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STEAM POWER.—Workshops to Let at moderate rents; suit all Trades requiring use of Steam Power. Sawing and Moulding done for Cabinet Makers and others at Thomas Smither's Saw Mills, 10 and 12, Hewett-street, Curtain-road, Shoreditch, E.C.

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TWO Large Rooms to Let, First Floor, for Business purposes or otherwise; use of kitchen.—Apply 75, Scrutton-st., Finsbury. 60

TWO Rooms to Let, with good range, and Water laid on in back room; 8s. per week.—56, Scrutton-street, Curtain-road, Finsbury.

WANTED, Coster's Barrow, good second-hand.—State price to Spencer and Co., New Inn-yard, Shoreditch. 61

WANTED, a good Tailoress for best Coat Work, at 27, Haberdasher-street, Pitfield-street. 62

BRITANNIA, the GREAT THEATRE, Hoxton. Sole Proprietress, Mrs. S. LANE. Monday, July 13th, and during the week at 7. Production of the grand Historical Play, JANE SHORE, and special engagement of this celebrated actress, Miss Violet Temple, in the title role as successfully rendered by her for 600 nights, also the popular comedian Mr. Frank Stone, supported by the powerful Britannia company. VARIETIES. Princess Pauline, the acrobatic serio and dancer, Eno the amous mimic of music hall stars. Concluding with the favourite farce, LITTLE TODDLEKINS. On July 20, the great Anglo-Russian drama, "Under the Czar."

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In the High Court of Justice.—Chancery Division. Re J. Hyman deceased. Hyman v. Westcott, 1896. H. No. 142.

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FREEHOLD AND LEASEHOLD.

J. WALTER NEIGHBOUR will SELL by AUCTION, with the approbation of his Lordship Mr. Justice Stirling, at the Mart, Tokenhouse-yard, Lothbury, E.C., on Wednesday, July 15th, 1896, at One o'clock precisely, the valuable Freehold Factory known as Phœnix Works, Lamprell-street, Hackney Wick, let on repairing lease at £175 per annum; also the useful premises comprising Wheelwright's Shop, Stabling for 15 horses, large Yard, Chemical Works, &c., in Abbey-lane, Stratford, Essex, and seven Cottages adjoining, viz., Nos. 1 to 7, Harcourt Bridge terrace, let on repairing lease at £140 for 1½ years, upon expiration of which purchasers will become entitled to estimated rack rentals of £226, term unexpired 8½ years at £100.

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MESSRS. GEO. PEARCE and SONS will SELL by AUCTION, at the Mart, Tokenhouse-yard, E.C., on Wednesday, July 29th, at Six o'clock precisely, the following Properties:—

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HOXTON.—94, Shaftesbury-street, let at £28 per annum, term about six years, at £3 ground rent.

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HOMERTON.—77, Ballance-road, small private Dwelling House, let weekly, amounting to £31 4s. per annum; lease 63½ years from Midsummer, 1896, at £4 4s. ground rent.

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One minute from Essex County and Leyton Cricket Grounds, and adjoining the Recreation Ground.

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RENT ... £34 per Annum.

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DIGBY ROAD, HOMERTON, N.E.

THE

HACKNEY EXPRESS

AND

Shoreditch Observer.

SATURDAY, JULY 11, 1896

THE INDIAN DEBATE.

THE Government have taken a most extraordinary course over the employment of Indian troops at Suakim. Quite independently of the policy of employing Indian troops in the reconquest of the Soudan, there is the question of pay, and this is the point wherein the Government have committed a grievous error. India is to be made to pay the cost of her troops engaged by England for the conquest of the Mahdi. Having once taken up this position, argument in its favour was scarcely attempted, whilst as on a former notable occasion, some of the strongest arguments against the policy were used by the Government's own supporters. Mr. MACLEAN opposed because "he believed that the claim of India in this matter was founded upon reason and justice, and was supported by authority, and above all, that it appealed with irresistible force to the sense of honour of the English people." Mr. VICARY GIBBS, in the same strain, said "the Government were adopting a mean course, an unjust course, and an impolitic course." Mr. BHOWNAGGREE, "besought her Majesty's Government to withdraw this resolution," and Sir ANDREW SCOBLE, Tory member for Central Hackney, warned the House of Commons that "for this miserable and wretched sum they were asked to blacken the faces of the Indian Government and to raise a spirit of disaffection among the Indian people." Such is the opinion of some of the Government's own followers; and it is most suggestive that whilst the general ratepayer at home is to be heavily mulcted in favour of the landlords, our poorer fellow-subjects in India are to be oppressed by having to pay their own soldiers for fighting the battles of Egypt and British interests in Africa.

SUDDEN DEATH IN CURTAIN-ROAD.—On Monday, Charles Gandy, chair and couch maker, in the employ of Mr. J. Joseph, of 94, Curtain-road, fell down in the street, and it was for some time difficult to learn whether from a fit or from sunstroke, or other cause. The poor fellow was conveyed by the police to Shoreditch Infirmary, where Dr. Forbes pronounced the man dead from the rupture of a blood vessel. Notice was given to the coroner and the matter reported to the Board of Guardians.

THE pleasant little pantomime in regard to Hoxton-square has now got to a very interesting stage. The Vestry, it will be remembered, borrowed their tenant's key, and expended a sum of money in getting duplicates for all members of the Vestry, though we have not heard whether any one ventured within the forbidden boundary. The present position of affairs is indicated by a letter from the Vestry asking two of the Trustees why they caused a padlock and chain to be put on the gate of the square, thereby rendering the Vestrymen's keys useless.

THE SENIOR L.C.C. FOR HAGGERSTON.—The "Celebrity at Home" in last week's *World* was Lord Monkswell, who represents Haggerston at Spring-gardens. In the course of a very appreciative sketch the writer says: "Lord Monkswell is a busy, energetic man, taking an active interest in a hundred and one political, legal, literary, and social movements, but never too busy to show you his fine collection of paintings." References are made to the internal arrangements at Monkswell House. The noble lord is just over 50 years of age, and it is mentioned that his pastime is golf. The article is an interesting one, and Haggerstonians especially should read it.

MISSING.—"A Native of Shoreditch" has omitted his name and address.

"HOXTON, THE DIM AND THE DREAR."

A REPRESENTATIVE of *London* has been writing of "A Socialist Parson and his People":—

"A big strong form, with a big strong heart, Cartmel Robinson is a man whom to meet and to know is to remember for all time. The popular Socialist parson carries an unmistakable personality. Hoxton, the dim and the drear, would sink into deeper despair were his familiar figure to be removed from its joyless streets."

We do not of course for a moment wish to detract from the description given of the Rev. J. Cartmel Robinson's personality; but why seek to throw it into relief by decrying a very respectable locality? The district of Hoxton, like most others, has its lights and shades, but it is absurd to speak of Hoxton as "the dim and the drear," contingently sinking into "deeper despair," at the removal of a familiar figure from its "joyless streets." In the course of half-a-dozen lines, whatever may be his success with his description of Cartmel Robinson, the writer has managed to convey a most erroneous impression concerning the district in which he appears to have paid a casual visit. And in almost the next lines we are told that Mr. Robinson has more than a nodding acquaintance with the "scoundrels" of the district, "for burglars and bruisers, of whom Hoxton has more than its fair share, come to him when in sore straits, and always nod familiarly out of doors."

Where is the writer's authority for this statement? Mr. Charles Booth, the statistician, says that the district has the largest share of artisans of any locality in London. It is by derogatory statements such as those above referred to, that the parish has acquired a bad reputation, especially at the West End, where clergymen have been too much in the habit of sending exaggerated statements in order to draw contributions for their work.

And so with regard to Mr. Robinson "as the angel of the little ones, scattering sunshine of love and good cheer wherever he met them. Every group of youngsters, whether playing or quarrelling, would cease for a moment, and brighten up as he passed, and every little lassie heavily laden with big baby charges would break into a smile." That is all right, but why seek to suggest that the finding of the body of a poor boy in the Regent's Canal is indicative of the normal state of starvation existing among Hoxton children. It is more likely the poor lad had been drowned whilst bathing this hot weather. Of course, there can be no difficulty in finding lads who would be better for a stay at the Home at Margate; and it may be hoped the "emaciated little lad" spoken of may have been sent there without his mother having to work "at the washing day and night" to pay the cost.

"It was somewhere hereabouts," said my guide, "we found a dead child lying on the only bed of a one-roomed home. I asked where they put the body when the family used the bed at night, and I learnt it was placed until morning upon the only shelf in the house, where they kept the food."

The London public must not think from the above that "one-roomed" houses are common in Hoxton, or that it is the practice for the dead bodies of the poor to be laid on shelves where they keep the food. We are glad, however, to be able to agree with the description of some of the Hoxton "model dwellings," as "the kindly vicar, pointing to the deep shadows, and showing the impossibility of the sun ever reaching the lower floors, very aptly remarked that the people might as well be living at the bottom of a well." We do not like the majority of model-dwellings. And we do not agree with the opinion credited to the Rev. Cartmel Robinson that the artisan "is further off from the goal of his hopes than the artisan of the 14th century." We believe that the lot of the artisan has greatly improved during recent years. But we are glad to learn that "there is a garden that to Hoxton's joy behind the vicarage of Holy Trinity." We are told "it is as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land," resounding to the step of waltzes and quadrilles, and workmen's garden parties. Mr. Robinson does not seem to be very jubilant over the "unemployed"; and he does not hope to do much with men and women, but he has great hopes of the children; and although we do not like the overdrawn descriptions of "Hoxton, the dim and the drear," we wish God-speed to every good word and work so glowingly set forth in the columns of our contemporary. And not alone to the work of the Rev. Cartmel Robinson, for there are others quite as deserving of praise with the "Socialist parson," whatever that may mean. But they lack the flourish of trumpets.

LOCAL TOPICS.

THE case of Mr. Kyffin, a Hackney Vestryman, sued for slander by Mr. F. H. Medhurst, electrical engineer, is a very suggestive incident. The jury awarded damages for "express malice," £400, a sum which will probably be doubled when costs are met. Our readers will remember the main facts. The charge was that Mr. Kyffin had given currency to a rumour that Mr. Medhurst had bribed Mr. Sheehan, chairman of the Hackney Electric Lighting Committee with £50, presumably with a view of obtaining the appointment as electrical engineer to the Vestry. The evidence appears to have been sufficient to obtain a verdict, although some people think the damages rather heavy. The moral of it is that more care should be observed by public men in what they say. It is easy to impute motives, but sometimes difficult to substantiate the statements when put to the test. A man should be assured of the facts before he makes statements prejudicial to the character and standing of another. The lesson may be learnt by other besides members of the Hackney Vestry.

A new method of business was introduced at the Shoreditch Vestry on Tuesday which may act to the detriment of the interests of the parish. Without notice of motion, or reference to committee, simply on the receipt of a letter from the secretary of a labourers' union, the whole of the Vestry's employés were granted a week's holiday at the expense of the ratepayers. This was done in otherwise kind way, and it was for some time who said it was impossible to answer a question as to the number of workmen in the employ of the Vestry. As the wages amount to about £1,000 a fortnight, it will be seen that the matter involved a sum of anything up to £500. Without dealing for a moment with the merits of the question, the public may fairly complain that a matter of considerable importance should be rushed through the Vestry without investigation and report. The position is the more serious because the workmen in the Works department and Dusting and Scavenging department have already decided to hold their annual holiday, when the day is given, and a sum of 4s. and 2s. 6d. per man in addition. The cost of the week's holiday will now have to be added to the expense already provided for. We are very much mistaken if the method of doing business on Tuesday night does not lead to very disagreeable results upon the Vestry.

The House of Lords has passed the new London Water Bill, and we are told that the Bill is to be pushed through the House of Commons unless it is opposed by the London County Council. It is very likely the Bill will be opposed, as the Council justly claim to be considered the water authority for the metropolis. And besides this, there is the great question of the basis of purchase. The trust to be created will hardly be able, if it should be willing, to obtain the same equitable terms which the Council were in a fair way to secure with their Bill of last year. The difference will be a good many millions, which will have to be paid by the ratepayers of London.

Another Commission has been appointed to inquire into the Old-Age Pension question. It remains to be seen whether any practical issue will be the result. As Lord Rothschild has been appointed chairman, we shall certainly have a man at the helm to whom wealth is a familiar commodity; if his business ability should be successfully exercised as to the best means of apportioning enough for the necessities of worn-out workers of the community in their old age, his lordship will have assisted in a most beneficent national reform.

OUR VOLUNTEERS AT HYDE PARK.

ANNUAL INSPECTION OF THE TOWER HAMLETS RIFLE BRIGADE.

THE grand weather of Saturday evening was highly favourable for the annual inspection of the First Tower Hamlets Rifle Brigade. There was a lot of people out, and when the corps marched through Edgware-road, they were followed by an admiring crowd, attracted by the smartness and completeness of the regiment. The bands led the way with lively music closely followed by the main battalion (a strong body), the stalwart battery man, and a capital muster of the bearer company, while the rear ranks gave evidence of a busy and fruitful recruiting season. Under the command of Colonel E. T. Rodney Wilde the regiment marched under the Marble Arch about six o'clock and took up their position on the Guards' parade ground. The muster comprised 29 officers, 55 sergeants, and 727 rank and file, or a total of 821, the figures in each case showing a gratifying improvement on the two previous years. There were 98 absent by permission, and nine without leave, the total enrolled strength of the regiment at the present time being 928. The officers present included the Honorary Colonel, Lieut.-General G. H. Moncrieff, Colonel Wilde, Lieut.-Colonel Thompson, Major Coningham, and the Adjutant, Capt. Coddington. Brigade-Surgeon Lieut.-Col. O. M. White was in command of the bearer company, and Captain Vickers Dunfee directed the Machine Gun Battery with smartness and efficiency, the six Gardner guns being splendidly horsed. At the saluting point and all round the vast square were assembled a large throng of spectators, who watched the proceedings with keen interest. While the regiment were forming up, the onlookers were greatly interested in the smart and pretty movements of a large cyclist corps, attached to the 26th Middlesex. They wore a neat grey uniform, with a red cap, and went through their drill with remarkable smartness and celerity. One capital feature was when the wheelman seemed to go down with a crash, machine and all. But in a moment he had drawn his rifle to the shoulder, taken aim and fired; while the speed with which he fired his rifle, strode his machine, and noiselessly sped away, might well baffle an opposing force. These modern shots and scourers were being rigorously inspected, with full military dignity—a sight to surprise the veterans of a past generation, who did all their fighting "man to man, and steel to steel."

Turning again to the Tower Hamlets, the sun shed a rich glow over the park, we were pleased to note the smart turn out of local cyclists, and the signallers also in good form and numbers. During the inspection of the ranks by Colonel Oliphant, of the Grenadier Guards, Brigadier of the East London Volunteer Brigade, the Band played some excellent music; and it is gratifying to announce that in all points of dress and drill the men maintained the good records of the brigade. The march past was also creditably done, and the whole display evoked warm praise from the crowd. Especially the veterans and old friends of the regiment, who were present in good numbers. The recruiting has been unusually successful this year, the new men being under the command of Sergt.-Instructor Hammond. Subsequently the Battery went through their drill in spirited style and were watched with great interest. At the close the men were massed together, and the Brigadier told them how pleased he was with the evening's work, which on the whole had given him satisfaction. He urged everyone to do his best to secure a successful week at Aldershot and to send in their names without delay.

SUMMER FESTIVAL AT HORNCHURCH.

IN magnificent weather the annual summer festival of the children at Hornchurch and the inspection of the Cottage Homes by visitors from Shoreditch took place on Thursday. There was a larger party of visitors than usual, and while they spent one of the most pleasant days ever remembered at the village, the children were intensely happy the whole day long. The inspection of the cottages inside and out drew forth well merited praise for the staff. The workshops and infirmary were as usual very interesting, while the new homes for sick children were seen in good working order. After a capital luncheon in the schoolroom, the health of the unitiring Chairman of the Schools Committee, Mr. R. G. Alabaster, J.P., was heartily drunk, and Prof. Stuart, M.P., made a few weighty remarks upon the educational aspect of Poor Law work. The latter part of the day was occupied with amusement for the children. Their physical drill was remarkably good, and the zest and skill with which both girls and boys entered into an excellent athletic programme bore splendid testimony to the bright and vigorous lives which are being developed at the Homes. The Guardians, the Superintendent and Mrs. Cowley, and every member of the staff entered heartily into the spirit of the day, and the result was a great success in every way. A word too must be added for the village band, who played some very nice selections under their good friend Mr. Larter. Time and space will not admit of our doing justice to the occasion this week; but we hope in our next issue to describe the young people's holiday in detail, and to show the ratepayers of Shoreditch the good results which accrue from the humane and careful training of the children under their charge, as well as the general improvement and higher tone of life which is manifest at the Homes, as a result of experience and wise management.

WEDDING.—Mr. Hector H. Creasey, youngest son of Mr. J. P. Creasey (vice-chairman of the Shoreditch Board of Guardians), was on Tuesday married to Miss Florence M. Sperring, second daughter of Mr. J. W. Sperring, of Leytonstone). The ceremony took place at Emanuel Church, Romford-road, in the presence of many friends of the bride and bridegroom, the former of whom was handsomely dressed in cream, and carried a beautiful bouquet. The happy pair received many substantial tokens of esteem as well as the heartiest congratulations for their future happiness and prosperity.

FIRE IN HACKNEY.—A fire broke out at half-past one on Wednesday afternoon at 149, Well-street, Hackney, on the premises of Mr. W. Norman, bird dealer. It was caused by the ignition of a mineral oil lamp, and in the result the middle room on the ground-floor, shop, and rest of the house were considerably damaged. Annie Norman, aged 40, fell from the first floor, and was injured, but not seriously.

HOSPITAL SUNDAY FUND.—About £41,000 has need been received at the office of this fund. This amount is slightly in excess of that received at the corresponding period of last year.

A NUMBER of Messrs. Barratt and Co's employés will sit down to dinner to be followed by a concert this (Saturday) evening at the Crown and Cushion Hotel, London Wall. Mr G. W. Barratt and Mr. Albert Barratt will be present on the occasion.

THE HACKNEY AND EAST MIDDLESEX BAND OF HOPE UNION.—The annual excursion of this well known local organisation took place on Tuesday, when Clacton-on-Sea was again visited. Numerous special trains had been arranged but even to these additions had to be made so popular was the trip, and no wonder seeing that the return ticket only cost 2s. 9d. The managers with that experience born of previous efforts had everything in admirable order, and from beginning to end the trip was a most successful one. Fine weather prevailed throughout and numerous special facilities were provided. Mr. C. W. Garrard and his Committee have added yet another to their many previous triumphs.

THE annual outing of the employés of Mr. Benjamin Bull, butcher, of the Broadway, London-fields, and Green-street, Bethnal Green, took place on Monday last, the rendezvous being the "Fied Bull," St. Margaret's, Herts, when a coach and four were provided for them. The company consisted of Messrs. B. Bull, H. Bull, E. Pitt, C. Pitt, C. Pavern, H. King, T. Eaton, J. Tinsley, A. Shill, H. Leggs, J. Thompson, G. Thompson, W. Ward. Having reached their destination, and after a few spins on the river, the guests sat down to a sumptuous dinner, well served by the host Mr. Insell. Justice having been done to the spread, the company then dispersed for out-door amusements and walks into the country. After tea the ride home was most enjoyable, the pleasure of the day largely increased by the splendid weather.

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