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Finchley Paragraphs.

A confirmation is to take place at Finchley Parish Church on March 8th.

"I have Labour leanings myself."—Mr. T. Atholl Robertson at a Westbourne meeting.

The attendances at Finchley elementary schools for the week ending February 18th were 85.2 per cent.

In the cross-country race for the Pulham Shield, open to Finchley Scouts, the winning team were the 10th Finchley Troop.

A musical service was held at North Finchley Congregational Church on Sunday, Mr. G. Hooper being at the organ. The collection was for the choir funds.

A fire at the residence of Mr. J. A. Evans, High-road, East Finchley, on Tuesday, occurred when an oil stove exploded. The flames were put out by the inmates.

On Saturday the Fire Brigade was called to 1, Field's-cottages, Park-road, East Finchley, occupied by Mrs. Jefferies, where a bonfire had caught fire, slight damage being caused.

To Tradesmen and others. Don't wipe out your bad debts until you have consulted Messrs. Waple and Co., debt collectors, Station-road, Finchley, N.3. We recover debts anywhere.

Major the Hon. Edward Cadogan, M.P., was present at a social and dance held under the auspices of the Friern Barnet (Central) Junior Conservative Association, at Bellevue Hall on Friday.

A haystack ablaze attracted a large crowd to an open field near the Gun Station, Great North-road, Finchley, on Saturday. It was put out by the Fire Brigade. The damage is estimated at £40.

A very successful dance was held by Mrs. Norman in the Granville Hall, North Finchley, in connection with the Granville Hall Girls' Club. Mr. C. Roberts and Mr. A. E. Wilde kindly contributed songs.

Mr. J. Waring, metropolitan secretary of the Church of England Men's Society, gave an interesting address at the meeting of the Christ Church Men's Society at Stephens Memorial Hall, North Finchley, on Tuesday.

Mr. J. M. Bidgood has been appointed manager of Barclays Bank, North Finchley, on the retirement of Mr. A. W. Peach, who held that office for six years. Mr. Bidgood comes from the High Holborn branch, where he was an accountant.

Income Tax adjusted, appeals and claims made, forms completed and rendered without worry. Consultations free. Messrs. Waple and Co. (Recognised Repayment Agents by the Revenue), Station-road, Finchley, N.3. 'Phone, Finchley 1053.

In High-road, North Finchley, on Thursday last, a motor cycle driven by Mr. S. Rainbow, of Wood Green, skidded, and Miss Woodham, of Finsbury Park, who was riding pillion, was thrown to the ground and received injuries to the leg.

The Finchley Fire Brigade were called to 95, Windermere-road, Finchley, occupied by Dr. H. Scott Forbes, on Thursday last, a fire having occurred in a back room used as a study, due to the overheating of an electric iron. Damage was done to the extent of £50.

A musical service was held at St. Luke's Church, Finchley, on Sunday, when Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise" was given. Mr. G. F. Galer conducted, and Mr. Baggs was at the organ. The choruses by the augmented choir were excellent, and the solos were also very fine.

It is with regret that we announce the death of Mr. James Henry Hutchins, a retired ship broker, of Oak Dene, Friern Park, North Finchley, who passed away on Thursday last at the age of 85. He had made a large circle of friends in the district, where he resided for some years. Sympathy is expressed with the widow.

Early yesterday (Thursday) morning two motor lorries, belonging to the Hitchin Transport Company and W. H. Parker and Sons, London, E.C., were involved in a collision in the High-road, Whetstone. The former crashed into the back of the other, which mounted the pavement and went into the fence, the bonnet of the first becoming wedged under the back of the second lorry.

The Housing and Town Planning Act imposes a definite obligation upon landlords or their representatives to keep in good state of repair property under their control, thus making it difficult to escape liability in the event of a mishap. All owners of property should take out a property owners indemnity policy, which also covers the cost of repairing and damage done by a burst water main. Annual premium 5s. Policies only effected through Messrs. Waple and Co., Insurance Department, Station-road, Finchley, N.3. 'Phone, Finchley 1053.

"The programme of "The Venture" Lodge of Good Templars on Friday evening last in the Congregational Schoolroom, Victoria-avenue, Church End, Finchley, was a lantern talk on "Germany." The talk was illustrated with fifty photographic views of many of Germany's historic towns and various beauty spots. Many details were given regarding Good Templary in Germany, this society being described as "the strongest and best individual organisation" in that country working for the ultimate prohibition of the traffic in intoxicants. At "The Venture" Juvenile Temple musical items were given by Rhoda and Frances Colbert, Phyllis Child and Marjorie Lewis, and recitations by Betty Child, Brenda Weber, Margaret Osborn, Nancy Hingley and Audry Weber.

WEST HENDON DEATH.

Many Floral Tributes at the Funeral of Mrs. James Webb.

The funeral took place on Friday of Mrs. Jane Webb, wife of Mr. James Webb, Stanley-road, West Hendon, who had died aged 71. Mrs. Webb, who had lived in the Hendon district all her married life, leaves a husband, ten daughters and two sons. With the exception of one son who was unable to come, all attended the funeral service at St. John's Church and the interment at Mill Hill Cemetery. The chief mourners were Mrs. Fine, Mrs. Laurance, Mrs. Leaver, Mrs. Nunn, Mrs. Root, Miss Daisy Webb, Miss Elsie Webb, Miss Hilda Webb, and Miss Florrie Webb (daughters), Mr. Jim Webb (son), Lily and Winnie (grand-daughters).

Among those sending wreaths were:—Her broken-hearted husband; Lily, Arthur and boys; George and Aggie; Lizzie, Fred and boys; Min and Harry; Nellie and Fred; Florrie and Harry; Fine and Eddie; Daisy, George and Ivy; Ethel, Jim and Hilda; Edie and Bob; Lily, Winnie, and little Jeanie; Curly and George.

Miss Anderson; Miss Middlesex Laundry; Mrs. Fine and Family; Mr. and Mrs. Pratten; Mr. and Mrs. Lawler; Mr. and Mrs. Leaver; Mr. and Mrs. Wilmot; Mr. and Mrs. Salt and family; Mr. and Mrs. Smith; Miss Barnes; Mrs. Bailey and family; Mr. and Mrs. Parkhouse; Mr. and Mrs. Williams; Neighbours of Stanley-road; Staff of Midland Laundry; Mr. and Mrs. G. Leaver; Friends of Milton-road; Mr. and Mrs. Farsare.

ALDERMAN TODD THANKED.

Alderman B. Todd, of Finchley, has practically completed three years' service as chairman of the Middlesex County Council, and is relinquishing the position. Yesterday he was heartily thanked for his work in the chair.

FINCHLEY TOPICS.

No More Signatures Necessary for the Incorporation Petition.

AVENUE HOUSE.

A public meeting, at which twelve persons were present, was held at Squires-lane School, Finchley, on Wednesday, under the auspices of the Finchley Ratepayers' Defence League, Mr. J. G. E. Inde presiding. Amongst those present were Councillors H. G. Syrett, D. A. A. Merry, and T. Lilley, Mr. J. Harveyson (Guardian) and Mrs. Hollingworth (Guardian).

The Chairman said that one of the hardest things that they had to fight against was the apathy of the public. He thought they should be most interested in municipal affairs—the ratepayers—seemed to be the least attracted.

TRAVELLERS' TROUBLES.

On the subject of Finchley's railway, Councillor Merry said that hundreds of complaints could be brought forward regarding travelling facilities.

The Chairman said that the railway company was supposed to be aware of the worst defects. They could no doubt be interested in original complaints.

Councillor Merry said that suburban traffic did not interest the railway company, as it did not pay.

36,000 ASSESSMENT APPEALS.

The Chairman said that perhaps Poor Law reform might dispel some of the apathy in Finchley.

Mr. J. T. Harveyson said that the new valuation list would not come into force until 1929, and they might be underground by then. (Laughter.) He added that the appeals on valuation would be held at Finchley, but it had not been decided whether the committee would sit in the evenings.

Councillor Syrett said that a calculation was made that there would be about 36,000 appeals against the valuations. If the assessments were doubled the Council would only want half the amount of money. The only danger was that if there was a very low nominal rate people might think they could afford this and that extravagance.

ENOUGH SLIPS SIGNED.

The Chairman said that a discussion on Incorporation was the next item.

Mr. Harveyson said that it was now dead and done with, like Cock Robin.

Councillor Syrett: By no means!

Mrs. Hollingworth asked whether the signatures were to be kept.

Councillor Syrett said it was the suggestion to send the signatures, if which they had enough, to the Privy Council, so that as soon as they were again open to consider application Finchley would be one of the first. From what he could learn Incorporation was not killed—not nearly so killed as Cock Robin. The reason why the Privy Council had decided to withhold the grant of charters was thought to be that those were easier methods of obtaining charters might be found.

Councillor Pike said that there was no hostility on the part of the Privy Council to Incorporation in any district.

Councillor Syrett said that Incorporation had stood more chance of being killed in Finchley than those who should have been in favour of it than by the Privy Council. The number of signatures at present was in the neighbourhood of 10,000, thus the requisite 50 per cent. of inhabitant householders had been obtained. If it had not been for the inclement weather they would have been obtained earlier.

BETTER STREET LIGHTING.

Mr. Harveyson said that two years ago they had a letter from the Council stating that the improvement of street lighting at North Finchley would be considered. Nothing had been done about it yet.

Councillor Merry said that the matter had now been referred to the Chief Electrical Engineer for a report. It was suggested that he should try higher-powered lamps.

AN AVENUE HOUSE CROUSE.

Mr. Harveyson: Can Mr. Syrett tell us anything about Avenue House?

Councillor Syrett said that the property had not yet been assigned to them. Progress was slowly being made towards that end. At present they were in the hands of the lawyers.

Mr. Harveyson remarked that the lawyers were reaping the fine harvest.

A "REAL" POST OFFICE.

Mrs. Hollingworth drew attention to the need of more public boxes at North Finchley. Persons living in Castle-road had to cross two main thoroughfares to the nearest pillar-box.

Mr. Syrett said that the Postmaster General had given it as his opinion that Finchley was very well served as regards postal facilities. They would all like to have a real post office in the district.

A COUNCIL CANDIDATE.

The Chairman announced that the League were supporting the candidature of Mr. C. G. Ryan for the East Ward at the forthcoming Council election.

Mr. Ryan said that he was a newcomer to the district. Although he had only a slight knowledge of the conduct of municipal affairs he would have considerable leisure to devote to their study.

NORTH FINCHLEY SOCIAL.

Presentation to Mrs. Jordan by Members of Mothers' Meeting and Girls' Friendly Society.

Over a hundred members of the Christ Church, North Finchley, Mothers' Meeting and Girls' Friendly Society met at Stephens Memorial Hall on Wednesday for their annual social gathering.

During the evening the vicar (the Rev. E. Pelham Thompson) presented Mrs. Jordan with a cut glass water jug and a beautiful plant, the gift of the members as a token of their affection, and the vicar spoke of her fine work in connection with the church.

The members of the Girls' Friendly Society gave a delightful sketch, and an enjoyable evening ended with community Singing.

RAPIDLY-CHANGING HENDON.

Important Developments on the Hancock Estate.

One of Hendon's old-world spots, the Hancock Estate, is to be developed in the near future. It is announced for sale by Messrs. Hendley and Hendley, and big changes are likely to be seen, since building frontages will be created by the construction of a new road.

This road, we are informed, will commence opposite Hendon Parsonage in Parson-street, and will cut off a portion of the grounds of "Ivy Tower," a house to which the Garsington House School in Finchley used to be removed. It will then run through the Hancock Estate as far as the Watford Bypass road.

It is not clear at present whether the Hendon Tennis Club's courts will be affected by the road.

HENDON CHOIR CONCERT.

An excellent concert was given last night at the Town Hall by the choir of St. Mary's, Hendon, assisted by their friends, under the conductorship of Mr. Percy Blamey. The principal items were selections from Council's "Faust" and "Tannhauser" (Wagner). The soloists were Miss Ethel Jones (soprano), Miss Dorothy Puddefoot (contralto), Mr. Harold Mills (tenor), and Mr. Bayne Young (bass). The leader of the orchestra was Mrs. Howard White, and Mr. Leonard Blake, A.R.C.O., was at the piano.

The chorus numbered nearly sixty voices, and sang very effectively, the well-known "Kermesse" from Faust being especially well rendered. The concert was most enthusiastically received by a large audience.

There will be a second performance this (Friday) evening at 8 o'clock.

The proceeds are in aid of the Organ Restoration Fund.

CASUALTY WARDS.

Finchley Memorial Hospital Extension Opened Free From Debt.

YESTERDAY'S CEREMONY.

The two new casualty wards at Finchley Memorial Hospital were opened yesterday (Thursday) afternoon by Lady Barratt. They are named the Walter Cope Ward and the Mary Curtis Ward, being for women patients and the other for men. There are four beds in each, and the extension also includes an operating theatre, which will be reserved for urgent cases. The equipment is excellent, and wireless has been installed.

The ceremony took place in the women's ward, which was packed with people. The dedication was performed by the Bishop of Willesden, who, after a short address, led prayers. The whole ceremony lasted not much more than a quarter of an hour, but it represented the culmination of a great and successful effort by the Hospital Committee, for the wards were opened free of debt.

A key was handed by Mr. L. Savory to Lady Barratt, who opened the door, and looks out on to a fine view over the Rough Lots in the Great North-road.

The Bishop said that they would ask the blessing of God upon these casualty wards, which reminded them of the chances and chances of this mortal life. The many who were gathered there were well and full of health; then, by a motor accident or some cause they might be taken in again under different circumstances.

Lady Barratt, after apologising for the absence of her husband, said that when she went to open sales of work or bazaars she had sometimes to go round and be the first customer. She did not want to be the first patient at the casualty ward (laughter). But if ever she had an accident she hoped it would be near Tally Ho! corner. She did not hear so much of this hospital because it did not owe money like the others. She hoped they would have the same success in the future as in the past.

FURTHER EXTENSIONS STILL.

County Councillor W. C. Cope said Lady Barratt had suggested that they were prosperous. It was only by sheer hard work and determination that they had managed to pay for the extension. The expenses were growing annually, but it was a duty to the public that they should increase the accommodation. It was not fitting for accident cases to be taken from the road straight into the ordinary wards.

He thought they had made a very good job of the new extension, and thanks were specially due to Mr. E. A. E. Woodrow for his work in connection with the building. By the efforts of all of them together they had managed to open the wards free of debt. There was some equipment still to be paid for, and he hoped that all the good people of Finchley would give their mites.

Mr. Savory said they were grateful to the generous people at Finchley. The financial position of the hospital reflected credit on the committee. Only five years ago they had managed to raise about £20,000, and now, in the past twelve months, they had raised from £4,000 to £5,000 for the new extension. There was probably some young people present who would see a large portion of the land adjoining used for further extensions. They had already purchased the land, but needed funds for further building.

Major the Hon. Edward Cadogan, M.P., wished to congratulate the Committee and the medical staff success in all their efforts. It was a source of great satisfaction that the extension was opened free of debt. There were always expenses looming in the distance, which were difficult to overcome in all hospitals. They must be perpetually making claims on the generosity of the public. He was glad the Finchley committee were nothing daunted by the prospect.

Dr. W. S. Rooke said that the casualty wards had been very much needed by the hospital.

A bouquet of flowers was handed to Lady Barratt by little Miss Elsie Smith, a patient at the hospital.

Among those present were the Rev. E. Pelham Thompson (vicar of Christ Church, North Finchley), Dr. R. P. Langford-Jones, Mr. C. W. Andrews, Mr. E. Danby, Mr. G. H. Dudman, Mr. E. Tyrack, Mr. C. T. Welch, and Miss Whitehead.

IMPERSONATING A POLICEMAN.

What Happened at Cricklewood Lane.

Appearing in the dock with a badly discoloured eye, which had evidently been obtained during a scuffle the evening before, Conan Macleod, 45, a fitter, of 82, Brondesbury-villas, Kilburn, was brought before Hendon Magistrates yesterday on a charge that, on the night of January 22, he, being a Metropolitan Police Force, he unlawfully took the designation or character of a person impersonating a police constable, with the purpose of doing an act which he would not have been entitled to do if his own account at Clitterhouse-lane, Cricklewood, on Wednesday.

Det.-Sergt. Finnis said that the Commissioner had had no knowledge that in all cases of impersonation the police should be legally represented.

Defendant pleaded not guilty, and said the hat he was wearing was only used for fancy dress.

Edward Cook, of Adelphi-terrace, Strand, a police court solicitor, stated that on Wednesday evening he was with a lady in Clitterhouse-lane, Cricklewood, and just near a boarding, close to a farm, they stopped. They were there about a quarter of an hour when he heard a noise, and on looking over the fence he saw defendant lying on the grass with a police helmet on his head. Witness asked what he was doing there, and the man replied, "I am a policeman looking after something." Mr. Mahon (defendant) Was he?

Inspector Porter: No; he was never in the force.

Witness said at first he believed the man, and asked him to produce his authority. Instead of doing so defendant bolted across the field. Witness gave chase, and asked him what he meant by his conduct. There was a struggle, and witness had to subdue him.

The Chairman: And was the black eye a part of the subduing?

Witness: I should say so.

The man was then approached, and defendant was given into custody.

Defendant, from the dock, stated that he had had the hat fortnight ago at a fancy dress dance. He had only been at the spot about three minutes when the prosecutor jumped out at him.

The Bench fined defendant 20s.

WEST HENDON BUFFALOES.

Annual Dinner of the Hadrian Lodge to Lady Friends.

The annual dinner given by members of the Hadrian Lodge of the R.A.O.B. to their lady friends took place at the Crown, Welsh Harp Hotel on Wednesday. Mr. Frank Simmons, excellent as a chairman. The toasts were "The King and Royal Family," "The Order and Hadrian Lodge," "The Ladies," "The Visitors," and "The Host and Hostess." A souvenir was presented to each lady present.

Following the dinner a capital entertainment was given by Billy Bottini, Victor Lodge, Peter Van Dyke, Fred Willett, Joe Stanley, and Mr. L. Millwood at the piano.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Primo J. Sutton and Bro. H. Dixon for their services, and it was announced that in all probability a number of concerts would take place during the forthcoming season. With a greater number of members a sick benefit fund will in all probability be commenced at once.

BANK MANAGER FINED

Whetstone Resident Accused of Insulting Behaviour.

NOTICE OF APPEAL GIVEN.

Albert George Spurling, aged 58, manager of Barclays Bank, Whetstone, was found guilty at Marlborough-street Police Court yesterday when he appeared on a charge of using insulting behaviour at Regent-street, W., on the night of February 2nd.—He pleaded not guilty and was defended by Mr. Eastwood.

Mr. Herbert Muskett prosecuted for the Commissioner of Police.

At the previous hearing P.C. Young said he was accosted walk beside a woman and place his hand on her arm. She pushed him off. Witness alleged that accused then walked to the junction of Regent-street and Piccadilly Circus and followed a lady to a refuge. He appeared to pull her cloak and she then left the refuge and followed a similar incident, alleging that defendant placed himself in front of a lady and spoke to her. She appeared to be very much upset.

Mr. Eastwood, addressing the Court, said defendant had had many private interviews with ladies in the course of his duties as bank manager, and there had never been any complaint brought to the notice of the bank. His one hobby was old furniture and antiques and he was in the West End of London that evening in pursuance of his hobby.

Defendant emphatically denied the charge. He said the first woman spoke to him and he moved away. Another woman wished him "good evening," and invited him home to her flat.

When the case was resumed yesterday defendant was closely cross-examined by Mr. Muskett.

He said he was quite well on the night in question and was fully responsible for his actions.

Mr. Muskett: Where were you intending to go?—I had it in my mind to go to Pratt's for some refreshment or to Leicester-square Tube Station.

Further questioned, he said he stood near the Piccadilly Hotel for two or three minutes, but he was waiting to cross the road. He denied that he walked a few paces by the side of a lady and touched her arm, or that he went close up to another lady in an offensive manner. He expected to be home by 10 p.m. He overtook the lady accused, but she was a woman of a certain character; she invited him to go home with her and he refused. He did not see what became of her.

Mr. Mead (the Magistrate): What time did you come to Town that day?—About 5.30 p.m.

Witnesses were then called as to defendant's character.

County Councillor W. C. Cope, J.P., of the Middlesex County Council, said he had been acquainted for about 20 years and found him to be a man of the highest possible character.

Dr. S. J. Sprent, of Whetstone, said he had been a customer of the bank and doctor to Mr. Spurling for 20 years. Defendant had been harassed by his wife's illness and had a rather pessimistic outlook. It was suggested that he should go to Town at intervals in pursuance of his hobby of antiques.

Councillor A. S. Wood (chairman of Friern Barnet District Council), Mr. Stanley Wildash (District Manager of Barclays Bank) and others gave now testimony to defendant's excellence of character.

Defendant's wife, Mrs. Ada Gertrude Spurling, said they had been happily married for nineteen years. On some occasions she went with her husband to London.

Mr. Mead considered that the police evidence was confirmed by a lady of unimpeachable character. With very great pain he must convict defendant, who would be fined £2 and £5 costs.

Mr. Eastwood said his instructions were that a great mistake had been made and he was bound to give notice of appeal.

SHORT MARRIED LIFE.

Death in Hendon Cottage Hospital of Mr. S. W. Wilby.

Only 23 years of age, and married as recently as Christmas, Mr. Sidney Walter Wilby, of 19, Albert-road, Hendon, died in Hendon Cottage Hospital on Thursday from pneumonia. A member of a well-known Hendon family, he had lived in the district all his life, and had never been ill. His illness since he was stricken down by this fatal attack. He was an active member of the Hendon Men's Evening Club, of which his father was one of the founders, and he had many friends in the Hendon Football Club.

The funeral service was conducted on Tuesday at Hendon Parish Church by the Rev. S. E. Chettoe, assisted by the Rev. R. H. Paterson. The interment was at Hendon Park Cemetery.

Many wreaths were laid on the grave, including the following:—From his loving wife, Maudie; Mum, Dad and family; Mr. and Mrs. Quittenden; Aunt Chris, Uncle Joe and Baby; Uncle Grace and Kath; Mrs. Midson and family; Aunt Ellen and Uncle Fred; George, T. H. Lawrence; Aunt Ethel and Uncle George; Aunt Win, Uncle Ted and Cousin Cis; Aunt Ede and Uncle George; Aunt Alberta and Uncle Ellen and Cousins Rev.; Mr. James King; Maggie and Stan; Mr. and Mrs. Ritter; Members of the Hendon Lodge R.A.O.B.; Mr. Ditchfield; Mr. Frank Wills; Nancy; Mr. and Mrs. Wills and family; Mr. Moss; Aunt Nell, Uncle Paul and family; Aunt Rose, Uncle Jim and Charlie; Billy and Ivy; Jess, Uncle Eric and Baba; neighbours at Church-end; Aunt Clara, Uncle George and Grandad; Aunt Lizzy, Uncle Will and Flo; and Uncle Bob.

The funeral arrangements were in the hands of Mr. Walter Wilby, undertaker, of Bell-lane, Hendon.

GARDEN SUBURB CONSERVATIVES

On Wednesday evening Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Crawford gave a short drive at their residence to the members of the Garden Suburb Conservative Association. Over sixty of the members attended.

Sir Reginald Blair, the chairman of the Hendon Division Conservative Association, spoke briefly during the interval on the necessity of a larger membership for the Garden Suburb Association.

Mr. J. Griffith Hall, the chairman of the Association, proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Crawford for their hospitality, and intimated that a campaign was being organised to obtain a greater membership.

Councillor Denham seconded the vote of thanks, and spoke of the enthusiasm of Mr. and Mrs. Crawford for the Conservative cause.

Mr. W. S. Crawford replied, and explained some of the difficulties now embraced by those responsible for the work of the Empire Marketing Board, of which he is a member. Those present were extremely interested in his explanations of the plans for selling campaign abroad for British goods.

Amongst those present were Lady Blair, Councillor and Mrs. H. G. Potter, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. F. Cowper, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Power, Mr. and Miss Muriel Spinney, Mrs. J. Griffith Hall, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Mackenzie, Mr. H. W. Martin, Mr. Boughey, Miss G. Richards, Mr. K. M. Carroll, Miss M. L. Hurley, and Mrs. J. M. Edwards.

The prize-winners were: Mrs. Reeve Barlow, Mrs. Boughey, Mrs. J. M. Edwards, Colonel R. Ivo-on Denham and Mr. J. F. Swan.

An interesting lecture, entitled "My experiences across Europe with a wireless, a dirtaphone and a motor car," was given by Captain C. Plugge B.Sc. before the Golders Green and Hendon Radio Society.

HIGHGATE SESSIONS.

Finchley Ladies Who Helped a Widow Appear in Court Against Her.

Florence Mary Le Blanc, 60, a widow, who refused to give her address, was charged with having obtained 2s. by false pretences from Clara Green, of Dollis Park, Finchley, with intent to defraud. A second charge was preferred against the prisoner, because a similar amount from Marjorie Young, of Conway House, Nether-street.

P.C. Ball said that at 3.30 p.m. on Tuesday he saw accused in Ballards-lane and told her the ladies of his own district often had been obtaining money by false pretences. She said "I did not ask for it." She said she was from Richmond, but refused to give her address as she "did not want to bring her friends into it."

Miss Clara Green, a pianoforte teacher, of Dollis Park, said accused called on her and asked her fees for teaching two children, whose names she gave as Florence and Linda Bradley. She opened her purse and said she would have paid the fees in advance but she had only three-halfpence in it, and accused she had to get to Potters Bar. Witness believed her story about the pupils and offered to lend her 2s. Prisoner wrote down her name and also the name of her solicitor.

Miss Marjorie Evelyn Young, of Nether-street, Finchley, said she met prisoner in the street and asked if she could direct her to an address written on a piece of paper. Witness saw that it was her own address, and took accused to her house. Prisoner asked if she would teach two of her nieces to dance, which witness agreed to do. Later she had the audacity to ask witness for the money. Witness said she replied "As much as you will trust me with." Witness lent her 2s.

Asked by the Chairman (Mr. J. C. F. Barfield) if she had any complaint against prisoner, she said that she thought she would not get the people to do her work, and she could not let people work back to her destination. Accused had remark that she was going to the police for help.

When prisoner was invited to question the witness, she said, "I plead guilty to defrauding. I did not mean to do it. I started out with some money."

On this evidence accused was remanded for a week in order that inquiries might be made.

DRUNK.

Steven William Sandale, 59, a plasterer, of Prospect-place, East Finchley, was charged with having been drunk and incapable at Hendon.—Mr. Mead: Drunk and incapable, it was stated, he was unable to stand, and leaned over a fence.

The Magistrates fined him 10s.

PLACED ON PROBATION.

George Saffhill, 20, a dustman, of Sydney-road, Muswell Hill, who had been found guilty on a charge of having been a suspected person arrested at Ballards-lane, North Finchley, appeared on remand.

The Court Missionary, Mr. Burgess, said he had found Saffhill was. Has been in very bad conditions. If the Bench would take a lenient view he would go to Town and personally could find a situation for him and lodgings away from home.

Accused was placed on probation for twelve months.

LIGHTS OUT.

Harold Raglan, of Great North-road, Whetstone, was fined 20s., and John Henry Nott, of School-way, North Finchley, was fined 5s. for having motor cycles not sufficient lights on their motor cars after dusk.

STREET FOOTBALL.

For playing football with a full-size ball at High-road, Whetstone, Frederick J. Cradel, of Brighton-road, East Finchley, Alfred Gibbs, and Arthur Mortimer, of Friern-Barnet-road, stone, and Charles Endersby, of Whetstone-place, were fined 5s. each. They had been previously cautioned.

HENDON SESSIONS.

Before Mr. E. Mathews (in the chair), Mr. F. E. Robinson, K.C., Hendon, Mr. T. H. C. Bannister, Lord Lawrence, Mr. G. R. Mann and Mr. Percy Jones, in Court 1; and Mr. J. Hogg (presiding), Mr. B. E. Figgis and Mr. E. J. G. Butler, in Court II.

A LAME HORSE.

Thomas Guard, of 20, York-road, Hendon, was summoned for cruelty to a horse by working it while in an unfit state.—He pleaded guilty.

Wheteman, of Fo, Mrs. Ada Gertrude Spurling, said they had been happily married for nineteen years. On some occasions she went with her husband to London.

Mr. Mead considered that the police evidence was confirmed by a lady of unimpeachable character. With very great pain he must convict defendant, who would be fined £2 and £5 costs.

Mr. Eastwood said his instructions were that a great mistake had been made and he was bound to give notice of appeal.

Mr. Bevington, who did not appear, was fined £20, to include the tax due.

Mr. Bevington, of Wildwood Works, Renters-lane, Hendon, was summoned for a similar offence at the North Circular-road, Hendon, with a motor car. The amount due was stated to be £5 1s.

Defendant was fined £2 and ordered to pay the tax.

FAILING TO STOP.

Richard G. Brigninshaw, of 81, Annesley-avenue, Hendon, was summoned for driving a motor car without lights and for failing to stop, at Hyde, Hendon.

It was stated that two police officers shouted to defendant, but he drove on. He returned home.

A fine of £1 10s. was imposed.

EXCEEDING THE LIMIT.

The following defendants were fined £1 each for exceeding Kelsall's Road Fund speed limit with motors:—John Charles Hill, 19, Scott-road, Hendon; Ernest T. Clarkson, Grove House, Testerdon-grove, Hendon; Alfred George Stevens, Lion House, Sandmere; James E. Billings, 30 Fordbook-avenue, Ealing Common; Vera E. Dey, 93, Ashmere-grove, Hendon; Ernest Ellis, 205, Richmond-road, Hackney; Richard D. Hamilton, Bank Cottage, Radlett; and Victor Ellwood, 88, Harley-street, W.

THEFT OF BUILDER'S WOOD.

Charles Johnson, aged 15, of 6, Dante-road, Nottingham, was charged with stealing, at Percy Hewinson, aged 15, of 46, Princes-avenue, Kennington, a tea-boy, were charged with having received stolen property in stealing on Feb. 18th a quantity of match boarding, value £3, the property of Messrs. Rayner, the property of Messrs. A. J. Reynolds, Ltd.

Detective Sergt. Fisher, of 52 Wykeham-road, Hendon, said he saw accused on a stack of wood on February 18th. They were taking away from the stack and witness took them into the charge of a police officer.

Henry Wilkinson Reynolds, of 225, Finchley-road, Golders Green, identified a piece of timber produced as the property of the firm. It had been torn from a section of an office.

Mr. Reynolds added that he was informed that Johnson had been seen with a barrow by another firm to find wood to make a fire for tea. He felt that the boys were not actually to blame.

Both boys were discharged with a caution.

The Alhambra programme next week is strong in humorous turns. The fun-makers include Billy Bennett (or "Among a Gentleman"), the popular burlesque dancers Nerva and Kane, the Lawson Lucky pianoforte comedian Athol Tier in his "Silly but Soothing" sketch with Jessie Ross, the comedy skilful jugglers Bob and Lucy Gillette, the Crastonians troupe of song and dance artists, the whimsical pantomimist and imitator, Ben Blue, and the amusing cartoonist Van Dock.

BITS FROM BOOKS

AND WHAT THE PRESS IS TALKING ABOUT.

WOMEN IN THE MIDDLE AGES.

One feature of chivalry—the code of behaviour of the ideal Knight—was the homage paid to Ladies, says Mr. L. F. Salzman in "English Life in the Middle Ages" (Oxford University Press)

It was largely an artificial pose, and in particular it was a matter of "class"; the knight acknowledged the duty of courtesy towards ladies of his own class, but often he did not consider it necessary to treat humbler women in the same way. Even towards his ladies a knight could upon occasion be scandalously rude. Nor was the conduct of the ladies quite in accordance with modern ideas; they were, if anything, more forward than the men in love-making and pretty nearly their equals in outspoken abuse.

The worst slanderers of the female sex were the clergy. They could never get out of their heads the part that Eve had played in the unfortunate incident of the apple in the Garden of Eden. The common people heard women continually abused from the pulpit; if they heard anything on the other side, it was likely to be some poem so full of extravagant praise that it lacked all reality. Not unnaturally they had rather a low view of women, and popular literature was full of stories and rhymes against women—their fickleness, deceit, extravagance, and, above all, their inability to keep either silence or a secret.

THE INDIAN AGENT.

Britons know but little of the work of the officials, who, under the name of Indian Agents, did much thankless work among the wild and dangerous red men of North America. Mr. Leo Crane, in his book "Indians of the Enchanted Desert" (Leonard Parsons), sheds a little light, gathered from his own experience, upon the life of these valuable servants of civilisation.

"Indian Agents! a much-maligned class of officials, although recognised as part of the National Government since 1796, clouded somewhat in their efforts by the memory—fact and fiction—of the 'ration' days. They might have spoken proudly of the traditions of their Service, a Service that has had little recognition and no pension or reward other than a dry-as-dust annual report compiled by unknowing clerks. The reason for these traditions has produced more heat than light and fury. The very title seems to have incriminated the ardent writers of the past, and still causes some of the present to see red. When sentimentalists—and God knows the importance of their sentimentality—take on the hand to picture the fabled glories and the believed miseries of the savage, they usually have little acquaintance with those very men I and have in mind. They forget, if indeed they have given a thought, that they are prejudiced to view the savage because of these men; that the miserable actualities of the 'glorious past' would long since have engulfed the idealised protégé but for them. Indian Agents may not vie with painters and poets; but Kipling and Sir George Strathmore in their dreams, and rhyming dictionaries produce a fund knowledge of Indian ways, trachoma, smallpox, measles, syphilis—scourges of the Indian people, whose long train of evils the uninformed do not attribute to white men as an ignorant and devitalised race. No one feels this so keenly as the officials who daily force the unwilling Indian to shoulder the duty of alleviating the miseries of the present. Unlike the Spanish explorers, these men have no historian, and but for prejudice and libel would probably be unknown.

"Yet this one had succeeded to the task Custer left unfinished among the unrelenting Sioux; had checked a second rebellion; had faced and quelled and buried Sitting Bull, the last of the great savage charlatans. That one had built a school on the pines to shelter the children of the murderer Geronimo; a third had tracked and mapped a region few civilised men dare to enter; a fourth was one who had chained a river without an appropriation; now came another who had fought persistently to end that his mortality records were lower than those of enlightened civilisation. Occasionally a sensational incident, or a sensational book, intrudes; occasionally, too, one hears of them.

"These unromantic facts, having no meretricious flage of feathers and war paint, nothing in them of the beating of tomtoms or the chanting of Speeds, do not invite a sensational record; and, it is true, few such things occur in the 'dude season,' when sentimentality accompanied by its handmaiden ignorance takes its neurasthenic outing in the wild."

PEARL ASSURANCE FINANCES.

The 63rd annual report of the Pearl Assurance Company, Limited, shows that total income for the year ended December 31st, 1926, was £12,220,879, an increase of £368,651, and the amount of premiums of £45,159,081, an increase of £3,272,885, and the funds, which have grown by £5,647,626, now stand at £83,855,287. A reversionary bonus of £2 2s. per cent. has been declared on Pearl policies entitled to participate in the profit. Mr. W. Popple, 156, The Broadway, Hendon, is the district manager.

BROOKSBY CLUB.

A dramatic entertainment in aid of the Finchley Memorial Hall was given by the Brooksby Dramatic Club at the Wesleyan Hall, East Finchley, under the auspices of the Rev. Finchley Wesley Guild, on Thursday last.

"Married and A" proved to be a very diverting comedy, and the parts were played by F. E. Hughes, S. C. Francis, Kathleen Francis, C. D. Sampson, H. W. Sampson, Florence Pearce, B. H. Beaumont and Dorothy Kelsall. It was produced by M. H. W. Sampson. In "The Spectre Bridegroom," an old-time farce of a very lively type, the leading comedians were A. S. Pearce and B. W. Hutchin, who were well supported by Dorothy Kelsall, Kathleen Maslin, H. W. Sampson, S. C. Francis, C. D. Sampson and F. E. Hughes, the last-named being also the producer. In "Romantic Circumstances," a farcical comedy, the chief parts were played by F. E. Hughes and Dorothy Kelsall. Contrast was provided by Kathleen Maslin and B. H. Beaumont. This was produced by Mr. H. W. Sampson.

QUEEN'S HALL, CRICKLEWOOD.

"Fig Leaves," which is showing all next week at the Queen's Hall, Cricklewood, is a delightful revue in which Adam and Eve, beginning in the Garden of Eden and finishing amongst the latest Paris fashions, are shown in real colour and displayed by the most beautiful mannequins ever seen on the screen. Humorous comedy and pathos are combined in this wonderful picture, which features George O'Brien and Olive Borden.

On Monday and Tuesday and Wednesday Jack Holt with Florence Vidor will appear in a delightful romance entitled "Sea Horses," which was filmed on the east coast of Africa, and on Thursday, Friday and Saturday "Beer Pirate Night" will be presented. This is Lucien La Plante's latest picture, and is a ripple of laughter from start to finish.

GARSUBIL

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