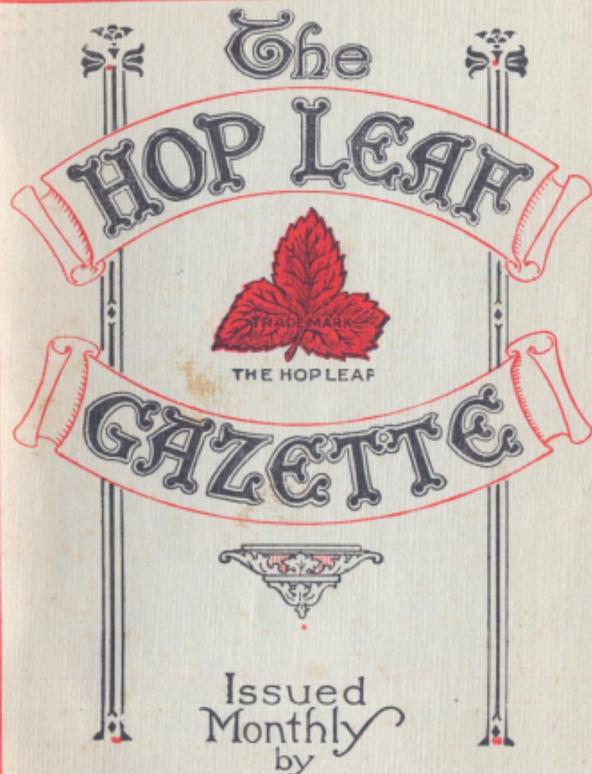


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A RECORD OF SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AT THE BREWERY.

The Hop Leaf Gazette.

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

Edited by CHARLES H. PERRIN.

Vol. X.

MARCH, 1936.

No. 6

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All communications should be addressed to—The Editor,
THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE, The Brewery, Reading.



HIS MAJESTY KING EDWARD VIII.

Born June 23rd, 1894.

Proclaimed King, January 22nd, 1936.

KING EDWARD VIII.

"PRINCE OF SPORTSMEN" AND "AMBASSADOR OF EMPIRE."

"Prince of Sportsmen" and "Ambassador of Empire" were two of the many titles bestowed on the new King by his subjects while he was Prince of Wales.

In his forty-second year, Edward Albert Christian George Andrew Patrick David is the first bachelor monarch to ascend the Throne since the days of George III. His great-grandmother, Queen Victoria, was not married until two years after her coronation.

A keen horseman and all-round sportsman, the new King has endeared himself to the whole Empire by his cheeriness, pluck and sound common-sense, and he assumes the role of King-Emperor with the fullest confidence of the Empire behind him.

We shall best sum up the war work of the Prince of Wales in his own modest words: "In those four years I mixed with men. In those four years I found my manhood. When I think of the future and the heavy responsibilities which may fall to my lot, I feel that the experience gained since 1914 will stand me in good spirit." In that spirit he came back to the work of peace.

The Prince was absent from England some four months in 1919, and during that time he travelled more than 16,000 miles. He traversed the whole breadth of Canada from one ocean to the other, visiting most of the principal cities and many a lonely township.

It was his winning smile that conquered Canada and his attractive habit of identifying himself and claiming blood kinsmanship with the different nationalities of the United Kingdom and the Empire which have endeared him to all he met during his tours.

During his recent broadcast speech His Majesty's real democracy was disclosed in his own words when he said: "I am better known to most of you as the Prince of Wales—as a man who, during the War and since, has had the opportunity of getting to know the people of nearly every country of the world, under all conditions and circumstances. And, although I now speak to you as the King, I am still that same man who has had that experience and whose constant effort it will be to continue to promote the well-being of his fellow-men. May the future bring peace and understanding throughout the world, prosperity and happiness to the British people, and may we be worthy of the heritage which is ours."

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

EDITORIAL.

HEY, JOLLY LANDLORD.

The perfect landlord, said a speaker at a Licence-Holders' dinner, should possess: the dignity of an archbishop, the geniality of George Robey, the hope of a company promoter, the smile of a film star, the elastic conscience of an M.P., the voice of a sergeant-major and the skin of a rhinoceros.

And if he can say "Time, Gentlemen, Please," in a fruity voice which combines firmness, regret, condolence, hope for the future and thankfulness for past mercies, together with the suggestion that this hurts him a great deal more than it hurts you, he is set for success.

THE POLICEMAN'S NOTEBOOK.

Alleged true story concerning a friend of a friend:

This chap was driving his car towards Coventry when a man hailed him and asked for a lift. When they reached Coventry the driver overshot some traffic lights, and was promptly pulled up by the traffic policeman; policeman industriously wrote down all the details.

Then the man who had asked for a lift got out of the car and pleaded with the policeman to overlook the offence. Policeman remained adamant.

After driving on a mile or so, the passenger turned to the driver and said: "Look here, you've been decent to me, I'll tell you something—I'm a professional pickpocket on my way to a meeting."

"Is that so?" said the driver.

"Yes," said the chap, getting out of the car. "And here's the policeman's notebook."

HAD GIVEN UP SOMETHING!

Mrs. Robinson, on the eve of giving a dinner-party, warned her butler on no account to offer wine to Mrs. Young, one of the guests.

The dinner passed off successfully, but afterwards, when the ladies were in the drawing-room, Mrs. Young remarked to her

hostess ; " I don't want to be personal, but I *should* like to know why I was so pointedly ignored when the wine was being handed round to-night."

" Oh," said the hostess, " I told the butler about that. I know you have joined the Temperance League."

" But," said the guest, " it wasn't the Temperance League I joined ; it was the Morality League."

" So stupid of me, dear," was the reply, " but I knew you had given up *something*."

OUR WONDERFUL POLICE.

The crowds that lined the streets to witness the parade in St. Mary's Butts, followed by a march to St. Lawrence's Church for the Centenary Service of Reading Borough Police on February 21st, should be accepted as a silent token of appreciation for the past services to the townspeople of this fine and efficient force of men. This event no doubt was of especial interest to our Mr. F. G. Hawkes, who, with Mr. A. W. C. Bowyer, attended the ceremony and service, as Mr. Hawkes' great grandfather was mayor of Reading in 1835 and was re-elected to that office the following year when the Municipal Act came into operation.

LICENSED TRADES' DINNER.

The annual dinner of the Reading and District Licensed Trades' Protection and Benevolent Association, held on February 18th, was a great success and a tribute to the organizing powers of the popular Hon. Secretary of the dinner and dance committee (Mr. H. Wise). There were entertaining speeches, excellent food well served by Mr. F. G. Godwin, and a fine dancing programme. Similar enjoyable gatherings have been held for many years and it will not be out of place if I quote from the *Reading Observer* of February 20th, 1886, fifty years ago. Here is what they say :—

" Last Wednesday the Reading and District Beer, Wine and Spirit Retailers' Protection Society—the title is long and comprehensive enough in all conscience—had their annual dinner. What a picture of virtue, temperance and happiness they presented ! We commend the occasion to the attention of our readers. Every countenance, we feel sure, beamed not with good cheer only, but with lofty aspirations, noble aims and benevolent purposes. . . ."

THE COMPLETE ANSWER.

Overcome with curiosity, a fellow passenger asked the victim : " I say, old man, what's wrong with your *lose* ? "

" Nothing at all," replied the man. " It's simply blushing with pride because it doesn't stick itself into other people's affairs."

OYSTER BEDS UNDER BANK OF ENGLAND.

Two hundred feet below the City of London there lies a millions of years old layer of oysters. These ancient oysters have been found, among other places, in the boring of artesian wells below the Bank of England, the Midland Bank, the Commercial Union building, and Unilever House. They are giant bivalves, measuring up to 6 inches across. Their discovery is mentioned by Mr. F. S. Snow, a London engineer, in *The Structural Engineer*, along with other oddments, including long buried Delft pottery and a Roman pier jetty beside the Walbrook. Mr. Henry Dewey, of the Geological Survey, stated that the beds in which the oysters are found lie below the London clay and above the chalk. " The time when these beds were laid down," he explained, " is certainly many millions of years ago. The sea then reached up to Reading and beyond, the layer in which the oysters are found being then not so very far below sea level. The same oysters have been found in a pit near Epsom, again near where these beds come to the surface."

PEACE.

After an immense amount of trouble, the vicar of a country parish succeeded in reconciling two old women who had been quarrelling for years. He even induced them to meet under the vicarage roof.

In his drawing-room they shook hands. After an embarrassed silence one of them said :

" Well, Mrs. Tyler, I wish you all you wishes me."

" An' who's saying nasty things now ? " snapped Mrs. Tyler.

" NOW I FOOLEE YOU ! "

A lady was training her Chinese servant to answer the door bell. She went outside, rang the bell, and the servant came to the door. A day or two later she was worried by a continual ringing of the bell. At last, as no one went to the door, she did so herself, and opened it to find her servant on the step.

" Whatever are you doing, Li ? " she asked.

" Said Li : " Yesterday you foolee me ; now I foolee you."

UGHT TO BE ASHAMED!

Old lady (to golfer who is searching for a lost golf ball) : " You ought to be ashamed of yourself, bird-nesting at your time of life ! "

A GOOD " CATCH."

" Hello! Where have you been? " asked Brown. He was going home late from office and had overtaken Jones, who looked wet and muddy and was burdened with fishing tackle.

" Been fishing," said Jones dejectedly.

" Catch much? "

" Oh, yes," Jones laughed mirthlessly, " too much."

" What did you catch? " enquired Brown eagerly.

" First train there, first train back, caught in a thunder storm, caught a cold, and expect I shall catch it when I get home ! "

BEER FOR LONGEVITY.

Mr. and Mrs. John Bellamy, of Stickney, Lincs, both aged 92, the longest-married couple in Britain, have just celebrated the 71st anniversary of their wedding.

" For a happy married life," declares Mr. Bellamy, " don't smoke too much, take plenty of exercise, don't worry, and have a glass of beer as a tonic. In my working days I thought nothing of drinking six or seven pints of beer a day, and it did me good."

OF COURSE HE COULDN'T!

It was at the orchestral concert and after gazing for some time at the bass fiddle player a man in the stalls muttered, " He'll never do it; he'll never do it."

At length the title of the first number was announced, whereupon the mutterer continued his remark, louder each time. This was too much for a man in the row in front, and eventually he turned and said : " Stop your mutterings, sir ! "

" Well, he can't do it, I tell you. I know he can't ! " was the reply.

" Can't do what? "

" Put that big fiddle under his chin."

ELECTED PRESIDENT.

Mr. J. H. Simonds, our worthy Vice-Chairman, has been elected President of the Wokingham and District Agricultural Association.

" A GREAT LITTLE BOOK."

Many very gratifying expressions of appreciation have been received concerning last month's issue of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE. To quote one from Childrey, Wantage : " Grateful thanks for THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE. We all think it a really great little book."

SCREEN STAR AT THE BREWERY.

Ronnie Hepworth, the youthful screen star, visited the Brewery on Tuesday, March 3rd, and, in company with Mr. W. Bowyer, our Home Trade Manager, was astounded at what he saw in the Bottling Department. " I am amazed at the entire cleanliness," he said. Wide-eyed he watched hundreds of bottles go through an involved process of scientific cleaning, says the *Evening Gazette*. They travelled slowly by on an endless belt. A youth, peering through a microscopic lens, examined each one to make sure that not a spot of dust was left. He watched the bottles automatically filled, Mr. Jack Ford and Mr. George Andrews gave Ronnie a running commentary on how everything was done. " Wonderful! . . . Wonderful!" he interjected again and again.

Before he left Ronnie drank the health of the 120 employees of the Bottling Department with a glass of Ashby's Ginger Beer.

THE SIX PROUDEST LICENSEES.

Six of the proudest licensed victuallers in Britain hold royal licences. These are granted to them direct by the King because their premises are situated in the area known as " The Verge of the Palaces." This extends for 200 yards from the gates of the Old Palace of Whitehall, and is presided over by the Board of the Green Cloth, which sits in Buckingham Palace. The title takes its name from the green covered table at which its decisions are made. The board grants six licences to open houses in the " Verge." They are for restaurants in a building in Whitehall Court; the Ship; the Hotel Metropole; also for three inns—the Old Shades, the Silver Cross, and the Clarence. Mr. A. J. Knowland, senior licensee in The Verge of the Palaces, said to a reporter :—" The first appearance of a licensee before the board is exciting. Passing

the guards and police at the entrance to Buckingham Palace, and the reception by the royal servants, combine to create awe which gradually subsides as one appreciates the gracious courtesy of everyone there. The names of the licensees are called by the clerk, and response is made."

LOYAL TOASTS OF THE FUTURE.

Having been approved by the King, the order and form of the loyal toasts to be used in future at official and public dinners will be as follows:—

- 1.—The King.
- 2.—Queen Mary, the Duke and Duchess of York, and the other members of the Royal Family.

*August 22nd is an important
date*

*For then will be held
Simonds' Wonderful Fête.*

A NATURE NOTE.

(BY C.H.P.).

ADVERSE CONDITIONS FOR ANGLERS.

THE BEAUTY OF A BIRD'S NEST.

The coarse fishing season closes from March 15th to June 15th inclusive. What with the drought, then floods and hail and sleet and snow, the conditions have indeed been anything but ideal. Fish have been few and far between. I have spent many hours by the riverside when the rain has come down in torrents or the winds have been about as piercing as possible and my reward, from a fishing point of view, works out at about one bite every two hours and one fish in four! But what does that matter, for the observant angler, sitting on his camp stool in some secluded spot, ever sees something to arrest his attention and entertain him. I often take up my position by the side of an old willow tree and no sooner do I sit on my stool than down comes a little robin and asks for food. I give him bread and also maggots and he seems particularly partial to the latter. I notice he often disgorges pellets of apparently indigestible matter before settling down to a meal at my hands. He is very tame and after satisfying the inner man, or rather bird, he will sometimes sit on my rod and sing to me. With such charming little companions as that, how can an angler be dull!

A BIRD'S NEST.

And then you notice that the long-tailed tits no longer go about in families. There are only two together now—man and wife. I saw a pair near a hedge where for the past three years they nested and successfully reared their families. Last year's nest is still there and I doubt not that within the next few days another of these exquisite structures will be in the making—and I shall be watching the little builders at their work.

To quote Shelley :

It wins my admiration
To view the structure of that little work,
A bird's nest. Mark it well, within, without.
No tool had he to wrought, no knife to cut,
No nail to fix, no bodkin to insert,
No glue to join : his little beak was all!
And yet how neatly finished! What nice hands,
With every implement and means of art,
And twenty years' apprenticeship to boot,
Could make me such another!

A COMMON ERROR.

Equally marvellous is the egg of a bird and the mystery of life within the shell. Many people think the chicken is formed from the yolk. But this is erroneous. It is the albuminous matter, the "white" of the egg that contains the materials for the formation and growth of the chicken. The only use of the yolk is to supply nutriment to the embryo during development.

SPRING IS COMING!

At the time of writing, frost and snow and biting winds appear to be the order of the day. And yet there are periods of bright sunshine that bring the gnats out in big battalions, and compel the birds to sing. Missel-thrush, thrush, blackbird, lark and wren have been gladdening our hearts with their joyous songs, and few flowers are in bloom, while in the middle of last month I disturbed a peacock butterfly from its warm bed among the dead reeds where the red polls were feeding. Our Mr. Wheeler also showed me a peacock on February 29th that had been found near the Brewery where the demolition of buildings was going on.

In a thousand and one ways we can see and hear the approach of Spring. Here and there you may find a primrose in bloom; here and there the sweet-scented white violet, or a little celandine opening out its golden petals eager to catch the rays of the sun when it does shine. And, now and then, a lark will rise winding and unwinding his silver chain of song.

Yes, Spring is on the way, and Nature never looks back.

STRENGTHENS THE BODY

STIMULATES THE BRAIN

BAR BILLIARDS.

THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LAW.

There has been much confusion in respect of the installation in licensed houses of small tables for playing what has proved to be a very popular game and known as "Bar Billiards." The difficulty has been that many licensees have not realised that the game is subject to all the limitations and restrictions attaching to the larger billiards tables, which are controlled by the Gaming Act, 1845, from which the following extracts may be quoted:—

Section 11. Places kept for public billiard tables to be licensed.

"... Every house, room, or place kept for public billiard playing, or where a public billiard table or bagatelle board, or instrument used in any game of the like kind, is kept, at which persons are admitted to play, except in houses specified in any licence granted . . . (hereinafter called a Victualler's Licence) shall be licensed under this Act, and every person keeping any such billiard table or bagatelle table or instrument used in any game of the like kind for public use, without being licensed to do so, and not holding a Victualler's Licence . . . shall be liable to be proceeded against as the keeper of a common gaming house."

Section 13. When public playing shall not be allowed.

"Every person keeping any public billiard table or bagatelle table or instrument used in any game of the like kind . . . who shall allow any person to play . . . after one and before eight of the clock in the morning of any day, or at any time on Sundays, Christmas Day or Good Friday, shall be liable to the penalties herein provided . . . and every billiard room in every house specified shall be closed."

The inclusion of "Bar Billiards" is covered by the words "or instrument used in any game of the like kind."

It is, of course, quite clear that when the Gaming Act of 1845 was drafted, there was no intention to close any room used as a bar, and the authorities have wisely recognised this fact, and the following is typical of the attitude of the Police generally. It is the report of a Superintendent of Police to the Licensing Justices at the 1936 Annual Licensing Meeting:—

"A considerable number of tables, known as 'Bar Billiards,' have been installed in licensed premises throughout the Division. Under the Gaming Act, 1845, it is clear that if these tables are installed in premises which are licensed only for the sale of beer, a Billiard Licence is also required. Under this Act, no public playing of billiards must take place in any licensed premises on Sundays, Christmas Day or Good Friday, and if the law is strictly interpreted, the rooms in which these tables are installed should be closed on these days. This would, no doubt, limit the accommodation to too great an extent. It is not necessary, therefore, strictly to interpret the law in this respect, and the Chief Constable directs that no objection should be made to the sale or consumption of intoxicating liquor on Sundays, Christmas Day and Good Friday in rooms in which these tables are installed provided they are kept covered up."

The position may be summarised as follows:—

1. A fully licensed house does not need a separate licence for Billiards.
2. A house licensed for beer only, or beer and wine, does need a Billiards Licence.
3. These licences can only be granted at the General Annual Licensing Meeting, or at any Adjournment thereof.
4. Bar Billiards are subject to the same regulations as Billiards, but the rooms need not be closed on Sundays, Christmas Day and Good Friday, provided that the tables are covered up and that no play is permitted on those days under any circumstances, in either Fully Licensed Houses or Beer Houses.

C.B.



WHY DIDN'T THE MIDDLE AGES PARISH HOLD AN ANNUAL BAZAAR?

"BECAUSE THE VILLAGERS MET IN THE PUB," SAYS PRIEST.

"Don't blame us." Fr. Arthur Day, S.J., said that recently when talking to the Women's True Temperance Committee at the Castle Hotel, Richmond.

Fr. Day referred to the "Church Ales" of the Middle Ages and the splendid work they did in fostering parochial life. "They made bazaars unnecessary in those good old days. By promoting sociability they opened the purse strings of all but the most niggardly. There was no tea or coffee then, no cocoa, and all could drink their tankard of honest ale without reproach.

"The inns were annexes of the monasteries and practised the virtue of hospitality under their auspices. They have a noble history in the past. We will help them to play a fine part in the future.

"The 'pub' is a check on every form of herd hysteria. Nobody can possibly be an 'Aryan' in a 'pub'! A 'pub' is the home of any decent human being who may therein express any views not calculated to give offence to any other sensible human being.

"It is a happy haven where 'Everyman' may be at his ease. Social distinctions cease, nationality is a minor matter. If a negro comes in and behaves, he is treated as a white man. This is an ideal that the League of Nations cannot improve on."

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

LAMP WICKS. Don't cut these if you wish to keep them burning evenly, and the old way of trimming with paper is dirty and not always successful. Keep an old clean military hair brush, or small old nail brush will do, and after filling the lamps, brush the wick about with the brush. They burn so beautifully afterwards.

* * *

FAT can be removed from stock or soups by wringing a clean tea-cloth out of boiling water, spread over a basin and strain your stock through this. (What a pity fat cannot be removed from ourselves so easily!)

* * *

A tip for husbands! A very little white shoe polish (cream) will keep a razor-strop supple and pliable.

WORDS OF WISDOM.

Be bright and cheerful. Forget yourself and strive to make others happy.

Do *now* what *then* you would wish to have done.

The recipe for perpetual ignorance is to be satisfied with your opinions and content with your knowledge.

It's indoors, sir, as kills half the people; being indoors three parts of the day.—*Jeffries*.

Most businesses break down because of inside weaknesses, not because of competition.

As a man grows older he must learn and unlearn.

The man who knows most is the one who is the quickest to learn more.

Every scheme and every policy must be judged by results.

No organization is too big to have the human touch.

It is a wise policy to go through life doing favours.

GOLD.

My wealth is made of golden things :
 A sea-gull's whirring gilded wings,
 The jasmine 'neath a southern moon,
 A brown-faced boy's low whistled tune,
 The dandelions on mellow hills,
 The darting fish in sun-flecked rills,
 The dazzling sun on snow,
 Tall yellow jonquils in a row,
 The stately ships on white-capped seas,
 The russet fruit on freighted trees,
 Coined gold true wealth can never be,
 And mine is safe from piracy.

THE BRIGHTER SIDE.

I know the shadow on life's picture lines
 Where valleys frown, where rolls a sunless tide,
 And I too oft have traced with restless fingers
 The darker side.

But see, where ends the shadow's sombre fetter,
 And Hope and Faith, untrammelled, onward guide,
 Daily, for you and me, there shines the better,
 The brighter side.

GENERAL SIR W. M. ST. G. KIRKE'S APPOINTMENT.

The War Office announces that Lieut.-General Sir Walter M. St. G. Kirke, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., has been appointed Director-General of the Territorial Army, in succession to Lieut.-General Sir Charles Bonham-Carter, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., who has been appointed Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Malta.

Sir Walter Kirke was educated at Park House School, Reading, under Mr. A. C. Bartholomew, that noted Headmaster.

At the same time there were at this school :—

Major-General A. W. Bartholomew, C.B., C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O., General Officer Commanding British Troops in China (son of Mr. A. C. Bartholomew);

Major-General R. J. Collins, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Commander Meerut District, India, and Brigadier L. P. Collins, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., Commandant of the Indian Military Academy, and Aide-de-Camp to the late King (sons of the late Mr. Henry Collins, of Messrs. H. & C. Collins, Solicitors to Messrs. H. & G. Simonds Ltd.);

Lieut.-General O. C. Borrett, C.B., C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O., Colonel of the King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster) [recently appointed Lieutenant of the Tower of London];

Mr. F. A. Simonds, Managing Director, H. & G. Simonds Ltd., and his brother, Mr. Gavin T. Simonds, the well-known K.C.



READING LICENSED TRADES' PROTECTION ASSOCIATION TO ENDOW BED AT HOSPITAL.

Members of the Reading and District Licensed Trades' Protection and Benevolent Association hope to endow a bed at the Royal Berkshire Hospital by the end of the year.

At the annual meeting at the George Hotel, Reading, on March 3rd, it was reported that the Bed Endowment Fund, which had been lying dormant for some time, had now reached £650. "During the year the fund has made great strides," said the President, Mr. G. S. Cherry. "It was lying practically dormant, but the Committee raised £240." He also paid tribute to the work of Mr. Howard Wise.

Mr. J. Healey, President of the fund, said that he hoped they would have enough money to endow a bed, if not by the end of this year, early next year.

INCREASED MEMBERSHIP.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Ladies' Association, Reading Corporation and the management of the Palace Theatre for their assistance to the fund, on the proposition of Mr. I. R. Robinson, seconded by Captain F. G. Bevis.

The annual report of the Association stated that there was an increase of 19 in membership over last year, there being 235 members on the last day of 1935. During the year 63 new members had been enrolled, but many licensees still remained outside the ranks.

A section of the report dealt with music licences.

Mr. H. S. Smith, the Secretary, commenting on this, said that under the Public Health Act licensees holding the Music Licence were entitled to have music on their premises until 10 p.m., whereas other holders, dance halls and restaurant proprietors were allowed music under their licence, for which the same fee was charged, until midnight. So far as he knew, the only authority in the district which had adopted the Act was Reading Borough. The Association was endeavouring to get the hour extended for licensees until 11 p.m.

EXTENSION COSTS.

"Owing to rebuilding operations, steps leading to Kennet Side were closed, and members in the vicinity complained that serious loss of trade was being experienced," the report stated. "A letter suggesting temporary steps was addressed to the Town Clerk, and in a few days the steps were an accomplished fact."

"We not only pleased our members but we pleased the public in general," commented the President, Mr. G. S. Cherry.

Mr. F. C. Riden, presenting his report, said that the Association's expenses in connection with extensions was £40 and with the amount paid by members £140 had been expended on extensions during the year. "I think it is a crying shame that we should have to pay these large sums of money for something to be granted as a privilege when it should be a right," he said. "There was an increase of £34 in assets during the year. On the General Fund there was a balance of £192; £354 on the Benevolent Fund; and £188 on the Reserve Fund.

Mr. J. E. Edminson, who reported as Solicitor, commented on the "unfairness" of the licensing laws.

Mr. Fred Little, of the National Trade Defence Association, Bristol, also gave an address.

On the motion of Mr. W. Hutchins it was agreed that in future the President of the Association be not elected from the members, but that they elect a member as Chairman. The work of their President, he said, was that of a Chairman.

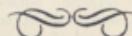
Mr. Smith addressed the meeting on liquor duties, and on his proposition the following resolution was passed:—

"That this meeting urges the Chancellor of the Exchequer to accord his earnest consideration to an attempt at relieving the heavy burden borne by licensees by introducing at the earliest possible opportunity a reduction in the very excessive Retailers' Liquor Licence Duties."

Officers for the year were elected as follows:—Chairman, Mr. J. Morris; Vice-Chairman, Mr. H. Tucker; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. F. C. Riden; Hon. Auditors, Messrs. Cook, Sutton & Co.; Solicitors, Messrs. Blandy & Blandy.

Messrs. Hawker, Cloke, T. Malpass, G. Bishop and Captain Bevis were elected to the Committee in place of Messrs. A. Oxlade, F. C. Clark, C. Hine and H. A. Spiers.

Mr. G. Greenaway was elected Trustee to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Alderman A. Webb.



LICENSED TRADES' "ENEMIES."

STRONG PLEAS AT READING DINNER.

(From the *Berkshire Chronicle*.)

A strong plea for the reduction of taxation on excisable liquors was made by Mr. F. A. Simonds when he attended the thirteenth annual dinner and dance of the Reading and District Licensed Trades' Protection and Benevolent Association, which was held at the Oxford Hall, Reading, on Tuesday, February 18th. About 180 members and friends were present. Before the reception the President's wife was handed a bouquet from the Committee. In addition, every lady present received a handsome bag, the gift of Messrs. Huntley & Palmers Ltd.

Major J. R. Gales was in the chair, and among those supporting him were the president (Mr. G. S. Cherry), Mrs. Gales, Mrs. Cherry, Mr. F. A. Simonds, Mr. L. A. Simonds, Alderman Mrs. Jenkins, Mr. F. Little (secretary, Western District, N.T.D.A.), Mr. W. E. M. Blandy, Mr. and Mrs. Talfourd G. Cook, Mr. F. Riden (hon. treasurer) and Mrs. Riden, Mr. H. S. Smith (hon. secretary) and Mrs. Smith, Mr. H. G. Hawkins, Mr. and Mrs. W. Hutchins, Mr. H. E. Blatch, Mr. and Mrs. H. Wise, Mr. J. E. Edminson, Mr. W. H. Davis, Mr. A. W. C. Bowyer, Mr. A. Hill, Mr. W. H. Rutter, Supt. Osborne, Det.-Insp. Knight, and Mr. W. M. Cook (Messrs. Edwards, Ringer and Bigg, of Bristol).

Mr. H. Wise (hon. secretary to the dinner and dance committee) was largely responsible for the arrangements.

"FREEDOM" IN READING.

Mr. F. A. Simonds, proposing the toast of "The Association and the Trade," said he hoped they would be successful in their plea to the magistrates for the extension of hours, which certainly should be granted if the citizens of Reading were to enjoy that measure of freedom to which they were entitled. (Applause). Those at the head of the trade could not help noticing that there had been a much better atmosphere created throughout the trade in the last year or two. Magistrates as a whole had taken a fairer outlook on licensing matters, and were prepared to defer more to the wishes of the public than to the narrower body of cranks who seemed for many years to control benches. (Hear, hear). He could not help feeling sceptical about the recent Church Assembly resolutions. The Bishop of Kingston (an old friend of his at Oxford) talked about the "terrible" outlay on alcoholic drinks in England as a whole, and in one parish in particular. Millions were mentioned, and the Bishop said it was a "scandal." He (the speaker) agreed, but from a different angle. (Laughter). "I think," he said, "that it's a scandal that the working man or

woman should have to pay so much for a glass of beer or a glass of port as they do—(laughter)—whereas their friends can pay much less for a cokernut—or whatever it is—that is not excisable (laughter). We should have a considerable reduction in the taxation on excisable liquors in this country. I shall be with you in any agitation to effect any reduction."

MANY ENEMIES.

Mr. H. S. Smith, replying, said they had increased their membership and improved the financial position. The total membership was 235. That sounded quite a lot, but the percentage was too low. They had many enemies in the trade, and they had to defend themselves against them. A little while ago they were almost taxed out of existence by the "penny on beer." If it had not been for their organisations they would never have got that penny off. If certain people had had their way there would have been none of them in existence to-day. Dealing with the "bogus club," and describing it as one of the biggest menaces to the trade, the speaker said that unless they "hammered away" they would not get it wiped out. Licensees had to pass a more stringent test than any other tradesmen in the world. Having passed it and gone into the trade with the best intentions, it might happen that a man with no character—he might be a burglar—could come and open a club next door to them without passing any such tests. He could do things behind closed doors—doors closed to the police—and take away that trade for which licensees were paying licence duty. "We are most unfairly treated in the matter of licence duties," said the speaker. "We are paying far more than our share."

Mr. Little, who also responded, referred to the teetotallers' proposed new legislation, and asked members to close their ranks and fight it.

The chairman proposed the "Borough of Reading," and Alderman Mrs. Jenkins, who replied, said that those of them who were on the council and on the Bench were pleased to think they were putting forward improvements for their houses, because that meant work and financial benefit to Reading. Members could be congratulated on the conduct of their houses. (Applause).

The chairman presented Mr. Cherry with a president's jewel.

Mr. J. Healey appealed for help for the Hospital Bed Endowment Fund, which stood at roughly £650, of which about £240 had been collected during the year.

The toast of "The Visitors" was proposed by Mr. J. Morris, who said there seemed to be a lack of esprit-de-corps in the licensing trade. Mr. W. H. Rutter responded.

The chairman was praised by Mr. F. C. Riden.

Mr. C. Palmer was M.C. for the subsequent dance.

A CHEMIST'S SHOP WITH AN ON-LICENCE.

"Come into the chemist's and have a drink."

"But I am quite well."

"I know you are. Well, let's go and celebrate the fact."

Such conversations as these are possible in Corsham, Wiltshire, at a unique chemist's shop which is fully licensed under a very old Excise licence, probably the only one of its kind in the country.

Yet, writes a Bristol *Evening World* reporter, I was able to walk into the shop, enter a small and tastefully furnished room and order a drink.

It is not very long ago since the full advantage of this unique licence was revived. A former owner of the premises used the licence to its fullest extent and even brewed his own beer somewhere in the back.

But round about the time of the Great War the on-licence business was temporarily suspended, but the full licence was kept alive so that the present owner was able to surprise some of her friends with the announcement that she was possessed of complete rights to sell intoxicating liquor on the premises.

Mrs. J. Butt, the holder of this unique licence, said that there were people even in the small township of Corsham who did not know it was possible to get a drink in their chemist's shop.

"I could supply drinks in the shop," she said, "but perhaps that would not be welcome to some of the customers in the chemist's side, so I have arranged rooms behind the shop for the serving of drinks."

MY WORK.

Let me but do my work from day to day,
In field or forest, at the desk or loom :
In roaring market place, or tranquil room :
Let me but find it in my heart to say
When vagrant wishes beckon me astray :
This is my work, my blessing—not my doom,
Of all who live I am the one by whom
This work can best be done in the right way,
To suit my spirit and to prove my powers :
Then shall I cheerfully greet the labouring hours,
And cheerfully turn when the long shadows fall
At eventide, to play and love and rest,
Because I know for me my work is best.

HENRY VAN DYKE.

BATH JUSTICES CRITICISED.

LICENSED VICTUALLERS AND SUMMER HOURS.

ANNUAL BANQUET.

Criticism of the refusal of the Bath licensing justices to grant an half hour extension during summer time was one of the chief themes of the speeches at the 84th annual banquet of the Bath Licensed Victuallers' Association, held at Fort's on February 27th.

Mr. Ronald Gilbey, a director of W. and A. Gilbey, Ltd., who was the President of the banquet, said he had heard with the greatest regret of the magistrates' refusal. What the magistrates were thinking about he could not think.

Mr. T. P. Wigmore, the Bath President, said the object of the application was a desire on the part of the trade to be able to serve their customers without having to rush. If the citizens of Bath and the many thousands of visitors who came here in summer-time did not obtain the privilege of the extra half-an-hour, the onus was not upon the trade.

LIKE "CRUSOES."

Mr. Frank Glover, who made the application to the Bench, said Bath was like a desert island surrounded by a land flowing with milk and honey. They were like Robinson Crusoes.

Mr. Gilbey, proposing the toast of the evening, said their Association was indeed worthy of a great city. He only hoped that this year the Chancellor of the Exchequer would see his way to carry out his promise to reduce the licence duty and to put down the spirit duty from 72s. 6d. to at least 50s. It was not fair taxation; it was not done for revenue purposes, but was nothing less than a form of prohibition.

Mr. Wigmore replied.

To Mr. Frank Glover was entrusted the toast of "Church and State," and The Rev. J. H. Davies, M.C., vicar of the Church of the Ascension, who replied, said there were people who thought their trade was that of the devil. Perhaps in days gone by it did savour of that to some extent, because the persons in charge of the old drinking dens were not the best of men. To-day, however, they were decent God-fearing men and women. As ministers they were taught that they had the spiritual welfare of the nation at large in their hands. What he could not understand was why licensed victuallers were left out in the cold. Had they not got souls to save? Were their souls not of the same value in the sight of Our Lord?

NOT DRINKING DENS.

The public-house did not mean simply a drinking den. The Church Assembly backed him in his desire to see all our public-houses of rest and of refreshment, and houses where a man could take his wife and children for a decent meal, no matter where they might be. It was up to associations like their own to see that this could be done.

A few encouraging words to organise came from Mrs. Gladys Marshall, chairman of the Women's Auxiliary.

Mr. A. J. Pope submitted "Trade Leagues and Kindred Societies," and Mr. Fred Little, of the National Trade Defence Association, replied.

The toast of the President was cordially honoured, on the proposition of Councillor J. W. C. Southwood.

Dancing followed.

A GREAT THOUGHT.

When Abraham sat at his tent door, according to his custom, waiting to entertain strangers, he espied an old man stooping and leaning on his staff, weary with age and travel, coming towards him, who was a hundred years of age. He received him kindly, washed his feet, provided supper, caused him to sit down; but observing that the old man ate and prayed not, nor begged for a blessing on his meat, he asked him why he did not worship the God of Heaven. The old man told him that he worshipped the fire only, and acknowledged no other God. At which answer Abraham grew so zealously angry that he thrust the old man out of his tent, and exposed him to all the evils of the night, and an unguarded condition. When the old man was gone God called to Abraham and asked him where the stranger was. He replied: "I thrust him away because he did not worship Thee." God answered him: "I have suffered him these hundred years, although he dishonoured me; and couldst not thou endure him one night?"—Jeremy Taylor.

BREWERY JOTTINGS.

(BY W. DUNSTER.)

Very shortly the nineteenth "cycle" of the H. & G. Simonds Ltd. Savings Association will be ended and another "cycle" will start immediately, so should this meet the eye of anyone interested on the Firm, and they would care to join, if they take early steps to see Mr. A. H. Hopkins (Correspondence Office), the Secretary, he will be glad to place full details before them.

I have received a letter from Toronto, Canada, viz. Mr. Harry Swain, whose name has appeared in THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE on a previous occasion. He writes as follows:—

"I must thank you for sending copies of the 'Hop Leaf.' They are always interesting. The last two had a personal interest, one containing a picture of an old colleague at Sutton & Sons—'Chub' Rider—and the other details of an old school chum (and son of my old schoolmaster)—Sid Moore. Please remember me kindly to each of these old friends.

"Conditions here seem to be slowly on the up grade. We have had some severe weather recently, more than half the days in January zero or below.

"Guess it was a solemn time in Reading during the late King's funeral. We heard the services over the radio as plainly as if we were on the spot.

"Kind regards to all friends who may remember me."

Our first-aid colleague, Mr. T. W. Kent, was recently called to an elderly gentleman who had met with an accident outside the Brewery. In a letter this gentleman writes:—

"I should like to commend to you the young fellow who rendered first-aid. He did it well and was most kind."

From the *Sunday Dispatch*:—

THE REASON WHY.

Solicitor (at Tottenham Police Court): "Does your husband drink?"

Wife: "No."

"Who are his friends?"

"He hasn't any!"

Unfortunately in my notes of last month I wrote Mr. G. B. Grove instead of Mr. A. Grove. As several persons drew my attention to this error—shows my notes are read—I hope "Bert" Grove will pardon me for making this mistake.

February has been a month of rather severe weather and naturally this was not so beneficial to trade as it might have been. Nevertheless, we have splendid products for the sort of weather recently experienced, so XXXXX Ale, Extra Brown Ale, etc., have been much in demand.

In a letter from Mr. J. Evans, The Old Ring of Bells, Plympton, to a friend in the Offices, he writes:—

"This house is closed down, as I suppose you know, and I am moving to Ivybridge next month. It is five miles further away from Plymouth, on the same main road. I could pick you out of the photo of the Dinner (in the 'Hop Leaf'), but I did not see anybody else of the old Farnborough staff. I hope they are all quite well. Give my kind regards to them all."

I regret to report the death of an old servant of the Firm, Mr. John Streams, who had been employed at the Maltings, during the seasons, since 1908. He was well known at the Brewery, and to his relatives we extend our sincere sympathy.

Mr. Jack Smith, a former member of the Reading Football Club and captain of Simonds Athletic Football Club, met with an accident which necessitated his removal to hospital at Staines. I am informed he is now improving and has been brought home. We all hope he will be speedily restored to his normal health.

Mr. and Mrs. Moorey, who had been Caretakers, etc., of the Brewery Offices for a number of years, and left early in February, have been successful in obtaining a situation, where their services will be well utilised, in a school a few miles from Reading. I am sure everyone will wish them every success.

The Bar is undergoing spring cleaning and the Brewery wag, watching the men at work, suggested the painting might improve the "palette." Think it over.

At the 97th Annual Court of the Governors of the Royal Berkshire Hospital the following employees of the Firm were present:—Mr. A. G. Rider, Mr. M. J. Crocker, Mr. W. H. Eaton and Mr. W. Dunster.

Promotion hopes of the Reading Football Club are not so promising as they were. The team do not seem to be playing with such spirit, nevertheless, we supporters feel that injuries have been largely responsible for the loss of a good number of points. As it may be that Reading will be playing at full strength before this month is out, results may be more to our liking before the season closes. However, we all rejoiced when Reading defeated Bristol Rovers so decisively; still, we have to play the City at Bristol yet, so perhaps Bristol will have the last laugh.

CHANGES OF TENANTS.

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

The Red Lion, Chieveley (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—Mr. C. Thomas.

The North Star, Hounslow (Ashby's Staines Brewery Ltd.)—Mr. E. R. Hall.

The Red Cow, Wooburn Green (Wheeler's Wycombe Breweries Ltd.)—Mr. A. E. Cunningham.

The Cricketers, Feltham (Ashby's Staines Brewery Ltd.)—Mr. A. N. Jolliffe.

The Royal Tar, Brentford (Ashby's Staines Brewery Ltd.)—Mr. A. W. Burrows.

The Bull and Butcher, Sandhurst (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—Mr. A. J. Helyer.

The Borough Arms, Hungerford (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—Mr. E. Cains.

The Cricketers, Hurst (Ashby's Staines Brewery Ltd.)—Mr. W. E. Priest.

DEATHS.

I am sorry to record the following deaths during the past month, and our sincere regrets are hereby extended to all relatives.

Mr. Frank Chapman, The Red Lion, Longwick, who had been a tenant of Messrs. Wheeler's Wycombe Breweries Ltd, since 24th June, 1910.

Mr. W. H. Brookes, The Queen's Head, Lower Knaphill, who died suddenly. Mr. Brookes, who was 60 years of age, was a retired schoolmaster, and had only been at the Queen's Head since November last year. This was a particularly sad loss.

Mr. C. J. Moore, The Four Points, Aldworth, died on the 19th February and had been a tenant of the South Berks Brewery Co. Ltd, since 4th November, 1927.

PRESENTATION TO MR. A. GROVE, LATE CHIEF ENGINEER.

Mr. A. Grove, who retired on the 29th February owing to ill-health, had been in the employ of the Firm for 26 years. He started on the 15th February, 1910, and succeeded Mr. G. Phelan, as Chief Engineer, on the retirement of the latter gentleman.

As a parting gift and to mark the esteem in which he had been held, his colleagues in the Engineering Department, and in collaboration with many friends in all departments with whom he came in contact in the course of his duties, subscribed towards a handsome grandmother clock in walnut case and bearing a plate suitably inscribed.

Mr. P. F. Knapp, of the Brewing Department, very kindly made the presentation and paid high tribute to Mr. Grove's services, and mentioned that looking back over the years he could not record one single serious breakdown in the brewing plant, which in itself was proof of the painstaking way Mr. Grove had carried out his duties. He concluded by hoping Mr. Grove would be spared for many years to enjoy his retirement. (Applause.)

Mr. Grove, in reply, said that he did not know how to thank his many friends for their splendid gift, and added that his staff had always supported him loyally and splendidly. (Applause.)

The ceremony finished with personal good wishes to Mr. A. Grove from his many friends who attended the presentation.

SIMONDS SOCIAL CLUB SPORTS MEETING, FLOWER SHOW AND FETE.

TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 22ND, AT COLEY PARK.

The first meeting in connection with the above was held at the Club on Friday, February 28th, at 7.30 p.m. Mr. L. A. Simonds was in the chair, supported by Mr. W. Curtis (Vice-Chairman of the Club), Mr. S. Bird (Treasurer of the Club), Mr. W. Bradford (General Secretary) and about 60 members, all of whom had volunteered their services as helpers.

On account of previous experience the lengthy agenda was soon disposed of. The Chairman, Secretaries and the various Committees were elected and many very interesting points were discussed. Judged by the interest and enthusiasm of those present

another very successful event appears certain. Extracts received from the Branches and Subsidiary Companies were read and the meeting was very pleased with the encouraging support that the correspondence contained, as this Fete provides an excellent opportunity for the Reading staff to meet the representatives from the Branches for a talk over old times and friendly rivalry in the many sporting events.

In the next month's issue we hope to publish a full list of the Committees and, in course of time, a programme of events.

Our last Fete was very widely spoken of as an excellent sports meeting and we hope, by the help of Branches and Subsidiary Companies, to have an equally successful affair.

The Sub-Committees are now preparing their programmes and we can look forward to a very interesting and enjoyable time.

As a preliminary notice for those who wish to go into training we shall again be having Tug of War and Push Ball, and as these events proved very popular last time we anticipate many extra entries.

Entry forms for the Tug of War can be had on application at the Brewery.

W.B.

UNITED SERVICES CLUB, PINNER, LTD.

Our Mr. H. G. Colson had the pleasure of representing the Firm at the official opening of the new premises which have recently been erected by the United Services Club, Pinner, Limited. The opening ceremony was performed by Field Marshal Lord Milne, who was introduced to the assembled members by Mr. F. West, the popular President of the Club.

In his speech, Lord Milne congratulated the members on what they had accomplished and said he thought ex-service men's clubs would do a great deal of good in the country in the future. It was a big advantage in having a place like this, he continued, where members could meet, talk over events and keep in close contact with each other. In conclusion, Lord Milne said they must think of how they were going to carry on the club in the future. "Do not let these things slip. Being ex-service men we are naturally a dying generation and we have our children to consider. Now is the time to bring them into communities such as this. We must bring the younger generation up in exactly the same spirit that has animated us ex-service men when we were in the service. It was a wonderful spirit of loyalty and comradeship. That is

the spirit we must hand over to the next generation, and I hope you will make use of your club for this kind of thing. I have great pleasure in declaring your club open, and wish you every possible success in the future." (Applause.)

Lord Milne was then presented with a silver key as a memento of the occasion and, after returning thanks for the gift, proceeded to "open the bar" in appropriate style.

The club is a two storey building and possesses all the amenities for making it an ideal club. The billiards room, where there are two excellent tables, is situated upstairs, and other games are played downstairs, where, also, the members can sit at tables in comfort and enjoy a pleasant evening.

TWO FRIENDS MEET AGAIN AFTER THIRTY YEARS, AT THE HORNCASTLE, BATH ROAD.



(Left) William Abery, aged 74, of Blossom End, Theale, and
(Right) Bob Henwood, aged 76, of Calcot Mill, Reading.

Two old friends that had not met for 30 years played a dart match at The Horncastle. Bob Henwood won both games.

CATERING DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES.

In January the King's Arms Hotel, Stokenchurch, was taken over from Mr. C. Ivins, and it is felt that this hotel will be a worthy addition to the rapidly increasing chain of Simonds' hotels and catering houses. The King's Arms is situated on the main London to Oxford Road, and as the photo displays, it possesses an inviting exterior, nor is the interior disappointing. On the ground floor the spacious and attractive bars and dining room should make a halt by road users worth while. Each of the nine bedrooms is decorated and furnished in a separate colour scheme and is complete with hot and cold running water and central heating. Mr. and Mrs. Morrell have been appointed as joint managers.

Another link in the chain is the famous Eastgate Hotel, Oxford, which was taken over on the 4th March. Mr. and Mrs. Sargent have been appointed joint managers and the traditions of this charming and comfortable hotel will not only be maintained but enhanced by the addition of modern amenities.

The cabaret performances on Wednesday nights at the Grosvenor House, Caversham, have obviously established themselves, and the following are recent artistes who have appeared:—The Lurgon Sisters in Tap and Acrobatic Dancing; Rupert Harvey, Songs and Sketches; Betty Graham, Songs and Dances; Robert and Evelyn Arnold in Comedy Recitation, etc.; Kenneth Jackson and Anita, Speciality Dancing and Illusions; Marianne and Mark, Acrobatic Dancers.



The King's Arms Hotel, Stokenchurch.

SOME NEW FACES IN STOKENCHURCH.

BUT THE SLATE CLUB DOES NOT MIND THESE.

So many guests attended the twelfth annual dinner of the slate club at the King's Arms, Stokenchurch, that two additional dining rooms were filled.

At the conclusion of dinner, the chairman, Mr. W. Elliott, said this year they had new landlords and new brewers—new "bosses" to tell them what to do, as it were, and their commands at present were "enjoy themselves."

"I wish to take this opportunity of welcoming Mr. and Mrs. Morrell, the landlords, and Messrs. Simonds, the brewers," said the chairman.

"Since 1923 we have always had our slate club supper, and hope to have many more. It had been proposed that their chairman should be a gentleman in the village who was interested in carrying out many good works. Unfortunately, he was unable to be there that night, but they welcomed his son, Mr. Marcus Slade, as president of the slate club."

The president, Mr. M. Slade, proposed the royal toast. "I should like to tell you that my father is much better and regrets that he cannot be present to-night, but he wishes the club every success," said Mr. Slade.

"We welcome to-night the new landlords and brewers, and although we usually hate new faces in Stokenchurch, we really welcome them, because they have the welfare of the village at heart."

Mr. H. Davis, on behalf of the brewers, thanked the club for their welcome and hoped that it would always be a successful venture.

An enjoyable entertainment was provided, by residents of Stokenchurch mostly.

The entertainers were Miss Mollie Kelly, Miss Burnett and Messrs. Gordon Smith, Elston, Eggleton, Elliott, Lowe, Ted Bates, Macknay and Hopkins.



THE LIGHTER SIDE.

"After all, it's a true saying that 'He laughs best who laughs last.'"

"Not at all! The really true saying is, 'He laughs best whose laugh lasts!'"

* * * *

"Our cook gives us the same thing at every meal."

"What does she give you?"

"Indigestion!"

* * * *

FAIR MOTORIST (*in police trap*): "But I couldn't have been doing over forty miles an hour. Why, I haven't been out an hour yet!"

* * * *

"That butcher is giving us short weight for our money."

"Well, give him a long wait for his."

* * * *

WILLIE: "Where's the rest of you, Mrs. Smith?"

MRS. SMITH: "Why, I'm all here."

WILLIE: "No, you're not—Ma says you're two-faced."

* * * *

A surgeon, an architect, and a politician were arguing as to whose profession was the oldest. Said the surgeon, "Eve was made from Adam's rib, and that was surely a surgical operation."

"Maybe," said the architect, "but prior to that, order was created out of chaos, and that was an architectural job."

"But," interrupted the politician, "somebody created the chaos first!"

The new prisoner had been in his cell when he began to realise that he was a disappointed man.

"I say, warder," he said, on the fourth day, "when does the fun begin?"

"Fun?" echoed the warder. "What fun? You don't expect fun in 'ere."

The prisoner looked amazed. "Lumme," he exclaimed; "then what did the judge mean when 'e said I was to come in 'ere for the time of my life?"

* * * *

DENTIST: "Which is the bad tooth?"

PATIENT (*a cinema attendant*): "Balcony, third on left."

* * * *

"Who has been monkeying with my private notepaper?" shouted the infuriated official as he searched his desk.

The office boy appeared in the doorway, a cherubic grin on his face.

"I saw Mr. Simpson writing a letter," he murmured.

"And who's Mr. Simpson?"

"He's the man who cleans the windows," replied the boy.

The official swung round in his chair.

"Jimmy," he said, "we call men by their names in this office; no mistering in this place, and don't forget it."

"A few minutes later the boy's head appeared in the doorway. "Gentleman to see you, George," he said.

* * * *

An American was in China on business. One day, as he was out for a run in his car, he called at an hotel for a drink, leaving the coolie in charge of his car. Half an hour later he returned, and saw no car there.

"Where's my car?" he asked the coolie.

"Me no know," replied the Chinaman. "Me can't tell. Me press a button, an' it went like hell."

TEACHER: "Can any one tell me what are the sins of omission."

SMALL BOY: "Yes, sir; they are the sins we ought to have done and haven't."

* * * *

"Did you get any damages for bein' in that there bus accident, Bill?"

"What-ho! Twenty quid for me and ten for the missis!"

"The missis? Wot, was she hurt?"

Bill grinned. "I 'ad the presence of mind to fetch her one over the 'ear fore we was rescooted!"

* * * *

"My father and a man named McDougal have been fighting for twenty years, but they've finally stopped."

"Why, did they bury the hatchet?"

"No. They buried McDougal."

* * * *

The golf novice had driven his ball along the fairway, but unfortunately it had disappeared down a rabbit-hole.

"Which club will you take now?" asked the caddie with a grin.

The novice looked puzzled. "Have you got one shaped like a ferret?" he asked.

* * * *

AIRMAN (*explaining crash*): "I just happened to get into an air-pocket."

SYMPATHETIC OLD LADY: "Oh, dear! And I suppose there was a hole in it."

* * * *

Why is a good husband like dough?

Because a woman needs him.

WIFE : " It must be grand to be a man ! One dress suit lasts you for years, and a woman must have a new gown for every party ! "

HUSBAND : " That's why one dress suit lasts a man for years ! "

* * * *

The teacher had written " 92.7 " on the blackboard, and to show the effect of multiplying by ten, rubbed out the decimal point. She then turned to a scholar and asked :

" Now, Mary, where is the decimal point ? "

" On the duster, Miss ! " Mary replied without hesitation.

* * * *

" Doctor, " I'm not well."

" How do you live ? "

" I'm as poor as a church mouse and have to work like a horse all day. I'm always as ravenous as a wolf, and I go to bed dog tired."

" You had better consult a veterinary surgeon."

* * * *

DOCTOR : " H'm ! seven headaches, bilious attacks, pains in the neck—h'm ! What is your age, madam ? "

PATIENT (cooly) : " Twenty-four, doctor."

DOCTOR : " H'm ! loss of memory, too ! "

* * * *

" How would you classify a telephone girl ? Is hers a business or a profession ? "

" Neither ; it is a calling ! "

* * * *

" My piano playing naturally is tiring to the hands."

" Yes, your neighbours keep theirs to their ears till they're almost exhausted."

A YOUNG FELIX.

PROUD MOTHER : " Yes, he's a year old now, and he's been walking since he was eight months old."

BORED VISITOR : " Really ? He must be awfully tired."

* * * *

BANTER : " Was your landlord put out when you told him you couldn't pay your rent ? "

CANTOR : " No, but I was ! "

* * * *

SMALL SON : " What are diplomatic relations, father ? "

FATHER : " There are no such people, my boy."

* * * *

" The horse I was riding wanted to go one way and I wanted to go the other."

" Who won ? "

" He tossed me for it."

* * * *

" Are you sure," wrote the snobbish parent to the headmaster, " that my boy will acquire good manners while he is with you ? "

" Madam," was the reply, " your son has every chance with us. At present he has no manners at all—only customs."

* * * *

MRS. BLACK : " I thought you told me you married a self-made man."

MRS. WHITE : " So I did, but I'm still making extensive alterations."

* * * *

EXCITED PROFESSOR (*driving car*) : " We've got it at last."

SECOND PROFESSOR : " Got what ? "

EXCITED PROFESSOR : " Perpetual motion. I can't stop the darned thing."

BRANCHES.

BRISTOL.

Mr. F. A. Simonds was the guest of honour to preside at the Eighty-fifth Annual Banquet of the Bristol Licensed Victuallers' and Beer Retailers' Protection and Benevolent Association, which was held at the Royal Hotel, College Green, Bristol, on Wednesday, February 12th. A company of nearly 250, fully representative of every activity of the Trade and of its allied interests in the city, supported the President and a "right-down royal evening" it has been acclaimed by all who were present. On every hand one hears expressions of the deepest gratification, not only for the infectious spirit of enjoyment which our Managing Director spread to one and all, but also for the friendliness which throughout the evening characterised his words. Even when reproving those "absent ones" who, under various anti-Trade banners so often stoop to misstatement of fact or figure, he was scrupulously fair—and Bristolians, like the rest of mankind, are not slow of response when assured of an impartial hearing. Those who know Mr. Eric at all need no words of ours to confirm how completely he thus laid the foundations of a lasting friendship. The mutual honours paid to and by the Head of our Company have materially consolidated that sound "foothold" without which no enterprise can hope to succeed.

BRISTOL LICENSED VICTUALLERS' ASSOCIATION.

GREAT SUCCESS OF THE 85TH ANNUAL BANQUET AND DANCE.

The above event, which was held at the Royal Hotel, Bristol, on Wednesday, February 12th, was described in the Press as "the greatest success for many years." Mr. F. A. Simonds, our Managing Director, presided and was supported by the president of the Association, Mr. R. B. W. Coombs and his brother officers, by members of the sister associations of the city, representatives of distilling, brewing, and allied trades, and several from the civic life of the city.

MORE FAVOURABLE BENCHES.

Proposing "Continued Success to the Association and Kindred Societies," Mr. Simonds said the Bristol Licensed Victuallers' Association during its 85 years' existence had collected a lot of money for benevolence, and no doubt had spent a great deal in fighting those who were in opposition to the trade. They of the wholesale side of the industry recognised the great value of the work associations did on behalf of both sections, the wholesale and the retail. It was a matter of general congratulation that throughout the country the atmosphere in the licensing courts had

recently been much more favourable to the trade. This was due very largely to a broader vision on the part of licensing magistrates, and it had been induced by the excellent behaviour of the licensed victuallers themselves. From reports of the recent Church Assembly he had gathered that a resolution was passed to the effect that the time had come for the Church to recognise the improvement and better distribution of public-houses as a right method for the control of public drinking.

LICENCES ON NEW ESTATES.

Dealing with the system of tied houses, Mr. Simonds said he was an unrepentant upholder of the system. There had been some abuse of it, but he maintained that it was the finest system that could be devised. The brewer was able to assure that the public had the right and good articles to drink. There had been some outburst recently of people in new housing estates being allowed a say in the granting of licences. He was sure no Bench would grant a new licence in such estates unless there was a very strong body of public opinion desirous of havin' a licence.

WHAT THE CHURCH ASSEMBLY FORGOT.

The view was expressed at the Church Assembly that very many more millions of money were being spent on drink than was necessary. He agreed with that view, but from a different angle. (Laughter.) The public was compelled to spend too much money on drink because of its exorbitant price due to taxation. (Applause.) He congratulated those in the Bristol Licensed Victuallers' Association and kindred bodies who had kept the flag of the retail section flying high. Associations had spent a good deal of time and money on improving conditions of houses and the trade generally and he was afraid they had been sometimes balked by the Church, who were now beginning to recognise their good work.

PUBLIC NEED LONGER HOURS.

Responding, Mr. R. W. B. Coombs, the association president, said the retailer was still suffering from overtaxation and from the increase of club premises. He did not mind anyone using a club provided that it was not in unfair competition as regards hours and conditions which militated against the licensed retailer. Retailers did not want to go back to the pre-war hours and conditions, but there should be some extension of the present permitted hours for the benefit of the people, added the speaker.

Mr. Fred Little, of the National Trade Defence Association, also responding, said the relations between the wholesale and retail sections of the trade in Bristol were excellent.

LOOKING TO THE GOVERNMENT.

"Church and State" was submitted by Mr. T. Ross Scott of Messrs. Smith's Potato Crisps, Ltd., who said he had a great admiration for the Church and its work. The present Government was National in character, and he hoped it would do something for the licensed trade.



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MR. F. A. SIMONDS WELCOMING MR. A. P. F. CHAPMAN,
FORMER ENGLAND CRICKET CAPTAIN.

Left to right are Mr. J. H. Law, Major G. S. M. Ashby,
Mr. A. P. F. Chapman, Mr. H. H. Robertson, Mr. R. B. W. Coombs
and Mr. F. A. Simonds.

Replying for the Church, the Rev. J. M. D. Stancomb said he came among those at the banquet as a minister of religion. "What is religion?" he asked. "I take it that it is an urge to do our best, and if that is so, I want to urge you to make your places those of rest, recreation, and comfort. To allow no abuse; not to encourage the drunkard or people to spend too much money on drink, and to see that your houses are not used for any wrongful purpose." "I feel, personally, that I am doing the right thing in coming into good company among you to-night," the reverend gentleman added.

BENEVOLENT FUND BENEFITS.

Councillor G. A. Martin responded for the State in the absence of Lord Apsley, M.P. Referring to the statement that there had been an outburst against licensed houses being erected in the new estates of Bristol, Mr. Martin said there was not the slightest objection by the Bristol Housing Committee against licensed houses being erected as long as people wanted them.

The association's treasurer, Mr. F. H. Coombs, then gave the result of the collection for the benevolent fund. This showed a total of £223 8s. od.

WINTER GAMES.

The Table Skittle League has been full of interest, though at the moment the Easton Road "ubiques" seem to have the cup in their hands almost. Commandant Crotty's men are well at the head of affairs, and their opponents get no encouragement when visiting the Lord Chancellor; a regular "Gibraltar" is this bit of Bristol. In the knock-out cup, the great surprise of the season was their crushing defeat, on neutral ground, by the Winterbourne "Grunners," who upset all form and won by over 20 pins. They now contest the semi-final with the following teams:—Paxton Arms, Hit or Miss (both Easton Roadites) and the Punch Bowl, so that the 1935-36 honours should be well divided—a sure sign of healthiness!

LEAGUE TABLE.

	Played.	Won.	Lost.	Points.
Lord Chancellor	12	10	2	20
Globe and Foresters	14	9	5	18
Paxton Arms	12	7	5	14
Botany Tavern	12	6	6	12
Hit or Miss	14	6	8	12
George and Dragon	12	5	7	10
Black Horse	11	4	7	8
Punch Bowl	11	4	7	8
Wheatshaf	12	4	8	8

In the Double Cribbage Section the Redfield "Aces" are anxiously awaiting the result of their final "raid," for a victory assures them of the championship. A slip, and General Purnell's "Greyhounds" will surely be equal on points. This should be full of interest to the end. In the knock-out cup, the semi-finalists are the Prince Alfred, the George and Dragon, the Lord Chancellor and the Greyhound. Wednesday, March 4th, will decide who enters the final round.

LEAGUE TABLE.

	<i>Played.</i>	<i>Won.</i>	<i>Drawn.</i>	<i>Lost.</i>	<i>Points.</i>
Black Horse ...	13	9	3	1	21
Greyhound ...	12	8	1	3	17
Lord Chancellor ...	12	7	1	4	15
Brewery Eight ...	12	6	3	3	15
George and Dragon ...	14	3	6	5	12
Punch Bowl ...	13	4	3	6	11
Prince Alfred ...	12	5	1	6	11
Prince of Wales ...	12	0	0	12	0

OXFORD.

WAR DEPARTMENT CONSTABULARY CANTEEN, DIDCOT.

ADVENTURES OF A BOTTLE (3).

By now I was a well tried and experienced veteran of the Simonds' Way. My journeys under the magnificent transport facilities of the famous "Hop Leaf" had been numerous and varied, but the 22nd day of February, 1936, was a notable day in my life and deserves special mention.

Having once again refreshed myself in the clear waters of the "Hop Leaf" baths and been refitted with new cap and vest, I set forth, passing through a city famous as a seat of learning to a small town noted as a junction on the Iron Way to the West. Here I was introduced to certain persons designated "Constables." These men, I understood, were a special force whose duties were many and varied. They had, however, in common with other uniformed personnel of the Services, a capacity for enjoyment that, in particular, distinguishes members of the Forces. On this occasion the smiling P.C.'s were assisted in their diversions by members of an ex-serving organisation known as "The British Legion." Song, dance, band music, jest, happy laughter and refreshment sped the evening far too soon.

My comrades, both brown and stout, disappeared one by one, many of my own "S.B." family accompanying them. These policemen and their visitors showed that the "Flowing Bowl" could be filled and re-filled and yet lack contents.

An inspiring military march, played by an octet of the British Legion Band, opened the proceedings, and my comrades and myself almost burst our caps away as the music set our pulses beating. Mr. F. Rust conducted the band. Next Mr. Bolton, inspired my good cousin, Hunt's Cider, with memories of the "West Country," and we were compelled to restrain his enthusiasm for "Red Sails" and fisherfolk.

The "Aces," led by Mr. Nicholas, then set Mr. Berry Brown and Miss Port whirling on their toes in a waltz. Mr. Moody's whimsical "moodyisms" as "Mary Jane" in "Pardon Me" reminded all of us that servants also possess humour and wit.

A lively entr'acte, "Thirsa," by the British Legion Band again set us all humming, and Mrs. King brought the prodigals' thoughts to home in "Smiling Through."

That lovely old dance, the "Veleta," with music by the "Aces" then followed. After that we heard that splendid love ballad, "Until," and big black brother Archangel was entranced by the singing of "Hills of Donegal," both these being contributed by Mrs. Clark.

A community medley, conducted by Mr. Rust and played by the British Legion Band, preceded the interval and we found that the audience had responded so well to the conductor's blandishments that many of us were bereft of our contents hurriedly by the ruthless hand of the Steward.

Our reward, however, lay in the fact that they were so invigorated by these draughts of the BEST that they stepped out with gay hilarity in the first item after the interval, a Boston Two Step with music by the "Aces."

Mr. Sutton then gave us "Souvenirs," with Mr. Nicholas playing the violin. The British Legion Band and the "Aces," playing together, next took us to the Pacific Isles in "Good-bye, Hawaii."

Mrs. Clark and Mr. Goodge then delighted us in a duet, "Somewhere a voice is calling," and as an encore Mrs. Clark held our attention with "Roses of Picardy."

The "Aces" played a Fox-trot in their own inimitable manner, and Mr. Moody caused first a titter, then a chuckle and then a roar of laughter in "Buying a Stamp." (How these comedians do love our P.M.G.!)

Both bands combined in an exceedingly lively Quick Step, and then Mrs. Belcher stirred black brother Archangel to emotion

with "Danny Boy" and again brought us all into the next with "Love sends a little gift of Roses."

The Palais Glide followed with music by the "Aces." Mr. Bolton taught us "Pelmanism" in "It's Easy to Remember" and extolled the virtues of a milk product in "Gorgonzola." Mrs. King looked into the future of the very young by singing "When you grow up, little lady" and very sweetly told us how "True."

Owing to the insistent demand by black brother Archangel, assisted by members of the audience, Mrs. Clark was again called up to repeat her success in "Hills of Donegal."

The "Aces" transported us to the farms of Aylesbury by playing the "Duck Song" as a Waltz, and the programme ended with "God Save the King," played by both bands conducted by Mr. Rust in the new military tempo.

Piano accompaniments were by Mrs. Nottingham and Mr. Godge.

Before leaving Colonel Morrell of the British Legion neatly and appropriately thanked the artistes and bandmen and the committees. Inspector Barnes of the War Department Constabulary replied and expressed the hope that opportunities would arise for other such evenings.

Thus a high spot in entertainment was reached when the Wallingford and District Branches of the British Legion honoured the War Department Constabulary Canteen, Didcot, with a visit.

The programme was arranged and devised by P.C. Clark, who also acted as "Compère" (title borrowed from the B.B.C., with apologies to that Corporation).

The month of February also saw the completion of fixtures in the Vauxhall Camp Miniature Rifle League. Privates R.A.O.C. finished at the head of the table, W.D.C. being runners-up. The league table is as follows :-

	Matches.			Aggregate Points.		Match Points.
	Played.	Won.	Lost.	For.	Against.	
Privates, R.A.O.C.	5	5	0	2524	2492	16
W.D.C.	5	4	1	2823	2262	8
Officers	5	2	3	2580	2569	4
Sergeants	5	2	3	2513	2580	4
Corporals	5	2	3	2263	2474	4
Vauxhall C. & S. Club	5	0	5	2179	2605	0

Winners	...	Privates, R.A.O.C.
Runners-up	...	W.D.C.
Highest Individual Score	...	P.C. Brading (W.D.C.), 112.
Highest Match Score	...	W.D.C., 594.
Best Three Averages	...	P.C. Harris (W.D.C.), 103.
	...	P.C. Ralston (W.D.C.), 100.25.
	...	P.C. Jefferies (W.D.C.), 95.5.
Highest Individual Aggregate	...	P.C. Clark (W.D.C.), 490.

Our position in the Milton Hill and District Billiards League shows improvement; at the time of writing we head the table and have also reached the final of the Glyn Challenge Cup, having defeated Abingdon Y.M.S. Club in the semi-final. Our opponents in the final tie will be R.A.O.C. Vauxhall Camp (1), and we are hoping that our players will persuade the balls to be kind.

Whist drive prizes were won by Mrs. Page, Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Thomas. P.S. Gillett won the aggregate prize for December and February. Entertainment for January was cancelled.

THE CROWN INN, WOODSTOCK.

As was briefly announced in THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE for last month the Crown Inn, Woodstock, has taken to itself a new host in the person of Mr. Clyde D. Skene, late of the XII Royal Irish Lancers.

Mr. Skene was, in his heyday, quite celebrated in the world of sport, particularly as a soccer player, as witness the following, taken from the sporting columns of the *Oxford Mail* of February 15th :-

"It is not generally known that Mr. Clyde Skene, who has become mine host of the Crown Inn, Woodstock, was a former well-known Scottish footballer.

"Pre-war followers of football will perhaps remember his association with the Falkirk club, for whom he played at centre-forward in the palmy days of 'Jockey' Simpson, when Falkirk had such a brilliant team.

"During the period of his playing days Mr. Skene was regarded as the best centre-forward uncapped for Scotland.

"His brother, Dr. Leslie Skene, was the old Fulham and Scottish international goalkeeper.

"Last year Mr. Skene was offered the position of sports coach to the Egyptian Police in Cairo but, for private reasons, he declined the appointment."

We wish Mr. Skene and his good lady every success in their new venture, and hope that the citizens of the ancient and loyal borough of Woodstock will soon discover what delightful people they are.

PORTSMOUTH.

The 2nd Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment, who recently moved from Aldershot, have now taken up their new quarters at Albany Barracks, Parkhurst. This distinguished old regiment were last stationed in the Isle of Wight from 1816 to 1821, where they were sent to recruit before proceeding to the West Indies. The Battalion sailed for the West Indies in April, 1816, leaving the Depot at Albany Barracks, Parkhurst, where it remained till March, 1821.

The Queen's Royal Regiment should be a big acquisition to all sport in the island and also to the Brigade. They won the Eastern Command Hockey Cup in 1930 and 1931, and the Aldershot Command Hockey Cup in 1934. They were runners-up in the final of the Army Hockey in 1930 and 1934, and for four years the Battalion won the Aldershot Command Fencing. Lieut.-Col. R. A. M. Basset, M.C., commanding the Battalion, is a keen sportsman, having played cricket for Surrey and hockey for the Army. Other officers who have represented the Army are Major G. K. Oliver, M.C., cricket; Lieut. D. L. A. Gibbs, fencing; and Lieut. A. J. A. Watson, athletics and rugby football. The Battalion held its first boxing meeting in the island shortly after its arrival. The Queen's Royal Regiment have taken over a fine barracks and playing ground from the Hampshire Regiment, and we wish them four very happy years in the island.

At the Annual Dinner and Dance of the Southsea Sea Angling Club nearly 130 members and their friends attended. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress (Alderman and Mrs. W. J. Avens) were among the guests, as also were Alderman and Mrs. W. A. Billing, Mr. and Mrs. R. Gurd (Southampton S.C.A.), Mr. H. Swaine (Ryde Vectis Angling Club), Mr. R. V. Cobb (Secretary of the National Federation of Sea Anglers), and others. Mr. G. Rourke took the chair and the Lady Mayoress presented prizes to winners of the various competitions during the past year. She was warmly thanked by the Chairman and presented with a bouquet by Miss Thelma Smith, daughter of the Vice-Chairman of the Club. The Chairman of the Entertainment Committee (Mr. L. Williams) was the organiser of the event, and he carried out his task admirably.

Reviewing the growth of the Club since its inception, the Chairman considered it had made excellent progress. A steadily increasing membership had been recorded, the total now being 200, and he thought the Southsea Sea Angling Club was second to none in the country. Anyone interested in fishing was always welcome at the Club, he said. Mr. H. Sargeant (City Librarian) proposed "The Visitors and Guests," the response being given by Mr. H. Swaine of the Ryde Vectis Sea Angling Club.

HAMPSHIRE BRITISH LEGION.

Capt. W. S. Duke, late Indian Army, of Weyhill, near Andover, has been appointed new County Secretary to the County Branch of the British Legion, in succession to Commander Bashford, R.N., who has left to take over an important post under the British Legion at Bristol. Captain Duke has identified himself with many British Legion activities for some years, first at Fernhurst in Sussex, and since then at Ampot, near Andover. Captain Duke served throughout the Great War in Mesopotamia (1915-21), being attached to the Supply and Transport Corps, commanding No. 2 Company of the 17th Divisional Train, now the I.A.S.C. He retired from the Indian Army in 1923.

The wives and children of members of the Sarisbury and District Working Men's Club were entertained this year in the Parish Room. The proceedings commenced with a tea, catered for by Mr. C. Newbury. This was followed by a capital cinema show by Mr. Martin. Great excitement was evinced when Father Christmas (Dr. S. Infield) commenced his task of distributing gifts to every child. During the evening the President (Mr. G. E. Parker, O.B.E., J.P.), on behalf of the members, warmly thanked all who had worked to make the evening such a success, particularly mentioning Mr. J. Latter for his generosity with prizes, Mr. A. Knapp, Mr. C. Stares, Mr. R. Ellis and Mr. A. Beauchamp (Sports Committee) and all the lady helpers. Mr. B. Harris presided at the piano.

THE TAMAR BREWERY, DEVONPORT.

In this year's moves we very much regret to see that the 1st Bn. The Royal Sussex Regiment and the 1st Bn. The Prince of Wales's Volunteers (South Lancashire) Regiment are leaving us. The 1st Royal Sussex Regiment are exceptionally good at cricket, hockey and association football, and will be greatly missed by the

Garrison. The 1st Prince of Wales's Regiment are also a good sporting regiment, but they are more keen on rugby than association football. We do not know whether there are many rugby teams at Dover, but in Devon and Cornwall there are hundreds, so there is no difficulty in their getting good rigger opponents.

We have been very busy running around the country attending the various Brewster Sessions and almost invariably the Chairmen of the Justices and also the Chiefs of Police have complimented the licensees as to the way their business had been conducted. We have had as many as five Brewster Sessions held on one day, and sometimes it has meant "all hands to the pumps."

We have had exceptionally cold weather for this part of the country and also some snow, although not enough to make snowmen except on the bleakest parts of Dartmoor. The weather, however, has not been cold enough to seriously affect our transport. So far only on about three occasions have we had to slide back home instead of carrying out our deliveries.

We are very pleased to again receive an invitation for members of the staff of this Branch to attend the Brewery Annual Fete at Coley Park. The organisers will have to work very hard if they wish to beat the wonderful show which was put up two years ago.

LUDGERSHALL.

The Committee of the Ludgershall Sports Club are to be congratulated on their enterprise in getting Mr. Sidney Smith to give an exhibition of billiards, snooker and trick shots in the Club on Saturday, February 18th.

Mr. Smith, who has undoubtedly made rapid strides in his profession, has come very much to the fore during the Tom Webster Sealed Handicap Billiards Tournament, which carries with it the *Daily Mail* Gold Cup.

During an hour and a half's billiards Mr. Smith played in turn three members of the Sports Club, namely, Messrs. W. Bryant, H. Wiles and W. H. Annetts.

Bryant quickly took the lead and, with a series of neat breaks, held grimly on for some time, but Smith, measuring up the slow table and turned cloth, jumped in with a break of 80 odd, followed by one of 176.

Wiles at least had the satisfaction of leaving his redoubtable opponent a double baulk to puzzle out. The break which the professional compiled from this apparently safe leave did not give him quite so much cause for glee.

The last Club player, W. H. Annetts, took over when the professional was some 600 points in front. A break of 186 by Smith did not ease the position. Smith, of course, played a good deal at the top of the table, but he made a point of playing a lot of all-round billiards and never allowed his play to become monotonous.

J. Barnes, his first opponent at snooker, was treated to a good display of potting reds and blues, but put up a very creditable show against the impossible odds.

Smith's game of snooker with Charlie Staker will be talked about in the Club for some considerable time. Smith, seeing his opponent was undoubtedly a class player, and in addition a good sport, made a point of enthusing into this game as much fun as possible. Repeatedly Staker found himself up against seemingly impossible snookers but, much to the amusement of the audience and Smith himself, he invariably found a way out. A beautifully potted black at the end brought him to within a dozen of the professional's score.

The trick shots, during which Smith employed a "slip" catch to stop the balls which flew off the table, held the company in roars of laughter and set the seal on a very enjoyable evening.

The Club, which has made great strides forward during the past couple of years, owns its own sports ground and in the near future it is hoped to build new premises.

Mr. Sidney Smith's offer to come and open the new Club and give an exhibition will, it is hoped, give the members another opportunity of meeting this very likeable and entertaining player.

Mr. E. E. Hockings has just left us to take up his duties as Chief Clerk at Woking Branch.

Mr. Hockings has been connected with Ludgershall Branch ever since he joined the Firm in 1909, with the exception of the time during the war when he was serving with His Majesty's Forces in India and Northern Russia.

All at Ludgershall congratulate Mr. Hockings on his promotion and wish him the best of luck.

SALISBURY PLAIN RACE CLUB.

This year there will only be four meetings instead of the usual five at the Windmill Hill Race Course (1 mile from Ludgershall and Tidworth). There will, however, be seven events at each meeting.

The dates of the various Meetings are as under :—

Saturday, 7th March—The Salisbury Plain Bona-fide Military Meeting.

Saturday, 14th March—The Royal Artillery Harriers' Bona-fide Hunt Meeting.

Wednesday, 18th March—2nd Cavalry Brigade Bona-fide Military Meeting.

Saturday, 28th March—The Tedworth Hunt Bona-fide Hunt Meeting.

Those interested in Jumping Meetings would thoroughly enjoy a visit to Windmill Hill. There is a wonderful view to be obtained and the riders and horses are in view the whole of the time. We would strongly urge those who have not had the pleasure of attending one of these meetings to come down this year and spend a pleasant afternoon on the Wiltshire Downs.

The meetings start at 2 p.m. each day and the last event is 5 p.m.

BRIGHTON.

In these days of luxurious travel, when one can slip down from London to Brighton in an electric train within the hour with every comfort, it may be interesting to quote from the *Brighton Herald* of 100 years ago :—

"THE COMING RAILWAY.—We rejoice to find that a numerous and respectfully signed requisition has been sent to the High Constable, requesting that gentleman to convene a meeting, to take into consideration the propriety of petitioning Parliament in favour of a railroad to this town, and to adopt such measures relative thereto as to the meeting may appear expedient.

"In a few years roads of this kind will be laid down to various points throughout the kingdom, whether for pleasure or business.

"The extremely cheap mode of travelling by means of steam-vessels has already considerably affected Brighton, and unless something be done to enable us to keep pace with the

age, we shall probably fall into the background, while other places are pushed forward in the career of national prosperity."

INDOOR BOWLS.

A really first-class indoor bowling rink has been made in the Princes Hall at the Aquarium by the lessee, Mr. W. A. Beech, which is the meeting place during the winter of those devotees of the game who have leisure to spend in the enjoyment thereof.

A large number of these attended the first annual dinner held on Friday, the 14th February. Over three hundred of both sexes sat down to an excellent dinner and concert for the nominal price of half-a-crown.

A very enjoyable evening was spent, with H. & G. S.'s products well to the fore.

FOOTBALL.

We are pleased to report that the Brighton and Hove Albion team are still going strong, and hope to be near the top of the league by the end of the season.

CRICKET.

Unfortunately the Sussex county team report a very bad year for 1935 as regards finance, the weather in many instances accounting for poor gates.

As regards the play, five members of the team each put up 1,000 runs or more, and one over 2,000, as follows :—John Langridge (2,035), A. Melville (1,756), J. Parks (1,608), H. Parks (1,530), James Langridge (1,425) and T. Cook (1,019).

Three bowlers got over 100 wickets each, namely, M. Tate (112), J. Parks (103) and James Langridge (102).

No doubt the writer of "Brewery Notes" will be sorry to learn of the financial troubles of the Sussex team, as, we believe, he has a soft spot in his heart for this sporting side.

STAINES.

FORMATION OF SOCIAL AND SPORTS CLUB.

On Saturday, January 25th, a general meeting of Brewery employees took place in order to discuss the formation of a Social and Sports Club at Staines. It was unanimously decided to proceed forthwith to organise such a club, and the election of the following

officers resulted :—*Chairman* : Mr. T. W. A. Jackson ; *Hon. Sec.* : Mr. A. Hunt ; *Hon. Treasurer* : Mr. J. Duncan ; *Committee* : Messrs. J. Wicks, W. Peters, A. Irwin, E. Woods ; Misses J. Goddard, P. Cooper and R. Mitcham.

The objects of the club are to promote various social activities such as dances, whist drives and indoor games in general, and to provide adequate exercise in the shape of football, cricket, swimming and boxing for the male members and football, netball and tennis for the lady members. There is, too, considerable optimism regarding the formation of a darts team, which appears to be a very popular sport among several members.

It is especially pleasing to record the enthusiasm displayed by all hands in this connection which has resulted in a membership of 75, practically the entire strength of the Brewery. Already the club has made a praiseworthy effort to establish itself on a sound footing by a popular dance held at the Staines Masonic Hall which resulted in a very satisfactory profit to swell the funds. This event was held on Friday, February 21st, and was undoubtedly an enormous success with an attendance of 135. Mr. A. Johnson successfully carried out the duties of M.C., whilst music was supplied by the popular Blue Star Orchestra. The catering arrangements were most ably carried out by Mr. H. Musgrave of the Phoenix Inn, Staines, to whom the club is indebted not only for his well appreciated service but for a generous contribution to its funds in addition. We are also pleased to record the attendance of Mr. T. W. A. Jackson, who has spared no effort in the club's interests and who kindly contributed two of the three "lucky spot" prizes which were presented.

For the following day a football match was arranged with the Salesian College, Chertsey, to be played on their ground. The heavy rain resulted in the match being abandoned shortly after half-time with the score standing 13-0 in favour of the College. For our part it is to be remembered that the Brewery team had had no previous opportunity to practice, this being entirely their first appearance on any ground. We are certain, however, that with a little training the Brewery will soon be holding its own on the football field.

The club promises to do exceedingly well in future in view of its opening success, and we can assure all Hop Leaf readers that everyone is looking forward to the August sports, when the Firm's employees from all districts have unlimited opportunities of engaging in friendly competition. Our lady members are particularly interested in the suggestion that they may have the chance of competing with a local Reading firm such as Messrs.

Huntley & Palmers on this occasion and, should this come about, we may be assured of a very enthusiastic display on their part.

The foregoing is an attempt to record the manner in which the Staines branch has set about its new development and we are particularly glad to observe such enthusiasm which may be expected from those engaged in the production of the famous Hop Leaf brands.

As yet the questions of club premises and the election of its higher officers are undecided, but we shortly hope to be able to announce these decisions when circumstances allow.



SIMONDS BEER

is

SUPER B

ARCHANGEL STOUT
(XXXXXXXX)

SPECIALLY BREWED FOR THE ARCTIC.

In NIPS and HALF BOTTLES.

*A full-bodied nutritious Stout
of great value for combating
Autumn chills and the rigours
of Winter.*

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