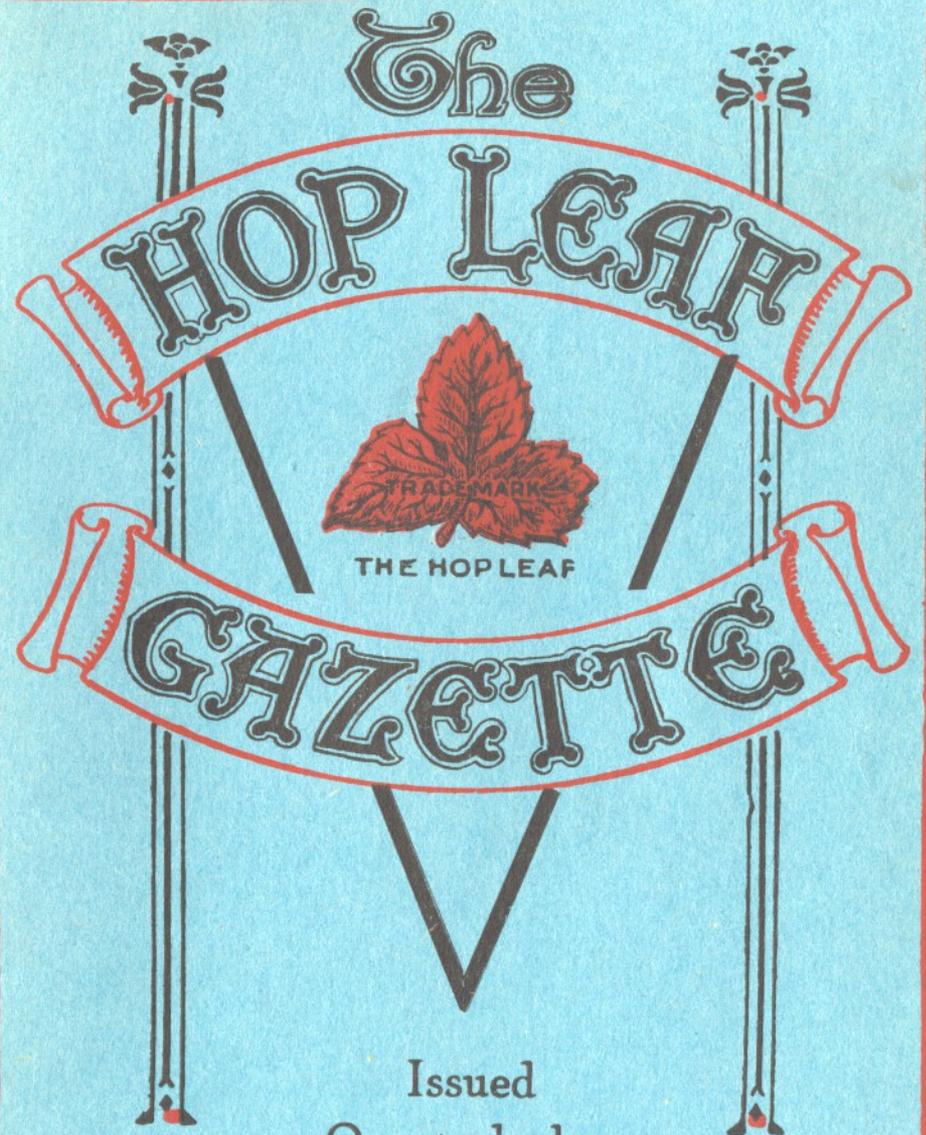


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H. & G. SIMONDS, LTD., READING.

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. XX.

SEPTEMBER 1946

No. 4

## CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Mr. H. D. Long ... ..	Frontispiece
Chat from the Editor's Chair ... ..	151
Nature Note ... ..	155
Welcome Home Dinner ... ..	166
A Great Thought ... ..	172
Words of Wisdom ... ..	173
Brewery Jottings ... ..	175
Cricket ... ..	179
Branches ... ..	186

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



MR. H. D. LONG.

MR. H. D. LONG.

CASHIER, JACOB STREET BREWERY, BRISTOL.

The place of honour in this issue is occupied by a worthy member of our Bristol Staff, Mr. H. D. Long, who as far back as September, 1897, entered the service of Messrs. W. J. Rogers, Ltd., as a junior clerk in the Empties Department. A great deal of door-to-door family trade was then being rapidly developed, with cask beer at 10d. a gallon, bottled beer at half-a-crown a dozen (pints), and whisky, 22 u.p., at 3/- a bottle! Mr. Long adds: "One couldn't work by the clock in those days."

In due course Mr. Long was transferred to the Accountant's Department, where he remained until 1916, the year his Army service commenced in the Somerset Light Infantry. Early in 1918 he was posted to the Signal Section of the Royal Sussex Regiment, and served with the North Russian Expeditionary Force until September, 1919, when he returned home *via* Murmansk after experiencing the privations and hardships which were inseparable from military service within the Arctic Circle.

After demobilisation, Mr. Long resumed his duties and later was promoted to be Clerk in Charge of the Ledger and Sales Department until 1930, when he succeeded Mr. F. W. Glead as Cashier. A natural aptitude for his special duties, combined with an inherent loyalty to his employers and absolute integrity, have endowed him with those special qualities which are of paramount importance for such a post.

In his younger days he was a very keen cyclist and delighted in seeking out many of the beauty spots in our Southern and Western counties. Most of the present centres of "Hop Leaf" activities are therefore familiar ground to him.

As Hon. Secretary of our Savings Group from its initiation Mr. Long has not spared himself, and the gratifying results both in the past and at present are due in no small measure to his personal example and endeavour.

Throughout the late war, and particularly during those long days and nights of anxiety, his street fire-guard duties were a first priority, until the last "All Clear" had sounded.

Most unassuming, yet fully competent and ever ready to lend a hand to help forward any deserving project whether commercial, charitable or national, our Bristol Cashier, during his "innings" of nearly half a century, has set an example which those who follow him will find it far from easy to emulate.

*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.)



A GREAT PUBLIC SERVANT.

The death of Mr. J. H. Simonds, one of our highly respected Directors for some 28 years, means a great loss to the Firm, to the town and county. His many fine qualities of heart and mind won for him countless friends and admirers. He was a business man of the highest integrity, a great sportsman and gentleman in every sense of the word. He served his day and generation nobly and his many activities, recounted on another page, show what a worker he was for the public weal. And now "he has gone home" to receive the "Well done!" Meanwhile the deepest sympathy goes out to Mrs. Simonds and her son and two daughters.

We all honour the memory of a great and good man.

A VERY USEFUL PRESENT.

Mr. Harry Makepeace, President of the Reading Bowling Club, 1946, commemorated his year of office by presenting the club with a dressing stand, containing lockers, etc., for the use of visiting guests. Nothing could be more useful and the gift has been highly appreciated. It was a typical gesture of a thoroughly good sportsman.

MR. H. C. DAVIS HONOURED.

It is very pleasing to record that Mr. H. C. Davis, Manager of our Hotels and Catering Department, has been elected to the Council of the Caterers' Association of Great Britain. Mr. Davis is also a member of the Committee of the Réunion des Gastronomes, an associate member of the Hotels and Restaurants Association, and a member of the Wine and Food Society. Mr. Davis' rare organizing abilities and his genial personality must make him a valuable and popular member of these great concerns, particularly in these trying times, when business acumen and tact are so sorely needed.

### "BEST LOVED LADY IN READING."

A presentation was made to Lady Abram at a garden party held at "Inglewood," Bath Road, Reading, under the auspices of the Reading Women's Conservative and Unionist Association.

The gifts consisted of a gold wristlet watch and a cheque for £40. Some measure of the esteem in which Lady Abram is held can be gained from the fact that the garden party was attended by over a thousand, including most of the prominent workers in both the women's and men's organizations. Mrs. F. A. Simonds, who has succeeded Lady Abram as President of the Association, in making the presentation, described the recipient as the best loved lady in Reading.

### CAPTAIN A. S. DREWE, M.C., J.P.

The name of Captain A. S. Drewe, M.C., has been added to the Commission of the Peace for the Borough of Reading, and we, who knew of his valuable work of real national importance, congratulate him on this well-deserved honour. Captain Drewe has been Surveyor to H. & G. Simonds Ltd. for 20 years. He was educated at Sherborne and University College, Reading, and before he entered his present office he was lecturer to the British Dairy Institute. From 1912-19 Captain Drewe served with the Leicestershire Regiment in Gallipoli, Egypt and France, and it was in France that he won his M.C. His activities during the last war included Regional Chairmanship of the National Association of Spotters, the organization of the very efficient system of voluntary fire-watching in central Reading, and a principal part in the design and construction of the town's system of defences. The organizers of Reading's various Savings Weeks always had Captain Drewe's enthusiastic support, and he was also identified with the Reading Squadron, A.T.C., of which he is now a member of the Committee.

A member of the Berkshire and Wellington Clubs, Captain Drewe is also Chairman of Christchurch Horticultural Association. Captain Drewe is also a fine fly fisherman. He is married and has one daughter.

### OLD MEMORIES.

A very entertaining article on Memories of England and written by Mr. Fred Hart appears in the *Ontario Intelligencer*, Belleville. In it Mr. Hart mentions:

"During the First World War the writer strolled down through the brewery yards with his old father who had given 60 years of his long life to the service of Simonds. We met the senior partner

of that time, Mr. Louis Simonds, and he pointed with pride to several old men and gave an account of their many years of service. Firms such as Suttons and Simonds have no fear of labour trouble and strikes for the interests of their help is their first concern."

### A SIMONDS' ASH TRAY.

Mr. Guy, of 3 New Cottages, Tilehurst, is an amateur radio fan, broadcasting under the reference G.8.T.H. He recently got into conversation with an R.A.F. man broadcasting from one of the Cocos Islands in the Timor Sea, in the course of which he stated that he had just come from the King's "Palace," where he found one of the Simonds' china ash trays on the table. He did not ask the King whether he had acquired it during a riotous evening in a Reading public house!

### THE PATH TO POWER.

Defining his place as a teacher of teachers in the "hierarchy of inefficiency," Mr. W. L. Sumner, of University College, Nottingham, told a conference at Oxford:

"If you can't do a thing, you teach it. If you can't teach it, you teach how to teach it. If you can't do that, you inspect it; and if you can't inspect it, you organize it. If you can't organize it, you administer it; and if you can't administer it, you become the Minister."

### A VERY SHORT STORY!

"My wife's a wonder," said Percy, the window dresser. "Last winter she knitted me socks out of an old bathing costume, and this summer she knitted a bathing costume for herself out of one of my old socks."

### BOTTLE-HUNT REVEALS 7,000,000 "EMPTIES."

To maintain the supply of beer and mineral water to B.A.O.R. troops, N.A.A.F.I. organized a big bottle-hunt in France which produced 7,000,000 "empties." "Head Hunter" was Mr. G. H. Salter, of Hill Farm, Stradbroke, Diss, Norfolk, who was given a gang of German prisoners-of-war and 20 lorries and told to find as many empty bottles as he could, as fast as he could. The search parties discovered the "empties" lying about in disused camps, stores and depots. The 7,000,000 "empties" have done much to alleviate the acute bottle-shortage in Germany. Mr. Salter is now N.A.A.F.I. District Manager in Cuxhaven.

MR. W. F. McINTYRE RETIRES FROM MANAGERSHIP OF THE TAMAR BREWERY, DEVONPORT.

Following a long and wonderfully successful career, extending over 51 years, Mr. W. F. McIntyre has laid aside his work at the Tamar Brewery and has retired at his own request.

An account of Mr. McIntyre's business history appeared in an early number of this Journal and a resumé is recorded in this issue under our Devonport notes.

Mr. McIntyre can look back on his achievements with every satisfaction.

Never have greater tributes been paid in respect of an employee of this Company than those uttered by the Chairman and Managing Director, Mr. F. A. Simonds, in bidding farewell to one who ranked amongst the leading personnel of the Company.

The sense of loss which is felt in the departure of Mr. McIntyre is compensated by the knowledge that his retirement has been well earned.

It is sincerely hoped that in the years of leisure which lie ahead Mr. McIntyre will in a large measure regain the health which had been failing under the strain of the strenuous conditions of the past seven years.

#### FIFTY YEARS AT THE BREWERY.

On Monday, June 16th, 1946, Mr. Frederick Kirby completed fifty years at the Brewery in the Transport Department. He was summoned to the Board Room and congratulated on his service by the Chairman and Managing Director, Mr. F. A. Simonds. To mark the occasion, Mr. Eric Simonds presented Mr. Kirby with a handsome silver cigarette box and a cheque, and remarked that it was almost a record to have served so many years in one department. Mr. Kirby suitably replied.

Of a retiring nature, his popularity with all at the Brewery is great, and throughout his long service his enthusiasm for work and his deep loyalty to this great firm have been unbounded.

A great reader, he is also well known amongst his colleagues for his wit and humour.

#### THE LIGHTER SIDE.

##### DEVASTATING DIALOGUE.

"I see you're putting up a new building."

"Yes, sir. We never put anything up but new ones."

## NATURE NOTE.

(BY C.H.P.).

VERY TAME BLACKBIRDS.

SPOTTED WOODPECKER UP THE POLE.

WHO STOLE THE DUCKS' EGGS?

Invariably, when I go into my garden a blackbird comes and asks for worms. I go and fetch the fork and dig and the blackbird follows me. I hand her the worms as I find them and she also helps herself, her keen eyes spotting those I have passed over. She will carry away, in her beak, as many as nine at a time! She takes them to feed her young and she must have had several broods this year. She is very persistent, comes in all weathers and makes such a strong appeal to me for food that I feel I have to treat her as a regular customer and give her the best I possess, which includes cake, to which she seems very partial.

#### THAT APPEALING LOOK!

The other day, when it was raining in torrents, I was examining my runner beans and lo and behold! Mrs. Blackbird actually alighted on my shoulder. Off I went and fetched the fork and dug. Twice she filled her beak with worms and, by this time, as I was getting very wet, I thought I would make a move indoors. I went, and, would you believe it, as I was about to enter my back door, there was Mrs. Blackbird following me up the steps! I thought this was a little too much of a good thing, but the appealing look in those soulful eyes was too strong to be denied, so down the garden I go again with the fork and, dig for victory—I mean for the blackbird, until she is satisfied.

You see, even in these days, you must not forget your regular customers!

And Father Blackbird comes as well. One always knows when his wife is sitting for then he comes regularly, too, carrying off beakful after beakful of food to the missus. They are a charming pair of birds, Mrs. Blackbird in her sooty brown suit and Mr. Blackbird in his glossy black coat and yellow beak.

I am gratified to say that my kindly neighbours are also visited by these birds and wait upon them as willingly as I do.

A fellow worker at the Brewery has a pied blackbird come to visit him in his garden.

#### UP THE POLE!

Though I live in the heart of the town, the lesser spotted woodpecker frequently can be seen. He finds food in the apple trees in adjacent gardens and the other evening he climbed a wireless pole. Though he was only about thirty yards away I watched him through my field glasses and had a wonderful view as the bird jerked his way up to the very top of the pole. He evidently found some tit-bits on his way up and when near the top he had a rare feed off some kind of insects for he remained at one spot fully five minutes, pecking away vigorously. His bright red crown was very conspicuous, the rest of his body being a pretty animated picture of black and white. His note, *tic-tic*, familiar to me, first attracted my attention.

#### DUCKS' EGGS FOR DINNER.

A farmer was recently greatly concerned because he was missing many of his ducks' eggs and where they went was a mystery! Then a man working on the land noticed an old crow carrying an egg to a meadow. There she cracked the shell and made a meal of its succulent contents. The mystery was solved and the latest I heard was that the farmer was waiting for the thief, with gun in hand!

I do not know what the bird's view was in the matter, but I know the farmer thought that capital punishment should not be abolished, at any rate in this case!

Though crows are undoubtedly criminals, they are handsome fellows in their coats of black with beautiful green and violet reflections. They are very shy birds and, unlike the rooks, you do not often see more than two together. A pair nested in a tree down the Thames Promenade this year and last winter, one bitterly cold day, when I was fishing, one of these birds actually came quite

close to me and eagerly picked up some food which I threw to him. Crows will fly down and pick up food from the water after the manner of gulls, but the crows do not actually alight on the water.

#### LITTLE MOUSE-LIKE BIRDS.

I was glad to see that, again this year, several pairs of sand-martins built their nests in the pipes on the Kennetside, by the Brewery Yard. These mouse-coloured birds, with white throats, are among the earliest of the migrants to arrive in England and their cheery little "chattering" notes are ever welcome.

#### THE FALL OF THE LEAF.

At the time of writing, Sunday, August 18th, most of the swifts have taken their departure and there are other signs that winter is on the way. We all do fade as a leaf! is the touching and most truthful language of Scripture; and it is scarcely possible to detach from the characters of the autumnal season, the solemn and subdued sense of the last change which precedes the death-sleep of nature. We admire the peculiar beauties of autumn, with feelings altogether different from those with which we watch the progress of spring. On the one, we look with a sense of lively pleasure and joyous sympathy, akin to that with which we gaze on a beautiful and lively child; while we regard the other with much the same feelings with which we look on the silvery hairs and enfeebled step of the hale old man, still noble in decay. His grey hairs are a crown of glory, and claim from us a reverence willingly rendered; and with like feelings we yield our admiration to the beautiful varied tints, which, towards the close of autumn, work so wondrous a change on our woods and groves, preparatory to the winter stage of nature's repose which precedes and prepares for the annual resurrection.

#### THE LIGHTER SIDE.

A recent advertisement of a business college in South Africa was headed: "Short Course in Accounting for Women." Not long after the advertisement appeared, a note reached the head of the college. It said: "There is NO accounting for women."

## DEATH OF MR. J. H. SIMONDS.

GREAT LOSS TO TOWN AND COUNTY.

Following a serious illness, the death occurred in the early hours of Thursday morning, September 5th, of Mr. John Hayes Simonds, C.B., D.L., J.P., at his residence, Newlands, Arborfield. Mr. Simonds, who was in his 68th year, had sufficiently recovered to attend the South Berks Pony Show at Calcot. He was the son of the late Mr. John Simonds.

One of the best-known figures in Reading and the county, says *The Berkshire Chronicle*, Mr. Simonds was a Director of Barclays Bank, Ltd., Vice-Chairman of H. & G. Simonds Ltd., and Chairman of Directors of Reading Building Society. He was a Deputy Lieutenant for the county and had been a Reading borough magistrate since 1934. In July last he relinquished the position of chairman of the Berkshire Territorial Association, which he had held for fourteen years. He had been a member and treasurer of the Association for a great many years. He was also a trustee of Reading Savings Bank. Since 1929 he had been Reading Borough Treasurer.

Educated at Wellington College and Magdalen College, Oxford, Mr. Simonds took his B.A. in 1900. From Oxford he entered the Reading bank of J. and C. Simonds, which had been founded in 1813 by Charles Simonds. He subsequently became a partner in the bank, and when it was acquired by Barclays Bank, Ltd., in 1913, he became a local director of that company. Later he joined the board of directors of Barclays Bank, Ltd. His association with H. & G. Simonds Ltd., as director, extended for some 27 years.

It was in 1900 that Mr. Simonds was commissioned into the 1st Volunteer Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment, subsequently the 4th (T.) Battalion. He retired in 1911 but later rejoined the 2/4 Battalion in 1914 as Major, and served in France. In the last war he served with the Arborfield platoon of the Home Guard.

Mr. Simonds was a man of wide interests and he held office in a large number of organisations in the county. He was treasurer of Berkshire County Cricket Club, Reading Rowing Club, Berkshire Playing Fields Association—of which he was also a member of the executive committee—Berks Miniature Rifle Association, Reading Poppy Day collections, the Y.M.C.A. War Service Fund in Berkshire, and many other bodies. Among other organisations with which he had been officially associated were the Wokingham Club, Reading and District Christmas Fat Stock Society and Arborfield Cricket Club. He was hon. treasurer of the local fund for the Royal Show at Reading in 1926. Mr. Simonds was actively associated with the Savings drive during the war and was chairman

of the committee of Reading Warships Week and chairman of the Bonds Committee of the Salute the Soldier campaign locally.

Although interested in all sports, Mr. Simonds had closest connections with hunting. He had been a member of the Garth almost all his life, and had been treasurer since the death of his father in 1929. In his younger days he had been a useful rugby player and had appeared for Berkshire Wanderers on frequent occasions after leaving Oxford.

In 1911, Mr. Simonds married Miss Aline Rhoda Sturges, daughter of Mr. Edward Murray Sturges, of Barkham. The sympathy of their many friends will go out to Mrs. Simonds and the son and two daughters—Major J. A. H. Simonds, Mrs. Walker and Mrs. J. F. Hart.

The funeral took place at Arborfield on Saturday, September 7th, and a memorial service was held at St. Laurence's, Reading, many aspects of life in which Mr. Simonds played an important part being represented. The chiefs of the various Brewery departments attended. The floral tributes were numerous and very beautiful including a large number from the directors, various Breweries and Branches and from friends in Malta and Giberalta.

## RETIREMENT OF MR. H. J. TIMMS.

FIFTY-THREE YEARS AT OXFORD.

Mr. H. J. Timms relinquished his position as Manager at Oxford Branch on the 31st May, after serving the Firm in that city for 53 years. He holds a fine record, which is probably unique in the history of the Firm, inasmuch as the whole of his career has been spent at Oxford, where he rose to manage the Branch establishment which he joined as a junior clerk. He has held the position of Manager for the past 20 years, and was responsible for the sub-Branches at Headington and Banbury.

Through these columns we offer Mr. Timms our hearty wishes for many happy years in the retirement he so richly deserves. His numerous friends in the Colleges and in the Military and R.A.F. Messes, as also our tenants of licensed houses, amongst whom he was very popular, will lament his departure, but none will deny him the leisure he has so well merited.

Mr. Timms will long cherish the parting words of thanks of the Chairman and Managing Director upon his loyal and highly efficient service—words which it is the ambition of all to earn.

Mr. Timms is succeeded by Mr. W. T. Sanders, whose promotion from the position of chief clerk has already met with general approval.

## ROWING AS A RECREATION.

SOME DETAILS OF A GREAT SPORT.

(BY F. SMITH.)

The would-be oarsman is extremely fortunate if he lives in or near Reading because it would be indeed hard to find more beautiful stretches of the Thames upon which to practise the art of rowing than those which Reading provides.

Upon his first appearance at the clubhouse, the new member is introduced to the fixed-tub, which is a flat-bottomed section of a boat moored to the river bank or, as in some clubhouses, positioned in an indoor tank. In this he is taught by a competent coach the first rudiments of rowing on a fixed seat.

From the fixed-tub he graduates to the moving-tub, which is a heavy clinker-built boat made for two novice oarsmen and a cox, who at this stage would be the coach.

## HIS FIRST RACING BOAT.

After sufficient tuition, our budding oarsman takes his place in his first racing boat, which is a coxed clinker-built four, and his first race will be in the Maiden Fours class on fixed seats over a half-mile course.

After having won his "Maidens," in which class he can only win once, he next races in the same boat, but this time on a sliding seat in the Junior Fours, which is over a mile course, and he may win this class as many times as he can, but only in the same season.

The next season, our junior oarsman may take his place in a Junior Eight, which would be a shell-built boat, but this event can only be won once and then the eight must row Junior-Senior.

The Junior-Senior eight can continue entering as such until they win an open event and then they all become senior oarsmen and may only compete in senior races.

## TRUE OARSMAN'S ONE AMBITION.

After winning his Junior Fours, the oarsman may, according to the requirements of the club, instead of rowing in a Junior Eight, row in a Junior-Senior Four, which is a coxswainless shell-built boat, and then graduating to senior events and the true oarsman's one ambition, the winning of an event at that "mecca" of all rowing men—Henley Royal Regatta.

You have to be very fit to be a successful oarsman—rowing keeps you fit and makes you even fitter.

## AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY SPORTS.

The enterprising committee of the Sports and Social Club arranged a full programme of sports for the Firm's employees, and there was a record attendance in spite of many counter-attractions on Bank Holiday. All the events were keenly contested, the bun race and slow bicycle race providing much amusement for the onlookers, even if the competitors took the matter more seriously. The ladies' ankle competition, as ever, was a great attraction, and was judged by Mr. R. St. J. Quarry, a director, ably assisted by Mr. G. F. Andrews, head of the bottling department. Mrs. Quarry presented the prizes. All greatly appreciated the attendance of Mr. Quarry and his charming wife.

The Spring Gardens Band played popular selections during the afternoon and evening, and later provided music for dancing on the specially prepared lawn, and also played accompaniments for community singing just prior to the close of the proceedings.

Small children were not overlooked, and they found swings, roundabouts and donkey rides all ready for their enjoyment. Results were:—

## MEN.

*Half-mile Walking*: 1, H. Hawkins; 2, E. Scott; 3, E. Tate.  
*440 yards Handicap*: 1, K. Johnson; 2, G. Ayers; 3, W. Greenaway.  
*220 yards Handicap*: 1, W. Greenaway; 2, K. Johnson; 3, L. Fullbrook.  
*100 yards*: 1, K. Johnson; 2, L. Fullbrook; 3, H. Sexton.  
*Veterans*: 1, F. Fullbrook; 2, J. Smith; 3, D. Spence.  
*One Mile Handicap*: 1, A. Hughes; 2, R. Braisher; 3, G. Ayers.

## LADIES.

*80 yards*: 1, D. Spence; 2, G. Beesley; 3, B. Freeman.  
*Bun Race*: 1, J. Shurmer; 2, J. Biggs; 3, D. Spence.  
*Egg and Spoon*: 1, P. Hammond; 2, O. Shurmer; 3, R. Ayers.  
*Thread-needle*: J. Shurmer; 2, B. Freeman; 3, R. Ayers.  
*Ankle Competition*: 1, E. Hobbs; 2, Miss Hawkins; 3, B. Freeman.

## BOYS.

*80 yards (Under 10)*: 1, D. Spence; 2, T. Bond; 3, K. Benford.  
*100 yards (Over 10)*: 1, J. Nimmo; 2, R. Lovejoy; 3, M. Edwards.

## GIRLS.

*80 yards (Under 10)*: 1, M. Hole; 2, J. Grover; 3, C. Lee.  
*80 yards (Over 10)*: 1, S. Nimmo; 2, P. Douce; 3, Wallis.

## MIXED EVENTS.

*Bun Race (Under 15)*: 1, J. Nimmo; 2, M. Hodge; 3, M. Edwards.  
*Slow Bicycle*: 1, G. Ayers; 2, R. Ayers; 3, J. Shurmer.  
*Three-legged*: 1, J. Shurmer and G. Ayers; 2, D. Spence and M. Edwards; 3, P. Douce and P. Douce.  
*Tennis*: MEN: 1, E. Scott; 2, K. Scott. LADIES: 1, Mrs. Josey; 2, E. Townsend.

## A PET DAY.

BY "SIR GEORGE."

For twenty-one days and twenty-one nights the rain had poured down unceasingly in the Plymouth area, but on 22nd June, the day chosen for the V-Day outing of the Devonport Branch of Saccone & Speed, a big bright sun poured down its radiance, which contributed so much to the success of the merry party.

All assembled at 10 a.m. on Torpoint Ferry, and punctually at the last stroke of the gong the two motor coaches moved on their way, escorted by the "Flying Squad" of two private cars.

The destination was Newquay, and the route chosen embraced some wonderful moorland scenery, including Cornwall's beautiful leafy lanes which looked at their best.

A brief halt was made at Truro, where the order was "go as you please" for thirty minutes. Some visited the Red Lion Hotel, others the Cathedral Hotel, where every hospitality was shown. Some wandered around the city, some purchased souvenirs, others "ice-creamed," but at the appointed time all vehicles trundled along the highway to Newquay.

On arrival a good meal was in readiness at the Grantham Hotel, and Mr. J. V. Boston, the new Saccone & Speed's Devonport Manager, was greeted with cheers when he touched on the purpose of the outing and of the pleasure of meeting all together.

After lunch the party again split up into sections, some explored the giant caves and rocks, others wandered on the moorlands, and some, with charm and glamour, indulged in "ankle-bathing" on the golden sands!

Promptly at 6.30 p.m. the whole contingent moved on. An evening call was made at the Royal Hotel, Bodmin, where the good lady, in a cosy lounge, seemed able to supply almost all the Old World nuptials; and then for home.

On the whole, it was a wonderfully well-organized party, and exceptional credit is due to Mr. Boston, his assistant, Mr. Hobbs, and Mr. Lowther, who rendered yeoman service with the "Flying Squad."

'Twas nice to meet again so many of the staff, both old and young, clerical and artisan, some with their wives and some with their sweethearts. It seemed like one large family, and all imbued with the one idea of loyalty and affection towards the firm of which they were a link in that big chain of progress, and it would seem that similar future gatherings would do a great deal towards cementing this fine relationship.

The dispersal point came on the top deck of Torpoint Ferry, where some young boy produced a kettle-drum, some warbled popular choruses, and then all hands joined affectionately in "Auld Lang Syne."

Meteorologically speaking, 'twas a "Pet Day" because, as I'm writing this, the rain is simply pouring in torrents and is likely to continue for another twenty-one days and twenty-one nights. But Mr. Boston had chosen his day, and he chose it well.

S.G.H.

## DIAMOND WEDDING OF MR. AND MRS. H. G. HAWKINS.

There are few more delightful personalities in Reading than Mr. H. G. Hawkins, J.P., and he and his good wife recently celebrated their diamond wedding.

They were married in 1886, and they have resided in Reading ever since. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hawkins are 84 years of age.

A native of Wiltshire, "Harry" Hawkins, as he is known to a vast company of friends, came to Reading in 1878 and obtaining employment at Messrs. Huntley & Palmers, remained with that firm for 49 years, retiring on his own application in 1927, when the generosity of the firm made it possible for him and his wife to live comfortably for the rest of their lives.

Mr. Hawkins is well known for his political activities, and has taken a prominent part in election fights throughout Berkshire and in his native county of Wiltshire. For many years he was a familiar figure on the Conservative platform, speaking at meetings and winning immense popularity by his racy addresses. In 1928 the Conservative Party recognised the value of his work by presenting him with an inscribed testimonial and a cheque for £100.

In 1923 Mr. Hawkins was made a J.P. for Reading, and he sat regularly on the magistrates' Bench until 1941, when he was transferred to the supplementary list.

He and Mrs. Hawkins would like through THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE, to thank their many friends who sent telegrams, wrote letters and presented them with gifts. Mr. Hawkins says: "In the first place, I should like to say how thankful we are to the Almighty for sparing us to enjoy sixty years of married life and to recognise how many friends and wellwishers we have.

"Prominent amongst the donors of gifts I must place Mr. F. A. Simonds, who has always been very generous to me; also Mr. C. Bennett, Mrs. Forrest, of The Blagrove Hotel, Mr. and Mrs. R. Hawkins, of The World Turned Upside Down, and Miss Jack and Miss O'Brien, of The Red Rose.

"We received a unique iced cake from Messrs. Huntley and Palmers Ltd. It was piped and decorated to reveal a life's history (a masterpiece). Mr. W. R. Walker, of Glasgow, late Works Manager of that firm, sent us a most delightful letter and gift.

"Of flowers we had many, but one special bouquet was sent by the Reading Conservative and Unionist Association, which won the admiration of all who saw it and consisted of pink carnations. Lady Abram and Mrs. F. A. Simonds also sent delightful letters, and we had a splendid gift from the Salisbury Club, Reading, which I helped start and of which I am a life member.

We received a telegram from Their Majesties the King and Queen sent from Buckingham Palace, letters from His Worship the Mayor and Mr. A. G. West, the senior magistrate, and from many others.

All will be pleased to learn that my wife is rapidly recovering from the accident to her ankle which befell her just before the 27th July.

"We have much to be thankful for, and not least is the great number of friends who have written or sent to us and to whom my wife and I tender our heartiest thanks.

Mr. and Mrs. Hawkins' youngest son, Mr. Frank S. Hawkins, is a foreman at H. & G. Simonds Ltd., and in work and play displays many of the fine qualities of his good father.

#### HEALTH VALUE OF "CONCESSION" WINES.

By Professor J. R. FABRE (Bordeaux Faculty of Medicine) and quoted from *Harpers Wine and Spirit Gazette*, 9th August, 1946.

"Wine can be considered with good right, as the most healthy and hygienic of drinks. Thus among all of them which are known today, it is the one which man seeks in preference to all others," observed Louis Pasteur.

The instinct which directs and guides man in the choice to which Pasteur referred, is the surest guarantee of the innocuousness

and, at the same time, the real utility of wine. As a matter of fact wine offers the advantage of grouping within itself a number of physiological properties as to place it indubitably at the head of all natural beverages.

It has three essential qualities—an aliment, a condiment, and a medicament. Its principal alimentary or nutritive value (seven calories per grain of alcohol) has been justly demonstrated by two eminent American physiologists, Atwater and Benedict. From this point of view it is necessary to consider it, not as a direct energy-supplying nutriment, but as a product of substitution which during its combustion and the resulting production of heat, permits the utilisation of properly so-called energy materials, or of placing them on one side in reverse.

It is requisite also in considering the alimentary value of wine to take into account its other constituents (such as the nitro-geneous and hydrocarbonate matters) and to calculate that a litre of ordinary wine can furnish about 700 calories, or as many as a pint and three-quarters of milk.

But in order that the use of wine may not be harmful, it is necessary to consume it sanely and moderately—always in relation to the activity of the subject and the external temperature—and to dilute it where necessary, that is to say when its alcoholic strength exceeds the recognised average of from eight to ten degrees.

Wine, as has been stated, is in the second place a condiment. It is even more, and a good wine taken with pleasure is a sensorial excitant for starting up the digestive secretions. "Thus one understands the importance of taking wine at the beginning and during the course of a meal; the rapidity and keenness which a wine with an agreeable taste will bring into play during the digestive work in the case of everybody and especially in the case of the person who has known how to loosen and to receive all the sensorial visual, odorant and gustatory possibilities," observed Pachon.

As a result of that secretory gastric and also really pancreatic action, the absorption of wine with consideration facilitates the work of digestion, ameliorates the processes of absorption and assimilation and finally procures that very special sensation of well-being which one feels when the nutritive phenomena unfold themselves at their highest functional level.

Finally, wine is a medicament, at once tonic, stimulating, anti-septic, and from this point of view constitutes a most valuable therapeutic arsenal. The pharmacodynamic properties of wine are contained in one part in its *teneur* in alcohol and in the other in the richness and complexity of its compositions and its organic

Mr. F. C. Hawkes said : " Fellow members of the Club, this is a very proud occasion to-night when, on behalf of the Committee I have the honour to welcome you back and we all are pleased to see you looking so well in spite of your arduous campaigns. We are extremely pleased to entertain you this evening and I hope you have enjoyed yourselves and will do so for the remainder of the time. Whilst you were away scattered all over the world we used often to think of you and through the medium of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE endeavoured to contact you and copies were sent to each one of you when we knew your addresses, just to let you know all here at The Brewery were carrying on whilst you were away serving King and Country. We appreciate very much what you have done for us. Mind you, we had a few anxious moments here and we were very fortunate that when Reading was bombed one of the bombs just missed The Brewery. We are glad you are back again and to give you plenty of employment in order to keep the 'Hop Leaf' flag flying at the top of the mast. Our wishes are sincere and we wish you all the very best for your future careers."

Mr. T. W. Bradford said : " I would like to endorse the remarks of Mr. Hawkes that we endeavoured to get in touch with all those serving and we were able to send a gift to many of you, and I received some hundreds of replies of thanks. Some of you were many thousands of miles away and I can quite understand a feeling of homesickness coming over you at times. You did, no doubt on many occasions say 'Thank God,' so I ask you to put those words into effect by singing the following hymn :

Praise my soul the King of heaven,  
To His feet thy tribute bring ;  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
Evermore His praises sing :  
Alleluia ! Alleluia !  
Praise the everlasting King."

This was sung with great gusto and feeling.

Mr. F. H. V. Keighley said : " Gentlemen, I would like to pay my tribute to you all who have returned from the Forces. I would also like to add a special welcome home to those who have been prisoners of war. I know many have suffered a long time in the hands of the Germans, Italians and Japanese. I wish them all every success in their endeavours to re-establish themselves and the very best to them in the future."

The speeches were followed by songs from Mr. S. Hinton, Mr. G. Cannings and Mr. J. Herridge. Also Mr. S. Hinton was in charge of the community singing, and the rendering of "Who's

your lady friend?" by different sections of the audience was very amusing and enjoyed by all. One of the features of the evening was the signing of the souvenir menu cards. The "King" was given and concluded a very happy and jolly evening.

To the Directors, to Mr. T. W. Bradford, to the Social Club Committee (particularly Mr. W. Wheeler, who looked after the liquid refreshment of us all) and to everyone who helped, in any way, we truly say, "Thank you very much."

W.D.

### THE ENGLISH BARLEY CROP.

Messrs. Wallis Son & Wells, the well-known Corn and Agricultural Merchants and Importers, of Reading, write :—

"Following our usual custom, we compiled a detailed report of the English barley crop as the position was up to August 24th, but we scrapped same in view of the very unfortunate weather experienced over the country during that week-end, causing excessive damage over wide areas, and the fact that though harvesting in the south commenced in the latter half of July, the figures before us showed that up to the date mentioned, the quantity of barley actually secured throughout the country varied according to the area from 5% to 40%.

"The barleys so far secured show a very great variation in quality. Frequently from the same fields, growers have sold firstly unripe samples, weather halted combines; a week later a second sample, greatly improved and ripened, has been sold; another halt, and a third sample, weathered and badly washed, has completed the disposal of the crop.

"Up to the present we have not had much barley "grown-out"; cold nights have prevented this, but some samples have moved under the skin.

"We report a very big increase in the quantity sown of 'Pioneer' winter two-row barley; some samples of these show excellent quality. Some of the early spring barleys which have been combined have produced really fine quality barleys. These come from limited areas.

"In places crops are badly laid, but in many areas the damage is not so great as might be expected.

"On the lighter lands in the south the crop is, on the whole, standing up well, and the later barleys, whose ripening is not advanced, may yet produce good samples, given favourable weather.

"The crop this year is large and many areas report increased acreage sown.

"The new six-row winter barley, 'Prefect,' has to a great extent taken the place of the old-fashioned six-row winter barley. Some 'Prefect' barley has been sold for malting purposes."

### GIFT FOR MR. J. MAGGS.

#### FINE WORK FOR BILLIARDS LEAGUE.

Associated with the Reading and District Clubs' Billiards League since its inception in 1920, and having held office for the greater part of that time, Mr. Jesse Maggs, at the annual meeting of the League, held at Simonds' Social Club recently, received a gift of a radio set as a token of the esteem of the members for all he has done. Mr. W. Bowyer, in making the presentation, expressed regret that the President (Mr. F. A. Simonds) was unavoidably prevented from attending. Describing Mr. Maggs as their "dear old friend," Mr. Bowyer pointed out that in 1926-27 he won the League's gold medal, whilst in 1937 he became the League's Hon. Treasurer. From 1938-46 he had held the offices of Chairman and Treasurer jointly, and it was mainly due to him that the League had continued to function throughout the war. He had indeed carried out a very fine job of work, and they were grateful to him.

Mr. F. A. Simonds was re-elected President of the Association, the proposal being carried with acclamation.

### FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SHOW.

#### A GRAND DISPLAY.

The Annual Flower and Vegetable Show was held in the Social Club on Saturday, August 24th.

A really fine display was made. The judges' comment was that the runner beans, onions and potatoes were of exceptionally high standard, and considered the exhibits as a whole were highly creditable.

The honorary exhibit made by Mr. L. A. Simonds, which comprised a good selection of flowers and vegetables, was greatly admired, as also were the flowers sent by Mr. H. Ashby.

The arrangements for the display and judging were efficiently carried out, and met with the approval of all exhibitors.

#### THE PRIZE LIST.

*Collection of Vegetables.*—1, D. B. Abraham; 2, E. E. Cordery. 6 *Potatoes (Kidney)*.—1, E. E. Cordery; 2, D. B. Abraham; 3, H. C. Plank. 6 *Potatoes (Round)*.—1, E. E. Cordery; 2, D. B. Abraham. *Heaviest Potato*.—1, F. J. Benham. 6 *Onions*.—1, E. Tate; 2, H. T. Holmes; 3, E. E. Cordery. 6 *Carrots (Long)*.—1, A. Waller; 2, H. C. Plank; 3, E. E. Cordery. 6 *Carrots (Short)*.—1, F. J. Benham; 2, D. B. Abraham; 3, H. C. Plank. 12 *Runner Beans*.—1, E. E. Cordery; 2, E. Tate; 3, H. C. Plank. 12 *Pods of Peas*.—1, E. E. Cordery; 2, D. B. Abraham; 3, H. C. Plank. 3 *Cabbage*.—1, E. E. Cordery; 2, D. B. Abraham; 3, A. Waller. *Heaviest Cabbage*.—1, A. E. Owen. 6 *Beetroot (Globe)*.—1, E. Tate; 2, E. E. Cordery; 3, H. C. Plank. 3 *Lettuce (Cabbage)*.—1, A. Waller; 2, H. C. Plank; 3, E. Tate. 3 *Lettuce (Cos)*.—1, E. E. Cordery. 2 *Marrows*.—1, H. C. Plank; 2, E. E. Cordery; 3, H. T. Holmes. *Heaviest Marrow*.—1, E. E. Cordery. 6 *Turnips*.—1, F. J. Benham; 2, H. C. Plank. 12 *Shallots*.—1, A. Waller; 2, E. Tate; 3, H. T. Holmes. 3 *Parsnips*.—1, H. C. Plank; 2, E. E. Cordery; 3, H. T. Holmes. 3 *Cauliflowers*.—1, E. E. Cordery. 12 *Plums*.—1, E. E. Cordery; 2, F. J. Benham. 6 *Apples (Culinary)*.—1, F. J. Benham; 2, E. E. Cordery. 6 *Asters*.—1, E. E. Cordery; 2, F. J. Benham. 6 *Dahlias*.—1, E. E. Cordery; 2, B. Waller; 3, A. Waller. *Bunch of Cut Flowers*.—1, E. Holder; 2, E. E. Cordery and F. J. Benham. 12 *Sweet Peas*.—1, E. E. Cordery; 2, F. J. Benham. 6 *Eggs*.—1, H. C. Plank; 2, E. E. Cordery; 3, F. J. Benham. *Fruit Cake*.—1, Mrs. Cordery; 2, Mrs. Abraham. *Boiled Potatoes*.—1, Mrs. Cordery; 2, Mrs. Abraham. *Child's Garment*.—1, Miss Prosser; 2, Miss Miller; 3, Miss Ayers. *Crochet Work*.—1, Miss Bricknell; 2, Mrs. Abraham. *Hand-Knitted Jumper*.—1, Miss Bricknell; 2, Mrs. Cordery; 3, Mrs. Owen. *Pot of Jam*.—1, Mrs. Abraham; 2, Mrs. Benham; 3, Mrs. Owen. *Bunch of Flowers*.—1, Miss Cordery; 2, Miss Cordery.

#### THE LIGHTER SIDE.

The boss was extremely angry, for the office boy had been missing for the best part of the morning.

"Where the dickens have you been, boy?" he demanded furiously, when at long last the lad sauntered in.

"Been to the post office, Sir," responded the boy, with a virtuous air.

The boss gasped.

"And does it take you two hours to post a letter?" he inquired sarcastically.

"I beg your pardon, Sir," said the lad with some heat. "Three letters!"

## A GREAT THOUGHT.

## THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

*He who joins this Society finds himself in a large place, for the Kingdom of God is a Society of the best men, working for the best ends, according to the best methods. Its membership is a multitude whom no man can number; its methods are as various as human nature; its field is the world. It is a Commonwealth, yet it honours a King; it is a Social Brotherhood, but it acknowledges the Fatherhood of God. Though not a Philosophy the world turns to it for light; though not Political it is the incubator of all great laws. It is more human than the State, for it deals with deeper needs; more Catholic than the Church, for it includes whom the Church rejects. It is a Propaganda, yet it works not by agitation, but by ideals. It is a Religion, yet it holds the worship of God to be mainly the service of man. Though not a Scientific Society its watchword is Evolution; though not an Ethic it possesses the Sermon on the Mount. This mysterious Society owns no wealth but distributes fortunes. It has no minutes for history keeps them; no members' roll for no one could make it. Its entry-money is nothing; its subscription all you have. The Society never meets and it never adjourns. Its law is one word—loyalty; its Gospel one message—love. Verily "Whosoever will lose his life for My sake shall find it."*

*The Programme for the other life is not out yet. For this world, for these faculties, for this one short life, we know nothing that is offered to man to compare with membership in the Kingdom of God. Among the mysteries which compass the world beyond, none is greater than how there can be in store for man a work more wonderful, a life more God-like than this.*

*If you know anything better, live for it; if not, in the name of God and Humanity, carry out Christ's plan.*

## WORDS OF WISDOM.

## A SONG OF HOME.

A house is built of brick and stones, of sills and posts and piers;  
But a home is built of loving deeds that live a thousand years.  
A house, tho' but a simple cot, within its walls may hold  
A home of priceless beauty—rich in love's eternal gold.  
The men of earth build houses—halls and chambers, roofs and  
domes,  
But the women of the earth—God knows—the women build the  
homes.  
Eve could not stray from Paradise, for, oh! no matter where,  
Her gracious presence led the way, lo! Paradise was there.

A sunny temper gilds the edges of life's blackest cloud.

Learn to accept all the small annoyances of life as a matter of course. Be on the look out for the great joys and never let mosquitoes worry you into a passion.

A religion of just being kind is a pretty good religion, but a religion of kindness and useful effort is nearly a perfect religion.

While the world knows something of them that apparently go in and win, it knows nothing of them that really go in and don't win.

Responsibility must be shouldered: you cannot carry it under your arm.

Bless'd be that spot, where cheerful guests retire,  
To pause from toil, and trim the evening fire:  
Blessed that abode where want and pain repair,  
And every stranger finds a ready chair.

We are sure to go on closing doors of sympathy, and narrowing in the interests and opportunities of work around us, if we let ourselves imagine that we can quickly measure the capacities and sift the characters of our fellow-men.

A true scholar never ceases to learn.

Good books give us new views of life and teach us how to live.

Many a shaft at random sent  
Finds work the archer little meant,  
And many a word, at random spoken,  
May soothe or wound a heart that's broken.

There is some victory gained in every gallant struggle that is made. To strive at all, involves a victory over sloth, inertia, and indifference.

If never a sorrow came to us, and never a care we knew ;  
If every hope were realised, and every dream came true ;  
If only joy were found on earth, and no one ever sighed,  
And never a friend proved false to us, and never a loved one died,  
And never a burden bore us down, soul-sick and weary, too,  
We'd yearn for tests to prove our worth, and tasks for us to do.

Men resemble the gods in nothing so much as in doing good to their fellow-creatures.

Thou that lovest the little birds,  
Buds, and blossomings,  
I have a prayer to make to Thee,  
God of the little things.  
This is the prayer I make to Thee :  
Let me not live too long  
To keep the ringing joy I have  
In every spring bird's song.  
I pray Thee, let no spring come back  
With flowers in her hair,  
And find that I have seen at last  
Too many springs to care.

A blessed thing it is for any man or woman to have a friend ;  
one human soul whom we can trust utterly ; who knows the best  
and the worst of us, and who loves us in spite of our faults.

## BREWERY JOTTINGS.

BY W. DUNSTER.

BEER is very much in the news these days. It is referred to frequently in Parliament, it is referred to often by the Food Minister, the papers have articles about it daily, and the cartoonists are busy drawing something funny about it, so that BEER seems PRIORITY NEWS just now. Thousands of words have been written about the brewing of more mild ale at the expense of the higher gravity beers, and many people are only too well aware that most public houses are closed several days each week. We never thought this would be the case, I am sure, so long after the two Wars had finished. Let us all hope this state of affairs will not continue much longer, and that we can accept orders in full from all quarters, instead of having to refuse so many as is the case at the moment.

Many read with considerable interest the account in the last issue of the completion of Mr. Frank Josey's fifty years' service with the Firm, and many congratulations have been received by him. This is indeed a big event in his life, especially as his father before him completed over fifty years' service with H. & G. S. It would be interesting to know how many "boys" have passed through his hands in this long period, and there must be very many who still recall their early days in the Cask Office. Long may he flourish !

Another well-known member of the staff, Mr. Fred Kirby completed his fifty years' service in June, and has been the recipient of many messages of congratulation. (The presentation to him is referred to elsewhere in this issue.) This opportunity is taken to tell him how pleased we are that he has completed his "fifty," and hope that he will continue to be as witty as ever, as informative as ever (especially of the old times), and as interested in football as ever. May his shadow never grow less !

The balancing in the General Office during June was done in very good time, and it was almost a case of "first time" which, of course, was to the liking of those engaged in this necessary duty, on overtime.

Mr. G. Taylor who was recently demobilised from the Forces left the Firm on June 7th as, owing to domestic arrangements, he had to go to Manchester to live, where he has obtained a position with a large firm in that city. He had been with H. & G. S. for twenty years, so a subscription was made amongst his many friends which led to the presentation to him, by Mr. F. C. Hawkes, of a gold wrist watch. Mr. Hawkes spoke of his good services, and

wished him well in his future life. Mr. F. Josey also spoke a few words regarding Mr. Taylor's work whilst he was with him in the Cask Office, and wished him every success. Mr. G. Taylor suitably replied, and thanked all for their present which he would always cherish as it would remind him of his happy days spent with the Firm. Mr. G. Taylor was very well liked by everyone, and was a good and conscientious worker.

Although in many ways it was an austerity Ascot this year, there were large crowds present during the four days' racing, and it was quite an enjoyable affair, and winners as hard to find as ever. During this time I consider one hears more about horse-racing than at any other time of the year, at any rate, in Reading, and may I say at the Brewery, too.

The daughter of Mr. A. Christie, of our Transport Department, has been the athletic champion of her school for three years. Recently she won a 150 yards race in fine style. She is considered very promising as an athlete, and is being coached for the Long Jump, in which it is expected she may in due course be breaking records. Mr. Alec. Christie will be remembered by many of the fans as playing for Reading Football Club as a professional for a number of seasons.

On Saturday, August 24th, a party of 26 from the Bottled Beer Department, under the guidance of their chief, Mr. G. Andrews, went by coach to Brighton, where they had a most enjoyable time particularly as the weather was *kind*. A number of them went to the races, where the horses were not *so kind*, at any rate, to the majority. Owing to the personal generosity of the Managing Director, Mr. F. A. Simonds, they were enabled to drink his health on the way home at one of our houses, and this was done with enthusiasm. The whole event was well organised, cigarettes and refreshments being provided.

A number of the staff now belong to the Reading Rowing Club, and have been busy during the season. Mr. F. C. Smith (Travelling staff) was in the winning boat in the Invitation Eights at Reading Amateur Regatta and also rowed at Henley Royal Regatta in the Wyfold Fours; and at Maidenhead Amateur Regatta reached the final of the Jubilee Goblets (Pairs). Messrs. M. Bricknell (General Office) and M. Langley (Cask Office) were in the final of the Junior Fours at Henley Town Regatta. Mr. A. J. Harding (Engineer's Dept.) in a Junior Eight was in the winning boat in the Invitation Eights at Henley Town Regatta.

Football will soon be in full swing, and naturally many of us are interested in the prospects for the forthcoming season, when it is hoped the Club will have a most successful time. From all

accounts it would seem that quite a useful side has been signed on, although in many instances, particularly as regards forwards, reliance is being placed on the "old brigade," and whether they will be able to stand up to it throughout the season has to be proved.

It seems that our cricket team this year is surpassing itself, and from all accounts have a real strong batting side, with quite a number of useful bowlers. As many of the players are on the youthful side it seems that we shall have a strong side for some time to come. Pleasing news this, particularly to the "veterans" who have been carrying on so well during the war years.

Every week we see members of the pre-war staff returning to duty, and the offices in particular are taking on once again their 1939 appearance. It must be said that the ex-service members all look well, so that their absence for many years has not done them any harm in a physical sense. We have been losing a number of those who have done good work for us during the war, and recently we have wished good-bye to Mr. F. H. Millar and Mrs. Lambourne, both of the General Office, who have been with us for a number of years and done really good work.

Holidays have been in full swing throughout the summer months, and in spite of the uncertain weather which has persisted all seem to have benefited and come back to duty with a healthy tan. Let us hope that this will help keep them all fit during the winter ahead.

We are sorry to record the death of the wife of our Mr. F. Drury, and much sympathy has been expressed to him in his grievous loss.

Mr. D. B. Abraham, of the Accounts Department, has passed the 1946 Associateship Examination of the Chartered Insurance Institute with three credits, and has received many congratulations on the result. He has also received the appropriate Certificate in connection with this, of which he is proud. It is a case of something attempted and something done, and a fitting reward to his many hours of assiduous work, deserving of every praise.

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

The Bull, Riseley (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. G. S. Bullock.

The White Hart, Sherfield (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. L. W. Smith.

The Jolly Sandboy, Englefield Green (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. E. A. McCarthy.

The Wheel, Naphill (Wheeler's Wycombe Breweries, Ltd.)—  
Mr. G. Barnett.

The Red Cow, Star Road, Caversham (H. & G. Simonds,  
Ltd.)—Mr. A. G. Sweetman.

The Brickmakers' Arms, Lane End (Wheeler's Wycombe  
Breweries, Ltd.)—Mr. R. C. Blackmore.

The Three Crowns, Bucklebury (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr.  
R. Richardson.

The Horncastle, Bath Road, Reading (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)  
—Mr. P. A. Greenaway.

The Three Swans Hotel, Hungerford (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—  
Mr. T. F. Evans.

We regret to record the following deaths, and to all relatives  
we extend our sincere sympathy :—

Mrs. F. E. Sweetman, of The Red Cow, Star Road, Caversham,  
who died on the 15th June, had been at this house since March,  
1914, and previous to that was at The Crown, Bracknell, from  
May, 1906, until February, 1914. A good, long innings.

Mrs. R. Cook, of the Old Waggon and Horses, Newbury, who  
died on the 25th July. She had held the licence since April, 1920,  
on the death of her husband, Mr. G. W. Cook, who had been in the  
house since 1887. Another long innings!

Mr. T. J. Blake, The Blue Lion, Coley, who died on the  
27th August, and had been tenant of this house since January, 1939.

Mr. W. G. Watts, The Barley Mow, Kintbury, who died on  
the 20th August, had been tenant of this house since October,  
1909. Also another long innings.

#### THE LIGHTER SIDE.

Two girls who hadn't seen each other for years unexpectedly  
met one day.

"Do you remember the red-haired boy we used to meet at the  
tennis club?" asked one.

"Do I not," replied the other. "Why, he told me that if  
I didn't marry him he'd go and do something dreadful. I wonder  
what became of him?"

"He happens to be my husband," snapped the first girl.

## CRICKET.

### UNLUCKY THIRTEEN.

By the time these notes appear in print our first post-war  
season will be almost over, and football will be getting into its  
stride. To say the least, the summer has been far from ideal for  
cricket, and we have been lucky to have had only three Saturday  
matches cancelled owing to the weather. However, the results of  
the games played speak well for the way the team has settled  
down. After six wins and six draws, the thirteenth proved  
unlucky, and we went down disastrously in the return with  
Hook and Newnham at Berkeley Avenue.

We still have two fixtures to play, the results of which,  
together with complete averages, will be published in the next  
issue of the GAZETTE.

So, without further waste of limited space, let us review the  
Club's activities since last going to press :—

*June 1st.* SIMONDS 106 FOR 4 (dec.) *v.* READING TELEPHONE  
AREA 75 FOR 7.

A. Benham and Field opened, and put on 39 for the first  
wicket before the latter was run out for 13. His partner left by  
the same means three runs later, having 26 to his credit. The  
next wicket added only 3 runs, but then Neville joined Josey, and  
these two took the total to 106 without further loss, at which a  
declaration was made. Neville's share was 39 and Josey's 18.

Our visitors' batting started fairly well, and Uden obtained  
14 of the opening stand of 20. Later Hamblin (22) and Bennett  
(12) helped to add 19 for each of the third and sixth wickets  
respectively, the latter taking the score along to 71. The next  
man left one run later, and time was called after 3 more were  
added. Crutchley was our most successful bowler with 2 for 7  
in eight overs, four of which were maidens.

*June 8th.* Despite the counter-attractions of Victory Day, the  
Old Blues and ourselves got together teams on paper, but the  
weather decided otherwise. The rain held off during the morning  
but started to fall as the teams were arriving at the ground, and  
it kept everyone in the pavilion. So Darts and Shove-halfpenny  
were the order of the afternoon!

*June 15th.* HOOK AND NEWNHAM 30 *v.* SIMONDS 42 FOR 2.

It came as a nice change for those who made the journey to  
Hook to play an away game, and we were able to return with

another win to our credit. Our bowlers were in tip-top form, and soon skittled the opposition for the low total of 30, of which G. Foster claimed 13. E. Scott and E. C. Greenaway took 3 wickets for 8 and 13 respectively, whilst Crutchley (2 for 2) and Neville (1 for 6) also bowled well.

Our first wicket fell at 5, but then Beddow and Field passed the desired total before the former was stumped with his personal score standing at 20. Rain put an end to the game three runs later, with Field being 16 not out.

Culver took both wickets that fell for 15.

*June 22nd.* SIMONDS 195 FOR 3 (dec.) *v.* TURQUANDIA 67.

This week saw the long awaited reunion with our old and good friends from London, and even the weather came up to expectations, especially so it seemed for the occasion. Thanks to the kind co-operation of the Departmental Managers concerned, a start was made soon after midday, so enabling everyone to enjoy a good half-day's sport. Mr. F. H. V. Keighley was present to welcome the visitors, and a photograph appears on page 196.

Batting twelve-a-side we lost our first wicket at 14, and the second at 35. Then Beddow and E. Scott added 48 before the former was well caught after scoring a brilliant 50. Neville then joined Scott, and these two settled down to some outstanding batting, putting on 112 without loss, and a declaration was made at 195. At this time Scott was 50, and Neville had ten fours in his 68. No less than eight bowlers were tried in an endeavour to break the partnership, but only R. Barrow did any good. He took the three wickets that fell for 11 apiece.

Left with about the same time to obtain the required runs, our visitors were soon in difficulties, and lost 6 wickets for 28, at which K. Chapman, batting No. 1, left after making 18 of same. Then Barrow (16) and F. Hanna (11) doubled the score for the seventh wicket; the ninth added 11, but the last two men left without further addition. The wickets were fairly evened out among six of our seven bowlers tried; Field (2 for 4), Neville (2 for 7), Josey (3 for 11) and Scott (1 for nil) having the best averages.

Hard luck, Turquandia—here's to seeing you all again next year!

*June 29th.* SIMONDS 70 FOR 0 *v.* ST. SEBASTIAN'S 153 FOR 7 (dec.).

Owing to our opponents' ground being temporarily unfit, the venue of this game was transferred to Berkeley Avenue, and we are due at Wokingham on September 7th.

The Saints took first knock, and lost one wicket for only 6 runs. Then came a grand stand of 71 by Gough and Anderson which was broken by a spectacular running catch in the deep by Beddow, who covered about forty yards to dismiss the former who then had 56 to his credit. The next wicket fell at 81, and Anderson left at the same score after making 17. With six down for 107, the pace quickened, and F. Clacey helped Herridge add 25 before being caught. The latter was then joined by Buckett, and these took the total to 153 without being parted, their individual efforts being 31 and 10 respectively. E. Scott again did well for us; his bowling figures being 4 for 41.

Our opponents must have taken a peep at our previous results, otherwise, no doubt, the declaration would have come earlier. As it was, we were left little over an hour, and a draw was inevitable. A. Benham (43) and Field (26) did not disappoint, and 70 runs were put on without loss.

*July 6th.* SIMONDS 83 FOR 9 *v.* MINISTRY OF HEALTH 77.

This return game proved even more interesting than the previous one against the Ministry, and we were able to record a thrilling victory by one wicket.

With our skipper losing the toss (yet again!), the visitors chose to bat, but soon lost three wickets, all at 24; R. Eyres and Hibberd both reaching double figures. Later, Rabson with 16 helped the total along to 77. Tott made an impressive debut, his 3 wickets in 6 overs (four of which were maidens) costing only 5 runs. E. Scott (2 for 14) and E. C. Greenaway (3 for 27) also bowled well.

Field (25) and F. J. Benham (28) gave us a good start by putting on 58 for the first wicket, and everything seemed set for an easy win. But then Hibberd and N. Eyres caused a procession to and from the pavilion; nor less than eight wickets falling for the addition of only 18 runs. With the last man in we were still wanting two runs, but E. Scott and Collins eased the tension, and took the score to 83, at which time was called.

Hibberd's final figures were 6 for 36, and N. Eyres' 2 for 10.

*July 13th.* SIMONDS 159 FOR 5 (dec.) *v.* R.A.F., SHINFIELD 90 FOR 3.

Once again we had to be content with a drawn game, with the advantage slightly in our favour.

A feature of the play was a brilliant century stand by E. Scott and Crutchley, who remained undefeated after adding 105. Earlier

A. Benham scored 22 out of 38, and we were 54 for 5 when the following wicket fell. However, Scott and Crutchley completely mastered the bowling, and had 63 and 49 respectively to their credit (each including seven 4's) when the innings was declared closed.

Tott again had early success with the ball, taking the first two R.A.F. wickets with only 8 on the board. The next man went at 22, but then Arnsby joined West, and these two did well to put on 68 without further loss. No less than eight bowlers were tried to break this partnership, but they played out time. Arnsby was then 42 and his colleague 32. Tott had the extremely good figures of 3 for 8 in five overs, three of which were maidens.

*July 20th.* SIMONDS 103 FOR 8 (dec.) *v.* THATCHAM 67 FOR 6.

After the keen game earlier in the season, we were looking forward eagerly to this return. Unfortunately, again no decision was arrived at, but a good afternoon's sport ensued.

We batted first and the score rose steadily to a modest 68 for 7. The next wicket added 35, so, with time creeping on, a declaration was made. A. Benham with 27 and Neville (23 not out) were our most successful batsmen, but Field, F. J. Benham and E. Scott also did well to reach double figures. A. Sutton (3 for 16) and J. Wheeler (2 for 20) were the pick of the visitors' keen attack.

For the third week in succession, Tott obtained early wickets, dismissing Thatcham's No. 2 with only one run on the board, and the following batsman at 13.

Two more wickets fell for the addition of 23 runs; Vallis having obtained 21 of these 36. Then J. Wheeler, well backed up by R. Austin, did some big hitting, and was unbeaten with 27 when his partner left at 67. Stumps were drawn soon after the next wicket fell with the total unchanged. Tott came through with the excellent analysis of 4 for 11, and A. Benham's wicket cost him only two runs.

*July 27th.* B.B.C., READING AREA 69 *v.* SIMONDS 73 for 7.

This match, played at Emmer Green, was greeted by fine weather for a welcome change, and a most pleasant game resulted in a thrilling last-minute win for us.

The home team took first knock and, despite losing their first wicket for 8 runs, looked like making a good score when Davis and, later, Shearing helped A. Croom to take the score to

62 for 3; the latter two making 25 and 23 respectively. Then followed an amazing collapse—the last seven wickets adding only seven runs. A. Benham with a terrific spell of 3 for nil in three overs, and E. Scott with 3 for 2 in one over, were the main cause of the trouble; their final figures being 4 for 13 and 3 for 9 respectively.

The B.B.C. replied by skittling six of our wickets for 24 runs, and the fight was on. E. C. Greenaway then joined Skipper Crutchley, and these two put on a most valuable 33 before the latter was caught with 32 to his credit. W. J. Greenaway followed and, with his namesake standing firm, knocked up the necessary runs. With the total 4 to the good, time was called, "W.J." having scored 16 and "E.C." 5, both undefeated.

Davies (4 for 17) and Simkiss (3 for 33) bowled well for the losers.

At the end of this game little did we realise that it would be a whole month before we were able to play again.

No match had been arranged for August 3rd owing to the Bank Holiday and preparations for the Annual Sports. The two following fixtures—Old Blues and Reading Telephones—had to be cancelled owing to rain; the former being doubly disappointing in view of the previous match with them having to be called off for the same reason.

*August 24th.* SIMONDS 106 FOR 4 *v.* B.B.C., READING AREA 47.

With the previous meeting fresh in our minds, we were expecting another close struggle, but unfortunately our friends were not at full strength. In fact, Umpire Kelly and R. C. Pitts assisted them in their batting. Field, however, was on the top of his form with the leather taking 5 for 10 in four overs, and being mainly responsible for their low total of 47, of which E. Croom obtained 18. No other batsman reached double figures. Neville (1 for 3), A. Benham (1 for 7) and E. C. Greenaway also bowled well.

In reply, A. Benham and Josey put on an opening stand of 36 before the latter returned a straight one to the bowler. The next wicket saw the visitors' score passed, and Benham went on to make a nice knock of 56, which included 6 fours. Time was called with the score at 106 for 4, Sexton being 11 not out, and Birchall also unbeaten. E. Croom bowled well, and took 3 for 28.

*August 31st.* SIMONDS 65 *v.* HOOK AND NEWNHAM 94.

After our success at Hook in June, we were in high hopes of bringing off the double. We won the toss and sent our opponents

in to bat on a wicket dampened by slight showers just before the start. Two men left with only one run on the board, but then J. Morris was joined by A. Chapman, and these two added 34 for the third wicket; the latter leaving after scoring 14. The score continued to mount steadily, eventually reaching 94, of which Morris obtained a well-earned 53. E. Pink, with 10, was the next highest scorer. Sexton (3 for 8) and Josey (2 for 8) were the best of our seven bowlers tried.

Josey, who eventually made a valuable 27, was well supported by Field (10) and Neville (13), and our score was soon up to 58 for 4. But then a terrible rot set in, the last six wickets falling for the addition of a mere seven runs, and we were all out 29 runs short of our opponents.

A. Charles did most of the damage, claiming 5 wickets for 12 in 28 balls.

Unfortunately, Umpire Kelly was struck by a hard hit to leg during our innings, and had to retire. He is away from work at the moment, but we all wish him a speedy recovery.

#### EVENING MATCHES.

A number of evening games have been played, and proved very popular. Places were found whenever possible for the younger members of the Club, in addition to which five all-youth fixtures were carried out.

Batting was limited in all these games, either by batting one hour each way, or a fixed number of overs being bowled.

Below are given the scores and best performances:—

*June 26th.*

SOUTH READING, 58 for 4 (Wilkins 24; A. Benham 2 for 9).

SIMONDS, 75 for 8 (Field 28 retired; A. Benham 29 retired; Wilkins 2 for 3).

*July 3rd.*

WEST READING, 60 for 8 (Townsend 25; P. Eighteen 3 for 5; Tott 2 for 0; Field 2 for 5).

SIMONDS, 72 for 9 (W. J. Greenaway 16 retired; Wheeler 6 for 19).

*July 10th.* We were to have played Thornycrofts, but the game had to be cancelled owing to rain.

*July 17th.*

SIMONDS, 77 for 6 (Josey 43).

THORNYCROFT'S, 54 (Judd 18; E. C. Greenaway 4 for 26; Field 2 for 10).

*July 24th.*

SOUTH READING, 95 for 2 (Hunter 35 retired; Petty 28 not out; Hewitt 20).

SIMONDS, 84 for 9 (Josey 22; W. J. Greenaway 19; E. C. Greenaway 15 not out; Curtis 4 for 41; E. Capel 3 for 32).

#### ALL-YOUTH MATCHES.

*July 9th.*

OXFORD ROAD, 51 for 9 (Birchall 15; Taylor 14; P. Lackington 2 for 3).

SIMONDS, 62 for 9 (T. Cornwall 26; G. Cruse 14; Smith 3 for nil).

*July 23rd.*

OXFORD ROAD 78 for 5 (Mackie 21 not out; Priddy 17; B. Edwards 2 for 5; Lackington 2 for 6).

SIMONDS, 72 (M. Bricknell 36; Birchall 4 for 16; Taylor 5 for 31).

*July 30th.*

SIMONDS, 73 for 4 (J. Birchall 43 not out; K. Wellstead 14).

H. & P.'s, 78 for 8 (Hendricks 28 not out; Duffy 24; Birchall 6 for 12).

(Played on Huntley & Palmers' King's Meadow Ground).

*August 1st.*

1836 SQDN. A.T.C., 75 for 5 (Cronin 32; Hunt 16 not out; Jackson 12 not out; Lackington 4 for 37).

SIMONDS, 78 for 5 (Eighteen 24; Lackington 15; Cronin 2 for 10).

*August 8th.*

Y.M.C.A., 90 for 5 (Withers 25 not out; Few 19; Birchall 3 for 29).

SIMONDS, 19 (Pointer 3 for 3; Few 3 for 3; Stephens 2 for 0; Davis 2 for 1).

W.J.G.

## BRANCHES.

## PORTSMOUTH.

## REPLANNING PROPOSALS.

Although their report had not at the time of writing been published, we are informed by a member of the Licensing Planning Committee for the Portsmouth licensing district that good progress has been made despite the fact that their work of replanning the blitzed licensed premises in the devastated areas has been partially held up through the reorganization of the City Council's planning offices and the consequent modifications of the original proposals. The Committee is presided over by Sir Denis Daley (Deputy Lord Mayor), and as it was necessary to suspend the operation of no fewer than 145 licensed premises during the war period their task has been a pretty formidable one. We understand, however, that much time has been devoted to the new areas which are being developed, and the report will contain many important recommendations.

At Paulsgrove, for instance, the Council are to build permanent prefabricated houses for at least 11,000 people, and the Committee are suggesting the provision of eleven licensed houses and two off-licenses to meet the requirements of this newly-developed district.

As the Health Committee altered their original plans for the erection of houses of the traditional type for this district, the licensing planners also suggest that the proposed new licensed premises should also be built to conform to the prefabricated scheme.

## A DISCOVERY.

In the course of their deliberations Sir Denis Daley and his Committee made the discovery that in the adjoining estate at Wymering which was developed between the two great wars, no provision whatever had been made for licensed premises, and they are therefore proposing to rectify this omission by providing two public houses on the estate which is now fully tenanted. We look forward to the time when the Committee will be able to proceed with the replanning of the important hotels and public houses which were put out of action by the war. They are needed, and the derelict sites in prominent thoroughfares are an eyesore.

## A ROYAL TOUR.

Portsmouth Dockyard is proud to have once again been selected to carry out the preliminary work for an important Royal tour. They are to fit out H.M.S. *Vanguard*, Britain's latest and biggest battleship, for the visit of the Royal Family to South Africa next year. Built at Clydebank, the 42,000-ton *Vanguard*, which cost more than £11,000,000, was launched by Princess Elizabeth on St. Andrew's Day, November 30th, 1944. She is the last word in battleship construction and armament, and the accommodation for her officers and crew is far in advance of anything hitherto attempted. She is also the most powerful anti-aircraft ship in the world. Many of her cabins are to be altered to provide suites and other accommodation for the King and Queen and the Princesses, whose quarters will be specially decorated and fitted.

## BEER SHORTAGE.

Brewers, licensed victuallers, indeed everyone connected with the Trade, have had a pretty worrying time during the long period of beer shortage. Trouble caused by lack of supplies in the district has been accentuated by the inrush of visitors and the return of thousands of demobbed service men, and although every effort was made to make the depleted allocation go round, "Sold out" notices, chalked on the doors of licensed houses became all too familiar. A curious phase of the grumbling and chaos seemed to be that the majority of the thirsty visitors needed more beer than they ordinarily consumed. So having plenty of time on hand, they spent most of their holiday touring the "pubs" and drinking them dry! Landlords did what they could to cope with rush and kept their premises open as long as there was anything to sell, but they are thankful that the worst is now over.

## FORMER PRESIDENT PASSES.

Much sympathy is felt for the widow and family of Mr. John Richard Ainsworth, whose passing at the age of 69 occasioned wide regret. A licensee in Portsmouth for nearly a quarter of a century, Mr. Ainsworth was a former President of the Portsmouth, Gosport and District Licensed Victuallers' and Wine and Beer Retailers' Association, and he was greatly respected throughout the city. His last public house in Russell Street, Southsea, was one of many blitzed during the early part of the war, and since he had been living in retirement owing to ill-health. He was a Freemason, and he also took a keen interest in the Royal Naval Lodge of Oddfellows

## ARMY REFORM!

Seated in a Sergeants' Mess at a certain barracks not a thousand miles from this city were three "old sweats" looking very disconsolate and sipping ginger beer from long sleever glasses. "Bli'me," said one, "no beer, no fags and only this blinkin' stuff to drink. If this is part of 'Monty's' new army scheme, I don't go much on it."

"'Ere, 'ere," chorused the others.

## WOKING.

We are pleased to announce that our Mr. A. Wake has been released from military service and returns to take over the reins as Manager of our Woking Branch early in September. Our staff wish to accord him a hearty welcome.

We would also like to record a very pleasant half-hour spent on Friday, August 3rd, in presenting electric clocks to our Mr. J. Holloway (Traveller) and Mr. F. Pritchard (Foreman) on their retirement. Mr. J. Holloway has been the Firm's representative at this Branch for forty years and is retiring on account of age. We all wish him a happy and contented time for many years to come.

Mr. F. Pritchard, unfortunately, has had to give up owing to failure of health. He has, we believe, been Foreman longer than any other in the Firm's employ. We trust that he will make a full recovery and enjoy many more years in his retirement.

Once more we wish to express our regrets to our many old and valued customers for the drastic shortage in supplies, due to circumstances beyond our control, and sincerely hope, with them, that matters will improve in the near future. We do, indeed, thank them all for their kind co-operation.

## OXFORD.

## THE LATE MR. JAMES WATSON.

We regret to record the death, on June 1st, at the age of 77, of Mr. James Watson, of West Hendred, who acted as our agent in the Wantage district for 48 years up to the time of his passing.

Mr. Watson had been in failing health for some time recently, and we are indeed sorry to think that one more link with the past history of Oxford Branch has been severed.

We give below an account of the funeral, by courtesy of the *North Wilts Herald and Advertiser* :—

"DEATH OF MR. J. WATSON.—The death has occurred at the Manor Farm, at the age of 77 years, of Mr. James Watson, one of the best-known local farmers. He also carried on business as a haulage contractor. Among his local interests was that of school manager. He leaves a widow, two sons and nine daughters. The funeral took place at Holy Trinity Church on Tuesday afternoon. The choral service was conducted by the Rev. B. C. F. Andrews, with Mr. Prosser at the organ, and in charge of the choir. The bearers were four farm hands (Messrs. A. Henwood (Sen.), W. Henwood, Tomlin and Rixon). The mourners were Mr. James Watson (son), Mr. John Watson (son) and Mrs. J. Watson, Mrs. Wood, Mrs. Quartermaine, Miss Madge Watson, Mrs. Willing and Mrs. Herbert (daughters), Mr. Herbert and Mr. H. Handley (sons-in-law), Mr. W. French (nephew), Mr. A. Cleaver (nephew), Mr. J. McMillan (representing Mrs. T. McMillan, daughter), Mr. John Morley (nephew) and Mr. Cox. The widow was unable to attend. Others present included Messrs. H. J. Timms and W. T. Sanders (representing Messrs. H. & G. Simonds), Mr. G. Cannon (representing Messrs. Cannon & Son), Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Bosely, Mrs. S. Hardy, Mr. and Mrs. C. Watts, Mr. E. Chasney, Mr. J. Pill, Mr. and Mrs. J. Parker, Mr. Percy Clark (Wantage), Mr. A. Kimber, Mr. W. A. Glover, Mr. F. H. Goodey (representing the School Managers), Mr. H. Pert and Mr. C. Richings (old Yeomanry comrades), Mr. C. Riching (Jun.), Mrs. Fairchild, Mrs. J. Rixon, Mrs. Carter, Mr. Henry Wigley, Mrs. A. Henwood, Mrs. P. Haines, Mr. Reeley, Mrs. Tomlin and Mrs. J. Butler."

A letter of sympathy to the widow and family was duly forwarded and a floral tribute from the Oxford Branch Staff sent to the funeral, which was attended by Messrs. H. J. Timms and W. T. Sanders on behalf of the Firm.

## RETIREMENT OF MR. H. J. TIMMS.

Mr. H. J. Timms bade farewell to the Oxford Branch Staff on Friday, May 31st, 1946, after completing 53 years' loyal and efficient service with the Firm, all of which were spent at Oxford Branch, the last 20 years in the capacity of Branch Manager.

Mr. W. T. Sanders, on behalf of the Staff and Employees, at Oxford, Headington and Banbury, with a few appropriate remarks presented Mr. Timms with a silver tobacco jar inscribed :—

" H. J. TIMMS,  
FROM THE OXFORD BRANCH STAFF,  
H. & G. SIMONDS LTD.,  
1893—1946."

also a pair of pipes and an ash tray, together with a letter which read:—

" With the sincere felicitation of the Staff and Employees of H. & G. Simonds Ltd., at Oxford, Headington and Banbury, for many years of well-earned leisure. Also as a mark of their appreciation of the friendly relations which have existed for so many years between Manager and Personnel.

" With every good wish from the undermentioned:—

Mr. W. T. Sanders	Mr. G. C. Jones
Mr. J. S. Bowell	Mr. W. Matthews
Mr. A. S. Siggery	Mr. F. Parslow
Mr. J. A. Clinkard	Mr. C. Purvey
Mr. R. F. Gooch	Mr. G. Cothier
Mr. B. H. Quelch	Mr. C. Stewart
Mr. C. G. Francis	Mr. H. Allen
Mr. L. J. Lardner	Mr. W. E. Lambourne
Mr. W. Hayes	Mr. S. Fowler
Mr. H. Read	Mr. E. C. Ariss
Mr. H. Beesley	Mr. C. Middleton
Mr. E. W. Doman	Mr. J. Field
Mr. G. S. Denson	Mr. G. Gilkes
Mr. H. P. Leach	Mr. A. H. Willett
Mr. G. L. Broughton	Mrs. S. L. Pamment
Miss G. Whicher	Mrs. A. Boffin
Miss E. B. Keep	Miss P. A. Ferriman "

A day or so later the following letter was received from Mr. Timms:—

" I much appreciate the kindly thoughts which prompted you and the members of the Oxford and Banbury Staffs to make me such handsome presents on the occasion of my retirement. They are most acceptable and appropriate, and I shall always treasure them, remembering the busy and eventful years spent under such happy conditions with the Firm. I also look upon the gifts as a token of affection by my fellow workers, which, above all, I value most.

" Please convey to every member of your Staff my best wishes and grateful thanks."

We do now reiterate our good wishes to Mr. Timms and hope that he will be spared to enjoy many years of restful ease.

THE " EVENLODE HOUSE," EYNHAM: PRESENTATION  
TO MRS. I. DAVY.

A large party assembled at the " Evenlode House," our very popular hotel on the Eynsham, Oxon, by-pass on the evening of Saturday, August 31st.

This opportunity was taken by many friends to bid farewell and good luck to Mrs. I. Davy on her relinquishment of the management of the " Evenlode House " under H. & G. S. Hotels and Catering Department.

Several highly congratulatory speeches were made, to which Mrs. Davy replied.

During the evening a handsome silver Jacobean trinket casket was presented to her, inscribed:—

" TO IRENE DAVY—FROM HER FRIENDS AT ' THE  
EVENLODE,' IN APPRECIATION OF THE YEARS  
1937-46."

We understand that Mrs. Davy intends to reside at Bourne-mouth, and we wish her every success in whatever sphere of activity she undertakes.

While on the subject of " The Evenlode," we may say that Mr. and Mrs. Yarrow, the new manager and manageress of this up-to-date and well-known hotel, will be glad to see you when you are in the neighbourhood of Eynsham.

#### THE TAMAR BREWERY, DEVONPORT.

On 31st July, 1946, we said " Au revoir " to our esteemed and much respected Manager, Mr. W. F. McIntyre, who retired on that day after over fifty-one years' loyal service to the Firm. Mr. McIntyre commenced his career at the old Plymouth Branch of the Company, at 6, The Octagon, Plymouth (now demolished through enemy action) in June, 1895. He subsequently moved to Headquarters in September, 1899, and served in the Branch Department until joining H.M. Forces for service in the First World War. On demobilisation in 1919 he was appointed Manager of Plymouth Branch, thereby returning to the Depot at which his career commenced. Since his appointment this Branch has expanded considerably. Shortly after Mr. McIntyre took over the Firm acquired the Tamar Brewery, together with licensed and unlicensed properties. In 1930 a further big acquisition was made by the Firm when Messrs. N. P. Hunt's Cider Factory at Crabbs Park, Paignton, and a large number of licensed and unlicensed

properties mainly in the Paignton area came within the "Hop Leaf" sphere. Again, in 1935, another large addition was made, this time the Company taking over Messrs. Lakemans Brewery, Brixham, with a considerable number of licensed and unlicensed properties in Brixham, Dartmouth, Torquay and districts. In addition to these large purchases many other smaller deals have been completed by our Firm during Mr. McIntyre's term of office. It is true in every sense to say that under his able guidance Plymouth Branch has grown from a "small acorn to a very flourishing oak," and we know that, although he is no longer with us physically, his thoughts will always be "Tamar" way where we will be continuing the good work which he has done so admirably. We hope that when he gets installed in his new home near the New Forest his health will be much improved and that he will, with Mrs. McIntyre, enjoy the retirement which has been so well earned.

A parting gift from the personnel of the Tamar Brewery, in the form of a pair of gold cuff links and two silver serviette rings, the latter for the use of both Mr. and Mrs. McIntyre, who has undoubtedly been his "Guide and Philosopher" during his years of service, was handed to Mr. McIntyre by Mr. W. E. Loynes, our Bottling Foreman, who has been associated with Mr. McIntyre for very many years. The presentation was made before a large gathering on the loading stage, and Mr. McIntyre spoke with feeling when he expressed his sincere thanks, not only for the gift, but for the great assistance which he had enjoyed from "all ranks" during his term of office. The ceremony terminated with the singing of "For he's a jolly good fellow," which was rendered with gusto.

A hearty welcome is extended to Mr. S. H. Spurling, who has succeeded Mr. McIntyre as Manager. He is well known to us all, as before his appointment as the Firm's Manager in South Wales, he was for a number of years at the Tamar Brewery.

Mr. R. E. Wright, who has been our Chief Clerk for several years, has been appointed Assistant Manager and we extend to him every good wish on his well-earned promotion.

Since our last notes the following changes have been made at our licensed houses:—

The "Platel's Hotel," Brixham—From Mr. A. Pritchard to Mr. F. R. Morgan.

The "Union Hotel," Bovey Tracey—From Mr. H. J. Clayton to Mr. R. Markham.

The "White Thorn," Shaugh Prior—From Mrs. W. Trafford to Mr. A. W. S. Gibson.

The "Pretoria W. & S. Vaults," Okehampton—From Mr. W. A. Gerry to Mr. P. J. Hellyer.

The "Tavistock Hotel," Tavistock—From Mr. F. Jackman to Mr. W. A. Gerry.

To new "recruits" to the "Hop Leaf" fold we give a hearty welcome; to those who have left, we say "Good hunting" in your new sphere.

#### ALE TASTING CEREMONY AT ASHBURTON.

The revival of the ancient ale tasting ceremony was held at Ashburton on Tuesday evening, 30th July, 1946. Large crowds, including many visitors, were interested spectators of the ceremony, which is an annual event dating back to 821 when Ashburton was a township of Wessex with Egbert as its King.

Each year the Leet and Baron Juries appoint those to occupy the traditional offices of the town which include those of Portreeve, Bailiff and Ale Tasters, it being the duty of the latter to taste and proclaim the quality of the ale in each of the town's public houses. A sprig of evergreen being placed over the door as evidence of their visit.

This year the Ale Tasters, accompanied by other officials, and led by the Buckfastleigh British Legion Band, visited each house in turn and the traditional request read by the Deputy Portreeve (in the absence of the Portreeve) preceded the declaration by the Ale Tasters, Messrs. W. Eales and R. Arscott: "Us do declare that there be good Ale served here." After drinking from two tankards proffered by the landlord, the tankards of ale were passed round to the various officials accompanying the "tasters." The final ceremony was held at the Bull Ring, when the Bailiff made a declaration as to the quality of the ale. The proceedings then terminated with the singing of the National Anthem.

Congratulations to Mr. R. Couzins, of our Brewing Department, on his marriage to Miss P. Sperring, of Bristol. The ceremony was performed at St. Agnes' Church, Bristol, on 20th July, 1946. We hope that both Mr. and Mrs. Couzins will have a long life and every happiness. A present of a cheque from his colleagues was made to Mr. Couzins by our Head Brewer, Mr. J. E. G. Rowland.

Another member of our Staff, Mr. T. Mahoney, of our Delivery Department, has joined the "Happy Band of Benedicts." He was married to Miss P. Bell on 24th August, 1946, at St. Aubyn Parish Church, Devonport. Our hearty congratulations are extended to Mr. and Mrs. Mahoney, and we wish them every happiness in the future.

Colleagues at the Tamar Brewery presented Mr. Mahoney with a cheque to enable him to buy a memento from us all.

### LIGHTER SIDE.

After the blackout the girl said : " 'Erbert, you really shouldn't have kissed me like that, with all those people so close around us, even if it was in the dark."

"I didn't kiss you," said the boy, looking angrily around in the crowd. "I only wish I knew who it was—I'd teach him!"

"'Erbert," sighed the girl, "you couldn't teach 'im nothing!"

\* \* \* \*

MOTHER : " Johnnie, dear, I was hoping you would be unselfish enough to give your little sister the larger piece of candy. Why, even that old hen will give all the nicest dainties to her little chicks and take only a tiny one once in a while for herself."

JOHNNIE (after watching the old hen for a while) : " Well, Mum, I'd do the same thing if it was worms."

\* \* \* \*

A man, fishing at Kew, saw a bowler hat, brim downwards, apparently floating downstream. For fun he made a cast at it. To his surprise the bowler hat rose in the water, disclosing that it was being worn by another gentleman, who said, " Am I right for Westminster Bridge, chum ?"

" O.K.," replied the fisherman. " Straight on."

" Thanks," said the face, bobbing under water and leaving exposed only the bowler hat—which continued downstream.

It then occurred to the fisherman that Westminster Bridge was rather a long way, so he shouted : " It's a good many miles, you know."

Up popped the bowler hat and its owner answered : " It won't take me long. I've got me bike."



Photo by C. E. May.

Berkshire County Bowls Tour to Somerset. A group of the bowlers taken at the Bath Arms Hotel, Cheddar.



The Turquandia and Brewery Cricket Teams. Mr. F. H. V. Keighley, one of our Directors, is seen seated in the centre of the group.

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