. & G. Simonds Ltd.

I have no doubt Plymouth Argyle are thinking very seriously of promotion, although recently they have not been quite so convincing as previously.

Brighton, also, have an excellent chance of winning promotion from the Southern Section.

After football (or before it if you like) Test Match cricket is holding its place in the thoughts of many, and quite a number switch on the wireless and listen to the latest over the eggs and bacon.

The Christmas rush over, the General Office staff are down to it on their task of quarterly balancing. May their labours be rewarded by a balance which "comes right" first time.

Generally speaking, the staff have weathered the winter very well so far, for casualties have been very infrequent. I feel, however, that the testing time comes in those early months of the new year; so here is hoping that everyone will escape the perils of that period.

I hear that Mr. Jack Cook, at Newbury, is seriously ill. I hope he will soon be much better and back at duty once again.

Much sympathy has been expressed to Mr. J. Hook on the very serious illness of his son, who has been in the Royal Berkshire Hospital for the past seven weeks. We all hope that the very anxious time he has been through will be rewarded by an early report of a turn for the better.

Mr. F. Kimpton, I understand, is making distinct progress and is very hopeful of an early return to duty, that is to say, when he has the doctor's next report.

Congratulations to Mr. A. H. Hopkins on the marriage of his only son on Boxing Day. The announcement in the local paper read :—

On December 26th, 1936, at Christ Church, Brixton, William Albert Larché, only son of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Hopkins, of 7 Wilderness Road, Earley, to Marjorie Joan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Blythe, of 126 Brixton Road, S.W.9.

Mr. A. H. Hopkins' son is an architect on the staff of the City of Cardiff.

Sorry to say Mr. J. M. Hammond is not well and has been compelled to stay away for the last week or so. The latest news is not so cheering as it might be. Nevertheless, we all hope he will soon take a decided turn for the better and be amongst us once again. His bright and cheery personality is greatly missed.

The following transfers and changes have recently taken place, and to all we wish every success :—

The Royal Oak, Chinnor (Wheeler's Wycombe Breweries Ltd.)—
Mr. R. Noakes.

The Swan Inn, London Road, Newbury (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—Major C. P. Smith.

The Hop Leaf, Southampton Street, Reading (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—Mr. J. A. Prior.

The Cricketers Inn, Stockcross (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—Mr. A. B. Michie.

DEATH.

We regret to record the death of Mr. F. A. Timson, of the Roebuck Hotel, Tilehurst. Mr. Timson, who had been at the Roebuck Hotel for six years, was a native of Berkhamstead and was buried in the family grave at Berkhamstead Cemetery. During the War he served as a Lieutenant with the Lancashire Fusiliers. He was very popular with fishermen and other sportsmen who patronised the hotel. He was Shell Hole Commander of the Memorable Order of Tin Hats at the Roebuck and was a member of many local societies and associations. He had been ill for some months and leaves a widow, married daughter and a son.

Amongst those who attended from Reading were Councillor and Mrs. E. A. Sloper, Capt. C. G. Price, Mr. Albert Blake, Mr. G. Mackay, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Parsons, etc.

A GRAND DANCE

(UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE SIMONDS FOOTBALL CLUB)

will be held at

PALM LODGE

ON

Monday, February 1st, 1937,

8 p.m. to 2 a.m.

The Commanders Orchestra.

M.C. : MR. C. KEARSE.

PRIZES FOR LUCKY SPOT DANCES
AND OTHER NOVELTIES.

TICKETS, 2/- AT THE DOOR, 2/6.

Dress Optional.

SIMONDS' DANCES

HAVE A REPUTATION OF THEIR OWN FOR
SOCIABILITY AND GENERAL
GOOD TONE.

A LARGE ATTENDANCE IS ANTICIPATED.

Tickets are obtainable from Members of the Football Committee, Players, Simonds Social Club, etc.



[Photograph reproduced by the courtesy of the "Evening Gazette."
Mr. and Mrs. Louis Simonds and their baby daughter.

FAMILY LACE GOWN.

MR. AND MRS. L. SIMONDS' DAUGHTER BAPTISED.

Wearing an old family christening gown of lace that her father and his mother before him had worn at their baptisms, the baby daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Louis A. Simonds, of Tithe Barn, Newnham, Hook, was baptised with the names Erica Rosemary at Newnham Parish Church on Sunday, January 3rd.

Mr. Louis Simonds' father is Mr. Frederick A. Simonds, known usually as Mr. Eric Simonds, while his brother is Mr. Eric Duncan Simonds. Rosemary is his wife's name.

The Rector (the Rev. Horace S. Footman) performed the ceremony, at which Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Simonds, Mr. and Mrs. John Simonds, Commander and Mrs. H. D. Simonds, and Col. and Mrs. E. M. Lang were present.

Mr. Eric Duncan Simonds was godfather for his brother's daughter, and Miss Rona Lang (Mrs. Simonds' sister) and Miss Sybil Walker were godmothers.

A family party followed the christening. Mr. Louis Simonds, who is a director of H. and G. Simonds Ltd., has been away from business for several weeks with influenza, but is considerably better now. His marriage took place in April, 1935.

THE FRIEND WHO JUST STANDS BY.

When trouble comes your soul to try
 You love the friend who just "stands by."
 Perhaps there's nothing she can do,
 The thing is strictly up to you.
 For there are troubles of your own,
 And paths the soul must tread alone,
 Times when love cannot smooth the road,
 Nor friendship lift the heavy load ;
 But just to know you have a friend
 Who will "stand by" until the end,
 Whose sympathy, through all endures,
 Whose warm hand-clasps is always yours,
 It helps some way to pull you through,
 Although there's nothing she can do,
 And so with fervent heart you cry,
 God bless the friend who just "stands by."

—B.V.W. in the *Imperial Club Magazine*.



[Photo by the courtesy of the "Evening Gazette."
 Mrs. J. H. Simonds, Miss P. Simonds, Mr. J. H. Simonds, Miss R. Barker, Mr. R. Simonds at the Royal Berks Hospital Ball at the Town Halls, Reading, on Friday, January 1st.

A WINTER INVADER OF MALTINGS.

(BY A FELLOW OF THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.)

Numerous instances have been brought to my notice of a species of mouse known to infest maltings, though almost exclusively during the colder months. This is the long-tailed field mouse, a very active, elegant little animal, recognisable at a glance by its extremely long tail, which, in an adult specimen, measures about $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches, a length nearly equal to that of the head and body combined. The ears and eyes are large and prominent. The general colour is reddish-grey on the upper parts, light brown on the breast, and whitish below.

During by far the greater portion of the year this rodent lives in the fields and lanes, the woods and gardens; but, with the approach of winter, it frequently seeks the shelter of buildings. I have known it to swarm in country houses. In maltings it is particularly troublesome, owing to its partiality for grain. Its remarkable agility enables it to reach seemingly inaccessible situations. A mouse of this species has been observed to leap to the top of a corrugated iron barrier, fully $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet in height, then to scale a further 10 feet of wooden partition and thereby gain access to stored grain.

DESTRUCTION ADVISABLE.

It is most unwillingly that I recommend the destruction of this engaging little animal, which, during the warmer months, devours large numbers of insects as well as the seeds of weeds, and if only a few examples occur, they may be caught in ordinary box-traps, taken to the woods and released. A small piece of indiarubber, attached by means of some strong adhesive to the floor of the trap, just where the lid falls, will provide a space sufficient to prevent injury to the captive's long and sensitive tail.

Unfortunately, however, long-tailed field mice are liable to be present, both in maltings and country granaries, in numbers that render drastic measures quite unavoidable.

A TOM CAT IS USEFUL.

The best of remedies, of course, is a cat. A young tom usually excels even the long-tailed field mouse in agility, capable though that rodent is of performing wonderful flying leaps. By the way, its leaping powers and general appearance have caused one writer to describe it as "resembling a miniature kangaroo."

To effect the destruction of the invaders, various poisons may be recommended. Most reliable of them all is Carbonate of Barium, mixed with a small quantity of grain, or with soaked green peas, of which the field mice are particularly fond. A few drops of Oil of Aniseed added to this preparation, or leading to it from every direction, will prove a great attraction. This appears to be the most efficacious of all preparations for the purpose, and the components are obtainable, at low cost, from any qualified chemist. Of course, every care must be exercised in the use of poisons in the proximity of grain, and measures taken to keep them beyond the reach of domestic animals.

WHEN A THIRST PROVES FATAL.

Shallow vessels, half-filled with water, and sunk to the level of the floor, will prove disastrous to field mice, which, being thirsty, fall in. In this manner, as many as fifteen have been taken in a single night at a maltings in a Midland village.

With the approach of spring, the long-tailed field mice return to the countryside; but, unless checked, they may commit much damage, and befoul the premises ere they leave their winter quarters in maltings and granaries.

By kind permission "The Brewers' Journal."

An I.O.U. for money lost at gambling is worthless, but otherwise it is valid as evidence and can be used as such by the plaintiff in suing for a debt.

LICENSED VICTUALLERS' ANNUAL DINNER.

The Annual Dinner of the Reading and District Licensed Victuallers' Association will be held at the Oxford Hall, Reading, on Tuesday, February 23rd.

STILL THE BEST.

STOKENCHURCH BRITISH LEGION DINNER.

The Annual Dinner of the Stokenchurch and District Branch, British Legion, was held at the Red Lion, Stokenchurch, on November 20th, 1936. The President of the Branch, Colonel Hugh Young, D.S.O., presided, supported by Mr. Scott-Evans (County Secretary), Dr. E. L. Elliott (Chairman of the Branch), Mr. G. Robertson (Group Secretary), Mr. W. Tappin (Turville Branch) and the Vicar (Rev. R. S. Munday).

All members present stood in silence in memory of the "Fallen," followed by the Vicar reciting Benyon's "They shall not grow old."

The fifty members present enjoyed the excellent dinner served by Mine Host and Hostess, Mr. and Mrs. L. Drewett.

Following the Royal Toast, the President proposed "The Legion" and in his remarks he congratulated the Branch on its numerical progress, also the good work done by the officers during the past year.

Mr. Scott-Evans replied, stating that the County of Bucks had won the efficiency shield of the Legion, which proved that the County was doing grand work. He also explained that the latest X-ray equipment had been installed in the Legion Village, Preston Hall, to alleviate suffering. He closed his speech with this sentence: "If the Legion can work to alleviate the suffering of the ex-serviceman, surely we must all work to preserve world peace and save the misery and suffering resulting from future wars."

Mr. J. W. Barney proposed the toast of "The Visitors." Mr. Robertson and the Vicar responded.

The Hon. Secretary of the Branch, Colonel Steel, O.B.E., proposed "Our President" and "The Host and Hostess."

The musical programme was supplied by Messrs. Fredericks, Webster, Elston, Anstead, E. Bates, Weedon, Mrs. Flint, and others.

A most enjoyable evening was brought to a close by the singing of the National Anthem.

BREAD CRUMBS.

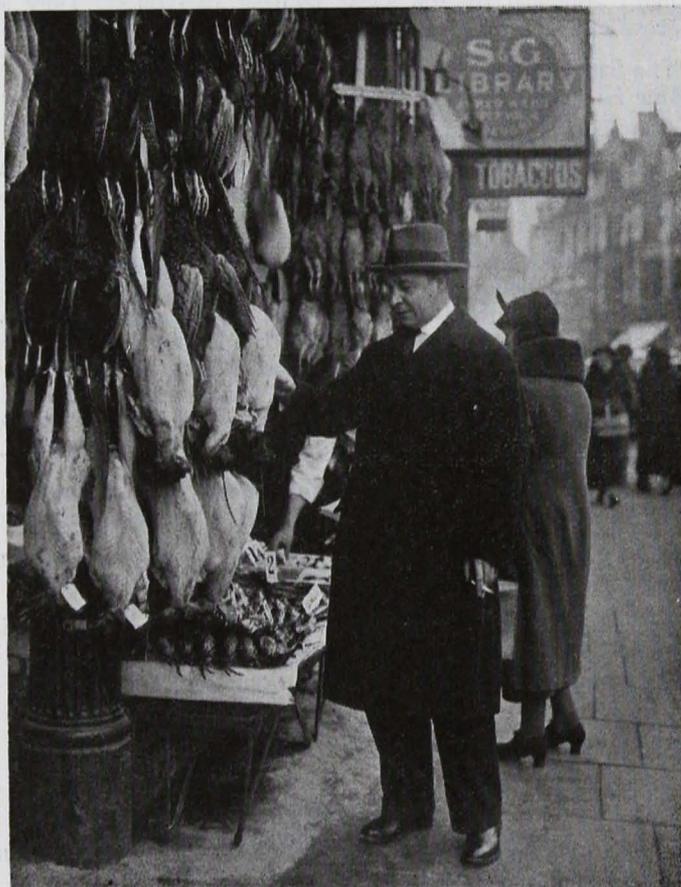
Lost.—One quart of Ted's (of African War fame) blood, during the tournament games last winter.

The finder will be handsomely rewarded if returned to Games Secretary.

The Mayor of Tintown was quite indignant that no trenches were available after the dinner so that he could demonstrate his experiences.

What did Tilly say to "Plum" when she learned of his actions on his way home?

Did the Host and Hostess enjoy their extra bedmate that night?



Our Chief Accountant (Mr. A. G. Richardson, A.C.A.) choosing his Christmas turkey in Broad Street, Reading.

DEPARTMENTAL TOURNAMENTS.

KEEN COMPETITION.

The departmental tournaments which were commenced this season by the presentation of the cups to last year's winners, by Mr. S. V. Shea-Simonds, are now in full swing and providing interesting and keen competition among the departments. As can be seen by the following results, the points have been very close and very exciting contests are expected towards the end of the season. The Building Department have a new captain in Mr. F. Hawkins, and the Transport are under the captaincy of Mr. G. Canning. Both are putting up good teams against the more seasoned leaders in the hope of winning the cups.

RESULTS.

		<i>Offices.</i>		<i>Cooperage.</i>	
Billiards	...	Davis, H. ...	... 1 v.	Weller, C. ...	0
		Rider, A. G. ...	... 0 v.	Griffiths, R. ...	1
Dominoes	...	Kent, T. ...	... 1 v.	Plank, H. ...	0
		Osborne, H. ...	... 1 v.	Lee, A. ...	0
Crib	...	Shepherd, H. ...	... 0 v.	Sparks, W. ...	1
		Bradford, W. ...	... 0 v.	Stanton, A. ...	1
Shove Halfpenny	...	Cox, C. B. ...	... 1 v.	Holmes, T. ...	0
		Shepherd, H. ...	... 1 v.	Kelly, G. (junr.) ...	0
Darts	...	Kent, T. ...	... 1 v.	Weight, A. ...	0
		Poole, G. ...	... 0 v.	Sparks, W. ...	1
Shooting	...	Rider, A. G. ...	... 0 v.	Holmes, T. ...	1
		Osborne, H. ...	... 1 v.	Stanton, A. ...	0
			—		—
			7		5
			—		—
		<i>Maltings.</i>		<i>Rest.</i>	
Billiards	...	Couzens, S. ...	... 1 v.	Dalton, A. ...	0
		Nunn, G. ...	... 1 v.	Benford, L. ...	0
Dominoes	...	Day, T. ...	... 1 v.	Bird, S. ...	0
		Everett, A. J. ...	... 0 v.	Croft, J. ...	1
Crib	...	Streams, B. ...	... 1 v.	Clark, S. ...	0
		Henderson, M. ...	... 0 v.	Benford, J. ...	1
Shove Halfpenny	...	Everett, J. ...	... 1 v.	Dalton, A. ...	0
		Heath, R. ...	... 1 v.	Lott, G. ...	0
Darts	...	Everett, G. ...	... 0 v.	Weedon, T. ...	1
		Streams, J. ...	... 0 v.	Blackford, P. ...	1
Shooting	...	Boyles, G. ...	... 0 v.	Blackford, P. ...	1
		Lailey, G. ...	... 1 v.	Duce, G. ...	0
			—		—
			7		5
			—		—

	<i>Transport.</i>		<i>Building.</i>	
Billiards	...	Nimmo, J. ... I v.	Hawkins, F. ... 0	
		Knott, J. ... I v.	Chard, C. ... 0	
Dominoes	...	Marsh, G. ... I v.	Ayling, A. ... 0	
		Canning, G. ... 0 v.	Whitmore, W. ... I	
Crib	...	Gardner, F. ... 0 v.	Lake, A. ... I	
		Blake, A. ... I v.	Fullbrook, F. ... 0	
Shove Halfpenny	...	Stacey, T. ... I v.	Dobson, C. ... 0	
		Clinch, F. ... 0 v.	Bowsher, E. ... I	
Darts	...	Pusey, A. ... I v.	Tate, E. ... 0	
		Grover, S. ... I v.	Eymore, B. ... 0	
Shooting	...	Allen, J. ... 0 v.	Sewell, W. ... I	
		Dainton, W. ... 0 v.	Mitchell, H. ... I	
		7	5	

	<i>Transport.</i>		<i>Coopers.</i>	
Billiards	...	Knott, J. ... I v.	Stanton, A. ... 0	
		Nimmo, J. ... 0 v.	Holmes, T. ... I	
Dominoes	...	Marsh, G. ... I v.	Plank, H. ... 0	
		Hamilton, F. ... I v.	Lee, A. ... 0	
Crib	...	Blake, H. ... I v.	Weller, C. ... 0	
		Gardner, F. ... 0 v.	Stanton, A. ... I	
Shove Halfpenny	...	Stacey, T. ... 0 v.	Plank, H. ... I	
		Clinch, F. ... 0 v.	Kelly, G. ... I	
Darts	...	Pusey, A. ... I v.	Shipton, F. ... 0	
		Grover, S. ... 0 v.	Weight, A. ... I	
Shooting	...	Allen, J. ... I v.	Holmes, T. ... 0	
		Dainton, W. ... 0 v.	Kelly, G. ... I	
		6	6	

	<i>Mallings.</i>		<i>Offices.</i>	
Billiards	...	Nunn, G. ... I v.	Davis, W. H. ... 0	
		Couzens, S. ... 0 v.	Broad, R. ... I	
Dominoes	...	Day, T. ... 0 v.	Spencer, W. ... I	
		Stanbrook, H. ... I v.	Wild, W. H. ... 0	
Crib	...	Barker, J. ... 0 v.	Josey, F. ... I	
		Streams, B. ... 0 v.	Rider, A. G. ... I	
Shove Halfpenny	...	Everett, J. ... I v.	Shepherd, H. ... 0	
		Heath, R. ... 0 v.	Cox, C. B. ... I	
Darts	...	Henderson, M. ... I v.	Broad, R. ... 0	
		Boyles, G. ... I v.	Kent, T. ... 0	
Shooting	...	Boyles, G. ... I v.	Osborne, H. ... 0	
		Lailey, G. ... 0 v.	Rider, A. G. ... I	
		6	6	

	<i>Building.</i>		<i>Offices.</i>	
Billiards	...	Chard, J. ... 0 v.	Davis, H. ... I	
		Ayling, A. ... 0 v.	Broad, R. ... I	
Dominoes	...	Whitmore, W. ... 0 v.	Osborne, H. ... I	
		Hawkins, F. ... I v.	Bradford, W. ... 0	
Crib	...	Fullbrook, F. ... 0 v.	Davis, H. ... I	
		Lake, A. ... I v.	Bradford, W. ... 0	
Shove Halfpenny	...	Bowsher, E. ... 0 v.	Cox, C. B. ... I	
		Dobson, C. ... I v.	Kent, T. ... 0	
Darts	...	Eymore, B. ... I v.	Saunders, V. ... 0	
		Tate, E. ... 0 v.	Kent, T. ... I	
Shooting	...	Mitchell, H. ... I v.	Osborne, H. ... 0	
		Sewell, W. ... I v.	Broad, R. ... 0	
		6	6	

	<i>Rest.</i>		<i>Building.</i>	
Billiards	...	Dalton, A. ... I v.	Whitmore, W. ... 0	
		Benford, L. ... I v.	Chard, J. ... 0	
Dominoes	...	Croft, J. ... I v.	Whitmore, W. ... 0	
		Osborne, T. ... I v.	Fullbrook, F. ... 0	
Crib	...	Clarke, S. ... I v.	Tate, E. ... 0	
		Wheeler, W. ... 0 v.	Lake, A. ... I	
Shove Halfpenny	...	Lott, G. ... 0 v.	Dobson, C. ... I	
		Osborne, T. ... 0 v.	Bowsher, E. ... I	
Darts	...	Blackford, P. ... 0 v.	Eymore, B. ... I	
		Cross, F. C. ... I v.	Sewell, W. ... 0	
Shooting	...	Prater, H. ... I v.	Sewell, W. ... 0	
		Blackford, P. ... I v.	Mitchell, H. ... 0	
		8	4	

	<i>Coopers.</i>		<i>Building.</i>	
Billiards	...	Griffiths, R. ... I v.	Whitmore, W. ... 0	
		Weller, C. ... I v.	Chard, J. ... 0	
Dominoes	...	Howland, J. ... 0 v.	Fullbrook, F. ... I	
		Sparks, W. ... I v.	Hawkins, F. ... 0	
Crib	...	Sparks, W. ... 0 v.	Lake, A. ... I	
		Stanton, A. ... 0 v.	Ayling, A. ... I	
Shove Halfpenny	...	Kelly, G. (junr.) ... 0 v.	Dobson, C. ... I	
		Griffiths, R. ... I v.	Bowsher, E. ... 0	
Darts	...	Weller, C. ... 0 v.	Eymore, B. ... I	
		Holmes, T. ... 0 v.	Tate, E. ... I	
Shooting	...	Holmes, T. ... 0 v.	Sewell, W. ... I	
		Kelly, G. (junr.) ... 0 v.	Mitchell, H. ... I	
		4	8	

A NEW YEAR BENEDICTION

TO THE LANDLADY OF THE BLACK BOY, AND OTHERS AT SHINFIELD,
FROM THE TWO DOGS, TESS AND TIM.

Dear Mistress, we're obliged to you
For a' the meat ye gie us ;
May ye aye dine on guid auld fare
And Tess and Tim aye get their share,
This is their earnest cry and prayer.
For many and many a year to come,
We hope to see your reekin lum,*
Your pantry full, your kitchen fine.
Whene'er we come with you to dine,
The landlord and the laddie, too,
We hope they'll aye be dear to you.
May you ne'er meet with want nor care,
With never a sorrow, never a tear,
But hae great joy throughout the year.
The customers, we'll bring to mind,
To both of us they're very kind ;
A wee bit bread, and cheese maybe,
Whate'er the fare they make us free,
And so to them we thankful be.
Our master, poor misguided man,
For miles and miles he trudges on :
He has two legs, and we have four,
To keep up with him is not in our power.
Were we the master, he a dog,
So far afoot we wouldn't slog,
But where we saw the HOP LEAF sign
We'd call a halt and enter in,
We'd bring to him a pint of BITTER,
But for ourselves S— C— are better.
Now, Mr. Editor, our small request
To print this in your next Gazette,
For all the birds and beasties know
How kind you are to them, and so
Just be as kind to

TESS AND TIM (Bow-wow-wow).

Shinfield.

1st January, 1937.

* *Reekin lum*—*Anglice, a smoking chimney.*



Miss Tess—Tim has just moved out of
the picture.

ANSWER TO HOW MANY BARRELS.
(Page 160.)

Barrels.

x = the amount.

$2x$ = as many more.

$\frac{1}{2}x$ = $\frac{1}{2}$ many more.

$1\frac{1}{2} = 104.$

$$x + x + \frac{1}{2}x + 1\frac{1}{2} = 104.$$

$$x + x + \frac{1}{2}x + \frac{3}{8} = 104.$$

$$2x + 2x + x + 3 = 208.$$

$$2x + 2x + x = 208 - 3.$$

$$5x = 205.$$

$$x = 41 \text{ barrels P.A.}$$



Photograph by Kurt Romm

[Distributed by the courtesy of the "News Chronicle."]
The Skipper's Birthday Party on board the "Cap Pilar" which is journeying round the world.

A NATURE NOTE.

(BY C.H.P.)

SQUIRREL MISSES HIS FOOTING.

PEEWITS BY THE THOUSAND.

The best way of meeting winter is to quit the cosy fireside, put off the plaid shawl, and go into the open air. To face the chill rain and wind; to make the frosty road ring under your tread; to wander over the snowy hill is to find winter a fine honest fellow, with no nonsense in him. He is all for national fitness.

Mr. F. C. Hawkes informs me that recently he was taking his dogs for a stroll when he suddenly came across a squirrel. This clever little climber rarely loses his foothold but on this occasion when springing from one branch to another he came a cropper and fell bang into a ditch. He narrowly missed Mr. Hawkes' head—and, incidentally, a very fine "nut"! Our four-footed little friend lost no time in regaining his equilibrium, and racing up a tree stood on one of the topmost boughs stamping his feet with indignation.

I have often watched squirrels burying nuts and, proceeding to the spot, had hoped to find a good supply, but never have I found more than the one I had seen the little creature hide, though my search has been very thorough.

PEEWITS IN PLENTY.

Down in the meadows by the Thames you may often see thousands upon thousands of peewits. At one moment they are all quietly feeding with hardly a sound except for an occasional and faint "pee-wit." The next moment, as if at a given signal, they will all take wing and follow their leaders to another happy hunting ground. Higher and higher they ascend and then when they have taken a bird's-eye view of the landscape and decided upon their next dining table, down they will come, describing the most amazing aerial evolutions; in fact, as they descend in their thousands it simply rains peewits.

I often watch them go to bed at night and it would appear that the damper the meadow the better they like it. The day is done and in the semi-darkness you can just see them as they flap their way low down, just skimming the hedges before settling down for the night. There is a weird plaintiveness about their note at this time of the year and especially at night-time. It is very far removed from the joyous "willow-wit pee-wit" which we hear in the springtime when lovemaking goes on apace.

BRAMBLE-FINCHES.

During this winter—if such one may call it—I have come across little flocks of bramble-finches twittering cheerily in the beech trees. If we lose our little summer guests we are recompensed by other charming visitors. “The pious naturalist of old,” writes Mr. E. Kay Robinson, the naturalist and author, “would have seen a special dispensation of Providence in the fact that the same gales which strew the ground with ripe beech-nuts bring over the bramblings from Norway to enjoy them. For the brambling or bramble-finch loves the beech-nut, as the jay loves the acorn and the goldfinch the thistle seed; and his arrival is always worth noting—though not seen everywhere in Britain—because he is the first winter visitor from abroad, whose identity cannot be doubted, to reach our fields in autumn.”

While the bramble-finch may often be seen in the company of chaffinches, he may very easily be distinguished. The chaffinch has white wing-bars, whereas the brambling has a pure white patch above the tail plainly discernible when the bird is on the wing.

THE GREY PHALAROPE.

In a chapter on “Birds and Poets” in *A Bird in the Bush*, Lord Kennet of the Dene writes:—

“Profound indeed should be the gratitude of the poets of the heart to birds: they have served them well and faithfully, furnishing them with a whole set of symbols for the motions of the spirit. . . . They have earned by their services the friendship of poets and philosophers, and poetry and philosophy have repaid the debt by enhancing the friendship felt for them by all mankind with eyes to see and ears to hear. It is strange that after years of civilisation, there should be any deaf and blind beyond belief. If one wishes to feel heartily ashamed of being a human being, one may still read often enough of the deliberate and senseless destruction of birds by collectors and other varieties of that particular sort of human brute in whom the sight of an unusual creature excites not wonder but a desire to kill.

“There is, for instance, a lovely and gentle little bird, the Grey Phalarope, that flits about over waste waters. It is driven to our shores by great gales only; and, coming from the solitude of the Pole, it is innocent and tame, and curiously indifferent to the presence of man. In a sane world the consequence of this innocence would be to procure special consideration for the refugee, but that is not its consequence in the world in which we live. Because it is a refugee and innocent and tame, it is killed as soon as it arrives. Mr. Coward records that on the last occasion when

it took refuge with us in numbers from a gale, more than five hundred were shot and stoned to death. A workman succeeded in killing one with a spade. I have spoken to an ornithologist who had seen one Grey Phalarope in his life, and shot it. When I asked him why, he said that if he had not shot it and looked at its toes, which in a Phalarope are peculiar, he could not have been sure that it was a Phalarope. It meant nothing to him for me to say that what he had made sure was, not that it was, but that it had been, a Phalarope. It was the nearest approach that I allowed myself to remonstrance, because remonstrance is lost upon collectors, as wholly as it would be lost upon a mentally defective rhinoceros in full charge.”

THE LIGHTER SIDE.

A lady was visiting a lunatic asylum. Going up to one of the inmates she said:

“Why are you not working with the others?”

“Oh, I’m daft,” was the candid reply.

“But surely ‘daft’ people can work?” argued the lady.

“Oh, yes,” retorted the inmate, “but I’m not so daft as that!”

* * * *

OVER-CAUTIOUS CAR DRIVER: “What was that that rushed past?”

FED-UP PASSENGER: “I hardly noticed. Perhaps it was a traction-engine.”

* * * *

MISTRESS (*engaging a new maid*): “The servant who works for me must be very economical.”

APPLICANT: “My last mistress dismissed me for that.”

MISTRESS: “For being economical?”

APPLICANT: “Yes. I used to wear her clothes!”

* * * *

BOASTFUL ONE: “All that I am I owe to my mother.”

BORED GIRL: “Why don’t you send her a couple of shillings and square the account?”

* * * *

WARDER (*to convict*): “The governor’s been complaining about the sacks you’ve been sewing. He’s not at all pleased with them.”

CONVICT: “All right, take a week’s notice. I’ll leave.”

A much-divorced film star was proposing for the sixth time.

"Don't listen to those stories told about me," he urged. "They are only old wives' tales."

* * * *

FOREMAN: "You don't seem to take any pleasure in your work."

NAVY: "Lumme! I like that, I do. You'll be charging me entertainment tax next!"

* * * *

OLD GENTLEMAN (*to a little boy he has caught smoking in the street*): "Aren't you ashamed to be caught smoking a cigarette?"

LITTLE BOY: "I sure am, mister; but what's a man to do when he ain't got the price of a cigar?"

* * * *

"It looks bad for the Vicar to be going about with a black eye. How did he come by it?"

"Oh, after they had buried Smith, he told the widow that he had gone to a happier home!"

* * * *

In Cornwall, in the good old days, everyone in the village took part in the looting of wrecked ships, from parson downwards. Tradition has it that one stormy Sunday night the then Vicar of Llanteglos was holding Evensong. The devout fisher-folk were hard at prayer when the church door opened and there entered one, very excited.

He sidled into a pew and began to whisper. "A wreck. Down to the beach. 'Tis a richly laden vessel." As one man, the congregation rose and made for the door. Closing the Bible on the lectern with a snap, the vicar raised his hands and shouted: "Stop! Verger, bolt the door."

Then, hastily ripping off his cassock and surplice and pulling on his sea-boots which stood conveniently by the pulpit, he made a dash for the door, crying, "Come on, boys, we'll all start fair!"

* * * *

Some New York blackmailers wrote to a prominent bank manager saying that they would kidnap his wife unless he sent them 50,000 dollars immediately.

The letter miscarried to a labourer of the same name, who replied: "I haven't a dollar, but I am deeply interested in your proposition."

* * * *

"That new secretary of mine will have to go."

"But I understood she was quite efficient."

"Yes, but when I'm dictating she keeps asking me how to spell words."

"I see. You don't know."

* * * *

She was desperately anxious to get married, but was afraid that her young man might discover how short-sighted she was. So she stuck a pin into the trunk of a tree fifty yards away from the bench in the field where they courted.

The following afternoon, when the couple were at their favourite spot, she suddenly cried: "Why, look at that pin stuck in the tree over there."

"What pin?" asked the young man. "I can't see any."

"I'll show you," replied the girl, and ran towards the tree. Unfortunately, on the way, she fell over a cow.

* * * *

The estate agent had given his little girl a lovely doll's house. On his return after a week's absence he asked her how she liked it.

"It's very nice, Daddy."

"But where is it?" he inquired, not seeing it anywhere around the nursery.

"Oh, I let it furnished to Cousin Betty for a shilling a week."

* * * *

The new vicar was surprised as he entered the vestry to see the clerk, who was counting the proceeds of the collection, take half-a-crown from the plate and put it in his pocket.

The remonstrance which seemed imminent was checked by the ready explanation: "That's the half-crown, Sir, that I've led off with these thirty years and more."

* * * *

"I sent sixpence to the fellow who advertised to tell you how to take out wrinkles in the face."

"And did he tell you?"

"He did. He said, 'Walk out in the open air at least once a day, and the wrinkles will go out with you.'"

* * * *

DORIS: "The man I marry must be a real hero."

KATE: "Oh, come, my dear, you're not as bad-looking as all that!"

"Did you shave before coming to the shop this morning, Jones?"

"Yes, Mr. Brown."

"Well, next time stand a bit closer to the razor."

* * * *

Wives often spend too much on getting their hands read, it is stated. And husbands on getting their noses red.

* * * *

The sergeant sang out just before the company was dismissed: "All those fond of music step two paces forward."

With visions of a soft job in the regimental band, half a dozen men stepped out. The sergeant growled: "Now then, you six mugs, get busy and carry that piano up to the top floor of the officers' quarters."

* * * *

It is said that some sportingly-inclined members of the trade pronounce "golf" as "goff." In other words, they knock "l" out of it.

* * * *

A certain little girl had returned from Sunday School and comfortably perched herself on her grandfather's knee.

"Grandpa, were you in the Ark?" she asked.

"Certainly not, my dear."

"Then why didn't you get drowned?"

* * * *

BILL: "Why do you carry that rabbit's foot about with your money?"

JIM: "For luck."

BILL: "Had any yet?"

JIM: "Yes. My wife put her hand in my pocket last night and thought it was a mouse."

* * * *

Little Doreen had just received a new doll from her aunt. "And what are you going to name her?" the aunt exclaimed.

"Sirshe," said the child.

"Sirshe?" said auntie. "I've never heard that name before."

Little Doreen looked aghast. "Don't you remember that song you taught me—'Where are you going to, my pretty maid? I'm going a-milking Sirshe said.'"

* * * *

Wilkins felt he could never ask Valerie to become his bride because she was an angel, whereas he himself had many little weaknesses of which no angel would approve. Valerie, on the other hand, kept thinking it was about time he popped the question. Then, one moonlight night, he spoke up.

"Valerie, w-will you m-marry me?" he stuttered, hardly daring to hope she had heard him.

"You bet!" she replied briskly.

"I know, d-darling, I know," he almost wept, "but if you'll only say 'Yes' I'll never back another horse as long as I live!"

* * * *

The coloured preacher was reading the lessons to a crowded congregation in a little American township. In the middle of his reading he was interrupted by two dogs, who started a fierce fight in the church porch.

The preacher waited a moment, and then held up his hand for silence.

"Brothahs and sistahs," he remarked impressively, "Ah can see your attention has strayed from this book, so Ah closes it. But Ah opens another one, an' right now Ah lays five to foah on the black dawg."

* * * *

A young Englishman on a visit to the wild and woolly West decided to go riding. The man who was to attend him asked, "Do you prefer an English saddle or a Western saddle?"

The Englishman looked puzzled. "What's the difference?" he asked.

"The Western saddle has a horn," said the attendant.

"I don't think I'll need the horn," said the Englishman. "I don't intend to ride in heavy traffic."

* * * *

The shopper had reason to complain.

"This is a small loaf for fourpence-halfpenny," she said.

"Well, you'll not have so much to carry," replied the shopkeeper, smilingly trying to pass it off.

"Here's threepence," replied the shopper. "You'll not have so much to count."

* * * *

POLICEMAN: "Why are you sitting on the doorstep, Sir? Have you lost your latchkey?"

REVELLER: "No, officer, I've lost my nerve."

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

CHAUFFEUR: "Yes, Sir, but there are so many bald-headed old buffers with red noses coming down from Town on this train."

* * * *

Her newly-elevated ladyship had just been introduced to a notable elocutionist, who had kindly volunteered to entertain the children at the Christmas party.

"It is nice of you to say you will entertain the children, Mr. Dunton-Greene. How shall I introduce you?"

"Well, your ladyship, I usually recite extempore."

"Oh, 'Extempore!'" she gushed. "I know of no piece more appropriate!"

* * * *

Father and son were at a Christmas bazaar where a pretty girl was selling kisses in aid of the local distress fund.

"Go on, my boy," said the father; "here's half-a-crown; go and kiss her. When I was young I used to make 'em scream."

The son returned a few minutes later, following an uproar.

"Well, my boy, did you kiss her?"

"Yes, father."

"What did you do to make her scream?"

"Kept the half-crown."

* * * *

Two Southern Niggers were overheard talking over their family affairs. Says Rastus: "Say, Mose, what's dat Ah heah youse gonna call youse new piccaninny?"

"Well, Rastus, Ah guess Ahm gonna call him Lectricity."

"Say, but Mose, ain't dat a damfu name for a lil piccaninny?"

"Dat ain't no damfu name for ma piccaninny. Ma wife's name's Dinah, and ma name is Mose, an' if 'Dinah-Mose' don't make Lectricity Ah doan't know nuthin."

* * * *

"What time does the half-past five train go?"

"Five thirty, Sir,"

"Well, the Church clock says 5.28, the Post Office 5.25, and your Station clock 5.32; which am I to go by?"

"Well, Sir, you can go by which clock you like, but you can't go by the train, 'cos it's gone."

"I'm sure I don't know where little Jimmy gets all his faults from. I'm sure it's not from me."

"No, you're right, my dear. You haven't lost any of yours."

* * * *

Charity covers a multitude of Amateur Theatricals.

* * * *

Little Polly stood at the window looking out at the full moon.

"What are you thinking about?" asked her mother.

"I was just wond'ring," said Polly, "how can the moon stay up there without falling if it isn't stucked on to the sky?"

* * * *

Don't lose sight of the fact that a man who is lucky at cards and wins may also be lucky in love when he loses.

* * * *

A story was told in the *Schoolmaster* of a delegate (nationality not known) who, at the close of a World Educational Conference, went up to a British delegate and, shaking him warmly by the hand, said:

"Vell, in case ve not meet again, 'Ullo!"

* * * *

Following the wreck of the ship on which they were winter cruising, two Scotsmen found themselves on Christmas morning on a raft, but in an extremely perilous condition as they had neither food nor water.

In this extremity one of them went on his knees, and in his fear and fervour was making great promises of all the sins he would give up if only he might be saved.

Suddenly he was interrupted by a shout from his comrade. "Steady, Mac," exclaimed the latter; "don't commit yersel' too far. I think I see land."

WHAT'S YOURS?

SAME AS BEFORE.

THE FAME OF "THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE."

The fame of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE is spread far and wide. Not only does it circulate to remote parts of the globe, but it is to be found in numerous Officers' and Sergeants' Messes stationed overseas, as well as on board H.M. Ships in distant parts of the Empire. That it is appreciated in the Services is evinced by our post bag, which brings tributes to the popularity of this journal. The following is an excerpt from a letter recently received by our Ludgershall Branch Manager :—

"Now that we are back in good old England and more settled, I would like to take this opportunity of asking you to convey my very best of thanks to H. & G. Simonds Ltd., of the Ludgershall branch, for sending to me every month the 'Hop Leaf.'

"Whether we were roaming the sands of the Western Desert or scouring Palestine for Fauze Bey, the 'Hop Leaf' always found its destination. It was always appreciated by all ranks, and I can assure you it has helped to pass many a monotonous evening away."

AMUSING ANECDOTES.

A letter received by the Managing Director from an elderly relative blessed with a keen sense of humour, despite her great age of 80 years, contained two very amusing anecdotes which we have been given permission to print. The missive runs :—

"My nurse's sister is Headmistress of a school and she told a class of small boys that they were to write an essay for her, but they were to imagine that they were dogs writing—and a boy of nine wrote :—

'I am a Red Setter—I am going to have some puppies . . . My puppies have come—there are three of them—one is a Red Setter—one is a greyhound and one is a fox terrier—I like them very much.'

"The other story concerns the youngest son (aged 8) of Harry's friend, Captain ——. This boy subscribes 2d. a week to a magazine and was thrilled when the Editor promised to send each subscriber a present of a cannon with a parachute. The cannon arrived but no parachute—so the boy wrote :—

'Dear Mr. Editor—The cannon has come, but there is no parachute—what are you going to do about it?

Yours without love,

'NICHOLAS ———''

The letter adds :—"My ménage loves THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE."

BRANCHES.

BRIGHTON.

Early last December a supper for members of the West Tarring (Worthing) Workmen's Club was held on the Club premises, and was well attended, indeed so much so that the diners had to sit down in two successive parties.

The President, Mr. E. W. Sparks, was in the chair and made mention that the Club had been in existence for 29 years, and was now stronger than ever before, and the past year one of the happiest in their existence.

Mr. S. M. Penlerick was invited to attend on behalf of the Firm (who have had happy associations with the Club since its formation) and replied to the toast of "The Visitors."

An enjoyable concert followed the dinner.

We are pleased to record a good all-round Christmas at Brighton, with an increase in trade.

Visitors enjoyed excellent weather, equal to the Riviera, and some days with a temperature of summer.

The New Year opens with Brighton and Hove Albion on top of the league table, even with a very slender lead. Christmas did not prove a very successful time as three out of six points only were secured, but Luton, even less successful, have dropped back. Still, with Brighton out of the English Cup, we have hopes of a side which has played really excellent football being promoted.

"My mate's left me five bob's worth of coppers, and that's all the change I've got," said the conductor of a Brighton bus when he took over. "Fares, please!"

Solemnly the elderly man handed him a ten-shilling note and said, "Two pennies, please."

"Haven't you got anything smaller," asked the conductor, but the passenger shook his head. The conductor smiled sadly and remarked that he didn't know what he was going to do about it.

"It's all right," said the passenger's wife, producing two pennies from her handbag, "he's only pulling your leg."

"Yes, that's right," said the man, "and you'd better keep the ten bob as a Christmas box. And here's another for the driver. Yes, I mean it!"

The conductor stammered his thanks. At the journey's end he went to the driver and handed over the gift.

Later, as they toasted the unknown gentleman, the driver said to his mate: "Bill, it's a good thing we carry some real gents sometimes; must be one of the old-fashioned sort, I reckon."

LUDGERSHALL.

Mr. John Salter, "The Bird in Hand," North Street, Salisbury, took over the licence of the "Bird in Hand" in March, 1888, and has therefore held the licence for a matter of approaching 50 years, and is by far the oldest licensee in Salisbury.

He is well known throughout the South of England and he has had great experience in catering in connection with Military Messes, Agricultural Shows, Race Meetings, etc. He has also handled the catering arrangements of Weyhill Sheep Fair for a very great number of years, but of course, Weyhill Sheep Fair today is only a shadow of its former self. Since he has held the contract for this Fair he has only missed attending once, and that was owing to a serious illness from which he has made a wonderful recovery. Unfortunately, just recently he had to undergo a serious operation but once again his wonderful constitution has pulled him through, and he is today better than he has been for years.

For many years he has been President of the Salisbury and District Licensed Victuallers' Association.

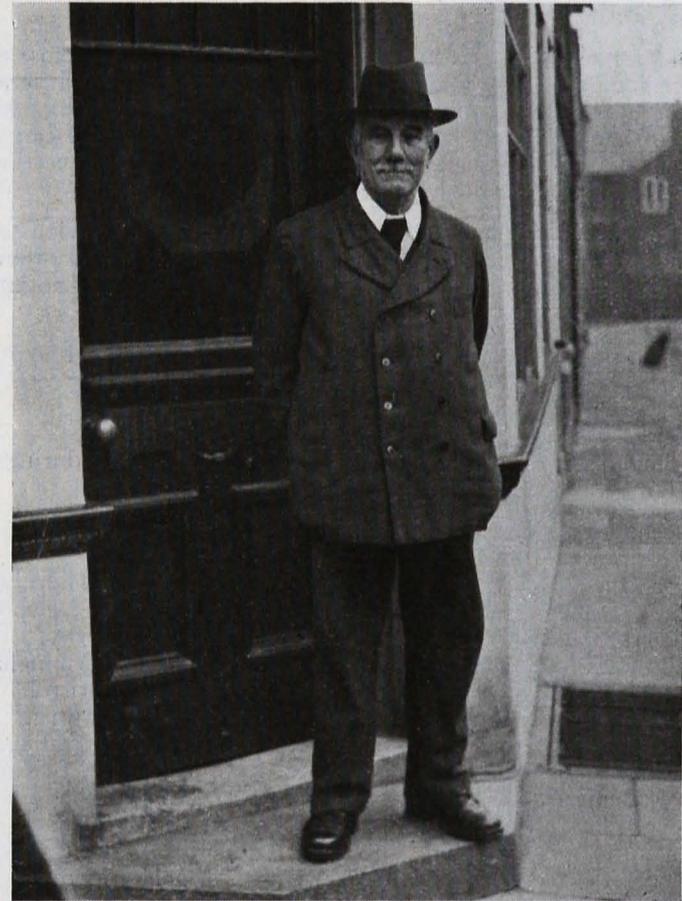
He had the contract for the Salisbury Race Course for many years and has also done the Bath Meeting and various other local Point-to-Point Meetings.

"Old John" as he is affectionately known to his legion of friends is quite a character and some of his experiences, which he is very fond of relating, are most interesting.

We have had the pleasure of supplying beers to Mr. Salter in connection with a great many of his contracts, and we do offer him our sincere congratulations on his wonderful record as "Mine Host."

Old John received his education at Longparish School, near Andover, and to give you some idea of the big-hearted nature of

this successful business man, he never forgets his old school and every Christmas he makes a personal visit to Longparish to distribute seasonable gifts to the children. May he live long to keep up this old tradition.



Mr. John Salter, President of the Salisbury Licensed Victuallers' Association.

BRISTOL.

With the lingering strains of "Peace on earth, Goodwill to men" still echoing in our ears, we watch the slowly ascending curtain of the New Year, while still picturing in our minds, all those shadowy but unforgettable events of the year that has flown, and which has left so many regrets in its wake. What prophet on the threshold of 1936 could have foretold even one page of its history to us?

The moving finger in these momentous days seems ever quickening, but in the midst of so much that is uncertain it is with a deep sense of pride, mingled with a profound feeling of thankfulness to that "Divinity which shapes our ends," that we can still with conviction, give the right answer to that oft repeated question—"Stands Britain where she did?"

Yes, we can still shout "Invictus"! despite the envious eyes around us, and prove once again that our heads are yet unbowed and that this Empire is indeed "Master of her fate and Captain of her soul."

So up with the curtain, and on with the "Show"!

The following changes have taken place in our area during the past few weeks. To all we wish every success:—

Queen's Head, Bedminster	...	Mrs. E. A. Jones, Bristol.
Off Licence, 106 Bath Road,		
Bristol	...	...
Rose & Crown, Tintern	...	Mr. G. H. Barrett, Thornbury.
Prince Alfred, Bristol	...	Mr. R. G. F. Pullin, Newport.
Railway Hotel, Yatton	...	Mr. R. H. Kaye, Derby.
Three Tuns, Bristol	...	Mr. Cyril Perkins, Birmingham.
King's Arms, Redfield	...	Mrs. E. G. Harris, Bristol.
Five Alls, Chepstow	...	Mr. F. Austin, Grimsby.
Lamb & Flag, Cribbs Causeway	...	Mr. F. A. Swales, Reading.
Bath Arms Hotel, Bristol	...	Mrs. I. L. Matthews, Bristol.
Anchor, Combech	...	Mr. P. Ardern, Tranmere.
Mayor's Arms, Bristol	...	Mr. W. H. Gray, Bath.
Prince of Wales, Tower Hill	...	Mr. G. Lewis, Larkhill.
Off Licence, 32 Green Street,		
Bristol	...	Mr. J. Greenall, Aldershot.
Swan Hotel, Bristol	...	Mr. A. J. Lacey, Bristol.
Windsor Castle, Bedminster	...	Mr. F. Howard, Bristol.
	...	Mr. H. G. Godfrey, Bristol.

Here in Bristol, commerce of every description was at its apex during the Christmas season, and to pass through the city at any hour of the day was reminiscent of the metropolis at its worst—as far as traffic is concerned. Our various productive and distributive departments had to reach great heights in their efforts to cope with the rush of orders, and it says much for the transport arrangements that no real delay or disappointments were recorded, despite those inevitable "late extras" which one always expects.

The "Three Cans O'Beer," our S.B. Xmas speciality, was easily the Ace of the pack, and the demand for this item in so many thousands must have caused serious thoughts to arise in other than Hop Leaf circles. After all, the public are the best judges of what they require, and whether it is in casks or cans, bottles or buckets, we are prepared to supply them. That's only business, so say "Simonds" and Save Breath!

In a spirit of optimism, nationally and commercially, Bristol Branch the youngest, but growing, member of the Hop Leaf family, wishes all readers the happiest of New Years.

To our ever considerate Directors and to all our confrères at home and overseas, we send our most loyal greetings and sincere wishes for good health and good fortune in the year that lies before us.

PORTSMOUTH.

Brigadier-General W. L. Osborne, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., who is known as the Father of the Royal Sussex Regiment, was the principal guest at the annual dinner this year of the Royal Sussex Club. Replying to the toast of the "Regiment," General Osborne recalled that in 1890, "hard-hearted parents placed him, his uniform case and half a crown on board a Troopship." Since then the Regiment had been his home and he had served with the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 7th Battalions, while he was Honorary Colonel of the 4th Battalion. "In 1914" said the General, "we did not have a very big army, but it was highly trained. Now we have gone to the other extreme with many armaments, but I would ask 'where are the men.' In this part of the country the Territorial Army is getting very much better, and there are signs that it is coming round and the men are realizing their responsibilities."

The Portsmouth and District Licensed Victuallers Wine and Beer Retailers Protection Association, received a severe blow in December by the death of Mr. James T. Clay, Immediate Past

President of the Society. Not only in Portsmouth but throughout the counties of Hampshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire, Mr. Clay was well known in the trade. A short time ago he was honoured by election as President of No. 8 District of the Licensed Victuallers Trade Defence League for England and Wales. Mr. Clay was only 43 years of age, and the trade loses an enthusiastic worker for the protection and preservation of the rights of licensees.

At the Waverley Bowling Club Annual Dinner this year, The Lord Mayor (Councillor F. J. Spickernell) during his speech remarked that he knew of no finer place than the City of Portsmouth. He was responding to the toast of the Lord Mayor and Corporation, and was speaking as a member of the Club. He had come among them he confessed, half-minded to give them a lot of figures and statistics, and to remind them of the great things the Council had done in their efforts to create the "city beautiful"; but the sight of their happy innocent faces smote him to the heart and he had decided to let them off or let them off lightly at all events. Mr. G. F. Preston proposed the toast of "The Lord Mayor," and it was given to Mr. F. P. Spicer to propose "The President." Mr. B. H. Matthews (President) replying, described their dinner as their most important function. Prizes were presented for various events during the year, and there was a much appreciated musical programme.

Exciting boxing was seen at Forton Barracks, when boys of H.M.S. *St. Vincent* met a team from Winchester College. Eight bouts were fought, and the points ran even throughout, a draw being the final result. The general arrangements were administered by Lieut. H. Riley (the P. & R.I. Officer), who also acted as referee; other officials being Capt. R. R. Reiss-Smith, R.M. and Lieut. D. E. Holland-Martin (*Judges*) and Lieut.-Commander R. S. Abraham (*Timekeeper*). After the contest the visitors were shown round the establishment and at tea time the members of the team were presented with medals as a souvenir of their visit.