

THE LINK

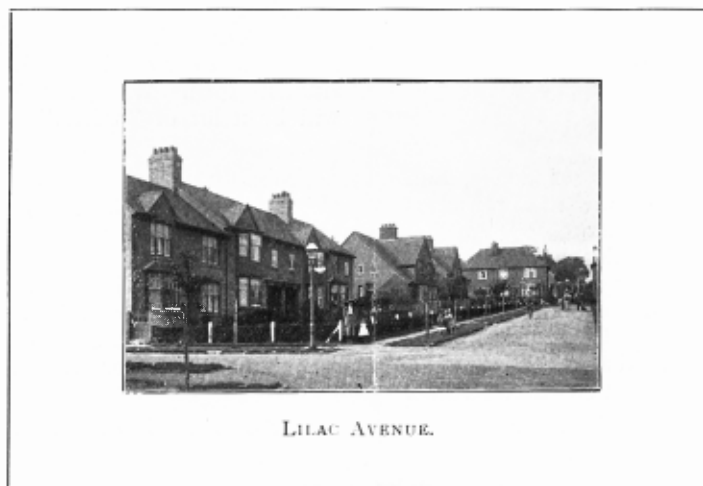
The Official Organ of the Humberstone Garden Suburb.

"NOT GREATER WEALTH, BUT SIMPLER PLEASURES."

No. 16.

JULY, 1913.

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The "Link" is published monthly.

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

The Editor,
Yarrow Cottage, Garden Suburb,
Humberstone.

Occasional Advertisements inserted at a charge of
1s. per inch.

Small Advertisements (Sale or Exchange, &c.), 25
words, 6d.; every additional 10 words, 3d.

Editorial.

WOMEN AND HOUSING.

Interest in the housing problem grows apace, and signs are not wanting that the efforts of the promoters of the Garden Suburb movement and of housing reformers generally are making considerable impression on the public mind. It will generally be conceded that, in a matter touching them so deeply, the views of women ought to receive respectful attention, and conferences such as that recently held at the Hampstead Garden Suburb should prove of real educational value.

The "brick boxes with slate lids" commonly provided by the average speculative builder, are often but a travesty of what a house should be, little regard being paid to the real needs of the occupant. For those who do the dirty work for society, personal cleanliness is next to an impossibility, and in consequence one of the most vital safeguards against disease is disregarded. Labour-saving appliances are as a rule also conspicuous by their absence, no regard being paid to such matters in the planning and arrangement or in the fitting of internal accessories.

Take heating and cooking arrangements as a case in point. Although many thoroughly good appliances are now available, showing a marked advance on those in common use, it is almost an impossibility to get the average house builder to entertain the idea of change, even though it can be proved that great economy, in fuel and labour, to the user would result, and that the newer method would entail only a slight additional initial outlay. In many cases, also, where more up-to-date methods of ventilation would provide a purer atmosphere and so raise the standard of health, we find the same ingrained conservatism displayed, often at heavy financial cost, rendered necessary by the presence of dry rot and other evils consequent upon excessive moisture which cannot find an outlet.

All power to the new campaign! We hope the women's agitation will succeed in making an impression in a direction where, generally speaking, the "mere man" has not been conspicuously successful.

ESTATE CENSUS.—Total population, 352; viz., adults, 233; children attending school, 76; under school age, 43.

Items of Interest.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanion sincerely thank everyone for their kindness and sympathy in their recent sad bereavement; also for many floral tributes. They also wish to say how deeply they appreciate the helpful messages received.

* * *

A Resident writes:—"It would be interesting to know whether the ditch is the best place for garden refuse; whether the G.C. have an eye on the new intensive poultry system, and whether it is in keeping with the bye-laws; also, why the children have not been trained for the Hampstead Festival."

* * *

A lively interest is already being taken in the August Flower Festival. If rumour speaks true, there may be successes to record in altogether new quarters on August 16th. Whatever the result, we hope there will be a lot of "triers."

* * *

Probably most of us failed to realise, until the figures of the Estate Census were displayed on our notice board, what a numerous body we are becoming. The Census brings home to us two facts: One is the continued need for the work of the Estate Council in catering for the social wants of the community; and the other, the necessity to look well ahead in securing proper provision for the education of the young.

* * *

Our Cricket Club have arranged a full list of fixtures for Bank Holiday week which should attract the "stay-at-homes." How about another veterans' match?

* * *

Everybody will be interested to know that our Estate Secretary, Mr. Wilford, is somewhat recovering from his illness. We shall all be glad when he is fully restored to health, so that we may have his genial presence again amongst us.

When the summer sun is shining,
I can't stay at home repining;
I'll go and have some exercise.
Weather's warm? Well, I'm not caring,
Come out, bike, and we'll go tearing
Up the beautiful Fern Rise.
Roads are dusty? What of that?
Here's the bike; now, where's my hat?
A charming route I've figured.
Now we're off! Great Scott! Some glass!
Who the—Why—What silly ass—?
Puncture! Well, I'm jiggered!
It's enough to turn one blue,
Why should folks smashed bottles strew
In this fashion on Fern Rise?
Puncture-mending; Oh!—what bliss!
Glorious afternoon like this.
Ugh! What charming exercise!

R. C.

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AND DRESSMAKER,**

"DUNOON," FERN RISE.

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Estate Council Report.

It is with great pleasure we record the successful performance of the Leicester Borough Workmen's Band on Sunday evening, June 15th. The collection, which amounted to £1 11s. 6½d. (in aid of the band funds), speaks for itself. A return visit is anticipated for July 6th, when it is hoped parents will assist in keeping order by preventing the children from running about. May we also respectfully beg that residents will not monopolise the chairs provided for visitors, but bring their own?

Arrangements for the forthcoming Flower Festival, on August 16th, are receiving attention.

All entries for the best kept garden must reach Mr. Scott not later than July 12th, and entries for the show not later than August 9th—sooner if convenient. The suggestion made by Mr. Rowlett *re* the omission of small fruits and the inclusion of onions is to be adopted.

On Bank Holiday it is proposed to arrange a match between the Cricket XI. and twenty-two Colts, chosen from the residents. In the afternoon a match is being arranged for ladies. Any lady wishing to participate, should notify one of the ladies of the Council. In the evening we are hoping to hold a social in the open air. A threepenny dance will be held on Tuesday and a threepenny whist drive on Wednesday evening.

ADULT SCHOOL.

During the past month subjects interesting and instructive, have been brought before those attending. Councillor W. E. Hincks, on June 1st, speaking on "Crime and Criminals," put forward the view that criminality was mainly a disease just as lunacy was, and that as yet we had not discovered the best means of treatment.

On the 15th, Dr. Millard's address on "Race Culture," was handled as perhaps only a medical man could handle it. Knowledge, the necessity and importance of which can hardly be over-estimated, was imparted with a tactful manliness, that appealed to both reason and intellect, and could not fail, if widely diffused, to assist the production of a race physically fit and mentally and morally sound. During the subsequent discussion useful hints for imparting to children truths concerning Eugenics, were elicited from the doctor.

Mr. F. Toone, on June 22nd, treated us to a fine interpretation of Shakespeare's "Hamlet," proving conclusively the wonderful powers of delineation and interpretation of human character possessed by the gifted author, and the clear insight of the speaker himself into the inner meaning and lessons which are to be derived from this world-famous production.

A pleasing feature of the month has been the number of ladies present on the open mornings, and the interesting discussions. The attention of residents is called to this means of spending a pleasant and instructive hour on Sunday mornings.

The Keyham Ramble.

Those of us who participated in the ramble conducted by Mr. A. R. Horwood, of the Leicester Museum, on June 21st, had an experience that will remain in the memory for a long time to come. The weather was ideal, and as we set off about three o'clock, we were at once in the midst of the interest of the outing—"sauntering" from the very outset of the walk. There is a charm attaching to the origin of the word "saunter," which it is appropriate to mention here. In quaint nature lover's style, Thoreau, in his book, "Walden," says that in early times, when pilgrimages were frequent, certain folk, questioned as to their destination when walking abroad, would reply, "I go on a pilgrimage to Saunte Terre" (Saint Earth). "Saunte Terre," says Thoreau, is the origin of "Saunter."

One could desire to be able to place on record here all that was imparted by our genial guide, but neither space nor the writer's memory permit. By the brook in the first field we traversed, numerous grasses and wild flowers were pointed out, the peculiar habitat of each being noted; then by the horse-pond other specimens in their favourite haunt were observed—and so on. Again and again a halt was made, when questions were freely asked and as readily answered. Things we had been familiar with all our lives in a hazy way became for the first time to many of us things of importance and full of interest.

Towards five o'clock we reached the special tit-bit of the outing. We are now in a field containing specimens rare and precious. Our guide shows one, then another (was it spiræa?)—a lovely thing—and now, with bated breath, we stay on the path while a mild trespass of a yard or two is made in search of moon-wort. Alas! the long grass effectually hides the rare plant; we are a month or two too late to find it easily. (Some of us find consolation in sharing a flask of tea surrendered by its owner on the strict understanding that he may "sponge" on his guests for a drink of the same beverage on arrival at Keyham.) By 5.30 we are seated in the farmyard, tables are ready, also a copperful of boiling water, and the thirty-five ramblers soon prove that, though Anchor Tenants they are by no means anchorites.

The journey forward having been via Scraftoft, we return by the Keyham Lane. The half-dozen microscopes are soon in use again as we start homeward. Mr. Horwood points out an apparent yellow rusty patch on a stone wall, which under the lens is seen to be full of life and beauty, and so on, till about eight o'clock the familiar red tiles of Humberstone Garden Suburb (clumsy name!) come into view once more.

Before we separate, some one is asking when we will have the next ramble, and if it will be to Beeby—and all of us feel that there is much of Nature's bounty lying undiscovered round about us that we ought to enjoy—and that the quest is making us better chums and brighter men and women.

W. H. K.

BIRTHS.

On June 12th, to Mr. and Mrs. A. Backus, a son.
On June 20th, to Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Purdy, a son.

A Peep into the Past.

THE FIRST "SQUIRE" OF HUMBERSTONE.

A thousand years ago—probably more, but certainly not much less—an enterprising Anglo-Saxon named "Hubba" or "Humbes," settled on what is now Humberstone, and, with the aid of his followers, built a farmstead, or, as it was then called, a "ton"—thus the name of the village, the "ton" or township of "Hubba" or "Humbes." The first time the place appears in any record is in the Domesday Book in 1086, when the Norman Conquest was about completed. Although no written account is extant, it is possible to construct an outline of the affair from what we know of the condition of the country and the methods of life and work of the people at the time.

We know that the English who settled in the Midlands came into the land by way of the Humber, and along the rivers that flow into that estuary. A numerous body came along the Trent, some of whom found their way up the Soar, and spread over what is now Leicestershire, and it is probable that our hero came this way, and, thinking this particular spot would make a desirable residence, promptly settled down on it; for most of the Saxon invaders, who were chiefly known as pirates before, soon settled down into farmers when once they had got possession of the land. The materials for a residence—wattle, mud and thatch—were not difficult to obtain. The arrangement of the buildings was generally a square—the house on one side, stables and farm-buildings built at either end of the house, and a mud wall across the opposite end, this constituting the "ton." The mud and wattle huts of the dependents were erected in the neighbourhood. These last would scarcely rank as "villas," for the houses of the well-to-do generally had holes in the walls for windows and holes in the roof for chimneys.

The site of the "big house" was probably opposite the new road into the Monk's Rest estate, this being the traditional site of the old manor house. Although "manor" is a Norman term, the article if not the name existed in Saxon times, and probably the chief residence of the village would be rebuilt on the same spot. Possibly (it is all "possibly" and "probably" in these cases) the old stones at the base of the existing wall formed part of one of the successive houses which may have been built on this spot.

The Anglo-Saxon was no town dweller. It was in such places as these that he lived the simple life, so simple indeed as to be very little removed from savagery. Max O'Rell has said that the English can "work harder, fight harder, and drink harder than any other race under the sun," and it is just these basic animal characteristics which we seem to inherit from our Saxon ancestors, and which, in a more refined modern form, have made the Britisher the colonizer of the world.

No doubt the world went very well then. The "bordars" and "cottars," if they were compelled to look after the land and crops of the head-man first, had land which, if not exactly their own freehold, could not under ordinary circumstances be alienated from them. They knew nothing of the strenuous life of modern times; their chief concern would probably be the prospects of the next crop, and, like their descendants

who cultivate the soil to-day, they would probably find the weather the chief cause of their anxiety and grumble about it accordingly.

Of the personality of this first settler we know absolutely nothing; whether he was just and kind, or harsh and tyrannical, is alike unknown. We do not know either whether he settled here before the people had been converted to Christianity, or whether the old gods Woden and Thor and the rest of them were still worshipped by him and his followers. He has simply left his name, which, in one form or another, has clung to the place ever since, and which is in accordance with the rule in this country: rivers, hills, and natural features generally have a British name, towns and villages a Saxon one, and individuals, who did not get a surname till a later time than we are dealing with, usually have a Norman one.

PENDA.

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.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE FLOWER FESTIVAL.

To the Editor,

Sir,—Having read the schedule for the coming Festival, I think it is a big improvement on the previous one, and should prove a grand success; but I would like to suggest that one alteration be made. Knowing that many of our tenants are growing a good bed of onions, I would recommend that the class for small fruit be omitted—as they will be practically over—and a class for onions be inserted instead. As one who goes to many shows, I know that the class for onions is one of the biggest attractions, it being admitted that Leicester men can grow some of the finest onions in the country.—Yours, &c.

J. ROWLETT.

To the Editor.

Sir,—In a small show like ours the classes must necessarily be limited, but surely, at a "Flower Festival," there is room for more flowers. The class for four bunches might very well be split up into four classes, which should include almost every flower grown; and a buttonhole or spray for ladies would be a popular class. Then—a word of warning. Everyone knows of village shows near Leicester being killed by the cupidity of one or two individuals, who are not content unless they can "sweep the board." To avoid this, would it not be possible to limit the number of exhibits from each competitor to, say, four—two vegetables and fruit and two flowers; then the man with no glass and only Saturday afternoon at his disposal would have a chance. Could we not have as the Grand Prix an Estate Diploma, to be awarded by the Council, after the judge's placings had become known, to the best collective exhibit.—Yours, &c.

NEW TENANT.

Garden Pests.

Any of our readers desiring advice in regard to any particular enemy of plant life may have the subject treated in our following issue by acquainting the Editor.

No. 2.—SLUGS.

The slug is a pest pure and simple, without even an interesting life story, its one saving feature being in providing a tasty tit-bit for blackbirds and thrushes—but unfortunately there don't seem to be enough birds. Every slug produces eggs, which are deposited in damp soil under decayed vegetable matter. These soon hatch, and the tiny slug proceeds to levy toll on tender seedlings or anything green. There are nineteen distinct species in Great Britain, ranging from the small milky to the great grey slug, which often exceeds six inches in length, these including the testacella—the only friend the gardener has amongst this large family—which feeds entirely on grubs and earth-worms, and may be distinguished by the tiny shell on the end of it. It lives underground and is very rare.

The best way to combat the slug is to keep the ground clean and in a high state of cultivation. Soot, sawdust, &c., are only efficacious while they remain dry; a heavy dew or shower renders them useless. Hand-picking after rain or in the evening is a certain, if not very pleasant, remedy. There are several soil fumigants sold which destroy the eggs, as also will lime, dug into the ground in February. Two tablespoonfuls of liquid ammonia in a gallon of water, sprinkled at night, will kill them and not injure the plants.

T. E. J.

NATIONAL COMMERCIAL TEMPERANCE LEAGUE.

The first ramble for the summer season of the members of the Leicester branch took place on Saturday afternoon, June 7th, to Humberstone Garden Suburb. Mr. J. S. Wilford, the secretary, met and personally conducted the friends, showing the features of interest. The well-kept gardens, detachment and variety of houses, and careful planning to secure uninterrupted views of a picturesque character were approvingly commented on by the visitors, the majority of whom were having their first object lesson in co-operative tenancy. Open-air sports were indulged in with the usual freedom of a League gathering, after which tea was served in the Assembly Room and followed by a brief meeting presided over by Mr. J. Spiers, at which some of the Estate residents were present. A resolution was passed, on the motion of Mr. T. Palmer, seconded by Mr. C. E. Keene, deprecating the proposal to provide facilities for obtaining intoxicants at the new Leicester Public Hall.

A brief statement of the objects of the N.C.T.L. was given by Mr. W. C. Holland, and several names were handed in for membership. The League members through their chairman, Mr. Spiers, cordially thanked Mr. Wilford for his courtesy.

Garden Notes.

CULTIVATION OF LARGE GOOSEBERRIES

For years past there has been a desire on the part of flower show committees to encourage the cultivation of gooseberries, many of them giving good prizes, and in nearly every instance size dominates over quality—a fact, perhaps, to be regretted. This has been the cause of much rivalry both amongst “amateur” and “professional” gardeners, some of whom have tried experiments of various kinds and have written articles to papers; but unfortunately the suggestions they publish are mostly on the same lines—e.g., that it is necessary to use a receptacle that will hold a small amount of fluid, some advocating water, others milk, cream, and even whisky or beer. These small vessels are to be filled every alternate day, and placed in such a position that the “snuff” of the berry comes in contact with the fluid, on which it is supposed to feed.

Very little mention is made of pruning and feeding at the roots, which seem to be the most natural ways. It is said this method of feeding is practised much in Lancashire. I fear these experiments would not answer on the Anchor Tenants Estate, where our feathered friends would soon make short work with the whole business; but anyone wishing to grow large berries may do so by practising a few simple methods such as *selection of varieties*—for white, “Careless”; green, “Leveller”; and red, “Jumbo.”

Feed in April with a handful of super-phosphate of lime, sprinkled on the soil under the tree and raked in, and an occasional bucketful of cesspool liquid once a week while the fruit is growing.

Prune and pinch side shoots as recommended in this column previously. Thin out early in June, or as soon as large enough for cooking purposes. The fruit should be gathered, leaving only about twelve of the largest and best-shaped berries. Then use string-cased pockets or bags, made of muslin or other light material, measuring about two inches wide by two and a half deep; a little crotchet cotton will answer for the string casing, which may be run round at the top in such a way that it is easy to draw up. Slip the berry into the pocket, pull up the cotton, and leave until wanted.

T. R.

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Cricket Club.

Since our last report we have played three ordinary and two midweek practice matches. Of the former we scored one win; one was lost and one drawn. Of the latter we won one and lost one. Taken all in all, the play of our members has improved a little—the fielding certainly has. We may yet have our name breathed with awe and reverence among the higher councils of the L. and C.C.A.!

The secretary sincerely apologises for making such a "bloomer" over June 7th. He is sorry you did not have a game, but when the Y.M.C.A. secretary wrote him to say he was already booked up he forgot to cross the date off the list. He was safe out of the way on the day in question, but you can jump on him now if you like!

The Committee would be glad to have arrears in subscriptions paid up as early as possible. The final instalment becomes due on July 1st.

We must not close without making mention of H. Duffin's bowling feat on June 14th against Manor C.C., when in one over he took three wickets for three runs. Good boy, Herbert. Keep it up!

H. FOLWELL.

RESULTS.

Tramway Office, 36; H.G.S.C.C., 36. At home, May 31st. Hecks took five for 13.

Manor C.C., 49; H.G.S.C.C., 77. At home, June 14th.

West End Adult School, 68; H.G.S.C.C., 17. At home, June 21st.

Belgrave Hall, 116; H.G.S.C.C., 67. At Belgrave, June 28th.

Mid-week Practice Matches:—Victor, 84; H.G.S.C.C., 61 (at home, June 18th). Anchor Boot Works, 33; H.G.S.C.C., 46 (at home, June 25th).

FIXTURES FOR JULY.

July 5th.—Old Evington, at home.

„ 12th.—Manor C.C., at home.

„ 19th.—Tramways Office, at home.

„ 26th.—Wheatsheaf Clerks, at home.

Aug. 2nd.—Tramways Friendly, at home.

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THE CRICKETER TO HIS BAT.

(After Omar Khayyam).

A ball of leather, bowled I care not how,
A pair of pads, a batting glove—and thou
Beside me singing in the cricket field—
Oh! cricket field were Paradise enow.

Think, on the sun-kissed ground of cricket fray
Where flannelled figures flit the livelong day
How batsmen after batsman, with but thou
Abode his destined hour and went his way.

So, my beloved, let us take our fill
To-day of hitting that inflated pill;
To-morrow: why to-morrow it may rain
And next day even may be raining still.

Ah, make the most of what the gods may send
Ere you again into the bag descend,
Shrouded in dust and under stumps to lie,
Waiting, impotent, for the winter's end.

Athletic News.

Aberdeen and the Highlands.

Aberdeen has been rightly called the silver city. Built of granite, which sparkles like diamonds when the sun shines upon it, its public buildings and even its ordinary houses seem to say "No jerry-building here." The town has been planned out with thought and purpose, and with its granite paved streets, presents a clean and respectable appearance.

Words would fail to convey to you the beautiful scenery of an excursion to Ballater and Balmoral, the latter the Highland home of the Sovereigns of England. This was 43½ miles by train with an additional ten by coach. The railway runs by the side of the river Dee nearly all the way. The beautifully wooded valley is all the while in view. The coach ride from Ballater through the mountain pass was simply enchanting.

On either side there was a rich wooded country, with the river Dee in the valley below; while towering high above were the mighty hills and mountains. Right on front the mighty crags of Lochnagar were covered with snow.

Balmoral is simply grand, situated amid lovely woods, with miles of shady walks, and a path by the river side. The river flows away towards the sea at the rate of five miles an hour. All round and in front the mountains rear their heads towards heaven. No wonder Queen Victoria loved her Highland home.

AMOS MANN.

ESTATE NOTICES.

Leicester Borough Workmen's Band.—Sunday, July 6th, 7.30 p.m., on Bowling Green.

Members' Monthly Meeting.—Thursday, July 17th, 8 p.m.

General Committee.—Thursday, July 10th, 8 p.m.

Sub-Committees.—Alternate Thursdays, 8 p.m.

Link Committee.—Thursdays, July 3rd and 10th, 8.30 p.m.

Supply Association Committee.—Every Friday, 8 p.m.

Children's Corner

WITHOUT A CHARACTER.

'Please, sir, do you want a boy?' It was a low, clear voice, with just the faintest tremor in it. He stood at the door of the counting-house, his cap in his hand, his clothes neat and clean.

'Do I want a boy?' replied the owner of the place, turning round in his chair, and looking sharply over the top of his spectacles. 'What can you do?'

'Make myself useful,' replied the boy.

'Oh, a general utility man!' And Mr. Lansing laughed. 'Can you write?'

'I passed through the high school, sir.'

'Have you? That speaks well for you. What is your name?'

'Gabriel Winchester.'

'Is your father living?'

'He died in prison.'

Mr. Lansing eyed him more keenly when he said that, and also more kindly.

'I am the only support of my mother,' the boy said, his voice husky—'almost the only support. She manages to secure work one day in the week.'

The merchant was pleased with the boy's preciseness. The head bookkeeper, an old grey-haired man, with a kindly face, had turned from his desk, attracted by the boy's voice and the nature of his replies.

'Where were you last employed?' Mr. Lansing asked.

'At the office of the *Argus*.'

Mr. Lansing took off his glasses and wiped them. 'Have you a character from your late employer?' he asked.

'No, sir.'

'Why not?'

The lad's lips trembled. 'I—was—discharged,' came at last, in a faint tone.

'Oh, that is it, eh?' and Mr. Lansing frowned. 'No wonder they gave you no recommendations. No, I do

not want a boy.' He spoke with needless bitterness, wheeled round in his chair, and resumed his paper.

The boy became sad, and he turned to go; but the bookkeeper threw him a sign to wait for a few moments. He had been strangely drawn towards the boy. There was something manly in his face, something promising in his bearing, much that was frank and fearless in his glance.

'Mr. Lansing,' the bookkeeper said, respectfully, 'perhaps it was candour in the boy, and not assurance. Will you allow me to ask him a question?'

'Oh, certainly,' replied Mr. Lansing.

'My lad, why were you discharged?'

'Because I would not work on Sunday.'

'What is that you say?' It was Mr. Lansing that spoke.

'I was discharged because I would not work on Sunday,' the lad repeated. 'They started a Sunday paper in the office last week. The men and the boys laughed at me; but I did not care. I could not work on that day, sir.'

'No, and you were right,' declared Mr. Lansing, in a gratified voice.

His opinion of the boy had entirely changed. He left the counting-room, and in fifteen minutes he returned. He had been over at the office of the *Argus*. The boy's story he found was correct.

'I do want a boy,' Mr. Lansing said, as he placed his hand on the lad's head. 'I believe you will suit me.'

RECIPE FOR GOOSEBERRY JELLY.—To 1¼ lbs. fruit allow ½ pint water. Boil the whole till reduced to a pulp, then strain through a flannel jelly bag. To each pint of juice allow 1 lb. of loaf sugar. Boil again till a small piece dropped on a cold plate will jelly. Place the jelly in pots, tie down in the usual way, store in a cool place. The jelly should be a clear pink when properly made.

N. MEEKINS.

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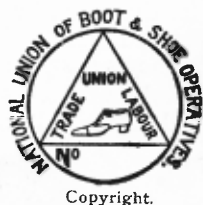
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1911	— £1,072,600
1910	— £789,693
1909	— £522,997
1908	— £346,417
1907	— £204,639
1906	— £106,082
1905	— £36,390
1904	— £17,208
1903	— £10,237

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