

THE A. T. FORERUNNER.

"NOT GREATER WEALTH, BUT SIMPLER PLEASURES."

No. 18

MARCH, 1912.

The "A. T. Forerunner" is published monthly.

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

The Editor,
"Burnbrae," The Avenue.

The subject of our illustration for this month is well known personally to all our readers. Yet we cannot let pass the appointment of our fellow-resident without a few words of appreciation.

Mr. Mann has recently been appointed to the most important position of Organizing Secretary to the Labour Co-partnership Association. This we take to be, not only a great honour, but also a call to a larger sphere of usefulness and influence, for which our friend is so admirably qualified, both by his wide knowledge of our movement, and his general acceptance and fitness as a public advocate of our cause.

Mr. Mann's connection with Labour Co-partnerships dates as far back as the year 1892, when in November of that year a small committee was formed to consider the advisability of commencing a Co-partnership Society for the manufacture of Children's Boots and Shoes. In January 1895 Mr. Mann was appointed President of this Society, a position which he has held ever since.

Our friend's special ability soon made itself felt in the movement generally, and before long his services were called into request as a platform advocate and in many other ways. For a short time he served as a member of the Committee of the Leicester Distributive Society, but retired upon being elected a member of the Town Council, upon which body he sat for a period of twelve years, representing conscientiously and with conspicuous ability democratic principles at a time when there were fewer representatives of this character upon our public bodies; and when the recognition so freely given at this time to representatives of the working classes was not so fully bestowed.

But the work which has been nearest to his heart and has won our appreciation and admiration, is that which has been especially devoted to the propagation

of Co-partnership principles and ideals.

Appointed Treasurer of the Production Federation on the death of Mr. T. Newell, a new field seemed to be opened to his special fitness for this work. From that time to the present, no man has been more in request, no man more acceptable to fill the vacancies caused on the public platform by the loss of such men as Neale, Holyoake and Blandford and the increasing years of E. O. Greening and others. The summit of a laudable ambition may be said to have been reached when he was appointed to the Presidency of the Labour Co-partnership Association, following such

men as Earl Grey, Lord Brassey, A. J. Balfour, Sir George Livsey and many other notable men in every sphere of life. A tribute to his power of reasoning was paid at that memorable meeting at the Church House, Westminster, when following Sir Christopher Furness and others, Mr. A. J. Balfour paid him the compliment of saying, that the best informed speech of the meeting was that of his friend from Leicester, Mr. Amos Mann.

President of the Leicester Distributive Society, as well as the Anchor Boot & Shoe Productive Society; Treasurer of the Productive Federation; Candidate for the Midland Sectional Board of the Co-operative Union, etc., Mr. Mann is leading a busy and useful life. We sincerely offer him our congratulations upon

his new appointment, and trust that his health may be spared to carry on his great work with that measure of success which we feel his special fitness for this most essential work commands.

Although this appointment may interfere with local work we feel that we are not losing his services, but committing them to the larger sphere of the whole movement. Co-partnership has never been more of a national question than at the present time, when there is talk of a Royal Commission to enquire into it; and its importance recognised to such a degree as to warrant an amendment to the King's address.

We feel sure that in its national aspect it will gain considerably from having secured the entire services of our friend Mr. Amos Mann.

Men are born serviceable to one another therefore either reform the world or bear with it.

MARCUS AURELIUS.



Is it Worth the While ?

How often one over-hears the above remark when the question of the appointment of a delegate to a conference comes before a meeting of members.

Surely the proper time to raise such a query is when the members are discussing the desirability of becoming affiliated to a central organization, because however much we may differ in opinion about the wisdom of connecting ourselves with a large number of societies whose aims and objects are similar, if the majority of the members agree to such an arrangement, it must of necessity, carry with it an obligation not only to subscribe to its funds but also to take a responsibility in moulding and giving effect to the policy such an organization should pursue in the interest of the whole. Our aim should not be to grumble at the little expense incurred in sending delegates to conferences, but rather adopt some method by which our society may train individuals to not only attend conferences with advantage to all, but if the occasion arises to fill the responsible position of seeing that the policy of the whole is carried out in the wisest and best manner, so that the ideals of the pioneers may be more and more realized.

The course generally followed in selecting delegates, is by members of committees taking it in turn as required, or members in meeting assembled, electing one or more of their number. It is therefore apparent that in either cases delegates may be appointed to attend some conferences of importance who have not the ability to voice either their own or their societies' opinions upon questions that may be laid before them. Again it does not give that continuity that is necessary if one wishes to take the responsibility of directing any policy for the good of the movement. Now while I do not suggest doing away with the democratic method of electing delegates, some of us must realize that we are only useful, yet essential, as hewers of wood and drawers of water, and have not the ability necessary to be the architects and designers who shall so arrange the various parts of the edifice that when completed it shall present a harmonious whole. My suggestion then is that we try to set aside certain members who are willing, and whom we believe to have the ability and character required in order that they make it their special study to become thoroughly familiar with some phases of the movement, if not all. Allot these to the various spheres of activity, viz: Co-operative Union, Productive Federation, Tenants' Co-partnership and Labour Co-partnership Associations, giving them the opportunity to attend all conferences in connection with these Associations, and when the occasion arises let us nominate them for a position on these same bodies (one of our members is already nominated for the Central Board) thus trying to secure that some of those at the helm of affairs shall have by experience, a clearer vision and broader outlook, which shall be

used for organizing the production of wealth so that those coming after us may have greater opportunities for enjoying the best of this life.

Our Birds.

One of the delights of living on our beautiful Estate is to notice with interest the pretty and varied bird life that is around us. I often wonder how many of our children could name the birds they see, as they pass to and fro from school. I thought it might be interesting to name the birds I have observed during my two year's residence. I will first give the names of the birds seen in our gardens, and what a pleasure it is to stand at the window and watch them as they hunt about for their daily food. I might state that there is no bird but what it is useful to us as gardeners so let us encourage them to visit us, for if they do have a little fruit in the season they are only taking toll for what they have helped to produce for it were not for the birds visiting the gardens and making short work of the many kinds of insects which they find, we should soon be bewailing our bad crops. The birds I have noticed in my garden are the House-Sparrow, Hedge-Sparrow, Robin, Starling, Thrush, Blackbird, Pied Wagtail, Yellow Hammer, Blue Tit, Jenny Wren, Chaffinch, Green Linnet. Then when taking a walk around the Estate, in addition to the above you may find the Crow, Plover, Jaybird, Woodpigeon, Magpie, Green Woodpecker, Missle Thrush, Field-fure, Brown Linnet, Bullfinch, Skylark, Redwing, Treecreeper, Peggy White Throat, Hawk, Owl, Cuckoo, Swallow, and last, but not least in interest, I have heard but not seen, the Nightingale. BIRDIE.

REPORTS.

ESTATE COUNCIL.

On February 24th. Mr. Riley and Party provided us with a treat, it was a real good Concert all through, every item being good.

On March 2nd. Mr. Len Weston and Party gave the Concert which was much different to the general run, for in addition to the singing and Pianoforte, we had the hand bells delightfully played by Mr. L. Weston and Son. Then the Two Jays amused us greatly with their droll sayings and cross talking, whilst Professor Marzon wriggled out of the Hand-cuffs in a manner that was amazing. The Sketch Party are also to be complimented.

Following on the suggestion made by a correspondent in the February A.T.F., the Council have decided to hold a Festival of Flowers, Fruit and Vegetables, open to all residents, the date of which will be announced later.

We should like to make this a Gala Day, and would urge all residents to take interest in it and make up their minds that the Assembly Hall on this day shall be a sight to behold.

It is not intended to make this a flower show, with its numerous Classes and Prizes, but the Council are prepared to offer Certificates of Merit for the best displays. They are to be well got up in design and colour and will make, we hope, a very good picture. They also offer a prize for the Best Kept Garden (back and front) on the same date, cleanliness, order and general upkeep to be considered, the Council to act as judges. Look out for the date.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.

A meeting of the Parish Council was held in the village schoolroom on Monday March 4th, Mr. W. G. Turner presiding. The Clerk reported that the gate to the church field and the fence to allotments had been erected. Several cheques for lighting and current expenses were passed. Messrs. S. W. Fox and A. Rouse were re-elected overseers, and half a dozen names selected to be submitted to the magistrates from whom to choose parish constables for the ensuing year. It was decided to continue the lighting until April 13th.

CRICKET CLUB.

A well attended and enthusiastic meeting of the above was held Wednesday, March 6th, at which much important business was transacted.

We have arranged a full season of Fixtures, only two of which are away from home, so that we hope to be able to provide some enjoyable Saturday afternoons for our fellow-residents, any one of whom is invited to become an Honorary member, subscription for which is 2/6 per annum.

We have also arranged for Mr. Alderman Flint to perform the opening ceremony of the new Cricket Ground on Saturday Afternoon, April 27th.

The Officers of the Club for this season are as follows:

President: Mr. S. BEAMISH.

Vice-Presidents:

Mr. J. Taylor, Mr. Chas. Bennion, Mr. J. S. Paine, Mr. Peter Allison, Mr. Paul C. Hanisch and Mr. Keywood.

Treasurer and Captain: Mr. C. H. GOODENOUGH.

Vice-Captain: Mr. C. W. PURDY.

Umpire: Mr. DUFFIN.

Kit Steward: Mr. E. PEBERDY.

Committee: Messrs. G. Ward, C. W. Purdy, J. A. Smith, H. Bowerman, and A. Wilford.

Secretary: Mr. H. FOLWELL.

The true shape of the Earth.

On March 14th. Mr. Karl Smith obliged us with a lecture in the Assembly Hall on the above subject. As is generally known Mr. Smith is an advocate of the Flat Earth theory, and the company present undoubtedly enjoyed the visit. In the course of his address which lasted for nearly an hour, the lecturer endeavoured to shew that the globular theory of the scien-

tists was an impossible one from a common-sense standpoint, was against natural laws and had been upset by simple experiments. Questions and discussion followed until 10-30, and great interest was shewn in the subject. A vote of thanks was passed.

Items of Interest.

Whereas Certain persons (otherwise K'nuts) did recently by their Kernel challenge that peaceful and law-abiding body of warblers, the Cornstalks, to engage in deadly combat on the football field, and all subsequent warnings to the K'nuts not to thus commit suicide having proved unavailing

Be it Known that the aforesaid Cornstalks, having the defence of their honour thus thrust upon them, will be pleased to enter the lists against the K'nuts, Easter Monday, at 11 a.m. and wage battle under Rugciation Rules, scratch-as-scratch-can.

Furthermore The Cornstalks request that all loyal Garden Citizens shall be present to witness the grim struggle and that they shall duly provide abundant supplies of splints, cotton wool, bandages, sticking plaster, and seccotine, for the benefit of such K'nuts as are not beyond repair after the fray.

And in that grim hour when the dead and wounded K'nuts are being removed from the gory scene—what time the Cornstalks are being disinfected—let it be remembered of the victors that the combat was not of their seeking.

Witness my hand this 9th day of March, 1912.

(Signed) THE ADJUTANT.

From the Chamberlain's accounts for the Borough of Leicester, 1611. "Item—The 24th daie of februarie paide for a pottel of wine given to Mr. Warner vickar of Humberstone who that daie preached at Leicester, X X D."

A pottel is a measure containing four pints, and probably the preaching had been at St. Martin's Church.

One wonders whether the wine was as good as the sermon, and whether the four pints were all in the "pottel" when the reverend gentleman reached Humberstone.

The Cornstalks are disporting themselves, Saturday March 30th,—and are undertaking out of the proceeds of the evening to provide Curtains for the platform in Assembly Room. Tickets price 3d. each are now on sale, and as the accommodation is limited, ticket holders will have preference for admission. See announcement in case.

Gardening Notes.

At this season of the year it is quite a usual thing to see our ladies and children anxious to help in the floral decoration of the garden. I have often heard them say how they would like to have just a little plot all on their own, but of course father cannot spare it.

Now I think it would be very nice if fathers would encourage these little plots, and if necessary, give advice as to the laying out of same.

When your committee asked me to have a little chat on this subject I was quite pleased with the idea and promised to do my best. So I decided to give a brief description of three small beds which I think for an outlay of about 6d. would look very neat.

If one bed only is required, I would recommend the centre one which we will take first.

This I would make oblong in shape with rounded corners and raised a little higher in centre. Plant this with seeds of the deep Lilac dwarf Candy Tuft with a border of Virginia Stock all round the edge.

Then for the two outside beds I would form designs of half moons, placing them so as to appear like brackets to the centre bed. In these I would plant Lilly-put Nasturtiums or Nemesia, with a border of Mignonette. All these seedlings, with the exception of Virginia Stock, when nicely up should be thinned out to nine inches apart. T. R.

To the tough hearts that pioneer their way,
And break a pathway to those unknown realms,
That in the earth's broad shadow lie enthralled,
Endurance is the crowning quality,
And patience all the passion of great hearts.

—LOWELL.

We live in deeds, not years ; in thoughts, not breaths ;
In feelings, not in figures on a dial ;
We should count time by heart-throbs. He most lives
Who thinks most, feels most, and acts the best.

HUMBERSTONE AND DISTRICT SUPPLY ASSOCIATION, LIMITED.

Manager : Mr. R. Minns.

LEICESTER.

TRY OUR

Gent's Suits from 25/- upwards.

500 PATTERNS TO SELECT FROM.

TAKE NOTICE.—The next Member's Meeting will be held on Friday, March 29th, at 8-30 prompt.

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.

To the Editor,

Dear Sir,—Your correspondent Natipur starts his letter in last month's issue, by saying he does not want to introduce matter of a controversial nature, but straitway affirms that a certain recreation, largely favoured by a great number of our residents is a menace to the tone and future happiness of our Society.

This opinion is not likely to pass uncontraverted by others quite as concerned for the moral training of our young people as Natipur himself. He does not wish to condemn a natural desire for recreation for reasons stated, but by inference implies that Dancing does not conduce to harmless and healthy recreation.

Whats wrong with it? (or is it him). A morbid imagination which sees evil in an innocent recreation for which he himself has no desire and perhaps no real knowledge of and points the way for thoughts and suspicions which should not exist is not a possession to be envied. To the pure in heart, all things are pure. "Dancing a pastime which grows upon one and leads to waste of time." Does not Football, Cricket and numberless other things innocent in themselves do the same?

No right-minded man or woman condemns the game itself, but the ill-regulated, ill-balanced mind which places no check upon the abuse of its opportunities. That dancers generally deserve the stigma—that their company is not fit for our children we do not admit.

But we do not protest against an institution so actively promoting the good-fellowship existing in our community coming under his condemnation.

Yours faithfully, The Estate Council.

EDITOR'S NOTE.—We insert this letter in full as received but can take no responsibility for the unkindly expressions used. Had it come from a private individual we should have been compelled to reject a goodly portion of it.

To the Editor,

Sir,—Shall be glad if you can find room for my little "open letter."—Yours, etc., NOAH'S ARK.

"Poor Natipur! thou must have been well nigh overwhelmed by the torrent of criticism (?) that followed the publication of your letter in the last issue. Methinks I can see thee in splendid isolation and deep meditation, trying to fathom the oddities of human nature. Thou must be by now a wiser if not a sadder being, having learnt by bitter experience how on the one hand, it is difficult to swim against a swift flowing stream, and on the other, how easy it is to turn the little in which one moves upside down, by gently stroking it the wrong way. Shouldst thou desire any consolation, read Acts 19, v. 22-41, and thou wilt learn that thou hast not been the first to make this error.