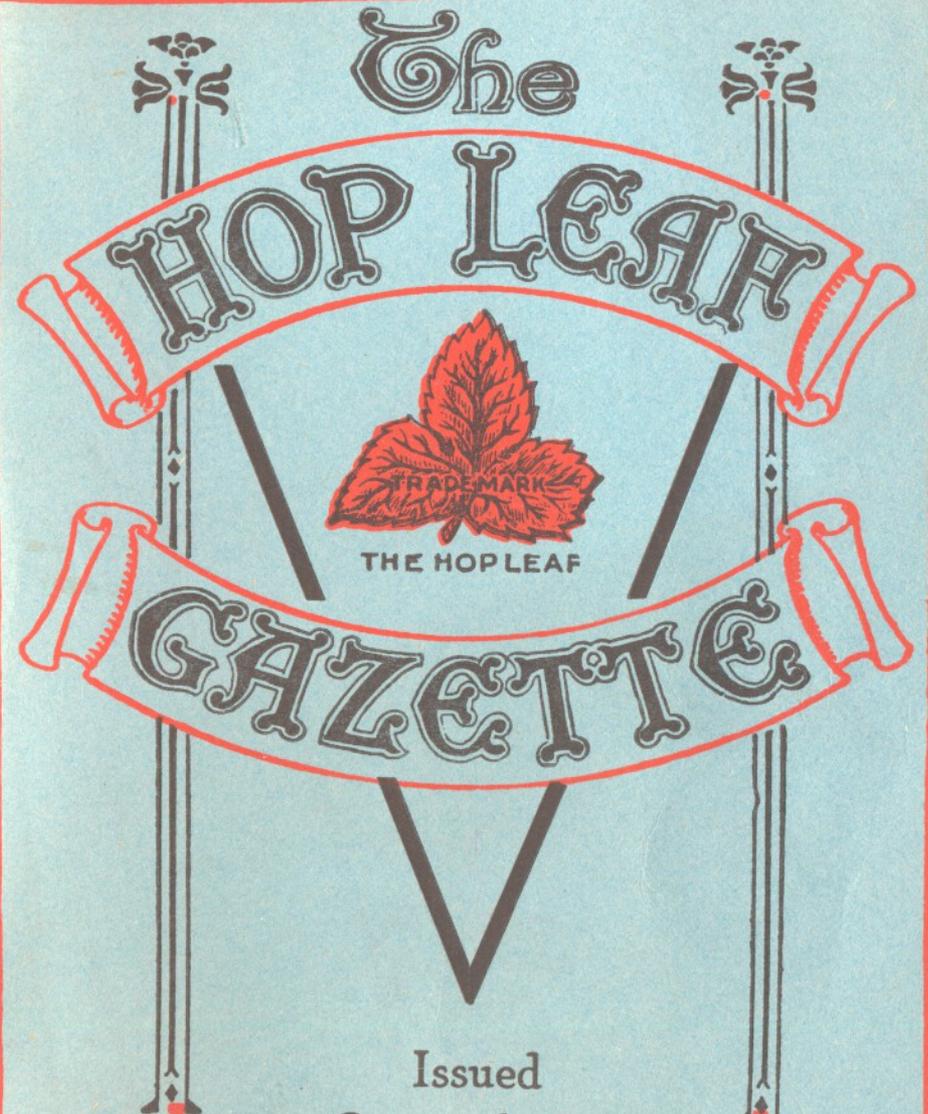


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H. & G. SIMONDS, LTD., READING.

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. XXII.

MARCH, 1948.

No. 2

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



GENERAL SIR MILES C. DEMPSEY,
K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.

GENERAL SIR MILES C. DEMPSEY, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.

As announced in our last issue, General Sir Miles Dempsey joined the Board of Directors of this Company, following his resignation from the Army last August, and we are privileged to reproduce his portrait in our frontispiece.

This appointment has been received with great enthusiasm throughout the Combine, as also amongst the Associated Companies at home and abroad. He brings with him the vast experience which has been accumulated during many years of military service, which should prove of inestimable value to the Firm in the years which lie ahead. Through these columns we wish him a happy and successful career, which we feel is assured.

General Dempsey's promotion in the Army is an index to his ability. Commissioned in the Royal Berkshire Regiment in February, 1915, he fought in the 1914-18 War, and was awarded the M.C., and at the outbreak of the last War was in Command of the 1st Battalion. In November, 1939, he was appointed Acting Brigadier, 13th Infantry Brigade.

After Dunkirk he became Brigadier, General Staff, with the Canadians. From June, 1941, to December, 1942, he commanded first the 46th Division and then the 42nd Armoured Division. His next appointment was the Command of the 13th Corps of the famous Eighth Army in North Africa, Sicily, and during part of the Italian Campaign.

In January, 1944, he became G.O.C.-in-C., British Second Army, then being constituted for the invasion of Normandy, which he commanded until Germany's final defeat.

In August, 1945, he was appointed to the command of the 14th Army in the Far East, and in November of the same year succeeded General Slim as Commander, Allied Land Forces, South-East Asia.

From June, 1946, until June, 1947, he was C.-in-C., Middle East.

General Dempsey has been awarded the K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., also holding the appointment of Aide-de-Camp General to the King until August last year.

In December, 1946, H.M. The King approved the appointment of General Dempsey as Colonel, The Royal Berkshire Regiment, with effect from 22nd November, and in June, 1947, as Colonel Commandant, Corps of Military Police, as from 13th March.

At the end of 1946 he was appointed Chairman of the Racecourse Betting Control Board, and took up the appointment in August last year.

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.)

IT'S AN OLD CUSTOM.

Presiding at Fordingbridge Brewster Sessions, Mr. F. G. Garland, said: "It is an old English custom to enjoy a nice glass of beer. The pub and the club are two of the few remaining bright spots in these days of rationing and shortages, where people can get together after their daily toil, and enjoy a nice clean drink, in clean surroundings, with a game and a chat, and so help to forget their everyday worries."

THE OBNOXIOUS CRITIC.

Those who do least generally have the most to say, and are ever ready to criticise and find fault with the work of others. The following aptly illustrates the attitude of these detestable people:

Don't go to meetings; if you must, go late; find fault with the officers; never accept office: it is far easier to criticise; get sore if you are not appointed on a committee, but if you are, don't attend; if asked to give an opinion, say you have nothing to say: after the meeting tell everyone how things ought to be done: do as little as possible, then howl that the organisation is run by a clique.

GENERAL DEMPSEY MARRIED.

General Sir Miles Christopher Dempsey was married on Tuesday, March 2nd, at Donnybrook, Dublin, to Miss Viola O'Reilly, daughter of the late Captain P. O'Reilly and Mrs. O'Reilly, of Colamber, Co. Westmeath.

General Dempsey, who is 50, resigned from the Army in August, and is now one of our Directors, and Chairman of the Racecourse Betting Control Board.

We wish them both long life, good health, and much happiness.

OUTSTANDING BROCHURE.

The following is taken from *The Hotel Monthly*, published by John Willy, Inc., 123, North Wacker Drive, Chicago, 6, Illinois :—

" There are numerous colorful brochures in the hotel field that do a good job of interesting vacationists and business men and women in stopping at certain hotels. But one of the most outstanding ones we have seen in some time is a small 56-page booklet issued by H. & G. Simonds, Ltd., of Reading, England, operators of a chain of hotels and catering houses in Southern England. A map showing locations of all Simonds' houses is printed inside the front cover. Each town is featured in the book. A picture of some striking scene, some concise comment about the town, a sketch of the hotel, and vital information on facilities and transportation are all included. A folder is enclosed listing the number of rooms, rates, and railroad and garage facilities for all hotels of the chain. Mr. H. C. Davis is manager of Simonds' Hotel and Catering Department."

SIMONDS' HOTELS—AN APPRECIATION.

The following very appreciative letter speaks for itself :—

" Welwyn,
" Hertfordshire,
" December 11th, 1947.

" Dear Sirs,

" It is said that Actors would rather have applause than eat. I am not quite sure that this is exactly true. I like to eat. I do know, though, that I appreciate applause because it shows those listening are enjoying our efforts and that is mostly the way we know if we are doing good work. I also am most appreciative of the good work of others, hence this letter.

" Forsythe, Seamon and Farrell have toured the world over. Our lives are spent in Hotels and we know a good Hotel from a bad one. I am most happy to say that we have found the Hotels of the British Isles to be outstanding among the Hotels of the world for service.

" I want to go further and say that never in our years of travel have we ever been treated in a more hospitable manner than we were at your Goddard Arms Hotel, Swindon, last week. Your Manager, Mr. Mountney, his charming wife, and staff, did everything in their power to make our stay not only most pleasant, but succeeded so well that we shall be most grateful for many years to come.

" Sincerely yours,
Signed (C. A. Forsythe),
p.p. Forsythe, Seamon & Farrell."

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT'S INTERESTING VISIT.

On Saturday, January 17th, our Chief Accountant, Mr. A. G. Richardson, was the guest of the Directors of the Reading Football Club, Ltd., and, along with the Chief Constable of Reading, visited Nottingham to see Reading play Notts County. Here they saw the famous Tommy Lawton in fine form and, although he only scored one goal, he had a hand, or rather foot, in obtaining the other goals for his side, Notts County beating Reading 5—1.

OLDEST INN IN ENGLAND.

Mr. Richardson and his friend took the opportunity of visiting one of the oldest inns in England—"The Trip to Jerusalem," Nottingham. One may well say : "Whoever heard of such a name for a public house? Who gave it the name? And why was it so called?" In reply, it will be found, on reference to old historical books, that it was so called in King Richard the First's reign, A.D. 1189. When the Crusaders left for Jerusalem to fight in the Holy Land, they stopped at this inn for refreshments.

QUAINT OLD PLACE.

It is a quaint old place, hewn out of the rock, towering above which is the far-famed Nottingham Castle. In olden times this house is supposed, owing to intersected cellars, to have formed a secret entrance to the Castle. The inn has been spoken of as the oldest licensed premises in the country, and it is certainly among the most interesting. Every day throughout the year there are visitors from all parts of the world.

"BEST EVER" BALL.

From all Departments of the Brewery and also from many parts outside the Firm, reports of the Ball held in the Town Hall, Reading, on Tuesday, February 24th, have been of highest praise. Many employees had their first opportunity of coming into close contact with the Directors of the Firm. Their entry into the Ballroom and leading off the Snowball Waltz ceremonial, choosing a partner at random, was well arranged, and proved extremely popular. All present voted the dance the best sociable event ever held in connection with the Firm. The presence of our Chairman and Managing Director (Mr. F. A. Simonds) was much appreciated. The bar and buffet arrangements were admirably carried out by our Hotels and Catering Department, under the direction of Mr. H. C. Davis, and all went off without a hitch. The evening was proclaimed as typical of a "W. Bradford" production!

EQUAL TO ALL PROBLEMS.

Don't believe those who tell you that Britain is finished. I see the evidence every day that the old land is rising again in her strength, and that she will show herself equal to all the problems that confront us if only she is not misled and disturbed by faction and class warfare, if only she is not hampered by innumerable restrictions and petty annoyances.—CHURCHILL.

ANOTHER AUSTERITY ASCOT.

The Lord Chamberlain has announced that the Royal meeting at Ascot will take place on June 15, 16, 17 and 18, and will consist of six races on each day, the first race being run at 2.30. Application for tickets for the Royal Enclosure should be made to His Majesty's Representative, Ascot Office, St. James's Palace, to reach the office between April 15 and May 15. Women will wear day dress with hats, and men morning dress, lounge suits or service dress. The decision for racing to begin at 2.30 each day is a continuation of the "austerity" policy of post-war days. Before the war, racing began before lunch, with a long interval for lunch in the club tents and refreshment room.

The fact that men racegoers in the Royal Enclosure will again be allowed to wear lounge suits is another continuance of the austerity rule.

EAST AFRICAN BREWERIES, LTD., NAIROBI, KENYA COLONY, AND DAR-ES-SALAAM, TANGANYIKA.

As already announced in the Press, the Firm have taken up a large holding in the East African Breweries, Ltd., by subscribing for 76,178 New Ordinary 10/- Shares. The total issued capital of the above Company will thus be brought up to £250,000, in 500,000 shares of 10/- each, and the funds so provided will allow for an expansion of interests.

The vast development schemes now in progress in East Africa have been widely discussed in Parliament and in the Press during recent months, and the Directors of H. & G. Simonds, Ltd., in their wisdom and foresight, have been quick to take an active interest in the above Colonies which are already in the throes of intensive development.

BRIGHTON BRANCH.

The appointment of Mr. P. James to the Managership of Brighton Branch is an outstanding example of industry and devotion to work receiving prompt reward.

Mr. James is the first of the candidates who were selected for a course of intensive training in all departments of the Company's business to be posted to a responsible position, and the fine start which he has made augurs well for the future. The warm congratulations of his colleagues and their good wishes for his success are extended to him.

A MILLION POUNDS BREWERY ISSUE.

"H. & G. Simonds, Limited, the Reading brewers, intend to raise £1,000,000 of fresh capital by offering new shares to existing stockholders on bonus terms," says *The Times*. "Treasury consent has been received to the issue of 200,000 Ordinary £1 shares at £5 each, and the Directors have decided to offer them to Ordinary shareholders registered on March 10th in the proportion of one new share for every £4 of Ordinary Stock held. As the market price of the existing Stock is 127s. 6d., the 'rights' will be worth about 5s. 6d. In view of the bonus element, the issue will not be underwritten.

"It is understood that £762,000 of the new money is needed to replace funds spent a year ago acquiring the capital of John May & Company, brewers, of Basingstoke, and a further £52,000 is required in connection with the repayment of the Debentures of the Cirencester Brewery, one of the subsidiaries. The balance, after meeting bonus tax and expenses, will provide additional working capital."

"BRAVE MEN, SIMONDS' DIRECTORS!"

And the *Daily Express* says: "H. & G. Simonds, the ever-active Reading brewery, with growing Colonial interests, is asking its shareholders for £1,000,000.

"Holders are offered the 'rights' to one new share for every four they now hold at 100s.

"Brave men, the Simonds' Directors! The issue will not be underwritten, but it looks safe enough at the moment, as I make the 'rights' worth 6s. at the present price of around 130s. for the old shares.

RUSHED HIS POOLS AND WON £3,000.

Because his son happened to be passing a post-box on his way to the cinema, Mr. William Thomas Hinton, of 52, Christchurch Road, Reading, rushed his Vernons football pools, and filled them in at random.

Mr. Hinton, a joiner employed at Messrs. H. & G. Simonds, has since heard from Vernons Pools that he has won £3,134 13s. 4d. on their treble chance section.

RETIREMENT OF MR. P. F. KNAPP, HEAD BREWER.

We have to record the departure of Mr. P. F. Knapp from our midst, consequent upon his retirement from the position of Head Brewer at the end of December last.

Mr. Knapp completed 42 years' service, and held the position of Head Brewer for the past 11 years. Outstanding amongst the successful Brewers who have been responsible for the Firm's world famous products, Mr. Knapp is recognised throughout the industry as an authority in the art of brewing Fine Pale Ales for home consumption as well as for export.

He was presented with two silver sauce boats by the Staff of the Brewing Department. His colleagues on the General Purposes Committee, the Heads of Departments and the Clerical Staff also made him a presentation of a handsome silver condiment set which was a gift of his own selection.

We wish him the best of good health and happiness in the leisure which he so well deserves after the strenuous years of two great wars and still more strenuous times of peace.

MR. E. M. DOWNES.

We are pleased to chronicle the appointment of Mr. E. M. Downes as Head Brewer in succession to Mr. P. F. Knapp, with effect from the 1st January, 1948. He has entered upon this man-sized job with the zeal and energy which are demanded by the many and heavy responsibilities which are inseparable from his position, involving as it does the control of three separate Breweries and several Bottling Depots. It is pleasing to observe that he has already become a popular figure and is working in complete harmony with all other departments. We bid him a hearty welcome to the "Hop Leaf" family.



NATURE NOTE.

(BY C.H.P.).

THE FELLING OF A BIG ELM.

AN INTERESTED SPECTATOR.

During a recent country ramble I watched men at work felling a mighty elm. And how methodically they went about their job! Axe and saw soon accomplished their allotted tasks, and the elm came down with a tremendous crash. There were several interested spectators, but none more interested than a little owl.

Not much bigger than a thrush, the owl came quite close to us, perching on branches only a few yards away. He flitted to and from us with characteristically curious flight, and went from tree to tree. He even perched just over our heads, on the tree that was about to fall. But I noticed that no sooner had the old elm begun to tremble at his approaching death than our little feathered friend hastened off to a safer distance. He seemed greatly concerned, and when the crash came he flew frantically across the meadows and was soon out of sight.

I wondered whether the owl had had his nesting quarters in the tree, and so I afterwards made a careful examination of the trunk and big branches. There was no hole in the tree, and so I expect the old tree was just one of this bird's favourite haunts. In the meadows round about this spot there are quite a number of these owls and often, attracted by their peculiar note, I have them under close observation, with the aid of my field glasses.

MANY WASPS' NESTS.

The past year has been extraordinary in many ways. There were the disastrous floods in the early months. But it is an ill-wind that blows nobody any good, and the extraordinary conditions obtaining enabled the keen naturalist to reap a rich harvest in the way of adding much to the knowledge that he may have already possessed. For instance, in some mysterious way the flood water seemed advantageous to the wasps for, whereas in many districts wasps' nests were conspicuous by their

absence, I have never seen so many as last year by the Thames-side. During a stroll I observed no less than fifteen.

A QUEEN INDEED!

And there are few more wonderful personages in the world than the queen wasp. At this season of the year she is an uncrowned queen for she has no kingdom and no people—just a widow! Her husband died of hunger, cold and old age early in the autumn. However, she has a brave heart and is soon looking out for a convenient, sheltered bank for her future capital. Here she will set to work and dig like a miner, using her royal jaws for a pick-axe, and her slender feet as rakes. Thus she excavates a tunnel leading to a vaulted cave. Then she changes from a miner to a papier-mâché maker, and, again with no other tools but her royal jaws and feet, converts the filmy flakes of dead wood that she gnaws from some old log into thin paper; of which, now turning architect, she builds a number of little rooms or cells. Next she becomes a mother, laying an egg in each cell; and then, turning huntress and nurse, she provides all the little grubs which emerge with constant supplies of food.

Wonderful little wasp!

MY FRIENDS!

How fascinating is the countryside, particularly at this season of the year, and all the birds, the little beasties, and even the flowers I number amongst my many friends. It was B. J. Willans, who wrote the following lines which well express my feelings:—

“A willow-wren, I know, and where she hath her nest;
In such sweet confidence am I not blest?
I wait impatiently the winter long
Her April home-coming, her dear mate's song:
He, sweetest lyrist, all my friends among.

“Gold would I rather lack than for one spring forego;
The primrose kindly greeting from the green hedgerow:
Who then shall count each joy my path attends,
Or weigh my wealth if, when the journey ends,
God's humblest children are my dearest friends.”

A GREAT THOUGHT.

LOVE IN TRIFLES.

Politeness has been defined as love in trifles. Courtesy is said to be love in little things. And the one secret of politeness is to love. Love cannot behave itself unseemly. You can put the most untutored person into the highest society, and if they have a reservoir of love in their heart, they will not behave themselves unseemly. They simply cannot do it.

Carlyle said of Robert Burns that there was no truer gentleman in Europe than the ploughman-poet. It was because he loved everything—the mouse, and the daisy, and all the things, great and small, that God had made.

So, with this simple passport, he could mingle with any society, and enter courts and palaces from his little cottage on the banks of the Ayr. You know the meaning of the word “gentleman.” It means gentle man—a man who does things gently, with love. And that is the whole art and mystery of it. The gentle man cannot in the nature of things do an ungentle or ungentlemanly thing. The ungentle soul, the inconsiderate, unsympathetic nature cannot do anything else.

Love does not behave itself unseemly.

THE LIGHTER SIDE.

“I am transferring my energy to an allotment next year, since there is no chance of knocking off at will in my back garden.” (*Husband in Court.*)

* * * *

It is interesting to note that when God made man, He didn't arrange any of the joints of his bones so he could pat himself on the back.

* * * *

A conference is a meeting to decide when the next meeting will be held.

* * * *

The frog begins as an egg; then becomes a fish; and then changes into a land animal. It's no fun deciding on one's career.

SIMONDS' (INVITATION) BALL.

AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS.

The Annual Ball was held at the Large Town Hall, Reading, on Tuesday, February 24th, when a large gathering of the Directors, employees of the firm, and friends, were dancing from 8 p.m. until 2 a.m. to the sweet music provided by the Band of the Royal Horse Guards (The Blues), by permission of Colonel H. Abel Smith, D.S.O.

It proved to be a wonderful success, and some 700 tickets sold; in fact, owing to such a great demand from all quarters, a limit had to be imposed and strictly adhered to, so, in consequence, some of our friends were disappointed. It was voted by all as the greatest evening ever, the best since these Dances had been held, and everyone had a most happy time. In many instances it was a gathering of the clans, and the occasion of meeting once again many friends of the old days, and recalling happy times spent together. A real "get-together" spirit prevailed throughout the pleasant and quickly passing hours.

The Mayor and Mayoress (Alderman and Mrs. H. V. Kersley) were present.

The following Directors attended, and entered into the fun of the evening with enthusiasm: Mr. F. A. Simonds, Major G. S. M. Ashby, Mr. R. St. J. Quarry, Mr. E. Duncan Simonds and Mr. W. P. Cripps. Also present were Mr. Kenneth Simonds and Mr. Henry Ashby. Apologies for absence were received from Mr. F. H. V. Keighley (abroad on business) and General Sir Miles C. Dempsey, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., who was at the last moment unable to attend.

Amongst others present were Mrs. G. S. M. Ashby, Mrs. R. St. J. Quarry, Mrs. Henry Ashby, Mr. A. W. C. Bowyer, Mrs. W. P. Cripps, Mr. H. C. Davis, Mr. W. H. Davis, Mr. E. M. Downes, Capt. A. S. Drewe, Mr. F. C. Dryden, Mr. A. G. Richardson, Mr. D. Richardson, Mr. R. Southall, Mr. J. H. Wadhams and Mr. P. Wadlow. Mr. E. Gosney was present with a party of 36 from Staines, a party of 8 from our friends, Messrs. Saccone & Speed, Ltd., a party from Farnborough, and a party of 26 from Cirencester, which included an old friend, Mr. E. H. Kelly. There were many others too numerous to mention by name, so if we have left anyone out, please forgive the writer of these notes. Some parties from branches were unable to be there owing to the bad conditions of the roads.

There were several competition dances and, of course, the "Hokey-Cokey" was entered into with great gusto.

During the evening, Mr. F. A. Simonds (Chairman and Managing Director) presented Cups to the winners of the Tennis Club Handicaps, viz. :—

Mr. Josey, winner of the Ladies' Cup, and Mr. R. C. Pitts, winner of the Gents' Club.

One of the "hits" of the evening was the "Snowball" waltz, which was led off by the Directors, and a very popular item.

Mr. A. Johnson proved to be a very able M.C., and officiating as Stewards were Messrs. G. V. Weait, E. Tigwell, G. Canning, T. E. Stevens, H. Davis, R. Broad, F. Shipton, T. Fisher, J. Parfitt, F. Edwards, W. Patrick, L. Povey and C. Ayers.

The catering arrangements were splendidly carried out by the Hotels and Catering Department Staff of the firm, under Mr. H. C. Davis, assisted by Mr. G. F. Burge.

Miss O. Shurmer was in charge of the issuing of the tickets, and all the necessary detail in connection with them, and the whole of the programme arrangements were organised and ably carried out by Mr. Walter Bradford, Sports and Social Club Secretary.

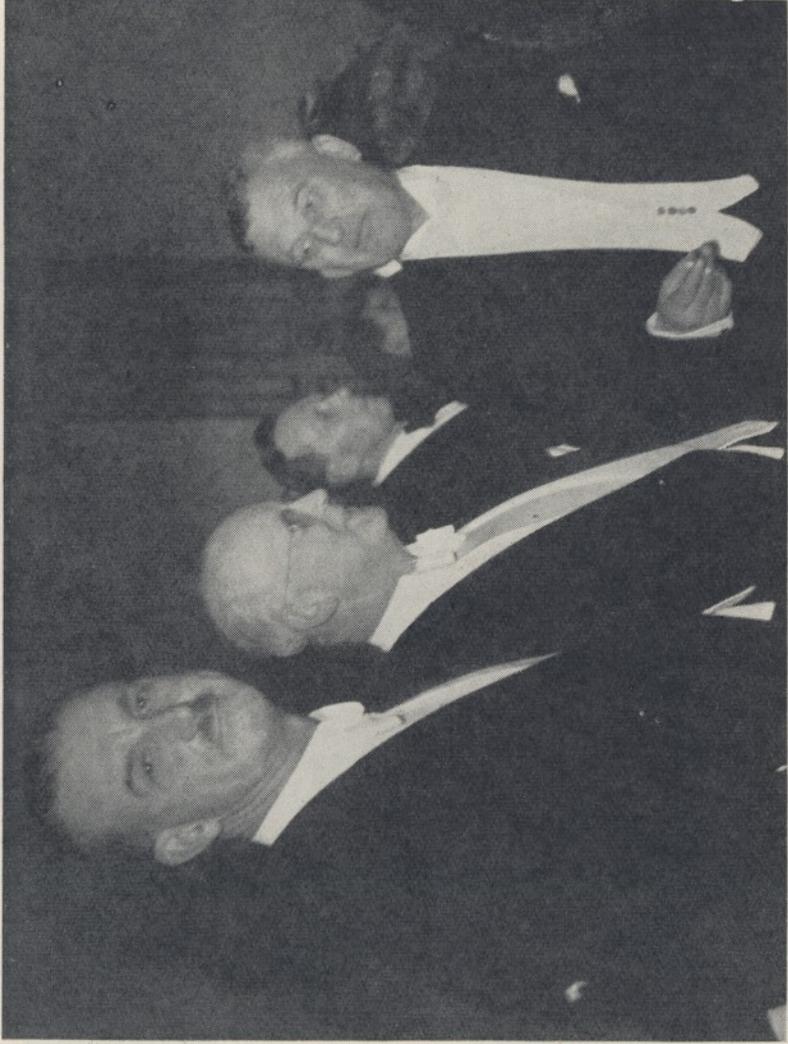
W.D.



The Mayor and some of our Directors.



Our Chairman and Managing Director, with his two sons, chatting with the Mayor.



Major G. S. M. Ashby with Capt. Drewe (Chief Surveyor), and Mr. E. M. Downes (Head Brewer).



Our democratic Directors mingle with the happy crowd.

BREWERY JOTTINGS.

BY W. DUNSTER.

We started the New Year with much more agreeable weather than that of last year, so, in consequence, our new enthusiasts for gardening have been putting in good "spade" work on several Sunday mornings—and afternoons, too—on the new allotments by the Sports Ground, in Berkeley Avenue, and quite good progress has been made by a number of them. It seems as if every effort will be needed this year, and one hopes there will be no shortage of potatoes later on, for the gardeners, at least. One thing about gardening is that it does tend to create a thirst, and I learn that the Club bar nearby is now known as the Gardeners' Arms.

Congratulations to Mr. H. Plank, of the Coopers Department, who has been awarded a Certificate of Merit and a Savings Certificate (for the best kept allotment in a team of six) by the Reading Horticultural Federation, signed by the Mayor of Reading and Mr. Tom Williams, Minister of Agriculture. He has also received a cheque for £1, second prize, for the best allotment for 1947, from the Caversham Horticulture Society.

Mr. P. F. Knapp, Head Brewer, who retired at the beginning of the year, came round to personally wish us good-bye, and we all felt sorry at the loss of such a good friend over so many years. The opportunity was taken to subscribe to a parting memento, and a very pleasing silver cruet set was given to him. In a letter to Mr. A. G. Richardson, he writes as follows:—

"I find it very difficult to adequately express my thanks for the handsome pieces of silver presented to me by the Staff on my retirement. I can only say that I am most grateful for this token and the kindness which has always been given to me during my association with the many Departments of the Brewery. It will ever be linked with the happiest memories of you all."

I feel I am voicing the sentiments of us all in wishing him every happiness in his retirement, with the hope that he will be blessed with good health.

At Christmas, one of our staff decided to have at home one pin of Pale Ale to see him through the four days' holiday. However, on Christmas Eve, he decided just to see if it was in condition. With the help of two brothers, and his wife's father, the beer was pronounced excellent. Well, the sad part of this story is that they all kept sampling the contents, and when

"trying" it on Christmas Day morning, he found the cask was empty, so it was evident they had lost count the night before of the times they had sampled the beer. To put matters right, naturally he had to visit his two brothers (on separate nights, of course) and he was in some small measure able to recoup his loss, at their expense. However, little did he think, on Christmas Eve, he would have to visit the "Vicarage" (his name for his pub) in order to obtain some quarts of beer to see him through Christmas Day.

Mr. D. M. Abraham, of the Estates Office, has been congratulated by many of us on becoming a father, his wife having presented him with a son just before Christmas. Pleased to say all is going well with mother and baby.

It was a pleasing gesture on the part of the Reading Branch of the Royal Naval Old Comrades' Association to ask Mr. W. Bowyer to become an Honorary and Associate Member. He accepted, was duly elected, and is now addressed as Shipmate.

During the last few months we have welcomed back two members of the staff who have completed their military service, viz., J. A. Langley, who was away for 3½ years, and is now working in the Hotels and Catering Dept., and C. A. Pack, away for a similar period, some part of which was spent in the Far East. He is now in the Accounts Office.

Mr. G. Ayers, a member of the Delivery Office, who joined the R.A.F., is now in the Middle East.

Many will join me in congratulating Mr. A. C. Kingston, who was Chief Cashier for many years, on attaining the great age of 80. Although enjoying fairly good health, he has not been able to go out during the cold weather, nevertheless, we shall probably be seeing him in the summer. To mark the occasion, Mr. F. C. Hawkes called at his house to personally convey the good wishes of the firm on this achievement, and found him in excellent spirits.

The balancing which took place in the early days of February found the General Office buckling to, and completing the job in good time.

Mr. C. Langton, Welfare and Personnel Officer, had an alarming but, fortunately, short breakdown in health, which necessitated a spell of treatment in hospital. The cause was attributed to a germ he picked up during his war service. However, he is back to duty again, and provided he takes things steady, he will soon be quite all right.

We have back with us in the General Office, L. Fullbrook, who left us for Canada, and after a short spell there decided to come home again.

Mr. W. Sparks (Bill), of the Cooperage Department, completed 50 years' service on the 1st February, 1948. The Directors presented him with a clock suitably inscribed, and a cheque, congratulating him on such a fine record. He is still very active and, being of fine physique, looks as if he can go on for ever. For very many years he has been actively associated with the Cricket Club, and can unfold many a tale of glorious games and experiences. I am sure we all wish him many, many years of activity, good fortune and good health.

At a meeting of the United Commercial Travellers' Association, held at the Ship Hotel on the 30th January, 1948, Mr. E. Duncan Simonds was elected President of the Association, which greatly pleased the members of that important body. Mr. W. Bowyer was elected as one of the Vice-Presidents.

We regret that H. Dean, of the Canvas Dept., who has been with us for a number of years, has had to retire owing to ill-health.

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

Mr. A. J. Bailey, of the Barge Inn, Honey Street, Marlborough, who died on 7th December, 1947, and had been tenant of this house since July, 1936.

Mr. W. F. Prescott, of The Swan, Great Shefford, who died on the 21st December, 1947. He had only taken over the tenancy of the "Swan" on 11th December, 1947, and his passing comes as a great shock. Previously, Mr. Prescott had been Manager of the Falcon Hotel, Woodley, for a year (1938 to 1939); and then Manager of the Waterside Hotel, Paignton, until December, 1941. From then on, Manager of the Queen's Hotel, Farnborough, until November, 1947. Before joining the firm as Manager of the Falcon Hotel, in September, 1938, he had had over 20 years' experience with Messrs. J. Lyons & Co., Ltd., West End Restaurants.

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

The Premier, Caversham Road, Reading (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. W. C. Howman.

The Jolly Farmer, Egham Hythe (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. E. A. Griffin.

The Sawyers' Arms, Lambourn (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mrs. E. H. T. Millard.

The Heron, Aldershot (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. E. G. Firman.

The Rose Hotel, Maidenhead (Wheeler's Wycombe Breweries, Ltd.)—Mrs. E. C. Saunders.

The Crown, Marlborough (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. H. W. Aldridge.

The Swan, Great Shefford (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. W. F. Prescott.

The Swiss Cottage, Tilehurst Road, Reading (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. W. B. Harding.

The Old Ford, North Camp (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. E. B. Fryer.

The Swan, Great Shefford (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mrs. E. M. Prescott.

The Red Lion Hotel, Lambourn (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Capt. H. C. Smith.

The Barge Inn, Honey Street, Marlborough (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. J. F. C. Tasker.

The New Inn, Knowl Hill (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. E. W. Hawes.

The Moderation, Caversham Road, Reading (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. W. L. Davis.

The Potters' Arms, Cove (John May & Co., Ltd.)—Mr. H. Smith. (Mr. John Yeomans had been licensee of this house since July, 1926, and previously his parents had held the licence since 1892.)

Mr. Harry Tucker, who has now retired from the New Inn, Knowl Hill, after having been there for 19 years, was very well known at the Brewery; at one time he did a lot of catering for outdoor functions, and was before the last war always at Ascot, where he ran a booth for many years, which was spick-and-span, and a model of cleanliness. He was at the Royal Oak, Whitchurch, for seven years before going to Knowl Hill. A very genial personality, he is well liked everywhere, and we all wish him many years of good health and good fortune.

We regret to record the death of Mrs. H. Moore, and the following extract is from the *Berkshire Chronicle* :—

IN LICENSING TRADE FOR 59 YEARS.

“The death took place on Tuesday of Mrs. Harriet Moore, aged 79, wife of Mr. W. Moore, of 10, Sidmouth Street, Reading.

“Mrs. Moore was in the licensing trade for 59 years, and held five licences in the Reading area. Among them were those of The Three Brewers, Southampton Street, Reading, The Railway House, Steventon, near Abingdon, The Jolly Anglers, Kennet Side, Reading, and The Bugle, Friar Street, Reading, from which she retired during the last war, after seventeen years there.

“The Reading Ladies' Licensed Victuallers Protection Association was founded by Mrs. Moore, and she was secretary of the Association. She was also an enthusiastic worker for the Reading Philanthropic Institution.

“Mrs. Moore was married three times, and she leaves a husband and three sons, all of whom have connections with the licensing trade.”

The Fox Inn, Water Lane, Winchester, has recently been purchased by the firm, and had previously been supplied by us on a Free Trade basis for many years.

We give below an extract from the *Maidenhead Advertiser*, and the Mr. E. W. Pearce mentioned therein as conductor, is our tenant at the Waggon and Horses, Twyford. The writer has been at this house on a number of occasions, and quite jolly concerts are held there on several nights of the week, the singing and good music being enjoyed by all.

VILLAGE BAND DOES WELL.

IN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP.

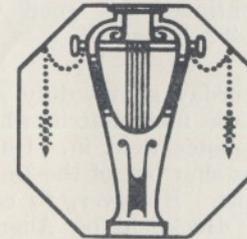
“Waltham St. Lawrence brass band put up an excellent performance recently when they were placed seventh out of a total of 22 entries in the fourth section of the qualifying contest for the London and Southern Counties Area in the National Championship which took place at the Central Hall, Westminster.

“The test piece, ‘Three Songs Without Words,’ was especially written by Eric Ball, and the adjudicator was Dr. Denis Wright.

“The band was conducted by Mr. E. W. Pearce and the solo cornet player was Charles Border, late soloist of the Royal Berks Regt.”

Football has been a topic of tremendous interest, but I am afraid the Reading Football Club team are having a most up-and-down season, and giving their ardent supporters a good many shocks. However, one pleasant feature is the display always put up by the Reserve team, and they are receiving quite good support, and in the running for the winning of the London Combination Cup, as at the moment of writing, they are on top of the league.

The firm's football teams are having quite a good season, and the first eleven have a chance of winning their league, although, owing to a recent “slip-up,” the chances of doing so are not so rosy. Maybe things will have turned out a little different yet. The second team are real enthusiasts as, although they get some “hidings,” they are also capable of giving at times “hidings” to other Clubs. Long may this sporting spirit prevail amongst the players for the Club!



CRICKET.

A glorious summer enabled the Club to complete a very enjoyable season, with the exception of two "A" and one "B" team games, which had to be called off owing to rain.

The "A" team called upon 22 players to take part in their 15 Saturday games, 7 of which were won, 3 drawn, and the other 5 lost. Included in the above were two all-day matches against our old friends Turquandia, also the Berkshire Gentlemen, who gave us the honour of a match, and delighted us with some fine cricket.

As desired at the General Meeting, fixtures were arranged for a "B" team for the first part of the season, but unfortunately they were only able to win one of the 10 matches. Nevertheless, the 28 members who played in these games thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and never gave up, despite the opposition being rather too strong at times.

The aggregates of these matches are as follows:—

"A" Team :	1,410 runs for 123 wickets.	Average :	11.46
Against	1,555 " " 127 " "	" "	12.24
"B" Team :	577 runs for 98 wickets.	Average :	5.88
Against	847 " " 81 " "	" "	10.45

Mr. E. G. Crutchley again skippered the "A" team most competently and received good support from his Vice-Captain, Mr. C. R. Josey. Mr. R. J. Lambourne is to be congratulated upon his leadership and good example to the "B" team, and Mr. H. K. White continued his good work when he (Mr. Lambourne) joined the "A" team.

Reports of all Saturday games duly appeared in the HOP LEAF GAZETTE except the final match, which was played after the September quarter notes went in. Unfortunately, this and the list of averages were shut out of the December quarter issue, as space was very short. However, to complete our records, this match, played at Heckfield on August 30th, resulted as follows:—

HECKFIELD AND MATTINGLEY, 100. J. Euston, 33; C. Blair, 25. (E. G. Crutchley, 5 for 17; R. J. Lambourne, 3 for 36).

SIMONDS "A," 80. T. Patrick, 19; H. K. White, 17. (A. Denton, 6 for 26).

The full averages of the Saturday matches are given below:—

"A" Team (Qualification, 8 Innings).

BATTING.

* Signifies not out.

	Innings.	Times not out.	Total.	Highest Score.	Average.
E. J. Scott	12	2	168	28*	16.80
A. J. Hawkins	13	1	173	59*	14.41
R. J. Lambourne	8	1	96	50*	13.71
E. C. Greenaway	11	2	118	61	13.11
E. G. Crutchley	10	—	109	29	10.90
G. H. Beddow	14	—	138	32	9.85
N. Tott	10	—	98	35	9.80
C. R. Josey	9	1	66	24*	8.25
F. J. Benham	11	2	59	25	6.55
L. G. Field	9	1	34	9	4.25
W. J. Greenaway	11	2	34	10	3.77

The following also batted:—

H. K. White	5	3	87	36*	43.50
J. W. Jelley	3	3	14	12*	14.00
T. Patrick	5	—	67	20	13.40
P. E. Hammond	5	2	27	9*	9.00
W. G. Neville	3	—	23	16	7.66
K. Organ	4	2	11	10	5.50

One innings each: H. G. Sexton (6), W. Philpott and R. Pearce (Nil).

BOWLING.

	Overs.	Maidens.	Runs.	Wickets.	Average.
E. J. Scott	96.4	15	253	32	7.90
E. G. Crutchley	89.5	17	236	24	9.83
R. J. Lambourne	93.2	21	288	28	10.28
K. Organ	73.3	17	151	14	10.78
E. C. Greenaway	46.3	4	187	9	20.77
N. Tott	67.1	15	208	10	20.80

Also bowled:—

A. J. Hawkins	2	—	7	1	7.00
R. Pearce	1.2	—	11	1	11.00
H. G. Sexton	6	1	27	2	13.50
P. E. Hammond	9.4	—	32	2	16.00
L. G. Field	14	1	60	1	60.00

Catches: W. J. Greenaway, 7; G. H. Beddow, C. R. Josey and N. Tott, 6; E. G. Crutchley, 5; F. J. Benham, 4; L. G. Field, E. C. Greenaway, A. J. Hawkins, K. Organ and E. J. Scott, 3; P. E. Hammond, 2; J. W. Jelley, W. Philpott and H. K. White, 1 each.

"B" Team (Qualification, 5 Innings).

BATTING.

* Signifies not out.

	Innings.	Times not out.	Total.	Highest Score.	Average.
R. J. Lambourne	...	8	114	33	16.20
K. Cottam	...	7	66	30	11.00
G. Ayers	...	9	63	24	7.00
R. Gardiner	...	9	31	17	3.87
H. K. White	...	9	29	9	3.22
J. Buswell	...	5	15	7	3.00
W. Bell	...	7	17	12	2.83
A. Randall	...	5	14	6	2.80
R. Carter	...	5	9	4	2.25
J. Ballard	...	7	14	6	2.00
D. T. Ilott	...	9	6	2	1.00
J. Jeffcoat	...	5	3	3	.60

The following also batted :—

T. Patrick	...	3	1	87	67*	43.50
A. J. Hughes	...	2	—	3	3	1.50
L. Martin	...	2	1	1	1*	1.00
L. Fullbrook	...	3	—	2	1	.66
H. G. Sexton	...	3	—	1	1	.33

One innings each : L. G. Field (30), A. J. Hawkins (17), S. B. Farmer (5), F. J. Benham (4), A. Ferrand (4), P. E. Hammond (2), R. Frankum (2), T. Kent (1), G. Woodruffe (1), J. Slade and J. Strudley (Nil).

BOWLING.

	Overs.	Maidens.	Runs.	Wickets.	Average.	
W. Bell	...	59	17	111	16	6.93
R. J. Lambourne	...	75	14	167	24	6.95
A. Randall	...	42	9	110	8	13.75
K. Cottam	...	27	6	67	4	16.75

Also bowled :—

P. E. Hammond	...	6.3	—	16	3	5.33
A. J. Hawkins	...	14	5	23	4	5.75
S. B. Farmer	...	12	2	51	5	10.20
L. G. Field	...	12.2	1	39	3	13.00
H. K. White	...	10	—	35	2	17.50
D. T. Ilott	...	5	—	24	1	24.00
H. G. Sexton	...	18	2	61	2	30.50
R. Gardiner	...	7	1	38	1	38.00
T. W. Kent	...	1	—	11	—	—
A. J. Hughes	...	5	—	23	—	—

Catches : R. J. Lambourne, 6; G. Ayers and W. Bell, 3; J. Ballard, J. Jeffcoat and H. K. White, 2; R. Carter, K. Cottam, S. B. Farmer, L. G. Field, A. J. Hawkins, T. Kent and H. G. Sexton, 1 each.

Stumpings : H. K. White, 1.

Mr. E. J. Scott is to be heartily congratulated upon heading both the batting and bowling of the "A" team with averages of 16.80 and 7.90 respectively. Mr. Scott also becomes the holder of the "Louis Simonds" Cup for batting by a narrow margin over Mr. R. J. Lambourne, who topped the "B" team batting, with an average of 16.20. Congratulations are also due to Mr. W. Bell, whose splendid bowling average of 6.93 just bettered that of his Captain.

In addition to the above, one Sunday and four Tuesday evening matches were played, of which we drew the former and lost three of the evening games—the remaining match had to be abandoned owing to bad light.

To conclude our report for 1947, we would again place on record the grand work done by Miss Prosser and all the other ladies in serving with the teas, which were fully appreciated by us and our opponents alike. Also, a word of praise for the hard work put in by our worthy groundsman and tackle man, Mr. Povey, who carried out these jobs in his usual able manner. Last, but not least, thanks to our umpire, Mr. G. Kelly, and the gentleman who scores all the runs, Mr. W. H. Wild, for their services to the "A" team; also the gentlemen who assisted the "B" team in similar capacities.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR 1948.

There was a good attendance at the Annual General Meeting of the Cricket Club, held in the Social Club on Tuesday, March 2nd, when it was confirmed that "A" and "B" teams be run as last year, and for whom fixtures have already been arranged as under :—

"A" Team.

May	1	...	Heckfield & Mattingley	...	...	Home
"	8	...				Away
"	15	...				Home
"	22	...	Thatcham	...	...	Home
"	29	...	Royal Household, Windsor	...	...	Home
June	5	...	Aldermaston	...	...	Away
"	12	...	St. Sebastians	...	...	Away
"	19	...	Courage & Co., Alton	...	...	Away
"	26	...	Turquandia	...	...	Home
July	3	...				Away
"	10	...	Berkshire Gentlemen	...	...	Home
"	17	...	Royal Household, Windsor	...	...	Away
"	24	...	St. Sebastians	...	...	Home
"	31	...				...
Aug.	7	...	Thatcham	...	...	Away
"	14	...	Aldermaston	...	...	Home
"	21	...				Home
"	28	...	Heckfield & Mattingley	...	...	Away

It is hoped to complete the list with fixtures against Mess Staff, Camberley, and the R.A.O.C., Bramley.

" B " Team.

May	1	...	Moreton	...	...	...	Away
"	8	...	Aldermaston " B "	...	...	...	Home
"	15	...	Sutton's " B "	...	...	...	Away
"	22	...	R.A.F., Shinfield	...	...	...	Away
"	29	...	Kingham's Sports Club	...	...	...	Away
June	5	...	Moreton	...	...	...	Home
"	12	...	St. Sebastians " B "	...	...	...	Home
"	19	...	Mortimer " B "	...	...	...	Home
"	26	...	Aldermaston " B "	...	...	...	Away
July	3	...	Kingham's Sports Club	...	...	...	Home
"	10	...	St. Sebastians " B "	...	...	...	Away
"	17	...	R.A.F., Shinfield	...	...	...	Home
"	24	...	Mortimer " B "	...	...	...	Away
"	31	...		...	...	...
Aug.	7	...	Sutton's " B "	...	...	...	Home

It was decided not to proceed with outside evening games, as it is hoped to re-institute inter-departmental matches, and also raise a team to participate in the Reading Youth League. In this connection, as with the Saturday fixtures, all those who would like a game are asked to watch the notice boards for further information as to practice, which will commence the first week in April.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The members present were extremely sorry to learn from Mr. E. G. Crutchley that he could not see his way clear to play as much as he would like this season and, therefore, he had to decline the captaincy of the " A " team. We can only wish to see him on the field as much as possible. Also, the Secretary expressed his desire to give up his post owing to pressure of business, but in the absence of someone able to take over, Mr. E. J. Scott was elected to assist him in his ever-increasing duties. Ballots had to be taken in several instances, and the various offices were filled as follows:—

Captain : " A " Team—Mr. R. J. Lambourne ; " B " Team—Mr. H. K. White.

Vice-Captain : " A " Team—Mr. W. G. Neville ; " B " Team—Mr. W. Bell.

Umpire : " A " Team—Mr. G. Kelly ; " B " Team—Mr. E. J. Brown.

Scorer : " A " Team—Mr. F. J. Dyer. " B " Team—

Committee : Messrs. E. G. Crutchley, L. G. Field, E. C. Greenaway, A. J. Hawkins, J. W. Jelley, C. R. Josey, G. Kelly and K. Organ.

Selection Committee : Captains and Vice-Captains of " A " and " B " Teams, and Mr. A. J. Hawkins.

Sports Committee Representatives : Messrs. R. J. Lambourne, W. J. Greenaway and J. W. Jelley.

Secretary : Mr. W. J. Greenaway.

Asst. Secretary : Mr. E. J. Scott.

" LOUIS SIMONDS " CUP FOR BATTING.

During the evening the Chairman made the presentation of the above Trophy to Mr. E. J. Scott, and heartily congratulated him upon his success, in which those present joined with acclamation. In reply, Mr. Scott said how pleased he was to become the holder of the Cup, but hoped, for the benefit of the Club, that this year it would be won by someone with a far better average than his of last season.

It is hoped to hold one, or perhaps two, full practice matches towards the end of April, and here again all enthusiasts are asked to come forward as soon as details are published, and so help to make the 1948 season even more successful than the one now in review.

W. J. G.



Interior of the C.P.O.'s Mess, H.M.S. "Seahawk," of the Fleet Air Arms Station, Culdrose, Cornwall.

WORDS OF WISDOM.

Roses grow among thorns.

It is with the narrow-soul'd people as with narrow-neck'd bottles; the less they have in them the more noise they make in pouring it out.

The snail sees nothing but its own shell, and thinks it the grandest place in the world.

You cannot climb a ladder by pushing others down.

He serves his party best who serves his country best.

Let us try what esteem and kindness can effect.

Little bantams are great at crowing.

Storms make oaks take deeper root.

He that can be won with a feather will be lost with a straw.

Luck is the idol of the idle.

Little bodies have great souls.

The heart is the best logician.

Soon ripe, soon rotten.

Grace in women has more effect than beauty.

It is the master-wheel which makes the mill go round.

Times of general calamity and confusion have ever been productive of the greatest minds

Words of love are works of love.

How is it possible to expect that mankind will take advice when it will not so much as take warning.

Chance generally favours the prudent.

A crow's nae whiter for being washed.

He must be a good shot who always hits the mark.

It is useless to attempt to reason a man out of a thing he has never reasoned into.

MESSRS. H. & G. SIMONDS,
SEVEN BRIDGES BREWERY.

(Taken from the OFFICIAL ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO THE
GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY, 1860.)

"No lover of the invigorating juice of the hop should pass out of Reading without visiting that extensive establishment called THE SEVEN BRIDGES BREWERY, and belonging to Messrs. H. & G. SIMONDS. Added to the justly-acquired fame which Mr. Adolphus Simonds, one of the firm, has gained as a brewer of first-rate beer, this gentleman has the distinction of being Mayor of Reading at the present time. Mr. Henry Simonds, the head of the firm, is a director of the Great Western Railway, and the much respected leader of the Conservative party in this town. The premises are situated on the river Kennet, although the water used is from the Thames, being taken from a spring which rises and falls with that river. In consequence of the increased demand for pale ale, the manufacture of which is no longer confined to Burton, new and large cellars have just been constructed for storing this famous beverage, it having been found from experiment that the water supplied from the springs in Messrs. Simonds' yard is almost identical in its chemical constituents with that from which the Burton ale is made. The two tun-rooms are very large. In the brew-house one large mash-tub holds thirty-five quarters; while we also see Barlow's new patent mash-tub, a marvellous improvement on those which are still used in many other establishments. One hundred and thirty barrels in a day are frequently sent out by this enterprising firm, and the premises in their occupation are capable of malting 6,000 quarters. The new machines used in the brewery are of twenty horse-power. There is a double range of malthouses.

"There are two sets of machinery upon the premises, each complete in itself, the one worked upon the ordinary system, and the other a recent erection worked by steam throughout.

"In brewing the various kinds of beer, as ale, porter, and table ale, two kinds of malt are employed, the pale and the brown. The first is used for ales, and for the finer qualities the malt is dried very pale indeed: the brown malt is used for porters and stouts.

"Those who consider health should be very careful of the source from whence they derive their ale, for it is only by going to a respectable and well-known firm that they can insure a really invigorating, wholesome, innoxious, and not deleterious beverage. The world knows very little of the adulterations to which beer is often subjected. Quassia, gentian, wormwood, broom-top, to impart bitterness; capsicum, ginger, coriander, orange-peel, carraway, to give pungency; opium, coculus-indicus, nux-vomica, tobacco, poppy, henbane, to intoxicate; sulphuric acid, alum, vitriol, salt, to impart various properties—all are suspected, and more than suspected, of playing a part in the manufacture of some of those beverages which occasionally go by the name of beer. The Excise have battled hard against these difficulties, but with only partial success.

"With such enemies against the constitution to grapple with, the ale-drinker should, we repeat, be especially careful of the source whence he derives the beverage which should administer to his comfort and health. We can safely assert that the high character of Messrs. Simonds, and the great estimation in which the public hold their brewery, are guarantees for the purity and the excellence of their productions. The firm supply the camp at Aldershott, and the testimony of the officers there, who may be considered first-rate judges, is to the effect that 'Simonds' porter is far superior to anything made in London,' and similar assurances are given on all sides that 'Simonds' ale' is unrivalled; one of their peculiar excellences being a combination of delicate flavour with remarkable cleanness on the palate.

"An outline of the various processes employed in brewing would be beyond our limits. The reader who has not seen a brewery in full exercise, would do well to request permission of Messrs. Simonds to inspect their extensive works. There will be no difficulty in conceiving that the mechanism and the details of the processes must vary greatly, although the chemical principles may remain the same. This consists in extracting a saccharine solution from grain, and in converting that solution into a spirituous and fermented beverage. This art, although a perfectly chemical one in nearly all its stages, has not, until recent times, been indebted to chemistry for any of the improvements which have been made in its details."

KING'S FORMER CHAUFFEUR TAKES OVER A SIMONDS' INN.

"Steady hands that drove the King's car for twelve years are now pulling pints at Knowle Hill, on the Bath Road, near Maidenhead," as stated in the *Star* Man's Diary.

"For the New Inn has a new host and the King has lost his head chauffeur.

"He is 42-year-old, six-foot Mr. Edward Walter Hawes, who retired from the King's service because of ill-health.

"Before he left the King thanked him personally, wished him luck, and presented him with the Royal Victoria silver medal.

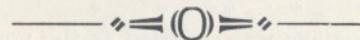
"At one time Mr. Hawes drove for a private firm and had the King as a passenger when he was the Duke of York. The Duke was so pleased with his driving that he appointed him his chauffeur.

DAUGHTER HELPS.

"As corporal in the Royal Horse Guards during the war, Mr. Hawes drove the King on many secret missions. He has accompanied him on holidays to Balmoral and Sandringham.

"Mr. Hawes has taken the public-house because he 'always fancied that line.' Helping him behind the bar are his wife and his 18-year-old daughter, Edna, former West End window-dresser. At Buckingham Palace they lived in a five-roomed flat in the Royal Mews."

Unfortunately, Mr. Hawes has since been admitted to hospital for an internal operation, but we are glad to know he is progressing favourably.



LIGHTER SIDE.

The wife came in to find her husband and a stranger—afterwards ascertained to be a lawyer—engaged in some mysterious business over the dining-room table, upon which were spread several sheets of paper.

"What are you doing with all that paper, Henry?" demanded his wife.

"I am making a wish," said the husband, meekly.

"A wish?"

"Yes, my dear. In your presence I shall not presume to call it a will."

* * * *

"Papa," said the doting mother, "Robert's teacher says he ought to have an encyclopaedia."

"Encyclopaedia, my eye," grumbled the father. "Let him walk to school like I did."

* * * *

John, the farmer's lad, was working in the cornfields when a stranger leaned over the fence.

STRANGER: "Why, yer corn's all yellor!"

JOHN: "Well, so it should be!"

STRANGER (*after a pause*): "You won't get more'n half that crop."

JOHN: "No, the boss'll have the other half."

STRANGER: "You know, there's not much between you and a fool."

JOHN: "No, only the fence."

* * * *

"You are wanted on the telephone, sir," said the office boy.

"Who is it?" asked the manager.

"Your wife, sir."

"What does she want?"

"I don't know. I only heard the word 'idiot'."

"Give me the phone. Don't you realise she wants to speak to me personally?"

* * * *

The railway carriage was crowded as the young man opened the door and asked in a sarcastic voice: "Is this Noah's Ark full?"

"No," was the reply from a grumpy sergeant in the corner. "We still need an ass. Come in."

LANDLORD (*to prospective tenant*): "You know we keep it very quiet and orderly here. Do you have any children?"

"No."

"A piano, radio or victrola?"

"No."

"Do you play any musical instrument? Do you have a dog, cat or parrot?"

"No, but my fountain pen scratches like hell sometimes."

* * * *

SHE: "But, darling, if I marry you I'll lose my job."

HE: "But can't we keep the marriage a secret?"

SHE: "But suppose we have a baby?"

HE: "Oh, we'll tell the baby, of course."

* * * *

Two friends returned disconsolately from the dog races with a dog they owned between them. They had entered it for several weeks without it making any effort to win a race. Said A to B:

"What shall we do with it?" B replied: "Let's shoot it."

"Oh, no," said A; "that's cruel." "Well, then, let's strangle it." "Oh, no, that would be even more cruel."

"I've got it," said A; "let's run and lose it."

* * * *

Having an early train to catch, MacGregor was rather worried that he wouldn't wake up in time. Several ideas came to him, but they all had one drawback; they meant spending money.

"Then came the dawn"—in other words, he had a brain wave. He addressed a letter to himself and posted it without a stamp. Next morning there was a thunderous knocking at the door.

"Letter for ye," said the postman, "and there's fivepence to pay."

"Tak' it back," replied MacGregor virtuously. "Carelessness like that shouldna' be encouraged."

* * * *

"I said I would let my wife have the last fling, so she threw a boot at me." (*Heard in Court.*)

* * * *

Cod and Chips, 2/-. Children, 1/-. Restaurant Notice.

* * * *

BRANCHES.

TAMAR SOCIAL CLUB.

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Club on Saturday, 28th February, 1948. Mr. S. H. Spurling presided, and after complimenting the Committee on the successful management of the Club's affairs since its inception, he presented the balance sheet.

In view of the fact that the Club had only been trading since July, 1947, Mr. Spurling thought members could feel well satisfied with the result shown. The proposal to adopt the balance sheet was moved, and the meeting's decision to do so was unanimous.

Mr. Spurling then called upon Mr. A. Johns, the Club Chairman, to make his report, and, in doing so, said how glad we all were to see Mr. Johns up and about again after his recent illness. The Chairman was pleased to say that his Committee had achieved their primary object, namely, that of setting the Club on a sound financial basis, and he thanked all members for their support, which had made the Committee's task easy. Mr. Johns discussed the Club's sporting activities, and claimed that, considering we were newcomers to local competitions, the Club was doing extremely well to hold its own. In any case, Mr. Johns felt sure that the results of matches played were of secondary importance when compared with the sporting and social pleasure derived from them. He expressed the Club's gratitude to the Directors for the assistance which had been given in getting the Club restarted, and hoped the success attained would give satisfaction to our Principals.

The final item on the agenda was the election of officers for the ensuing year. The following were elected :—

Mr. A. Johns (*Chairman*),

Mr. R. Luff (*Secretary*),

Mr. R. Gammage (*Treasurer*).

Committee : R. Jagers, F. Turner, C. Sammels, S. Harris,
F. Luscombe, F. Moore and F. Pocock.

On Friday, 20th February, the darts team members of the Tamar Brewery Social Club travelled by coach to Brentford, in support of the local football team, Plymouth Argyle. The journey was made during the coldest night of the year, and on their arrival in London, early Saturday morning, the party were greeted with heavy snowstorms which continued incessantly throughout the day. The match was played in a minor blizzard

which made good football impossible, and the Plymouth supporters had to content themselves with the fact that the Argyle earned a valuable point in holding Brentford to a goalless draw.

Fortunately, a photograph of the party, published in this issue of the GAZETTE, was taken prior to their departure, as, needless to say, the smiling faces depicted there were not quite so much in evidence when they finally reached Plymouth again on Sunday morning. In spite of the weather, however, a good trip was had by all.



Members of the Darts Team, Tamar Brewery Social Club.

DEVONPORT.

Congratulations to the "Burton Hotel," Brixham, on their success in the Brixham Darts League. On the 26th November, before a large gathering at the "Burton Hotel," Councillor J. Heron, J.P. (Chairman of the Brixham Urban Council) presented the Championship Cup to Mr. W. Hensher, Captain of the team. A very pleasant evening was spent by all, and appreciation was expressed on all sides to Councillor Heron for his kindness in attending to make the presentations.

Mr. H. Thomas, the popular host of the "Victoria Hotel," Pensilva, is the proud possessor of an aneroid barometer presented to him by the Pensilva Appreciation Committee, on December 13th

last, in recognition of the valued assistance both Mrs. Thomas and he have given to the Pensilva Athletic Football Club.

The football club, of which Mr. Thomas is Chairman, have had a very successful season, and are champions of the Launceston and District League. We are confident that the guidance and enthusiasm which he imparts to his team is of invaluable assistance to them on the field, and we wish the Club the continued success which it rightly deserves.

TAMAR SOCIAL CLUB.

Our Annual Children's Party was held at St. Chad's Hall on Saturday, 17th January; 90 children sat down to an excellent tea, which was followed by entertainment appropriate to the occasion. The efforts of Mr. J. Green, in the role of a clown, were acclaimed by the children, as was the Punch and Judy Show. Father Christmas, too, was most popular, particularly when he distributed the presents from the large decorated Christmas tree. We are sure the obvious enjoyment derived by the children was ample reward to the Committee, who had given so unstintedly of their time to make the party such a success. It was indeed unfortunate that the Chairman of the Club, Mr. A. John, was debarred from being present owing to sickness; the children missed him, and we know he was disappointed over not being able to be with them.

The Club's Billiards and Snooker teams, competing in the Plymouth Social Clubs' League, are now at the half-way mark of the season. The snooker team has played consistently well to maintain their position in the middle of the table, and the billiards team, although nearer the bottom, are playing well enough to justify our hope that, with a little more experience, next season will see a big improvement.

Our Plymouth and District League Snooker team are to be congratulated on reaching the semi-final of the Burroughs and Watts Shield Competition, in which they were narrowly beaten 3—2 by the Parade Social Club.

The Darts team in the Hop Leaf League are also finding the standard of play to be very high, and at the moment are meeting with little success. We hope they will fare far better in the Knock-out Cup Competition.

The Club is now represented by two table tennis teams. The "A" team, though still unbeaten in the league, sustained their first defeat in the third round of the "Herald Cup," losing

to Dockyard Apprentices. The "B" team is playing quite well, and will not be far behind the "A" team at the end of the season.

"HOP LEAF" DARTS LEAGUE.

The Sydenham Arms team continue to lead the league table, followed closely by the Abbey Hotel; their meetings on March 9th and 16th will have a distinct bearing on the championship. The Sydenham Arms (good humouredly known as the "Spivs") are playing very consistently, and strenuous efforts by opponents to lower their colours are not meeting with much success.

The Individual Championship is nearing finality, and at the time of going to press the following players are left in the Competition:—

- A. Wilson (Stopford Arms) *v.* C. Symons (Tamar Hotel).
- F. Davies (Sydenham Arms) *v.* A. Dewey (Camel's Head).
- S. Wallace (Weston Mill) *v.* P. Martin (Standard Inn).
- F. Clement (King's Arms) *v.* S. Harris (Simonds' S.C.).

The darts league positions at the time of writing these notes are:—

TEAM.	P.	W.	L.	For	Against	Pts.
Sydenham Arms	24	21	3	136	80	42
Abbey Hotel	24	20	4	135	81	40
Weston Mill	24	19	5	148	68	38
Camel's Head Inn	24	18	6	126	90	36
King's Arms	24	17	7	126	90	34
Stopford Arms	24	17	7	126	90	34
Tamar Hotel	24	16	8	119	97	32
Standard Inn	24	15	9	124	92	30
Swan Hotel	24	13	11	105	111	26
Grapes Tavern	24	10	14	98	118	20
Morice Town Vaults	24	8	16	89	127	16
Steambridge Inn	24	7	17	91	125	14
Gloucester Arms	24	7	17	89	127	14
Prince Alfred	24	7	17	85	131	14
Chester Cup	24	6	18	93	113	12
Simonds' Social Club	24	6	18	91	125	12
Stoke Vaults	24	5	19	85	131	10
Vine Hotel	24	4	20	79	139	8

We were extremely sorry to report the demise of Mr. R. Courtney on 30th November, 1947, aged 61 years. He had been our tenant of the Rose & Crown, Newport, Barnstaple, since December, 1927, and contemplated retiring from business just prior to his illness, which unhappily proved to be fatal. Our sincere sympathy is extended to Mrs. Courtney in her sad bereavement.

Mr. J. E. R. Tilley has succeeded Mr. Courtney as tenant of the Rose & Crown, and we welcome him into the Hop Leaf

family. Mr. Tilley was formerly a member of the C.I.D., Plymouth, and has played Rugby for Plymouth Albion R.F.C., which team he captained in season 1946-47. We wish him every success in his new sphere.

It is with regret we record the passing of William R. Lang on the 3rd January, 1948, aged 79. "Bill" Lang served the Company loyally as a drayman until March, 1937, when he retired on pension. He was held in high esteem by all, and many former junior clerks will remember how "Bill," to get his own back on "truculent Juniors," would tear the "Tallies" off the rail cases, and so give them extra work to trace the consignees. They soon learned to treat Bill Lang gently!

Our deep sympathy is extended to his relatives.

We are pleased to publish a photograph showing the interior of the C.P.O.'s Mess. H.M.S. *Seahawk*, of the Fleet Air Arm's Station, Culdrose, Cornwall. This Mess is a valued customer of the Firm, and we have the privilege of being sole suppliers.

It is interesting to record that there are sixty members, who are all members of the Helston and District Darts League.

Efficient service is provided by C.P.O. (A) Roy Evans and C.P.O. (A) "Knocker" Wight, who are both volunteer barmen, and appear in the photograph of this popular Mess.

BRISTOL.

We should like to put on record a rather unusual event, also a very pleasing little sequel in connection with it, which took place in the Bottled Beer Cellar just before Christmas, when our Head Brewer, Mr. H. H. Robertson, presented a wireless set, on behalf of the staff and employees, to Mr. S. B. Farmer (Assistant Brewer) and Miss Pat Brennan (Receptionist), whose marriage took place a few days later, on December 20th, at the Church of Holy Trinity, St. Philip's, Bristol, 5.

As a member of our brewing room during the war, Miss Brennan gave us most useful service, while later, upon the return of Mr. Farmer, after serving with H.M. Forces, she took over with marked efficiency and success, the duties of Main Office Receptionist.

In making the presentation, Mr. Robertson voiced the feelings of a very "full house" when he spoke of the pleasure it gave him in wishing them the very best of luck and happiness together. He recalled the good work of Miss Brennan on the production side, and our regret at her loss. "That loss, however,

is Mr. Farmer's gain," he added, "and we hope that this gift may serve to remind them both, from day to day, of their many friends at Jacob Street, and also of the days when they were here together."

Mr. J. H. Law congratulated the recipients on keeping the secret of their approaching marriage so successfully—from him, anyway. It was something rather novel to find that two of our staff should be so keen on each other that nothing less than a lifetime together could meet the case. He ended, "We wish you every possible blessing as you travel the road together."

Both Mr. Farmer and Miss Brennan briefly acknowledged the good wishes expressed for their future happiness, and thanked all who had contributed to such a splendid gift towards their new home. They would always remember their happy days and the friendships at Jacob Street. And so a very delightful occasion came to an end.



SAFE DRIVING.

1947 Diplomas from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents have been awarded to the following Bristol Branch transport drivers: Messrs. J. H. Uren, J. Bateman, A. E. Brown, L. N. Dancy, A. A. Poulson and J. Sloper.

In presenting the Diplomas to the recipients, Mr. J. H. Law complimented them on their skill and consistency day by day, under all sorts of conditions during the year, and hoped that every driver would exercise the same degree of care at all times as they had done. He felt that they would all, in due course, qualify for the higher awards which were now open to them.

BRIGHTON.

The "Sunny South" seems to have had more than a fair share of the recent Arctic weather. The forerunner to the cold spell was the abandoning of the Plumpton Races on the 18th February. As Plumpton is a very popular Meeting, this caused a great deal of disappointment, but the Stewards are to be congratulated on making a decision so early in the day.

The Reading Football Club visit us in the very near future, and we feel confident that we shall give them a good game. The Brighton & Hove Albion have recently spent £7,000 on the transfer of new players, amongst whom is Len Young, who for some years has been on the Reading books. Under the guidance of the ex-Charlton skipper, Don Welsh, who has been appointed Manager, the Albion are making strenuous efforts to improve their position in the league.

The Brighton Tigers are in the running to win the Ice Hockey National League, and at the time of writing are top of the league by virtue of a slender goal average. These ice hockey matches attract large crowds of very enthusiastic supporters, and the Sports Stadium bars—whom we supply—are kept very busy.

On Friday, 30th January, a very pleasing occasion took place when Mr. F. W. Freeman was presented with two pipes by Mr. P. James, on behalf of the staff and employees of Brighton Branch.

In making the presentation, Mr. James congratulated Mr. Freeman on his approaching appointment to the Tamar Brewery, Devonport, and, whilst thanking him for all he had done during his stay at Brighton, wished him every success in the future.

Mr. Freeman, in replying, expressed his appreciation and surprise at the useful gift he had received, and in thanking everyone for their loyalty and co-operation, said that he would always retain very happy memories of his managership at Brighton Branch.

BOXGROVE VILLAGE CLUB.

The opening of the extension to the Boxgrove Village Club on December 20th last was one of the biggest nights in the history of that village. Everything was a perfect success, and the Hon. Secretary, Mr. A. E. Crees, and his Committee, are to be congratulated. The redecorating of the extension was finished, and in itself created a homely touch. In addition to this, Mr. J. Abbott (Treasurer) produced some beautiful pots of chrysanthemums, and the ladies added the final touches with evergreens, paper novelties, etc., which also spoke of the closeness of the Christmas season, and all of which seemed to say "Welcome" as you opened the door.

Some forty invitations were sent out to all the "Very Important People" of the parish.

The Chairman, the Rev. E. Popham, introduced them with wisecracks as to their business and social status, amidst laughter and hearty handclaps.

Sir Alan Gordon Smith (of Smith's clocks fame), replying for the guests, gave an inspiring message to all, and said how pleased he was to be present in such a fine place. He also emphasised that more of these Clubs, and the feeling they create, will always keep Old England alive.

His Grace The Duke of Richmond & Gordon, in reply, said that after Sir Alan's speech it left him with practically nothing to add, only to endorse all previous remarks, and he hoped everyone would all gather again to have such an evening for a chat and a drink.

Mr. W. Stride, of Auctioneer fame, followed up in his usual job of selling and getting money. The article was a home-made loaf (secret recipe) made by the lady known to the people in all

stations of life locally as "Maggie." Excitement and bidding both rose for "Maggie's" loaf, which finally netted £8 18s. od., which was a record.

At this stage all formalities were concluded, and the bar was the objective for "Operation Short-one."

Mr. F. W. Freeman and Mr. P. James represented the Firm at this gathering, and Mr. Crees, Hon. Secretary, in a letter to us, writes: "Thanks are due to our 'Hop Leaf' friends for fixing things, as an old trooper would say, 'Oke Doke.'"

CIRENCESTER.

THE "BARLEY MOW," CASTLE STREET, CIRENCESTER.

The photograph of the above House, which is reproduced is about 60 years old. It is in a good state of preservation, and the name of "Cripps & Co., Cirencester," which Company was formed in 1888, is still discernible on the dray.

The present tenant of the house is Mr. W. Butler.



LONDON BRANCH.

Congratulations to Mr. P. James on his recent appointment, and we take this opportunity of wishing him every success.

On Saturday, January 3rd, 1948, at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London, Mr. Frederick Stuart Johnson, second son of Major and Mrs. F. J. Johnson, of New Malden, was married to Miss Phyllis Nora Shardlow, daughter of Mrs. Shardlow and the late Mr. Shardlow, of Wandsworth Common.

Our readers will join us in wishing the best of health and happiness to the young couple.

Owing to business reasons, Mr. H. S. Cross, Chairman of the Rochester Way (Eltham) Social Club since its inception in 1933, though latterly in an advisory capacity, has been compelled to move to Tunbridge Wells, and sever his connection with the Club.

Mr. Cross's shrewd judgment and business acumen were of incalculable value to the Club during its early years, and he can take great credit for the healthy state which the Club now enjoys.

We are hoping that Mr. Cross will find time to call at these offices whenever he is in London to continue the cordial relations which we have always enjoyed.

The present Chairman, Mr. C. Bolton, ably carries on the tradition of the Club, and encourages its ever-expanding social activities.

Association football is still an absorbing topic, and although the defeat of the Arsenal F.C. in the F.A. Cup Tie was a bitter blow to us, we look forward to them becoming Division I Champions, and all will agree, worthy ones at that.

Meanwhile, London Cup hopes are very much alive, and we are hoping for a London finalist at Wembley!

LUDGERSHALL.

A very enjoyable evening was recently spent by the staffs of Ludgershall, Salisbury and Andover, who, together with their wives and friends, met at the "Bell Inn," Weyhill.

Major and Mrs. Tynan, the tenants of this Inn, spared no effort in making the social evening an unqualified success.

Apart from supplying refreshments of a very high standard, they were active in organising games, etc., which kept the party in good spirits until "time" was called.

We all hope this little gathering will be the forerunner of others.

We must offer our congratulations to our junior clerk, John Fleming, who, after playing through trial matches, was selected to represent a combined Wiltshire and Dorsetshire Youths' football team. This team, after beating Devon and Cornwall, and then Somerset, are to meet Hampshire in a later round of the inter-County Competition. As the Ludgershall Youth Club have had four members of their team playing in these representative games, the controlling body have made an appreciative gesture by arranging the next round to be played on the local Sports Club ground.

OXFORD.

"FOOT-THE-BALL" CONTEST.

In our December issue we were privileged to publish two photographs taken during the above contest and the "Rag" which was held on the same day.

The photographs were kindly supplied by courtesy of the Editor of the *Oxford Mail*, Mr. H. V. Ferguson, and it is regretted that due acknowledgments were not paid for the permission to reproduce them in our Journal.

"CROWN INN," WOODSTOCK, DARTS CLUB.

On Thursday, January 29th, 1948, about one hundred members and friends of the "Crown" Darts Club met at the Town Hall, Woodstock, for a social evening, and those present indulged in a

few hours of gaiety to celebrate the past three years of happy and successful "darting."

The Company was entertained by Messrs. Pat Wright, L. Belcher, E. Lyon and H. Cracknell, who were ably assisted by Mr. Geoff. Launchbury and his amplifier. Mr. Billy Hollis, of the Rhythm Scamps Dance Band, was at the piano, and several members displayed their various talents to add to the enjoyment of the evening. Mrs. Maling, of the "Woodstock Arms," provided the delightful buffet, and the liquid refreshment was in the hands of the Club's host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. George Ware, who were given a rousing ovation for their untiring efforts on behalf of the Club.

Prizes were won by Messrs. H. Dixon, H. Cracknell and J. Scarsbrook.

PORTSMOUTH.

The Lord Mayor (Councillor F. Miles), when he spoke to a social gathering of members of the Southsea Sea Angling Club, referred to the importance to the resort of the Club. He said they had given pleasure to hundreds of children during the summer by providing them with free boat trips for the Children's Week Angling Festival, which, he considered, was a magnificent gesture. The Lord Mayor recalled that the Club was formed in 1918, and has grown considerably, until to-day it was not only a first-class Club, but possessed boating equipment second to none in the country. The President, Mr. J. A. Restall, who introduced the Lord Mayor, paid tribute to the co-operation of the Council and Pier Authorities where the activities of the Club were concerned. Others who spoke at the gathering included Councillor G. Wallis (Chairman of the Piers, Beach and Publicity Committee), Mr. E. L. Goddard (Hon. Secretary) and Mr. McKennea. The Lady Mayoress (Mrs. Miles) presented trophies won during the season by members.

Southsea is to become "Kidderminster-by-the-Sea" for a week at the beginning of this summer, and from June 19th to 26th, special attractions will be arranged for the enjoyment of an influx of 5,000 visitors from that town. The link up of Southsea with the industrial area of Kidderminster and District was started by the Home Holidays Division of the British Tourists' Holiday Board, which is an offshoot of the Board of

Trade. It is part of a scheme to encourage staggered holidays for the workers, and to secure adequate attractions in holiday resorts before the July and August rush of visitors.

We congratulate Mr. E. N. Job (2nd Clerk in the Office here), who, since the last issue of the HOP LEAF, has been presented with an addition of another fine boy to his family. We are pleased to say that both mother and son are doing well.

FEWER LICENCES.

Although Portsmouth is still extending its boundaries and increasing its population, it is significant that the number of licensed premises in the City is steadily declining. Indeed, in forty-three years there has been a decrease of no fewer than 290. In 1905, there were 778 on licences and 217 off licences, and at the end of 1947 there were only 530 and 176 respectively, a decrease of 248 "on" and 41 "off." In the same period, the Portsmouth Licensing Justices granted 31 monopoly value licences, 21 off licences and 18 chemists' licences, 83 in all; while 218 premises were refused licences on payment of compensation amounting to approximately £271,000, 143 licences were surrendered, and one was extinguished. At the present time there are 127 licences in suspense, mostly "on" licences, business having had to be temporarily discontinued through war damage. This means, therefore, that actually there are over 400 fewer licences in full operation than in 1905.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS.

In the meantime the Portsmouth Licensing Planning Committee, which was formed just under three years ago, have been doing some valuable spade work with a view to future developments. Incidentally, they have received valuable assistance from brewers and their expert advisers, and have been able among other things to settle the number, nature and distribution of licensed premises for the Paulsgrove and Wymering Estate that is in course of development. There will be 12 on licences and 2 off licences on the estate, and already the Minister responsible has approved the proposals of the removal and suspended licences from various parts of the city.

LEIGH PARK'S POPULATION.

It is also proposed to remove several of the other suspended licences to premises to be erected on the new Leigh Park Estate

which ultimately is expected to house well over a quarter of a million city residents. Plans for the rebuilding of licensed premises in Palmerston Road and Commercial Road, two of the city's main business thoroughfares, are also well advanced, but details cannot be definitely decided until the entire replanning of the city has been finally approved.

TRIBUTE TO THE TRADE.

The Chief Constable of Portsmouth reported to the annual licensing meeting last month that there had been an increase of 29 in the number of cases of drunkenness in the city during 1947. This unfortunately broke a sequence of decreases which went as low as 78 in 1946, a record. Last year the total was 107 cases. The Chief Constable added that the licensing trade in the city was still being satisfactorily conducted, a fact he wished to emphasise, having regard to the difficulties which wholesalers and retailers were experiencing, and the restrictions that handicapped them in the conduct of their businesses.

Mr. L. R. Maidment, Chairman of the Justices, commenting on the increase in cases of drunkenness, caustically remarked that he did not know whether this was due to people celebrating the end of the war or a desire on their part to wish to drown their sorrows. "The latter, I should imagine," he added.

IMPOSSIBLE!

Pleading for the deletion of an undertaking in his off licence not to sell beer in less quantity than three dozen bottles, a Portsmouth licensee told the Justices that it was often a physical impossibility to carry it out. "Why?" queried the Clerk. "Because, under present conditions, I have often less than three bottles of beer in my cellar," replied the applicant. The clause was deleted.

SALISBURY.

THE LATE MR. F. S. BRADBEER.

On account of the late arrival of material for the December issue, it was necessary to rearrange certain pages of the Journal, as a result of which our acknowledgment to the *Salisbury Times*, for kind permission to reprint the report of the passing of the late Mr. F. S. Bradbeer, was omitted. We would, therefore, express our regrets to the Editor of the *Salisbury Times* that due acknowledgments were not paid for his courtesy in permitting us to reprint the report.

BRIDGEND.

In December last, the Neath & District Licensed Victuallers' Association held a Memorial Fund Ball at the Castle Hotel, Neath. This gathering of licensees and their guests created considerable interest in the Borough and its environs, and among the distinguished company assembled were the Mayor and Superintendent of Police. A most enjoyable evening was spent by all present, which must have given considerable satisfaction to the Organising Committee, and been a measure of reward for their worthy efforts.

We are pleased to place on record the success of the darts team at "The Alma," Blaenavon, who reached the final of Section "A" (Monmouthshire) of *The People* Darts Championship of England and Wales. Unfortunately they failed to survive this round against the Constitutional Club, Pontnewydd, but all praise must be given to the team for having fought so well against the strong opposition they encountered. We hope that next year the "Hop Leaf" badges, which the team now wear, will inspire them to reach even greater heights in the national competition. Incidentally, we should mention that our tenant (Mrs. E. J. Morris) is the oldest licensee in Wales, and in her 92nd year, enjoys good health and takes a keen interest in all matches fought at her House.

On Thursday, February 12th, the Bridgend & District Licensed Victuallers' Association held a Dance at the New Drill Hall, Bridgend, in aid of the Association's funds. This function, attended by over 300 licensees and their friends, proved a worthy success, and gave considerable pleasure to all concerned. A licensed bar, supervised by our tenant of "Ye Olde Brewery House" Hotel, Bridgend, at which "Hop Leaf" products were predominant, added considerably in providing that atmosphere of conviviality and good fellowship so necessary on these occasions. During the evening presentations were made to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. H. Smith, and his good lady, as a mark of appreciation of their efforts for the Association over a number of years.



SWINDON.

DARTS FINAL IN A BALLROOM.

SIMONDS' HOUSES COMPETITION.

The Goddard Arms Hotel Ballroom was (Tuesday, 9th March, 1948) transformed into a darts arena for the Simonds' Houses (Swindon area) League final. The competitors were The Bell and Shoulder of Mutton, winners of the "B" league, and The Ship, winners of the "A" league, and more than 200 supporters turned up to cheer their teams.

The Bell and Shoulder of Mutton won 4-1, and their captain received the North Wilts Brewery "Bowly" Cup from Mr. E. Duncan Simonds.

Mr. Simonds also presented the league cups and miniatures. Also present were: Mr. F. L. Maskell (Messrs. Simonds' representative in Swindon), Mr. A. Johnson (League Chairman), and Mr. E. W. Spackman (League Secretary).

Six members of The Bell and Shoulder of Mutton team were in the team which, in 1939, participated in the North Wiltshire Brewery Cup challenge competition. They have now been challenged by the winners of the Cirencester League.

Scores: W. Tyrrell and D. Webb (Bell and Shoulder of Mutton) 501, Metcalfe and Silvester (Ship) 483, J. Bramble and A. Woodward 469, Bachelor and Gibbs 501; W. Cherry (Capt.) and B. Hedges 501, Windebank and Hayle 493; S. Fry and F. Keefe 501, Thomas and Pederick 426; R. Lockett and T. Pratt 501, Skinner and Edgington (Capt.) 389.

(Reprinted from the SWINDON EVENING ADVERTISER.)

WOKING.

The Woking Branch "Hop Leaf" Darts Team commenced its winter activities on October 29th, when the Woking British Legion Club acted as hosts. The games resulted in the branch team losing by three games to two, after some very keen matches, during which Driver V. Cooper scored the very respectable total of 121 with three darts. Each member of the team is now trying to beat this score, and, if possible, register the elusive "180."

The evening was made very enjoyable by the playing of a piano accordion by a laddie who, totally blind, showed exceptional skill, and the excellent music was a triumph over his sad affliction.

The next outing was on Guy Fawkes Night (!), when the team visited the Send Ex-Service Men's Club, and it was perhaps appropriate to the occasion that once again our colours were lowered to the extent of losing 6 games to 3. Friends of the team have said that the salvo of explosives which small boys in the neighbourhood chose to let off soon after their arrival may have had something to do with the result. A "Battle Inoculation" which could have been well done without. Nevertheless, the games were once again very keenly contested, and enthusiasm ran high throughout the evening, which was wound up with a musical "free for all."

It is a pity that, with the restrictions of travel, it is not possible to accept all the invitations we have received to visit various Clubs and our Tied Houses, and we are having to restrict games to those places within easy reach, but we hope that by this time next year the "basic" will be back with us, and a wider field of travel will be open.

An interesting ceremony took place at the Woking Working Men's Club on Friday, 31st October, in the presence of Mr. H. S. Bennett (President), Messrs. W. Buckmaster and J. Flitter (Trustees) and a representative gathering of committee and members. The occasion was the presentation of a leather brief case to Mr. A. Waller, who had carried out the duties of Hon. Treasurer to the Club for the past nine years.

Tributes to Mr. Waller's very able efforts were paid by the Secretary (Mr. A. Bailey) and Mr. Bennett, in making the presentation, spoke in glowing terms, not only of Mr. Waller's work as Treasurer, but also of his ability, from a business man's point of view, as manager of the Woking Branch of Barclays Bank.

Mr. Waller thanked everyone associated with the Club for the very useful present. He said that he was now moving to Chelmsford, but he would not forget the very happy years he had spent in Woking and, most of all, the friends he had made at the Woking Working Men's Club.

Although the interval of three months between issues of the GAZETTE makes some news items of rather belated interest, the Christmastide Carol Service, conducted at the "Red Lion," Lightwater, is worth recording.

With a crate of beer as a "pulpit," the Rev. D. P. Davies, Vicar of Lightwater, conducted a very successful Carol Service from behind the bar on Christmas Eve. The invitation to hold the service came from our tenant, Mr. C. W. Rixon, and Mr. Davies accepted it without hesitation. With him came the men of the Church choir, and for sopranos there were nurses from the Clear Springs Children's Home.

The service was held between 8 and 9 p.m., and the bars were crowded with both "regulars" and those who had called in for the occasion, and they joined the choir in the singing with rousing goodwill.

The success of this unusual occasion will no doubt serve to inspire similar services at other Christmasses.

ROYAL MILITARY POLICE DEPOT AND TRAINING
ESTABLISHMENT.

VISIT OF ADJUTANT-GENERAL TO THE FORCES.

On 11th February, General Sir James S. Steele, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., Adjutant-General to the Forces, visited the Royal Military Police Depot at Inkerman Barracks, Woking. He was met by two outriders outside the town, and escorted to the main gate where he was received by General I. D. Erskine, C.B.E., D.S.O., Provost Marshal, and Major-General V. Blomfield, C.B., D.S.O., Director of Personal Services, War Office, and taken to the barracks square, where recruits under training, Special Investigation Branch Trainees (equivalent to C.I.D.) and personnel awaiting draft overseas were drawn up for his inspection under the Commandant of the Depot, Lieut.-Col. A. R. Forbes, K.O.Y.L.I.

In the course of his inspection, he saw recruits undergoing training in some of the many duties which are part of the daily life of the Provost Service.

He also visited the W.O.'s and Sergeants' Mess, where he was introduced to all Warrant Officers and Sergeants in the Depot.

Lunch in the Officers' Mess followed, and the General was interested to meet one of the Depot Officers who had been his escort in France when a Corporal of the Military Police. After lunch the General visited the Motor Cycle Training Area, where he saw recruits being taught cross-country riding.

VISIT OF COLONEL COMMANDANT.

The following day the Depot was inspected for the first time by the Corps first Colonel Commandant, General Sir Miles Dempsey, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., who was accompanied by the Provost Marshal.

A representative parade (including a squad of A.T.S. Provost Company) was inspected, and a tour of the Depot included a visit to the W.O.'s and Sergeants' Mess, where the Colonel Commandant met Regimental Sergeant-Major P. J. Sedgwick and all members of the Mess, and afterwards posed with Mess members for a photograph.

After lunch, in the Officers' Mess, a meeting was held to discuss the type and site of the proposed War Memorial to the members of the Corps who fell during the 1939-45 War. £1,000 has been subscribed by all ranks of the Corps to build this Memorial.

General Dempsey then met Mr. R. L. Belben, an ex-member of the Corps, who is Secretary of the R.M.P. Central Benevolent Fund and Old Comrades' Association. The benevolent fund was started during the war, and has already done magnificent work in helping members and ex-members of the Corps who have suffered hard times.

These two occasions gave the R.M.P. opportunities of displaying their unrivalled smartness on parade, and we take no small pride in having a Director of this Company associated in such a tangible way with a Corps which has such proud records.

The "Hop Leaf" darts team continues to flourish, and they have enjoyed very many pleasant evenings in friendly competition with many friends in the district. Unfortunately it has not been possible to accept all the kind invitations received, but it is hoped that next season it will be possible to meet those clubs, etc., whom we have been unable to include in this year's programme. We take the opportunity afforded through the medium of these pages to thank all those who have provided us with such pleasant entertainment during the past winter season.

STAINES.

The Staines "Hop Leaf" Darts League has caused much interest in the district, and has also resulted in very keen competition among the various Clubs.

Section "A" has been won by the Catherine Wheel, Egham, as shewn by the following table to date:—

	Played	Points
Catherine Wheel, Egham	16	40
Robin Hood, Thorpe Lea	16	37
Beehive, Egham	16	26
White Lion, Egham	15	25
Victoria, Egham	16	25
Foresters' Arms, Egham	16	22
Carpenters' Arms, Chertsey "B"	15	19
Prince of Wales, Englefield Green	16	14
Carpenters' Arms, Chertsey, "A"	16	6

In Section "B" the position is very open, and the winners will not be known until the last games are played. The positions to date are:—

	Played	Points
Wheatsheaf, Stanwell	17	32
Beehive, Staines	17	31
Three Tuns, Staines, "A"	18	30
Feathers, Laleham	19	30
Phoenix, Staines	17	28
Rising Sun, Stanwell	17	27
Simonds, Staines Branch	17	26
Railway Arms, Wraysbury	17	23
Swan, Staines Moor	17	22
Three Tuns, Staines, "B"	17	19
Garibaldi, Staines	17	17

The winners of each Section will play off the final to decide the Championship.

We offer our heartiest congratulations to Mr. J. Wicks on his marriage to Miss K. Jayne. Both these employees are engaged in our Bottling Department, and we wish them every happiness in the years to come.

The party that journeyed to Reading from Staines for the Annual Ball thoroughly enjoyed their evening. They were more than pleased to be able to meet old friends at Reading, and also from other branches.

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