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FRIDAY, JUNE 8th, 1917.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for
transmission as a newspaper.]

Price 2d.

GILLETT & JOHNSTON

CROYDON, Surrey.
BELLS, CLOCKS, CARILLONS.



St. Peter's Collegiate Church,
Wolverhampton.
Tenor (33 cwt.) of the New Ring of 12.

WOLFRUN CHAMBERS, WOLVERHAMPTON,
Messrs. GILLETT and JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 4th March, 1912.
Gentlemen,

The re-casting of the peal of ten bells with the addition of two new ones in the tower of St. Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton, recently carried out by you has proved most successful, and given general satisfaction.

I am authorised by the Rector and Wardens to say how pleased they are with the result. In the opinion of those well qualified to judge, we have now, undoubtedly, one of the best peals in the Kingdom.

Yours faithfully, F. T. BECK,

Architect, Diocesan Surveyor.

AN ABANDONED MEETING.

Following the action which has been taken by some of the other ringing organisations, the Committee of the Sussex Association has decided to abandon the annual meeting this year; but the decision has aroused a strong protest among the members of the Central Division, who have not only recorded their feelings in a resolution and suggested that the meeting should be held on August Bank Holiday, but have resolved to withhold the district balance, which should be passed over to the Association's Central Fund, pending the issue of the notice calling the meeting. Whether, in face of this action, the Committee will continue in their decision remains to be seen. At the moment we have only one side of the argument before us, but on the face of it there appear to be the makings of a domestic storm in Sussex.

War-time conditions upset many preconceived notions, and provide unforeseen difficulties, but we doubt whether this justifies committees in setting aside rules without consulting the members. Last year the members decided that this year they would hold their annual meeting at Brighton, and the Committee, in cancelling that arrangement and overriding the rule which provides for an annual meeting to be held in April or May, seem to have misjudged the feeling of the members on the subject.

Strictly, we suppose, it is questionable whether the officers of the Association, other than the members of the committee who are elected triennially, can remain in office without re-election; and, in the absence of any vote from the members, we can, at any rate, see difficulties ahead in regard to the future representation of Sussex on the Central Council—a question which was warmly discussed last year and adjourned for twelve months. A new Council has now to be elected, and, as those who served in the last triennial period have gone out of office, Sussex will be without representation when next the Council meet, unless special steps are taken to appoint delegates. In view of the feeling on this subject in the county, we doubt if the Committee would care to take the responsibility of sending members to the next Council meeting without consulting the desire of the Association. One of the difficulties of the present situation is that district meetings are largely suspended in Sussex, and opportunities of taking the opinion of members are thus more limited. However, in view of the protest of the Central Division, it is unlikely the Committee will fail to meet the wishes so strongly expressed, and in due course, we have little doubt, we shall hear that Sussex is to have its annual meeting after all. In any case, we imagine, it is within the power of the members to call a special meeting at which they can transact any business of which formal notice is given.

MODERN WORK

CHARLES CARR, LTD.



OPINION OF OUR
MODERN WORK.

Broomfield Vicarage,
Chelmsford

Dear Sirs,

I have great pleasure in stating that we are perfectly satisfied with the manner in which you have carried out the work entrusted to you of re-arranging and re-hanging the Broomfield Church Bells.

We consider that the work reflects great credit upon your firm, and believe that your system of hanging the bells reduces the vibration of the steel frame supplied by you to a minimum.

The CHURCHWARDENS write with ME in this expression of opinion. The BELLRINGERS are also unanimous in their praise of the alterations effected by you.

Yours truly,

CHAS. EDMUNDS,

Vicar of Broomfield.

Messrs C. CARR, LTD.

Smethwick.

Kindly ask us to inspect, Report and Tender before deciding your contract, — we may be able to assist you.

SMETHWICK,
BIRMINGHAM

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SINGLY,
OR IN PEALS.

CHIMES FOR CLOCKS.

PEALS AUGMENTED,
CRACKED BELLS RECAST.

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IN BEST SEASONED OAK,
STEEL OR IRON.

Chiming Machines.

Best Workmanship and
Satisfaction Guaranteed

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OF ALL KINDS.

ARTISTIC WROUGHT IRON
BRACKETS.

MALLEABLE IRON BRACKET:
BEST BELL ROPES.

REPAIRS AND REHANGING
IN ALL BRANCHES.

BELLHANGERS sent to inspect
and report on Bells and Towers

SEND FOR CATALOGUE.

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EIGHT BELL PEAL.

TYLDESLEY, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION

On Saturday, June 2, 1917, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

At the PARISH CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 11½ cwt., in G.

TITUS BARLOW, SENR. ... Treble	HARRY ALLRED ... 5
JAMES ALLRED ... 2	TOMAS B. WORSLEY ... 6
BENJAMIN ALLRED ... 3	HERBERT ALLRED ... 7
HENRY SMITH ... 4	ROBERT ALLRED ... Tenor

Composed by JOHN R. PRITCHARD, and
Conducted by ROBERT ALLRED.

* First peal in the method. Rung, by permission of the Vicar (the Rev. J. Lund, M.A.), to celebrate the conductor's thirty years' service as a ringer of this parish, and also as a compliment on the coming-of-age of his only daughter.

SIX BELL PEAL.

DUSTON, NORTHANTS.

THE CENTRAL NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ASSOCIATION

On Saturday, June 2, 1917, in Two Hours and Forty-nine Minutes,

At the CHURCH OF ST. LUKE,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Woodbine, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Double Oxford, Double Court, Oxford Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 8½ cwt

JOHN W. METHERELL ... Treble	WILLIAM ROGERS ... 4
FRED WILFORD ... 2	FRANK ROLLINGS ... 5
SIDNEY J. LAWRENCE ... 3	FRED HOPPER ... Tenor

Conducted by FRED HOPPER.

Rung in honour of King George's birthday.

THE KING'S BIRTHDAY.

The following were among the touches rung to celebrate the King's birthday, which fell on Sunday last.

DEPTFORD, KENT.—At St. John's Church, on Sunday, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 39 mins.: E. B. Crowder 1, F. W. Richardson 2, Alf. Bennington 3, T. Easterby 4, E. J. Pannett 5, J. Law 6, W. J. Jeffries (conductor) 7, Arch. Bennington 8. For evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 41 mins.: Alf. Bennington 1, F. W. Richardson (conductor) 2, E. J. Pannett 3, T. Easterby 4, Pto W. E. Mauden, A.S.C. (Framlingham) 5, Pto E. Mounter, A.S.C. (Curry Rivel) 6, W. J. Jeffries 7, Arch. Bennington 8.

NORTH STONEHAM, HANTS.—On Sunday, for morning service, 720 Bob Minor: W. Chambers 1, W. Edwards 2, W. Rowe 3, C. Fray 4, W. H. George (conductor) 5, W. T. Tucker 6.

DALTON-IN-FURNESS.—At the Parish Church, on Sunday, for morning service, 720 Bob Minor: J. Huddleston 1, Miss Lindsay 2, Miss Gilchrist 3, Miss E. M. Stuart (first 720 with a bob bell) 4, T. R. Jackson (conductor) 5, T. Stuart 6, J. Burrows 8 (cover). For evening service, 720 Bob Minor: F. Burrows 1, J. Huddleston 2, T. Watson (conductor) 3, T. Stuart 4, T. R. Jackson 5, W. S. Forshaw 6, W. H. Dennison 8 (cover).

HERSHAM, SURREY.—On Sunday, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples: G. Edser, senr., 1, W. Shepherd (conductor) 2, J. Emery 3, P. L. Miles (Kensington) 4, A. Woodrow 5, F. Shepherd, senr., 6, F. J. Shepherd 7, R. J. Polley 8. Also rung as a farewell to Sapper W. Woodrow, who is shortly leaving for foreign service.

ACTON.—On Sunday, 672 Bob Major: A. Smith 1, W. Lidbetter 2, J. W. Fruin 3, C. Edwards 4, F. Skevington 5, W. Lawrence 6, R. Holloway (conductor) 7, C. Hunt 8.

LITTLE MUNDEN, HERTS.—On Sunday, for morning service, 180 Oxford Bob Minor: W. Greenaway 1, B. Miller 2, S. Game 3, F. Williams 4, W. H. Lawrence 5, Pto E. A. Overall 6. For evening service, 720 Doubles Oxford: S. Game 1, F. Williams 2, Pto E. A. Overall (Buffs) 3, B. Patmore 4, N. Patmore 5, W. H. Lawrence (conductor) 6.

WEST EALING.—On Sunday, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 44 mins.: C. Edwards 1, E. Vicary 2, W. Emmett 3, W. Lawrence 4, W. W. Worthington (Richmond) 5, R. Holloway (conductor) 6, A. Harding 7, A. E. Smith 8.—On May 26th, in honour of the anniversary of the birthday of Her Majesty the Queen, touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples were rung by: Miss Edith Jones, Messrs. T. Beadle, G. M. Kilby, R. Holloway, E. Harris, A. Harding, C. Edwards, C. Brown, and W. Lawrence.

BELLS AND BELFRY REFORM.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In answer to Mr. Player's interesting letter, I will, with your permission, make a few remarks. First of all, on the question of fact, the control of the church bells is vested in the incumbent, with the exception that he cannot forbid their use to call the people to worship for Sunday services.

Now, as to some of the other questions raised by your correspondent, may I venture to set against his three years' experience as churchwarden my own 34 years' experience as a ringer, six of those as a layman? I think Mr. Player's experience of the clergy must be rather exceptional—it is certainly not universal. In this neighbourhood, for instance, two of us are ringers, and as district secretary of the local Diocesan Association, I have found that, without exception, where there are bells, the clergy are interested in their ringers, and anxious to do all they can for their advancement. If Mr. Player will pursue his investigations a little further, I think he will find that the real enemies of ringing are not the clergy, but people who are hostile to the church, and often to every form of religion and worship. It is against these that the clergy often have to defend their ringers. I know the Vicar of a prominent town in Kent (not very far from Ashford), who has to deal with many complaints of this nature, but, though not a ringer himself, he manfully stands up for the Exercise—so the ringing goes merrily on, while the care of responsibility falls on the Vicar in his study.

To show the difficulties of the clergy in this matter, a few years ago I asked for the use of a tower in a country town in this neighbourhood for a district meeting of the Ringers' Association—here, also, as in the case mentioned above, is a low tower right on the street. The incumbent replied, "Certainly, but please not another peal, or I shall be murdered!"

I think, if Mr. Player will go back a little in the history of belfry reform, he will find that the movement certainly did originate with the clergy, as one of the results of the "Tractarian Movement," although, of course, they could have effected but little without the loyal co-operation of ringers as a whole. There are, of course, clergy and clergy, and ringers and ringers, and it is impossible to generalise beyond certain limits.

Oh, why does your good correspondent suppose that Eucharistic worship is antagonistic to ringing? Is it necessary to neglect the East End of the Church in order to have a case for the West End? I should like, if possible, to disabuse his mind of this fallacious idea. Take, e.g., the case of our church here: we have vestments, lights, and choral eucharists on festivals, but I doubt whether more interest could be taken in the ringers anywhere. I have myself taught about half the parish to ring: some stick to it, and others do not, but I am always ready to give them a chance: and there are very few services indeed for which I do not personally assist in the ringing. Moreover, I oil the bells regularly once a week, and sometimes more frequently, in all weathers, and splice the ropes and paint the frame when required—in fact, I am my own steeplekeeper—not a paid official!

As to the attendance of ringers at the services they ring for, I think it should be a *sine qua non*, and we have an "iron" rule to this effect here. How does it work out in practice? Well, sir, the population of our village is about 320, and we have five of our best ringers, including the conductor, at the war, but on Whitsun Day we had six bells going for the Choral Eucharist at 7.30 a.m., seven bells for Matins, the whole eight for children's service, and six again for evening-song, three of the ringers, besides myself, being present on all four occasions. I have only to add that it was the coming of the bells here a few years ago which helped to bring our village lads to the Communion service, and it was the Choral Eucharist that did it, for they turned out to ring for it. Lately one of them, home on leave before going to the front, came to the Communion service twice in one week by his own request. "I find it such a help," he said simply, in explanation of his request that he might come again. Such lads as he do not make the worst soldiers or the worst ringers.

I cannot disclose my identity for obvious reasons, but I should like to assure Mr. Player of my hearty goodwill, and express the hope that he will be spared for many a long year to carry on the good work in which we are both engaged. I note his address with interest, for it was at Kennington, near Ashford, that I first laid hands on a salter in 1876.—Yours very truly,

A CLERICAL RINGER.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Bedford District was held at Willington on Saturday week, when members were present from Bedford, Elstow, Sharnbrook, Sandy, Northill, and Biggleswade, as well as the local ringers. The bells were kept going during the afternoon and evening, and various touches were rung. Tea was partaken of on the Vicarage lawn, and at the meeting, which followed in the tower presided over by Miss Dorothy D. Steel, four new members were elected.—It was unanimously decided to hold a joint meeting with the Biggleswade district, and Sandy was the place selected.

CENTRAL NORTHANTS ASSOCIATION.

SUCCESSFUL ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Central Northamptonshire Association was held at Rothwell on Whit-Monday, and the day's proceedings began with touches on the bells, which were open from 10 a.m. Divine service was held at noon, in the Parish Church, at which the lesson was read by the Rev. R. Copeman (vice-president), and an address given by the Vicar (the Rev. J. A. M. Morley). Owing to the food economy campaign the usual luncheon was omitted.

The business meeting was held in the Church House at 2.30, when the Rev. R. Copeman (Rector of Stoke Albany) was elected president, and took the chair.

Speeches were made eulogising the interest shown by the retiring president, the Rev. W. St. George Coldwell, Rector of Islip, who had held the office for nine years.

Mr. Owen Parker, J.P., of Higham Ferrers, was re-elected treasurer, and Mr. F. Wilford, of Northampton, hon. secretary.

The balance sheet was presented, and showed a balance in hand on the year's working of upwards of £12, which was considered very satisfactory.

The annual report showed that eight peals had been rung during the year, five of them being half-muffled for men who had fallen in the war, special mention being made of the peal rung at Easton Neston, recording which a tablet had been put in the belfry by Mr. James Clarke, of Towcester. Fourteen meetings were held during the year, and these were well attended.—Cordial thanks were given to the clergy for granting the use of the bells where these meetings had taken place. One hon. member had died during the year, and one had left, and there were now 356 ringing members, and 34 hon. members. There were 100 members on the roll of honour, five had been killed, six wounded, and one was a prisoner of war.

A large number of apologies for absence from the meeting were sent: those who wrote included the late president, the Rev. F. Lang, the Rev. A. J. Greaves, and Mr. James Clarke (vice-presidents), the last named being under the care of the doctor, and confined to his bed.

Messrs. F. Wilford and W. Perkins were elected as representatives on the Central Council.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the Rev. J. A. M. Morley for the use of the bells, and the Vicar's reply concluded the business.

About 50 members were present from Northampton, Kettering, Raunds, Wellingborough, Irthlingborough, Earls Barton, Weston Favell, Kingshorpe, Burton Latimer, Desborough, Isham, Stoke Albany, Finedon, Higham Ferrers, and the local ringers. London, Cambridge, Superlative Surprise, Double Norwich and Bob Major, Sledman and Grandsire Triples, were rung on the bells during the day.

The meeting was very successful considering the present difficulties.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

A most successful and enjoyable meeting of the Gainsborough District was held at Kirton Lindsey, on Saturday last, and was well attended, the following towers being represented: Gainsborough, Scotter, Kirton Lindsey, Bigby, and Scunthorpe. The bells, a ring of six, were available during the afternoon and evening, and were kept going to the standard methods. Tea was provided at the Vicarage long room, 21 sitting down, and was followed by the business meeting, over which the Rev. H. R. Garvey (Vicar of Kirton Lindsey) presided.—One new member (Mr. Frank Hill, of Scotter) was elected.

The Ringing Master made reference to the loss which the Gainsborough District had sustained through the death of Mr. G. Hill, of Stow, who was a very much respected member of the Guild.

A letter, received from the Lincoln District Secretary, was read stating that some of their members would like to hold a meeting at Stow, and suggesting a combined meeting of the two districts.—A resolution, showing the full approval of those present, in regard to a combined meeting, was proposed by Mr. J. G. Tinker (Gainsborough), seconded by Mr. T. H. Parkin (Scunthorpe), and unanimously carried.

In response to the usual vote of thanks, the Rev. H. R. Garvey gave a most hearty welcome to the Guild, and some very good advice to those present. In his remarks, he touched upon two sad incidents, respecting the Kirton Lindsey ringers. One was in regard to Mr. A. Triffett (captain), who was suffering from a serious bodily affliction, and the other in reference to Mr. Atkinson, who had made the supreme sacrifice for his King and country.—A vote of condolence with the friends and relatives was carried by those present standing in silence.

This concluded the business, after which, in response to an invitation from the Vicar, some of the members enjoyed a game of bowls on the lawn, while others returned to the church, where further ringing was indulged in until about 7.30, when a very pleasant meeting was brought to a close.

NEWARK.—On Sunday, May 6th, at the Parish Church of St. Mary Magdalene, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 52 mins.: W. C. Woodhouse 1, Corpl. C. H. Watts, R.E., 2, C. Chawman 3, G. L. English 4, Sapper T. R. Brown, R.E., 5, Sapper F. W. Nanton, R.E., 6, L. Bullock (conductor) 7, H. Thrale 8.

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Tenor Bell, 25½ cwt., of the new ring
of Ten at St. Peter's, Brighton.

ESTIMATES SUBMITTED

For Rehanging, Retuning and Recasting.

Musical Handbells in sets, Bell Ropes, &c.

At the Handbell Contest held annually in Manchester the First Prize for the last 16 years has been awarded to bands using our bells, and on fourteen of those occasions they have gained the Second Prize also.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

PROTEST AGAINST ABANDONMENT OF ANNUAL MEETING.

A meeting was held at St. Peter's, Brighton, on Whit-Monday, and was well attended, 35 being present. Ringing commenced at two o'clock, and continued until four. The usual business meeting followed in the Parish Room, when the secretary of the division (Mr. A. D. Stone) stated that the general secretary and officers of the Association had overruled the resolution of the members at the last annual meeting, and had postponed the annual meetings until after the war, which he considered they had no right to do. He (Mr. Stone) had withheld the books and balance of the division as a protest against this high-handed action of the officers. He invited discussion on the subject, and also instructions as to whether the books and balance should be forwarded or not, leaving the matter entirely in the hands of the meeting.—The Divisional Secretary also stated that, as they had lost one of the committeemen representing the division (the late Mr. F. Morris Bacon), by death, and as another was abroad, the division could only give two votes instead of four at the committee meeting.

A lengthy discussion followed, which showed very clearly how much the members resented the discontinuance of the annual meeting. The Association not being poor some members asked what they paid their subscriptions for, and the discussion ended in a unanimous resolution of protest, and the suggestion that the annual meeting be now held at Brighton, on August Bank Holiday.

The divisional secretary was instructed by another unanimous resolution to hold all moneys in hand until notice is given that the general meeting is to be held.

The tower was afterwards again visited, and the bells set going to Grandsire and Stedman Caters, Treble Bob and Surprise Methods.

The following towers were represented: Central Division: Henfield, Ditchling, Balcombe, Aldrington, Burgess Hill, Hurstpierpoint, St. Peter's and St. Nicholas', Brighton; Western Division: Heene and Shoreham; Eastern Division: Rotherfield; and there were also several independent members present.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

NORTH BUCKS BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the North Bucks Branch was held at Shenley, on Saturday last, when about 40 members attended representing Blechley, Newport Pagnell, Stony Stratford, Maids Moreton, Bradwell, Linslade, Loughton, Milton Keynes, and the local ringers. The falling off in the attendance is, of course, chiefly owing to so many members having joined the colours. The service was conducted by the chairman of the branch (the Rev. J. R. Vincent), and an excellent address was given by him.

After service, the usual business meeting was held, the Rev. J. R. Vincent being in the chair. The balance sheet, presented by the Hon. Secretary (Mr. W. Sear), showed an increase in the funds compared with the previous year, which was very satisfactory considering the difficulty of the times.

A general discussion took place on how best to keep the meetings going and get new members to fill up the depleted ranks until the time comes when those who are spared to come back will be welcomed home, and will help to bring the branch up to the flourishing state of pre-war days.

The Secretary mentioned that he wanted to keep up the financial position of the branch while so many were away, those absent numbering at least 70.—A resolution was passed that the contributions for men on service should, if possible, be raised by their respective towers, as was done last year with great success. No doubt the same response will be made this year.

After the meeting, the bells were set going to Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Plain Bob, Kent Treble Bob, and Cambridge Surprise Minor, but owing to the food rationing no tea could be provided, which was very much regretted. The meeting was very successful, and all went away satisfied, "if hungry," and not downhearted, for there was every evidence of the members' loyalty to the Guild and their determination to "keep the flag flying" through this disturbing period.

KING'S CLIFFE TENOR RECAST.

On Tuesday week the King's Cliffe tenor bell, which has been recast by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, was dedicated by the Rector (the Rev. H. C. Orlebar). After the dedication service the bells were rung by the following: The Misses M. and D. E. Orlebar, F. Featherstone, S. Adams, and Messrs. H. Bailey and H. Hoar, of Woodston. Owing to a heavy thunderstorm several friends were prevented from coming from a distance.

Readers of "The Ringing World" will remember that the tenor cracked about five months after the bells had been rehung and tuned by Messrs. Warner. Through the appeals made in these columns, and the generosity of readers of the "Ringing World," £16 1s., of the total £38, was subscribed.

ISLEWORTH.—On Sunday afternoon, May 6th, a quarter-peat of Stedman Triples, in 47 mins.: Pte S. Meadows, A.S.C., 1, C. Tricker 2, C. Hunt 3, T. Beadle 4, E. F. Cole 5, J. E. Sykes 6, F. Skevington (conductor) 7, A. Beckensale 8.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**ANNUAL MEETING AT ROMFORD.**

The annual meeting of the Essex Association was held on Whit-Monday, at Romford, where there was an attendance of ringers from the county, and the proceedings passed off very successfully. The ringers came principally from the Metropolitan part of Essex, and it was noticeable that practically all were men over military age. Indeed, the assembly was an exemplification of the way in which the older ringers have banded themselves together in loyalty to the Association, determined to keep it going until the war shall be over, and the younger members be welcomed home again. The toll of the war among the ranks of Essex ringers was plainly indicated in the annual report, which stated that 156 members are serving in the army, and already 10 have made the supreme sacrifice. The war and its consequences had a subduing effect upon the proceedings, but there was a determined intention to keep the Essex Association going, whatever the sacrifice that had to be made in the time to come, and there was a keenness to assure the future arrangements and meetings, in anticipation of the time when peace shall be restored, and normal conditions prevail in the practice of the art of change ringing.

THE WITNESS OF THE BELLS.

Service was held at Romford Parish Church at four o'clock, and was largely attended, the Rev. G. M. Bell, Vicar of Romford, officiating, and the ringers' form of service being used. The lesson was read by the Rev. H. T. W. Eyre, Vicar of Great Totham, and hon. secretary to the Association, and special mention was made in the prayers of those members serving in the Forces.

The Vicar of Romford preached from 1 Corinthians xiii. 1, "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal." He spoke of the sound of bells as one of the spiritual forces of the unseen world, akin to other harmony and music, and urged ringers to become perfect in their art. The message of the bells, flung aloft from tall church towers, spread abroad over the country, and often entered homes where no other message from God was received. The bells from their high region proclaimed far and wide their invitation, and were a witness in the world of the presence of God. In many districts of Essex, where the art was practised, no one could tell what good might spring from the bell ringers' efforts in town and village. The ringers of Essex had met on that occasion to consecrate themselves again for the peculiar work which was their own. The Association deplored the loss of those members who had gone forth to serve their country in the war, and it prepared to gird itself for the future. In many towns and villages of Essex half the ringers had gone away, but still the Association carried on in the hope of peace, and Sunday by Sunday made their contribution to English life.

THE BUSINESS MEETING.

After service tea was served at the Hare and Hounds, where there was a crowded attendance, many more ringers than the number arranged for arriving, due largely to the fine weather which prevailed. Mr. C. H. Howard, J.P., Braintree, Master of the Association, presided, supported by the Rev. G. M. Bell, Vicar of Romford; the Rev. H. T. W. Eyre; the Rev. H. Dale, chaplain and Vicar Temporal of Hornchurch; Mr. H. Chapman, of Hindhead, Surrey; Messrs. G. A. Black, W. H. Dyson, W. J. Nevard, T. Faulkner, W. and G. R. Pye; W. A. Alps; Messrs. Groombridge and Emery, of the Kent Association; Messrs. W. Lincoln and F. W. Edwards, Master and secretary respectively of the S.E. Division of the Essex Association, and Mr. E. J. Butler, Master of the S.W. Division.

The Master read the annual report and balance sheet, printed at the office of the "Ringing World," and extracts from which were published in our last issue. He said it was quite a war report. The income of the Association had been decreased, and the expenditure had been decreased even more, with the result that there was a very satisfactory balance in hand. This was entirely due to the action of the district officers, who had cut their expenses to a very low margin. Upon the proposition of Mr. W. H. Dyson, Braintree, the report and balance sheet were unanimously adopted.

OFFICERS RE-ELECTED.

Upon the proposition of Mr. Penn, Barking, Mr. C. H. Howard was re-elected Master for the next year. In accepting office again, the Master said he was extremely obliged to the members for the honour paid him. He should have liked to ask for someone else to be nominated as Master, but in war times it was not felt advisable to make a change, and he should be pleased to do his best to carry out the duties for another year (applause).

Upon the proposition of Mr. G. A. Black, the Rev. H. T. W. Eyre was re-elected hon. secretary and treasurer, and in consenting to fill the offices for another year, he stated that the present officers would have to carry on until the war was over, when new blood would be required to be introduced to the offices.

The Peal Committee was again appointed, on the proposition of Mr. Penn.—A proposition was made that the two auditors Messrs. G. A. Black and T. Faulkner, be re-elected.—Mr. Black stated that he had to join the army that week.

The Master: We all hope Mr. Black will be back again by next Whitsuntide in time to audit our accounts, and even if he is not, it would be a mistake to appoint anyone else as auditor. We have an excellent auditor in Mr. Black; if the country needs his services, we hope he will be equal to settling that business, and be back again for our next annual meeting (applause).

The meeting re-elected Messrs. Black and Faulkner, and Mr. Black said he hoped the war would be over so that he could attend to the duties of auditor for the next annual meeting (hear, hear).

Messrs. G. R. Pye, C. H. Howard, W. Butler, and W. J. Nevard, were elected representatives of the Essex Association to the Central Council.

The Master said the next meeting of the Central Council would be held in London, when the Council would be reconstructed, and its proceedings would be more important than before.

Mr. A. Sorrell, Romford was re-elected a member of the Association, and Master Charles Norman Howard, Braintree, was elected a probationer.

The Master said the next annual meeting of the Association would be held in the North Western District, and the committee would like the meeting to decide whether it should be at Bishop's Stortford or Saffron Walden. An invitation had been received from Bishop's Stortford, but the committee was divided, and wished the meeting to decide.

Upon a vote being taken there was an overwhelming majority in favour of Saffron Walden for the annual meeting next Whitsuntide, and the Master expressed the hope that on the assembly there the members would be able to ring for a victorious peace (applause).

"CARRYING ON."

Mr. W. A. Alps moved a hearty vote of thanks to the officers for their services during the past year, and this was carried with acclamation.

The Master, in reply, thanked the members for their kind expressions, and said the Association was indebted to the district officers for the way they had attended to their duties. Mr. Butler was doing the work of Master and secretary in his district, and in others strenuous efforts were being made to keep the organisation of the Association going. "We have not dropped the meetings, and we don't intend to," he said. "In rural parishes it is a very difficult matter to keep ringing going. In some places the bells have not been rung for a year, where formerly the bells were rung regularly, but now the ringers have all gone. Some joined up voluntarily early in the war, and others have since been taken, so that in some places the ringing bands have entirely disappeared. Arrangements have been made for ringers from one district to help the parishes where ringers are few, but in the rural districts it is very difficult to carry this out. Even with a combination of four rural parishes in some places it is not possible to get a band to ring. But still we are determined to do our best to keep the Association alive, and we have succeeded very well up to the present."

Speaking of his own appointment, the Master mentioned that he had again to undertake the office of chairman of the Braintree Urban Council, which made demands upon his time, but he would attend all the district meetings he could.

The Rev. H. T. W. Eyre proposed a vote of thanks to the Vicar of Romford for the service he had arranged for the ringers, and the Vicar of Hornchurch for his assistance.—The vote was carried, and both these gentlemen suitably responded.

The Master proposed a vote of thanks to the local committee for the arrangements made for the meeting at Romford. He said Romford had one of the best bands in the Kingdom for ringing, and some of the most intricate methods were practised at that tower. He congratulated the Romford ringers on the fact that they were still ringing regularly. There were times when things were not quite so satisfactory at Romford, but since the bells there had been rehung, Romford had become one of the best towers in the district, and Barking was not far off.—The Master said he always felt when he came to Romford he was in a tower where it was possible to ring methods of the very highest order. The members were greatly indebted to the Romford ringers for their successful arrangements for that meeting (applause).

Mr. Alps, seconding, said the ladies were a valuable acquisition in some towers, and some of them were clever with the bells. If all the men were taken away, then the ringing would have to be done by women, and he suggested that mixed company would be quite as pleasing in the ringing world (hear, hear).

The motion was carried, and Mr. Butler suitably replied.

After the meeting touches of Superlative and London Surprise, Double Norwich, Sledman, etc., were rung upon the bells of Romford and Hornchurch.

MR. R. T. HIBBERT'S LOSS.

The many friends of Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Hibbert, of Caversham, will learn with the deepest regret that Miss Bessie Hibbert passed away after a long illness, on the morning of Saturday, the 26th May. Had she lived until the 18th of June, she and her twin sister, would have completed their 19th year. All ringers will extend their sincere sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Hibbert, and the members of their family, in their sad bereavement.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.

On Whit-Monday the quarterly meeting of the North Forest Branch was held at the pretty little village of Ashleworth, on the banks of the River Severn. At 3 p.m. the bells, a nice ring of six in E sharp, were set going and kept in full swing till about 7.30. Ringers were present from Gloucester, Staunton, Newport, Tibberton, Bristol, The Leigh, and the six from Newent, including two young ladies, who rang their first 120.

A business meeting was held, at which the Master of the Association (Mr. John Austin) presided, but there was no business of importance to transact.

The usual service had to be put off, the Vicar having left the parish, and no successor having been appointed.

Minsterworth was the place suggested for the next meeting, the date being left to the hon. secretary to fix, and of which due notice will be given.

The methods rung during the afternoon were Grandsire, Bob Minor, Kent Treble Bob, Stedman Doubles, and Cambridge Minor. A few tunes on the handbells and a course of Grandsire Triples, by Messrs. Austin and Williams, brought a very pleasant afternoon to a close.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION

On Whit-Monday a quarterly meeting of the Eastern District was held at Selby, and was very well attended. The bells were placed at the disposal of the ringers by the Vicar (the Rev. J. Solloway, D.D.), and were taken advantage of during the afternoon and evening. There were members present from Birstall, Dewsbury, Earlsheaton, Howden, Hemingbrough, Pontefract, Sherburn-in-Elmet, York, etc., and several touches of Bob Major, Stedman Caters and Triples, Grandsire Caters, Bob Minor, and Kent Treble Bob Minor, were brought round, and a special touch of 576 Bob Major was rung in honour of a Selby ringer, G. A. Morley, who was home on leave from the front, by: T. F. Earnshaw (York) 1. G. A. Morley (Selby) 2. H. Horner (York) 3. G. Horner (York) 4. F. Cryer (Selby) 5. H. N. Ineson (York) 6. H. Fairlam (Selby) 7. E. Morris (Leicester), conductor, 8.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

LEIGH, LANCASHIRE.—At St. Mary's Parish Church, for men's service, on May 6th, 672 Grandsire Triples: H. Waits 1, Herbert Allred 2, H. Smith 3, J. Smith 4, W. Hayes 5, Robert Allred (conductor) 6, W. Smith 7, J. Waits 8. The ringers of 1, 2, 6, 8, hail from Tyldesley, the rest belong to the local band. For evening service, on Accession Day, 1008 Grandsire Triples, in 36 mins.: S. Hayes 1, Herbert Allred 2, R. Allred (conductor) 3, Harry Allred 4, W. Hindley 5, J. Smith 6, W. Smith 7, J. Waits 8.

HARBORNE, BIRMINGHAM.—On Sunday, May 6th, for evening service, 504 Stedman Triples: G. Hitchman 1, G. Piggott 2, H. Withers (conductor) 3, H. Grosvenor 4, J. Eaton 5, L. Longuey 6, H. Beecham 7, C. Webb 8.

WALKDEN.—Lancashire Association.—At St. Paul's Church, on May 6th, for the Sunday School anniversary sermons, the following touches: For the early celebration, 392 Grandsire Triples: J. Denner 1, J. Worthington 2, A. Potter 3, Jas. Denner 4, J. Welsby 5, B. Welsby 6, J. Potter (conductor) 7, R. Denner 8. The same band rang 546 Grandsire Triples for morning service. In the afternoon 1008 Stedman Triples: T. Barlow (Deane) 1, J. Lowe (Pendleton) 2, T. Worsley (Bolton) 3, J. Welsby 4, F. Grundy (Worsley) 5, W. Pennington (Bolton) 6, J. Ridyard, conductor (Worsley) 7, J. Potter 8. After service, 504 Stedman Triples, with W. Lever (Farnworth) and A. Potter, in place of J. Ridyard and J. Lowe, conducted by J. Potter. For evening service, an attempt was made for a quarter-peal, but the 7th clapper came out, but 504 was rung by: J. Potter 1, J. Denner 2, T. Worsley (conductor) 3, A. Potter 4, J. Welsby 5, W. Pennington 6, J. T. Potter 7, T. Barlow 8. After evening service, 422 Stedman Triples, conducted by J. Potter, with J. Lowe and S. Oakes, in place of J. Denner and J. T. Potter.

CARDIFF.—Llandaff Association.—At St. John's Church, for evening service, on May 6th, 360 Bob Royal: H. Day 1, J. Harris 2, E. Coles 3, W. Heath 4, S. Dawe 5, F. Chamberlain 6, A. Rowley 7, J. Clutterbuck 8, W. Coombes (conductor) 9, W. Bolton 10. 305 Grandsire Caters: Sam Williams 1, J. Harris 2, E. Coles 3, T. Rodman 4, W. Heath 5, H. Day 6, W. Coombes 7, J. Clutterbuck 8, W. Bolton (conductor) 9, S. Barker 10.

FULHAM.—On Sunday, May 13th, at All Saints' Church, for evening service, 1320 Kent Treble Bob Royal, composed by A. J. Perkins: A. W. Davis 1, H. Langdon (conductor) 2, W. E. Garrard 3, A. W. Darlington 4, Rfm. J. T. Hogg (Q.W.R.), of North Shields, 5, P. Miles 6, A. V. Selby 7, E. F. Cole 8, A. F. Harris 9, C. Charge 10.

LEEDS.—At St. Chad's Church, on Sunday, May 13th, for evening service, 720 Bob Major: J. Backhouse 1, W. Whitaker 2, D. Swift 3, L. Stokoe 4, F. Hutchinson 5, D. Poyser 6, E. Petty 7, W. Child (conductor) 8. Rung with the bells muffled as a token of respect to the late Lord Grimthorpe.

NOTICES.

The EDITORIAL OFFICE of "THE RINGING WORLD," to which all communications should be sent, is 9, COMMERCIAL ROAD, WOKING.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION (late St. James' Society) Est. 1824.—The next meeting will be held at the Church of All Saints, Isleworth, on Saturday, June 9th, Ringing from 3 to 9 p.m. Short business meeting at the "London Apprentice," opposite the Church, at 6 p.m.—T. Walker, Hon. Sec., 10, Police Buildings, Bishopsgate, E.C. 2.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—A meeting of the above branch will be held at St. Michael's Church, Blackburn on Saturday, June 16th, 1917. Bells ready at 3 o'clock. Meeting 6.30 p.m.—J. Watson, Branch Sec.

HALIFAX AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting and 8 bell contest will be held at Heptonstall on Saturday, June 16th, 1917. Ballot for order of ringing at 3 p.m. in the school. Entries for contest to be sent to me not later than Monday, June 11th.—F. Salmons, Sec., 8, Salisbury Place, Halifax.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—The next meeting of the above will be held at Barnsley on Saturday, June 16th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. till dusk. Those requiring tea (9d. each) must notify Mr. C. D. Potter, 119, Doncaster Road, by Tuesday, June 12th.—Leonard Brightman, Dist. Sec. *pro tem.*, 45, St. Stephen's Road, Rotherham.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Oldham Parish Church on Saturday, June 16th, at 6 o'clock. Bells ready from 2 o'clock until dusk.—T. K. Driver, Sec., Middleton.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Stockport Branch.—The next meeting of the branch will (D.V.) be held at Bowdon on Saturday, June 16th.—Rev. A. T. Beeston, Hon. Sec., New Mills.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District.—The annual meeting of the district will be held at Chilham on Saturday, June 16th, 1917. Tower open for ringing. Service in church, 5 p.m. A plain tea at 5.45 p.m. at the Woolpack Hotel, at 3d. a head to members, and general meeting after. Names for tea must be sent to reach me by Monday, June 11th, at the latest. As arrangements for tea are difficult this must be adhered to. All subscriptions should now be paid.—Rev. C. W. B. Cobbe, Elmsted Vicarage, Ashford.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—A quarterly meeting of the above will be held at Heene on Saturday, June 16th. Bells available from 2.30; meeting, 5.30. Subscriptions due.—A. W. Groves, Sec., 9, Sugden Road, Worthing.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—Meetings will be held at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., for general business on June 19th, and on the 14th and 28th for handbell practice—all at 8 p.m. Also at St. Michael's, Cornhill, on Sunday the 10th, at 6 p.m.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Secretary, 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W. 4.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Rochester District.—A quarterly meeting will be held on Saturday, June 23rd, 1917, at St. Nicholas, Rodmersham, near Sittingbourne.—Edward A. G. Allen, Hon. Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—The next meeting of the above will be held at Shipley on Saturday, June 23rd. Bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m. Business meeting in the Schools at 6 p.m.—All ringers welcome.—P. L. Cooper, Hon. Dist. Sec.

HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—A meeting will be held at Barkway, eight bells, recently rehung and two trebles added by Bowell, on June 23rd. Bells available during afternoon and evening. Tea will be provided; members 6d., others 9d. All will be heartily welcomed. Nearest station, Royston, 3 miles, G.N.R.; Buntingford, 5, G.E.R.—W. H. Lawrence, District Sec., Little Munden.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Yorktown Branch.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Hersham on Saturday, June 23rd. Ringing 3.15 to 8.30 p.m. Tea 5.30 p.m. for those who notify me not later than the 18th. All ringers welcome.—F. J. Shepherd, Assistant Sec., 1, West Carr's Lane, Hersham, Surrey.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Mr. Thomas H. Kirkby, 7, Selkirk Street, Corrington, Nottingham, has been appointed Local Hon. Secretary. It is hoped that every encouragement will be given him, so that the work connected with the office may be successfully carried on to the mutual benefit of the members and the Association. The General Hon. Sec. and Treasurer will be pleased if all outstanding subscriptions are paid to Mr. Kirkby as early as possible.—W. E. White, Hon. Sec.

PEAL BOOKS.—Price 3s., post free 3/6. Peals written in at 3d. per page. Prices for entering peals in Association official peal books upon application.—J. Beams, West Ewell, Epsom.

MEMORIAL TABLET TO THE LATE MR. SAMUEL SPITTLE.

At the annual meeting of the Dudley and District Guild, held on Saturday, March 10th, 1917, it was unanimously decided to erect in the Parish Church, Dudley (the Vicar and wardens having consented to the same), a tablet recording the half-muffled peal of Grandsire Caters rung on Saturday, February 3rd, at St. Thomas's Church, Dudley, to the memory of the late Mr. Samuel Spittle, who had been its ringing master ever since the Guild was formed, and had held other important offices at the Parish Church for upwards of 70 years. It was further decided to appeal to the members of the Guild for subscriptions, and it was thought that many of the late Mr. Spittle's ringing friends and acquaintances would like the opportunity of contributing something towards perpetuating the memory of so devoted and honoured a ringer and church worker. The work has already been put in hand, and subscriptions should be forwarded without delay to the Ringing Master, Harry Mason, Stourdell, Old Hill, Staffs, or to the Hon. Secretary, Herbert Sheppard, 113, Himley Road, Dudley, who will in due course acknowledge the same in "The Ringing World."

Rev. Dr. Gray Maitland, LL.D., Vicar and President.

Harry Mason, Ringing Master.

Herbert Sheppard, Hon. Sec.

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