

The Link.

The Official Journal of the Humberstone Garden Suburb.

"NOT GREATER WEALTH, BUT SIMPLER PLEASURES."

No. 33

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Published Monthly.

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EDITORIAL.

There are few financial obligations which the average man discharges less cheerfully than the payment of his rate bill. Commodities required to supply immediate household needs—such as foodstuffs, clothing and the like—are paid for without demur, for the value received is regarded as visible and real; but, strangely enough payment is only made with reluctance, and after a good deal of grumbling, for services rendered by local governing bodies. We venture to think, however, that the "average men" who were privileged to hear the address given by Councillor Sydney Gimson on the subject of "Rates," at the opening meeting of our new Literary and Debating Society, will be satisfied that ratepayers in Leicester at least are receiving quite extraordinary value for their outlay. As the lecturer pointed out, the cost would certainly be much greater if the work were contracted for individually. It was stated that elementary education alone costs the local authority £1 12s. per child per year. A family, with four children attending school, occupying a house at a yearly rental of £20, pays annually in rates the sum of £6 8s.—exactly the cost of their children's education—and in addition, participates in the numerous other benefits collectively provided for all citizens—roads and bridges, public parks, public libraries, museums, secondary and technical education, sanitation, street cleaning and removal of refuse, police protection, fire brigade, food inspection, fever hospitals, consumption sanatoria, relief of the poor, &c., &c.; and also share in the inestimable boon conferred by the cheap and efficient provision of gas, electricity, water, baths, trams, gymnasiums, playing fields, music, infants' milk depôts, cemeteries, crematoriums, and many other services too numerous to detail. Truly the duties of a progressive local authority cover

a wide field—and it is generally agreed that there are still many other directions in which corporate enterprise might assert itself to the advantage of the community. Not even the most conservative amongst us would care to revert to the days of toll-bars, and another half-century's municipal activity will inevitably lead to advance in directions now little dreamed of.

MONTHLY MEETING.—Mr. E. T. Groome presided over a small attendance on Thursday, November 19th. Mr. J. S. Wilford reported that Mr. A. Hern, the works manager, had left the employment of the Society last Saturday, and that all the houses on the Estate are occupied. Mr. R. Scott reported on the work of the Estate Council, giving details of past and future concerts. The delegate to the conference at Shepshed (Mr. Grocock) gave the report of his visit, and an account of the paper and discussion on "Co-operation and the Multiple Shop Menace." Mr. Wright was elected to represent the Society on the W.E.A. Some discussion took place in general business regarding the state of the road in Stein Lane.

WOMEN'S SOCIAL GUILD.—Two meetings have been held this month, both very well attended. On November 5th an interesting and instructive address was given by Mr. A. Chapman on "How to deal with an outbreak of fire." On November 19th, Mrs. Bond, of Leicester, gave an address on her recent visit to Australia; including an account of the outward voyage, and a fine description of the objects of interest at the various places of call. Mrs. Bond related how the news of the declaration of war on Germany was received by wireless telegraphy during the voyage, and with what anxiety they awaited further information, and also how the meetings of the British Association (the objective of their visit to Australia) were to a great extent spoiled by the war. The address was greatly enjoyed by all present. Tea, music and chat are attractive features of these meetings, and the ladies are showing their appreciation by attending in large numbers. On December 3rd, Mrs. Cardinal Taylor will speak, and on December 17th the first half of this session will close with a "Free and Easy"—games, music, &c.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

The newest recruit from our Estate is Mr. Joe Rowlett, junr., who has joined the "Terriers."

* * *

"The Rustics" have made a very promising entry into the amusement arena. If they can keep the combination unbroken they should "do things."

* * *

Everyone is eagerly anticipating the opening entertainment of the Dramatic Society, when no doubt there will be another bumper house to make the heart of the E.C. secretary glad.

* * *

All residents regret the departure of Mr. and Mrs. Bowerman from our midst, and the reasons which have compelled them to leave us. We wish them good health and prosperity for the future.

* * *

The temporary discontinuance of the Choral Society is regrettable, for it always provided good music, and "something will be lacking" should it go under. We hope Conductor Wilford and Secretary Goodenough will experience a rally after Christmas.

* * *

It is rumoured that the members of the "Blowing Class" are becoming so proficient in the art of melody-raising that they contemplate making their debut on Christmas Eve. [This rumour has *not* been submitted to the conductor for confirmation.]

* * *

"What a nuisance cats are!" This remark is stated to have fallen from the lips of a dog-owner the other day while his dog was enjoying himself chasing a cat round the garden belonging to pussy's owner, the animal's huge paws ploughing up the flower beds in a strenuous endeavour to corner his feline quarry.

BIRTHS.

WHITFIELD.—On November 9th, to Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Whitfield (Phoenix Lodge), a daughter.

PARKER.—On November 11th, to Mr. and Mrs. F. Parker (St. Aubyns), a daughter.

COLES.—On November 15th, to Mr. and Mrs. Bert Coles (Hawthorn House), a daughter.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME.

CHRISTMAS EVE (Thursday, December 24th).—8 to 11.30 p.m., Fancy Dress Dance (costume optional). Admission, 6d.; non-dancers, 3d. Permission for visitors may be obtained from Mr. Scott, Secretary to Estate Council.

MONDAY (December 28th).—Children's Day. Party for young children in afternoon and older children in the evening.

TUESDAY (December 29th).—Estate Council "At Home." Free to all adult residents.

WEDNESDAY (December 30th).—Programme yet to be arranged.

THURSDAY (December 31st).—New Year's Eve Dance.

Further details respecting above programme will appear later in notice cases.

BELGIAN REFUGEES.—A fairly well attended meeting was held in the Assembly Room on Thursday, November 12th, to consider the advisability of taking collective action on the Estate regarding the Belgian refugees. Mr. A. H. Hibbett presided, and Mr. J. S. Wilford stated what had already been done—£2 10s., proceeds of a concert, forwarded to the fund. The discussion centred chiefly on whether it would be better to join forces with one of the other villages in the neighbourhood where provision is being made for one or more families, or whether it would be better to maintain a family ourselves. Eventually a resolution was carried unanimously that we organise a subscription list with a view to maintaining a family of refugees, and a further resolution that the Secretary be instructed to inquire *re* a cottage in the village.

CRICKET CLUB.—The annual meeting of the above was held in the Institute on Wednesday, November 18th. The Club is in a healthy condition financially, the balance to be carried forward to next year's account amounting to £2 8s. The following are the officers elected for 1915:—President, Mr. S. B. Beamish; secretary and treasurer, Mr. C. H. Goodenough; captain, Mr. G. Ward; vice-captain, Mr. G. Riley. Committee Messrs. W. Shilton, A. Aston, and A. H. Vass. Any new residents, interested in cricket, are invited to make themselves known.

THE PAST—AND THE PRESENT.

“ROYAL ARMY OF RESERVE.—Rendezvous of Volunteers in case of invasion, or the appearance of the enemy off the coast. According to 49th Clause of Act 43, Geo. III., Cap. 96, Leicester—for volunteers raised in Borough of Leicester. Syston—for those raised in East Goswote Hundred. Melton—for those raised in Framland Hundred. Red and white flags will be hoisted in the daytime and skyrockets discharged at night in case the enemy land. Leicester—St. Martin's Steeple; Houghton-on-the-Hill—Steeple; Bradgate—Tower; Croft—Hill, &c.”

Sounds very modern—quite up to date, but it is really an extract from an advertisement in a local paper for March 23rd, 1804. Then, as now, there were wars and rumours of wars; for about twelve years on and off—more on than off—we had been fighting France, and the long-threatened invasion of England just at that time seemed very close; for Napoleon had an army of a hundred thousand men in camp at Boulogne, and a fleet of flat-bottomed transports ready to slip them across here as soon as circumstances were propitious. “Let us be masters of the Channel for six hours,” he is reported to have said, “and we are masters of the world.” But our Navy prevented that; the gunboats used to slip into Boulogne harbour when the wind was favourable and sink a few of his transports just by way of what an Irishman would call “divarson.” Still, we know by the interest we take in the present war exactly how far Boulogne is from the white cliffs of “Old England,” and a powerful enemy master there with all his appliances ready for action is not a pleasant experience. So the people of that period made preparations for giving him an appropriate reception should his dream of the “six hours” materialise. Apparently he was more modest than our present opponent, he only wanted “six hours,” ours has made a big to-do about “The Day.” Beside the regular troops, the Militia was embodied, and the different county regiments marched off chiefly to the South of England. Then three or four hundred thousand volunteers were raised as a third line of defence, part of the expense being defrayed by private subscription and part by the Government. A shilling a day was

allowed to the privates during the time they were embodied for instruction, and proportionate pay for officers, non-coms., and others. Allowances were also made for uniforms, which had to last three years, and for other regimental expenses, the balance of expenditure being made up from the subscription list. The uniform of the infantry was red and that of the artillery blue, and certain privileges were granted; for instance, officers were allowed to keep one charger free of duty, and all the members were permitted to use hair powder without paying the tax imposed on that luxury. It does not seem much of an inducement to us, but perhaps the “Nut” of the period appreciated it. The revenue net was very wide then and dragged in all sorts of things, even windows being liable to duty, and notices in the papers of the time specify that windows in stables, bake-houses, kitchens, and outhouses, were all liable to the tax.

No doubt many anxious eyes were turned to the steeples of Houghton-on-the-Hill or St. Martin's, both of which are visible from different parts of Humberstone, but the “six hours” never came, thanks to our Navy, and after Trafalgar in 1805 there was little probability that they would, although the job was not finally settled until Waterloo. PENDA.

LITERARY AND DEBATING SOCIETY.—Already three meetings have been held. On the opening night Councillor Sydney Gimson, of Leicester, gave an interesting address on “Rates”; the following week our own gardening expert, Mr. Joe Rowlett, spoke on “Gardening for pleasure and profit”; and on the third occasion Mr. J. Elliot's subject was “Robert Burns, the Ploughman-Poet.” So far the attendance has been encouraging. The meetings are held every Friday evening at eight in the Institute, and a hearty welcome is extended to all residents.

MR. A. GOLLAND, Professor of Music (Organist and Choirmaster, St. Anne's Church, Western Park), receives pupils for Piano and Organ. Special terms for Estate residents. Residence: “Ingleside,” Fern Rise.

Keep your Fowls Healthy and fill your egg-baskets by using Scott's Pills—certain cure for Colds, Sneezing, Roup, &c., and promote laying.—“Dalkeith,” Fern Rise.

Estate Book Exchange.

A large number of books have been kindly offered for borrowers' use. The hon. secretary of the Exchange—Mr. E. H. Wright, Lilac Avenue—hopes to announce date of opening shortly. An indexed catalogue is in preparation, from which borrower will be able to make their selection on Friday evenings in the Institute.

It has been decided to work the scheme on the following lines:—

Membership subscription, 3d. per year

Borrowers are expected to handle books carefully, and will be held responsible for damage. No one under 16 years of age eligible for membership; but adults may borrow on behalf of juniors on undertaking full responsibility.

Books to be issued for a period of fourteen days; but may be renewed for weekly periods providing no other member desires book. A fine of one penny for each week book is kept beyond specified time (unless renewed).

Vouchers will be issued by Librarian to borrowers with which to obtain books from owners; but books must be returned to Librarian, who will arrange for their return to owners.

Further particulars respecting the scheme may be obtained from Mr. E. H. Wright (secretary), or Messrs. Ward, Wheatley, and Elliot, who comprise the committee.

The Social Side.

The outstanding events of the past month have been the Concert by Miss Kemp and party, and the Entertainment given by our own "Rustics."

Residents who had the good fortune to be in the Chapel on the night of November 14th were treated to a concert of a very high-class character, which will certainly rank among the best we have had.

On the 21st the "Rustics" provided their initial entertainment, which exceeded all expectations. Young and old alike were delighted with the fare provided, the local allusions especially causing much amusement, and their next effort is anticipated with interest.

For Olive Oil, Castor Oil, Linseed Oil, Camphorated Oil (all at 2d. per oz.), Violet Powder and Fuller's Earth (1d. per pkt.), try "WILLOWDENE," Laburnum Road.

CHILDREN'S CORNER.

BARBARA'S "BESTEST" CHRISTMAS.

There was one day in the year that stood out in Barbara's memory as the very best and brightest of all, and that was Christmas Day. However busy daddy might be, he always found time to spend the day with his little motherless daughter, and to Barbie Christmas meant two special things: Daddy all to herself for a whole day; and also lots of presents on a big Christmas tree.

This year everything seemed out of joint; daddy was at the front with his regiment, and Nursie said that she didn't think he would be back for Christmas, so of course it would be all wrong without him.

"It will be a horrid Christmas," pouted Barbara, as she curled herself up in the window seat in the big nursery, and watched the dead leaves whirling about outside. "No daddy, no presents, and no fun. I wish there was no Christmas Day, that's what I wish. It's too bad, that's what it is, that daddy should be away just when I want him at home."

"Why, Barbie, what a long face! Whatever is the matter with you, girly?"

"It's about Christmas, Auntie," said Barbara, looking up quickly. "It's a shame that daddy can't be at home to fill my stocking, and give me my presents, and romp with me as he always does, and—" but here she stopped, for Auntie looked so grave that even spoiled Barbie thought she had better make no more complaints.

"Don't you know, dear, that Christmas really means giving, not taking?" asked Auntie quietly, "the Christ Child came to earth on that day as a tiny baby to give Himself for us, and we have the true Christmas spirit only when we are trying to help other people. Come, let us reckon up how many of the village children will have no daddy at home this Christmas, and see what we can do to give them a happy day. That will be better than fretting and grumbling."

So Barbie had a good time after all, although she had to do without daddy. Altogether they found thirteen children in the village whose fathers were at the front, beside five poor mites whose daddy had been killed in action early in the war. Instead of a Christmas tree all to herself Barbara invited these bairnies to come up to the big house to tea with her on Christmas

Even Auntie Edith and Nursie helped to play their favourite games with them in the evening, and before they went home the big Christmas tree was stripped, and Barbara handed each child its presents. Next morning she and Auntie visited their different homes, carrying with them all sorts of good things stowed away in the motor. No one was forgotten, and there was lots of fun in seeing the mothers' delight in the well filled baskets.

It was a very tired Barbara that sat cuddled up in Auntie's lap by the fire at bedtime that evening.

"It's been my very bestest Christmas, Auntie," she whispered, "though I did miss daddy. P'raps next year he'll be here to help us; but anyway, I shall want another 'giving' Christmas. It's better than presents, after all."

C. STEER.

GARDEN NOTES.

The work in the garden this month chiefly consists in preparing the soil for future crops, and one may do much in the way of digging, manuring, and trenching the soil. Every advantage should be taken when the ground is dry or frozen to wheel manure to plots that require it; avoid puddling the soil. All soils should be treated sufficiently early to enable the frosts and winds to sweeten the surface.

Late celery plants should receive their final earthing up and be top-covered with a little straw to keep out the frost.

Where birds cause annoyance by eating buds from the gooseberry trees pruning should be left until the end of February. All other pruning may be attended to when frost is not in the wood.—T. R.

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