

THE A. T. FORERUNNER.

"NOT GREATER WEALTH, BUT SIMPLER PLEASURES."

No. 7

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The Editor,

"St. Ive's," The Avenue.

It is, doubtless, a matter of satisfaction for all that we are enabled to continue to supply a journal of records, news, and general literature concerning our Estate. This result has been made possible by the Society itself stepping forward and supplying the necessary finances. Such a course naturally makes the journal the property of the Society, which was the aim of the promoters of the **A.T.F.** It has consequently, elected its own Board of control through its two committees, the G.C. and the S.S.C., which bodies have undertaken to bear the cost in two-thirds and a third respectively for the next six months.

Their representatives, Mr. A. H. Hibbett and Mr. J. Jays together with the original three, make up the new Board, and our greatest hope is that members will establish the paper as their own by stamping their individualities in it with contributions to its pages.

A. H. HIBBETT, Chairman.

J. JAYS.

J. T. TAYLOR.

W. MASON, Secretary.

E. W. HARRIS, Editor.

It is perhaps somewhat unusual to be reviewing a past year's work in an April issue, but as the Annual Meeting of our Society is not held until the end of March, for which, of course, a statement of accounts is specially prepared, this in our case is the best possible time for taking stock of what we have accomplished and what lies before us in the immediate future.

During the past year, as our accounts shew, we have raised a capital of £23,945. Nearly £8000 of this has been expended in real property, viz: the completion of twenty houses ready for tenancy, and ten houses in course of erection, development of roads, open spaces, etc. The repayments of our private mortgages and loans cover £16,000. Our capital account stands at £11,000 more than last year, the difference being made by bringing into our accounts the mortgage on our outstanding land.

For a comparison:—Our Share Capital has increased by £650; our Loan Stock by £1,100; our Loans by £1,300; our Mortgages by about £8,000. Our receipts from rents and rates have increased by £420 in the twelve months, the year's total amounting to the respectable sum of £786 10s. 9d.

Perhaps the best feature of our year's progress has been the consolidation of our finances, our obligations for the larger part of our capital being placed with a Government office, providing for a regular and steady diminution of our liability in this respect over a period of 40 years, and also the automatic provision of a Sinking Fund varying in degree with our responsibilities.

During the past year we have emerged from a purely local self-centred Society, into a Society affiliated to all the other Tenants' Societies in the country which are amalgamated together in the Federated Tenants, Ltd., of 6 Bloomsbury Square, London, under the chairmanship of our old co-partnership leader, Mr. Henry Vivian. There is no doubt that this has been largely to our advantage. (1) Financially—because of the ability shewn by their organizing Secretary, Mr. Litchfield, and the influence that has been brought to bear upon the Public and the Loans Commissioners by other well known prominent men in social and public life, associated with them on the Board of Management. (2) By the prominence which has been given to our work over a larger area than we could have possibly reached by our own local efforts. How far this has spread can be gauged from the fact that enquiries have reached our office from all parts of this country, Spain, Austria, Bohemia, Germany, and the South American States, for information as to our methods, etc.

Satisfactory as our progress has been, if this were all we do not think we should have accomplished much towards our ideal, if we could only review our progress in figures and bricks and mortar. Happily we can count to our progress that we have brought sixty families into well-built sanitary homes, surrounded by those health-giving properties that only nature can bestow, with all that increased health can render in the well-being, and prosperity of working class families.

We have also done something towards stimulating a good social life, where we may come into contact one with another on terms of perfect equality. The greatest among us being, not those who can contribute most in this world's goods, but those who give themselves in service for the welfare of all. May we not regard this as a religious work, that in our time and generation, we may do something to make more possible the living of a fruitful life, and bring into closer realisation the time when heaven and earth are synonymous terms. This will be when each of us realize the great possibilities that lie before us, and are willing to give ourselves unsparingly for the public good. This should then be our future aim, the organization of all our forces, that there may be no overlapping; no one idle who wishes for a sphere of useful work. Concentration of purpose, feeling that our work has only just begun, and that the same energy, self-denial, and thrift exercised in the beginnings, shall be still carried on that we may have an ever widening circle of FRIENDS living upon our estate.

The fact that our neighbours-to-be have already fixed upon a name for their estate has aroused some interest amongst us. There has also been a few comments as to whether it is appropriate or otherwise, but our desire here is not to discuss that question at all. It is to point out that our friends have realised the necessity for a name before a single resident is on their estate, whilst we with a matter of sixty houses already erected and an increasing population have allowed nearly four years to elapse without deciding upon a definite recognised address. Up to now many of us have simply direct our interested enquirers to the Humberstone Garden Suburb, but of course this is now insufficient as we are not the only Garden City in Humberstone, and we feel bound to consider it somewhat of a menace to our growing popularity. The question of a name for our estate is therefore forced upon us and cannot be shelved longer. We must give it our serious consideration and decide upon a name agreeable to the majority, which, besides giving us a distinct standing in a postal directory, will make our Garden Suburb immediately recognisable when appearing in different journals and reports up and down the country.

The Humber-Stone.

By PENDA.

"When the pterodactyl ambled, or fluttered, or swam, or jumped,
And the plesiosaurus rambled, all careless of what he bumped,
And the other old time monsters that thrived on land and sea,
And didn't know what their names were any more than to-day
do we."

—JOSH WINK.

What is the Humber-Stone? And where is it situated? Answering the last question first, this stone also known as the Holstone or Hellstone, is reached from the village by way of the lane leading to Barkby and Thurmaston. Climbing the hill and proceeding along the lane to where it divides, one part going over the fields to Barkby, and the other turning to the left for Thurmaston; take the Thurmaston turn and about fifty yards inside the first gate on the right hand side going down the hill is a large block of granite showing a surface of about 7 feet by 8: this is the Humber-Stone. The soil has been cleared from the sides, and the top is about level with the surrounding turf land. The question arises how did it get there? There is no granite nearer than the Charnwood Hills, visible on a clear day some seven or eight miles off across the Soar valley. Old time superstition attributed these things to Satanic agency, or perhaps a battle between giants, a stone like this being used as a missile in one of their fabulous encounters. But Science has come along with more accurate methods of investigation, the pundits of the Geological Society have measured it, and reckoning granite so many cubic feet to the ton, have estimated its weight at about twenty tons; have examined it and say that it is "a boulder of granite essentially composed of quartz,

orthoclase, plagioclase and biotite, which last is often weathered into chlorite and epidote," with much more to the same effect; and from its position have concluded that it was brought there by a glacier during the Ice Age.

From 80,000 to 240,000 years ago, this country was covered with ice, and sometime during that period, one of the glaciers in the course of its travels detached a piece of stone from the hills in the neighbourhood of Mountsorrel, slowly pushed and dragged it along across the valley until it reached this slope and then dropped its burden. The grinding to which it has been subjected is visible on the stone, for all the sharp granite edges are worn quite smooth and every corner and angle rounded off.

Man, Prehistoric, Briton, Roman, Saxon, Dane, and Norman, has traversed that valley and climbed these slopes in the hundred thousand or more brief years since this boulder was dropped into its resting place, and, during the more recent historical period, political and industrial revolutions and enclosure acts have changed the face of the land. Through all the commotion and upheaval, undisturbed by the latest invaders of the parish, it still keeps its place, a silent witness of the force of nature.

REPORTS.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual business meeting of the members of the Anchor Tenants Ltd., was held in the Institute on Thursday, March 16th. Mr. E. T. Groome presided over a large attendance. After the minutes were read and confirmed Mr. Beamish was called upon to deliver the monthly report. According to this, building operations had been pushed along rapidly during the month: the matter regarding the A.T.F. had been settled; the committee had also decided to advertise the Society in two of the local newspapers. It was also mentioned that, besides the purchase at a low figure of a lawn game, namely croquet, a set of bowls had been given to the Society, the donor of which wished to remain anonymous; acclamation greeted this item.

The report and balance sheet was next presented by the President, who expressed his pleasure in being able to declare it more than satisfactory. This was passed after the usual explanations.

The result of the voting for members of committee was next announced, the order was as follows: Mr. J. S. Wilford 85, Mr. E. T. Groome 63, Mr. J. Rowlett 57, Mr. A. Smith 53, Mr. E. Harrott 36, Mr. T. Neal 27. The four retiring members were therefore re-elected.

Mr. J. Rowlett gave a report of the work of the seed committee during the month.

In general business, the matter of properly numbering the houses was mentioned by a member, the Secretary replying that steps would be taken in the matter when the present development was complete.

A number of members also raised espostulations regarding the danger to residents and gardens of dogs who roamed the estate without sufficient control. The President expressed the hope that the hint would be taken.

THE EXHIBITION.

The second exhibition promoted by the S.S.C. took place on Saturday, March 11th, in the Institute, and was well patronized by the residents and their friends.

The previous evening was devoted by the committee and a few willing helpers, to the work of arranging the goods for exhibition, and when on Saturday afternoon the exhibition was opened, there was a good display of boots, shoes, hosiery, cutlery, clothing, dress fabrics, and other necessary household requisites; a refreshment stall was also conspicuous. The evening, which was a busy one, was further enlivened with several songs ably rendered by Mrs. Purdy and Messrs. Philpott and Riley, to whom the committee tender its best thanks. The services of many kind friends did much to make the show an undoubted success from more than one point of view.

HUMBERSTONE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

On Sunday March 26th, Mr. Thomas Adcock addressed a good audience in connection with the above league in the Institute, on the subject of "Socialism in the light of Jesus' Teaching." In his usual interesting manner the speaker reviewed several ideas held by modern Socialists in the light of Christ's teachings. The ideas of what constitutes a good man were changed in socialist opinion. In the past the good man was judged by what charity he bestowed; but the socialist wanted to know whether that which was bestowed was obtained unjustly or not. It was better to be purely just, than to distribute charity from illgotten wealth. The instance was given of a well-known brewer who, some years ago, subscribed a large sum of money to be spent in destroying some of the Dublin slums and a section of the press were applauding his beneficence. It omitted to state, however, that probably the means by which this sum was obtained were instrumental in producing worse slums and deeper degradation. The teaching of Jesus in the incident of the tax gatherer was certainly being upheld in socialist principles. Many other points were raised, and parallels drawn by the speaker, who was much appreciated.

HUMBERSTONE PARISH COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Schoolroom, on March 16th. Mr. W. G. Turner presided over a full Council. A vote of condolence was passed with the relatives of the late Mr. Swain, a former member of the council; the chair in a few well chosen words paying a graceful tribute to his memory. Six names were selected for Parish Constable; the custom being for this number to be submitted to the magistrates from which list they choose one to serve for the year. Mr. W. G. Turner resigned his seat on the School Management Committee, Mr. J. S. Wilford being appointed in his place. Accounts were passed for lighting the village, the gas bill for one quarter showing an increase of only 6/2 on corresponding period last year with four extra lamps; the saving being due to the use of incandescent mantles. Three of the garden plots on Keyham Lane, all of which belong to the Parish, being vacant were let to applicants residing in the village.

Items of Interest.

Well done! Mr. Wilford, we hear you have not finished with school matters even yet, though it seems you have turned the tables, and are appointed Manager instead of having to be managed as in other days.

It was an agreeable surprise that met our tenants on their perusal of the year's balance sheet, when it was found that, out of unexpected profits, 8d. in the £ on the year's rents would be credited to them as dividends.

We hope the Mountsorrel stalwarts will not be so bold as to claim their boulder, as that would leave Humber-stoney.

The Postal authorities have certainly filled a much needed requirement with the installation of the new letter-box, to say nothing of the evening delivery; for rustics we are indeed fortunate.

The Humberstone district is the first to be selected for inspection by the Medical Officer for the Billesdon Union under the new Town-Planning Act.

Our new Distributive Society need not be short of capable sales folk if it could but command the services of those kind workers who did so much to get ready, and rid of, our Exhibition stock. The S.S.C. tender heartiest thanks to all.

DON'T FORGET!

You can still obtain your Coals cheap and good through the S.S.C., who have served you well during the winter.

After the Exhibition!

We are in a position to obtain and shall be pleased to supply goods of like character to those on view at the recent Exhibition.

**Orders to Mrs. GOODMAN,
Keyham Lane.**

The Summer is Coming

and your LAWNS will need mowing. The S.S.C. are prepared to undertake the work at a small charge according to size of Lawn.

**Orders to Mr. H. GREWCOCK,
Woodbine Cottage, Keyham Lane.**

Gardening Notes.

The month of April has the honour of being called the seed month of the year, probably because, with the exception of such as Beetroot and Kidney Beans, all other seed if sown this month appear to give the best results. If a continued supply of peas is needed, sowings at intervals of about every 10 days should be made. "Gladstone" is a real favourite which only needs a trial to recommend its superiority over all others.

Autumn sown onions, also spring sown, which have been grown in a greenhouse should be transplanted as early as possible on land that has been deeply cultivated; this is very essential if good sized bulbs are required. Also put in early potatoes towards the latter end of the month.

Pot off Chrysanthemum cuttings, using a little sand and put into a cold frame where they will soon make sturdy plants.

Pyrethrums and many other perennials and herbaceous plants may now be split up and re-planted.

Plant Dahlia Bulbs on a hot-bed with a frame over them and when the shoots are from 1 to 2 inches long they may be cut off and put into thumb pots with leaf mould and a little silver sand.

SPRING.

Sure, since I looked at early morn,
Those honeysuckle buds
Have swell'd to double growth; that thorn
Hath put forth larger studs:
That lilac's cleaving cones have burst,
The milk-white flowers revealing;
Even now, upon my senses first
Methinks their sweets are stealing.
The very earth, the steaming air
Is all with fragrance rife:
And grace and beauty everywhere
Are flushing into life.

—CHAUCER.

There's perfume in every wind,
Music in every tree,
Dews for the moisture-loving flowers,
Sweets for the sucking bee:
The sick come forth for the healing breeze;
The young are gathering flowers;
And life is a tale of poetry
That is told in golden hours.

—WILLIS.

DEBATING SOCIETY.

On March 24th, Mr. F. H. Parker gave a paper on "Ought Capital Punishment to be abolished?" In his opinion capital punishment was justifiable and ought to be retained. Each person has the right to his own life, but if another violates all personal and collective rights and abuses the freedom and privileges which society allow him, he forfeits his own to the same degree, and capital punishment would act as a deterrent to a great extent. The discussion was very interesting and prolonged, a strong opposition being shown.

Letters to the Editor.

CORRESPONDENCE INVITED.

Letters to the Editor need not be signed. Writer's name and address must accompany letters, but will not be published unless required.

TO THE EDITOR,

Dear Sir,—I was very much interested in the letter in your March issue, signed "One of the Enthusiasts," but cannot understand some of his ideas of what Brotherhood means, and most certainly cannot agree with some of his criticisms of the various organisations at present in existence on the Estate. In the first place the Debating Society and ladies' At Home are mentioned. I think that he is entirely wrong in his conception of how the Debating Society conducts its meetings. Anyone may attend, no matter what his or her opinions may be, and take part in debate, and anyone may introduce a suitable subject for discussion. All are welcome but it is optional whether they become subscribing members or not, so that I fail to see where they are behind the ladies' At Home, where all have to pay their subscription when they attend the meeting. It strikes me as rather a curious position for one pleading for brotherhood, to admit that a number of these organisations are good and point to brotherhood, and yet to state that he belongs to none of them. He says that he has come to the conclusion that there is no brotherhood in its true sense. I disagree with that conclusion but surely standing aloof will not bring us any nearer to the ideal state of brotherhood, which is defined as "Being a Brother" and "An association of men for any purpose." As one who is an enthusiastic advocate of the principles of Brotherhood, let me plead with him to adopt an attitude more consistent with the plea which he has put forward by joining in the good work that is already taking place, and work—FOR WE CAN DO WITH ENTHUSIASTIC WORKERS—for the ultimate realisation of his and our ideal, a community governed and controlled by the one great law of Brotherly Love.

There shall come from out this noise of strife and groaning,
A broader and a juster brotherhood,
A deep equality of aim, postponing
All selfish seeking to the general good,
There shall come a time when each shall to another
Be, as Christ would have him—Brother unto Brother.

—LEWIS MORRIS.

Yours faithfully,
"ANOTHER OF THE ENTHUSIASTS."

Members Notice.

A New Undertaking by your General Committee!

PAINTING AND RE-DECORATING
of Property by direct labour
under our own Management.

ALSO SHORTLY,

Gas-Fitting, Glazing & Plumbing.

Why go elsewhere when WE ARE ON THE SPOT.

Seek Manager for estimates, all who require
such work done.

Your Committee means business in your interests.