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APRIL, 1939.

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The  
HOP LEAF



THE HOP LEAF

GAZETTE



Issued  
Monthly  
by

H. & G. SIMONDS, LTD., READING.

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.*

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Vol. XIII.

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



Mr. F. BUCKLAND.

## MR. F. BUCKLAND.

Many interesting careers have been chronicled in these columns and, although full biographies of numerous members of our Staff would fill considerably more space than is available, we endeavour to portray the principal characteristics and events in the lives of those who appear in the frontispiece.

The history of Mr. Buckland, who has been a member of our travelling staff at Portsmouth Branch since 1925, is distinguished by his versatility, as exemplified by his ability to turn to a very useful and successful civil life, after attaining a commission from the ranks in the Royal Marines.

Although Mr. Buckland always had a very full programme to fulfil daily in the course of his business as traveller, calling upon Navy, Army and Royal Air Force customers, as well as Clubs and other civilian trade, he managed to find time to carry out his duties as a Councillor on the Gosport Borough Council, on which he has served for 12 years. He has held the office of Treasurer to the Gosport Club for the past eight years and has filled the position of Chairman of the local Conservative Association. In club life of the district he is well known and respected and serves on several Committees. Some years ago he won the Gosport and District Amateur Billiards Championship.

His service in the Royal Marines is a good record of his ability. Joining as a Bugler at Gosport in 1892, he served in various capacities in many parts of the world. From 1900 to 1903 he was on the staff at Gosport as Infantry Instructor, thence proceeding to China and serving there during the Russo-Japanese War, returning to England in 1906. On being promoted to Warrant Officer, he commissioned in H.M.S. *Monarch* in April, 1912, and stayed with her till April, 1914. He then commissioned in H.M.S. *Benbow* in October, 1914, in which ship he served till 1917 and took part in the Battle of Jutland. In March, 1918, he was promoted to Commissioned Royal Marine Gunner and in 1921 was selected to accompany the then Prince of Wales in H.M.S. *Renown* to India, China and Japan. In 1922, due to reductions in the Navy, he retired voluntarily with the rank of Lieutenant. He holds the 1914 Star, Victory and War Medals.

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

CHAT *from*

THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

(By C. H. P.)



THE UNIVERSE, 31ST MARCH, 1939.

In a recent debate in the House of Commons Lady Astor made once again a misleading point favoured by teetotal propagandists. This nation, she said, spent nearly three times as much on "drink" as on milk. A Labour member, defending the working man's glass of ale, pointed out that this platform argument takes no count of the enormous duty on alcoholic liquors. Although, he said, the noble lady, like himself, was a lifelong abstainer, he had not the slightest doubt that when she offered her guests a bottle of champagne her contribution towards it would be 42 times the amount which a working man would spend on his glass of beer.

WHY WIFE WAS DOUBTFUL.

Lord Ashfield's favourite story is about the widow whose husband had been fond of the girls, liked his liquor to excess, and was a pretty bad case all round. At his funeral the minister delivered a lengthy harangue which drew attention in roseate colours to the dead man's many virtues, and made no reference whatsoever to his shortcomings.

Anxiously the widow finally spoke up: "Are you sure you've got the right corpse?" she asked.

VICIOUS RESORTS.

Characterising bogus clubs as "vicious resorts," the *Observer* says: "Abuses connected with them are notorious. Magistrates and police alike deplore the state of the law. One plain thing is needed. If police-officers of a proper rank had the legal right to visit clubs on written authority and at specific times, the known existence of that right would enforce decency. Rarely, in practice, would the power of inspection have to be used."

## A GOOD JUDGE !

"Beer at the right time and in the right quantity is, in my opinion, a very good drink."—Mr. Justice Stable, at Manchester Assizes recently.

## A DARTS ENTHUSIAST.

"I hear your husband's a great darts enthusiast," said Mrs. Clark to Mrs. Green.

"Aye, he is indeed," replied Mrs. Green feelingly. "When he comes home from his work at night he darts to his tea, darts into the kitchen for a wash, darts upstairs and changes his clothes, and then darts into the nearest pub."

## A SPORTSMAN.

The Army's definition of a Sportsman is : One who—  
 Plays the game for the game's sake ;  
 Plays for his side and not for himself ;  
 Is a good winner and a good loser—modest in victory  
 and generous in defeat ;  
 Accepts all decisions in a proper spirit ;  
 Is chivalrous towards a defeated opponent ;  
 Is unselfish and always ready to help others to become  
 proficient.

## TAKE TIME !

Killing time is just suicide : time is the stuff of which life is made, therefore :

Take time to work—it is the price of success.  
 Take time to think—it is the source of power.  
 Take time to play—it is the secret of perennial youth.  
 Take time to read—it is the foundation of wisdom.  
 Take time to worship—it is the highway to reverence.  
 Take time to be friendly—it is the road to happiness.  
 Take time to dream—it is hitching your wagon to a star.  
 Take time to love and be loved—it is the privilege of the  
 gods.  
 Take time to look around—it is too short a day to be  
 selfish.  
 Take time to laugh—it is the music of the soul.  
 Take time to play with children—it is the joy of joys.  
 Take time to be courteous—it is the mark of a gentleman.

But, above all—Take time to live !

## ENJOYED IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Mrs. H. Warr of the Royal Exchange, Wokingham, finds THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE very interesting while on a holiday in Johannesburg, South Africa, and will be returning in May, after a very enjoyable holiday of four months in the sunshine of South Africa.

## WISDOM FOR MOTORISTS.

The most dangerous part of a motor-car is the "nut" which holds the steering wheel, especially if it is "well-oiled."

The lady driver is not half as bad as she is painted. She is much more dangerous off the road than on.

In his own opinion, the owner-driver is never in any way to blame for any accident in which he is involved. . . . The number of unprovoked assaults which ferocious telegraph poles make on inoffensive motorists and motor-cyclists is another example of the scandalous inefficiency of the Postmaster-General.

Statistics are commonly suspect. People look on them like plastic surgery—to conceal the truth. . . . Death is the last thing on earth in which we take any interest.

These remarks included in a statistical lecture to the Insurance Institute of Bedford by the General Secretary, are quoted in Safety News.

## RUM AND WHISKY AS REMEDIAL AGENCIES.

Some considerable time ago I mentioned rum's efficiency in counteracting the effect of phosgene (says a writer in the *Wine and Spirit Trade Record*). Later a high naval officer commended copious draughts of whisky as the only remedy should one be stifled by noxious fumes generated in submarines. I was reminded of this a few days ago when, at a gathering of technicians, Sir William Bragg, President of the Royal Society, unexpectedly referred to the subject. Sir William told us that from its earliest days, the Royal Society had interested itself in problems confronting the country's major industries. One of its first papers to be printed, detailed mining practice then current in the North of England. The early routine for treating men overcome by fire-damp and other forms of mine gas was strange, rough-and-ready, but apparently efficacious. For serious gas cases, the miners would dig a shallow trench in the ground, and lay the victim in it—presumably because the air below the pit-floor level would be free from gas. If this failed, the gassed miner was then hauled to the surface and "filled with strong ale." And if this final remedy proved unavailing, then, indeed (said the Royal Society's early investigator), the man's state was dire.

## WE ARE PREPARED!

The Government's decision regarding A.R.P. and business firms having over 50 people on the pay roll will doubtless cause a rush on firms supplying equipment. It is therefore gratifying to know that H. & G. Simonds Ltd. are so far advanced with their A.R.P. organisation. Mr. C. G. Lawrence, the personnel and equipment warden, informs me that all of our equipment has been to hand for some time and the whole of the personnel, numbering nearly 250, have practically completed their training. Congratulations are due to everyone who has helped in the organisation of the scheme, especially Capt. A. S. Drewe, M.C. (Chief Warden), Commander Dawson (second in command) and the heads of the various parties who have spent much time in training their squads. Much valuable assistance has also been rendered by our chemist, Mr. H. Woolcott, who has demonstrated the methods of dealing with war gases. All we can hope is that the training received will have achieved its object in showing foreign powers that should the occasion arise, we are prepared.

## ENGLISHMAN'S HOME NO LONGER HIS CASTLE.

Commander H. D. Simonds was elected President of Reading Property Owners' Association at the annual meeting, which was held in the Masonic Hall, Reading, on Tuesday, April 4th. He succeeds Mr. C. E. Hewett, who has been President for the past twenty years. Accepting office, Commander Simonds said there was a time when it was comparatively true to say that the Englishman's home was his castle, but that time had passed. The house-owner of the present day had so much to pay in various outgoings that he had very little left. These were very complicated days, and he felt that the Association was admirably constituted to look after the interests of the owner.

## AN IDEAL CHAIRMAN.

Mr. Charles Bennett's many friends will be delighted that his exceptional services to the Redlands Ward Conservative Association, as Chairman, have been honoured, says the *Berkshire Chronicle*. No one who has come into contact with Mr. Bennett in that capacity can fail to note the thoroughness as well as the ability with which he discharges his duties, and numerous past and present members of the Town Council owe much to him. He has an exceptionally good technique as the chairman of a meeting, performing his duties with cheerfulness and exactitude. On polling days he is *par excellence*, for his enthusiasm and energy inspire the whole of the workers.

(The gift took the form of a new Pye all-wave mains portable receiver.)

## BEER WAS BEST : GREW DAFFODILS IN SIX WEEKS.

A Croydon innkeeper, Mr. Alfred Hawkes, by pouring ale instead of water on to the bulbs, has grown a bowl of daffodils in six weeks—nearly one third of the usual time. Gardeners from all over the district have gone to see his blooms, which are two feet tall. "I don't know the first thing about horticulture," he stated. "I merely poured a drop of four ale on to the bulbs twice a week." A horticultural expert says "The hops in ale contain nitrogen, which is used extensively for manure. Daffodils usually take 14 to 15 weeks to grow, but the nitrogen qualities in the ale must have induced the bulbs to take quick root. Mr. Hawkes has been fortunate, for it was more than probable that the ale would have fermented and killed the bulbs. If anybody is thinking of employing his methods I advise him to use a bowl from which most of the ale can drain away. Not more than two tablespoonfuls should be applied each week."

## OPENING OF SIMONDS' SPORTS GROUND.

The Simonds' Sports Ground will be officially opened on Saturday, May 6th, 1939, Mr. W. Bradford informs me. The ceremony will be performed by F. A. Simonds, Esq., Chairman and Managing Director of the Firm. All sections of sports will be engaged and the following is a suggested programme, subject to confirmation by the Central Sports Committee:—

- 2.15 p.m. Players of all sections to parade in their respective sports attire.
- Opening address by F. A. Simonds, Esq.
- 2.30 p.m. Football match (10 minutes each way).
- 2.40 p.m. Tug-of-war (best of three pulls).
- 2.50 p.m. Tennis match (The Directors *v* Pick of Tennis Club).
- 3.0 p.m. Cricket match (Mr. E. S. Phipps' XI *v* Pick of Cricket Club).

Simonds' Band will give selections during the afternoon.

This should provide a very interesting display. All members of the Club are invited to attend and may bring a friend. Teas will be obtainable on the ground.

The grounds are in perfect condition and no member of the Club should miss this opportunity of inspecting the new Sports Ground at its best.

Admission will be by Berkeley Avenue entrance, both for cars and pedestrians.

## LEST WE FORGET.

The international situation is still very grave but we should not fail to remember that but for the prompt and very praiseworthy action of our Prime Minister, Mr. Neville Chamberlain, in September, we should now have been engaged in a European War. I was glad to see Mr. Malcolm MacDonald, the Colonial Minister, pay remarkable tribute to the Premier :—

“ There is in some quarters a disposition to disturb confidence in Mr. Chamberlain. If I may say so, I can speak of him perhaps in rather a detached way.

“ If I were to confess it, as I have to him, I came into the Cabinet with a prejudice against him. I don't belong to his party, and I have no axe to grind.

“ I only know this—that the health and strength of that man should be among the most cherished things with his fellow-countrymen. His integrity, his courage, and his wisdom are priceless assets to us to-day.

“ He has got a capacity for decision and action which is unsurpassed, and if it be fair weather or it be foul, after three years of having the honour of serving under him I would not choose any other leader than that remarkably great man.”



## BREWERY JOTTINGS.

(By W. DUNSTER.)

An event which I am told “ went down very well ” was a darts match between members of the General Office Staff and the Delivery Office in the Social Club. The latter won by a “ short neck ” and the prize was a gallon of beer.

We had hopes of seeing Mr. R. Broad of the General Office in the final of the Billiards Hospital Cup this year but it was not to be, for although “ well fancied,” he lost by a short margin in the semi-final. Nevertheless, he is to be congratulated on doing so well and there is always a next time.

Another real disappointment came our way this year, for the Reading Boys had been playing so well they were expected to reach the final of the Schools Football Shield. However, Chesterfield Boys beat them at Elm Park in a most entertaining match and every one who saw this plucky lot of lads will hope they now reach the final. In spite of the fact that they only had ten players for over half the game, the Chesterfield Boys won by 1 to 0, and entered the semi-final. As some consolation, one of the Reading Boys is now chosen to play for England against Wales, whilst another one goes as Reserve.

Whilst on the subject of football, although the Simonds Athletic Football Club have been having a thin time most of the season, they have apparently staged a “ come-back ” and the last two matches have been won in fine style in spite of the fact they have been behind at half-time. I wonder whether our friend Mr. F. Pusey has discovered some new gland treatment to give them as well as the lemons at the half-way stage. Well, sincere congratulations to the players.

Reading Football Club are much as they were and near to the top of the league table (not near enough for promotion this time) but unfortunately their displays have not been consistent this season with the consequence that they are *thereabouts* but not *there*. Now that a new manager has recently been appointed, naturally promotion talk will be very much revived (Hitler permitting) for next season.

We had a visit the other day from Mr. H. Treadgold who used to be a member of the Delivery Office Staff and later, when the Catering Department came into being, he was transferred there. However, he had trouble with his leg and after a while in hospital at Reading and a return to duty for a time he had to give up all ideas of work—a terrible blow for such a young active fellow. Now after a space of *two years* (and although walking with the aid of sticks) he has been informed he will soon be all right again—in fact,

a complete cure, after a long spell in hospital at Oxford. He is eagerly looking forward to starting work again soon.

"Flu" can be pretty devastating and I think it hits the family man as much as anyone. Thus one of our staff, with his wife, girl and boy all stricken down in this way and he himself getting up early, cooking and taking up breakfasts before coming to work, making hurried and very improvised arrangements for the mid-day meal, and then to catch the "Flu" germ himself, is what is known in these enlightened days as "tough luck." This sort of thing happened to Mr. H. Neighbour but he personally was able to resume his business duties after a few days.

Casualties. I am informed that Mr. A. Comley who has recently had a very severe illness is now improving, although not able yet to return to duty. Mr. C. Cockbill (Charley to one and all) has had a very serious set-back and been laid aside with a critical illness, although the latest reports are much better. Mr. S. Collins of the General Office Staff during a recent week-end had to be hurriedly rushed to hospital owing to appendicitis.

News has just been received of the death of Mr. G. B. Charlton who served the Firm for a good number of years. Mr. Charlton was at one time Chief Clerk at Portsmouth Branch and was also manager when the Firm had a Branch at Hastings. Doubtless many old-timers recall him. THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE was sent to him regularly each month by Mr. C. Bennett and in a letter to this latter gentleman, Mrs. Charlton mentions how much he appreciated news each month of the Firm and its activities. A large congregation attended the funeral service which was held at St. Anselm's Church, Hayes. The service was fully choral and conducted by the Revd. E. F. Bailey. The late Mr. Charlton was 73 years of age. A reference to the death of Mr. Charlton was made by the Revd. E. F. Bailey at the annual Parochial Church Meeting, as follows:—

"Mr. Charlton," he said, "was a familiar friend and I know his counsel was sought by many throughout Hayes. We know his loyalty. He was a man always ready to fight the good fight but at the same time he was a real peacemaker."

Our sincere sympathy is hereby expressed to Mrs. Charlton in her loss.

Miss E. Lohr of the Correspondence Office was married to Mr. S. Marcham of the Engineers Department during the early days of March. To mark the occasion a meeting was held in the (now celebrated) Waiting Room under the Chairmanship of Mr. F. C. Hawkes where a large number of the staff attended at the presentation made by that gentleman.

Mr. Hawkes said: "I have been asked to call together this gathering for a few minutes this evening, in order to give voice to Miss Lohr, on behalf of her colleagues and to say how sorry we are to learn she has been persuaded to leave us and we all very much regret her going. We shall be sorry to lose her very efficient services and with the usual good feeling of the staff of this great Company, of which we are all so proud to belong, we wish to speed her with these splendid gifts, as a token of our good wishes for her future happiness and also as a token of esteem for her good services since she has been with us. With your good wishes I ask Miss Lohr if she will accept these presents of a case of cutlery, a mirror and barometer, and we hope they will always remind her of us at The Brewery whilst we are working and she is having an easy time at home" (laughter and loud applause).

Miss Lohr, who was obviously overcome by the warmth of the reception accorded her thanked everyone for their most wonderful gifts to her which would always remind her of the happy times she had spent at The Brewery. Once again she said "Thank you all ever so much" (applause).

This story deserves to be true. A boy on one of the machines in the Bottling Stores whilst at work heard a mysterious swish sound and eventually some figures with gas masks hove in sight. This was too much for him and he ran for his life, making remarks it is as well not to repeat. The explanation is said to be that it was the H. & G. S. decontamination party armed with brooms (hence the swish sound), at A.R.P. practice.

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

The Salisbury Arms, Hungerford (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—  
Mr. A. Clifford.

The Sun Inn, Castle Street, Reading (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—  
Mr. A. C. Davey.

The Barley Mow, Blewbury (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—Mr.  
C. Holmes.

The Bell & Bottle, Littlewick Green (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—  
Mr. J. R. Russell.

The Red Lion, Wycombe Marsh (Wheeler's Wycombe Breweries  
Ltd.)—Mr. W. E. Ellis.

We much regret to record the death of Mr. Arthur Keep, our tenant of the Red House, Highclere, who died on the 3rd March, 1939. Mr. Keep had been the tenant of this House since the beginning of 1929. He was badly wounded during the late War and this no doubt hastened his end. To all relatives our sincere sympathy is hereby expressed.

## MR. C. E. GOUGH.

We are happy to announce that Mr. C. E. Gough has made a wonderful recovery from his recent serious illness and has returned home after nearly two months in a Nursing Home at Paignton.

In a letter received from Mr. Gough, we are asked to express his deep gratitude to the numerous friends who sent letters of sympathy and enquiry to Mrs. Gough during his prolonged illness. These expressions were of great comfort to Mrs. Gough and were eloquent of the affection in which her husband is still held at Headquarters, despite his retirement of over two years. With the return of strength, Mr. Gough hopes personally to reply to all those who so feelingly commiserated with him in the great trial through which he passed. He alone knows how far the cheering messages helped him through the weary hours of suffering and his thanks are full and sincere.

## "LONDON CALLING."

The wind blows fresh : the days are lengthening  
And Piccadilly feels the call of Spring.  
Along the margin of the Serpentine  
The ripples shine ;  
While mallard-heads glow green  
With emerald sheen  
And ducklings, like small spheres of mottled fluff,  
Ride gallantly  
(As on a sea)  
The little lapping waves they find so rough.

And down the Edgware Road  
Are coster-barrows with their coloured load  
Of hyacinth, mimosa, violet.  
Ah ! let's forget  
How loth was stubborn Winter to depart.  
Come, come, a coin or two !  
Buy violets blue ;  
And welcome April in a snowdrop's heart.

S. E. COLLINS.

## A.R.P. TEST ON THE FIRM'S PREMISES.

ADMIRABLE WORK BY THE VOLUNTEERS.

BOARD MEETING INTERRUPTED.

Our Board of Directors, the staff and the employees in Bridge Street were startled on Monday morning, March 27th, by the repeated sounding of the sirens at the Brewery. But, although they were startled, they knew what it meant, and within a few seconds they were working on a set plan for the protection of the lives and property at the Brewery in a mock air raid. It was the second daylight test which has been carried out by the firm ; the first one, however, only involved a small section of the staff and employees, whereas this one included practically the whole of the Brewery premises, with the exception of the actual brewing department, and some 500 employees were engaged in it. It speaks well of the attention that has been devoted to air raid precautions work at the firm that the whole of the staff sought the protection that has been provided and the A.R.P. volunteers, 200 of whom were engaged out of a total of 245, carried out their tasks in a prompt and highly praiseworthy manner.



The Brewery Fire Brigade answers the call to the "Fire" at the Old South Berks Brewery.



Firemen dealing with the "Outbreak."

The scheme opened with the supposed sighting of enemy aircraft over the North Sea at 10 a.m., and the first warning was received at Reading at 10.50 a.m. The police, who were co-operating with the Brewery on this occasion, telephoned the warning, and within 52 seconds the brewery sirens were sounding. Shortly after 11 a.m. the "all clear" signal was given. During the intervening period there were a fire at the Old South Berks Brewery—with realistic effects produced by a smoke bomb—three casualties (one gas, one broken arm, and a broken leg), and an imaginary gas bomb. The Brewery Fire Brigade (under Chief Officer G. F. Andrews) dealt efficiently with the fire, making a particularly smart turn-out, and the decontamination squad cleared the area where the gas bomb fell. In this connection Mr. Venner is to be highly commended for the time he has put in during the past few weeks, training his men. The calls on the First Aid squad were numerous and the efficient manner in which they dealt with the "casualties" reflects the greatest credit on Mr. T. Kent, who was in charge, and his assistant, Mr. Howells.

#### A SECOND ALARM.

Just as everyone was settling down to the business of the day again, a second alarm was sounded. This time the members of the Board were about to hold a meeting, but this had to be postponed for the time being in order that the directors could carry out their share of the A.R.P. arrangements. The directors taking part were Mr. John H. Simonds, Mr. Louis A. Simonds, Major G. S. M. Ashby, Mr. A. J. Redman, Mr. F. V. H. Keighley and Mr. R. St. J. Quarry.

A particularly good example of smart working was shown by the wardens. In the offices, hundreds of pounds in cash, some 200 ledgers from all departments, bank receipts and other papers had to be stored away in safes before the staff could seek shelter. Yet this was accomplished, and the whole of the staff were in the dug-outs within five minutes of the sound of the first siren. Great promptness was also displayed by the Shelter Wardens. This second alarm was the acid test as no one expected a second "raid" so soon after the first and the response in this case even surpassed that of the first, everyone being at their posts, or



Section of First Aid Party taking "Casualty" to First Aid Post.



Another view of First Aid Party in action watched by the Chief Warden, Capt. A. S. Drewe, M.C.

below ground, within four minutes of the alarm. The arrangements at the Power House were in the capable hands of Major Ashby, in conjunction with Mr. Jefferis and Mr. White.

The exercises were watched by Colonel J. P. D. Robinson (A.R.P. Regional Officer), Councillor J. E. Edminson (chairman of the Reading A.R.P. Committee), Mr. T. A. Burrows (Chief Constable of Reading), Commander J. Hassard-Short (A.R.P. Officer for Reading), and Captain A. S. Drewe and Commander P. F. M. Dawson (head wardens at Messrs. H. & G. Simonds).

Captain A. S. Drewe, who had charge of the arrangements, said afterwards: "I am very satisfied with the results. Of course mistakes were made, and we can now rectify these. We have, in fact, learnt quite a lot from these exercises, and with a little more practice we shall get very much better. The First Aid party were exceptionally good, and the Fire Brigade and auxiliary firemen also did well. Everyone was well protected by the time the raiding aeroplanes could have reached Reading."

#### A.R.P. NOTES:

The month of March has seen great activity in the world of A.R.P., both in the town and at The Brewery.

Lectures and practical demonstration in First Aid, and with live bombs, etc., have proceeded apace at The Brewery, as many as three or four squads being in training on some evenings. The practical demonstrations with bombs have evoked great interest. Several photographs of squads tackling these in a furnished room have appeared in the local press, where it was reported that The Brewery scheme is one of the most advanced in the district.

On Monday, March 13th, a huge A.R.P. demonstration was staged in the Town when units representing all branches of A.R.P. were inspected by Wing-Commander Hodsell, Inspector-General of A.R.P. Later they paraded in uniform at the Town Hall and were addressed by the Inspector. H. & G. Simonds Ltd. were represented by The Brewery Fire Brigade and a further 170 of our A.R.P. contingent paraded in the balcony to hear the address.

A course of lectures to the whole of our A.R.P. personnel has also been given by Colonel Cutting, O.B.E., on explosives.

On Monday, March 27th, a state of emergency was declared at The Brewery in Areas 3 and 4 and a part of Area 2. All stations and personnel in these areas were fully equipped as in war-time and various "incidents," including air-raids, were staged. Mustard bombs, casualties and fires were dealt with by the various squads who gained much valuable experience. A Ladies' section of the First Aid squad has now been formed and lectures and instruction have commenced.

Altogether, March proved a busy month during which valuable training was given and many lessons learned.

C. G. LAWRENCE.



## A NATURE NOTE.

(BY C.H.P.).

EARLY LONG-TAILED TITS' NEST.

BILLING AND COOING.

*One need not travel far to study the wonders of wild nature's ways. A favourite walk of mine is to proceed down Southcote Lane and out into Burghfield Road by the Bridge. On arriving at the Cunning Man you turn right-handed and proceed by Burghfield Mill to Sulhamstead. Turning left-handed here you wend your way onwards until you come out by the Rising Sun, Burghfield, where, if you feel so disposed, you can catch a bus for home.*

*It was on Saturday, March 18th, that I revisited these familiar haunts—very familiar to me for I have roamed these roads for more years now than perhaps I care to remember. And this spring, there was the same succession of tableaux events in the shape of many varieties of birds and beasts. Hares and rabbits, squirrels, rats, voles, mice, a blood-thirsty little weasel, pheasants, partridges, magpies, snipe, redshanks, tree-creepers, long-tailed tits, nuthatches, etc., were all thrown on the screen for my benefit. And I have only mentioned a fraction of the living things I saw and heard. Nor must I forget the little chiff-chaff, the first of the migrants to arrive. His familiar notes were as welcome as ever and he was the first I have heard this year.*

*And then there were the lovely flowers, for primroses and white violets are very beautiful. I gathered a small bunch of both and did so with a child-like fascination—a fascination that only deepens with the years. I think there is something about the scent of freshly gathered primroses that brings back happy memories in a way which few other experiences can, though it is much the same with violets.*

AN EXQUISITE STRUCTURE.

*As I was picking some of these delightful blooms I heard the zit-zit of the long-tailed tit and noticed a pair of these quaint little birds evidently on business bent. For many years in succession now I have found the exquisite nest of the long-tailed tit in this district and I*

*soon set to work to see if they were building again, though March 18th was rather early for them. However, five minutes had not elapsed before I espied in the hedge one of these beautiful oval-shaped structures composed of lichens, wool, moss, felted together with masterly skill and cosily lined with hundreds of feathers. I stood still for a few minutes behind the hedge and then the lady tit arrived and from a two foot range I watched her working with a fairy-like delicacy and deftness placing the feathers in position. As many as 2,000 feathers have been found in one such nest. This nest was then practically complete and now contains eggs. The bottle-tit, as the long-tailed tit is often called, lays from seven to ten, sometimes more, rosy-white eggs.*

REDSHANK SCOLDS ME.

*Nearing Sulhamstead I was strolling across the water meadows when I flushed a redshank. He swooped down quite close to me and gave me a good scolding for trespassing on his preserves. Redshanks are accustomed to scold you when they are nesting, but though I made a thorough search among the tufts of grass, etc., I could not succeed in locating his home. The fuss this bird created aroused others who made a great din in the air, their peculiarly plaintive notes "tu tu ee" being uttered incessantly and all around me. Close at hand, the redshank's red legs are very noticeable, while in flight the predominance of white in the bird's plumage makes him easily distinguishable from other members of his tribe. These birds may also be distinguished by their rapid and jerky flight.*

MUTUAL AFFECTION.

*I was greatly interested in a pair of pigeons. There is something peculiarly winning in the gentle cooing of the pigeon to its mate, while, when the two are together, they are seen frequently putting their bills together like two amorous lovers and concerting themselves with such evident symptoms of mutual affection that the phrase "billing and cooing" has come to be a familiar one in reference to the fond dalliance of lovers.*

## HEDGE-SPARROW BLUE!

I found a good number of nests of the thrush, blackbird, missel thrush and hedge-sparrow. Though quite common, the nest of the hedge-sparrow is none the less a very fine work of art and what a rich rare colour are the turquoise blue eggs. What lady does not know the meaning of "hedge-sparrow blue! The labour of building a nest requires the conjoint aid of the male and female birds, and when this ingenious cradle has been completed and the eggs disposed on its soft lining, they would, in most cases, perish were the female unrelieved in brooding. But it is not a mere share of labour that is undertaken by the feathered pair; the affectionate interchange of attention is manifested in the most engaging ways. Sometimes the male is seen to bring food to the brooding hen, at other times he perches himself on a neighbouring bough and solaces her with his most cheerful and sweetest notes. Then he will take her place and continue the maternal duties, while she roams abroad for a short time in search of needful food and exercise.

## JOY AND BEAUTY.

The countryside now abounds with joy and beauty. There are the sweet song of the birds, the starry-shaped golden blooms of the little celandine lighting up the sunbathed banks with a thousand lamps, great masses of primroses carpeting the woods, and the wonderfully restful green with which both copse and meadow are painted. We can but imperfectly account for the green so universal in herbage and plant, but we may gratefully acknowledge the beneficence of the Creator, in clothing the earth with a colour the most pleasing and the least fatiguing to our eyes. We may be dazzled with the brilliancy of a flower-garden, but we repose at leisure on the verdure of a grove or meadow.

## SPRING IS HERE!

On Good Friday morning I noticed that a dozen or so sand martins had returned to the sandpit close to our playing fields, where they nested by the score last year. Evidently they are determined to be in time for the grand opening of the Sports Ground on May 6th.

Yes, winter at length is past and open-handed spring has come!

So

Up, let us to the fields away,  
And breathe the fresh and balmy air;  
The bird is building in the tree,  
The flower has opened to the bee,  
And health, and love, and peace are there.

(And I would like here to tender my great gratitude to many readers from far and near for their very kind expressions—far too kind I think—concerning my simple little Nature Notes.)

## CAVERSHAM SOCIAL CLUB.

A very happy and enjoyable event took place recently at Balmore Hall, Caversham, the occasion being the Club Supper and Concert. About 80 members and guests were present and participated in an excellent evening's entertainment under the Chairmanship of their genial and popular President, Mr. J. B. Holtom.

During the repast, the usual toasts were duly honoured, that of "The Club" being proposed by Mr. F. Weeks and responded to by the President, and "The Visitors" by Mr. H. C. Terry and response by Mr. H. Makepeace.

The programme which followed proved a pronounced success; items by the popular artistes Messrs. Audley and Gower, songs by Mr. J. Hinton, and the ever-amusing and clever conjuror and ventriloquist Professor Gazeka, all being ably rendered.

The Club enjoys a very happy and sound position financially, due to the untiring efforts of the President, Chairman (Mr. T. E. Hughes) and the popular Secretary (Mr. P. J. Woolliams), backed by an efficient committee, who always strive to make the best possible efforts to maintain the true sense of comradeship which always prevails in this Club, being situated as it is, so centrally in Caversham and well known for its excellent building and commodious appointment.

The catering was carried out by Messrs. Parslow, satisfaction being expressed on all sides at the excellent way in which the service was rendered.

Messrs. A. W. C. Bowyer and S. J. Moore were also present and much enjoyed the proceedings. We hope for a continuance of very happy relations with our old friends, the Caversham Social Club.

## PRESENTATION TO MR. AND MRS. GRIFFIN.

At the War Memorial Club recently an interesting ceremony took place in the form of a presentation to Mr. and Mrs. Griffin, steward and stewardess of the Club, on the eve of their departure to take up a similar position at High Wycombe, says the *Thame Gazette*. In a few introductory remarks, the Club Secretary, Mr. W. J. Arnold, said that Sir Hew Fanshawe had very kindly consented to make the presentation, which had been subscribed for by the members in appreciation of the services rendered by Mr. and Mrs. Griffin. He also thanked Mr. J. Clements for his work in organising the collection for the gift. In making the presentation, which was an eight-day chiming clock, Sir Hew Fanshawe spoke of the services rendered not only to the Club by Mr. Griffin, but also to various organisations outside, notably the football club and the local detachment of the Territorials, of which he was a sergeant, and in regard to the latter, Sir Hew urged everyone to give all the support they could to that organisation. Both Mr. and Mrs. Griffin, in accepting the gift, suitably responded and wished the Club and the new steward and stewardess every success and happiness.

## WENDOVER AND DISTRICT DARTS LEAGUE.

The above league have now completed their list of fixtures, and we have to congratulate the winning team from the Red Lion, Great Missenden, Bucks (Wheeler's Wycombe Breweries Ltd.) They have gained the coveted distinction of "Champions of the League" for the first time in a very decisive manner, having gone through the whole of their matches undefeated, and this we believe has not been accomplished since the league was first started over ten years ago. The winners, therefore, are the proud possessors of the Challenge Cup and medals for each member of the team.

Licensed houses in the districts referred to, engage in these league games and many very pleasant evenings, home and away, have been spent in skill and friendly rivalry. Curiously enough, this is the only "Simonds" house competing in this league, and it would appear that steady training under the "Hop Leaf" has been at last rewarded with emphasis.

Our very popular host at the Red Lion is now anxious to repeat the performance with his team in the next tourney and we wish every success to all concerned.

The Red Lion is situated in the main street of Great Missenden, and a happy welcome will be extended to all visitors to this old and well appointed hostelry.

## TENNIS.

In the absence of Mr. L. A. Simonds, Mr. F. H. V. Keighley was in the Chair when the Tennis Section of the Sports Club held their General Meeting on Thursday, 23rd March.

It was agreed that subscriptions this year will cover the cost of supplying balls for six months (April to September, as last season), and were fixed for

	£	s.	d.
Co-opted members ... ..	1	2	6
Wives of members of the Sports Club ...	12	6	

*Officers and Committee* :—Mr. L. A. Simonds (Chairman), Mr. T. W. Bradford (Hon. Treasurer), Mr. R. Huddy (Hon. Secretary), Commander P. F. M. Dawson (Team Selector), Miss A. M. Prosser, Mrs. R. Huddy, Messrs. P. James, C. L. Langton, L. Farrance and J. Hillier.

The club has entered for the Berkshire Inter-Club Championship in which the following teams will be met :—Wokingham, Bulmershe, Southcote Park, Abingdon and Lambourn ; and friendly matches have been arranged with Messrs. Courage & Co. (Alton), Huntley & Palmers, and other local clubs.

Included in the programme of events for May 6th—the date of the official opening of the Sports Ground—is a match The Directors *v.* The Tennis Club.

Singles tournaments will be held during the season and entry forms will be available in due course.

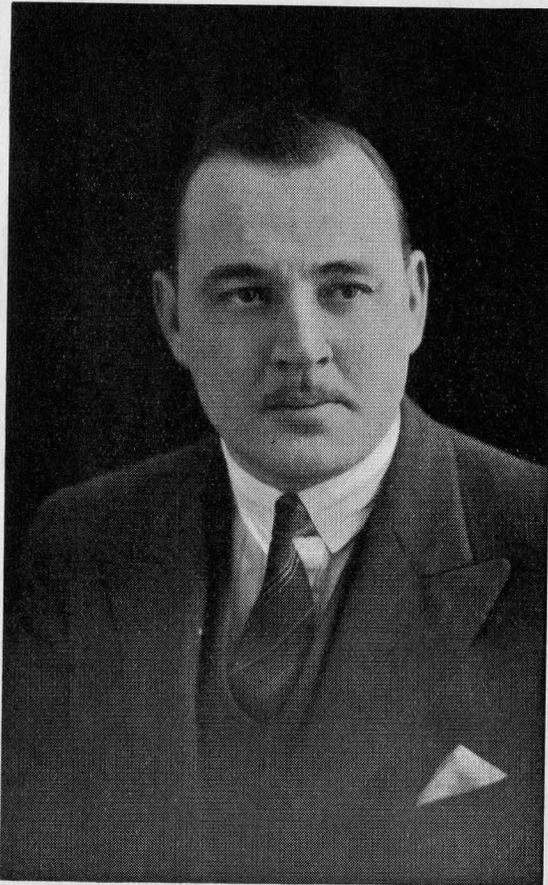
Commander Dawson is holding a stock of rackets made by a well-known London Sports Firm. These rackets may be seen at any time on application to him and can be purchased through the club : payment by instalments will be arranged, if desired. Prices range from 20/- to 50/-.

R.H.

SIMONDS BEER IS BEST.

MR. F. D. LAMBOURN.

(Manager of the Marquis of Lorne.)



Mr F. D. LAMBOURN.

Born at Priest Hill, Caversham, in 1909, and educated at the Collegiate School, Reading, where he was recognised as a keen sportsman, excelling in tennis and football, Mr. Lambourn made a popular Prefect.

He started work in the Insurance world at the age of 16 and, after some years, commenced his own business as a haulage contractor with one lorry. After some time of very bad luck, in

which accidents were common, business improved and he applied for permission to extend his business. The permission was opposed and, at this stage, Mr. Lambourn sustained a serious accident, the first of many car accidents in which he was always the victim. But in the interests of his budding business he went to the court on crutches when he should have been in hospital.

In no condition to enforce his application, the case was lost—and his business. Then followed the series of accidents to which reference has been made, so that in the end hardly a bone was left that had not at some time been broken. After the last, the doctor assured him that he would never play tennis again, that he would remain a cripple. He refused to accept this as final and took up the game again (though each time it meant hours of excruciating pain afterwards) and is now as expert as ever. He won the Caversham Club Tennis Tournament twice in succession, and was in the finals for the hat trick when another accident occurred and he was compelled to retire.

Spotted by Talent Scout No. 1 (Mr. H. C. Davis), he was given his opportunity at the Grosvenor House, where the admiration of his friends was gained from the way in which he overcame his disabilities. Nine months later he was transferred to the Marquis of Lorne, Reading, as Assistant Manager. There his work was of such quality and his popularity so evident that after a further three months of intensive work he was offered the Management of the House.

He married Miss McMillan, well known "first sales" at Wellsteeds, Reading, and at once commenced laying the foundation of a promising business career.

Well liked by all who meet him, the first to lend a hand to those less fortunate, his success is assured.

### LONDON TO BRIGHTON WALK AT 73!

TRAINED ON BEER.

Thirty years ago doctors warned Mr. Trevor C. Davis, of Sudbrook-lane, Petersham, that his heart could not stand the strain of competitive walking and told him he must give up heavy exercise.

Mr. Davis laughed and took no notice. He smiled at the thought of a weak heart on Saturday evening when tired, but happy, he walked briskly through the dusk into Brighton after covering the 52 miles from London in 12 hours 30 minutes to celebrate his seventy-third birthday. He thus accomplished his greatest ambition in walking from London to Brighton in under thirteen hours and so creating an almost unbeatable veteran's record.

Shortly after his arrival, Mr. Davis told me his recipe for fitness. "Age is nothing if you keep fit with regular exercise," he said. "I am not a walker; I pride myself on my running but I felt I had to do the walk to prove the doctors were absolutely wrong. I could do the walk again tomorrow if I wanted to."

#### A GOOD TONIC.

Mr. Davis told me he trained for his walk on two pints of beer a day. "There is nothing like beer for a good tonic," he said. "I eat very little meat and live mostly on uncooked foods."

Mr. Davis started competitive running in 1886 and has taken part in long-distance walking and running events for the past half-century. Every Saturday he does a ten-mile run with Blackheath Harriers and he does a twenty-mile walk on Sundays.

Mr. F. D. Holt, of the Blackheath Harriers, who accompanied Mr. Davis on the walk, told me: "I am fifty years younger than he is, but I had to do my best to keep up with him. He is a grand old walker."—*Brighton Herald*.

#### THE WHITE LION LADIES' DART TEAM.

The White Lion, Egham, ladies' dart team excelled on Monday evening, when they were successful in a match against the ladies of the Essex Arms, Long Ditton, by three games to nil, says the *Staines and Egham News* of March 31st. They have thus won the cup and medals put up by the Isleworth Brewery for the Twickenham Ladies' Dart league.

The league in which this contest took place is the only ladies' dart league in this area, and this is the first year in which a trophy has been put up by the Brewery Co. for ladies' teams.

This achievement of the White Lion ladies is particularly remarkable as the Essex Arms had been leading all through the season and had been described as the "queens of the district."

The White Lion gained six points in the two matches. Mrs. Wise finished four games, Mrs. Walters one, and Mrs. Riddick the deciding game.

The cup and medals will be presented at the Fox Inn, Twickenham (the headquarters of the league) in the near future. Great credit is due to Mr. Leecher, the licensee of the Fox Inn, for the hard work and trouble he has taken in organising this ladies' dart league.

The White Lion ladies attribute their success to the encouragement given by their captain, Mrs. Scutchey (hostess of the White Lion), and the support given them by followers from the same house.

#### A GREAT THOUGHT.

*When we talk about what civilization has gradually accomplished, we must remember that civilization has proceeded from the exercise of qualities residing within man himself, and not from physical influences operating from without—hence civilization, so far from being a product of the "surroundings," is merely a proof of the existence in man of latent potentialities, which no surroundings could create, however much they might aid in stimulating them into activity. As it is, there is no race of men so degraded that they cannot be taught in the course of a very few generations to display mental qualities to which the mere animal, however long he may have dwelt within the influence of civilized man, can lay no claim. Man can not only look backwards by an effort of memory, but anticipate the possible joys and sorrows of the future, which no animal can do. He can entertain abstract conceptions of good and evil, of beauty and its opposites, of right and wrong. He can work out the most intricate intellectual problems by processes even more intricate than the problems to be solved; and finally, when we regard man in the loftiest of his relations, we find him in possession of a sense of responsibility, not only to his fellow men but to the supreme Ruler of the Universe; he has almost always some abstract conception, however vague, of a Being whom his eye hath not seen, but to whom his instincts tell him that he must one day render an account of his doings whilst on earth, and from whom he expects to receive a future life; a hope in which the most developed of brutes has no part.*

#### READING EXTENSION.

Reading justices have granted an application by licensees in the borough for a half-hour's extension until 10.30 p.m. for the whole of the summer—instead of for three months as was done last year. The extension will operate from April 15th to October 7th.

#### LOST—AND FOUND.

A nine-gallon barrel of beer was found by a lorry-driver who nearly ran into it in the middle of the Beaconsfield-Slough road. It was taken to the Police Station to await the owner.

RED LION,  
KINGSMEAD STREET,  
BATH.

To Editor, THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE.

13th March, 1939.

Dear Sir,—I am always interested in our HOP LEAF GAZETTE, but I was more so in the February issue when I read about South Georgia. It was there that on the 8th February, 1906, I spent the 21st anniversary of my coming on this mortal coil (or is it toil).

My ship was H.M.S. *Sappho* and we had previously been up to the Faroe Islands and Iceland. Returning to Chatham for refit we left the latter place on the 3rd September, 1905, for Newfoundland, arriving at St. John's some eight or nine days later. After a short stay we went north, then through the Gulf of St. Lawrence, calling at Forteau Bay in Labrador, down to Sydney, Cape Breton, and back to St. John's. We then proceeded south to Halifax, Nova Scotia, and Trinidad, West Indies, passing close to Martinique some little time after the eruption.

A few of us were ashore in Port of Spain one morning when we heard a gun from the ship and saw the Blue Peter flying. That meant "Repair on board at once," which we did, and soon were steaming full speed to Georgetown, British Guiana, to quell a revolt. I remember we had to get all stores on the fore-castle and all hands had to "jump" the ship over the Bar (not Simonds' Bar).

We arrived back at Trinidad where we spent Christmas and on the 1st January, 1906, we left for Rio de Janeiro where we arrived on the 16th. Then south again to Monte Video; from there we were despatched to South Georgia, the other two ships going to the Falklands. I remember it was "very, very rough" and I was "verra, verra seasick" and, in my youth and innocence, kept saying to myself "Why doesn't the Captain turn back?"

In those days, of course, we had no refrigerators or bakeries and our mainstay was salt pork, bully beef and biscuits and, of course, the good old pea doo. The biscuits were very often weevily and we used to put them in our tea (weevils and all) with plenty of sugar and the "Feed" was called Nibbies.

We stayed six days at South Georgia then six days back to Monte Video. From there twelve days across to St. Helena, then up to the West Coast of Africa, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Bathurst (Gambia), then to Madeira and home. Altogether a very interesting seven months' trip for a youngster like me.

Yours very sincerely,

D. KENNEDY.

## WORDS OF WISDOM.

Virtue's its own reward. So's jollity.

Every man feels instinctively that all the beautiful sentiments in the world weigh less than a single lovely action.

True friendship is like sound health, the value of it is seldom known until it be lost.

Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.

Nature cannot be surprised in undress. Beauty breaks in everywhere.

There is no beautifier of complexion, or form, or behaviour, like the wish to scatter joy and not pain around us.

That country is the fairest which is inhabited by the noblest minds.

There is a great deal of self-denial and manliness in poor and middle-class houses, in town and country, that has not got into literature, and never will, but that keeps the earth sweet.

To the attentive eye, each moment or year has its own beauty and in the same field it beholds, every hour, a picture which was never seen before, and which shall never be seen again.

Personal force never goes out of fashion. That is still paramount to-day, and, in the moving crowd of good society, the men of valour and reality are known, and rise to their natural place.

## THE HISTORY OF CHEMICAL WARFARE.

(By Commander P. F. M. DAWSON.)

Although chemical warfare was first practised on the grand scale in the Great War, the idea was considered many years ago. Recently, at a lecture, the writer was informed by a member of the audience of an interesting historical example in this respect. This gentleman was staying with the late Jam Sahib of Nawanagar ("Ranji," the famous cricketer) at Jamnagar, the capital of his State, and towards the end of his visit his host took him to an old temple and showed him a book which was written in Sanskrit about 3,000 years ago. This book contained a chapter which, when translated, was headed: "Thirty-two methods of Destruction in War." One of those methods was described as follows: "The use of poisonous airs, but be careful that the wind is in your favour!"

Coming to more modern times it was in 1811 that Admiral Lord Cochrane thought out his famous secret plans "for attacking and destroying the enemy's fleet by means of smoke clouds accompanied by noxious, though not necessarily deadly fumes." These plans were considered by the Admiralty at the time, and it was intended to employ them against the French fleet in Toulon, but the idea was eventually abandoned. The question of their use was again raised at the time of the Crimean War, and Cochrane, then aged eighty, volunteered to conduct the operations himself. His idea was to mask the fortifications to be attacked by means of dense clouds of smoke from burning coal and tar, assisted by a favourable breeze, and to expel the garrisons by means of fumes created by burning coke with sulphur. Once again, however, the plans were turned down. Finally, in September, 1914, Cochrane's grandson submitted the plans to Mr. Winston Churchill, the First Lord of the Admiralty. The latter fully realised their importance but wrote, after due consideration, that "it was not intended for the present to proceed with the more important proposal, that is, experiments in noxious fumes, for the reason that it was not expedient to introduce elements into the War which might justify the enemy in having recourse to inhuman reprisals." Exactly twenty-two days after that letter was written, at 5 p.m. on the 22nd April, 1915, the Germans launched their first poison gas attack on a four mile front at Ypres!

Although the term "gas" in ordinary parlance is associated with a vapour, in chemical warfare it covers any chemical substance, solid, liquid, or vapour which produces poisonous or irritant effects on the human body. The first essential property of any war gas is that it must be heavier than air. There are ten principal gases

which it is proposed to deal with in this article. They can, first of all, be divided into two main groups:—

- (a) Non-Persistent.
- (b) Persistent.

In the case of (a) the gases are released into the air in the form of cloud or smoke, gradually drift down wind, and are finally absorbed into the air. The persistent gases, on the other hand, are liquids. When released they lie in the crater formed by the bomb and in droplets in the vicinity. The liquid slowly turns to vapour and then drifts down wind in the same way as the non-persistent gases. It will be appreciated, therefore, that the persistent gases are dangerous for a much longer period.

The gases may be further classified into four groups according to their effects on the human body, as follows:—

- (1) Lung irritants.
- (2) Nose irritants.
- (3) Tear gases.
- (4) Blister gases.

These groups will be dealt with in turn. First the lung irritants. There are two of these, CHLORINE and PHOSGENE. CHLORINE is the gas that was used in the initial German attack in France. It is a non-persistent gas, greenish-yellow in colour, but almost invisible. It corrodes metals, is soluble in water, and eventually rots clothing. It can be easily recognised by its smell of bleaching powder or chloride of lime. *Chlorine* is a powerful irritant of the respiratory organs, and causes a burning sensation in the eyes, nose and throat. It attacks the air cells of the lungs, causing "waterlogging," or pulmonary oedema. Prolonged breathing of a high concentration of the gas can cause death. *Phosgene* is a non-persistent gas and is almost invisible. It is less effective with heavy rain and can be recognised by a pungent smell of musty hay. Its other effects are similar to those of chlorine, but it is eight times more powerful, and is the most lethal of all the war gases. Its danger is also increased by the fact that there is often a period of "well being" between the initial effects and more serious symptoms. This will be dealt with at length in a later article. All types of respirator afford complete protection against both chlorine and phosgene.

NOSE IRRITANTS.—There are three gases of this type, known as D.M., D.A. and D.C. D.M. is a yellow crystalline solid, D.A. and D.C. are white crystalline solids, and all of them are non-persistent. When they are heated they give off an almost odourless smoke and are generally invisible except near the source. They contain arsenic, and small quantities will produce sneezing

with intense irritations and pain in the nose and throat. Higher concentrations will irritate the eyes. The effects appear almost immediately, and may be followed by acute mental depression. They are, however, only of a temporary nature, and no permanent disability is caused by the nose irritants.

**TEAR GASES.**—In this group there is one non-persistent gas, C.A.P., and two persistent gases, K.S.K. and B.B.C. C.A.P. is a white, crystalline solid, which vaporizes when heated, and the cloud produced is invisible. It irritates the eyes, causing a copious flow of tears and, as far as the male sex is concerned, there is usually an immediate irritation underneath the chin where shaving takes place. It has a faint smell of Ronuk or floor polish, and is used in the gas vans for the testing of respirators. K.S.K. is a dark, oily liquid which evaporates at ordinary temperatures. It can be recognised by immediate irritant effects and the very penetrating smell of pear drops. In high concentrations it is also a respiratory irritant. Under favourable conditions it will persist for several hours. B.B.C. is a brown liquid which forms an invisible cloud when it vaporises. It can be recognised by its bitter sweet smell and the effects are generally the same as K.S.K., except that the effect of vapour on the eyes is not so intense. It is, however, much more persistent than K.S.K. and, under sheltered conditions, can last for several days.

**BLISTER GASES.**—The most important feature of these gases, MUSTARD and LEWISITE is that, unlike the other three groups, they attack *ALL* parts of the body. The respirator, therefore, cannot give complete protection. To take *mustard* first of all. This gas has been called the "king of war gases," not because of its lethal effect, but because its extreme persistency is likely to cause a large number of minor casualties. Under sheltered conditions it may persist as long as three weeks. It is a dark, brown, oily liquid in its crude state, but when pure, is the colour of pale straw. It has a faint smell, which has been variously described as that of mustard, horseradish, onions or garlic. It is soluble in oils, benzene, methylated spirit, tar and fat. Owing to its solubility in fat is very quickly absorbed by the skin. This feature will be dealt with at length under the heading of First Aid. *Mustard* has a high boiling and a high freezing point (approximately 48° F.). On many days, therefore, in this country, it will freeze as soon as it is released from the bomb and, in any case, it will vaporize slowly. It differs from other gases in that it can be dangerous in a number of ways, viz. :—

- (1) The ground may be splashed with the liquid and the resultant vapour given off will cause injuries to the eyes, lungs and exposed parts of the body.

- (2) The vapour may be absorbed in the clothing and will gradually penetrate to the skin, causing burns.
- (3) Contaminated ground or the wall of a building may be touched by the hand and burns follow. The liquid will be soaked up by the clothing and blisters will be caused, unless clothing is removed.
- (4) A contaminated person can pass on the infection. In walking through a contaminated area he may have absorbed a certain amount of the liquid on his boots or shoes. If he enters a crowded room the resultant vapour from his boots or shoes may cause casualties.
- (5) Casualties from gas spray. The liquid *mustard* can be sprayed from aircraft, though to be effective this must be done at a low altitude.

There is no immediate effect on the body with either *liquid* or *vapour mustard*, except in the case of *liquid* in the eye. In this case there will be a slight irritation at once, after which the pain may temporarily pass to return in half-an-hour.

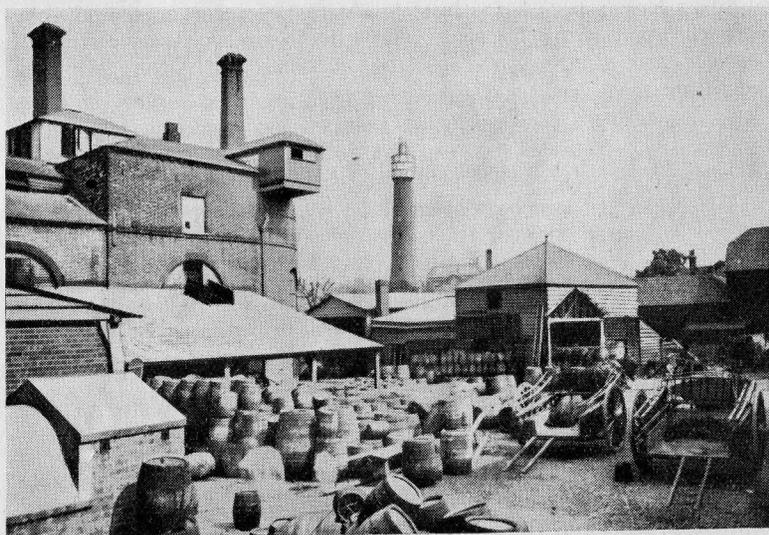
LEWISITE was intended to be an improvement on *mustard* and was the discovery of an American chemist, Professor W. Lee Lewis in 1917. It was not used during the World War owing to technical difficulties of mass production. The first supplies were ready in November, 1918, but the Armistice intervened and they were dumped into the sea. The effects and characteristics of *Lewisite* are similar to those of *mustard*, with the following exceptions :—

- (1) It contains arsenic.
- (2) It has a strong smell of geraniums.
- (3) It can be detected at once owing to immediate irritation of the eyes, nose, throat and skin by both vapour and liquid.
- (4) It acts more rapidly. The skin will redden after 2 to 15 minutes, and blisters will appear in 5 to 12 hours.
- (5) It has a low freezing point (8.6° F.).
- (6) Is rapidly destroyed by contact with water at any temperature.

The future of *Lewisite* in war is uncertain. Under favourable conditions it is probably superior to the other war gases. In cold countries and a hot, dry climate it would be very effective, but in wet, rainy countries like Great Britain, it would be much less effective.

Frequently during recent years we have heard tales of the invention of some new super-gas which might be used in modern war, but, in point of fact, this is extremely unlikely. With the exception of *Lewisite*, all the gases used in the last war were discovered many years ago. *Phosgene* was first heard of in 1812 and *mustard* in 1887. Out of hundreds of thousands of chemical compounds in 1918 only 38 were actually used in the field as poison gases and of these, only the ten mentioned in this article were any good. From the tactical side the ideal poison gas must have high power, multiple effectiveness, persistency, immediate effectiveness, insidious action, a vapour density heavier than air, penetrability (to clothing and gas masks), invisibility, no smell, and a casualty effect of long duration. Only a few of existing gases make more than a moderate score when subjected to this severe test, and it must be remembered also that the technical side has to be considered. A war gas must be easy to manufacture on a large scale and the necessary raw materials must be available, to mention only two of the technical points. For these reasons, therefore, it is not expected that we shall be called upon to protect ourselves from any new types of gas at least as far as Air Raids are concerned.

#### IN BY-GONE DAYS.



The above picture was recently unearthed on the Brewery premises and is a reminder of by-gone days.

#### SPRING.

Spring, it springs upon us, like Xmas every year :  
That it will fail to bring you joy, none need have any fear.  
The countryside is now the place to spend some happy hours,  
To gaze upon the beauty of its many Spring flowers.  
The violet and the snowdrop and the golden daffodil  
The primrose and jasmine your cup of joy will fill.  
One sight there is that none should miss before they go to bed,  
It is the glowing "Hop Leaf," always painted red.

March, 1939.

HERBERT H. LACEY.

#### BOGUS CLUBS.

STATEMENT BY TRADE LEADER.

The following letter from Mr. H. Weber Brown, B.A., C.C., on the subject of bogus clubs, was published by *The Times*.

SIR,—The publication of Major Rayner's Clubs Bill has brought about the usual storm that we have learnt to expect whenever licensing legislation is proposed, and, for want of a better excuse, opponents shelter themselves by describing it as a trade Bill, that being supposed to be sufficient to kill any measure. The opponents in this case fall into two main classes : those who consider that the Bill does not go far enough, and the clubs who think the Bill goes too far.

Among the former there are many who think that this Bill should include additional restrictions, such as police inspection, but they should remember that such a Bill was discussed in the House of Lords as recently as March 2nd, and what emerged from the discussion was that a Bill in such comprehensive terms has no hope of meeting with approval at present.

It is difficult to understand the opposition of bona-fide clubs. Is it possible to draft a Bill with fewer restrictions if it is really desired to suppress bogus clubs? Surely the clubs do not suggest that there is no bogus-club scandal. Licensed victuallers see in this Bill an honest attempt to eliminate the bogus club, and as such they are prepared to support it. They have no quarrel with genuine clubs, which will not be damaged by Major Rayner's Bill, but the bogus clubs are an admitted and a growing scandal, and offer unfair competition to the legitimate and rigidly controlled business of licensees for which heavy licence duties are paid annually.

Yours faithfully,

H. WEBER BROWN, Chairman,  
National Consultative Council of the  
Retail Liquor Trade.

## IMPORTANT TO LICENSED VICTUALLERS.

## OBLIGATION TO SELL BY STANDARD MEASURE.

It is extremely important that licence-holders should rigidly adhere to the provisions laid down in Section 69 Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910, which reads :—

- (1) **“ All intoxicating liquor which is sold by retail and not in cask or bottle, and is not sold in a quantity less than half a pint, shall be sold in measures marked according to the imperial standards.**
- (2) **“ If any person sells or suffers any person under his control or in his employment to sell any intoxicating liquor so as to contravene this section, he shall be liable in respect of each offence to a fine not exceeding in the case of the first offence Ten Pounds, and in the case of any subsequent offence Twenty Pounds, and shall also be liable to forfeit the illegal measure in which the liquor is sold.”**

If a **glass** of beer is asked for, and the glass contains less than half a pint, the beer may be drawn direct into the glass. It is lawful to sell “ nips ” of spirits without measuring in a stamped measure, but if the customer asks for a gill of wine, or a quartern or half a quartern of spirits, the sale must be by marked measures.

**It is unlawful for a licence-holder to have unstamped measures in his possession for trade purposes.** If any cups, jugs, etc., used as measures are unstamped they should be submitted to the Inspector of Weights and Measures for verification, and it would be wise to destroy or dispose of any that the Inspector is unable to stamp.

It is very obvious, therefore, that when replenishing stocks of fancy tankards, glasses, etc., licence-holders would be well advised to **purchase only properly stamped vessels** and so **avoid the possibility of trouble.**

E. T. NORMAN,  
*District Agent.*

National Trade Defence Association  
(Western District),  
1 Small Street, Bristol 1.

March, 1939.

## ACQUISITION OF A BREWERY AT BLANDFORD.

In purchasing the old established business of J. L. Marsh & Sons, Ltd., Brewers, Wine and Spirit Merchants, etc., of Blandford, Dorset, the Board of Directors have progressed a step further in their policy of expansion, having acquired a distributing depot and ten licensed houses in a district which is comparatively new to the Company.

Members of the Marsh family have carried on the business of Brewers, Maltsters, Wine and Spirit Merchants and Mineral Water Manufacturers in Blandford for nearly a century and although it is with a feeling of regret that one learns of the passing of these old family concerns, it is pleasing to note that in this instance the Directors of J. L. Marsh & Sons, Ltd., are to continue their association with the business.

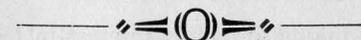
In the past, Mr. W. J. Marsh was responsible for the brewing operations, whilst Mr. L. F. Marsh, who is noted as a connoisseur of wines, conducted the selling side, and the experience of these two well-known gentlemen, together with the greater facilities provided by our organisation, should lead to a successful future for this latest venture.

Mr. F. L. Shrimpton, Manager of our Salisbury Plain Branch, will assist in the supervision of the Military Trade in the district and Mr. F. L. Maskell, late of Oxford Branch, has been appointed Chief Clerk.

And so, success to Blandford Branch! And to those who are newcomers to the “ Hop Leaf ” family, a hearty welcome.

## HOUSES IN DORSET NOW CONTROLLED BY H. &amp; G. SIMONDS, LTD.

King's Arms Hotel, Blandford.  
Crown & Anchor, Blandford.  
Railway Hotel, Blandford.  
Railway Inn, Blandford.  
King's Arms Hotel, Puddletown.  
Crown Inn, Ibberton.  
New Inn, Childe Okeford.  
Langton Arms Inn, Tarrant Monkton.  
Three Horse Shoes, Burton Bradstock.  
Dove Inn, Burton Bradstock.



## MILK STOUT IN THE JUNGLE.

A paragraph in a letter recently received by our Chairman and Managing Director, Mr. F. A. Simonds, from friends in Assam, so eloquently describes a trip to Tinsukia, that the reader obtains a vivid impression of a very fascinating although laborious journey to the "back of beyond," which met with a due reward.

We are permitted to reprint the excerpt :—

"It took us 2½ days to get here.

"First a train, then a river steamer, then another train, then another train through hill tracts, taking 11 hours to go 105 miles! then another train for the second night, then a car drive through jungle for two hours; then a ferry over a river; then a short walk and another ferry over another river, and then a car drive of 8 miles, and here we are! And at 6.30 on the last morning when we got out of our train and had a cup of tea in the 'Refreshment Room,' *what* should we see but a bottle of Simonds' Milk Stout on the top of a rickety glass-fronted cupboard! The place was TINSUKIA, if you would like to look it up.

"At the present moment we have escaped into the jungle and the nearest Europeans are the Political Officer and a handful of soldiers who are posted at various spots on the N.E. Frontier.

"... the quickest way for us to get news of our family would be for them to cable to England and ask someone to send a Radio S.O.S. from there!"

The fate of the bottle of Milk Stout is not mentioned, but we can only hope that there were many others for those of the party who needed a restorative after an arduous journey.

Thus, another instance is recorded of the name of Simonds penetrating to the remote spots of the world.

## MR. R. B. ST. J. QUARRY.

In the *London Gazette* of Friday, March 17th, it was announced that Mr. R. B. St. J. Quarry, a director of this Company, had been appointed from the 80th Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery, T.A., as a Second-Lieutenant in the 5th Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals, whose Headquarters are in Reading.

Mr. Quarry is taking an active interest in recruitment for his new unit and is giving a series of lectures in a great effort to attract members.

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED.

## CIRENCESTER LICENSED VICTUALLERS' DINNER.

Cirencester Licensed Victuallers' Association's annual dinner at the Swan Hotel recently celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the association's formation.

A large number of licensees were present as well as many visitors.

Captain E. T. Cripps presided, and he was supported by Mr. D. Cole (president), Mr. W. G. Downing (Stroud Brewery), Mr. A. N. Trimmer and Mr. J. B. Till (Cheltenham Original Brewery Co., Ltd.), Mr. W. P. Cripps (Cirencester Brewery), Mr. E. T. Norman (Secretary No. 6 District National Trade Defence League), and Mr. S. King (Whiteways Cider Co., Ltd.)

The toast of the local association was given by Mr. W. P. Cripps, who pointed out that membership was increasing, and they hoped that the 100 per cent. membership would be obtained.

## DOUBTS DISPELLED.

Recent changes at Cirencester had seen the local brewery go to another firm, and the erection of aerodromes in the district. Both these changes had been viewed with certain doubts, but those had been dispelled. The aerodromes had not spoiled the countryside, but had benefited trade.

The trade were gravely concerned, he continued, with the trend towards increased assessments arising out of the House of Lords judgment on the "Robinson" case.

"This may affect a number of assessments," he said, "and it does not encourage the wholesale section to proceed without careful consideration on remodelling and reconstruction of licensed premises. No effort will be spared to meet this question, and to alleviate further burdens on a trade which is carrying more than its fair share of burdens."

Mr. Cripps congratulated licensees on the satisfactory manner in which they had conducted their businesses, commenting on the excellent report presented at the annual licensing sessions.

## INCREASED MEMBERSHIP.

The response was made by Mr. Cole, who said he was glad to be able to report an increased membership during the year.

Mr. Downing gave the toast to "Kindred Societies and Associations," and the reply was made by Mr. Norman.

Appealing for membership of the association, Mr. Norman also spoke of the necessity for efficiency in the branches, and expressed the hope that both these objects would be achieved at Cirencester.

"The Ladies" was given by Mr. J. T. Weaver, Mrs. Purnell replying.

Mr. W. J. Stratford, Hon. Secretary of the Association, proposed "The Visitors," and the response was made by Mr. King.

"The Artists" were toasted by Mr. A. N. Trimmer, the response being made by Mr. E. Dean, while Mrs. Stratford replied to "Host and Hostess."



Swan Hotel, Cirencester, with Mr. and Mrs. Stratford.

## MALTED MILK DIRECT FROM THE COW.

"BREWERY DIET."

A farm which rears cows on a staple diet of malt from a nearby brewery was the subject of a discussion at a meeting of the Milk Council in Auckland, New Zealand, states Reuter.

A member suggested that the result might be that cows would give fresh malted milk which would command a high price.

The Chairman said that in view of the display posters in the city urging the people to drink milk and not beer, the Council might get into disrepute if it were known that some of its cows were fed on a brewery diet.

A member of the Council said that cows, like humans, developed tastes for particular foods. Once they were fed on brewery diet it would be difficult to break them of the habit.—

"The Sunday Times."

## THE LIGHTER SIDE.

The class was asked to write down the names of the 11 greatest people in the world.

After a while the teacher said to little Roland: "Have you written them all down?"

"All but one," he told her. "I can't make up my mind who'll be goalkeeper."

\* \* \* \*

"Daddy, how do you tell a lady worm from a gentleman worm?" asked Bobby.

"Easily" replied his parent. "The lady worm never signals when she turns."

\* \* \* \*

The funeral of the bookmaker passed slowly along the street and behind walked one man.

"Are you a mourner?" asked a reporter.

"Yes" he said, "he owes me a tenner for a treble."

\* \* \* \*

GENTLEMAN (to newsboy): "Don't you feel cold, my boy?"

BOY: "Oh, no sir, selling papers keeps up the circulation."

WIFE : " A fine husband you are ! Why, you can't even keep me in clothes."

HUSBAND : " No. And I bought you a home and I can't keep you in that, either."

\* \* \* \*

" Poor old Fred seems to have got it badly," said Maude.

" What's he been doing now ? " asked her friend.

" Well," was the reply, " ever since he got engaged to the vicar's daughter he's been wearing his collars wrong way round, and now he's having stained glass windows put in his new car ! "

\* \* \* \*

A man went to see his doctor about a pain in his back which had been troubling him all day. The doctor examined him and after a few seconds the pain vanished.

The man was very relieved and said : " That's quick work, doctor ; was it rheumatism ? "

" No," the doctor replied. " Your braces were twisted."

\* \* \* \*

After a lively argument, says wife : " Bill, you're a terrible man to live with. Why can't you be like Jack Soandso ? " she went on. " They've been married twenty years, and his wife tells me he's gentlemanly, and loving, and tender."

" So he ought to be tender ; " replied hubbie. " He's been in hot water for 20 years."

\* \* \* \*

The owner of a certain inn possesses a famous talking parrot and people come from far and wide to hear the bird perform.

The other day a gentleman arrived with a rival bird whose verbal fluency he boasted would make the innkeeper's parrot sound completely dumb. The upshot of the matter was a £5 bet. The birds were brought together, and, to the dismay of an audience of local inhabitants, their favourite uttered not a word, whilst the opposing parrot discoursed merrily on every subject from marmalade to marmosets.

Sadly the innkeeper paid over his £5, and everyone but he departed. As soon as the bar was empty, his parrot turned to him and said : " Now, you fix up a return match for fifty quid and I'll talk his blinking 'ead off."

\* \* \* \*

THE COLONEL (trying to make conversation) : " I see that India is starting a big campaign to fight malaria."

THE DUMB DEBUTANTE : " How dreadful ! What have the Malarians done now ? "

\* \* \* \*

A sailor gave a parrot to his wife. The bird's language was terrible. In order to damp its ardour for swear words the sailor threw a bucket of water over the cage.

Later the wife, noticing its bedraggled appearance, said, " Hullo, Polly ! "

Said the parrot : " Hullo, missus ! Where were you in that crimson typhoon ? "

\* \* \* \*

Pit ponies are said to grow extraordinarily rapidly during their periodic visits to the surface. A pony which had just returned to the pit had grown so much that the boy who was driving it was unable to get the animal through one very narrow part of the shaft. To make it possible for the pony to pass he took up a pick and began to break away part of the roof. A collier immediately came up and remonstrated with him angrily, saying that the sensible thing to do would be to dig away part of the floor to deepen the shaft.

" Dont' be so daft," said the boy. " It's his head what's bumping ! "

\* \* \* \*

The manager told the office boy he was working very well and he asked him if he'd like a job as a clerk—and, of course, he'd get a small rise in salary.

" If it's all the same to you, sir," the boy replied, " I'd sooner keep on looking after the postage book and petty cash on the wages I'm getting now."

\* \* \* \*

A guest in an ancient Scottish mansion asked the host before retiring if the house was haunted.

" Yes," said the host, " the ghost of Sir Angus McSweeny prowls about the building after midnight. But when we've got guests we get rid of him."

" How do you do that ? " asked the guest.

" We engage a girl to walk the passages all night selling flags."

\* \* \* \*

Jones, on a walking holiday in the North, found he had run out of cigarettes. Passing through a tiny village he saw a general store, so he walked in and rang the bell on the counter. In a few minutes the shopkeeper appeared.

"Packet of Blank's cigarettes, please," demanded Jones.

The shopkeeper shook his head. "Oi be sorry, sir," he said. "Oi was always runnin' out o' that brand, so Oi just stopped stocking 'em."

\* \* \* \*

TEACHER: "Johnny, suppose you had ten apples and ten oranges and gave nine-tenths of them to some other little boys, what would you have?"

JOHNNY: "I'd have my head examined!"

\* \* \* \*

In a great gale a man said that the only thing that prevented his house being blown away was the heavy mortgage on it.

\* \* \* \*

"Mother, have you got a penny for a poor old man?"

"Where's the poor man, my son?"

"Down at the corner selling ice-cream wafers."

\* \* \* \*

"Could you help a poor man who has just come out of prison?"

"You should be ashamed to own it."

"I didn't own it, mum. I was only a lodger."

\* \* \* \*

"Welcome little stranger!" as the man said when he found half-a-sovereign in the lining of a very old coat.

\* \* \* \*

MRS. DINKS: "What I say never seems to bear any fruit."

MR. DINKS: "It might if you pruned it a bit."

\* \* \* \*

"I think that when a man marries he should give up his Club."

"Great scott! That's just the time he needs it most."

\* \* \* \*

"My husband is frightfully run down."

"Business worries, my dear?"

"Well it can't be that for he said his business had just been wound up."

\* \* \* \*

MRS. AYRES (gushingly): "Do you know, Mr. Bootle, I'm often mistaken for my daughter."

MR. BOOTLE (gallantly): "By jove! Fancy you having a daughter as old looking as you are."

\* \* \* \*

Motorists have been fined for creating disturbance when garaging cars. Noisy parkers.

\* \* \* \*

Lady about to buy a wireless set: "No we don't have electricity, but have you a set we could run off the gas?"

*One swallow does not make a Summer  
but  
One swallow will easily convince you  
that  
Simonds' Beer is best.*

## BRANCHES.

## BRIGHTON BRANCH.

The Band of the Grenadier Guards took their places in the Brighton Dome on Friday the 24th March, and played for 1,700 of Brighton and Hove's National Service Volunteers, their families and friends. The occasion was the first ball of the local A.R.P. and allied civil defence services.

Representing the lighter side of a serious undertaking, the function successfully co-ordinated the social activities run in connection with the Air Raid Precautions Services in Brighton and Hove, thus linking together, in spirit of comradeship and gaiety, all those men and women who had responded to the national appeal.

At the supper the Mayor of Brighton commented on Sir John Anderson's announcements that Brighton was one of two towns which had doubled its recruiting figures within the past week.

To celebrate the opening of the Sergeants' Mess, the Warrant Officers, Staff Sergeants, and Sergeants of the 70th Sussex Searchlight Regiment R.A. (T.A.), held a dance at their Drill Hall at "Highcroft," Dyke Road, Brighton, on Saturday, 25th March.

About a hundred members of the Regiment and their friends attended and enjoyed the dancing and social events arranged.

Plumpton Races were held on the 15th March, with a good day's sport, supported by the "Hop Leaf" Brands at all bars.

## PORTSMOUTH.

The chief guests at the Portsmouth, Gosport and District Licensed Victuallers' Protection and Benevolent Society's Annual Banquet and Ball, held this year at the Savoy Cafe, Portsmouth, were the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth (Alderman L. N. Blake) and the Lady Mayoress (Mrs. L. M. Field). Mr. Ronald Gilbey accompanied by his son and daughter, Mr. R. D. Gilbey and Miss Susan Gilbey, was given a cordial welcome by 400 guests when he took the Presidential Chair. "The Allied Trade Defence Association" was proposed by Mr. A. T. Whyley and Captain A. J. Dyer (Vice-President of the London Central Board), Mr. L. R. N. Percey (Secretary and Manager of the Licensed Victuallers' Defence

League of England and Wales) and Mr. W. G. Curtis (Councillor of No. 8 District of the League) responded. Gifts were made to the ladies present by the President and by the Society. Surprise gifts were won by Mesdames Mardlin, G. Byng, Nichols (Plymouth), Payne, Forrest, Irish, Hartford, E. H. Parkman and R. G. Dix. The function was organised under the direction of the Secretary (Mr. George H. Smart).

Mr. W. G. Jones, on completing his year as President of the Southsea Waverley Bowling Club, was presented with a silver tea set as a mark of appreciation and esteem. Mr. A. E. Brookman was unanimously elected for the third time in the last few years as President—a token of his popularity and work. He made the presentation with a few appropriate references to the enthusiasm of Mr. Jones and said that the high esteem in which the Club was held among Bowlers, both in the city and country, was evidence of the excellent manner in which its affairs were conducted socially and on the Green. Mr. Jones thanked the members for their present and for their loyal support throughout the year. A favourable Balance Sheet and Financial Statement were adopted.

Early in March, Portsmouth transferred their Scottish inside-left James Easson to Fulham. Easson came to Portsmouth just over ten years ago from East Craige and while he had been at Fratton Park he had played in nearly 300 league games and scored 103 goals.

In preparation for the transfer about the middle of April of the Air Station at Lee-on-the-Solent to the Navy, for use as the Shore Base of the Fleet Air Arm, Headquarters of No. 17 (Training Group) Coastal Command has been transferred from Lee to Gosport. This Group which was formed on December 1st, 1936, has controlled the Schools of Naval Co-operation at Ford and of General reconnaissance at Thorney Island with other Training Units at Calshot, Gosport and elsewhere. The Naval Co-operation School at Ford is among those which are being taken over by the Navy.

## BRIDGEND.

On Wednesday evening, February 22nd, the Neath and District Licensed Victuallers' Association Annual Banquet was held at The Castle Hotel, Neath. Mr. D. M. Evans-Bevan, J.P. (Vale of Neath Brewery) presided and among those present were the

following, Councillor E. C. Hutchinson (Mayor of Neath), Mr. J. Cook Rees, O.B.E., Mr. D. Phillips, (Chairman, Neath L.V. Association), Mr. A. J. Weeks, (N.T.D.A.), Mr. T. L. Dancer (President No. 12 District), Mr. P. D. Keep (Chief Constable) Mr. L. A. Simonds and Mr. A. Jestyn Jeffreys.

The Banquet was an unqualified success, Mr. Evans-Bevan spoke of his happy association with Licensed Victuallers in Neath and District, and he added that it was a great pleasure to him to be in "the chair" that evening. In proposing the Toast of "The Visitors," Mr. P. D. Keep (Chief Constable of Neath) caused considerable amusement with his witty remarks regarding Licensees and their Houses. In responding, Mr. L. A. Simonds took up Mr. Keep's challenge in good style and in the course of his speech he told the company that with the aid of liquid refreshment he had that evening developed poetical tendencies, his effort in this direction being as follows:—

Oh Licensees, no matter whose,  
The Beer you sell, is yours to choose,  
But no doubt you thank your lucky heavens,  
If the Beer you sell is David Bevans.

You Licensees of this old town,  
Who through the day your troubles drown,  
Should think with pride as you soundly sleep  
Of the men controlled by Percy Keep.

After this, "Beer IS Best."

A most enjoyable evening, was the opinion of all, and the President, Officers and Committee of the Association are to be congratulated on the excellent arrangements made.

The Sixteenth Annual Dinner and Dance of the Bridgend and District Licensed Victuallers' Association was held at the Wyndham Hotel, Bridgend, on Wednesday evening, March 8th. The chief guest of the evening and Chairman at the dinner was Mr. L. A. Simonds, who was supported by Mr. Josiah Jones (President of the Bridgend L.V. Association), Mr. D. M. Evans-Bevan, J.P. (Vale of Neath Brewery), Councillor R. Exton, Mr. H. E. Gardner (Clerk to the Bridgend U.D. Council), Mr. A. J. Weeks (N.T.D.A.), Mr. T. L. Dancer (No. 12 District), Councillor I. D. Davies, Councillor C. Stuart Hallinan, Mr. Albert E. Drury (Booths Distilleries Ltd.), Mr. R. S. Hayes, J.P., and the Officers and Committee of the Bridgend L.V. Association.

Mr. Simonds in proposing the Toast of "The Association" in a short speech referred to the unfair burdens under which the Trade has to be carried on in this part of the country, and said that it was only by the close co-operation of the Trade generally that oppression could be removed, and it was up to all Licensed Victuallers to worry their Member of Parliament to obtain the necessary legislation. With this end in view, he emphasised the necessity for Sunday opening of Public Houses which would ensure fair competition for all.

Mr. Josiah Jones suitably replied and in the course of his speech spoke highly of the fair treatment meted out by the local Magistrates and the Police.

The remainder of speeches, all interesting, were short to enable dancing to commence as early as possible. The Dance was soon in full swing and continued until 2 a.m. On occasions such as these, *tempus fugit*, and the hour of 2 a.m. soon arrives and we wend our way homeward all agreeing that the Sixteenth Annual Dinner and Dance was the best ever.

A particularly warm welcome was given to Mr. L. A. Simonds, as this was the first banquet since the Firm came to Bridgend and the Association greatly appreciated Mr. Simonds' gesture in presiding.

The Firm have recently acquired another fully licensed house at St. Brides Major, known as the Farmers' Arms. It is situated four miles from Bridgend on the main road to Llantwit Major and will be a popular rendezvous for visitors to Southerndown and Ogmores-by-Sea during the summer months.

The following changes of tenancies took place during March and to all we tender our best wishes.

Lamb Hotel, Neath. - - Mr. John Hill.  
Victoria Hotel, Maesteg. - Mr. Gilbert Rowsell.  
Cross Keys Inn, Bridgend Mr. Nimrod Davies.  
Butchers' Arms, Neath - Mr. Griffiths William.

## BRISTOL.

## THE CUMBERLAND HOTEL.

A packed house watched the semi-finals and finals of the Bristol Evening Post Women's Skittles Competition last month when great keenness was shown by competitors and their supporters during a very interesting evening.

The Cumberland Alley as usual was in perfect order; in keeping with its name as "the finest alley in the West," and the skittling was of a high standard—an object lesson to many of the opposite sex who nightly favour this growing in popularity pastime. The winner of the Singles was Mrs. G. Reynolds (Severnside Club), who defeated Miss A. Marsh (Fry's, Somerdale) after a gruelling match of thirty-one ends, by two pins—a thrilling match this!

The Pairs winners were Mrs. L. Adams and Mrs. Hallas (Church Hall, Bishopsworth), who defeated Mrs. A. Cooke and Mrs. M. A. Evans (Eastville British Legion) by fourteen pins.

Mrs. Pinnell, wife of the Sports' Editor of the *Post*, presented the prizes at the close, and Mr. Pinnell himself voiced the appreciation of his colleagues and all who took part, for the splendid way the event had been arranged by Mr. and Mrs. Hurford, whose hospitality and courtesy contributed so much to the success of the evening.

"Hop Leaf" beverages were highly praised by many whose first experience it was of the Cumberland and its high standard of service.

Our press friends are no "strangers within its gates," and they will always be sure of a warm welcome there, whether in a semi-official or private capacity.

## THE BEAMBRIDGE INN, SOMERSET.

This noted hostelry, on the main west road at Sampford Arundel, a little while ago was the scene of a most eventful occasion in its long history, when a company representing all sections of the locality met to celebrate with its host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. C. Knowles, the opening of the new lounge bar.

The ceremony was very kindly performed by Miss Morgan of Walcourt House, in the unavoidable absence of her father, Major Morgan, who unfortunately was unable to be present through indisposition. Her kindness in doing so was very much appreciated by all present.

Supporting her were representatives of many professions and trades of the area in which the Beambridge is situated—even the vicar graced the proceedings with his kindly presence and after the congratulatory speeches had been made he humorously remarked that he hoped his parishioners "would still continue their daily ramble to this Free House, which catered so well for everyone's requirements." Mr. C. A. Morrish, editor of the *Tiverton Weekly News*, expressed gratification that the house had been "brought into line with modern conditions without in any way sacrificing its old-world charm." Our own Mr. E. G. Grimes presided at the subsequent "convivial," and in his own ingeniously humorous remarks did not forget to include quite a few illuminating references to most of the local celebrities present—to their own amusement and that of their friends—in a manner which put everyone in a cheery frame of mind; and with Peter Knowles leading the "choir" with his piano-accordion, the whole programme went with a real swing. At the close Mr. C. Knowles thanked all for their friendly and loyal support and looked forward to the continuance of that spirit at his house for many years to come.

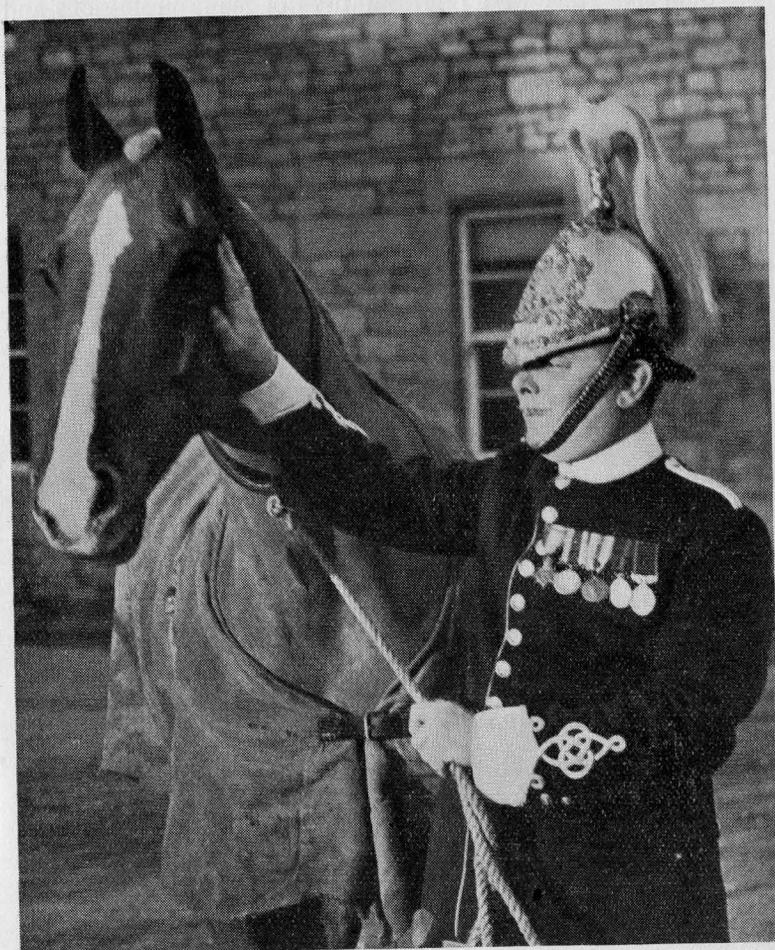
The Beambridge has been a noted Somerset landmark for centuries past, being known as the Royal Marine, when it was first acquired by Major Morgan's family nearly 100 years ago. Its extensive stabling even to-day is sound evidence of its value as a coaching house in the good old days. Since taking it over nine years ago Mr. Knowles has effected many improvements, and as a great friend of "Hop Leaf" beverages, we feel that his vision and enterprise cannot fail to bring their reward.

With one of the best pull-ins on the Bristol-Exeter road, any of our friends who see its sign in front of them as they wend their way to or from our western sea-board cannot do better than sample its service and beverages, quite apart from the pleasure of meeting those experienced and genial supporters of ours who are responsible for the comfort and good cheer for which the Beambridge is famed.

"OLD SOLDIERS NEVER DIE!"

But Saddler Sergeant-Major Bayntun of the North Somerset Yeomanry, and host of the new Shoe Inn at North Wraxall on the Chippenham-Bristol road is due to "fade away" in the near future after 37 years' service with this famous regiment.

Joining its ranks in 1902, when Viscount Dungavan was its Colonel, he was promoted Sergeant in 1907, and was its first Machine Gun Sergeant.



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*[The Bath & Wills Chronicle & Herald.]*

#### Saddler Sergeant-Major Frank Bayntun.

November 1914 found him in France with his unit and being wounded in 1916 after many months of fighting, he was transferred to the 6th Cavalry Reserve.

Upon re-establishment in 1922 he received his present appointment, being the proud possessor of two Territorial Long Service Medals, as well as the three War Medals, and although he still remembers with youthful pride those carbine, sabre and slouch

hat with red plume days, and the comradeship which memory cherishes, he can also appreciate what steel helmets and the modern Bren Guns imply in an age when war is a mere mechanical slaughter and not as it was when "My Old Shako" was all the rage in every cavalry sing-song. Always a very popular member of the Sergeants' Mess, this veteran with the heart of a young soldier is to receive the approbation of his comrades at their Annual Camp at Corfe Castle in May—a well deserved mark of their esteem.

The Shoe, a newly built "Hop Leaf" Road House, with a spacious car park is a veritable armoury, and a visit there we feel sure will well repay anyone who is in need of refreshment and a friendly word.

#### THE CHELTENHAM NATIONAL HUNT MEETING.

For the first time, the "Hop Leaf" pennant was to be seen overhead at the above fixture, and during the three days many thousands of racegoers sampled sparkling and refreshing bottles of "S.B." to their evident satisfaction, and though red "leaves" were to be seen scattered around the various rings after racing was over on each day, it was obvious that, even to the last drop, the golden beverage which not so long before they proudly covered had been very deeply appreciated. Our good friends Messrs. Letheby & Christopher Ltd., whose special honour it is to be the chosen caterers for this classic fixture, again demonstrated to all beholders their unique facilities and organisation for such a huge task. With "Hop Leaf" glasses close to thousands of lips, is it any wonder that many remarks were to be heard endorsing the high standard which they embodied as we moved about from bar to bar—and this from men who are no mean judges; On Gold Cup day a great crowd gathered on the slopes of this delightful valley, and with much milder weather than on the earlier days, an eventful time was enjoyed by all there, whether for pleasure or business. And long after darkness had fallen over historic Cheltenham, with only the hooting of distant motor horns to break the silence, we of the "Hop Leaf" fraternity quietly folded up our tent, gathered up the fragments of our trade and departed for Bristol, after a strenuous, yet enlightening experience for all members of our staff.

We look forward to many more Cheltenhams with our London Bridge friends, and especially thank the administrative staff of their Company for much practical help and advice on the spot, which enabled us to supply their patrons with, at least, some satisfaction to ourselves.

## "HOP LEAF" SKITTLE LEAGUE.

With the league championship practically decided after a very exciting finale, the opening rounds of the Challenge Cup will be supplying an anti-climax to a very successful first season. Interest has been very encouraging, even the two teams fighting for the wooden spoon have "had their moments," and as they both emanate from the same spot—in other words, the Jacob Street Brewery—it was only fitting and right that the final match should be between them.

On this occasion the black-coat brigade very nearly put the brake on any Transport ideas of speeding, and with one cylinder misfiring just at the crucial moment, acceleration became quite impossible, and having no spares, in the end the poor old Transport were towed past the post by their opponents. We do hope that next season our fleet of skittlers will give as good an account of themselves on the Alley as they do on the road, and that they will not only take "spares" with them on every journey, but will pick a few up as they merrily bowl along—and may every Bristol "Hop Leaf" representative as worthily uphold the great sporting traditions of their Company as the two at the foot of the table have this year. There are distinct signs too that the lessons learnt during 1938-39 will be turned to more profitable account when the "woods" start rolling again in September.

## THE TAMAR BREWERY, DEVONPORT.

Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Simonds had the pleasure, when on a visit to Cornwall last month, to entertain at Lunch at the Tregenna Castle Hotel, St. Ives, Mr. and Mrs. Cyril Poole, the proprietors of Messrs. Pool & Son Ltd., Penzance, who have been Agents for W. J. Rogers Ltd., Bristol, for some 70 years, and now continue the Agency for H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.

Mrs. Poole, who is an ardent Conservative worker, was recently the recipient of a gold cigarette case in recognition of her services to the party in West Cornwall.

We are very pleased to welcome Mr. E. L. Morgan on his appointment to take charge of our Surveyor's Department at the Tamar Brewery and trust his stay amongst we West Countrymen will be a happy one.

The Firm have recently purchased the Royal Standard Inn, Truro, which is in the Market Place of Cornwall's county town and

was one of the three remaining "Home Brewed" houses in Cornwall, the other two being at Helston and St. Columb.

The house, which is also known as "Okunes," is very popular with a lot of visitors to Truro, especially commercial travellers. The premises are of quite old-world character and there are three drinking rooms, one being known as the "House of Lords," one as the "House of Commons" and the other the "Labour Department."

The Bell Inn, Kingsteignton, was recently transferred from Mr. A. Batchelor to Mr. W. T. H. T. Strong. Kingsteignton is in the agricultural heart of Devon and is within easy reach of such watering places as Dawlish, Teignmouth, Torquay and Paignton. We wish Mr. Strong every success in his new undertaking.

We regret having to record that Mr. J. Williams of the Millbay Inn, Plymouth, has had to relinquish the tenancy for health reasons and we wish him better health on his retirement. The House has been taken over by Mr. A. J. S. Fleming, who has had considerable experience of the trade and visitors will be assured of a warm welcome.

Mr. S. J. Yuill, our tenant at the Commercial Hotel, Totnes, has left this House for pastures new and Mr. S. H. Davies, late of the Queen's Head Hotel, Bodmin, has now taken over. Totnes is renowned for its old-world charm and visitors come from far and near to see the famous Butterwalk and the East Gate over the main street. Totnes is an ideal centre for exploring the beauties of the Dart valley.

March 21st was the anniversary of the Battle of Alexandria and was suitably commemorated by the 2nd Bn. The Gloucestershire Regiment, now stationed at Crownhill, by a parade and the trooping of the colour ceremony. It was on this date in 1801 that the British forces in Egypt, under the command of Lord Abercrombie, were surprised in the early morning by the French, who succeeded in penetrating the British Line and attempted to overwhelm the 1st Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment (then the 28th Foot), but the Commanding Officer gave the order "rear rank—right about face" and, fighting back-to-back, the

Regiment beat off the attack and was largely responsible for the British success, as a result of which the French were finally driven out of Egypt and the Regiment now has the honour of wearing cap badges back and front—an honour of which it is justifiably proud. Incidentally the Regimental Colour of the Gloucesters has more battle honours than any other two-battalion regiment.

The annual dinner of the Kingsand and Cawsand Darts League was a great success. The President (Mr. A. Brittan) took the chair and was accompanied by Mrs. Brittan. A very cheerful evening was spent and the presentation of the cups and medals was a source of great interest, particularly in view of the fact that there had been keen competition. The Chairman (Mr. A. E. Hill) and the Hon. Secretary (Mr. O. H. Ball), with the support of their Committee, organised a very pleasing programme.

*At work and play*

*Or when at rest*

*There is no doubt*

*that **Beer is Best.***

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