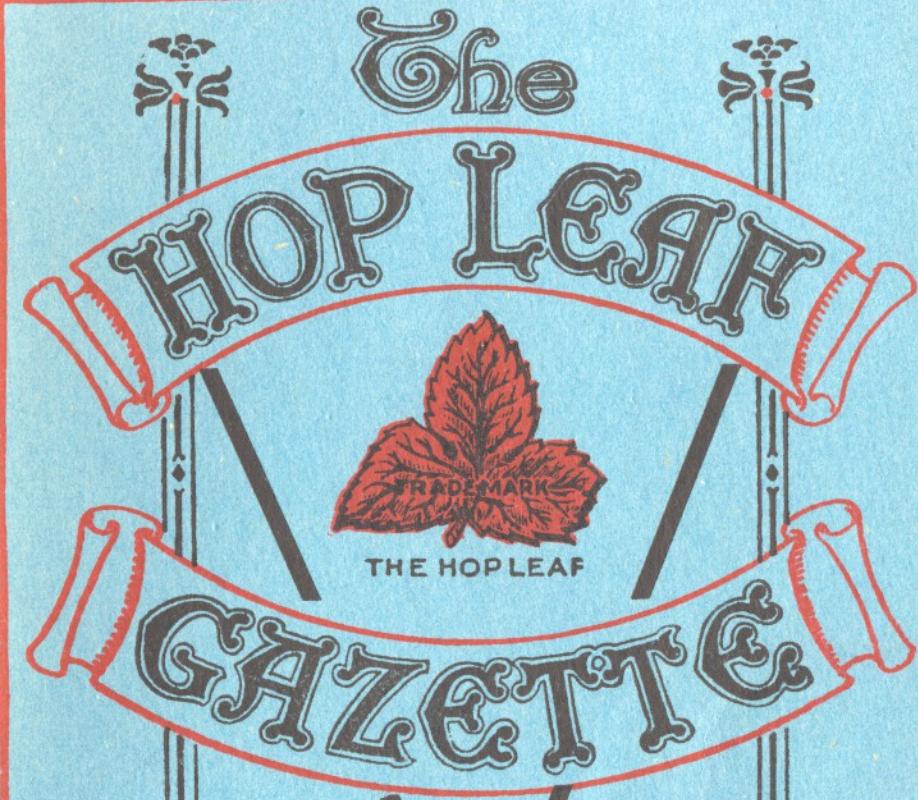


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A RECORD OF SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AT THE BREWERY.

The Hop Leaf Gazette.

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

Edited by CHARLES H. PERRIN.

Vol. XIX.

MARCH, 1945.

No. 2

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Mr. E. E. Hurlock Frontispiece
A Great Thought 56
Chat from the Editor's Chair 57
Annual Report 61
Nature Note 65
Brewery Jottings 69
Words of Wisdom 82
Lighter Side 85
Branches 87

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



MR. E. E. HURLOCK.



Flight Lieut. B. H. Quelch, D.F.C.



Presentation of 1000 "ship" halfpennies at the Torbay Inn, Paignton.

MR. E. E. HURLOCK.

The biography of Mr. E. E. Hurlock, whose portrait appears in this issue, is principally a record of his business career, which may provide additional interest to his colleagues, as it marks the completion of thirty years' service with the Firm.

Mr. Hurlock is another example of the numerous members of the staff whose gradual progress from the bottom of the ladder has been achieved by his own industry and reliability which were recognised many years ago and after two years' probation led to his transfer from the Cask Department to the General Office in 1919, after returning from service with H.M. Forces. In the General Department he has been variously engaged upon Sales Books, Journals and Ledger work, subsequently being moved to the Accounts Department in the early days of the World War. In July, 1940, he was selected for appointment as Assistant Wages Clerk, in which section he is still engaged. His capacity for grasping the technical details of Income Tax deductions, prior and subsequent to the introduction of P.A.Y.E., was exemplified by the energy with which he settled down to the work. He helped to prove that the P.A.Y.E. bogey which originally appeared on the horizon as a formidable giant, had no alarming dimensions when taken in hand by the capable staff. The additional work involved soon found its place in routine and now works smoothly and efficiently. In this important work the confidence which was placed in Mr. Hurlock has again illustrated his dependability.

During the first Great War Mr. Hurlock enlisted in the Royal Naval Air Service at Lee-on-the-Solent and served with that branch of H.M. Forces until the end of 1919.

Upon the outbreak of the present World War Mr. Hurlock became a member of the Brewery First Aid Party. He applied himself assiduously to the training and took the 1st Certificate of the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

A keen motor cyclist prior to the war, Mr. Hurlock has hopes of resuming that enjoyable form of recreation when normal conditions return and peacetime pursuits can again be followed.



A GREAT THOUGHT.

By its choice of heroes a nation may be judged. Its ideals are summed up in their lives. The inspiration which the life and character of Abraham Lincoln hold for our people is the true measure of Anglo-American brotherhood.

Born in poverty on February 12, 1809, from rough and shiftless Kentucky frontier stock, the boy Lincoln trekked with his family from one backwoodsman's hovel to another. He learned to read, to write, to cipher. The boy became a farm-hand, a hired man, a Mississippi boatman, a stores clerk. Before the open fire at night he nourished his slowly maturing genius on the great works of English literature. Later, he studied law. By middle-age he had pulled himself up by the bootstraps into a well-established country lawyer, famous throughout Illinois for his stump speeches on politics.

In 1860 the backwoodsman became President of the United States. The Union stood on the brink of civil war. Lincoln's object was as simple as it was momentous for the history of the world—to preserve the Union. And to preserve it, slavery, the mainstay of property in the South, must be abolished. "This Government cannot exist permanently, half slave and half free." In this majestic purpose he led the North to victory, and when the end of this brothers' conflict came, and he had made one nation of America, he illuminated the future in these words: "With malice towards none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace."

This gaunt and awkward giant with the penetrating eyes and shock of raven hair was the exemplar of democratic virtue. He was a humanitarian, passionate, for the rights of the underdog.

We wage our twentieth-century struggle in Lincoln's spirit. "This is," he said, "a people's contest. On the side of the Union it is a struggle for maintaining in the world that form and substance of government whose leading object is to elevate the condition of man; to lift artificial weights from all shoulders; to clear the paths of laudable pursuits for all; to afford all an unfettered start and a fair chance in the race of life." Across four score years America's hero speaks to all free men—and to all who would be free. He gave universal definitions to democracy.

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

CHAT from THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

(By C. H. P.)

MR. F. A. SIMONDS HONOURED.

Mr. F. A. Simonds, our Chairman and Managing Director, has been appointed to the office of President of the Royal Warrant Holders' Association for the current year. Mr. Simonds previously held this post in the Coronation year, 1937.

How true it is that the busiest men ever find the most time to serve others; and we have in Mr. Eric a typical example.

MR. L. A. SIMONDS ENGAGED.

The engagement is announced and the marriage will take place in May, between Mr. Louis Adolphus Simonds, of Tithe Barn, Newnham, near Basingstoke, Hants, one of our Directors and eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Simonds, of Abbey Croft, Mortimer, Berks, and Iris Nannette, daughter of Brig.-General and Mrs. Micklem, of Kempsons, Whitchurch, near Aylesbury, Bucks.

REMEMBER THE AIRBORNE TROOPS.

NATIONAL War Savings Drive.

IT'S up to you, Simonds,

JOIN the Movement to-day.

MANY casualties in our Groups.

ENEMY not yet beaten.

GERMANY must be conquered.

EVERY Penny needed.

NATIONAL War Savings your answer.

COUNTER ATTRACTION.

Vacancies for Fast Young Ladies.—Notice in a grocer's window at Greenford.

DRINK DOESN'T CAUSE GOUT.

The old belief that gout can be evaded by giving up drink seems to have been exploded by an article in *The Lancet*. It says that two specialists have never been able to provoke attacks of gout by giving alcohol.

They found attacks recurring in patients, in spite of banning all strong drink. Now they ban only foods containing large amounts of purines, such as sweetbreads, anchovies, sardines, liver, kidney, brain, and meat extracts.

PUBLICAN'S CALLING IS SACRED.

The Rev. H. S. Hutchinson, Vicar of St. Mark's, Mansfield, who meets his parishioners over a glass of beer in public houses, paid this tribute to innkeepers when he conducted the funeral of a Mansfield licensee :

"The calling of the innkeeper, that of public hospitality, is a sacred one, exacting a great deal from a man, and if he follows it conscientiously he has the right to expect the Church's blessing.

"Those of us who have sat under the roof of mine host have found rest in a happy place where priest and man can meet on equal terms.

"The gratitude of the parish is due to one who made his house the good place it is known to be. There can be no greater blessing for this country than that of the innkeeper who knows his call to be a high and holy one."

BORDER LINE STATION.

The two platforms of Newmarket railway station stand in different counties.

When the licences for the station refreshment rooms were renewed, the manager had to attend two brewster sessions, one in Suffolk and the other in Cambridge.

READING A SOBER TOWN.

The "amazing figure" of only five persons (three males and two females) proceeded against for drunkenness in 1944, was especially noted by the Acting Chief Constable, Supt. W. Osborne, in his report presented to the Licensing Justices at the annual licensing sessions for the Borough of Reading. The report stated that the figure mentioned was the lowest ever recorded in the borough, and was unaccountable, while the absence of proceedings

against any resident of the borough made the figure even more creditable. Mr. A. G. West congratulated the Acting Chief Constable upon an excellent report. Reading was first on the list of sober towns—a place occupied in 1837 for the first time, when there were 40 cases. Everyone was to be congratulated and a meed of praise was due to the licensees, who were working under very great difficulties.

All the licences were renewed.

The Chairman stated that the Compensation Authority had fixed the levy at one-third of the maximum for this year. They wanted to build up the compensation fund. He appealed to the licensees present to contribute with the known generosity of the Trade, to the poor box, which had run dry, and from which the magistrates frequently assisted deserving cases.

SHIP HOTEL, READING.

It is with real regret that we have to announce the death of Mrs. Ivy Burgess, head barmaid at the Ship Hotel, Reading, for over four years. Well known as "B" to her many friends for her unfailing tact and courtesy, as well as her splendid capabilities, she will be greatly missed, both by the management and customers.

DARTS FOR RED CROSS.

Licensees and customers of public houses in Reading contributed last year £1,100 towards the Duke of Gloucester's Red Cross and St. John Fund for the Prisoners of War. For the year ending December last, a further cheque for £1,500 was given to the same cause, and grateful thanks to the customers and players concerned who have made this splendid effort comes from the President (Mr. C. D. Everitt), Chairman (Mr. R. White), Secretary (Mr. T. J. Parry), Assistant Secretary (Mr. T. Townsend) and Treasurer (Mr. H. Wise).

DEATHS OF MR. AND MRS. JORDAN.

We regret to record the death of Mr. A. A. Jordan, who passed away on January 18th after a short illness. Joining the Firm in 1891, Mr. Jordan had served in the Wine and Spirit Department till the time of his retirement in 1938. He was one of the fine old servants of the Firm who came back to help us out of our difficulties in the early days of the war and carried on again till February, 1943. Among those present at the funeral to pay tribute were Messrs. F. C. Hawkes, H. Aust, S. Hinton, P. Ruffles and A. Franklin.

Mrs. Jordan also died the following month, and our sympathy is extended to the family in their great loss.

MISSEL THRUSH AT THE BREWERY.

During the early days of this month a missel thrush could be heard pouring out his loud, wild musical song from the lime tree in the Brewery yard. It was plainly heard throughout the Brewery premises and attracted a great deal of notice. Mr. Eric, whose wide knowledge of natural history is well known, first drew my attention to the thrush. This, the largest of our British song birds, is also known as the "storm cock" for it pours forth its melody at a time of the year when the bleak winds of winter roar through the leafless trees. The missel thrush and his song were very welcome and I really believe he was calling vociferously for "More S.B."!

COMMANDER H. D. SIMONDS, R.N. (RET.).

In consequence of a breakdown in health Commander H. D. Simonds has returned from active service. We were delighted to welcome him back to the Brewery, where he has again taken up part-time work. We trust that, with due care, he will soon be fully restored to health and again able to carry his share of the burdens now weighing upon our industry.

A record of his war service, which is recounted below, will be of great interest to our readers :—

1939.

August 23rd.—Called up for duty with the Naval Control Service, the organization responsible for the routeing of merchant ships and assembly of convoys.

August 26th.—Sailed from Liverpool and arrived Boston (Mass.), September 3rd, the day war was declared. Proceeded to Portland (Maine), where was Consular Shipping Adviser till August, 1940. Was then lent to Staff of Naval Service Headquarters, Ottawa, for liaison duties with British Naval Control Service Officers in the U.S. This involved frequent journeys visiting ports on both coasts of the U.S., during which some 40,000 miles were covered, mostly by air, including three flights over the Rocky Mountains. Places visited : Montreal, Portland (Maine), Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Norfolk (Virginia), Charleston, Jacksonville, Tampa, Key West, New Orleans, Galveston, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland (Oregon), Seattle, Esquimalt, Vancouver, Chicago and Detroit.

1943.

June.—Appointed to Admiralty.

1944.

September.—Reverted to Retired List, due to breakdown in health.

H. & G. SIMONDS LTD.**A RECORD OUTPUT OF BEER.**

The shortage of labour for the manufacture of malt threatens a serious crisis in the brewing trade if some relief is not immediately forthcoming, according to Mr. F. A. Simonds, our Chairman and Managing Director, who presided at the annual meeting of the Company, which was held at 19, Bridge Street, Reading, in December.

Other Directors present included Mr. J. H. Simonds (Vice-Chairman), Major G. S. M. Ashby and Mr. L. A. Simonds. Commander H. D. Simonds and Mr. A. J. Redman were prevented from attending through indisposition, and Major R. B. St. J. Quarry and Major F. H. V. Keighley are both on active service.

The report of the Directors stated : After providing for interest on the debenture stock, and making ample allowances for depreciations, repairs and various expenses of the business, including taxation, the net profit for the year amounts to £191,801 os. 11d., to which has to be added the balance brought forward from September 30th, 1943, of £108,612 4s. 4d., making a total available for appropriation £300,413 5s. 3d. Out of this has been paid or provided for, 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, 1944, £30,000 ; and interim dividend on £800,000 ordinary stock at the rate of 3½ per cent., less income tax, £14,000, leaving for disposal the sum of £256,413 5s. 3d.

DEFERRED REPAIRS.

The Chairman, in submitting the report, said :

"The Profit and Loss Account discloses a net profit of £191,801—only a slight increase on that of the previous year. The trading profits show the substantial increase of some £203,000, yet practically the whole of this disappears under the impact of taxation, and the need for the ample provision for deferred repairs which your Directors have thought fit to make. Although the charge for deferred repairs is heavy, it is to be observed that there is no saving in income tax under this heading until the repairs are actually executed, which will, of course, take a considerable number of years, by which time the standard rate may be very different from that obtaining to-day. In the meantime, the amount set aside year by year in respect of deferred repairs is being provisionally allowed as a deduction from our excess profits tax liability."

"Our breweries at Reading, Bristol and Devonport have been working to the limit of their capacity, always hampered by the grave shortage of labour, but they have managed, thanks to the almost superhuman efforts and loyalty of the staff and employees, many of whom are past the prime of life, to turn out even more beer than in any previous year on record.

"Despite these exertions we have been, at times, distracted by the conflicting claims of our customers : we wish to assure them all—H.M. Forces, tenants, free houses and clubs—that those of our staff responsible for apportioning available supplies endeavour to be scrupulously fair to all, always bearing in mind the urgency and circumstances of every case.

THE GOVERNMENT POLICY.

"We would again express our gratitude to those firms who have assisted us by providing extra supplies of beer wherewith to meet some of the calls made upon us. With a view to saving petrol and cross-haulage we have maintained the policy of exchanging barrelage with many other brewery companies. We are still placed at a considerable disadvantage in our endeavours to meet the demands for the heavier and better type of beers so much in request owing to the rapidly diminishing stocks of wines and spirits, consequent upon our being compelled to brew to a low average pre-war strength. Many brewers in the bigger industrial areas who, in days of peace, were not concerned with brewing to suit the pockets of agricultural workers, who comprised a high proportion of our customers, are not so handicapped. The redistribution of the population and a better-paid agricultural community emphasise the claim for a revision of policy on the part of the Government as an act of meagre justice to a large body of consumers in country districts. We can assure our customers that we will press for this consideration of their case as far as lies in our power.

"We are faced as a trade with a grave crisis owing to the shortage of visible malt stocks, and some drastic scheme of rationing may have to be introduced early in the New Year if steps are not taken to ensure a supply of labour for the manufacturers of malt. We believe that the Government is, at last, and after months of forceful representation on the part of our trade leaders, realising the seriousness of the cry of 'No beer,' which will surely arise in the summer and autumn if some relief is not immediately forthcoming.

"Our associated brewery in Malta, G.C., has had a very busy year, and a not unprofitable one ; and in Tripoli, where the Malta

management is operating the local brewery on behalf of the N.A.A.F.I., results have been uniformly successful, and a volume of beer has been made available for His Majesty's Forces in areas of the North African littoral. We can again congratulate our subsidiary Company, The Cirencester Brewery, Ltd., and those members of the Cripps family still responsible for its control, on a year of successful endeavour. Our hotels and catering department, as also the managers of our hotels, once again have won our admiration for their efforts under the disadvantage of shortage of staff and food, to satisfy the ever-growing number of our visitors.

BEER FOR THE TROOPS.

"We have been packing and dispatching from Reading to our troops abroad many thousands of dozens of bottled beer monthly, a laborious and complicated operation ; we are confident that our stockholders will approve of our policy in this enterprise. An embargo has been placed upon the export of all beers for other than direct supply to His Majesty's Forces or the Merchant Navy. We regret the disappointment caused to our civilian customers abroad, but we trust it will be but a temporary measure, and are eager to re-enter the export market in all parts of the world at the earliest opportunity.

"In conclusion, may I take this opportunity, which is afforded me once yearly, to convey on behalf of the stockholders and the directors their warmest thanks to Mr. P. F. Knapp, our head brewer, and Mr. A. G. Richardson, our chief accountant and chairman of the Advisory Council, and all members of our staff and employees, for all their labours during the past financial period to maintain in their respective spheres the high traditions of the Firm.

"May I add a postscript : My speech was necessarily compiled some three weeks ago. In the meantime I fear that I have no information to encourage me to believe that there is any improvement in the position as regards materials, and we have received but little assistance in this direction. Likewise, I can offer but little encouragement to our tenants that their grievances as regards the unfair incidence of average gravity at which the country brewers are compelled to brew are likely to be remedied in the near future, despite the protests of those brewers who are suffering from the existing anomaly."

Mr. Simonds then moved the following resolution : "That the Directors' Report and Accounts for the year ended 30th September, 1944, be received and adopted, and that the balance of £256,413 5s. 3d. be appropriated as follows : 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), £58,000; to add to property improvement account (making a total of £200,000), £21,284 10s.; to add to general reserve (making a total of £750,000), £70,877 16s. 5d.; to carry forward to next year, £106,250 18s. 10d."

DIRECTORS RE-ELECTED.

Commander H. D. Simonds and Mr. J. H. Simonds, who retired from the Board in accordance with the articles of association, were re-elected, on the proposition of Major M. H. Simonds, seconded by Major E. D. Simonds.

Messrs. Turquand, Youngs, McAuliffe & Co. were re-appointed auditors, on the proposition of Major G. S. M. Ashby, seconded by Mr. G. W. Smith. Mr. L. J. Osman suitably replied.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman was proposed by Major E. T. Cripps, who expressed gratitude to Mr. Simonds for the way in which he had steered the Company through what must have been a most difficult year. He was quite sure, he said, that more than a fair share of the work must have fallen on his shoulders.

Mrs. F. A. Simonds seconded the vote of thanks, which was cordially accorded, and Mr. Simonds briefly responded.

~~believeable country to go and did I get informed of it? I am not able to tell all but the best part of it is to find no voices of misery and dread now, and the new field visitors bring in a great deal of hope and encouragement. A. A. has given his word to continue his efforts to help us, and to make us do our best. Let us all pray for him and his family, and to give him our support and encouragement.~~

CRICKET.

With the promise of warmer weather ahead thoughts turn naturally to summer pastimes.

It is hoped to hold the annual meeting of the Cricket Club this month (March), but at the time of writing the date has not been fixed. Notices giving this information will be displayed in due course and all employees are asked to show their interest in cricket by attending the meeting.

Applications for fixtures are being received and dates arranged. In order to provide as much entertainment as we can for our colleagues in the Brewery, the majority of the games will be played on our Sports Ground.

A report of the general meeting, with the fixture list, will appear in the subsequent issue of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE.

NATURE NOTE.

(BY C.H.P.).

SAUNTERING IN THE SNOW.

A DEAD HERON.

THE ART OF ROACH FISHING.

There is something very exhilarating about a winter's walk in the snow. And you may learn much about wild nature's ways if you make a close study of the footprints of bird and beast. I followed the track of a large rat. He had travelled far along the river bank and his big tail had left a long, long trail where it had been dragged along in the snow. Where the ice was broken this rat had slipped down and into the water and taken from the bottom a mussel. He had bitten the shell away at the end and had mussel for his meal. The footprints of the smaller water voles were innumerable and as they ran along the bank they evidently held their tails aloft for they left no trail behind. It was easy to pick out the footprints of hares and rabbits, crows and moorhens, and an old heron had left unmistakable signs of where he had strutted along the riverside. One of these big birds flew by quite close to me and he was doubtless feeling the pangs of hunger for severe weather makes their menu meagre.

WING SPAN OF OVER FOUR FEET.

The following day, near the same spot, I found a heron dead and I wondered if it were the poor bird I had seen the previous day. I stretched out his great wings and, from tip to tip, they measured over 4½ feet, while from the tip of his beak to his tail the length was over a yard. The heron has a very long neck, and as I gazed at this wondrous bird I thought: some chicken—I mean heron—some neck! Herons live on frogs, fish, water rats, etc. I have, many times, seen them catch these poor little rats, carry them from the water on to the bank, give them a few stabs with their powerful beaks, and then swallow them whole!

BUSY BIRDS.

The redwings, fieldfares, blackbirds, missel thrushes and thrushes were very busy on and under the hawthorn trees feeding off the berries of which there is still an abundance. Green woodpeckers and the greater and lesser spotted woodpeckers were much in evidence. Woodpeckers have a peculiar undulating flight. There are a few rapid wing-beats and then the birds fold their wings tightly to their bodies in order to accelerate their propulsion through the air. There were quite a number of tufted duck on the water. The feathers on the back of the head of this bird are elongated; his upper plumage is black and under-parts pure white. There were pochards, too, easily discernable by the bright chestnut-colouring of their head and neck.

GREY GEESE.

I hear on very high authority that grey geese have been seen on Mr. Benyon's estate at Englefield. Large companies of them have been observed flying over Reading. They feed on vegetable matter and their short, stout beaks are admirably adapted for cropping this food. So shy are they that they are very difficult to approach. Hence the proverbial expression " wild goose chase."

ANGLING FOR COARSE FISH.

It was a bit cold angling for roach and pike during the early part of the year and concerning one bitter day I find this entry in my diary : " Fished Thames for six hours—only eight ' bites ' and two fish, both of which were undersize and were returned to the water." But on February 17th, a very mild day, with the water receding nicely, and a good colour, I did well. Laying on the bottom with bread paste and running bullet, I had a good catch. The biggest was $1\frac{3}{4}$ lbs., while of seven other fish four were over 1 lb. and the other three about $\frac{3}{4}$ -lb. each. That was good going and the fish were in the pink of condition. You see, I have headed this paragraph " Angling for coarse fish." I do not like the term " coarse fishing " for it is a very fine art. Fish are most capricious

creatures. On the occasion of the " bag " referred to I was fishing without a float, just watching for the quiver of the top joint of my rod to indicate a bite. Well, I started to strike at the slightest quiver and found I was missing my fish. So I waited until my rod showed greater agitation and I began to catch my fish. Then I found that I was often too late! Now, what *was* one to do. I made up my mind to again strike at every touch, and I met with considerable success, though again I missed many a fish by striking too soon. The happy medium would appear to be, in roach fishing—don't strike too early nor too late.

It all goes to prove that roach fishing is indeed a fine art!

I have been by the riverside a great deal since and have caught more fish in two hours during the mild weather than I did in two days in the very cold weather. But in mid-winter the stream was very strong and the water too thick, rendering the conditions unsuitable.

THE LITTLE CELANDINE.

On my way to and from the river there is much to interest one in bird and plant life. How the young plants are struggling for a place in the sun. On a sun-bathed bank I see a little celandine. It was Wordsworth who went into ecstasy over this flower and he wrote :

Pansies, lilies, kingcups, daisies :
Let them live upon their praises ;
Long as there's a sun that sets,
Primroses will have their glory ;
Long as there are violets,
They will have a place in story :
There's a flower that shall be mine,
'Tis the little Celandine.

THE BIRD CHOIR.

The birds are singing songs of thanksgiving for the warmer weather. The missel thrushes shout joyously from the tree tops ;

there are the flute-like notes of the blackbirds ; the fine song of the thrush ; the familiar refrain of the chaffinch and the "little-bit-of-bread-and-no cheese!" which tells you of the whereabouts of the yellowhammer. And perhaps, best of all, a lark soars into the air, and then descends to earth, winding and unwinding his silver chain of song.

It was Shelley who wrote of the lark :—
 Teach me half the gladness
 That thy brain must know ;
 Such harmonious madness
 From my lips would flow.

The world should listen then as I am listening now.

Is it not significant that the lark which sings so gloriously and soars so high, builds a very simple nest and brings up its family on the ground? It often happens that the sweetest music, the most moving poetry and the noblest lives emanate from the humblest and most lowly hearts!

THE LIGHTER SIDE.

A musical comedy actress, no longer youthful, joined a touring company. Business was not particularly good, and the tempers of the company suffered accordingly. Relations became somewhat strained between the "star" and certain members of the chorus. There came a knock at her door.

"Who is it and what do you want?" she demanded, sharply.

"There's a lady in front who'd very much like to see you. She says she was a chum of yours when you were at school. Shall I show her in?"

From the corridor came the voice of a catty chorus girl : "Wheel her in!"

* * * *

A stranded English actor went into a sordid eating house in New York for a cheap meal. He was horrified to recognise his waiter as a colleague who had played with him in London.

"Great Scott!" he gasped. "You—a waiter—in this place!"

"Yes," replied the other in dignified scorn, "but I don't eat here."

BREWERY JOTTINGS.

(BY W. DUNSTER).

The last issue of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE (December) seemed more popular than ever, and there were no "spare" copies available. Everywhere they go they seem to find a great welcome.

As is usual quite a number of letters have been received from those serving overseas and most interesting news has come along. Cadet J. Buswell, writing from America, where he was training as a pilot, mentions to his friend, Mr. L. Doe, that he was having quite a good time and admiring the scenery and wonderful buildings that abound out there, especially in New York, where he spent a leave. Since then a letter has been received from him from "up North" to say that he is now back in this country again and that he is a Sergeant. He has graduated on his pilot's course, and he was hoping to visit the Brewery soon when he could tell us of life "over there" in America.

News of Harold Drury (a prisoner in the hands of the Japanese) has been received after a long spell. Just at Christmas time his father, Mr. F. Drury, had a card dated the previous January, to say that he was well, and since then another card has been received, dated May, 1944, saying that he had received a Red Cross parcel and mails.

Corporal A. V. Hedgington's parents have received a card from him stating he was working at Kuching, Sarawak, and adds "keep my bed well aired." He was taken prisoner by the Japs just about the time when Singapore fell.

We had news that Sergt. K. Solly had been taken prisoner in the fighting in Greece, but later on it was reported he had been released. To our surprise he has now been repatriated to England. Visiting us quite recently he looked pretty well, but it was evident he had had a most distressing time whilst in the hands of the E.L.A.S. He said that the R.A.F. dropped them food, and if it hadn't been for this they must have all starved to death. Captured just before Christmas, it will be realised that his dinner for that day was very meagre. He had been away for three years, so a trip to Blighty could not be considered overdue.

Sergt. A. P. Bloomfield, R.A.F., is reported missing after a flight over Germany last November. A member of the Cask Office staff, he was for a considerable while in charge of the spotters at the Brewery and was very air-minded.

We have had visits from S. Brunsdon, who has come home after some years spent at Aden and, although he cannot recommend that place as a health resort, he looks very fit; and S. G. Treacher, who has been out in the Middle East for a number of years. The latter seems to be in fine fettle and naturally hoping that the war will be ending soon.

We were sorry to hear of the death of J. T. Iremonger, of the Bottling Department, the result of an accident on active service. He started at the Firm in 1934 and joined up in 1940.

Amongst those who have recently called in to see us are J. Clay, F. Pusey, V. Saunders, J. R. Roynon, R. Boddington, S. R. Gray, E. Martin, T. Kent, E. Crutchley (the two latter on embarkation leave) and M. Rickards. It is understood that A. Randall, after a spell overseas, is now back in this country and that he is stationed not too far away.

In a letter to Miss E. Townsend, written from Malta, Sergt. H. Weight, of the R.A.F., says the climate there was a big contrast to that of Italy. The sun (when he wrote) was blazing all day, but the service conditions were the best he had experienced since leaving Blighty. Billets were good, lighting on, beds and good food. He was hoping to visit Simonds-Farsons Ltd. later on and get a good smell of the Brewery itself in order to bring back old memories.

Writing from India, L/A.C. R. P. Huddy says, in a letter to Mr. C. Bennett, that he was feeling fit. The weather was ideal, even if chilly night and morning. However, in spite of that, they were enjoying 8 hours' sunshine daily. Beer supplies were very limited. He was hoping 1945 would be the Peace Year. He was kept very busy.

L/Cpl. P. E. Hammond, writing from S.E.A.C. to Mr. A. G. Richardson, says he had been doing a lot of travelling about and travelling was by no means pleasant in such a country. However, when on a course he saw E. G. Barrett, of the Bottled Beer Dept. Office, and they had many chats about the good old days. Luckily, he only sprained his ankle on his course; others were not so lucky. Living under canvas, as they were, life was pleasant, but the monkeys and baboons were rather a nuisance as they were in and out of the tents all day.

In a letter from Scotland to Mr. P. E. Luker, L/A.C. S. Taylor gave a graphic account of the cold weather they had experienced. Being a member of the Station Revue, he made a tour of other

camps and had had a most enjoyable time. He mentioned he was being married in Dundee at the end of February.

From C.M.F. to W.D. news come of Cpl. A. C. Howman, and he said how busy he was. Although feeling very fit the weather was really dreadful. He wished to be remembered to his friends at the Brewery.

Sergt. J. Knight, writing from Ceylon to W.D., said how much he liked receiving THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE. He had not met anyone from the Brewery at all so far; nevertheless, there had been some "near misses," and he was in hopes of seeing someone he knew.

Christmas greetings were sent to W.D. by Capt. R. Pitts, and he wished to be remembered to all who knew him. Football took up part of his time and he was playing regularly. He hoped more beer was available over here than where he was in India.

Writing from C.M.F., Cpl. C. Wade, in a surprise letter to W.D., says he was of opinion that he would soon hold a record for long absence from England, but it did not seem very likely that he would be home yet awhile. They had not "celebrated" Christmas in any way, but a regimental dinner was being arranged and then they would have a regular "do." When he wrote they had been lucky in missing snow; the proper place for the latter was (in his opinion) being shown on Christmas cards!

Somewhere in the Sudan L/A.C. K. Organ, writing to W.D., mentions that Christmas to them was "wizard," everything being done for their entertainment (including donkey races, free cinema show, pantomime by the Dramatic Society and a whist drive held at the District Commissioner's residence). However, the highlight was the Christmas dinner, in which turkey figured prominently, and there was sufficient beer for all (Canadian). There were plenty of wines and spirits available, too. Whisky was 17/- per bottle, port and sherry at 7/6, and champagne and rum at very low prices. There was no limit as to quantity either. He was keeping particularly fit in spite of being stationed in the desert. Just to keep his hand in, he was playing cricket now and again.

A letter to Mr. C. Bennett from Lieut. R. Wheeler, C.M.F., says he is now attached to a Scottish regiment and he adds they had a good Christmas as they were out of the line at that time and various delicacies were in abundance.

Also from C.M.F. comes a letter to W.D. from L/Cpl. E. W. King, and he always writes in a most interesting way. However, he is by no means in love with Italy or the climate. Yet they

get all the entertainment they can when off duty, and he had been fortunate enough to see some good operas, with good singing and really wonderful costumes. It might be considered highbrow, nevertheless each time a performance takes place the 2,500-odd seats are occupied by the troops. Football had been in full swing and their unit team had beaten a local professional side of Italians and it really was amusing to see the captain (he was outside-right) go down to the goalkeeper, telling him in no uncertain terms what he thought of him letting through the last goal. Christmas dinner had consisted in the main of roast pork and they managed to get some cakes for tea. However, the section supper after Christmas was a better affair. Being on the committee himself perhaps he took a biased view; still, it was really good and the Commanding Officer with A.D.C. accepted their invitation to be present and the festivities kept on till midnight.

Another in the desert, Cpl. L. F. Pitts, writing to W.D., says he is keeping ever so fit and he welcomes THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE whenever it comes along. A small cinema is their only entertainment and everyone goes to see the pictures. They run a football league, comprised of section teams going under the names of the better-known English league clubs. Pitches consisted of a thin layer of sand upon a rather uneven bed of solid rock. He was playing tennis on a concrete court. Swimming was another big feature which took place from May to October, and it was the best he had ever experienced. Although it was very warm and they had constant sunshine, nights and mornings were often bitterly cold and he had seen ice on puddles. Beer was rationed and at times they had an excellent Canadian brand, two varieties of Scotch brew and Burton. They were getting supplies from Tripoli as well.

Cpl. C. Langton, writing to W.D. from C.M.F., says he is quite well. The weather was very wet and he had never seen such rain. He had been on leave which he spent in Rome and had been to see operas several times. A Christmas greetings airgraph was received from him.

Writing from M.E.F., L/A.C. L. Walker to W.D. mentions how welcome THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE is when it arrives, in fact the copy goes round a lot amongst the other fellows he is with. He is right out in the desert and for entertainment they get mobile film units visit them now and again, and they generally see an E.N.S.A. show once a fortnight. They have four bottles of beer per week from the canteen. They visit Cairo at every opportunity, when they can get a hot bath and a good meal. However, his favourite sport is the Gezira Sporting Club, near the Nile, where

practically every outdoor sport is catered for and there is real lovely green turf. He had heard good news of the beer brewed at Tripoli.

From Bombay S. Collins writes that he is quite well. He informs us that his wife had presented him with a baby daughter and that all was getting on quite well.

Cpl. D. J. Stannard, writing from the North to W.D., says he has been at his present station for six months and considers himself very fortunate. They have plenty of entertainments and life is not too hard.

We are sorry to record the death of Mr. C. Claridge on the 4th January. Although he had not been in good health for some while, he passed away very suddenly. A member of the Beer Cellars staff, he started with the Firm in 1903. For some considerable time he had been in charge of the bar and was very well known, particularly as "Charley." It was only just before Christmas that he had been placed on the pension list. He was a good, capable and conscientious worker.

A member of the Union Room Department, Mr. E. C. L. Mansbridge was taken ill and passed away soon after he arrived home. Starting in March, 1928, he continued till 1939, when he joined the Forces. He was discharged from the Forces in 1942 and recommenced with the Firm. The opportunity is taken to express our sympathy with all his relatives.

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

The Jolly Waggoners, Hounslow (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—Mrs. E. Sweet.

The Bugle, Halliford (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—Mrs. E. A. Pitman.

The New Inn, Heckfield (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—Mr. S. Ilott.

The Swan, Pangbourne (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—Mr. W. B. Adams.

The Red Lion, Spencers Wood (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—Mr. H. C. Collyer.

The Catherine Wheel, Newbury (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—Mr. F. G. Hall.

likely. It may well be, then, that all that we women have endured in this war may, indirectly, save our children and grandchildren from another.

That is one reason why it gives me real pleasure to meet, and to talk to, you who represent the National Fire Service and other Civil Defence Services.

British women have won laurels in many fields, but nowhere have they played a more distinguished and courageous part than in the many spheres of activity that go to make up Civil Defence here at home.

When war threatened, and the call came for volunteers to defend our homes and to help our neighbours in time of need, it was nobly answered by women everywhere; and now many of them have as much as seven years' service to their credit.

In that Service, they have carried out duties calling for patience and fortitude in trials always exacting and often grim, when both nerve and courage were tested by appalling dangers.

In the Civil Defence Services are women of all ages and of all walks of life, for it represents in its richness and variety the whole of our national community. They number some three millions in all, of whom I have myself seen many in their almost infinite variety of duties—the Women Police, regular and auxiliary, the National Fire Service, the Wardens, the Staffs of Report and Control Rooms, the Ambulance and First Aid Services, the Fire Guard, the Rest Centre Services, and the many branches of the Women's Voluntary Services.

All have shown the highest qualities of steadfastness, courage and resource, and that they have proved themselves in action and in the face of acute dangers is shown by the imposing list of Honours which the King has awarded them.

The second feature which I consider so striking is this. Most of you, like the sailors, soldiers, and airmen and their related women Services, have given up your peace-time callings to devote all your time to War work, and the way you have done it, while often still carrying on your own homes, is beyond all praise.

But the overwhelming majority have been volunteers rendering part-time service. At the end of a day's work in a factory, or often a tiring day in the home confronted with all the difficulties of War-time home management, you have reported for duty. Despite the many calls on your time and on your energies—the particularly trying demands which fall upon the housewife—you have never failed in your work. You have

driven vehicles while bombs were falling; you have put out incendiary bombs; you have maintained essential communications at critical times; and you have brought succour and help to those who have suffered from the attacks of the enemy. You women of Civil Defence have inscribed your names indelibly on the National Roll of Honour.

The course of the war has, with the help of Almighty God, now changed for the better and we hope we can see the end in sight. The need for your Services may be, in consequence, less than it was, and the calls of Civil Defence upon your time and energy may not be so strong. For some of you the time of active service may happily be past; others, in certain districts, are still, I fear, working just as hard as ever. But we must never, any one of us, for one moment relax our efforts until the war is won.

To all of you I want to say, in the name of the country which you served so gallantly, 'Thank you for a difficult job magnificently done.'

THE LATE MR. F. L. SHRIMPTON.

As announced in the stop press news in our last issue, the death of Mr. F. L. Shrimpton at his residence, "Southside," Winchester Road, Andover, early on Sunday morning, December 10th, 1944, in his 66th year, came as a great shock to his many friends and admirers. It followed a short illness, which gave little indication that the end was so near, especially as he was able to make the journey to London the previous Tuesday to see a specialist. His loss is most keenly felt by the Directors and his colleagues at Reading and Branches, and the gap which he has left will be hard to fill. His attributes were too numerous and diverse to be recorded in this account of his untimely end and we can only record that he will be sadly missed for many years to come.

The centre aisles of St. Mary's Church, Andover, were filled for the service. The principal mourners were: Mrs. Shrimpton (widow), Miss Diana Shrimpton (daughter), Miss E. B. S. Shrimpton (sister), Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Laws (brother-in-law and sister), Mr. and Mrs. E. Williams (brother-in-law and sister-in-law), Mr. W. R. Ponting, Miss Joyce Holmes, Mrs. G. Talmage, Mr. W. J. Armstead.

The Directors were represented by Mr. L. A. Simonds (Director) and the Branch Department and Branch Managers by Mr. A. R. Bradford. Mr. C. Bennett, representing Estates Department, Mr. E. S. Phipps (Secretary) and Mr. A. G. Richardson (Chief Accountant) also attended.

Ludgershall, Andover and Salisbury Branches were represented by Messrs. E. Thornbery, H. Nuttall, E. Pearce, T. Bugden, C. Saunders, J. Leitch, A. W. Clark, R. Barton and R. J. Bartlett.

Mr. F. L. Maskell, from Blandford Branch, was also present.

There was a very large and representative attendance from the numerous bodies with which Mr. Shrimpton was associated, including the Andover War Memorial Hospital, the Border Lodge of Freemasons, the Brethren of St. Hubert Lodge, Ludgershall Sports Club, the Licensed Victuallers' Protection Societies and the various Andover Clubs of which he was a member. There were also many mourners from the Army, the Royal Air Force and many prominent business men, amongst whom Mr. Shrimpton had worked for so many years.

Mr. Shrimpton joined the Firm in January, 1896, at Oxford. His abilities were early recognised and he was transferred to Ludgershall and Salisbury Plain Branch as Chief Clerk in 1904, being appointed Manager of the Dublin Branch in 1912. He returned to Salisbury Plain in 1914 to assist in the extensive military business caused by the mobilisation, and his remarkable gift for organisation, which had become apparent during the enormous transport problems created by the heavy concentrations of troops for manoeuvres, served him in good stead throughout the difficult years of the last war, and earned for him, in 1919, the management of the important Ludgershall Branch. His good work in this appointment, which he held until his death, was marked, in 1942, by the presentation from the Directors of a gold cigarette case, and by a function in which his value to the Firm was eloquently expressed by the Chairman (Mr. F. A. Simonds). He served one of the Firm's busiest branches during two wars, and it can truly be said that he died in harness.

The following sketch of his character appeared in THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE in February, 1929 :—

" Possessed of a genial disposition and appraised wherever one meets people of his acquaintance, a biography of Mr. Shrimpton seems almost superfluous. Of good presence and fine physique, Mr. Shrimpton typifies the fine all-round sportsman that he is. Large-hearted as befits his stature, and generous almost to a fault, he would rather cede a point than dispute it. His tenacity in sport is reflected in business, and he never shows to greater advantage than when he is meeting with strong competition."

COUNCILLOR McILROY ADOPTED NATIONAL CANDIDATE FOR READING.

At a special general meeting of the Reading Conservative and Unionist Association, held at the Small Town Hall, Reading, the recommendation of the Executive Committee that Councillor W. E. C. McIlroy, C.B.E., should be adopted as prospective National Government candidate for Reading was unanimously approved. Councillor McIlroy pledged his support to the National Government as led by the Prime Minister, Mr. Winston Churchill.

Mr. F. A. Simonds (President of the Reading Conservative and Unionist Association) read a letter which he described as a remarkably friendly and happy gesture from the Reading Liberal National Council. This letter said :—

" At a meeting of the executive committee of the Reading Liberal National Council, the following resolution was unanimously adopted :—

" That Councillor W. E. C. McIlroy, C.B.E., former chairman of the Reading Liberal National Council, having consulted with the executive committee of such council upon the suggestion that he should contest the next Parliamentary election for Reading as a National candidate, this executive committee are unanimously of opinion that his prospective candidature in such capacity is in the country's best interests at the present time, and are prepared to pledge him their fullest support."

" Mr. McIlroy is a local man, tried and proved in our own local affairs and known to his townsfolk as a man of liberal outlook and fearless conviction, with a sympathy and understanding well qualified to meet the needs of the times in a wider sphere.

" We believe that he is the type of man best suited in Parliament to the country's needs at the present critical time in her history."

The President traced the history of the negotiations which led up to Councillor McIlroy being recommended for selection as prospective National Government candidate. They investigated the claims of a number of people, he said, but they were anxious to get a local man. Mr. McIlroy was quite honest with them, and said he was not a Conservative. At the same time he realised that there was really no room for three parties in these days, and there was no halfway house between the Socialists and the Anti-Socialists as led by Mr. Churchill. (*Applause.*)

Councillor W. E. C. McIlroy, who was received with acclamation said :—

" I claim not to have controlled events, but confess quite frankly that events have controlled me. I am thinking of events in my career—when I joined the Army in 1914, and the day when I became Mayor of this Borough—when my duty seemed quite clear and the way easy to go forth. I was impelled and compelled by events. I stand in much the same position now. I have not sought candidature for Parliament. But your President, and friends of mine, have said to me, ' This is your duty.' I am happy in my present circumstances, because I know that with friends all around me my duty will be made as easy as possible.

" If I do go forward to success it will not be my success ; it will be our success and Reading's success.

" The peace conference must not fail this time, and the issue of who should lead us was of paramount importance. We must have Churchill's guiding genius and infectious courage with us to win the war in the Far East. My boy has just joined the Army, and I do not want him to go out to Burma led by a less worthy leader than the great man we have to-day. If I am able to help this great man in some little way I shall have justified my candidature.

NATIONALISATION—POLICY OF DESPAIR.

" One of the big issues which they would have to face was nationalisation. If they had control over everything, as seemed to be promised in certain quarters, then they would be pursuing a policy of despair.

" They had accepted much control and surrendered much liberty as part of the sacrifice in the war, but they were fighting for liberty, and as conditions permitted, they must get rid of those controls and fight to a man against nationalisation. (*Cheers.*)

" Industry and business were both servants of the nation. It was misleading to talk about vested interests. He thought every business man in the room would say that his intention throughout his business life was to give service to the community, and to class that as vested interests was not right. They had put their service forward for the benefit of the community, and that was the criterion by which they and their activities should be judged after the war.

" It is humbly, knowing my limitations, but knowing, too, my strength, through your goodwill, that I stand here placing my destiny in your hands, in that most worthwhile spirit of all, the fervour of service." (*Applause.*)

PRIME MINISTER AT READING.

V-SIGN GIVEN TO CHEERING CROWD.

With the famous cigar protruding at the usual jaunty angle, the Prime Minister, Mr. Winston Churchill, wearing his familiar infectious smile, was vociferously greeted by a large crowd in Station Road, opposite the Great Western Hotel, Reading, recently, says the *Berkshire Chronicle*.

His arrival, accompanied by Mrs. Churchill, and their daughter, Sarah (Mrs. Vic Oliver), and Mr. Anthony Eden, the Foreign Secretary, was totally unexpected. The party immediately entered the Great Western Hotel. " I thought I was dreaming when I saw Mr. Churchill open the door," remarked a bystander afterwards.

The little party were cordially welcomed by the management and accommodated with a private room and refreshments. " We are very tired—we have travelled two thousand miles," observed Mr. Eden. Their stay at the hotel was very brief—not more than twenty minutes—during which time Mr. Churchill strolled across to the Great Western Railway Station to purchase a couple of evening papers. The large crowd, which sprang, as it were, from nowhere in a very short space of time, were not slow to show their feelings. Mr. Churchill's charming smile, coupled with the knowledge that he had chosen to stop at Reading, however briefly, on his return from the historic conference at Yalta, flattered and delighted the people, and they cheered again and again.

Mr. Churchill gave them the V-sign, and they cheered still louder.

The distinguished visitors were in the town probably less than half-an-hour, and left, as they had arrived, by car, well-speeded on their way by a crowd which was rapidly growing bigger every minute they remained.



WORDS OF WISDOM.

GRACE.

There's grace in everything on earth,
However great, however small ;
It thrives in every breathing soul,
As one with life, its shadows all.

There's grace in just a withered leaf,
A-floating on the scented breeze ;
And in the deep blue rolling waves,
Which slow unfold with pondrous ease.

Or in a bird or butterfly,
Which flies with grace to yonder tree ;
With closing wing and dainty poise,
To sip the air in ecstasy ;

In, too, the perfect petalled blooms,
With curving stem of palest green ;
In every sweep of drooping heads,
As zephyrs wake them from their dream.

We look in doubt at those who grasp,
With graceless hands, for fear they fall ;
But lay aside this garb, we find
The Grace of God is in them all.

But mercy is above this sceptred sway,
It is enthroned in the heart of kings ;
It is an attribute to God Himself :
And earthly power doth then show likest God's
When mercy seasons justice.

Let us be of good cheer, remembering that the misfortunes
hardest to bear are those which never come.

And this for comfort thou must know ;
Times that are ill won't still be so ;
Clouds will not ever pour down rain,
A sullen day will clear again.

Most of the shadows of this life are caused by standing in our
own sunshine.

What dost thou fear ? His wisdom reigns supreme confessed :
His power is infinite ; His love
Thy deepest, fondest dreams above,
So trust and rest.

God gives His child upon his slate a sum—
To find eternity in hours and years ;
With both sides covered, back the child doth come,
With dim eyes swollen with shed and unshed tears :
God smiles, wipes clean the upper side and nether,
And says, " Now, dear, we'll do the sum together."

Life is short, and we have never too much time for gladdening
the hearts of those who are travelling the dark journey with us.
Oh ! be swift to love ; make haste to be kind.

God never does, nor suffers to be done
But what thou wouldest,
Couldst thou as clearly see
The end of all He does as well as He.

I will not wish thee riches, or the glow
Of greatness, but that wheresoe'er thou go,
Some weary heart may gladden at thy smile,
Some weary life know sunshine for awhile,
And so thy years shall leave a track of light,
Like angels' footsteps passing through the night.

We must give and forgive ; live and let live. If our friends
have faults we must bear with them. We must hope all things,
believe all things, endure all things, rather than lose that most
precious of all earthly possessions, a trusty friend.

Your character is the most important factor in your life. It
is the expression of your real self. Some of us seem to overlook
this fact and busy ourselves with schooling our brains and developing

healthy muscular bodies and find little or no time for the schooling of our characters. I have met large numbers of people and everyone is different—why? Some are naturally kind, considerate and a very real inspiration to those with whom they come into contact. Such a person is loved by all. He radiates happiness wherever he goes and his shining disposition seems to go out from him and a happy atmosphere surrounds him which touches the lives of all who meet him so that their hearts warm towards him. Others, unfortunately, are cold and indifferent and however hard one tries, the barriers cannot be broken down, yet probably hidden deep within themselves is a very fine and noble soul.

Our faces express our real selves and if compared closely we shall notice that all are different and one can tell at a glance the type of person who is behind the eyes. Artists in the past have painted portraits of famous people and depicted to us in their drawings the life and the character in the person under study, so that a story seems to weave itself around the portrait until we feel we know the person very intimately.

Our characters are the *only* things we can take with us when we leave this world. Let us see to it that they are truly moulded and developed while there is yet time. Let us try, difficult though it is, to follow in His steps. Only by letting Him enter and control our lives can we ever hope to attain a truly beautiful character.

—B. WELSH.

How few think justly of the thinking few!
How many never think, who think they do!

He who never turned his back, but marched breast forward,
Never doubted clouds would break,
Never dreamed, tho' right were worsted, wrong would triumph,
Held we fall to rise, are baffled to fight better,
Sleep to wake.

I would have every one to consider that he is in this life nothing more than a passenger, and that he is not to set up his rest here, but to keep an attentive eye upon that state of being to which he approaches every moment, and which will be fixed and permanent. This single consideration would be sufficient to extinguish the bitterness of hatred, the thirst of avarice, and the cruelty of ambition.

THE LIGHTER SIDE.

A Glasgow schoolgirl, writing an easy, "When Peace Comes," produced the following :

"When peace comes it will bring many people great joy.
Some will be reunited with their loved ones, others with their husbands."

* * * *

An old Irish lady was making the trip between Northern Ireland and Eire and when she came to the boundary line was stopped by a customs official. The only thing she had to declare, she said, was a bottle of water.

"What kind of water?" asked the customs official.

"Why," said the old Irish lady, not even a trifle flustered, "this is a bottle of holy water."

Having had experience with bottles before, the customs official snatched this one out of the old lady's hand, pulled open the cork and smelled of the interior. "It's whisky!" Whereupon the old lady rolled her eyes toward heaven and murmured in reverent tones : "Glory be to God, it's a miracle!"

* * * *

He had never been outside England, neither had she, but both were recounting their experiences abroad.

"And Asia. Ah, wonderful Asia. Never shall I forget Turkey, India, Japan—all of them. And most of all, China, the celestial kingdom. How I loved it."

"And the pagodas; did you see them?"

"Did I see them?" She powdered her nose. "My dear, I had dinner with them!"

* * * *

A sailor was relating his hair-raising experiences aboard a torpedoed ship. A dear little lady was listening wide-eyed.

"An' there I sees a torpedo, lady, headin' straight for us."

"Oh, dear," she gasped. "I do hope it was one of ours!"

* * * *

Great excitement reigned in the village. They'd had their first robot bomb during the night. Fortunately it had fallen in a field, the only damage being a large crater.

The place was swarming with relic-hunters, searching for bits of bombs as souvenirs. Practically everybody was there—and the rest were on their way.

All save one. A dear old lady sat outside her cottage and called cheery greetings to her neighbours hastening past.

"Aren't you coming to get a souvenir, Mrs. Jones?" asked one.

"No," was the placid reply. "It's rather far for me pore feet. I'll just wait till a bomb drops a bit nearer!"

* * * *

The pompous stranger stalked into the office and demanded to see the manager.

"I'm sorry, but he's not here," replied the clerk. "Is there anything I can do?"

"No," snapped the visitor. "I never deal with und'rlings. I'll wait until the manager returns."

"Very well, take a seat," said the clerk, and went on with his work.

About an hour later the man got impatient.

"How much longer do you think the manager will be?" he demanded.

"Oh, about a fortnight," was the calm reply. "He started his holidays yesterday!"

* * * *

FIRST OFFICER: "What do you think is the best thing to produce chest expansion in soldiers?"

SECOND OFFICER: "Medals."

* * * *

FATHER (*annoyed*): I can see through the intrigues of this girl.

SON (*lovesick*): But, father, that is all any girl wears nowadays.

* * * *

BRANCHES.

PORTSMOUTH.

PORTSMOUTH'S NEW C.-IN-C.

The Admiralty announce that the King has approved the appointment of Admiral Sir Geoffrey Layton as Commander-in-Chief, Portsmouth, in succession to Admiral Sir Charles J. C. Little. The change takes effect from March 1st.

Admiral Layton, who is 59, returns to the post after a lapse of nine years as he served here as Commodore of the Royal Naval Barracks from May, 1934, to February, 1936. Subsequently he was Director of Personal Services at the Admiralty and early in the war went to the Far East as Commander-in-Chief, China Station.

The *Times* Naval Correspondent writes of this appointment as below:—"Sir Geoffrey Layton, who, early in the war, was appointed C.-in-C. on the China Station, was to have become C.-in-C., Portsmouth, on his return home in 1942. He was retained in the East, however, as C.-in-C., Ceylon, with jurisdiction over the whole garrison of that island while the situation in the Indian Ocean was somewhat critical, and he has only recently relinquished that command."

Sir Charles Little has been C.-in-C. at Portsmouth since October, 1942, and was therefore concerned in the gigantic preparations for launching the Allied invasion of the continent last year.

PRAISE FOR LICENSEES.

Brewster Sessions at Portsmouth and throughout the various divisions in this part of Hampshire have been particularly noteworthy because of the highly satisfactory conduct of the Trade, and the big decrease in the number of cases of drunkenness. We are glad that licensing magistrates have taken the opportunity to compliment licensees and managers on this state of affairs.

It was revealed at Portsmouth that the number of cases that had come before the courts during 1944 was the lowest on record. When one considers the abnormal conditions prevailing and the vast number of service men and women, representative of all the Allied nations, who have helped to swell our population, this happy state of affairs is gratifying to all concerned.

CHIEF'S TWO REASONS.

What has brought about the steady decline in the number of culprits? The Chief Constable, in a generally satisfactory report,

gave two reasons : one, the lower gravity of beer consumed ; and two, the general shortage of supplies. As Mr. L. R. Maidment, the chairman of the bench, observed, it may be either or both, or a combination of the two. But whatever the cause the result was eminently praiseworthy.

And if this can be said of the "first Naval port of the world," what about the petty sessional division of Droxford, which covers a very wide area and concerning which it was reported that there had not been one case of drunkenness brought before the bench during the whole year. This must be a record not only for the county but the entire country !

LIKE CAESAR'S WIFE.

But, harking back to Portsmouth, Mr. Maidment gave some good advice and also issued a warning to all publicans. Referring to the fact that only five licensees had been proceeded against during the past year, the chairman said licensees were recommended to the Justices as being above suspicion and they were entrusted with the carrying out of responsible duties to the community. No licensee should do anything to justify a conviction and he looked forward to the time when that would be the case. At the same time the Justices asked the Chief Constable to give a strong warning to those, if any, who did not assist in enforcing the law. They had done this, he was pleased to say, in regard to the serving of persons under 18, and their action had already had effective results. He concluded by thanking both brewers and licensees for the co-operation and help.

NO HOMESTEAD LICENCE.

The decision of the Ministry of Town and Country Planning to dismiss the appeal against the refusal of the Portsmouth City Council to transfer the licence of the old blitzed public house, The Row Barge, The Hard, Portsea, to a residence known as the Homestead, Eastern Parade, Southsea, on the grounds that the district had already been zoned as a residential area, and it was proposed to retain its character, is of interest, not only to Portsmouth, but to all towns which have suffered from enemy action.

ZONING AND BUSINESS.

Under the licensing laws the police have only to be satisfied that the proposed new premises are suitable for conversion for the licence to be automatically transferred, but the Ministry hold that

the zoning of a particular district for purely residential purposes precludes the establishment of business premises in their midst. Their decision was based entirely on these grounds.

EXPENSIVE AND HEAVILY RATED.

Incidentally, this particular area is the most expensive and heavily rated in the whole of Portsmouth, and the Council in refusing the transfer after a special committee had recommended that the brewer's application be not granted, expressed the opinion that it would be unfair to ratepayers who, to secure seclusion and quiet, had sunk a lot of money in the purchase of their homes, should be subject to the possibility of heavy depreciation in the value of their property and the likelihood, sooner or later, of their immediate neighbourhood being turned into business centres.

Tremendous interest was aroused by the enquiry and the verdict of the Ministry puts an end to a lot of acrimony and speculation.

Incidentally, the licensing justices in view of the Ministry's decision have decided to revoke their order concerning the Row Barge, and the licence is to remain in suspense—a gesture the brewers appreciate.

HEADS AND TAILS.

The fact that a toss of a coin decided who should be the first chairman of the newly formed managers' section of the Portsmouth and District Licensed Victuallers' Society will be recorded in history. The two candidates for the position each secured 17 votes at a special meeting of the parent society, and as there was no one eligible to give a casting vote, it was suggested as a sporting gesture that the aspirants to the office should toss for it. They did, and Mr. Bertie Pannell won. He will also be the representative of the whole of the South Coast on the Provisional National Managers' Committee of the Licensed Victuallers' Defence League. In view of recent legislation, the Managers Section of the Trade will play an important part in future domestic developments, and much depends upon the foundations now being laid. Messrs. G. Lamb, A. H. Spencer and J. Coghlan were elected as a provisional committee. Mr. J. Short is the Vice-Chairman.

THE NEGRO WAS PUZZLED.

A negro soldier was charged in one of the criminal courts in New York State with the theft of a number of bottles of English beer. The prosecution thought they had a very strong case, but

the man's attorney put up a very fine defence. Ultimately, after hours of argument, the jury returned a verdict of "not guilty." The judge, obviously surprised, told the negro that the case was dismissed and that he could go. The negro didn't seem to understand, so the judge shouted, "The case is dismissed. You are exonerated." The prisoner thought for a moment and then said, "Do that mean, Massa Judge, that I must give back de beer?" Collapse of the jury!

BRISTOL.

The Bristol and District North Road Federation and the Bristol Premier F.C. participated in prize money to the value of over £600 at the recent 1944 awards distribution, which took place at that fanciers' stronghold, The Greyhound, Causeway, Fishponds, Mr. A. Purnell, our tenant, being an enthusiast himself for many years past. The chief prizewinners were:—F. S. Sturdey, £85 and £30; Dando Bros., £41 and £28; Milsom Bros., £52 and £36; J. Goodfield, £33; H. Golledge, £18 and £13; W. Bennett, £23.

Mrs. Ashley and Mrs. Pinhell very kindly distributed the awards, and a collection for Bristol's Own Fund resulted in seven guineas being contributed to the needs of our local boys in many lands. Well done, Causeway flyers!

We deeply regret to record the death of Mr. W. E. Baldwin at the early age of 44, who, for over nine years, was our tenant at the Bathurst Hotel, Bristol, and whose excellent work there, from 1935, contributed in no small measure to any success which has been achieved by "Hop Leaf" products in the Bristol area during that period. Of an unassuming nature, but an untiring worker, his wholehearted endeavours at all times for the Bathurst and its customers were an outstanding example of unselfish service, even amid the nightly terrors of 1940 and 1941, and he will be greatly missed. No tribute could be too high for his all too brief stewardship. Mrs. Baldwin, who gave the fullest support to her husband's good work during his tenancy, has been given the opportunity to continue in his example, and we have every confidence that she will do so. We wish her and her family every success, and extend our most sincere sympathies to them in their great loss.

NATIONAL HUNT FIXTURES.

The partial relaxation of the official embargo on winter racing has given great pleasure to many thousands of Service personnel and war workers whose hours of leisure nowadays are so comparatively few, compared with those nearly forgotten days when we were almost as free as the air we breathed, and when the opportunities for, and choice of, our individual pleasures were so wide and varied that the main difficulty then was to make up our minds where to go and what to do.

In these days, when the job of ensuring that freedom is, we hope, nearing its completion, thanks to our leaders and to those millions who have given so valiantly of their all, it is a fitting compliment to them that the "powers that be" should once more have made it possible for the many thousands of our men and womenfolk interested in the Sport of Kings to again visit the scenes of so many happy pre-war memories, renewing old, and forming many new, associations and friendships in the process. Their smiling faces are to be met with everywhere (even when those gentlemen who "shout the odds" are ironically repeating after a "skinner": "Pay anybody," knowing that few can answer), and life's disappointments, doubts, responsibilities and all its cares seem somehow to be very far away in the warm sunlight and bracing winds, which reflect from nearly everyone you meet. Yes, there is a very great deal to learn from this fellowship of the open spaces, which neither age nor bigotry can dim. It just happens to be one of those institutions which are a part of our national heritage; and that answers all questions.

At Cheltenham it is seen at its best, and the meetings on January 6th, February 3rd and 17th were almost worthy of its past traditions! Our good friends, Messrs. Lethaby & Christopher, Ltd., the well-known London caterers, of Ascot and Royal Show fame, despite the tremendous difficulties of transport and staff, and also of food problems, managed in their own special way to overcome every obstacle and to give their patrons that high standard of service which for many years past has been associated with their name.

"Hop Leaf" products were also in high favour everywhere, and the "dead leaves" in and around the popular rings at the close of each day were ample evidence in support of the phrase "'S.B.' first and the rest nowhere," or, to paraphrase another racing expression, "'S.B.—THE Safe Bet'!"

THE TAMAR BREWERY, DEVONPORT.

We were very pleased to receive a visit from Staff-Sergeant C. V. Churchward, of our Clerical Staff, who has recently returned to this country after four and a half years in Malta, G.C. During his sojourn in Malta Staff-Sergeant Churchward witnessed many of the air raids which that gallant Island sustained and spoke highly of the inhabitants of Malta and of their stubborn resistance which is a source of admiration to the whole of the civilised world.

We regret to record the death of Mr. R. ("Bob") Rymell, of our Transport Department, who was a devoted and hardworking servant of the Firm for nearly twenty-one years. He was liked and respected by all for his courteous manner and for his sense of humour. Our deepest sympathy is extended to Mrs. Rymell and family in their great loss. Members of the Transport Department acted as pall bearers at the funeral, and the Firm was represented by Messrs. R. E. Wright, R. Luff, W. E. Loynes, S. W. Naish, E. Lillyman, G. Egg and R. Johns.

"Bob" Rymell was Provost Sergeant of the Somerset Light Infantry before being employed by us and we have an especial regard for this famous regiment as they have always been good and friendly customers of ours when in the vicinity of one of the Firm's Branches. The Colonel made a special request for employment for Rymell when the latter was due for pension and always enquired of the writer as to his welfare.

We were very sorry to learn that Flying Officer R. J. Dunstan, R.A.F., who was in charge of our Delivery Department for many years, has been posted missing whilst on flying operations over Europe. Flying Officer Dunstan was a popular member of the Firm and very highly esteemed by all who knew him. Much sympathy is felt for Mrs. Dunstan and family in their great anxiety.

The weather has been remarkably cold in this part of the country and roads have been treacherous with snow and frosts, and our transport has done very well considering the severe "Arctic" conditions. Several lorries had to be abandoned because of snow-drifts and the drivers and their draymen had to walk considerable distances through the snow before they were able to find shelter. The temperature in Plymouth at one time was 18 degrees below freezing point, but luckily the thaw was gradual and there were few cases of burst pipes. The roads, however, were dangerous

and over 1,000 tons of gravel and stone were laid to enable the vehicular traffic to keep moving and transport services to be maintained in the city.

At this year's Brewster Sessions all our licences were renewed, and compliments were passed by Justices and Chiefs of Police as to the successful management of the houses by the wives of the licensees who were serving in His Majesty's Forces.

We have had visits from several members of the staff now in the services and they all seemed fit. Some of them were on embarkation leave. We send our best wishes to all who are serving at home and abroad, and wish them a speedy return.

The photograph on page 54 is of the interior of the Torbay Inn, Paignton, and depicts the presentation of 1,000 "ship" halfpennies to Mr. Janes, the Secretary of the Brixham Seamen Boys' Orphanage, which have been collected at the Torbay Inn. Mr. Hannaford Hill is seen handing over the cheque to Mr. Janes (left). The proprietor of the Torbay Inn is Mr. W. J. Dicker (third from left), and seated at the table with their ship models and glasses of Simonds' ales are some of "the boys" who raised the money. Quite a large sum of money has been collected at the Torbay Inn for the Orphanage.

OXFORD.

Readers will be interested to learn that Flight Lieut. B. H. Quelch, a pre-war member of our clerical staff, has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

We at Oxford are very proud of the first of our colleagues to be decorated for distinguished service in the present war and we congratulate him, sincerely and unanimously. As we stated in the previous issue of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE, Flight Lieut. B. H. Quelch, D.F.C., is quite a veteran, having been in the R.A.F. since the outbreak of war. A photograph is on page 54.

For the benefit of those interested, and especially his colleagues who are serving overseas, we quote below from a recent *Oxford Times*, with acknowledgments to that well-known paper:—

"OLD CENTRAL SCHOOL BOY."

"Flight-Lieut. B. H. Quelch, R.A.F., youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Quelch, of 15, White House Road, Oxford, has been awarded the D.F.C. He joined the R.A.F. before the outbreak of war and is an old boy of the Central School.

"The citation states:—'This officer has completed two distinguished and successful tours of operational duty. During the first he took part in many reconnaissance flights over the French and Dutch coasts, including heavily defended harbour areas. He also completed several escort patrols and shared in the destruction of one enemy aircraft.'

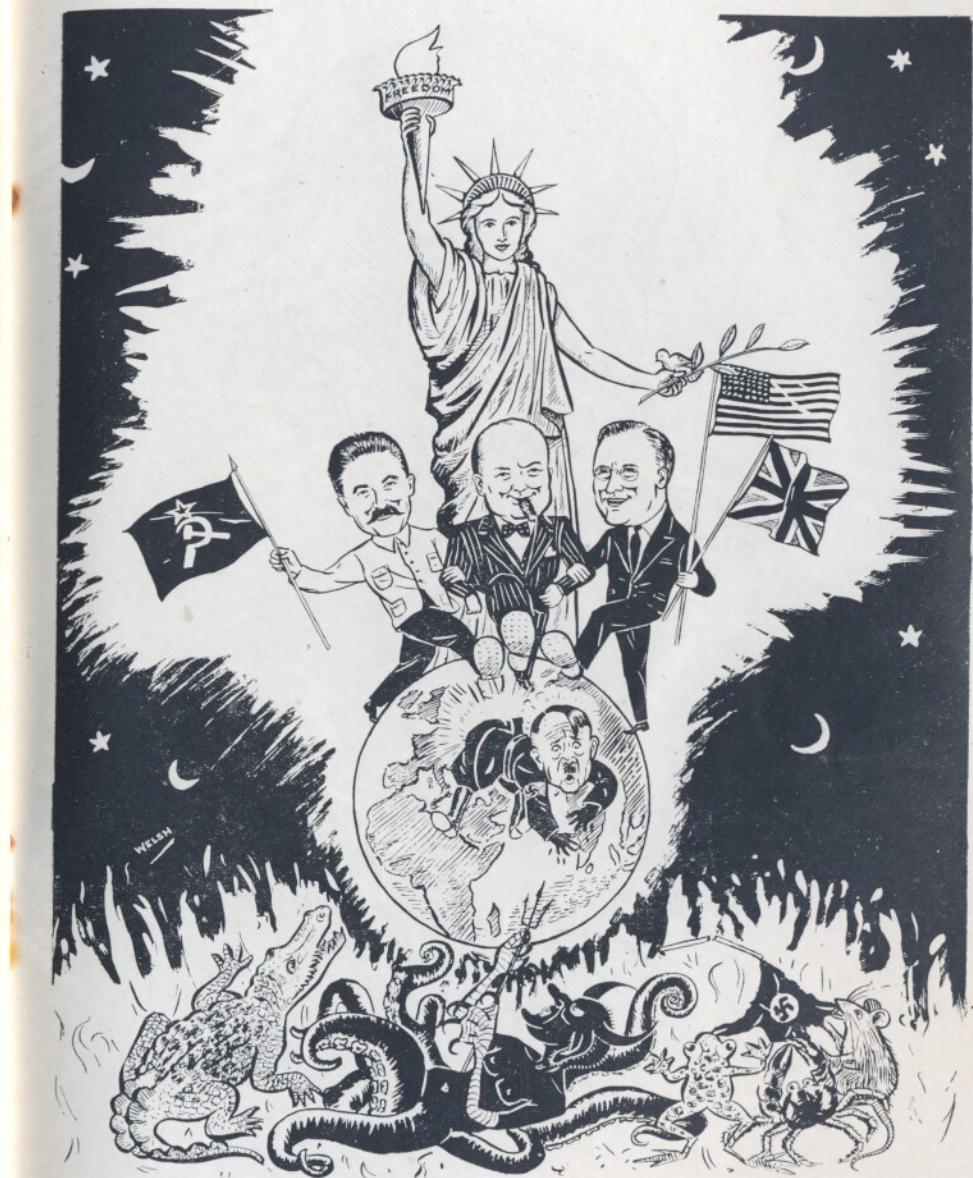
"In the course of his second tour Flight-Lieut. Quelch has completed a number of anti-aircraft patrols and missions against enemy shipping. In July, 1944, his aircraft was one of a small formation which pressed home a daring attack on armed trawlers near the Ile de Grois. On this sortie his aircraft was damaged by the severe anti-aircraft fire encountered. Flight-Lieut. Quelch has also completed a number of reconnaissance flights over the Norwegian coast. He has always displayed outstanding courage and a fine fighting spirit.'

In August, 1940, Flight-Lieut. Quelch married Maureen, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Jones. Mr. Jones, of course, is our Oxford Stores foreman.

L/A.C. A. Siggery called upon us recently, on his first leave from the continent; he was looking well and was glad to be home for a spell.

Sergt. L. J. Lardner, R.A., is recovering from his wound and is getting along nicely, we are happy to state.

We send our greetings and best wishes to all colleagues in the Forces, and hope that they are all prospering.



"Coming events cast their shadows before."

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