

THE A. T. FORERUNNER.

"NOT GREATER WEALTH, BUT SIMPLER PLEASURES."

No. 16

JANUARY, 1912.

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All Communications should be addressed not later than the 25th of each month to

The Editor,

"Burnbrae," The Avenue.

Winter in the country! The town dweller will tell us that the country is very nice in summer but in the winter, when to use the words of an old writer "nature lies despoiled of every charm," well, he would rather not. But let us both examine the matter fairly, and see if nature is so lacking in the winter. In the first place the winter has to be passed somewhere, and the majority of us cannot dodge it by going to the Riviera and returning with the swallows, so perforce have to spend it near to our place of business. Typically winter is the time of snow and skating, but the long spell of these seem to have gone out of fashion with the stage-coach, the Clerk of the Weather apparently thinking we cannot stand much of this sort of thing in these degenerate days. Anyhow, during the brief reigns of King Frost, the great white expanse of upland and meadow is as pleasant to the eye as the snow on the roofs in the town which quickly changes its colour and eventually slides off on to the dustbin lid.

But winter is chiefly dull and rainy, and the dweller in an ordinary street of an ordinary town has the worst of it from many points of view. Certain aspects of Nature are visible to a country dweller at this time of the year that are not visible in the summer. The leaves that have to a certain extent hidden the formation of the trees, have put on their autumn tints and finally disappeared leaving the delicate tracery of bough and twig outlined against the sky. The hard storm-defying angles of the oak, the beautiful curves of the ash, the large and powerful looking elm, and the supple willow are quite as picturesque as a long ridge of roof, interspersed with chimney pots. And although the birds are not so numerous as in the summer, the kinds that do not migrate seem tamer than at other parts of the year, and allow us to see more of their beautiful shapes and colours. Then on clear days the sun-rises and sun-sets are worth seeing, especially the sun-rises, for Old Sol is more considerate now and does not get up at an unreasonable hour, when only the very earliest birds are stirring.

And what of the nights? When the sky is clear, we get a very expansive view of the stars, not a narrow strip the width of a street, and the sky is worth look-

ing at on such a night. But how about the dull weather? Well it is common to the whole of the land, and the country looks as wholesome as the town even at the dullest time. The drops of Scotch mist that drip from tree and hedgerow are clear, and compare favourably with the sooty fog of a town street. But it is so dull in the country they say. Is it? Nature is never dull to her lovers, and this is the whole secret. The townsman has been so long shut away from her that he has forgotten how to read her book: it is unintelligible to him. Yes, winter is better in the country for the beauty of the best and the bracingness of the worst weather make life worth living.

We offer our sincere congratulations to the Committee and members of the Supply Association on the success that has attended their efforts in the first quarter's trading. Although the most sanguine of its members were convinced that it would be possible to establish a Society that would pay its way from the very commencement yet none could have anticipated such a satisfactory balance of profit for disposal. And now we would suggest to members that care be taken not to pay away in dividends too large a proportion of this profit, but that their aim be to make the foundation of the Society secure by a good reserve fund. Again, they should not overlook their obligations to the Estate Council, which has provided business premises splendidly fitted up for their special requirements. We think they ought to consider themselves in the same position as the ordinary tenant, who, by the rules, is expected to invest regularly, or as circumstances permit, in the General Society until the amount reaches the value of the house he occupies.

We also venture to urge upon the Committee and Manager a forward movement. The past quarter's trading shows that they are upon the right lines; then by all means let them press forward, increasing their scope of usefulness and their sphere of influence. The advantage of co-operation in distribution, should be brought more fully before the residents of the old portion of the village, thus trying to bestow upon them the benefits that they, the present members seem likely to receive. From the financial standpoint there should be no difficulty for it is quite evident from the balance sheet that the worthy secretary has had no cause for anxiety as to the payment of accounts when due, and we have no doubt members generally will realize what thousands of others have done, that there are nothing safer or more remunerative (and yet so easily realised if required) than investments in ordinary distributive societies.

News from New Zealand.

BY AN OLD TENANT.

May I be permitted through the columns of the "Forerunner," for I feel sure that this paper is still being circulated on the Estate, to wish each and every one a most happy and prosperous new year. I suppose by the time this is seen by the Tenants it will be almost be too late to wish each a Merry 'Xmas, and if it should be, I sincerely hope everyone will have had a most happy time. Whilst they are enjoying themselves around the 'Xmas fires I shall no doubt be having my "Duck and green peas" out camping somewhere in the open country, for it will be the mid-summer holidays, when most of the workshops close for about a fortnight. A large number of people in New Zealand spend their holidays in camps.

When walking around the suburbs of Auckland my thoughts are sure to wander back to the Garden Suburb I have left, and the other Garden Cities in England, for the suburbs are laid out on quite garden city lines. They are good wide streets with houses all standing back, each one in its own grounds, and with a nice frontage, most of them of 50 feet and about 120 to 150 feet in depth. The sections are sold at so much per foot frontage, (the plots of land here are called sections). Close to where I am living it is worth £3 per foot; a little further out one may buy as low as 30/-. The land speculators are making a good thing out of it in N. Z. towns. On the dominion road which is the main road of the district, the land is worth, or at least it fetches £10 per foot, and in the busy parts of the city land might make up to £200 per foot. The houses here are of wood and built all on one floor, and set in their own grounds with verandas along the front, they look very nice and much prettier than the ordinary brick buildings at home. Of course the chief reason why the houses here are built detached I suppose, is the fear of fire, and this keeps the town very open and much healthier than would be the case if built close together. Although there is no depth of soil here, Auckland being composed of volcanic rock, one sees some very nice flowers in the gardens of the houses and parks. Cinerarias grow very fine out in the open; flowering shrubs do well here; and many plants are grown in the open that can only be grown in glasshouses in England. I am very pleased to be able to say that I am in better health than when I left Humberstone nearly six months ago. In conclusion I again wish all connected with the Estate a Merry 'Xmas and a Prosperous New and the efforts of all those who are trying to make life pleasanter for their fellow workers, the success they deserve.

T. A. SMITH.

CHURCH OF CHRIST.—On Saturday, December 30th, the Scholar's Annual Tea and Prize Distribution was held, when a happy company of children sat down to tea at 4.30. In the evening some 25 books and bibles were distributed.

REPORTS.

MONTHLY MEETING.

The weather was probably responsible for the small attendance at the monthly meeting on January 18th. Mr. Groome presided and Mr. Wilford gave the monthly report, stating that satisfactory replies had been received to the appeal for capital, and work on new part of Estate would commence as soon the weather permitted, and that Mr. Albert Hern had been appointed permanent manager. He also appealed for more regular contribution to share capital from the Tenants; which would enable the Public Works Loan Board loan to be paid off without any difficulty, and make the Estate the actual property of the Tenants. Nominations for Committee must be in at the office by February 10th, there are five required, Messrs. Taylor, Hibbett, Mann and Beamish retiring, and the vacancy caused by Mr. A. T. Smith leaving for New Zealand. Messrs. J. Rowlett and Beamish were appointed to attend a District Conference at Aylestone Park on "Co-operative Small Holdings." Questions were asked re plans of houses for new development, and also about seeds, it being announced that the Supply Association had taken the seed business in hand, and they would be obtained through the store.

ESTATE COUNCIL'S CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES.

On Wednesday December 27th, the Children's 'Xmas Festival was held. They enjoyed a substantial tea and afterwards, the room having been cleared, they indulged in various 'Xmas Games, the fun being fast and furious. Then a real Santa Claus put in an appearance and he commenced to give each child a gift off the very large tree that had been provided, and which was loaded with some very useful and beautiful presents. Then came more fun, for when orange and lemon was played some of the adults joined in, and much merriment was caused. So the time went joyously on until 10 o'clock, when the youngsters trooped off home after one of the finest holidays they have ever had.

Thursday December 28th, was the Council's "At Home" for the parents and adults, and long before the time stated groups of them were there anticipating a few happy hours and they were not disappointed soon the party was in full swing, and then came the turn of the evening, when the Cornstalks, about whom all had heard yet had not seen arrived, and what a reception they had to be sure. Roars of laughter greeted them as they paraded round the Hall, and when Lady Godiva rode in on her beautiful charger, she received such an ovation which might have frightened the steed had it not been well trained. The band had been well rehearsed and the music went with a swing. The duet brought poor Godiva to tears and such tears too, and then the Emperor's speech, which was quite a masterpiece, proved a fine ending for a holiday k-night. Then the Cornstalks warbled their famous parody which concluded their performance.

After this friends partook of refreshments, followed by more singing and reciting, when all too soon the clock struck eleven and Auld Lang Syne was heartily sung by all.

Please note that lady Godiva Cornstalk wishes to thank all who contributed to her very "tasty" bouquet.

On Friday December 29th, we had another rare treat, Mr. J. T. Hardy having kindly offered to give a night's elocution. He did splendidly and deserved all the applause he got. His little anecdotes were also very good.

Mention must also be made of the soloists on that night, Mr. A. Keywood and Mr. Harvey both sang well.

THE PEOPLE'S SERVICE.

This meeting is more than fulfilling the expectations we had when it was started.

The meeting on Sunday December 24th, was devoted mostly to music, and Christmas carols being chosen for the hymns, and musical items, recitations, and a suitable reading took up the rest of the evening. We are indebted to friends from the town for some excellent addresses.

Optimist.

Humberstone and District Supply Association Limited.

REGISTERED NO. 5354.

FIRST QUARTERLY BALANCE SHEET.

To The Members,

December 31st. 1911.

In presenting the first Report and Balance Sheet the Committee desire to congratulate the members upon its satisfactory character.

The accounts as now presented cover the period commencing with September 30th. and ending December 31st, but as our Store was not opened until October 14th, it really comprises a trading period of but eleven weeks.

The business done in that period, and the profit realised, cannot, we think, be considered otherwise than as highly satisfactory, and affording abundant hope and encouragement for the future success of the Society.

The Committee desire to express their appreciation of the services rendered by the Manager Mr. Minns, whose experience and loyal service have done much to make possible the success of their efforts.

For the future we again appeal for the loyalty of our members and give a hearty invitation to all, who as yet have not joined our number, to do so.

CASH ACCOUNT.

RECEIPTS.				£	s.	d.	PAYMENTS.				£	s.	d.
To Cash from Social Service Committee	...	...	...	34	5	4	By Goods	...	...	...	275	11	8
„ Social, October 5th.	...	...	...	0	9	5½	„ Expenses of Social	...	...	...	0	6	2½
„ Store Receipts	...	...	...	356	9	10	„ Small Savings Repaid	...	...	...	30	7	10½
„ Various Receipts	...	...	...	14	3	2	„ Loan to Estate Council	...	...	...	11	0	0
„ Subscriptions to Share Capital	...	...	...	94	3	6	„ A. T. Forerunner Account	...	...	...	3	10	0
„ Entrance Fees	...	...	...	1	17	6	„ Wages and Expenses	...	...	...	47	12	6½
„ Small Savings Fund	...	...	...	10	1	9	„ Bank Deposits	...	...	...	384	13	3
„ Bank Withdrawals	...	...	...	265	15	3	„ Cash in Hand	...	...	...	24	4	3
				£777	5	9½					777	5	9½

TRADING,—PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

RECEIPTS.				£	s.	d.	PAYMENTS.				£	s.	d.
To Sales	...	...	...	382	4	6	By Stocks September 30th.	...	...	...	24	14	0
„ Stocks	...	...	...	174	14	0	„ Goods	...	...	...	447	2	0
„ Entrance Fees	...	...	...	1	17	6	„ Wages	...	...	...	24	11	7½
				£558	16	0	„ Expenses	...	...	...	13	16	6½
							„ Balance Profit	...	...	...	48	11	10
											£558	16	0

PRELIMINARY EXPENSES ACCOUNT.

				£	s.	d.					£	s.	d.
Charged to Reserve Fund	...	...	...	10	6	11	Advertising	...	...	...	0	12	3
							Travelling Expenses	...	...	...	1	3	8
							Rules, Pass Books, etc.	...	...	...	7	11	0
							Registration Fee	...	...	...	1	0	0
				£10	6	11					£10	6	11

RESERVE FUND.

				£	s.	d.					£	s.	d.
Balance handed over by Social Service Committee	...	...	...	50	0	0	Preliminary Expenses Account	...	...	...	10	6	11
							Balance	...	...	...	39	13	1
				£50	0	0					£50	0	0

FIXED STOCK AND PLANT ACCOUNT.

				£	s.	d.					£	s.	d.
Handed over by Social Service Committee	...	...	...	24	14	9	Depreciation 10% per annum.	...	...	...	0	14	5
Additions	...	...	...	4	3	0	Nominal Value	...	...	...	28	3	4
				£28	17	9					£28	17	9

BALANCE SHEET.

LIABILITIES.				£	s.	d.	ASSETS.				£	s.	d.
Share Capital	...	...	...	94	3	6	Stocks, January 1st. 1912.	...	...	...	174	14	0
Accounts owing	...	...	...	178	10	10	Fixed Stock Account	...	...	...	28	3	4
Savings Fund	...	...	...	9	14	4	Accounts owing	...	...	...	24	14	0
Reserve Fund	...	...	...	39	13	1	Bank Balance	...	...	...	118	18	0
				322	1	9	Cash in hand	...	...	...	24	4	3
Balance Profit	...	...	...	48	11	10							
				£370	13	7					£370	13	7

The QUARTERLY MEETING will be held on FRIDAY, JANUARY 26th, in the Assembly Room at 8-15 prompt.

(MEMBERS ONLY ADMITTED.)

BUSINESS :—Minutes. Report and Balance Sheet. Committee's Recommendation re disposal of Profits. Nominations and Election of 12 members of Committee and 2 Auditors. General Business

TAKE NOTICE :—Dividends will be paid at the Store, Saturday, February 10th, 3 to 5 p m.

Gardening Notes.

Seed catalogues for the coming season should have a careful perusal and orders made out early so that no disappointments may arise through stocks being sold out. Also advantage should be taken of any favourable opportunity to get on the garden. Those who wish to plant Eschallots may do so as soon as the soil is in workable condition, and then there is the onion bed to prepare. This will repay for deep culture, working plenty of good rotten manure into the subsoil and a good dressing of soot into the top spit. The pruning of gooseberry, and currant trees should be taken in hand at once; to be followed by plums, then pears and apples, leaving those planted this season till the end of March. Do not prune roses till Easter. Anyone not familiar with the art of pruning should ask a friend to give them a lesson or two and they will find it a very interesting hobby.

Seed potatoes should be set up in boxes to sprout, with their crowns upward. The potatoes I should recommend for this purpose are those of a fair size and shape with a good bold crown.

Cold frames should have their lights removed on fine days taking care to replace them at night. T.R.

GENTLE WORDS.

The sun may warm the grass to life,
The dew the drooping flower
And eyes grow bright and watch the light
Of Autumn's opening hour,
But words that breathe of tenderness,
And smiles we know are true,
Are warmer than the summer time,
And brighter than the dew.

It is not much the world can give,
With all its subtle art,
And gold and gems are not the things
To satisfy the heart:
But oh, if those who cluster round
The altar and the hearth,
Have gentle words and loving smiles,
How beautiful is Earth.

Selected.

SATURDAY EVENING

ENTERTAINMENTS,

in the Assembly Room.

February 3rd.	...	...	Mr. Grant and Party.
" 10th.	...	...	Mr. Spencer and Party.
" 17th.	...	...	Mr. Aston and Party.
" 24th.	...	...	Mr. Riley and Party.

Letters to the Editor.

CORRESPONDENCE INVITED.

Letters to the Editor need not be signed. Writer's name and address, on a separate slip, must accompany letters, but will not be published unless required. Will correspondents and others please write on one side of the paper only.

69 Halstead Street, Leicester.

Mr. Editor,—May I through the medium of the Forerunner express in some small way my thanks for the many kindnesses shown to myself and boy by so many friends on the Estate since Mr. Smith left me to make a new home for us in New Zealand. Just now on the eve of my departure, I feel that I must acknowledge the kind ways in which all have tried to make me feel that I still belonged to them. I have visited many friends personally at their homes and have also felt that I have been welcomed at the Estate Social Gatherings upon all occasions. How much this has done to lighten my loneliness and to make the time pass pleasantly for me, no one can appreciate but myself. As the time draws near for my departure, I feel I cannot let it pass without thanking all, and shall carry grateful memories away with me that will live and renew friendships in my heart for all, though seas divide us. May it be my lot and my happiness in the future to pass along the spirit of good fellowship to some others in the course of years to come that it has been my lot to receive from you. The best is yet to come it is said. I feel that the best of the Estate life in social goodwill has grown rapidly during the last few months and no better wish can I leave you than that this spirit shall be maintained and continue to grow in an ever widening circle as the years pass on, fostered as it is by so many earnest men and women amongst you. I feel this wish will be fulfilled and from time to time I may continue to hear of your many happy and social events, that my thoughts may ever be with you in your gatherings though I hear of them many weeks after they have taken place.

(Mrs.) A. E. SMITH.

Humberstone and District

Supply Association.

DON'T FORGET!

We are arranging to supply seeds and all garden requisites.

ALSO NOTE!

Our Spring samples for clothing and costumes are now at hand.