TONBRIDGE.

*** Notices of meetings, etc., should be addressed to the Tonbridge Representative of the "COURIER," c/o Mr M. Stonestreet, 25, High-street, Tonbridge.

THE WOODLANDS LAUNDRY, QUARRY HILL, TONBRIDGE.—The Misses P. M. and S. CANDLER have pleasure in announcing that their BRANCH LAUNDRY at TONBRIDGE will be complete and open for the reception of work on MONDAY, MAY 6th. Price List on application. Telephone Nos.: 278 Tunbridge Wells; 32 Tonbridge.

A DISCLAIMER.—Mr Charles Walton, pork butcher, of High-street, Tonbridge, requests us to state that he was in no way connected with the recent case at the Police Court in which a bookmaker was sentenced for "welshing" at the Edenbridge Races.

A NEW TENNIS CLUB.—It was recently decided to form a tennis section of the Tonbridge Half Holiday Cricket Club, and a meeting to make the necessary arrangements will take place at the Central Restaurant next Thursday, at 8.30 p.m. Mr A. E. Stonestreet has been selected as Hon. Secretary, and the new departure promises to be a great success.

THE DRINK.—At the Tonbridge Police Court, yesterday (Thursday), a pedlar named Elizabeth Sinclair was fined 2s. 6d. and 9s. 6d. costs, with the option of one day's imprisonment, for having been drunk at Hildenborough, on May 1st. She elected to remain in custody until the rising of the Court. The case was proved by P.C. Mayhew.

FALL OF A TREE.—A large elm tree in the gardens of Dr. Tew's residence, in Waterloo-road, suddenly fell to the ground yesterday (Thursday). The trunk completely blocked up the roadway, and a large portion of it extended over the wall of the churchyard opposite. Fortunately no one was passing at the time. The middle of the tree was afterwards cut away to allow traffic to pass.

GARDENERS' SOCIETY. — The members of the Tonbridge Gardeners' Society commenced the series of monthly summer meetings at the Bull Hotel last (Thursday) night, when Mr C. Milner presided over a capital attendance. The exhibits included a collection of flowering and foliage plants by Mr F. Webber, a plant of Guelder rose by Mr J. Hubble, and a plant of spiræa by Mr W. Humphreys, gardener to Mr F. W. Franks. Mr J. Coley, gardener to Mrs Barnes, read a paper on the Begonia Gloire de Lorraine, and he was accorded a hearty vote of thanks.

GRATITUDE.—Col. Warde has received the following letter of thanks in connection with the recent successful police concert at Tonbridge:—"Provincial Police Orphanage, Redhill, 26th April. Dear Colonel Warde,—I have much pleasure in acknowledging your letter with cheque for £42 2s 11d enclosed. Please accept our very warm and grateful thanks for this splendid help. It is most acceptable, and we deeply appreciate the effort of your officers and men.—Yours very truly, Bertha J. Johnson, Hon. Lady Superintendent."

CAKE AND APRON SALE.—Mr A. Paget Hedges, M.P., opened a cake and apron sale at the Public Hall, Tonbridge, on Saturday afternoon, the object being to raise funds for the women delegates' expenses in connection with the Women's Liberal Association. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr Hedges, on the proposition of Mrs Baldwin. The ladies who assisted were as follows:—Apron stall: Mrs East, Miss Baldwin, Mrs Kitchin, and Mrs Callow; Refreshment stall: Mrs Lambert, Mrs Bleach, Mrs Howard, Mrs Emery, and Mrs French; Cakes and sweets stall: Miss Jarvis, Miss Stockbridge, and Miss Simms.

TONBRIDGE COUNTY COURT.

FRIDAY.—Before His Honour Judge Emden, and the Registrar (Mr C. E. Warner).

AN ACCIDENT AT RUSTHALL.

Mrs Dorothy Mary Barrow, of Holmwood, Langton, sued Messrs. G. Brotherwood and Sons, contractors, for £5 17s., damage to a horse and van due to the alleged negligence of defendant's traction engine driver.

Mr Hale, of Messrs Young, Jones and Co., London, appeared for the plaintiff, and defendants were legally represented by Mr Ward, of Messrs Neve and Peace, Tonbridge.

Roger Wybrow, coachman to Mrs Barrow, said he was driving a horse and van from Holmwood, Langton, to Tunbridge Wells, on October 31st, 1906. When within 50 yards of the locomotive he held up his hand for the driver to stop. He did so, but when the horse was within 20 yards of the traction engine the driver started the engine again, with the result that the horse ran up a bank and overturned the van.

Cross-examined by Mr Ward: The engine driver and his mates rendered him all the assistance they could at the time of the accident. He did not make any remark to them at the time.

A lad named John Paxton, who was in the coachman's company, corroborated.

Walter Dunn, coachman to Sir David Salomons, said at the time of the accident he was driving from Tunbridge Wells towards Langton. The horse and van were upset at the side of the road, but they had not met the traction engine.

Walter Wood, a coachbuilder, said he repaired the van at a cost of £5 17s. 6d.

William Swayland, the engine driver, said he was driving the engine up an incline leading to Rusthall Church. He stopped to allow a carriage and pair going in the same direction as himself to pass, and shortly afterwards noticed a horse and van, coming from the other direction, overturned. His engine was quite quiet. As far as he could judge the van was about 40 yards away when the accident occurred.

Cross-examined: He swore that after he stopped his engine to allow the carriage and pair to pass he remained stationary until after the accident happened.

Albert Short, a waggoner in the employ of Messrs Brotherwood at the time of the accident, said he did not remember the driver moving his engine until after the accident.

Alfred Jenner, a labourer, in the employ of Messrs Brotherwood, said he placed a block behind the wheel of the engine when the latter started, and did not take take it away until after the accident, so that the driver could not have started the engine again.

His Honour, in giving judgment, said the question was whether the plaintiff's driver held up his hand to the driver of the traction engine. By the Local Government Board Act of 1865, if he did so the locomotive driver was bound to stop and take due care. To look at the evidence there was no doubt whatever that the plaintiff's driver did hold up his hand. The evidence of the defence was of a most imperfect character. The first two witnesses could not trust their memories, but on the other hand the plaintiff's witnesses had no hesitation in the way they gave their evidence, which led him to the certain conclusion that the hand of the driver of the van was held up. The second question was whether, having regard to that, the locomotive driver stopped until the cart had gone by. Looking at the whole of the evidence, the balance was clearly in his favour that the driver did not look at the horse and van and his attention being called by the carriage and pair which was passing, started his engine at a very dangerous moment. That being so, there must be judgment for the amount claimed, with reasonable costs.

TONBRIDGE COUNCIL.

PROTESTS AGAINST THE "ROAD HOG."

APPLICATION FOR SPEED LIMIT TO BE REDUCED.

The monthly meeting of the Tonbridge Urban District Council took place on Wednesday evening at the Castle. The new Chairman, Dr. H. A. Andrews, presided over the following attendance: Dr. H. J. M. Watts, Messrs. Harris, G. E. Jemmett, G. F. Stacey, T. Ives, D. Clark, I. Race, W. G. Morley, P. G. Lawson, J. S. F. Higginson, A. J. Isard, J. T. Gates, H. Webber, C. E. Skilton, H. R. Beckett, and H. W. Peach (Clerk).

A REQUEST FOR MONEY.

A letter was received from Mr Frank Harris, engineer and surveyor to the Tonbridge Rural District Council, stating that it would cost £50 to repair the Powder Mill footpath near Leigh, which was in the district of the Tonbridge Rural Parish Council, and pointing out that as the road was used mainly by persons living within the district of the Tonbridge Urban Council and Leigh, his Council thought the authorities concerned should contribute something towards repairing the footpath, and asking the Urban Council to give the matter their consideration.

It was decided to refer the communication to the Highways and Lighting Committee.

QUOITS IN THE CASTLE GROUNDS.

A letter was read from the hon. secretary of the Tonbridge Quoit Club, stating that his Club were without a ground owing to the erection of the new school in the Slade, and asking the Council to allow the use of a strip of turf, 60 feet by 30 feet in the Castle Grounds, near the Electric Lighting station. The writer quoted several instances of local authorities having given similar permission to quoit clubs, in order to encourage the ancient game.

The letter was referred to the General Purposes Committee.

The FINANCE COMMITTEE reported that the treasurer's balance in hand was £1,951, and accounts amounting to £283 had been recommended for payment. The wages for five weeks ending June 1st were estimated to amount to £397 16s.

The report was adopted on the proposition of Mr Stacey, seconded by Mr Clark.

The FARM AND WORKS COMMITTEE reported that the Farm Bailiff had informed them that he had sown about four acres of ground with rye grass seed, and three acres with oats, and that he had begun planting potatoes. Nearly all the mangolds had been sold.

Mr Webber moved the adoption of the report, which was agreed to.

The HIGHWAYS AND LIGHTING COMMITTEE reported that the surveyor would apply the process of tar paving on a portion of London-road, having found the process satisfactory at Hythe. He also proposed to repair Hayesden Lane from Brook-street to Lower Hayesden. The offer of the Tonbridge Gas Company to contract for 260 lamps was further considered, and the Surveyor estimated that the lighting could be carried out at less cost by the Council. It was decided to thank the Gas Company for their offer, to state that the Council propose to carry out the work of lighting, repairing, etc., themselves for the present, and to ask to be again supplied with gas on the average meter system. A letter was received from the Ratepayers' Association asking the Council to take steps to restrict the speed of motor cars through the main thoroughfares of the town; and further suggesting that the Council should ask the County Council to give instructions for two police constables at least to be placed on point duty in High-street. The Committee recommended that the Association be informed that the matter has been several times considered by the Council, and that representations were made upon the subject to the Local Government Board and Mr A. P. Hedges, M.P., in December last. A further letter was received from Mr Moren with reference to surface water drainage in and near the Medway Building Estate, and asking that the Council should compensate him for damage alleged to have been suffered, such compensation to be by way of allowing him to have certain brick material near the spot. The Committee recommended that the Clerk be instructed to reply that the Council cannot accept the suggestion, and that they have nothing to add to their last letter. A letter was received from Mr H. W. Cook, Organising Secretary at the Technical Institute, complaining of inconvenience caused in consequence of the coffee stall standing at the corner of Avebury Avenue, and the Surveyor was instructed to give the matter his attention.

Mr Ives moved the adoption of the report. He said the Committee might appear to have formed a hasty decision with reference to the speed of motor cars, but it was not intended to be in any way disrespectful to the Ratepayers' Association. He had himself noticed the extreme danger caused by motor cars passing through the town at a high speed.

Mr Isard asked if the Council were to bear the whole of the cost of repairing Hayesden Lane from Brook Street, as he noticed that the road was very much damaged by traction engine traffic.

Mr Race said that if extraordinary traffic could be proved the Council could no doubt recover something from the owners of the traction engines.

Mr Isard moved that the paragraph be referred back.

Mr Race seconded, and the motion was carried.

Mr Clark said the Committee's reply with reference to the question of motor car speed was perhaps too hasty. He suggested that the speed should be limited to ten miles an hour.

Mr Jemmett entirely agreed as to the danger of the pace at which motor cars passed through the town. If anyone drove a carriage or horse and trap at anything like the rate at which motor cars passed through the town, they would be immediately prosecuted for furious driving (hear, hear).

Mr Race said he did not think it was local drivers who were at fault so much as those strangers who set out to do a journey in a small space of time (hear, hear).

Mr Beckett said by what he could see from reports of inquests, it was always certain death if anyone was knocked down by a car. No one seemed to ever be wounded. In spite of all regulations, the speed of motors seemed to increase, and great danger was caused to children and others in crossing the roads.

Mr Clark moved that the Local Government Board be asked to issue an order limiting the speed of motor cars passing through the Urban District to 10 miles per hour.

Mr Stacey and Mr Morley also agreed that something should definitely be done to limit the speed of cars.

The Chairman said he did not hold a brief for the motorists, but he thought the matter was one for the police to deal with, as they could proceed under the law as it at present existed, if it could be proved that cars were being driven at a speed dangerous to the public. A speed which would be excessive in one part of the town might be quite reasonable in another part. The fact that motors had been driven through the town for 12 years and that there had been no accidents proved something.

Mr Stacey: It proves luck.

Mr Ives thought the present speed limit of 20 miles an hour was much too high, and if it was reduced to ten it would give the police some latitude.

The Chairman said he would vote against the reduced limit being applied to the whole of the Urban District. There were many roads in which there was little traffic, and in which it would not be dangerous to drive a car at a higher speed than 10 miles an hour.

Mr Beckett said the mania for speed should be put down.

Mr Stacey said the people in London-road, Quarry Hill-road, Shipbourne-road, and Pembury-road should be considered. At present pedestrians could not pass along some of those thoroughfares without being smothered with dust.

The amendment, asking the Local Government Board to fix the limit at 10 miles an hour, was then carried, only the Chairman and Mr Harris voting against.

The report was adopted.

The GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE recommended that permission be given the Postal Telegraph Department to carry a temporary cable through the Castle Grounds on the existing telegraph poles, with one additional, provided it was done to the Surveyor's satisfaction, and was removed within three months. It was decided to obtain a 12-inch lawn mower for the Castle Grounds. It was agreed, at the request of Mr E. H. Goggs, to renew the iron fence around the seat outside the Cottage Hospital. A letter was received from the Kent Education Committee with regard to taking up the playground at the Sussex Road School, and stating that the matter was under the consideration of the County Committee, and some action with regard to it would, it was expected, be taken shortly. A communication was received from the Charity Commission stating they proposed to treat the site and buildings of the Technical Institute as constituting a separate endowment, permanently appropriated for solely educational purposes: the effect of which would be that the Institution would pass from their jurisdiction to that of the Board of Education. The Committee fully considered the matter, but did not recommend any steps with regard to the course proposed to be adopted. A letter was received from the Local Government Board suggesting that the Council might extend their application for powers with regard to the custody of non-ecclesiastical books and documents, so as to include an application for the powers of the vestry under the Vestries Act, 1818, Section 6, so far as relates to books, etc., and the Committee recommended that the suggestion of the Board be adopted, and the necessary application made. The Tonbridge Cricket Week Committee wrote asking whether they might have the use of the Castle Grounds in cricket week on the usual terms, and it was recommended that permission be given.

Mr Stacey, in moving the adoption of the report, said, in reference to the Technical Institute, that it appeared that the Council were only sub-tenants, as it were, of the Technical Institute, whereas he had always understood that it was the property of the town (hear, hear).

Mr Race said he did not think the Charity Commissioners could have intended what was stated in the report. He noticed the Charity Commissioners asked for any observations from the Council, so they probably anticipated an objection. The Kent Education Committee now being the sole educational authority, the Council were not responsible for technical education in the town, and it might appear they were paying loan charges on a matter which did not directly concern them.

The Clerk said he had written to the Charity Commissioners, telling them that the Council did not agree to anything.

Mr Isard considered it was the duty of the Council, while not being obstructive, to adopt a bold attitude in the matter, and not give away any of their rights.

It was agreed that the Clerk should communicate the views of the Council to the Charity Commissioners.

The HEALTH COMMITTEE reported that they were of opinion that the supervision of midwives under the Midwives Act was being carried out satisfactorily. Plans were deposited as follows: pair of semi-detached residences in Quarry Hill Gardens for Mr F. G. P. Neve; detached villa in Goldsmid-road, for Mr C. J. Fowler; additions to numbers 18 and 20 Pembury-road for Mr A. H. Neve. The Committee were pleased to report that no notification of infectious disease has been received during the last 18 days 18 days. The cost of maintenance of staff and patients at the Hospital during the past month averaged 7s 10½d per head per week. The Inspector reported that the three manure pits in the wharf are in such a state as to be a nuisance. He had requested the owners to cause the same to be filled up to the ground level, and build in their stead receptacles with impervious floors and sides, and provided with drains and covers. This they promised to do. Complaints having been received as to nuisances being committed in the dark part of the footpath through St. Stephen's Churchyard, the Committee communicated with the Superintendent of Police upon the matter, and recommended: That the Churchwardens be approached as to whether they would permit the Council to have the lamp over the Church-door lighted each evening and extinguished each morning; they bearing the expense of the gas consumed, but the Council paying the expense of lighting and extinguishing.

It was decided that the Surveyor should serve statutory notices on the owners of the manure pits at the Wharf, nothing having been done by them to abate the alleged nuisance.

The report was adopted.

The ELECTRICITY COMMITTEE reported that they were informed by the Engineer that in order to satisfactorily carry out maintenance of lamps, street lighting, and other duties, it was necessary that another hand should be engaged at the works, and recommended that an improver be employed at a wage not exceeding £1 a week. The Engineer reported that he had gone very carefully into the question of the extension of generating plant, and was of opinion that it would be possible to get through next winter without an extension, and that the Council would be justified in delaying extensions. The Committee recommended that the tenders of Messrs. Venner and Co., for meters, and Messrs Crompton and Co. for "Conradty" carbons, and of Messrs. Cory and Son for West Hartley coal at 17s per ton be accepted. Eight more application had been received for lamp connections. It was recommended that the wages of George Large, driver's assistant at the works be increased by 3s. per week.

Mr Isard considered it a matter of congratulation to the committee, and especially to the ratepayers, that it was not considered advisable to proceed with any extension of the electric lighting plant next winter, but he entirely failed to understand the reason. For months past they had been told that they were running a full load—

Mr Race: No, Sir.

Mr Isard: And that they must have an extension of the plant. He thought they were entitled to some explanation of the altered conditions which had arisen in the last few weeks. It appeared that the necessity for extension had suddenly vanished into thin air.

Mr Race said it might be that it was the difference of expert opinions between the late engineer and the present one. If they had a tremendous number of new consumers—and he would dearly like to see it—it might be impossible to go through the winter without an extension, but the new engineer had made tests of the reliability of the battery in moments of emergency, and was fully satisfied. Although he would have liked to have had the extension this year, as that would, he considered, show the success of the undertaking, he was not in favour of spending the money before it was necessary. It had never been said by anyone who knew anything about it that the plant had been overloaded.

Mr Isard: The late engineer distinctly told me it was so.

Mr Race: I think you must have misunderstood him.

The report was adopted.

The PUBLIC LIBRARY and MUSEUM COMMITTEE announced the following gifts: "Index of Modern Books," from trustees British Museum; "Garden Suburbs, Villages and Homes," from Tenants' Housing Council; "The Sentimentalists," from Mr A. P. Brown; and the donors were thanked. The Education Committee made arrangements as to the off-time duty of the caretaker at the institute and library which did not accord with the safe and efficient management of the library, as he was allowed at times to be away from the building during the Librarian's absence. The Committee recommended that a letter pointing this out be sent to the Committee.

Dr. Watts moved the adoption of the report. He said the committee thought it was not safe to leave the library uncared for at times when the librarian and caretaker were both out.

Mr Gates said they could not expect any employee to work from six o'clock on Monday morning until Saturday midnight without some time off.

Dr. Watts said the committee did not want the man to be without time off. They liked him to have it, and if it could be arranged to give him a day off the committee would be very pleased.

The report was adopted.

The UNOFFICIAL RECREATION COMMITTEE reported that the usual arrangements were being made for celebrating Commemoration Day, on 29th May, and it was proposed also to arrange for a promenade concert on Tuesday in Cricket Week (18th June). It was asked that permission be granted to close the grounds as usual on that occasion.

The report was agreed to.

OLD ENGLISH FAIR AT TONBRIDGE.

A CONGREGATIONALIST EFFORT.

A debt of nearly £450 has been incurred at the Tonbridge Congregational Church in installing a new heating apparatus and organ, and in thoroughly renovating the church, and those responsible for the management of the affairs of the church, with the willing assistance of many members of the congregation and other friends of the church, set to work with a will to find a means for wiping off the debt. The result was a successful Old English Fancy Fair, which was held at the Public Hall on Wednesday and Thursday. The effort was well supported, and a gratifying result was realised. The interior of the Public Hall had undergone a transformation, and presented a very effective scene. The various stalls, which were loaded with a tempting and bewildering array of articles of every description imaginable, had been made to represent old English market places, and other buildings of an antique kind; the designs in several cases being very clever.

There was a considerable attendance on the first day of the bazaar, when the proceedings were kindly opened by Mrs d'Avigdor, of Somerhill. The Rev. T. Bowes presided, and amongst those present were the Revs. G. W. Cowper-Smith (Tunbridge Wells), R. C. Hutchings, E. R. Gibbens, and T. R. McNab, Miss d'Avigdor, Mrs Anderson, Mr F. G. P. Neve, etc.

At the commencement, Mrs d'Avigdor was presented with a pretty bouquet.

The Rev. T. R. Bowes explained that an expenditure of £440 had been incurred at the church, towards which £163 had been received, and a further £45 promised, so that there remained a balance of £230 to be made up. He welcomed Mrs d'Avigdor, whom they were all very pleased to see (applause). She was a near neighbour, but they were also glad to welcome her because she belonged to another branch of the Church of God. It was very encouraging, and very agreeable that members of the different branches of the church could come together on such occasions as that (applause).

Mrs d'Avigdor then very gracefully declared the sale open, remarking that she hoped they would not only raise the £230, but something more (applause).

Mr T. E. Grice moved a hearty vote of thanks to Mrs d'Avigdor and Mr R. Freeland having seconded, the proposition was heartily carried.

SECOND DAY.

Mrs Hedges, wife of the member for this Division, opened the bazaar yesterday (Thursday) afternoon, in the presence of a good company. The pastor, the Rev. T. Bowes, informed the audience that between £80 and £100 of the £230 required had been raised the previous day. He extended a hearty welcome to Mrs Hedges, whose presence was another proof of her readiness, in spite of the numerous calls upon her time, to help in every good work and to show her practical sympathy with such efforts as that (applause). —Mrs Hedges declared the sale open and wished it every success. Although she wished to show her practical sympathy in a work of that kind, they would understand that the many calls upon her would prevent her from doing so much as she would desire, but she would do her best towards making the bazaar successful (applause). A vote of thanks was accorded Mrs Hedges on the motion of Mr F. Neve, seconded by Mr Semadeni.

The following ladies and gentlemen had charge of the stalls, etc:—Plain Needlework (Ladies' Sewing Society): Mrs Verney, Mrs Harmer, Mrs Woolley, Mrs Piper and Mrs Raymond. Fancy work: Mrs F. Neve, Mrs R. Freeland, Mrs Laurie, Misses Thorpe, A. Grice and Greene. Grocery, etc.: Mr and Mrs Marshall, Mr and Mrs Reeves and Miss Taylor. Organ stall (proceeds to the organ fund): Mrs Hodge, Mrs Bowden and Miss Price. Sweets: Masters Bowes and Verney. Refreshments: Mr and Mrs Semadeni, Mrs Strange, Mrs G. Harmer, Mrs Kingston, Mrs Goddard, Misses Wood, Verney, Woolley, and Shipp. Competition work: Mrs Anderson, Mrs Wood, Mrs Bowes, and Mrs Watson. Electric shock: Mr Bowden. Sunday School stall: Mrs C. Doust, Mrs Bentall, and Mrs Quiddington. Gentlemen's stall: Messrs. Stokes, Bentall, R. Freeland, Strange and Verney.

On both days washing, hat trimming (for gentlemen), and candle lighting competitions took place, and a lady palmist was present to be consulted by such of those as cared to place any faith in the art of fortune telling, and concerts were held in the evenings, under the direction of the organist (Mr W. Hodge).

TONBRIDGE ONWARD FOOTBALL CLUB.

ANNUAL SMOKING CONCERT.

A convivial evening was spent by the members of the Tonbridge Onward Football Club and their friends at the annual smoking concert, which took place at the Station Bridge Hotel on Tuesday evening. Mr G. F. Stacey presided over a large audience among whom were Messrs T. Harvey, J. Langridge, F. Webber, T. Webber, H. G. Day, S. E. Packham, H. E. Butcher, C. Howell, (captain), B. C. Flemons, S. G. Harris, H. Osborne, Annison, Blythe, Fielder, Woolley, Munds, and A. V. Osborne (hon. secretary).

After the toast of "The King" had been duly honoured,

The chairman made a presentation of an illuminated address to Mr C. Howell, the popular captain of the Club. He said he could imagine no happier position for a young man than to be selected captain of a football club. The position was one which required coolness and mental courage in being able to allot the place in the team to be occupied by each player. When a man was selected to act as captain for three years running, as Mr Howell had been, it spoke eloquently of the ability with which he had discharged his work (applause). He then handed the address to Mr Howell amid applause. It bore the following inscription: "Presented to Mr C. Howell by the members of the Tonbridge Onward Football Club in recognition of the able way he has carried out the duties of captain for the past three seasons. April 30th, 1907."

Mr Howell, in returning thanks, spoke with pride of his three years' connection with the Club, and complimented the secretary upon his successful efforts.

The chairman proposed "Success to the Onward Club," and congratulated the members on the way in which the Club had overcome the initial difficulties which had faced it in the first few years of its existence.

Mr A. V. Osborne, the hon. secretary, acknowledged the toast, and said the first year of the club under the name of "Onward" had been eminently successful. The Club record for the year was a very satisfactory one. The first eleven had played 24 matches, won 15, and lost 9, with 75 goals for, and 42 against. The principal goal scorers were Hudson, 18; Howell, 9; Annison, 8; Coles, 8; P. Wiles, 8; and Russell 7. The second eleven had played 21 matches, winning 11 and losing 5, with 5 drawn games. They obtained 71 goals, against their opponents' 44. The chief goal scorers in this eleven were T. Lamber, 14; F. Wiles, 14; F. Wills, 9; F. Mask—ne, 7; and W. Ransom, 6 (applause). The Club had been in existence for eight years and this was the first season it might be said to have come up to "concert pitch." The success of the Club was due to the ability of the captain and sub-captain, whose watchword to the members had been "Onward" (applause).

The toasts of "The Chairman" and "The Visitors" were subsequently honoured. The excellent musical programme gave much enjoyment, among the contributors being Mr N. Gale (at the piano), Mr Naiff (violin), Mr J. A. Page (cornet), Messrs B. C. Flemons, B. Andrews, J. Carter, G. Tansfield, S. Crocker, Chandler, and S. E. Packham (songs).

The Admiralty announces the retirement of Rear-Admiral A. W. Chisholm Batten, and the promotion of Captain C. J. Briggs to the rank of rear-admiral.

One of the events at the sports meeting of the Hotel Employees' Society at Stamford Bridge Grounds on Whit Monday will be a one mile walking race for waitresses. The first prize will be four guineas.

CONSERVATISM AT TONBRIDGE.

SMOKING CONCERT IN THE NORTH WARD.

MR. HEDGES CRITICISED FOR NEGLECT OF HIS DUTIES.

Enthusiasm for the Conservative cause was shown in a marked manner by the crowded attendance on Tuesday night at a smoking concert held at the Stag's Head, Tonbridge, under the auspices of the North Ward branch of the Tonbridge Conservative and Unionist Association. Mr G. E. Jemmett presided, and the following were also present: Major C. E. Warner, Dr. Watts, Messrs. F. O. Streeten, T. Pawley, G. Akerman, W. J. Chapman, W. Thomson, E. Le May, H. Chapman, J. Scales, W. F. R. Mist, J. F. Mockford, D. Prodger, Goddard, R. S. Bartram, C. F. Wicks, and J. E. Brett and E. Nuttall (of Tunbridge Wells).

During the evening songs were rendered by Messrs J. S. Scales, Newman, J. Marsh, R. S. Bartram, Bridges, J. F. Mockford, Courtney, Foard, etc.

Mr E. Nuttall, the Conservative Agent, gave a brief but forcible address on current politics, effectively criticising the actions of the Government with regard to Chinese labour in South Africa and the New Hebrides ordinance.

Mr J. E. Brett followed with a capital address on Tariff Reform, and he enlivened his arguments with many humorous illustrative anecdotes.

Mr C. F. Wicks mentioned that just previous to the last election the manufacturers of a well-known American cereal food had moved some of their works to Canada, in order that they might be able to claim the Canadian preference if Tariff Reform were adopted in this country. That was, he said, a matter for every one to note (hear, hear).

Mr Tom Pawley said when he went to America with the Kent eleven a firm of cricket ball manufacturers gave him a dozen balls to distribute among American groundsmen. He was told before he landed that he would have to pay 30 1-3rd per cent. duty on the cricket balls if they were new, so he put two each in a half a dozen bags and so escaped paying the duty (laughter). But if they made good balls in America, where the raw material could be bought very cheaply, would it be fair to allow them to send the balls into England free of duty when we had to pay a 33 1-3 d per cent. duty? What were cricket ball manufacturers in England going to do if that was done? (A voice, "Starve").

Major C. E. Warner said that was one of the best meetings they had had, and they ought to congratulate themselves on having had Mr Brett present to give them such an interesting speech on Tariff Reform (hear, hear). The question was one intimately connected with the Colonies. At the present moment political questions of any kind were more or less put in the shade by the presence at the Imperial Conference of the Colonial Premiers, men who had been elected by the voice of an entirely democratic people to represent the views of their particular Colonies (hear, hear). Those Premiers were unanimous on one subject, and on one subject only, and that was preference (cheers). If that was so, and the Colonies did form a part of this country, and their representatives were unanimous on this point, was it right for us to question for a moment the fact as to whether or not preference for the colonies ought to be granted? It seemed to him a ridiculous, perfectly stupid and preposterous thing to think that we in this country were entitled to brush aside the views of those men who had come thousands of miles, largely in order to bring the question of preference before us. He would liken the Colonies to the roots and fibres of the trunk of the tree, England, and bringing nourishment to the trunk. The wider the branches of a tree extended the bigger the roots and fibres grew. If we prospered, the Colonies would prosper, and it was not right for us to prosper—assuming for a moment that we were prospering—unless the Colonies prospered also. If it was true that this country was prospering, then it was right for the Colonies to share in that property, and if preference was going to bring that about it was the duty of this country to let them have it (applause). That, of course, raised the question as to whether this country was prosperous (A Voice: "It is not."). It was largely a question of statistics, and he would admit for the sake of argument that there was a great increase in trade. Yet we were not increasing in the same ratio as other countries were doing (hear, hear). Every country was to-day engaged in a race. The nations started level, but although we were running, the others were gaining upon us. Germany was getting ahead of us, and so long as that could happen this country could not be prosperous (hear, hear). They could see it by the number of men out of work in their own town. Whatever was the cause, the fact remained, and it was the duty of everyone to see that the present state of things existed no longer (applause). He knew of a strong healthy man in Tonbridge who was going to Canada because he could not get work here. Canada would benefit, but there was no reason why he should leave Tonbridge except that he was unable to obtain work. It was a serious state of things for this country to be losing the services of strong, willing men like that (hear, hear). The responsibility lay with them, and if they wanted to restore prosperity to the country they must use their votes to restore the Unionist party to power (applause).

Mr. Mist said that a few days after Mr Winston Churchill had said that it was a most unfortunate thing to bring up the question of Preference, and Mr Lloyd George had enquired "Who asks for it?" the Colonial Premiers had re-affirmed their offer (applause). The working man was bluffed at the last election, but could be trusted to see that the process was not repeated at the next (applause).

Mr E. Le May said Mr Hedges had often been referred to as "Our Silent Member." Those connected with fruit growing knew what a serious matter the American gooseberry mildew was. Every agricultural association in the country had urged the Government in every way that the matter should be promptly dealt with by the Board of Agriculture. Earl Carrington had agreed to deal with the matter as one of urgency, and had drawn up a Bill which was brought in the House of Commons on March 21st. The Tunbridge Wells Farmers' Club sent an urgent whip to their member, Mr Hedges, to be in attendance at the House of Commons, and support the Bill. He replied that the Bill was not printed, but that when it was printed he would give it his consideration. That was a matter which reflected very considerably, he thought, on the member for this Division. It was said that if the disease continued for one year it might be impossible to eradicate it, and our member, after every agriculturist had been pressing the matter, told them that he had not had time to consider the matter. He had every respect for Mr Hedges personally, but it should have been his duty, as member for an agricultural district, to watch every move throughout the stages of that Bill, and it was a serious thing for him to thus ignore his opportunities of serving his constituency (hear, hear, and applause).

Mr Graves said there were many more petitions and letters on other matters which had been ignored by Mr Hedges.

The proceedings concluded with the rendering of the National Anthem.

FORTHCOMING CONCERT.—Mr Hunnibell has fixed Wednesday afternoon, May 29th, for his next orchestral concert at the Great Hall, a very interesting programme is being arranged, and the same band has been engaged as appeared on the last occasion.

GENERAL HOSPITAL.—The following is the statement for the week ending April 30th, 1907:—Remaining, 57; admitted 15—72. Discharged: Cured, 12; relieved, 2; died, 0. Out-patients during week, 488. Gifts received: Flowers, Mrs Snow, Mrs Flank, Mrs Snelgrove, Mr Hyder; illustrated papers and magazines, Mrs King, Miss Cripps, Mrs Darton, Lady Cleal, Mrs Beeching, Salvation Army; rocking horse, Mrs Wilder; "The Times" Australian papers, etc., Anonymous.

THE HOPS.—Messrs. W. H. and H. Le May, 67, Borough, London, report:—The demand for low-priced English hops continues, with the result that any parcel which is offered at prices that have been current for the last three weeks finds buyers, and the market is kept cleared.

CAPEL CONSERVATIVES.

AN ENTHUSIASTIC MEETING.

Rarely has such an enthusiastic political gathering been held in Capel as the smoking concert which took place at the Carpenters' Arms on Saturday night, under the genial presidency of Mr T. D. Harris. The meeting was arranged by the Capel branch of the Conservative and Unionist Association, and was a great success, about 150 being present. Although some opposition made itself apparent, it was quite evident that the views of the speakers had the sympathy of an overwhelming majority of those present, and the speeches were frequently punctuated with enthusiastic cheers. The attendance included: Dr. H. J. Manning Watts, Messrs. Pemble, W. Thompson, Burgess, Stagg, Tolhurst, Dunk, Rimell, Burton, H. Hayward, Dampier, Wallis, Hickmott, Roberts, F. Buggs, R. Buggs, W. Tolhurst, Sales, J. Humphries, T. Seaward, J. Scales, W. Laird, Kennell, W. H. Tompsett, and E. Nuttall (agent.) An excellent musical programme had been arranged, with the result that a thoroughly enjoyable evening was spent. Mr T. Nightingale presided at the pianoforte with his usual ability, and songs were rendered by Messrs. J. Hollands (of Tunbridge Wells), T. D. Harris, J. Scales, Jeffery, Burgess, Laird, Dunk, May, Huggins, and McQueen, while Mr E. Twort, of Tonbridge, was present with his gramophone, the selections on which were much appreciated. The chief speaker of the evening, Mr R. Vaughan Gower, of Tunbridge Wells, had an enthusiastic reception. He congratulated Mr Harris and the local committee on the magnificent meeting. During the time he had been interested in politics, it had been his lot to attend a good many meetings, but that was the best and largest meeting he had attended in a country district such as that (applause). They would agree with him that such a large attendance showed the great esteem and respect in which they all held his old school fellow, Mr Tom Harris, who, not only in political work, but in all matters he took up, was most indefatigable, and a jolly good fellow (applause). Whether it was an agricultural meeting or at point to point, Mr Harris was always in the foreground, and it was owing largely to his great efforts that the agricultural society in that district was in its present state of prosperity (applause). They could not have a stronger leader in that district than Mr Harris. He would lead, but they must help him by putting their shoulders to the wheel, and giving him the support he undoubtedly deserved, and he trusted the result would be that when the next election occurred they would help to return a Conservative member to Parliament by an overwhelming majority (applause). With the exception of the last General Election, when everyone lost his head, they had always had a Conservative member, and would do so again. Anyone who studied political matters would be forced to the conclusion that they must support the Unionist party. The Radical party were at present bungling the government of the country in a way which was most reprehensible. The speaker effectively exposed some of the mis-statements made previous to the last election by Liberal candidates. The Radical Government had appointed a special commission to find out if the conditions under which the Chinamen worked in South Africa amounted to slavery, and the Commission reported that the Chinamen were too free. Either the statements made by Radicals before the election, or the report of the Radical Commission were wrong. Meeting with some interruption, the speaker said he was sure the interrupter would leave the room resolved to support the Conservative side if he gave a fair consideration to the views of that party. He proved the hypocrisy of the Radical cry about slavery by reference to the terms of the New Hebrides Convention, sanctioned by the present Government, and proceeding, reminded those present that during the time the Conservative party were in power matters connected with the Army and Navy were placed in the forefront, with the result that Mr Haldane, the present War Minister, had stated that when they went out of power the two forces were never in a more efficient state. The Radical party had told the electors that if returned to power they would do a great deal for the starving country, whereas what they had actually done was to turn thousands of men out of work in order to pay themselves salaries. Further interruption taking place, the speaker retorted that he could quite understand a gentleman of the opposite party not liking what he said about the Radical Government. Men who had worked 18 hours a day at Woolwich, when ammunition was needed for the defence of the Empire, were being turned off at one hour's notice, and all the Radical Government could suggest to the discharged workmen was that they should emigrate to the Colonies. After criticising the Government for failing to carry out the Aliens' Act in a proper manner, Mr Gower said the Radical Government had said that the question of Tariff Reform was dead, but they could take it from him it was very much alive. It was only by the adoption of Mr Chamberlain's proposals that work could be found for those who were at present unemployed. The Radical Government had done nothing since it had been in power to provide work for the unemployed, but the Conservatives proposed to do so. Mr Hedges had stated at a meeting at Pembury that the placing of a 2s. duty on corn would increase the cost of living of the poor. The present average price of foreign and Colonial corn might be supposed, for the sake of argument, to be 28s. If a 2s. duty was imposed on foreign corn, the foreigner would have to pay, because Colonial corn would still be sold at 28s., and there was no man fool enough to pay 30s. for foreign corn when he could buy Colonial corn for 28s. (applause.—At the conclusion of his address the speaker was asked if Free Trade was the only reason of so much money being invested abroad, and he replied that it was the main reason, because owing to the foreigner being able to dump his goods on the English market our industries were declining, whereas the industries established abroad supplied their home market and ours as well.—On the proposition of Mr Harris, seconded by Mr Tolhurst, Mr Gower was heartily thanked for his address, and his health was drunk with musical honours.—A similar compliment was paid the Chairman, with equal enthusiasm, after a proposition had been made by Mr Tolhurst, and seconded by Dr. Watts.—Mr Harris, in returning thanks, said nothing gave him greater pleasure, as one of them, than to do anything he could for the people of that place. It was the duty of farmers to help in their recreation. He regretted the absence of their President, Mr Goldsmid (applause). Had he been in England, he would have been glad to have been amongst them (renewed applause). Continuing, Mr Harris said that in 1861 the number of agricultural labourers employed in this country was 983,000, whereas by 1901 the number had dropped to 689,000. In the former year wheat was 45s. 4. a quarter, and the price had fallen to 26s. 6d. in 1901. In 1881 there were about 70,000 acres of hops under cultivation, but in 1905 there were only 48,987, and last year the number of acres was still further reduced by over 2,000 ("Shame.") What the return would be in the Spring for the last season nobody knew, but those interested in the industry knew there would be a decrease. A great deal of agriculture land, which had formerly been used for growing wheat, had been put down to pasture, and while the Radicals had been making much capital out of the proposed "taxation of the poor man's loaf," many people had been unable to get the loaf at all (hear, hear). A 2s. duty would be so small in proportion as not to increase the price of bread at all, while on the other hand English farmers would have the benefit of the bran and offal if the corn was milled in this country. That was a question which must appeal to them all. A bad season was bad, not only for the farmer and the labourer, but for the landowner as well, and they were not going to allow the property of landowners to be confiscated by the Radical Government (applause). Neither of the three classes could exist without the other, and their interests were common. It was of no use to give a man a small holding under the present system, because he would not be able to sell his produce when he had grown it. The only thing to help them over the difficulty was Tariff Reform (cheers). They agreed that every man by his energy should be able to become the possessor of his own farm, but there was a right and a wrong way of securing that end, and the right way was not by taxing and over-burdening the landowners. He believed that if Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman went to the country to-morrow on the land question, he would be ignominiously defeated (applause).—An enthusiastic meeting concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.

CONSERVATIVE SMOKER AT EAST PECKHAM.

There was a gratifying attendance at a smoking concert held at the Rose and Crown Hotel on Saturday night, in connection with the local Conservative and Unionist Association, when Mr R. Vaughan Gower, of Tunbridge Wells, was the principal speaker. Col. Hart-Dyke occupied the chair, and included in the numerous company were Mr E. Nuttall (the Conservative Agent), Mr Gower, Mr C. Simmons, Mr H. Skinner, Mr A. Skinner, Mr W. Arnold, Mr Middleton, and Mr Gladwin (hon. secretary).

The Chairman briefly introduced Mr R. Vaughan Gower, who gave an excellent address on current politics. He reminded his audience that the Radical promises of better wages and more employment for the working classes, if that party were returned to power, had not been fulfilled, and not only that, but they had accentuated the situation by reducing the Army and Navy, and thus sending several thousands of men, without pensions, into the labour market, which was already overcrowded. Although the late Conservative Government had passed an Act to prevent undesirable aliens from entering the country, the Radicals had failed to carry out the Act as it was intended to be operated, and said that aliens, whether criminal or paupers, must be allowed to come here, because this was a free country, and take the bread and butter out of the mouths of our own working people. The Government had dismissed 10,000 men from Woolwich, and the only suggestion they could make to those men was that they should emigrate to Canada. What was to happen to us, should a war break out, if many of the men who were skilled in the making of ammunition had been sent out of the country? It was part of the Conservative policy that the best way to secure peace was to be prepared for war (applause). The policy of cutting down our defensive forces was not peculiar to the present Radical Government, but was typical of Radical administration generally. It was by that policy that we gave back the Transvaal to the Boers in 1881. When the Radicals said that Tariff Reform was dead, the wish was father to the thought, but he could tell them, that it was never more alive than at the present time (applause). He claimed that if Mr Chamberlain's proposals were adopted the cost of living would not be increased by a single farthing, but that employment would be provided for thousands of working men who were at present deprived of their living owing to the free importation of cheaply made foreign articles. He dared say a great deal of distress had been occasioned in that neighbourhood by the large quantity of foreign hops sent to this country (hear, hear). In that district a much larger quantity of hops was at one time produced than was the case now, and the reason was that foreigners could dump their surplus crops upon these shores duty free, while English hops were heavily taxed if sent abroad. What Tariff Reformers said was that if the foreigner would allow us to send our hops to his country free we would allow him to send his hops to England without a duty being imposed, but that so long as he retained the duty on English hops sent abroad we would in return impose a tax on foreign hops sent into this country (applause). To sum up, what we wanted was to have an efficient navy, and to have all our men in work with good wages, and then, and not until then, would the prosperity of our country be at its zenith. Everyone of them must work to bring that about, and if the Conservative party was again returned to power the only result could be prosperity, success, and wealth to this great Empire (applause).

The Chairman, in proposing a vote of thanks to Mr Gower, said that when the Corn Laws were repealed a shilling registration duty on corn was somehow overlooked, and no one was apparently the wiser, while the price of bread was not made dearer. It produced a million pounds in revenue, and now, when the importation of corn was two or three times as great, would have produced about £3,000,000 had not a Radical Government discovered the registration duty, and deliberately thrown away the income derived therefrom (hear, hear).

Mr C. Simmons seconded the vote of thanks, which was carried with musical honours.

In the course of the evening some enjoyable songs and other musical items were rendered by Messrs. French, Worsell, Saunders, Anderson, Hollamby and others.

GOUDHURST CHURCH BELLS AND THEIR RINGERS.

A meeting, convened by the Vicar and the Churchwardens, was held on Wednesday evening, at the Parish Room, to make arrangements to enable the Goudhurst Ringers to join the Kent County Association of Change Ringers.—Major-General Fitz-Hugh, who presided, said he had been asked to see if they could make some arrangements for joining the Kent Association. He did not think they ought to hurry over things, but he should like to bring before them the question of getting up a Band of Change Ringers for Goudhurst. They had an excellent peal of bells, which he was assured by experts, and by those who had rung upon the bells, were in excellent order, as the Captain of the Goudhurst ringers could testify. [Mr Diprose here stated that the bells were now in perfect order]. The first question was whether Goudhurst wished the Ringers to join the County Association, and have change-ringing. He understood that what was known as change-ringing was not a thing that everybody knew, but it was a thing that everybody could learn. The present ringers were not accomplished change-ringers. If they joined the Association, they would have to be subject to the rules, which were more stringent than those which had been customary in the village for a good many years. There should be a Captain of the Band, and he should be a first rate ringer, and able to teach the others. How the ringers were to be remunerated must be left for the present. The first thing to clear up definitely was as to whether the present 10 ringers really wished to join the County Association. When a similar proposal had been made some time ago, the bells of the belfry were in such a state that the Association would not have admitted them into their ranks. Upon that, with the Vicar's permission (for it was the Vicar and the Churchwardens who had authority over the bells), he (the speaker) got up a little bazaar, and wrote a good many letters, and succeeded in getting money for the object, enough to have the belfry strengthened in a most efficient manner, and the bells re-hung and rendered fit to be rung, and capable of having these wonderful "changes." He had done his part, and had to thank many others for the help they had given him, and the result was that the bells were in good and perfect order. Did the ringers and the parish generally wish change-ringing to take place at Goudhurst? Would the present Captain tell them if the ringers all wished it? [Answer: "I don't think they would mind trying."] They might take it for granted than that, if the arrangements could be made, the Goudhurst Ringers and the members of the Goudhurst Church would like to join the Association. He was himself profoundly ignorant of bell ringing, but they were to have a little address on the subject during the evening. He thought that they should hear the rules of the Society, and then they would know what they were committing themselves to. In the course of a few months they would find out those who were really willing to learn, and on what terms they could become members of the Association; and in time they would be able not only to do well at home, but also to go to other places, and do as well there as anybody else and perhaps better than some others.—Mr W. Latter (Hon. Sec. of the Tonbridge District of the Kent County Association of Change Ringers) then gave what might be styled "A homely chat about bell-ringing generally." Apologising for the unavoidable absence of the General Secretary of the Association, Mr Latter said that he would rather be up in the tower practising than talking about ringing; but he would do his best to give them a little insight into the mysteries of the art of change-ringing. The changes that could be rung on a peal of bells were the following:—One bell, 1; 2 bells, 2; 3 bells, 6; 4 bells, 24; 5 bells, 120; 6 bells, 720; 7 bells, 5,040; 8 bells, 40,320 (which would take about 21 hours); 9 bells, 362,880; 10 bells, 3,628,800; 11 bells, 39,916,800; and 12 bells, 479,001,600 (which would take close upon 38 years to ring). He then went into technicalities, such as "hunting," "place-making" and "dodging," "bobs," &c. A change ringer, he said, required a quick eye, a good ear, a clear head, and a still tongue, and had got to be entirely "on his own," while at the same time all the ringers depended upon one another. A man with very little general education could become a proficient change-ringer, while a gentleman highly educated might find himself unable to grasp and get hold of the art. There was a lot of drudgery, but they must stick to it. It was not all learned in the belfry—a good deal might be figured out at home with a slate or paper and pencil, and the rules learned. The theory could be mastered in this way, and the practical part learned in the tower. During the last 20 or 30 years the art of change-ringing had made great strides—to a great extent through these Associations. There were County Associations or Diocesan Guilds all over the country. The objects were:—(1) To cultivate and encourage the good old English art of change-ringing, and to create more general interest in it; (2) To secure the due recognition of ringers as Church-workers, and the proper care and use of the bells and belfries. The first object had been attained, and there were now 600 change-ringers in the county of Kent, all more or less proficient in the art. Only 25 years ago there was no change-ringing in Tunbridge Wells. The second object had been attained to a great extent. "Give a dog a bad name and hang him." It was once generally considered that the man in the belfry tower was a man that could drink an enormous quantity of beer, and the bottle was frequently passed round, but thanks to these Associations, that state of things was altogether a thing of the past, and now the belfry was considered to be as much a part of the church as the vestry. The ringers in most places were now looked up to by the church authorities as much as the choir, although they were out of sight in the tower, and where they were looked upon by the church authorities as church officials they got the best quality of ringers—where the ringers knew that the Vicar and Churchwardens took an interest in them, there you would find the best ringers and the best ringing, as this was a great encouragement to them. There were six districts in the county, each with a Secretary and a representative, and the Association did all in its power by arranging meetings to give every Band of Ringers a chance of attending some of the meetings. They got very good attendances, as the visitors had a chance of practising methods that they could not do at home. The subscription for a practising member was 2s a year, honorary members 5s a year, or a donation of £2 2s, which made them life members. Not a penny was paid out in salaries. The Goudhurst ringers could join at once, and the Association would provide an instructor to instruct them in the art of change-ringing, paying 2s 3d of the costs, leaving the Band to pay 1s 3d. Each lesson would occupy two hours. All the Association expected in return was that the Band should keep up the work and stick to the Association. One learner complained that he could not sleep at night for thinking about the ringing—it was getting hold of him then. Mr Latter said he should be very happy indeed to give any assistance to enable the Goudhurst Band to join the Association. The church was very well placed as regards getting to it. The Lamberhurst ringers—some of whom were present—would be pleased to come, as they had only six bells at Lamberhurst, and Goudhurst had eight. The Horsmonden ringers would be pleased to come and render any assistance. He personally saw no reason why they should not have a good Band of Change-ringers at Goudhurst.—Mr J. A. Druce said that now the parish had spent £375 upon the bells and belfry, the ringers must set their house in order, and organise themselves. He moved "That an Association should be formed, consisting of a Committee or Band with a President, an Honorary Secretary, and honorary members."—This resolution was passed, and General Fitz Hugh consented to become President.—Mr Latter suggested that a set of hand-bells would be a very good thing to practise change-ringing on, especially for beginners, as it would avoid a good deal of clashing and changing amongst the church bells.—One of the ringers stated that he had in his charge a set of handbells.—General Fitz Hugh proposed a very cordial vote of thanks to Mr Latter for his attendance and assistance, and a vote of thanks to the Chairman closed the meeting.

On Sunday (before the collection in aid of the bells fund) the Vicar stated that he estimated the present value of the bells at £764, or including the necessary fittings, &c., something like £900. £375 had recently been expended on the bells and the belfry, and £75 on the clock, making a total of £450, of which £430 had been raised by the Churchwardens, leaving a balance of £20 still due.

ACTION AGAINST THE KENT EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

On Wednesday, in the Westminster County Court, Miss Poodles, formerly Head Mistress of the Halling Infant School, near Maidstone, sued the Kent Education Committee for three months' salary in lieu of notice, the plaintiff contending that she had been wrongfully dismissed under the following notice served upon her by the Clerk:—"In the committee's opinion you have been guilty of conduct incompatible with your position as teacher of an elementary school, by incurring debts you are unable to meet, and having committals against you in the County Court, and having the furniture in your house sold under a levy of execution for rent. The committee regard this as misconduct requiring your immediate dismissal."

Plaintiff said she had explained to the Committee why she was in difficulties owing to her having to undergo an operation in Guy's Hospital, and while she was there her father incurred liabilities which she had to borrow money to try and meet, rather than having the publicity of filing a petition in bankruptcy. Her father, mother and brother were of unsound mind, and she had had a hard struggle for years to support them. Her parents were over 70 years of age. She had tried everything in her power to keep the home together, but part of it went at Christmas. All this she put into writing, and she was denied the opportunity of a verbal explanation. The defendants caused "the tight corner," by stopping half her salary while she "lay helpless in plaster" in the hospital. She wrote asking the reason for the stoppage, and the Committee replied that the local managers had not recommended payment. She then wrote to the local managers who returned her her letter without comment.

Mr Humphries, on behalf of the Kent Education Committee, contended that the summary dismissal was justified, the fact of plaintiff being arrested for debt in school hours alone being sufficient reason. She got herself in difficulties, first, no doubt, by ordinary debts, and then by borrowing money at high interest. In a small village everyone knew everyone else's business. Mr Humphries submitted that her conduct justified her dismissal. In her own letter she said the managers were acting on "hearsay and gossip." She had permitted her furniture to be seized twice in two months for debt. There were five amounts of money she had borrowed, totalling £170. He added that not one word was said against her as to her scholastic abilities.

His Honour: No one can have heard her story without having felt deep sympathy for her.

Judgment was deferred.

HUMBER CARS.

DISTRICT AGENTS:

CHAS. BAKER & CO.,

150, HIGH St., Tonbridge.

Call and see the new 16 h.p. Model. Immediate delivery from stock. We are Specialists in Humber Cars, having dealt in and stocked from the first.

Motor Repairs of all Kinds at Reasonable Rates.

TYRES, OILS, &c., &c., AT SPECIAL PRICES.

Works & Garage: BANK ST. Telephone: 3 x 1 Tonbridge.

HAVE YOU BEEN TO THE WELL KNOWN CAFE SUISSE

SEMADENI'S,

136, HIGH STREET, TONBRIDGE.

NOTED FOR SPECIAL HIGH-CLASS CONFECTIONERY.

TEAS, COFFEE, CHOCOLATE, Etc., Always Ready.

Telephone or Post Orders promptly attended to

WHITE & SON.

ENGINEERS,

IRONMONGERS AND HOT WATER FITTERS,

IMPLEMENT AGENTS

TONBRIDGE.

JOHN J. READING & CO.,

FISHMONGERS, POULTERERS, &c.,

GAME DEALERS,

60, HIGH ST., TONBRIDGE

And at TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

Families Waited on Daily for Orders.

Image © THE BRITISH LIBRARY BOARD. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.