

THE A. T. FORERUNNER.

"NOT GREATER WEALTH, BUT SIMPLER PLEASURES."

No. 9

JUNE, 1911.

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

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

The Editor,
"St. Ive's," The Avenue.

One of the penalties attaching to the present age is the fact, that however good a movement may be, it is absolutely necessary to its success, especially if it is a movement involving the interests of a large number of persons, that it must seek publicity. This is a truth presented before our minds every day, sometimes, in a none too pleasant way, when we read the specious advertisements of some more enterprising than truthful business firms, or view the pictures that disfigure the hoardings in the most prominent positions of our large towns. Movements which are for the public good, cannot escape this penalty if they would be successful, hence the need for continued propaganda work.

But we can in this, as in all other things, have an Ideal;—we can appeal to the higher instead of to the lower instincts of human nature. We can have a truthful and educational propaganda, aiming at creating a healthful enthusiasm for the object we have in view, especially if we believe that the work we wish to accomplish is capable of improving and uplifting the material and moral wellbeing of the people whose sympathy we would enlist.

With thoughts such as these we would approach our coming demonstration on July 1st, 1911. We have been fortunate in securing for our speaker upon that occasion the services of our old friend Mr. Henry Vivian, of whom it can be said, there is no man more sincere, of greater practical knowledge, or with more enthusiasm for, and faith in our movement of co-partnership housing than he, who is regarded as the father of our Tenant Societies. Chairman of the Co-partnership Tenants Ltd., founder of the Co-partnership Housing Council, the man above all others, as late M.P. for Birkenhead, to influence the Government in all appertaining to the better planning and building of houses for the workers, he surely can speak with authority upon this subject. Of his special ability for this purpose there can be no doubt; in demand all over our own country, he has also found time to make an extended tour through Canada at the request of Earl Grey, the Governor General, to carry the ideals of housing to the people of their large towns and provinces. Prince and Peer, Statemen and Commoners; all alike have come under his persuasive influence, and help with their money and their talents to make possible the coming time when our country shall be covered

with garden villages and our large towns shall have their garden suburbs, where it shall be possible to live a free and healthy life of mutual service and love one to another.

With the member of Parliament for our division Colonel Yate, as chairman, and Mr. Vivian as speaker, we are looking forward to a useful, educational, propaganda meeting, the influence of which may be felt by those seeking good investments, and also by those others who feel a personal need for better housing, such influence it is hoped will result in bringing to a successful issue the work to which we have set our hands in the larger development of our estate. Success will be ours if all our friends will interest themselves to ensure us a large attendance at our meeting by influencing all that they may come in contact with to visit our estate upon this occasion; to hear Mr. Vivian, and to see the work we have done and learn of the greater work which lies before us.

The formation of an Estate Council, or more correctly the "Forerunner" of an Estate Council, (for as the new body elected by the inhabitants in public meeting is charged with the duty of drawing up a Constitution for an Estate Council, and submitting it for the approval of the inhabitants, it can only as yet be considered an Estate Council in the making,) is nevertheless a matter of such prime importance to the future development of our Estate, that it may well be considered the chief event of the past month.

To be charged with the duty of formulating a body, to inaugurate, provide, and control the facilities for education and recreation, amongst other matters appertaining to this new and growing Estate is to be engaged in a work unique in character, requiring keen insight, and a broad comprehensive outlook. For upon the manner in which the new body builds its constitution, and performs the work which lies immediately to hand, will depend in no small measure the social development of our community.

Sincerely do we hope therefore that the Estate Council, both "Forerunner" and duly constituted, will strive in catering for the inhabitants to hold the balance just and even between all interests. There are social, physical, and intellectual needs, all of which will claim your attention and require your services; games for the sport lover if you will, they assist to develop the physique, but they must not be provided to the exclusion of educational advantages for the children and the studious, or at the cost of social functions in which all may participate.

Let it be clearly understood at the outset that no Estate Council will be worth its salt, or can permanently make a place for itself in our development, unless

it cultivates the broad outlook, and caters for all types of the population.

An Estate Council is not a Sport's Committee, nor an Educational Committee, nor an Entertainment Committee, and it is not specially any one of these, because in an equal degree it is the whole of them combined, in short, a General Welfare Committee.

Our Estate Council must to use a well understood phrase, be an 'whole hogger' or nothing, and therefore it would be difficult to magnify its importance.

The chief danger attending such a body in its initial stages, will be a tendency to use up its limited resources in catering for sections of the community. Keen watchfulness will be required to avert that tendency, but safely averted a great and useful looms ahead, for it lies within the power of the Council as the years pass to make the Estate so abound in those advantages, opportunities, and facilities, necessary for the development and enjoyment of life in its fulness, that all sorts and conditions of men shall find in our beautiful Estate, the promised land of their desires, their hopes, and their ambitions.

Members of the first Estate Council Committee "The Forerunner" wishes you God speed in your important duties.

The Worker's Educational Association.

ITS OBJECTS AND METHODS.

BY R. LAW.

For many years now, the working classes have been gradually called upon to take a more active share in the local and national life. As a consequence, responsibility for their acts must be accepted by them. In order to undertake this responsibility, it is essential that they should understand the social problems with which they have to deal, not only from the practical side, but from the theoretical aspect as well; that is to say, the workers must become students as well as administrators. That they are anxious to do so is indicated by the subjects chosen by them for study under the auspices of the W. E. A. Up to the present, a keen demand for a knowledge of History, both Industrial and Economic has been very pronounced; hitherto access to this special knowledge has been difficult for the average worker. To remove this difficulty is the object of the W. E. A. The Association's aim, is to bring the working man into closer touch with the Universities, so that he may partake of that intellectual food which only the University can give.

Its argument is, that brains and character should alone qualify for admission to the highest educational privileges and that money and pride of birth, should have nothing to do with the matter at all; that those men and women, who have a desire for this knowledge even amidst their social burdens, should be able to claim a share of the best that the Universities can give.

It is very gratifying to find that some of the more enlightened of our University men also take this view, and are just as anxious to gain an insight into the practical side of life as the worker is to obtain an insight into the theoretical side. It is not a question as to who will profit most, the fact is, that the whole of Society will benefit as a consequence of these reciprocating desires.

Now the W. E. A. has made this possible by forming classes of working men with a tutor to instruct them, who is actually engaged in teaching at the University at the same time. This method ensures that the practical lessons learnt by the tutor, should thereby pass into the ordinary teaching of the University. This, the working man student considers very important, in fact essential.

The method the W. E. A. adopts is briefly as follows: A branch is formed in a town, say like Leicester, to which Co-operative Societies, Trade Unions, Adult Schools and Educational Organisations are invited to affiliate and send delegates to manage the organisation. A class is then formed a subject chosen and a competent teacher engaged to give a series of lectures. This is termed a "preliminary class" the object being to give the students a general idea of the subject chosen. The number of students to this class is practically unlimited. In the following year, it is hoped that sufficient interest has been aroused, that thirty will join a Tutorial class in order to follow a more detailed consideration of the subject, or one cognate to it. Each student is called upon to take three years course of seventy-two lectures and write thirty-six essays. This is by no means an easy task, as the course is equivalent to a first-class honours taken in the University itself.

In Leicester "Industrial History" was chosen for the preliminary course, when all phases of English Social History were examined, the co-operative and trade union movements coming in for special treatment.

Out of this course a Tutorial class developed; "Economics" being the subject for special study and which has now finished its second year. In spite of the many difficulties which workers have to face, the class is performing its task remarkable well. Professor Chapman has inspected the class and expressed satisfaction with its work. The expenses of these classes are borne by the University, Board of Education and the local education authorities along with the fees from the affiliated societies and students.

It is an experiment. If the Universities are satisfied that the workers do desire this access to the "higher education" they will respond and assist them. It will be a great pity if they (the workers) do not take advantage of this great opportunity.

The W. E. A. has many friends in the academic world, such men for example as Sir Oliver Lodge, Bishop Gore, Canon Masterman, Professors Chapman, MacGregor, Sadler and Hothouse, and men like Canon Barnett.

It is important to note also, that the W. E. A. is of a non-political and non-sectarian character, of course I mean it is not a party matter. Its whole object is to assist men to analyse the facts as they are and to be sound in their judgment.

One thing is certain, and that is, that the workman scholar is as capable as any other scholar, and has therefore a right to enjoy that intellectual life which has hitherto been denied him.

This is the claim of the W. E. A.

REPORTS.

MONTHLY MEETING.

There was a fair attendance at the Monthly meeting on the 16th inst, under the presidency of Mr. E. T. Groome. The monthly report presented by Mr. Hibbett showed that the Public Works Loans Commissioners had made satisfactory inspection of latest block of buildings, that the present development is nearing completion, and that the Society will shortly come into possession of part of the next field and will commence operations thereon forthwith. A preliminary announcement was also made of a Demonstration to be held on July 1st, at which Mr. H. Vivian is to be principal speaker, and at which we have secured Col. Yate, M.P. as chairman. Mr. Law reported on work of Worker's Educational Association, and was re-elected delegate to same for ensuing year. Mr. Harris called attention to scarcity of suggestions re name for estate; this led to some little discussion. Complaints were made regarding the fence at bottom of field; a promise was made that the matter should receive attention.

SPECIAL MEETING.

On Thursday, April 23rd, a large number of the residents of the estate met together in the Institute to consider matters of recreation and social work, the outcome of which was the election of a preliminary Estate Council which should have for its immediate work the arranging of outdoor sports and pastimes for the season. Subsequently it shall draw up, for a more representative meeting in August, a constitution for the working of the full Council then to be established.

Following on this meeting the new Council arranged for the formal opening of the Bowling Green, and on Saturday afternoon, May 13th, in delightful weather, a goodly gathering of the tenants assembled

at the gates for the purpose. Mr. J. T. Taylor had been requested by the Council to kindly perform the ceremony but before this was done Mr. S. Wilford made a few introductory remarks on the object and aims of the society in providing suitable recreation for all classes on the estate. Then Mr. Taylor, who was received with applause, gave an interesting and instructive address on Outdoor Games; special mention being made of Bowls with its ancient origin and certain historical facts connected with it. At the close of his address, Mr. Taylor formally opened the gates and the company entered the Green with him; then by throwing the first bowls and leading off in the first game of Croquet, both these innocent pastimes were inaugurated, which have already found great favour.

LADIES' "AT HOME."

The first session of the above closed with a special meeting on Saturday, May 27th. This was in the form of a Social to which the husbands were invited, and a most enjoyable time was spent. During the season we have held 15 meetings and although we have not been able to obtain as many lady speakers as we wished, still the afternoons have been very pleasant. We are indebted to Miss Noble of the Health Society for her chat on the Children's Act; to Miss Gill, of Norway, on the Suffrage Movement; to Miss Deeming of the British Women's Association on Temperance; and to Mrs. Shardlow of Leicester, on Woman and War; other speakers have promised to favour at some future date. Occasionally our own ladies have contributed interesting and instructive readings, out of which discussions have arisen, and sometimes humorous readings and musical treats have been provided. We greatly appreciate the musical items supplied by our own ladies. We do not perhaps all feel capable of contributing towards an afternoon's programme, but even by our presence we may help those who are doing what they can to provide pleasant entertainment. We are, as our name implies, "At Home," and our meetings generally end by partaking of the cheering cup of tea. One of the ideals of our meetings is to promote goodwill and fellowship amongst the ladies of our estate, and if this is attained we may assure ourselves some little good has been done. We each contribute 1d. per meeting towards expenses, which include rent of room, postage, etc. Our gatherings will most probably commence again in October, and we take this opportunity of extending to each lady resident on the estate a hearty invitation to join us. E. W. PURDY, Sec.

BAND OF HOPE.

The winter session of the above was brought to a close on Wednesday evening, May 24th, when a concert was given by Miss Lottie Russell and Party. The session has been a highly successful one as since February 1st, eight Temperance addresses have been delivered by different gentlemen, which have evidently been well appreciated by all who attended and the result of which has been that twenty two have signed the pledge. But although this is the main object of our meetings, yet we have also catered for the social and recreative side of the children's life. We have had five concerts, three of which we are proud to say, have been given by the youngsters themselves who have displayed undoubted ability. Then on March 1st, Mr. T. Allen brought a party of children from the Crafton Street Band of Hope to entertain us. We have also had two lantern exhibitions and it is unnecessary to say how these were received. But apparently the outstanding night of the session was the "Free and Easy," on which occasion more than a hundred children took part in innocent and homely games for an hour or so, and then finished up with the well-known buns and coffee. We must also mention our second Essay Competition, the subject chosen being "What is the meaning of True Heroism?" Give two examples. Two prizes were offered and fourteen papers sent in. All of them were good, but Mr. Harris judged those sent in by May Hern and Horace Winterton to be winners. Altogether we have had a very pleasant and enjoyable time and our thanks are due to all who have so kindly rendered service in the work.

J. A. WARNER, Sec.

HUMBERSTONE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

On Sunday, May 21st, Mr. W. Gilliver presided at the usual fortnightly meeting of the above, and during his opening remarks he reviewed the work of the members class since its inception and appealed to all socialists to join the class and so help to find the truth. The speaker Mr. T. F. Richards took as his subject "Co-operation and its relation to Socialism." The motto adopted by the early co-operators and which was the principle underlying the co-operative movement was,

"Each for all, and all for each," that was the fundamental principle of Socialism. After an appreciation of the aims of Co-operation the Co-operative movement came in for some criticism which was due, the speaker averred, to its becoming permeated with the Capitalist spirit in too large a degree. He gave several quotations from the sayings of the Saints shewing their opinions as to the iniquity of worldly riches. Questions brought a very pleasant afternoon to a close.

"FAREWELL."

Some eight or nine years ago, when a group of working men put their ideas and their capital together with the intention of teaching the public a lesson in practical housing reform, Mr. A. T. Smith was one of the original enthusiasts, a member of the first committee, and who helped to hold the group together when the realization of the scheme seemed as distant as the Eldorado to the adventurer of the Middle Ages. The relentless march of time, which bringeth many changes, has caused Mr. Smith to seek a new home at the Antipodes, and the community of the estate thought it fitting to honour the occasion of his departure with a presentation. A social gathering for this purpose was held in the chapel on Thursday, May 25th, under the presidency of Mr. Taylor, the musical part of the programme being supplied by Mrs. Purdy, Miss Meekins, Messrs. J. Morris, Riley and Wilford. Short valedictory addresses were given by Messrs. Groome, Mann and Wilford, after which the presentation was made to Mr. and Mrs. Smith by Mr. S. Beamish on behalf of all concerned. It was truly a fitting farewell.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

A.S.S.—Yes, you are quite right. The prize offered is a bag of soot and a man is free to offer what he likes. But please mark this, that when you put the question as to whether we consider it a 'soot-able' one, we sweep it aside with the scorn it deserves. It is a black calumny from the mind of a worm.

How fitting that Mr. Taylor who opened the Croquet lawn should run out winner of the first game. But what a 'crooked' word Croquet appears to be. The question as to whether the 't' should be sounded is a fair 'teaser' to some.

May we draw our reader's attention to the annual Sunday School Outing on Saturday, June 24th, to Mablethorpe for the day. Parents and friends are cordially invited to join them but names should be given in immediately to enable the necessary arrangements to be made. See Notice case for particulars.

Well Done! A.T. Cricketers.—2 matches played, 1 won and the other a tie. Certainly it deserves recording.

"His one thought to reach his destination before the call of time, he bravely tore down the "Rockies," but his heart came into his mouth as he heard a sudden angry snort, and looking up quickly he saw before him a huge monster with a long neck, spitting out fire and ashes; his boyhood's geological knowledge refusing it a name. He knew his end was come"—So he got off his bike, dear reader, and walked a short distance for the road in Humberstone was under repair and a steam roller was at work.

OUT-DOOR RECREATIONS.

Residents wishing to join in any of the games provided by the Council can do so on paying a fee of Sixpence for the session.

Friends who may accompany contributing members, and who wish to play, are required to place One Penny in the box provided for such privilege.

The following regulations governing the playing of the games, have been arranged by the Council.

- 1.—The Green will not accommodate both Croquet and Bowls played together; therefore on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, Croquet only may be played after 6 p.m., Bowls on Tuesday and Friday after 6 p.m., either games may be played before 6 p.m. on Saturday. Croquet, 2 p.m. till 5 p.m., Bowls, 5 p.m. till dark.
- 2.—All members after playing one game are requested to give way to any others desiring to play.
- 3.—The last players of any game are held responsible for returning same to the recognised store-place.
- 4.—Children are not allowed on the Green; members are requested to aid the Council in this matter.
- 5.—All persons over 14 years old are eligible for membership.

Gardening Notes.

The continued warm weather of last month has hatched out many insect pests, namely the gooseberry caterpillar and the caterpillar that curls the leaves together on the apple trees for a hiding place; then there is the greenfly which infests roses, apples, currants, gooseberrys and many others. The best remedy for the first named is to lay two sheets of brown paper on the ground, one on each side of the stem, give the tree a good shake and most of them will fall off, this makes them easy to collect into a bucket, and some boiling water poured over them will soon end their career. The second named should be handpicked, spraying is of very little use because the leaves are so drawn together that they act as a shield against any insecticide. Paraffin Emulsion is a good solution for greenfly and may be made as follows:—Take half a pound of soft soap simmer in about half a gallon of soft water, stirring till the soap is dissolved, then while boiling, whisk into it a wineglassful of Paraffin oil, stirring well till all is mixed together, add water to make five gallons. A syringe should be used with plenty of force on the under-side of the leaves.

Sow seeds of biennials such as wallflowers, sweet williams, and honesty, also borecole.

Peas sown this month usually go mildew, which is very disappointing.

Peas that are about three or four inches high should be given a handful of superphosphate to the running yard which should be raked in, taking care not to get any on the foliage.

From Master Minds.

Habit is our primal, fundamental law: Habit and Imitation; there is nothing more perennial in us than these two. They are the source of all working and all apprenticeship, of all practice and all learning in this world. (*Carlyle.*)

It is the past alone that can explain the present, and it is the youth that alone can mould the remedial future. (*B. Disraeli.*)

“The hand of the diligent maketh rich.” “Rich,” “Yes, rich,” not necessarily in £ s. d. nor yet in honours, but in something even better—in knowledge which as Bacon says, is power, in will which is personality, in character which is eternal.”

THE VALUE OF ENTHUSIASM.

Nothing is so contagious as enthusiasm; it is a real allegory of the lute of Orpheus; it moves stone; it charms brutes: Enthusiasm is the genius of sincerity, and truth accomplishes no victories without it. (*Lord Lytton.*)

Every great and commanding movement in the annals of the world is the triumph of enthusiasm. (*Emerson.*)

New occasions teach new duties; Time makes ancient good uncouth; They must upward still, and onward, who would keep abreast of truth. (*J. Russell Lowell.*)

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.

R.W.M.—The matter, re your letter, for which, thanks, has been under consideration for some time; will keep your communication before us. —EDITOR.

To the Editor,

Dear Sir,—I do not wish to prolong the controversy if such it can be called, which has been initiated by “Enthusiast”, but for a remark made in his last letter I would have remained silent. With the idea of Brotherhood I have full sympathy, and, in everything in relation to secular well-being, would help forward any movement for the good of all. Surely he does not mean that each tenant must give up his or her convictions upon matters of principle in order to appear united; such conduct would rear up a race of hypocrites, or else men and women with no backbone. For instance, suppose I believe that strong drink is bad for my fellow-tenants, must I hold these views in abeyance, and stop advocating them because my neighbour thinks a glass of beer is good. Brotherhood at that price would be dearly bought, and would be worth nothing when obtained. When he enters the domain of religion, and suggests the arrangement of a Church that men and women of all creeds may meet together, he surely has forgotten that Christianity was established by Jesus Christ, and that He has laid down the conditions by which His Church shall be bound; and to alter such an arrangement is to put man's wisdom before the wisdom of God. No, the spirit of Brotherhood should be the possession of all, and the most perfect brotherhood is that contained in the New Testament, brought about by attendance to the conditions laid down in that book. Until such brotherhood is universally accepted, I trust we may all work together in good causes, and join together in both work and play as often as possible; but I hope we shall never flinch our opinions or convictions upon right and wrong, but continue to advocate them in reasonable and peaceful controversy, seeking to make the truth clear which in the end will prevail. It is only by so doing we can raise a race of sturdy men and women.

—AMOS. MANN.

Anchor Tenants Limited.

Preliminary Notice and Programme.

SATURDAY, JULY 1st,

GRAND DEMONSTRATION

Chairman: - Col. C. E. YATE, M.P.

Address by Mr. H. VIVIAN.

Chairman - Co-partnership Tenants, Ltd.

3-0.—Viewing Estate and Houses.

3-30.—Children's Dumb Bell Display.

4-30.—Afternoon Tea (Invited Guests).

5-30.—Address by Mr. H. Vivian.

7-0.—Music and Dancing.

A BAND will be in attendance conducted by Mr. W. Langley.
Cricket Match. Lawn Croquet. Bowls. Skittles.

N. B.—All Games must be put on one side during the time of Meeting.