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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.

Vol. XV.

JANUARY, 1941.

No. 4.

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



MR. W. E. LOYNES.

## MR. W. E. LOYNES.

Jubilee year of 1897 is an important date in the memory of Mr. W. E. Loynes as it also marks the commencement of his working life when, as a small boy of 13 years, he was employed in the laboratory at Reading.

After 3½ years he was transferred to the beer bottling department under the foremanship of the late Mr. W. Toms, whom all the older employees of the Firm remember so well.

In 1909 Mr. Loynes left Reading to take up the position of foreman at Plymouth Branch where, in addition to being responsible for the beer bottling department and the management and fining of the draught beers, he also superintended the feeding of the horses and arranged the deliveries of all goods to the naval, military and other customers. Even in those early years he displayed the thorough efficiency and organizing abilities which have developed to a high degree with the passing years.

Early in 1914 Mr. Loynes met with an accident and cut his left hand so badly that he practically lost the use of it and was transferred to Reading. After six months at headquarters he returned to Plymouth to resume his former position. He was called up in 1916 but the Army did not take him as he could not hold a rifle owing to his damaged hand.

Mr. Loynes is an excellent judge of beer and knows to the hour when beers for natural conditioning should be bottled. At the time he commenced in the beer bottling stores, all beers were bottled and corked without any power machinery, which was a lengthy operation. The labelling and washing was done by hand and rotary brushes for cleaning the bottles were worked with foot treadles, similar to those used on a sewing machine. The process was slow but at that time there was nothing to break down. The enormous increase in the demand for bottled beers during the past twenty years has demanded continual development in the processes of bottling and the foreman of a bottling department at the present time has to be an expert engineer as well as being a beer expert.

When the Tamar Brewery, Devonport, was purchased in 1919, Mr. Loynes was appointed bottling foreman there. The large extension of trade necessitated him devoting the whole of his time to the bottling of beers. He engages the boys for the department and during the past 20 years some hundreds of lads have passed through his hands, including a large number who have left to join the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force. They carry away with them to all parts of the world recollections of a disciplinarian, who also has great consideration for his staff.

Mr. Loynes says his greatest joy at the end of the year is to know how many more thousands of bottles of beer he produced than in the previous year. He has little spare time nowadays for hobbies, as he says "the travellers are so energetic," but in the winter he very much appreciates watching rugby football, either Plymouth Albion or Devonport Services, two very fine clubs who play most of the leading rugby clubs of the South of England and Wales. Mr. Loynes' father was employed at The Brewery, Reading, for a great number of years and his son has been working in the General Office at Devonport for over 14 years.



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.)



CARRYING-ON.

Mr. F. A. Simonds, the Chairman and Managing Director of Messrs. H. & G. Simonds, reminded the shareholders at the annual meeting that four of his co-directors—Comdr. H. D. Simonds, R.N. (retd.), Capt. L. A. Simonds, R.A.S.C., Capt. R. B. St. J. Quarry, R.S.C., and Capt. F. H. V. Keighley—were serving the country in various capacities at home and abroad. Another significant reference was that in which he offered the warmest thanks of the Directors to those members of the staff in London, Bristol, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Brighton and other areas, where they continued to carry out their duties under most dangerous and distracting conditions. It was indication of the heavy responsibilities thrown upon the Chairman, Directors and staff of this far-flung business. Mr. Simonds made a welcome reference to the patience and tolerance shown by licensees in these difficult times.—*Berkshire Chronicle*.

INTERRUPTIONS NOT ALLOWED.

I have heard all sorts of stories about the adventures of the baled-out Boche, but this one beats the band—and it has the merit of being true, says a writer in *The Farmers' Weekly*. Down in the West Country the crew of a Nazi aircraft baled out and fell in open country. The first person one of them encountered was a rather ancient cowman on his way to get the cows for the morning milking.

The airman, in excellent English, said: "I am a German officer, and I wish to be taken prisoner."

To which the cowman replied without hesitation: "I can't bother wi' thee now. Thee come along of I an' get in they cows and then we'll see about thee."

So the cows were got in, and then the captive was handed over to the village constable.

So much for the effect of the German blitzkrieg on the morale of the countryside!

LICENSEES' £120 FOR SLOUGH HURRICANE FUND.

The Mayor of Slough (Councillor Aubrey E. Ward) was presented with a cheque for £120 9s. 7d. for the Slough Hurricane Fund by the Slough and District Licensed Victuallers' Protection Association when they met at the George, George Green, recently. The donation represented the profits from a dance held at the Adelphi, Slough, when the aim was to raise a hundred guineas. Before the cheque was handed over presentations were made to Mr. Colin Mackenzie, the immediate past chairman of the association, and Mr. F. G. Bowyer, the secretary, in recognition of their long and faithful services. The Mayor said he was agreeably surprised to find that the cheque was for such a large amount and he thanked the members both on his own behalf and on behalf of Alderman E. T. Bowyer, who started the fund during his year of office as Mayor, and hoped to see £5,000 raised to buy a Hurricane. He thought the donation reflected the greatest credit on the licensees and he was most impressed to find that such a magnificent sum had been raised at one go.

Both Mr. Mackenzie (chairman) and Mr. Bowyer (secretary) have served in their honorary capacities for the past fourteen years.

ONLY TO RING THE BELL!

A company of soldiers were billeted in a recently evacuated girls' school. Loud laughter was heard from one of the dormitories where a group of Tommies stood in front of a notice which read: "Anyone in urgent need of a mistress should ring this bell."

ADMIRATION FROM THE HUNS.

"War against England is no child's play," says the *Berliner Lokalanzeiger*, in an article quoted by the official German News Agency.

"This greatest Empire of history is a giant, and the British are not cowards. That is bad enough, but it is a fact that when England is in a crisis there is a rush to arms, and the best of her sons fight for the plutocratic chiefs and the business politicians.

"The German soldier has therefore not to deal with the scum of the exchange, the banks, and the clubs—those who caused this war—but with English elements that are tough at giving and taking."

PILOTS OF THE NEW AGE.

Capt. Harold Balfour, M.P., Under-Secretary of State for Air, in a message to the members of the Air Defence Cadet Corps, who, he says, will become the "third generation of the R.A.F.," writes:—

" You will take on wings and write another story of courage across the English skies. I hope with all my heart that it will be a story of peace; that you will become the pilots who will mark out new air routes in the world, carry merchandise to isolated countries, passengers across the seas, and help with medical aid to those who live in the back-blocks of new countries. I hope that peace will come soon enough to allow you to be the great pilots of the new age, when one of man's greatest inventions will be used, not for his destruction, but for his good, his enlightenment, and his prosperity."

IN MEMORIAM.

BLACKALL-SIMONDS.—*To Gertrude* :

" Can you tell me how many stars twinkle in the velvet sky?  
Can you tell me how many birds swiftly to and fro do fly?  
As many times as that, greeting after greeting, I thee send  
On this thy first birthday in the Better Land, very dear friend."

—  
" Of alle freendes, thow the derwortheeste."

—  
I still love thee, " as my own soul."

(From "*The Times*," December 17th, 1940.)

CHOIRMASTER AND ORGANIST.

Mr. Norman Tott, of the Engineers' Office, has obtained the post as choirmaster and organist at Gazeley, and I am sure we all wish him the very best of luck.

LORD LOTHIAN.

The King was represented by the Earl of Clarendon at a memorial service for the Marquess of Lothian, which was held in Westminster Abbey. After the Lesson the choir sang the following verses (by Sir Owen Seaman), quoted by Lord Lothian at the close of his first speech as British Ambassador in Washington :—

You that have faith to look with fearless eyes  
Beyond the tragedy of a world at strife  
And trust that out of night and death shall rise  
The dawn of ampler life :

Rejoice, whatever anguish rend your heart,  
That God has given you, for a priceless dower,  
To live in these great times and have your part  
In Freedom's crowning hour ;

That you may tell your sons who see the light  
High in the heaven, their heritage to take :  
" I saw the powers of darkness put to flight !  
I saw the morning break ! "

MY HEARTY THANKS !

With the passing of the old year I should like to extend my hearty thanks to all who have kindly helped me in the production of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE. The assistance so willingly given makes the work a labour of love. In particular, am I indebted to our renowned printers, Messrs. Bradley & Son, Ltd. Their expert help and advice are invaluable and I should like especially to thank Mr. S. A. Lee, one of their Directors, who attends to my wants—and they are many! At all times he receives me with the greatest kindness and courtesy and my numerous journeys to the Crown Press are indeed pleasurable ones.

OUR SOCIAL CLUB.

Our Social Club continues to cater for all who can use it with a marked degree of success. There are happy re-unions when men serving in the Forces come home for a brief spell and greet old comrades. A fine atmosphere of real friendship and sociability prevails and the manner in which the popular Steward and Stewardess (Mr. and Mrs. Holmes) study the comfort and convenience of all who patronise the Club is deserving of the highest commendation. They are kind and courteous, always very cheery, and it is ever a pleasure to meet them.

May they long continue their good work !

THE HAND AND THE EGG.

The following letter appeared in *The Times* :—

Sir,—The enclosed letter to my son, who is a Government official in the Gold Coast, may seem worthy of publication in your newspaper, showing as it does the patriotic spirit of the African natives.

Yours faithfully,

G. R. AMORY.

The Bridge House, Bradfield, Reading.

His Worship, The Asst. District Commissioner,  
Bole/Gonja.

I have the honour to approach you this evening with one native walking stick as a present I am giving you. It is a human being's hand holding an egg. The meaning is that the English Government is the "hand" and the "egg" is the Gold Coast natives; if English Government takes away his hands from the neck of the Gold Coast, we will fall down and could not be risen again. God may therefore assist English in this present war to conquer the Germans.

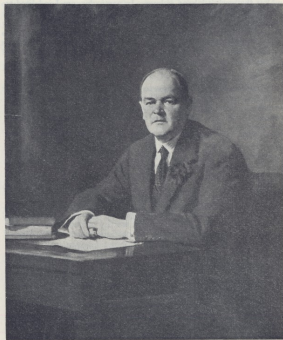
I have the honour to remain here,

I am, your Servant,

KAFI KREKERI × his mark.

Bole, 2/11/1940.

Carpenter.



[Portrait by Captain Oswald H. J. Borley, M.C., R.O.I.]

MR. F. A. SIMONDS.

## SIXTIETH BIRTHDAY OF OUR CHAIRMAN AND MANAGING DIRECTOR, MR. F. A. SIMONDS.

Our Chairman and Managing Director (Mr. F. A. Simonds) attained his 60th birthday on Thursday, January 2nd, and we extend to him our heartfelt congratulations and wish him many very happy returns of the day. That wish will be re-echoed far and wide, and among all classes. To his intimate friends, Mr. Simonds is regarded with feelings of affection that can only be adequately expressed by the word love, while all who know him look up to him with the greatest respect and admiration.

Not only is Mr. Simonds sixty years of age. He has recently completed 25 years as Managing Director—latterly as Chairman and Managing Director—of the great firm over which he rules. His ever-alert brain and big-mindedness, his firmness, tact, courtesy and kindness, are a few of the traits which help him to perform the stupendous task that falls to his lot.

During these fateful days he has indeed captained the ship of Simonds in masterly fashion, displaying that same quietude of demeanour in storm as in calm.

The cheerful manner in which he is "carrying on" in these troublous times is indeed a noble example—an example which we should all strive to emulate.

May the day soon dawn when we shall have peace in our time and our beloved Chairman and Managing Director will be rejoined by his Co-Directors, now serving their country, and relieved of some of the heavy and ever-increasing burdens now resting upon his shoulders.

## H. &amp; G. SIMONDS' ANNUAL MEETING.

A NET PROFIT OF £218,903 REPORTED.

## PROBLEM OF SUPPLYING BOTTLED BEERS.

A net profit of £218,903 16s. 2d. was reported at the annual meeting of H. & G. Simonds Ltd., which was held at 19 Bridge Street, Reading, on Monday, 16th December. Mr. F. A. Simonds (chairman and managing director of the company) presided, and other directors present were Mr. J. H. Simonds (vice-chairman), Mr. A. J. Redman, Major G. S. M. Ashby and Capt. L. A. Simonds.

The secretary (Mr. E. S. Phipps) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The report of the directors for the year ended September 30th, 1940, stated: After providing for interest on the debenture stocks, and making ample allowances for depreciation, repairs, and the various expenses of the business, including taxation, the net profit for the year amounts to £218,903 16s. 2d., to which has to be added the balance brought forward from September 30th, 1939, viz., £103,544 3s. 0d., making a total available for appropriation of £322,447 19s. 2d. Out of this has been paid, or provided for, the following: Dividend on £1,200,000 cumulative preference stock at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, less income tax, for the year ended September 30th, 1940, £36,750; interim dividend on £800,000 ordinary stock at the rate of 3½ per cent., less income tax (paid June 8th, 1940), £17,500; leaving for disposal the sum of £268,197 19s. 2d.

## THE CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH.

Mr. F. A. Simonds, in the course of his address, said:—In common with the policy of many chairmen of companies I propose this year to confine within as narrow a compass as possible my remarks on the activities and operations of the company during the past year. Four of my co-directors—Commander H. D. Simonds, R.N. (Ret.), Capt. L. A. Simonds, R.A.S.C., Capt. R. B. St. J. Quarry, R.C.S., and Capt. F. H. V. Keighley—are serving the country in various capacities at home and abroad. You will once again, with me, wish them a speedy return, safe and sound, to their duties with the company. We sorely miss their assistance and advice. I wish to take this opportunity of offering the warmest thanks of the directors to those members of our staff in London, Bristol, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Brighton and other areas where they continue to carry out their duties under most dangerous and restricting conditions.

You will have read with much pride and pleasure that the company was, during the month of June, honoured with the grant of a Royal Warrant of Appointment as brewers to His Majesty King George VI, a privilege which is highly prized.

Trade during the year under review has been well maintained, if not reaching the abnormal height of the previous year. In many areas, owing to redistribution of population due to enemy action, there has been inevitably a marked decrease, but in other districts, either in the temporary occupation of His Majesty's Forces or affected by the arrival of large numbers of evacuees, this decline has been counterbalanced by an increase in turnover. The demand for beers in bottle has assumed unmanageable proportions; this has been the experience of brewers generally. It is not unconnected with the natural desire of the public to take beer home with them for consumption at their own table during the hours of black-out, rather than follow their usual bent and take their refreshment in the licensed houses with the attendant risk of a journey in the dark. We have continually to appeal to our customers to accept their beer in our houses from the cask rather than in bottle for consumption on the premises, and I take this opportunity of entreating our tenants to use their persuasive powers to achieve this result, and our customers to be tolerant of such requests. It is not, perhaps, appreciated that the service of beer in bottle entails an immense amount of labour in the process of bottling, as also in the manufacture of bottles, stoppers, labels, etc., and the delivery of beer in bottle involves the employment of a much higher proportion of transport than is incurred by delivery in cask, and in these days of shortage of petrol and labour, and longer hours of darkness, one is most anxious to restrict these uneconomic outlays.

The Profit and Loss Account discloses a net profit somewhat lower than that of last year. The cost of materials, barley in particular, has again advanced to an extravagant figure, and all expenses in connection with output and distribution are on a much higher scale than heretofore, and the premium in connection with war risks insurance has been no small item.

A considerable number of our staff and employees are serving their country, and we have made certain provisions for their dependants. I need hardly remind them how they are constantly in our thoughts and how we all long to see them back again and pursuing their normal avocations. I can assure them that in their absence those of us who are left behind, together with the harmonious assistance of a large body of men and women whom we have engaged temporarily to take their place, are doing our utmost to maintain the best traditions of the firm. It would be invidious to praise any department or manager or individual member of the

staff where all have vied with each other to keep the flag flying, but results achieved have reflected the utmost credit on all concerned. In this connection I must allude to the appointment of an advisory council under the chairmanship of our chief accountant, Mr. A. G. Richardson, who have dealt with many matters of importance which would, in normal circumstances, have been decided by the Board.

I must on your behalf send a message of greeting and congratulations to our associated company in Malta, Simonds-Farsons Ltd., who, as you know, are endeavouring to continue operations in most arduous and perilous surroundings. We are doing everything in our power to keep them supplied with the requisite brewing materials. The gallant defence of the population of Malta against the Italian brigands has won the admiration of the whole Empire. I have again to record the receipt of a very valuable contribution from our subsidiary company, the Cirencester Brewery Ltd., which continues to be managed admirably, as in years past, by the original proprietors—the members of the Cripps' family.

I am sensible of the many grave difficulties under which the majority of our licensees have been functioning, and have admired their patience and tolerance under these very trying conditions. I am also pleased to report that our managed houses have shown an excellent return for our venture and our attention and service at those establishments, sometimes in face of very aggravating circumstances, have earned for us unstinted praise. Our warmest thanks are due to our customers of His Majesty's Forces, and that influential body of caterers and hotel-keepers, free licence-holders and club committees for their continued patronage. I assure them that, as in the past, it will be our utmost endeavour to maintain the traditional excellence of our service and distribution.

Messrs. Collins, Tootell and Co., having disposed of their practice on March 31st, 1940, resigned from the office of auditors to the company, and the casual vacancy thus caused has been filled by the appointment of Messrs. Turquand, Youngs, McAuliffe and Co., chartered accountants, to act until this meeting, and, in this connection, you will shortly be invited to re-appoint them. I cannot let this occasion pass without referring with gratitude to the valuable services rendered and for the advice so willingly given for many years past by Mr. W. W. Collins, not only to myself, but to my colleagues and all members of the staff with whom he came in contact. Finally, I hope that by the time we next meet the present distressing conditions—which have made the conduct of business so difficult—may have disappeared and that your directors may be concentrating on the solution of the many problems which must,

inevitably, confront our trade after the victorious conclusion of hostilities.

I now beg to move the following resolution:—That the directors' report and accounts for the year ended September 30th, 1940, be received and adopted; and that, having already paid the dividend on £1,200,000 5 per cent. cumulative preference stock, less income tax, for the year ended September 30th, 1940, and an interim dividend of 3½ per cent., less income tax, on £800,000 ordinary stock, the directors now recommend that the balance of £268,197 19s. 2d. be appropriated as follows:—To service of debenture redemption, £10,177 10s. 0d.; to pay a final dividend on £800,000 ordinary stock at the rate of 14½ per cent., less income tax (making 18 per cent. for the year), £66,700; to add to pensions reserve (making a total of £125,000) £5,175; to add to property improvement account (making a total of £150,000), £16,533; to add to general reserve (making a total of £470,000), £10,546 17s. 4d.; to add to contingencies reserve (making a total of £165,000), £55,000; to carry forward to next year; £104,065 11s. 10d.—Total, £268,197 19s. 2d.

Mr. J. H. Simonds, C.B., D.L., J.P., seconded the resolution, which was unanimously approved.

#### DIRECTORS RE-APPOINTED.

Commander H. D. Simonds, R.N., and Capt. L. A. Simonds retired from the board in accordance with the articles of association, and they were re-elected on the proposition of Major G. S. M. Ashby, seconded by Mr. A. J. Redman.

Capt. L. A. Simonds, in reply, said he spoke for himself, and he knew that he also voiced the sentiments of Commander Simonds, when he thanked the meeting for re-electing them. It was a great regret that they could be of no use to them at the moment, but they were longing to be back with them.

Messrs. Turquand, Youngs, McAuliffe and Co., chartered accountants, of 19 Coleman Street, E.C.2, were re-appointed auditors, on the proposition of Major M. H. Simonds, seconded by Mr. G. W. Smith.

Mr. L. J. Osmond, replying on behalf of the firm, said they were very proud of their association with so successful a company.

Mrs. C. M. Simonds, proposing a vote of thanks to the chairman, said it was the 25th year of Mr. F. A. Simonds' managership, which she believed was something of a record. Those years had proved years of prosperity to the firm. They thanked him for his work,



and hoped they would have his support and guidance for many years to come.

Mrs. F. A. Simonds, O.B.E., seconded the resolution, which was carried with acclamation.

The chairman, in response, expressed gratitude for the help which he received from his co-directors, Major Ashby in particular, and also from the departmental managers, the staff and the employees during these times of very great stress and difficulty. He only hoped that by this time next year they might meet under happier conditions. Work became more onerous, and they seemed to meet with more snags every day. He realised that those responsible for receiving and carrying out whatever decisions he might make carried them out in the best spirit, even if they happened to disagree with them. Everybody in the brewery had worked wonderfully. He only hoped that those who were carrying the burden in the brewery to-day might be relieved of some of it by this time next year through the return of some of their young men.

#### INTERESTING FACTS CONCERNING H. & G. SIMONDS A.R.P.

##### HEADQUARTERS.

The efficiency of H.Q. has, during the past twelve months, been well maintained. The volunteer staff carry out their duties keenly and well. Each man has a rota of duty set out for him which is strictly adhered to and so ensures a smooth working of the post. The log book is kept up to date so that the person taking over can see at a glance exactly what has been happening during his absence. Contact is maintained with the observation posts the whole time hostile aircraft is in the vicinity, so that should quick action to take cover be necessary the warning can be given immediately.

##### FIRE BRIGADE.

During the past three months the auxiliary firemen have been undergoing an examination which, to put it mildly, has been severe. The examination papers were drawn up by Capt. Drewe, Chief Officer Aust and Mr. Crisp, and contained the following :—

Fire Drill, Wardens Drill, Elementary First Aid, Knowledge of Gases, Knowledge of Fire Posts and Equipment, and Vital Points of the Brewery.

The men have proved their worth and results have been very satisfactory. This opinion has been endorsed by Capt. Drewe who carried out a good number of tests personally. As the tests were difficult a minimum of 50 per cent. was required to pass. The highest marks obtained was 84 per cent. and lowest 53 per cent. All the auxiliary firemen have been drafted into the regular auxiliary brigade and are being fitted with uniforms.

##### FIRST AID POST.

Here also the firm can feel every confidence in the abilities of this branch of the service to do all that may be required of them. They have already had several casualties to deal with, including a serious road accident. Their efficiency in this case received high praise from the police and public. Mr. Kent and Mr. Howells keep their staff at a high standard of proficiency and their First Aid Post is certainly a credit to the firm.

##### SPOTTERS.

These boys have been going ahead steadily in gaining knowledge of aircraft. They have been properly trained by Mr. Gleave, the lecturer in charge of this region. All have passed their tests and received certificates to this effect. Capt. Drewe has allotted a room to them so that they can hold lectures and discussions as frequently as possible in order to improve their knowledge of this difficult task. Mr. Crisp has arranged weekly lectures and discussions. Last month a record of their work was put before the Board of Directors which was well received and commended. They have also been thanked by the other spotters organisations in the borough for their co-operation in identifying aircraft. A letter from the Regional Alarm Officer speaks well of their work.

##### DECONTAMINATION.

The members of this party are well trained in their arduous duties and can be relied upon to be on the spot when called. This is in no small measure due to the untiring efforts of their leader, Mr. Venner.

##### TELEPHONE WARDENS.

These people, although their efforts are perhaps the least spectacular, do a great deal to ensure speed and accuracy at their posts, often for long spells, especially at week-ends.

There are many others, too numerous to mention now, who have done, and are still doing splendid work. They deserve all the praise and encouragement that can be given to them.

#### BRANCHES.

Magnificent work has been done by the A.R.P. personnel at certain of our Branches during actual enemy air attacks, and it is hoped to deal more fully with their achievements in a future issue.

#### NOTE.

Mr. Lawrence tells me that a scheme for Fire Watchers is being prepared and that he will shortly be calling for volunteers. He would also be glad to receive the names of any employees who would like to assist in roof spotting.



Mr. W. J. Crisp, who has been attached to our Headquarters Staff, as instructor, since last summer.

### THE CAPTAIN AND HIS SHIP.

It is the sad duty of a newspaper, particularly in time of war, to chronicle many tragedies, at sea, on land, and in the air. Among them, from time to time, are those of the loss of ships at sea, events which in the nature of things are only too often accompanied by regrettable loss of life. The casualties then recorded may include the captain of the lost ship. It is inevitable that this should occasionally be so, but there is no foundation whatever for the tale that it is the invariable rule. Yet whenever it does happen a number of people are moved to write letters to the Press—as any editor's bag can testify—protesting against the sway of the alleged tradition that “the captain must go down with his ship.”

It seems desirable, in order to save much unnecessary pain to those who may have lost a father, husband, or son in this way, to point out with all the emphasis at command that among seamen there is no such tradition. It seems to have been the invention of the sentimental novelist, borrowed and adapted for his own purposes by the sensational reporter. Traditions of the sea, indeed, there are. There is much that is noble but nothing that is theatrical or sentimental about them, and never could they be quoted as responsible for a useless sacrifice. That which governs the conduct of the captain of a ship at all times, in triumph or disaster, is that his duty makes him responsible for the safety of his ship and her company—put in that order not because things are more valuable than men but because to ensure the safety of the ship is the best way to ensure that of all on board. That duty dictates that he shall not leave her while a possibility remains that human effort can save her. Unless he is disabled, his qualifications no less than his duty dictate that he shall direct that effort. But, if and when the moment comes for him to give the order “Abandon ship,” the ship's company take the place of the ship herself as his first care, and there is no tradition that can relieve him of that responsibility.

The captain indeed may go down with his ship. He on whom the heaviest responsibility rests must inevitably be more exposed to danger than most of those under his direction. But, if he does, it is the perils of the sea that are responsible for the loss of a life more valuable than many others, not a theatrical tradition which has no existence in reality. Such a death is no useless sacrifice. It is the end of a hero who gives his life at the call of duty in the act of providing for the safety of those committed to his charge.

*The Times.*

## THE LATE MR. A. H. FLATMAN.

Mr. A. H. Flatman, whose death occurred on 1st December, had a very interesting career as gamekeeper. His father was head gamekeeper and the son spent his young days at Coombe Park, Whitechurch, and Bear Wood. He was buried at Henley Road Cemetery, Caversham, and amongst the lovely floral tributes was one from Mr. F. A. Simonds. It was a large wreath with a bunch of evergreens and in this was placed quite a number of cock pheasants' tail feathers—"In memory of many a day's good sport in woods, on fields and meadows."

Mr. Flatman went into the employment of Mr. Henry A. Simonds nearly 60 years ago as head gamekeeper at Barton Court, Kintbury. This was a small estate with good mixed sport. Mr. Simonds' chief sport at that time was fly fishing for trout; many good catches were made and very fine fish taken. It was the gamekeeper's duty to see that the streams were kept clear of weeds, etc. He also had to destroy the enemies of the trout, the chief of these being the jack or pike and large numbers of these fresh water sharks were netted or wired.

Mr. Simonds left Barton Court at the end of 1885 and took a much larger estate at Red Rise, near Andover. This was a first class place for all game and large numbers of pheasants were



Mr. A. H. Flatman, among the woods he loved.

reared and some big bags were taken to the larder. There was also some excellent partridge shooting with bags numbering as many as 150 to 200 brace a day.

Mr. Flatman was very keen on destroying vermin—from a rat up to the more large and artful ones. When hounds drew any of his covers it was seldom they drew a blank. He used to say it was a poor man who could not keep one or two foxes.

A first class shot and always using a 20-bore gun, he was very successful in bringing down snipe, wild duck and woodcock, also the little cock sparrow hawk.

Mr. Simonds left Red Rise in 1900 and went to Audleys Wood, Basingstoke, obtaining shooting in that district. Here again Mr. Flatman gave some first class sport.

He was a keen cricketer and played with good teams in his younger days.

## THE BREED'S STILL THERE!

Mr. W. J. Medlam, Chairman of a British Legion Club, writes as follows to our Mr. Gosney:—"Dear Mr. Gosney, I have, as you know, for many years been a keen reader of *The Hop Leaf Gazette* and from time to time have been interested to see topical verses inserted which have a peculiar interest to the special locality to which they refer. The verses I enclose were written after I had watched the children during an air raid alarm last July. We are using our village hall as an auxiliary school and you will therefore understand the reference to the billiards table. What makes one of the lines more applicable is the fact that during a night raid I was sitting up in bed trying to recompose a certain line I could not get to scan properly. At length I got it to my satisfaction and left it as it now reads "And if we follow their example," when flash-bang, the ceiling was on top of me and broken glass and furniture as well. So you see I had a very good opportunity of following my own advice (which I hope I did). Anyway, I think our kiddies are like their parents, and it takes a lot to stop them from "carrying on" once they're started. If your editor thinks the verses good enough for insertion in your interesting "family journal" he is welcome to them.

Appended are the interesting verses which the editor has the greatest pleasure in publishing, at the same time congratulating Mr. Medlam on the excellence of his lines:

## FOOTBALL.

A very interesting football match was played on the Sports Ground on a Saturday in December, when a team drawn from a Company, R.A.S.C., met the 5th Divisional Headquarters of the Royal Corps of Signals. The game was very keenly contested throughout and it was touch and go right until the end, resulting in a victory for the R.A.S.C. of 3 goals to 2. All the players and spectators thoroughly enjoyed the game.

Captain L. A. Simonds, R.A.S.C., who is the Officer Commanding the Company, was present and was a very keen supporter of his men. He was highly amused at the scene in the bathroom when the two teams indulged in a hot bath after the match—twenty-four men in one bath gives a good idea of the size of accommodation.

After leaving the Sports Ground the party proceeded to the Social Club in Bridge Street, where a tea awaited them. During the meal Captain Simonds said how pleased he was to have the opportunity of providing his men with this diversion and welcomed them and the opposing team to the Club. An N.C.O. from the R.A.S.C. and an N.C.O. from the R.C.S. suitably responded. After tea a social evening was spent in games and dancing. Supper was provided during the evening. Mr. and Mrs. Holmes had worked hard to prepare for the visit and their efforts were very much appreciated.



ONE DOSE OF 5X<sup>5</sup> & the MOUSE stands up to the CAT

## NATURE NOTE.

(BY C.H.P.).

## THE WONDERFUL GIFT OF LIFE.

## INSTINCTS OF THE LOWER ANIMALS.

The Old Year has passed and we are now on the threshold of the New. If we are observant, ever-new wonders will be opening up before us in Nature's great garden. How wonderful and mysterious to us is the principle of life even when exhibited in its very lowest forms of organized existence. The poet has been accused of a sentimental exaggeration when, in his indignant protest against cruelty to the lower creation, he exclaims :—

The very beetle that we tread upon ;

In mortal suffering feels a pang as great

As when a giant dies.

There are, however, both truth and wisdom in these lines. To the well regulated and thoughtful mind, the death even of a fly or of some noxious earwig by our own hand, when its intrusion has seemed to justify the stern act, must seem a sad necessity. Its life is a gift from God. That wondrous mechanism of limbs, muscles, and feelers, wings, and eyes, feathery down, or glancing plates of mail, which reveal ever new wonders and beauties under the microscope, and put to shame all the mechanical ingenuity of man, is His gift.

The butterfly that flits from flower to flower, or the

Bees that soar for bloom,

High as the highest peak of Furness-fells,

And murmur by the hour in foxglove bells ;—

the house-fly finding ample verge enough in the moty sunbeam that enters through some unguarded chink, or even the unsightly grub, or ear-wig that seem to the careless eye as blots on the garden, and intruders among pleasant fruits and flowers ; all are capable of an enjoyment as amply suited to the capacities of their nature, as we are of pleasure, and also of pain. How harsh an act is it needlessly, and without provocation, to tread out that mysterious and wonderful gift of life which all the wisdom of our ingenuity cannot restore.

## INSTINCTS OF THE LOWER ANIMALS.

The entire subject of the instincts of the lower animals forms one of the most attractive and inexhaustible themes for the investigation of the student of nature. Man, as a rational and accountable being, is provided with faculties for benefiting by experience, and receiving instruction from a thousand different sources. Born a helpless, naked infant, with a probationary season of youth, protracted through fully twenty years, and accompanied with the gradual development of successive faculties and desires, he profits by the example of others, and shares in the experience of generations long returned to the dust. Every age witnesses some change, and most of them some important progress. And even when, as with thousands in every age, the good old rule suffices them of doing as their fathers did, it is a matter of imitation and habit, derived from experience, and altogether different from the unerring instincts of the lower animals. With these no parental monitor warns or advises; no moralist restrains, and no teacher discloses to them the secrets of novel arts. The caterpillar, which knows nought of its butterfly parents, and dreams not of ever soaring on the air, weaves its silken coil, constructs its nest by binding the edges of the leaf around it, and passes into its strange second stage, the wintry state of the chrysalis, having provided all needful appliances for its awaking, without sharing in the experience of a single elder caterpillar, or the grave monitions of one full grown butterfly. Another season comes round, and the same warmth which vivifies the seed and makes it sprout, awakens the dormant energies of the chrysalis, and casting off its slough, it flies abroad to seek its mate, and fulfil the great law of Nature in the continuation of its species. Without previous knowledge or experience, its innate instincts guide it at once to its own proper food, and also teach it to deposit its eggs where the future caterpillar shall find its appropriate, though totally different nutriment.

## " THE FLOWER OPENS, AND BEHOLD! ANOTHER YEAR."

All now recognise that the snowdrop is the true firstling of the year, the aconite and Christmas rose being regarded rather as the

offspring of winter. It is at its invitation that we hasten out, amid the half-melted snow, and flatter ourselves that the winter at length is past and open-handed spring has come.

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.

Let us hope and pray that that last line, in particular, will soon prove true!

## " IN-AS-MUCH."

All this day till set of sun  
I have busied to and fro:  
But for Thee, Lord, what was done?  
What, for Thee, have I to show?

—True, I scattered there and here  
On the ground some crumbs of bread:  
—For the weather was severe  
And the sparrows must be fed.

—True, I smiled to see the wren  
And the buoyant-hearted thrush:  
—But ignored my fellow-men  
Trudging grimly thro' the slush.

Not a single thought I spared  
For the worried ones I met:  
—Nothing for their troubles cared  
Tho' each face was stern and set.

Pity for the robin weak!  
—For the little hungry bird:  
But for those who comfort seek  
Not a solitary word!

Oh forgive a churl; forgive!  
—Pardon me that I am such:  
—Help me, Lord, that I may live  
To deserve Thine " In-as-much."

S. E. COLLINS.



The sign of this well-known hotel is commemorated  
 on the top of the main entrance which was erected in  
 1871. It is a very old sign and is the only one of its  
 kind in the city. The sign is made of wood and is  
 painted in the colors of the dragon. It is a very  
 old sign and is the only one of its kind in the  
 city. It is a very old sign and is the only one  
 of its kind in the city. It is a very old sign  
 and is the only one of its kind in the city.

His Arms are Galls are a chivalrous 3 medals of the noble,  
 He later incorporated the arms of his wife, a Cheviot ewe.  
 The 3 examples are shown over the fireplace in the Buttery.

The Dragon Arms was among the many Coaching Inns for which  
 Sheen is famous. The inn was built in 1710 and was  
 a very good inn in those days and it must have been a glorious  
 sight to see the coaching coaches and the cars of the  
 blunderbusses, now, alas, a thing of the past.

Yet the old spirit of hospitality is still retained in the  
 hotel. The guests are welcomed as of yore and the house is  
 justly noted for its cooking and comfort, and although in these  
 modern days of cocktails one never hears an order for sack or  
 Madeira, one can still order and obtain a Stoup of good Ale  
 from the Buttery.

Guest.

## BREWERY JOTTINGS.

(BY W. DUNSTER).

Yes, the old wish! A Happy New Year to all our readers.

After all Christmas was enjoyed and no doubt everyone at  
 The Brewery made the very best of it, in spite of spells of duty for  
 a lot of us of A.R.P. It could be truly said that we were busy both  
 before the holiday and certainly afterwards. Take it all in all it  
 wasn't too bad, was it?

Some of our service lads managed to get home for Christmas  
 and were welcomed. We have had visits from a few since and they  
 all look fit; a number also seem to be doing surprisingly well and  
 are N.C.O.'s. Someone comes into the office and when you make  
 enquiries as to who that Sergeant is you are informed, "Oh! that's  
 so and so, used to be in the maltings" (or stables, brewery, scalds  
 or some other department). "Well," you remark, "he's got on  
 fine and no mistake."

I am given to understand there was no lack of festivity at  
 The Social Club on Christmas Eve and many thoroughly enjoyed  
 themselves. No doubt, under the able guidance and management  
 of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Holmes, things are booming. Well, they  
 both deserve a pat on the back for their good services.

This year did not see the start of quarterly balancing as other  
 arrangements have been made which will mean one less spell of  
 this duty during the course of the year. Nevertheless, quite a  
 number have been working late, for January is always a pretty  
 hefty month after the Christmas rush, as all in the General Office  
 will confirm.

Now that the 36's have to register very soon I suppose we must  
 look out for a few more departures from our staff and before long  
 we may only be left with the "old and bolds" plus, of course, a  
 large contingent of ladies dressed in their businesslike green  
 overalls.

So far we have had only one or two casualties in the way of  
 illness and we sincerely hope this happy state of affairs will continue,  
 for I think we all remember what a trying time it was last year,  
 particularly during January and February. Still, there's a good  
 time coming, we hope.

Football is still carrying on at The Brewery and the boys are  
 playing quite well. Also, the ladies are still keeping the hockey  
 flag flying.

As regards the Reading Football Club, they are doing quite well thank you! Maybe many of our friends noticed that they beat the mighty Arsenal. What a shout there would have been amongst the fans had the match been played in peace-time.

Owing to many difficulties, the demand for bottled beers is far exceeding the available supply. In consequence, draught beers will have to take their place and everyone will have to realise this. Now, don't say you haven't been warned!

The new savings "cycle" has just started and is going strong. In addition to extra certificates being subscribed for, the savings stamp idea is meeting with great success. Anyone wishing for further particulars will they please get in touch with the Hon. Secretary, Mr. A. H. Hopkins, of the Correspondence Office.

Who is "Sirene Bill"?

All friends, and they are very many, will be sorry to hear Mr. Sydney Hinton has met with an accident which will incapacitate him for a while. At the moment full details are lacking, but I am sure everyone will wish him a speedy recovery to take up his duties once again. Somehow one looks upon Sydney as an "ever-present."

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

The Swan, West Wycombe (Wheeler's Wycombe Breweries)—  
Mr. J. L. D. Barry.

The Boar's Head, Friar Street, Reading (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—Mr. F. P. B. Walker.

The Reindeer, Southampton Street, Reading (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—Mrs. D. E. Day.

The Red Cow, Albert Street, Slough (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—  
Mr. H. Hoskins.

The Race Horse, Carshalton (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—Mr.  
C. J. Speed.

We much regret to record the death of Mr. H. T. Seymour of the Red House, Newbury, where he had been tenant for 29 years. The opportunity is taken to tender our sincere sympathies to all relatives in their loss.

## WORDS OF WISDOM.

A THOUGHT.—In His will lies our peace.

What's got by Justice is establish sure;  
No Kingdoms got by Rapine long endure.—*Herrick.*

Good-nature is stronger than tomahawks.

Integrity gains strength by use.

Men, like bullets, go farthest when they are smoothest.

Nature is the only book that teems with meaning on every page.

Storms make oaks take deeper root.

The civilised savage is the worst of all savages.

The small courtesies sweeten life; the greater ennoble it.

They most assume who know the least.

Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace.—*Daniel iii, 17.*

The world is only a place of pilgrimage, but after all, there is a good deal of cheer on the journey if it is made with a contented heart.

There's your work, and my work,  
And work for all to do.  
But if you shirk your work,  
Someone else must do,  
Not only his own work,  
But your work too.

There are nettles everywhere :  
But smooth, green grasses are more common still ;  
The blue of heaven is larger than the cloud.

When the One Great Scorer comes to write against your name,  
He writes—not that you won or lost—but how you played the game.

“ OUR KIDDIES.”

I peeped into our village hall  
(Used as a schoolroom, be it said),  
The siren's warning note I heard  
And “ Jerry's ” bombers overhead.

I'll tell you now just what occurred  
(No, 'twasn't like the Tower of Babel).  
The kiddies sat upon the floor,  
Some got beneath the billiards table.

And did they panic? Not at all !  
They did just as their teachers told 'em.  
They played at shops as kiddies will,  
Some bought the goods, and others sold 'em.

Some sang those sweetest songs of all  
(The songs of childhood, I remember).  
I do declare I felt like May  
(Altho' I'm not far off December).

And when the “ All Clear ” boomed again  
At teachers' word they joined their classes  
And carried on, so calm and cool,  
Real little British lads and lassies.

Thank God, thought I, the breed's still there,  
Our village school is just a sample  
Of all the schools in our dear land,  
And if we follow their example

Not Hitler nor his purblind slaves  
Shall ever take away our freedom.  
For “ ERSATZ ” won't build British hearts,  
And mark you this, *they* cannot breed 'em.

A GREAT THOUGHT.

*Many forget that character grows ; that it is not something to put on ready-made ; day by day, here a little, there a little, it grows with one's growth, strengthens with one's strength, until, good or bad, it becomes almost a coat of mail.*

*Look at the man of business—prompt, reliable, conscientious, yet clear-headed and energetic. When do you suppose he developed all three good qualities? When he was a boy.*

*Let us see how a boy of ten years gets up in the morning, works, plays, studies, and we can tell you just what kind of a man he will make. The boy who is late at breakfast, late at school, stands a poor chance of being a prompt man. The boy who neglects his duties, be they ever so small, and then excuses himself by saying, “ I forgot ; I didn't think,” will never be a reliable man ; and the boy who finds pleasure in the suffering of weak creatures will never be a noble, generous, kind man—a Christian gentleman.*

The undermentioned was the menu suggested by one of our hotel managers as likely to be all that would be offered as the bill of fare in the near future. Our readers who understand French will appreciate the amusing side of it :—

Consommé à l'eau fraîche.

Noisette de rien.

Legume invisible.

Rôti manquant.

Sauce évaporée.

Compote absente.

Dessert à venir.



## THE LIGHTER SIDE.

A woman went to buy a drinking trough for her dog, and the shopkeeper asked her if she would like one that bore the inscription, "For the dog."

"I don't mind at all," she replied. "My husband only drinks beer, and the dog can't read."

\* \* \*

HE: "I wonder if Hitler gets any sleep these nights?"

SHE: "He should. He's got eighty million sheep to count!"

\* \* \*

A certain Scottish regiment had a few Englishmen in its ranks, one of whom was a huge blustering fellow albeit a fearless soldier. One dark night he crept "over the top" alone. (Necessity they say is the author of invention, and rations and equipment had been short for a considerable time and the boys were hungry and almost barefoot.) It was winter. Our English hero sought the great open spaces occupied by Jerry, and regained his own sector half an hour later wearing a pair of most comfortable boots.

In answer to numerous enquiries from his almost barefooted comrades, he nonchalantly remarked that he had been in the German lines, killed a Hun, and taken his boots.

A most insignificant little Scot had listened patiently to his story and decided that he too would visit the "Boot Stores."

Accordingly he slipped unostentatiously over the top of the parapet. The others marked the time of his going.

Slowly the hours passed, one, two, two and a half.

Now Doodles was a favourite and the boys were concerned and worried lest such a good soldier and pal should lose his freedom or perhaps his life for a pair of boots.

At last, however, three hours later, Doodles re-appeared wearing a pair of jet black Wellingtons.

By and by, the Englishman joined the importunate enquiring mob and learning that he had been outclassed, remarked: "Well, anyway it only took me half an hour, whereas it took you three hours."

"Sure," retorted Doodles, "but you see I had to kill half a dozen Jerries before I could get a pair of boots to fit me."

SHOPWALKER: "And what is your pleasure, sir?"

MAN: "None, I'm waiting for my wife."

\* \* \*

MRS. SMITH: "Everything is going up."

MR. SMITH: "Oh, I don't know. For instance, there's your opinion of me, my opinion of you, and the neighbour's opinion of us both."

\* \* \*

A certain member of the Bomb Disposal Squad who is second to none in the demolishing of either liquid or solid rations was alongside a couple of mates, twenty feet below ground, searching for certain dangerous iron rations. Without any warning he became excited and clambered out of the hole. One of those on top said: "What's up, mate; is it going off?" He replied: "Oh, no! I'm not bothering about the bomb. There's a blinking wasp in the 'ole."

\* \* \*

With a grinding of brakes the officer pulled up his motor car and shouted to a little boy playing in a field: "I say, sonny, have you seen an aeroplane come down anywhere near here?"

"No, sir!" replied the boy, trying to hide his sling-shot. "I've only been shooting at a bottle."

\* \* \*

A music-loving soldier was purchasing records for a camp concert with his pal.

JACK: "How many more do you want?"

JIM: "I only want 'The Blue Danube,' 'The Holy City' and 'Vienna Woods' now."

JACK: Blimey! Are you in league with Hitler or are you starting a 'grab' on your own?"

\* \* \*

A couple of soldiers were overheard talking about what they'd do to the sergeant when the war was over.

"I'll go straight up to him and knock his blinkin' block of!" one of them said.

"Oh, no you won't!" his pal said. "You'll stand in the queue like the rest of us."

HUSBAND : " I try to be happy at home, but every time I smile my wife asks if I am not feeling well."

\* \* \*

WIFE : " My husband always thinks what he does is right."

HUSBAND : " I did until I married you."

\* \* \*

As I always say, lady, married men don't live longer than single men.

They only think they do.

\* \* \*

A young woman went into the photographer's shop and, producing a photo of her soldier friend, said : " I want this enlarged."

" Very good," said the assistant. " Would you like it mounted?"

" Oh, yes," said the woman. " He'll look nice on a horse."

\* \* \*

An A.R.P. man was on duty in a sector where several things had gone astray. He was rather jaded after a long spell of duty, and when the official warden came along and said, " Say, mister, did you know the siren has gone?" he replied, " I'm not a bit surprised. They'll take anything."

\* \* \*

There's a house shortage in a country place I know where a lot of people have been evacuated to.

Well, one of the blokes living there was walking along the river bank and he hears someone shouting. He saw it was a chap in the water, and he called out : " Can you swim?"

" No! Help! Save me!"

" What's your name?"

" George Blank! Save me!"

So this chap turned round and ran like mad till he got to the office of the only house agent in the place.

" George Blank will be drowned in a few minutes," he said. " Will you fix me up with his house?"

" Sorry," the agent said. " I've just let it to the man who pushed him in."

### CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.

A Christmas cable from one member of the Firm in Canada to one at the Brewery reads as under :—

Best wishes for Xmas and Nineteen-four-one

And may it obliterate every Hun.

When we've hunted up Hitler and walloped the ' Wop'

Our return from the maple leaf back to the ' Hop.'

### CAPTAIN ERIC KIRBY.

The friends of Captain E. Kirby will be pleased to hear of his promotion. He was a regular contributor to the Gazette prior to joining the Army.

The Chairman of a friendly Brewery Company has sent us the following :—

" Our toffee-nosed evacuees all turned up from school the other day with a colourful card depicting St. George killing the dragon which represented drink, and underneath were the words : ' I promise with the aid of Almighty God to refrain from taking intoxicating liquor for the rest of my days. Signed —, aged 6½. Witness to my signature — ' and I had to give each kid a penny for the purchase of the card, so one adorns our drawing room mantelpiece."

We leave it to individual tastes to estimate the depths of fanaticism and impiety portrayed therein.



## BRANCHES.

## PORTSMOUTH.

## GREETINGS.

This being the first issue of the "Hop Leaf" for 1941 we should like to extend hearty greetings to headquarters and to all branches, as well as to all our readers. May the New Year, started in the midst of war with all its inevitable terrors and suffering, end in victorious peace and bring happiness and prosperity to our beloved Empire and our gallant Allies.

## GOOD HEALTH!

They seem to have done themselves fairly well in the good old days! We were shown recently the wine bill and menu of a municipal banquet held at the Portsmouth Guildhall some 150 years ago. The food was more substantial than dainty, and the drinks, although not very varied, were apparently plentiful. The meat courses included such trifles as baron of beef and "suckling pig," and the only other course was "stuffed capon." As to the liquid sustenance, there was a "special brewed strong ale," French brandy and vintage port; and as the consumption of the last named averaged just over three bottles per guest it can be assumed that everyone went home reasonably happy.

## POMPEY MEMORIES.

We heard a somewhat heated argument in a certain regimental mess recently concerning the inauguration of the Portsmouth Football Club Company Limited. Arguments about football are, generally speaking, interesting, but it is surprising how short some memories are. In case some of our readers are curious concerning the birth of Pompey, it was in 1898 that the Company was formed "for the purpose of acquiring and laying out a piece of land (now known as Fratton Park) at a cost of £4,950 to be used primarily for the game of football and also for such other outdoor games and exercises as shall be from time to time decided." The first chairman was the late Sir John Brickwood, head of the well-known local brewery firm, and the original capital of the Company was £8,000. The first playing season was 1898-9, when the team were in the 1st Division of the Southern League, finishing as runners-up to Tottenham Hotspur, a highly meritorious achievement.

## MORE POLICEMEN.

The Portsmouth City Council at its final meeting of the Old Year was faced with yet another financial problem that could be solved in only one way—the expansion of the police and fire brigade services to meet present-day needs and the increased demands brought about mainly by the war. Application has been made to the Secretary of State to permit an increase of 43 constables and 18 firemen, at an estimated cost for the first year of about £12,000, which will rank for Home Office grant. There can be no question that the fire fighting services were totally inadequate to meet the possible requirements of so large and scattered a city, and although the extra burden on the long-suffering ratepayers is heavy, it is generally conceded that an increase in the services is long overdue.



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| <b>EASTGATE HOTEL,</b><br>IN "THE HILL," OXFORD.<br>Telephone No.: Oxford 2694.           |  |

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