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## PRINCIPAL BELLFOUNDERS

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*These famous bell-founding firms have kindly consented to this adaptation of their advertisements to meet the pressure on our space, due to the compulsory reduction in the number of our pages this week.*

## THE COUNCIL AND THE EXERCISE.

When the projected meeting of the Central Council at Whitsuntide was postponed there was some hope that it would be possible to hold it at a later date during the year. That hope has not been fulfilled. It was based on the possibility that this war would end in much the same way the last did, and when the enemy realised that a victory was out of his reach he would ask for an armistice. To-day the enemy is already beaten, but he is not yet conquered. England will have to wait at least until next year before those peace-time activities, of which the work of the Central Council is one, can be resumed.

Meanwhile, since the last meeting six full years will have gone by. The Council, which was elected in 1939, held one meeting only. The Council which would have been elected in 1943 never came into being. Next year a new Council is due to be elected. Obviously a state of affairs has arisen which will need to be regularised. In accordance with strict rule, the officers and organisation came to an end when the term of the 1939 Council finished. But in abnormal conditions such as the present, strict rule does not and cannot apply. The standing committee, which held one meeting during 1943, decided virtually, if not formally, to treat the war years as if for the purposes of the Council they did not exist. That seems to be the most sensible as well as the most useful way out of the difficulty, and we imagine that when the Council does meet it will take the same view.

The times we are passing through have made, and are making, vast changes in almost everything connected with men's lives and thought. For the moment people are distracted by the abnormal conditions which they look on as temporary. They imagine that they themselves are in no wise changed, and that when peace comes they will think and act much as they did before war came. That, however, will not be possible. Whether he knows it or not, every man's outlook on life and his fellow-men will be different in some way from what it was. Whether this country and the world at large are going to be better or worse will depend, not nearly so much on schemes of social reform and what Governments do, as on the changes in the people themselves. It will be a few years before the effect of these changes shows itself.

The Exercise is a little world which is affected and altered by much the same influences as the great world around it, and in much the same way. It is indeed less liable to violent changes than most things of a like

(Continued on page 402.)

nature, but it will be changed. There will be great opportunities for advance and improvement. That there is much room for improvement no thoughtful person can deny, and we should be glad it is so, for a thing which needs no improvement or cannot be improved is pretty sure to be stagnant and lifeless.

We do not require any elaborate or drastic plans. We do not need to alter our old ideals, and habits, and ambitions. What we do need are wider vision, more unselfishness, and higher standards. Each ringer has a duty to his own band, and can get the best out of his art only when he fulfils that duty. He also has a duty to the Exercise as a whole. It is just because the Central Council represents the whole Exercise and can act for the Exercise and speak for the Exercise, that the ordinary average ringer should take an interest in it and see to it so far as his limited possibilities go that it is composed of the best and most suitable persons.

### EIGHT BELL PEALS.

HALESOWEN, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Sept. 23, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes, AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST.

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES,

Tenor 17 cwt. in E flat.

THOMAS GREENALL ... Treble	FRANK W. PERRENS ... 5
CLIFFORD SKIDMORE ... 2	NORMAN J. GOODMAN ... 6
WILLIAM B. CARTWRIGHT ... 3	THOMAS HEMMING ... 7
HENRY H. FEARN ... 4	GEORGE E. FEARN ... Tenor

Composed by F. BENNETT. Conducted by WM. B. CARTWRIGHT.

KIDLINGTON, OXON.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Sept. 23, 1944, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes, AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART. Tenor 23½ cwt.

ALBERT HANCOX ... Treble	*ALAN R. CORNISH ... 5
WILLIAM C. PORTER ... 2	WILLIAM JUDGE ... 6
*CECIL G. CALCUTT ... 3	GEORGE HOLIFIELD ... 7
†MISS VALHALLA HILL ... 4	WALTER F. JUDGE ... Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE HOLIFIELD.

\* First peal of Triples. † First peal of Grandsire Triples.

ALTON, HAMPSHIRE.

THE GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Sept. 23, 1944, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes, AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

WASHBROOK'S VARIATION. Tenor 18 cwt. in E.

GEORGE UPSHALL ... Treble	RAYMOND S. PHILPOTT ... 5
C. ERNEST SMITH ... 2	GEORGE L. GROVER ... 6
FREDERICK OLDROYD ... 3	ALFRED H. PULLING ... 7
WILLIAM J. ROBINSON ... 4	FRANK C. W. KNIGHT ... Tenor

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

HALEWOOD, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Sept. 23, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes, AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th the observation). Tenor 11 cwt.

THOMAS LEE ... Treble	GEORGE R. NEWTON ... 5
THOMAS W. HESKETH ... 2	EDWIN C. BIRETT ... 6
ARTHUR LINTOTT ... 3	WILLIAM ROBINSON ... 7
FREDERICK W. ALMOND ... 4	PETER HOUGHTON ... Tenor

Conducted by G. R. NEWTON.

Rung for the wedding of Mr. Frank Varty.

HETHERSETT, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sat., Sept. 23, 1944, in Three Hours and Four Minutes, AT THE CHURCH OF ST. REMIGIUS,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 9½ cwt.

MRS. G. SAYER ... Treble	*REV. W. G. BRIDGE ... 5
FREDERICK C. GOODMAN ... 2	GEORGE SAYER ... 6
REV. A. G. G. THURLOW ... 3	RUSSELL W. CURSON ... 7
ERNEST G. SHORTING ... 4	HENRY TOOKE ... Tenor

Composed by JOHN R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by HENRY TOOKE.

\* First peal. First peal of Bob Major as conductor.

### SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.

TRYSULL, STAFFS.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Sun., Sept. 17, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one 720 each of Cambridge Surprise, Oxford Treble Bob and Kent Treble Bob, and two 720's each of Single Oxford and Plain Bob.

Tenor 11 cwt.

JOHN LLOYD ... Treble	CLIFFORD SKIDMORE ... 4
*ARTHUR V. PEARSON ... 2	†HOWARD HOWELL ... 5
*ALBERT D. COLLINS ... 3	THOMAS HEMMING ... Tenor

Conducted by THOMAS HEMMING.

\* First peal in five methods. † 100th peal for the society.

PITSFORD, NORTHANTS.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Sept. 23, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten different callings. Tenor 8 cwt.

*JOHN FITZHUGH ... Treble	WILLIAM HOMMONS ... 3
†MISS HILARY ARNOLD ... 2	*GEOFFREY GAYTON ... 4
GEORGE CARE ... Tenor	

Conducted by GEORGE CARE.

\* First peal of Doubles. † First peal.

GAMSTON, NOTTS.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Sept. 23, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents. Tenor 9 cwt.

OSWY STREET ... Treble	MISS K. BURCHNALL ... 4
*ERNEST PRESTON ... 2	†C. F. BRIGGS ... 5
MISS G. BURCHNALL ... 3	H. DENMAN ... Tenor

Conducted by H. DENMAN.

\* First peal. † First peal of Minor.

### HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tues., Sept. 19, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes, AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5091 CHANGES;

ALBERT J. WALLMAN ... 1-2	JOHN THOMAS ... 5-6
ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 3-4	ERIC A. DENCH ... 7-8
MRS. J. THOMAS ... 9-10	

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by E. C. S. TURNER.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sat., Sept. 24, 1944, in Two Hours and Twenty-Nine Minutes,

AT ST. PETER'S HALL,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*ANDREW I. PEARMAIN ... 1-2	ARTHUR V. DAVIS ... 5-6
MRS. F. J. MARSHALLSAY ... 3-4	†PERCY W. BRAYSHAW ... 7-8

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

\* First peal on eight bells. † First peal of Major.

**NATIONAL GUILD OF POLICE RINGERS.**

**MEETING AT MANCHESTER.**

At a meeting of the National Guild of Police Ringers, held at Manchester on September 9th, representatives were present from the following Forces: Leicester City, Cardiff City, Liverpool City, Bolton Borough, Manchester City and Leicestershire County. Visitors attended from Bath, Stourbridge, Newcastle (Staffs), Loughborough, Leicester, Macclesfield, Crewe, Bowdon (Cheshire), Liverpool, Bolton and Ashton-under-Lyne. Officers of the Lancashire Association and local ringers were also present.

Ex-Supt. F. R. Williams took the chair at the luncheon at the Piccadilly Restaurant, to which 64 sat down.

Sergt. H. G. Jenney, Leicester City, proposed the toast of 'The National Guild,' and said he thought the state of the Guild was very satisfactory. He paid tribute to the hon. secretary, Inspector H. J. Poole, for his efforts in keeping the Guild active during the war.

The Chairman welcomed the visitors. The hon. secretary reported that 73 members had paid their subscriptions up to date and 22 members were in arrears. There was a balance in hand of £10 10s. His greatest difficulty, he said, was to maintain contact with the Metropolitan members. He appreciated that they had had many other things to think about besides ringing, and extended sympathy to them in their trials and dangers. Mr. W. Wolstencroft and Mr. G. R. Newton replied on behalf of the visitors.

Ringling on the bells at the Town Hall included rounds, Grandsire and Stedman Cinques, Stedman Triples and Caters, and London and Bristol Surprise Major.

Eighty-four persons were present at tea, which was followed by a social evening.

**WEDDING.**

Two of the ringers at Christ Church, Epsom, P.O, Navigator G, W. Massey and Miss Hilda Mary Mills, were married at Claygate Parish Church on September 16th. The bridegroom is assistant hon. secretary of the North-Western District of the Surrey Association, and the bride is assistant hon. secretary of the Leatherhead District of the Guildford Guild. Ninety relatives and friends were at the reception, and courses of Grandsire Triples and Caters were rung on handbells.

**SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**

**MEETING AT UPWEY.**

A meeting of the Dorchester Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild was held at Upwey on September 9th, at which the following towers were represented: Wyke Regis, Dorchester St. Peter, Fordington, Upwey, Abbotsbury, Stratton, Bradford Peverell, Wool and Sydling.

The service in church was conducted by the Rev. A. F. Godley, the lesson was read by the Rev. W. G. E. Squire, Vicar of Abbotsbury, and the address was given by the Rev. A. S. Bryant, Rector of Upwey.

In the absence of the chairman of the branch, Canon Markby, the chair at the business meeting was taken by the Rector. It was arranged to hold fortnightly practices under the leadership of the Ringing Master, Sergt. P. Tocock, beginning on Saturday, September 23rd, at St. Peter's, Dorchester. Two new members, John Lock, of Stratton, and Roy Denford, of Abbotsbury, were admitted.

**CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**

A meeting of the Stockport and Bowdon Branch of the Chester Diocesan Guild was held at St. Paul's, Stalybridge, on September 9th, when 65 members and friends were present. Three new members were elected from Poynton and two from Cheadle. The date of the joint meeting with the Macclesfield Branch at Macclesfield was altered to October 21st, and the next branch meeting was fixed for Hyde on November 25th. During the evening the bells of Holy Trinity were also available.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**

**MEETING AT WILLOUGHBY.**

A meeting of the Daventry Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild was held at Willoughby on September 23rd. The service was conducted by the Rev. E. S. Powell, and Mr. G. Hancock, chairman of the branch, presided over the business. Mr. Birkinshaw produced the recording of the Staverton bell broadcast to Australia, which was played over. The methods rung included Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, and St. Clement's and Cambridge Surprise Minor.

**JOINT MEETING AT RAWMARSH.**

A joint meeting of the Barnsley and District Society and the Sheffield and District Society was held at Rawmarsh on September 9th, at which the following towers were represented: Arksey, Bushey, Conisbrough, Barnby Don, Doncaster, Eastwood, Eckington, Felkirk, Handsworth, Rotherham Parish, Sprotbrough, and the local belfry.

A meeting of the Barnsley Society was arranged for October 14th at Kirkthorpe, near Wakefield.

**SERVICE TOUCHES.**

**BOB MINOR.**

720		720	
23456		23456	
23564	1	\$ 32564	1
S 25364	5	S 62453	2
32564	5	S 52436	2
S 35264	5	S 25463	1
42356	4	34256	4
Twice repeated.		Five times repeated	
720		Single half-way and	
23456		end.	
S 32564	1	720	
53264	5	23456	
S 52364	5	S 32564	
42356	4	S 62453	
S 43256	5	S 35462	
24356	5	S 42356	
Repeated.		Five times repeated,	
720		omitting Singles half-	
23456		way and end.	
23564	1	720	
S 54236	4	23456	
S 52436	5	64235	4
52364	1	S 53264	3
35264	5	S 52364	5
42356	4	26435	2
34256	5	S 53428	3
S 32456	5	32645	2
Repeated.		32456	1
		43256	5
		24356	5
		Repeated.	

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION**

**MEETING AT ACTON.**

In connection with the celebration of the 700th anniversary of the foundation of Acton Parish Church, a meeting of the Middlesex Association was held on September 16th by invitation of the Rector, the Rev. Percival Gough. About 50 members and friends attended, from Acton, Ardingly, Bishopgate (St. Botolph's), Brentford, Chester, Ealing (Christ Church, St. Mary's and St. Stephen's), Edmonton, Erith, Ewell, Harrow, Harmondsworth, Hatch End, Heston, Hillingdon (St. Andrew's and St. John's), Isleworth, Kensington (St. Mary Abbot's), Lewisham, North Mimms, Ruislip, St. Albans, Upper Clapton, Walthamstow, Wembley, Westminster (St. Margaret's and St. Stephen's), Willesden and Worcester Cathedral. With the exception of the president, the Rev. Preb. W. P. Cole Sheane, of Twickenham (who sent an apology), all the officers were present as well as the Rev. and Mrs. Paton, of Brentford, the Rev. A. C. Davies, of Worcester Cathedral, and the Rev. K. C. Davis, of Ewell.

The ringing during the afternoon and evening ranged from rounds to London Surprise.

Service in church was conducted by the Rector, and there were many parishioners in the congregation. Mr. J. E. L. Cookey read the lesson and the address was given by Mr. J. A. Trollope. During the service Grandsire and Stedman Caters were rung on handbells by the Edmonton band, assisted by Mr. E. C. S. Turner.

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.**

**MEETING AT PORTSMOUTH.**

A meeting of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, held at St. Mary's, Portsmouth, on September 16th, was attended by members from Alverstoke, Bishop's Waltham, Fareham, Portsmouth (the Cathedral and St. Mary's), Titchfield and visitors from Newport (Isle of Wight), Liss, Farnham and Leatherhead.

At the business meeting the Vicar presided, supported by Mr. F. W. Rogers (hon. general secretary), Mr. Linter (district chairman) and Mr. R. J. Stone (hon. district secretary). Miss P. Wild, of St. Mary's, Portsea, was elected a member and Mr. Cope an unattached member. It was decided to hold the annual district meeting on January 20th, the place being left in the district secretary's hands. The ringing included Grandsire and Stedman Triples, and Plain Bob, Treble Bob, Double Norwich and Cambridge Surprise Major.

**MEETING AT EAST GRINSTEAD.**

A combined meeting of the East Grinstead Guild and the Kent County Association was held at Tonbridge on September 9th, at which over 20 ringers were present from East Grinstead, Hartfield, Balcombe, Shipbourne, Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, Wadhurst, Lamberhurst, Leigh, Brasted and Sundridge. The methods rung ranged from rounds to Cambridge Surprise Major. Tunbridge Wells was selected for a meeting in November.

## 'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official journal of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A.

Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER.  
The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P.,  
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All communications for this journal should be addressed to:—

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Cheques and remittances should be made payable to 'The Ringing World.'

The meeting of the Hereford Diocesan Guild at Staunton-on-Avon arranged for to-morrow has been postponed until October 7th.

The average age of the band who rang the peal of Grandsire Doubles at Pitsford on September 23rd is 15, the oldest ringer being 17 and the youngest 11.

### GOLDEN WEDDINGS.

Last week we published reports of peals rung for the golden weddings of two men well known among ringers. Mr. G. W. Cartmel, whose wedding day was September 18th, has been hon. secretary of the Herts County Association for a far longer time than almost all the members can recollect, and Mr. C. H. Sone was hon. secretary of the Maidstone District of the Kent County Association for many years. Both gentlemen have in their time rung many peals.

### THE REV. K. C. DAVIS.

The induction of the Rev. K. C. Davis as Vicar of St. Francis of Assisi, Ruxley Lane, Ewell, Surrey, took place on Saturday, September 2nd. The ceremony was performed by the Archdeacon of Dorking and the Rural Dean of Epsom, in the presence of a large congregation. A course of Bob Major was rung on handbells by R. Darvill 1-2, R. Bird 3-4, E. Hartley 5-6, and K. Darvill 7-8. Mr. Davis was formerly priest in charge of St. John's Church, Swindon, Wilts.

### THE BISHOP OF LIVERPOOL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It was very good to read Mr. Smale's letter and to hear that our new Bishop of Liverpool is a proficient member of the Devonshire Guild. We have heard from his lordship's own lips that he is able to do some plain hunting and are hopeful that he will be able to join with us at some Liverpool Branch tower in the near future. We also hope that before long he will become a patron of our Lancashire Association.

GEORGE R. NEWTON.

### 'A FOOTNOTE'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I must join with Mr. Haynes in disagreeing with you. You rightly say that when a record is under examination, rigid adherence to definitions is necessary. If, however, this is to be applied to discriminate between Sextuples and Fourteen-In, Cinques and Maximus, and so forth, then you will presumably say that Mr. Albert Walker's claim to have rung over 300 peals on twelve bells falls to the ground, because the vast majority have been peals of Cinques, and that with the possible exception of one or two of the Ipswich band, no one has yet reached a century on twelve.

If we were in the habit of ringing Cinques without a covering bell, this argument might be supportable, but the fact that no one challenged the claims of Mr. Walker, or of Mr. William Pye when he was described, I believe, as the first to ring 100 peals on twelve, or of any other ringer reaching a similar total, would seem to suggest that the Exercise does not wish to differentiate between the two types of performance. Mr. Haynes' description of the peal at Enfield as 'the first peal of Fourteen-In and the second peal on 14 bells' could not be bettered.

E. A. BARNETT.

## HENRY THOMAS ELLACOMBE.

(Continued from page 385.)

If in the year 1850 a competent and impartial observer had made a survey of the belfries and ringers throughout the country, he could hardly have failed to come to the conclusion that change ringing was a dying art. It would have seemed to him a belated survival which had outworn its usefulness and was barely kept alive by a vague sentimental feeling among the people and the tenacity of the ringers' traditions. The ringers had seriously fallen, and were still falling, in popular esteem, and their numbers were decreasing as the older ones fell off and there were fewer younger ones to take their places; and almost everywhere the decay and dilapidation of bell fittings was making ringing a physical impossibility. The existence of a few outstanding companies was not really an exception to the general tendency. The Norwich Scholars had passed their highest point and were soon to reach the stage where they talked about what they had done instead of doing something fresh, and in London and Birmingham and places in the North, though peals were still being rung, the outlook for the future was anything but a bright one.

The truth is that the forces and influences which had created the art and had developed it and sustained it through two centuries were largely exhausted and were quite inadequate to deal with the great changes caused by the industrial revolution and the altered and altering standards in the Church.

These things our observer must have noticed. He could hardly have known that there were reserves of strength in the essential nature of the art, and in the deep-seated hold the sound of church bells has on the affections of the people of this land (even though they themselves do not realise it) which, if only they could be put into action, would more than restore the situation. As it happened, in the year 1850 the Exercise had reached its nadir, and, though it was some time before any definite improvement took place, that improvement did come, slowly at first and then increasingly until the present conditions were reached.

This great change in the Exercise has usually been called the belfry reform movement, and the name is a good one, though the improvement was really a much wider and more comprehensive thing than is usually meant by the people who use the words.

In this belfry reform movement, Henry Thomas Ellacombe took a leading part, and that, even more than his work as an antiquarian, is his title to a place in the history of the Exercise. But it is important to understand what his share really was. What he wrote, and what he did, had directly little influence even on the round ringers of his own West Country, and none at all on the change ringers throughout the country. The men whom he and those he worked with influenced were his fellow clergymen; and his appeal to them (though it was not phrased quite so bluntly and plainly) was that they should secure the control of their own belfries, assert their authority there, and undertake the responsibilities which followed from the action.

To us, to-day, when the parson is acknowledged by everyone to be the man who has the final word on the use of the bells, it seems strange that the clergy of a century ago should have had to fight for the control of their bells, and that is some measure of the change which has come

over the Exercise in the meantime. Whatever the strict law may have been, it is certain that from before the Reformation the control of the bells was in the hands of the laity. In ordinary practice it was the parish clerk who controlled their use and dealt with the ringers, and he was responsible (as far as he was responsible at all) to the churchwardens and through them to the vestry. In addition, the ringers by long custom had acquired vested rights to which they clung tenaciously, and in which they would usually have had the support of the parishioners, however little foundation there may have been for them in strict law.

It is probably true to say that there was no strict law at all on the matter. The common law of England was not, and still largely is not, a code of definite enactments, but is supposed to be based on age-long usage as interpreted by judges after argument when any dispute arises. Disputes about the right to control ringing which came before the law courts were naturally very few indeed, and in such the ringers quite obviously would have no standing. In the two or three cases in the nineteenth century when the dispute was between the parson and the churchwardens, the matter was brought before the ecclesiastical courts, and it is not unreasonable to suspect that the bias of the chancellor was in favour of the clergyman and against the layman. The Church laws (canons they are called) lay upon the churchwardens the duty of seeing that the bells are not rung superstitiously, or at other times without good cause, and make their consent, together with that of the minister of the place, necessary for any special ringing.

Thus it was that when, largely as the result of the Oxford Movement, parsons began to take notice of the unsatisfactory condition of their belfries, they found themselves powerless. Any interference with the ringing would almost certainly have produced such a general outcry in the parish as a new and untried man would hardly care to risk. So for the most part the parsons shut their eyes, and in time treated with indifference and toleration what they thought they could not alter. It was Ellacombe's task to rouse them out of this state, and that he (and others likeminded with him) did by what they wrote, and what they said, and by the example of what they did in their own churches. The work of the bell archaeologists had also indirectly a great and similar effect, for it showed men how interesting and how valuable were the bells which hung forgotten in many a village steeple, and so led to a greater care of them and the uses to which they were put.

Before Ellacombe wrote there had been cases where a strong-willed parson had come into opposition with his churchwardens, his ringers, and his parish generally, through his determination to stop ringing for some particular purpose. This was notably the case in the year 1820, when the attempt of King George the Fourth to obtain a divorce from his wife caused intense feeling throughout the country. When the Government were forced to drop the Bill in Parliament the common people showed their joy by bellringing all over the country. There is to-day in the belfry of Hammersmith Parish Church a board which records the ringing during three days 'in commemoration of the Glorious Victory of our Gracious Queen Caroline' and the drinking of nine bottles of wine at the same time. In many places the parsons, who belonged to the squire class, tried to stop

this ringing, but their authority was defied by churchwardens and ringers, who in some cases broke open the locked belfry doors. It ended in proceedings before the magistrates, who naturally supported the clergy, who belonged to their own class. We need not suppose that the parsons had any other motive than to uphold the authority of the government and repress undue feeling by the 'lower' classes.

In 1830 the Vicar of Chesterfield forbade the ringing of his bells during the races, and roused a storm of protest among the townsfolk which culminated in a public meeting called together by the mayor.

Other cases occurred during the middle of the nineteenth century where the incumbent cited churchwardens and ringers before the Court of Arches or the Consistory Court of the diocese, and had them admonished for ringing contrary to his prohibition.

But these were isolated cases due to special circumstances. What Ellacombe was pressing for was that the parson should gain the full control of the belfry at all times and, though he quoted these legal cases as proof of the parson's right, he did not desire such drastic measures.

In the end, and gradually, the parsons did to a large extent wake up to their responsibilities and take some interest in their bells and ringers, with the result that the control passed out of the hands of the churchwardens and the laity. That, we cannot doubt, was much aided by the abolition of compulsory church rates in 1868, for as long as the vestry had the power to levy a rate on the parish for the upkeep of the church, the ordinary ratepayers saw to it that the churchwardens looked after their interests. The abolition of the rates naturally very much increased the parson's power and influence.

(To be continued.)

#### MAGDALEN COLLEGE TENOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I see that, in your report of the peal on September 9th, the weight of this bell is given as 20 cwt. and the note E. But the late Rev. F. E. Robinson, in 'Among the Bells,' records the diameter as 47½, and the weight as 19 cwt. He states that he had this information on excellent authority. I once heard him say that the note was D, by which he would mean Old Concert Pitch. This corresponds to a shade flat of E flat Continental pitch, as used to-day.

Taking the lowness of the note in conjunction with the diameter, 19 cwt. must be about the right weight, which makes her one of the lightest bells for her note in existence, resembling Leatherhead, which I am told is about the same note, and that at only 18 cwt. Mr. Robinson goes on to speak of her excellence of tone and, indeed, of that of the whole peal, made up, though it is, of five Rudhalls (1712-1748), two Ellis Knights (6th and tenor, 1623), one R. Taylor (1828) and two unnamed.

The Magdalen bells are certainly a very good peal, and I cannot but wish that some of our modern peals had their clear cry and absence of 'Simpson sob.'  
J. H. R. FREEBORN.

#### LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. MEETING AT KIRKHAM.

A joint meeting of the Wyde and Preston branches of the Lancashire Association, held at Kirkham on August 26th, was attended by ringers from Adlington, Accrington, Chorley, Whittle-le-Woods, Preston, Penwortham, Blackpool, Poulton, St. Anne's, Kirkham, Liverpool and two visitors from Kent and Hampshire. The methods rung were Plain Bob, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, Double Norwich Major and Grand sire and Stedman Triples.

The bells were muffled as a tribute of respect to the victims of the recent disaster, who were buried at an adjoining village on the same day.

#### WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD. MEETING AT UPHAM.

A meeting of the Southampton Branch of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, held at Upham on September 16th, was attended by 25 members and visitors from Beddington, Salisbury and Wilton. It was decided to hold the annual district meeting at Bishopstoke on January 13th, and practice meetings at North Stoneham on October 21st, and at St. Michael's, Southampton, on November 25th.

**MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.**

**BOSTON, LINGS.**—On Sunday, August 27th, 1,264 Bob Major: Miss Lorna Briggs (first quarter-peal) 1, A. Ellis 2, S. Jessop 3, Sig. R. Brown, R.A. 4, A. Freeston 5, F. Leggott 6, F. Dewey 7, W. E. Clarke (conductor) 8.

**SWINDON.**—On Sunday, September 3rd, for morning service, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: \*Miss N. Davis 1, W. W. T. Daniell 2, S. Palmer 3, F. J. Daniell 4, C. J. Gardiner (conductor) 5, A. G. Wells 6, T. Townsend 7, W. Carter 8.—For evening service, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: \*Miss P. Townsend 1, G. W. Townsend 2, H. W. Bishop 3, T. Cullingworth 4, C. J. Gardiner (conductor) 5, S. Palmer 6, T. Townsend 7, W. W. T. Daniell 8. \* First quarter-peal.

**DARLINGTON.**—On Sunday, September 3rd, 720 London Surprise Minor and 720 York Surprise Minor: R. Busby, R. Jeff, W. Oliver, G. W. Park, W. N. Park, R. Park and J. T. Titt.

**HALESOWEN.**—On Sunday, September 3rd, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: A. Greenhall 1, W. H. Webb 2, V. Warr 3, H. Shuck 4, L. Clissett 5, T. Greenhall 6, J. H. Cox (conductor) 7, A. H. Harris 8.

**COPPULL, LANCASHIRE.**—On Sunday, September 3rd, 720 Bob Minor: James Blackburn 1, Fred Rigby (conductor) 2, David Carpenter 3, Graham Carpenter 4, Alan Carpenter 5, John H. Gartside 6.

**GUILDFORD.**—On Tuesday, September 5th, at Holy Trinity, 1,260 Stedman Triples: George L. Grover 1, Thomas W. White 2, Henry Hutton 3, William J. Robinson 4, Harry Harris 5, Ronald J. C. Hagley 6, Alfred H. Pulling (conductor) 7, Frank C. W. Knight 8. Ring for the liberation of Brussels.

**ST. IVES, HUNTS.**—On Wednesday, September 6th, 720 Bob Minor: J. P. Stocker 1, H. W. Pratt 2, M. R. D. Harford 3, G. Dodds 4, L. W. Fisher 5, F. Warrington (conductor) 6.—On Sunday, September 10th, 720 Bob Minor: J. P. Stocker 1, M. R. D. Harford 2, L.A.C. E. Nobles 3, G. Dodds 4, L. W. Fisher 5, F. Warrington (conductor) 6.

**RUSHMERE, SUFFOLK.**—On Wednesday, September 6th, 720 Bob Minor: Miss Betty Steel (first 720) 1, Frank E. Wiseman 2, James W. Jennings (conductor) 3, John F. Jennings 4, Fred Bowell 5, William F. Tillett 6.—On Sunday, September 10th, 720 Bob Minor: Miss Betty Steel 1, James W. Jennings (conductor) 2, Harry Backler 3, John F. Jennings 4, Frank E. Wiseman 5, Edward Ellenger 6.

**HEMINGFORD GREY, HUNTS.**—On Thursday, September 7th, 720 Bob Minor: H. W. Pratt 1, G. L. Perkins 2, L.A.C. E. Nobles 3, E. Skeggs 4, F. Warrington (conductor) 6.

**SELBY, YORKSHIRE.**—On September 7th, at the Abbey, 720 Bob Minor on the front six: F. Welburn 1, H. S. Morley (conductor) 2, J. Silk 3, A. Cryer 4, T. H. Foster 5, F. W. Hinton 6.

**ST. IVES, HUNTS.**—On Sunday, September 10th, 720 Bob Minor on handbells: M. R. D. Harford 1-2, G. Dodds 3-4, F. Warrington (conductor) 5-6.

**SOMERSHAM, HUNTS.**—On Sunday, September 10th, 720 Bob Minor: W. Ransome 1, Mrs. E. W. Wakeling 2, Rev. B. F. Sheppard 3, L.A.C. E. Nobles 4, C. Goodyear 5, E. W. Wakeling (conductor) 6.

**BRAFIELD, NORTHANTS.**—On Sunday, September 10th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: Eddie Robinson 1, \*Miss Hilary Arnold 2, John Fitzhugh 3, Cyril Darrick 4, \*William Hammons (conductor) 5. \* First quarter-peal.

**GOSEL OAK.**—On Sunday, September 10th, 1,200 Grandsire Doubles: H. Barnard 1, T. Bevan 2, F. Barker 3, J. Payton 4, W. Prachett (conductor) 5, J. Odell 6.

**ALLESLEY, COVENTRY.**—On Sunday, September 10th, 720 Bob Minor: D. Hardwick 1, F. W. Perrens 2, J. W. Taylor 3, J. W. T. Taylor 4, N. S. Bagworth 5, D. Vincent (conductor) 6; and 720 London Surprise Minor: C. H. Aylett 1, H. G. Summers 2, F. W. Perrens 3, J. W. T. Taylor 4, J. W. Taylor 5, W. A. Stote (conductor) 6.

**KERFESLEY, WARWICKSHIRE.**—On Sunday, September 10th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: H. V. Warnes (first quarter-peal) 1, H. Folwell 2, A. E. Bristow 3, T. Hastings 4, W. A. Stote (conductor) 5.

**KIRTON-IN-HOLLAND.**—On Sunday, September 10th, 1,264 Bob Major: E. Sellars 1, A. Young 2, F. Bishop 3, J. Lakin 4, J. Young 5, J. Kemp 6, T. Bishop 7, A. E. Flatters (conductor) 8.

**BRAFIELD, NORTHANTS.**—On Sunday, September 10th, 1,260 Doubles, being 120 each of St. Simon's, Stedman, Old Doubles, Antelope, April Day, Canterbury Place, London, New Grandsire, Plain Bob and 180 of Grandsire: J. B. Fitzhugh 1, E. Robinson 2, G. Guyton 3, G. Care 4, P. Jones (conductor) 5.

**AMERSHAM.**—On Sunday, September 10th, 720 York Surprise Minor: W. E. Redrup (conductor) 1, C. J. Chalwin 2, E. C. Ayres 3, L. Haddon 4, W. Edwards 5, W. A. Holmes 6.—On Sunday, September 17th, 720 London Surprise Minor: W. Edwards 1, C. J. Chalwin 2, E. C. Ayres 3, L. Haddon 4, W. A. Holmes 5, W. E. Redrup (conductor) 6.

**ROTHWELL, YORKS.**—On Tuesday, September 12th, 720 Bob Minor: G. W. Steel 1, A. G. Wood 2, P. Massam (conductor) 3, G. Conley 4, A. Marsh (first 720) 5, H. Homer 6.

**NETHERSEALE.**—On Wednesday, September 13th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: F. Sharpe 1, G. Hair 2, W. Brooker 3, H. Carter 4, W. H. Curson (conductor) 5, W. Woodward 6, J. W. Cotton 7, Sam Scattergood 8.

**HITCHAM, BUCKS.**—On September 15th, 720 Single Oxford Minor: Hilda M. Taylor 1, Jean M. Broomfield 2, Freda D. Murkitt 3, Mary Pemberton 4, Joyce Hearn 5, George Gilbert (conductor) 6.

**NOTICES.**

**THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION** of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

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**NOTICES** must be received **NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.**

**SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Southern Division.—Meeting Shoreham, Saturday, Sept. 30th, 2.45 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea and meeting 5.30 p.m.—E. L. Hairs, Hon. Sec., The Oaks, Theobalds Road, Burgess Hill.

**ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.**—Meeting at Great Barr, Birmingham, Saturday, Sept. 30th, 3.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., business meeting to follow.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Reading Branch.—Meeting at Caversham, Saturday, Sept. 30th, 2.30 p.m. Service 5.30 p.m. Own arrangements for tea.—E. G. Foster, Hon. Sec., 401, London Road, Reading.

**DEVON GUILD.**—N.E. Branch.—Meeting at Silverton (8 bells), on Saturday, Sept. 30th, 2.30. Service 4.30.—C. G. Dymond, Hon. Sec., Silverton.

**DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Annual meeting in library, Newcastle Cathedral, on Saturday, Sept. 30th, at 2.30 p.m. St. Mary, Gateshead, bells available. Bring food, cups of tea provided at the Anchorage, Gateshead, at 4.15.—Roland Park, Hon. Sec., 23, Oaklands Terrace, Darlington.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—South-Eastern District.—Meeting at Boreham, Saturday, Sept. 30th, 2.30 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea and business meeting to follow.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

**BAYNE HILL, MAIDENHEAD.**—The monthly practice fixed for October 1st is cancelled owing to the meeting at Hillingdon.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—Meeting at Bell Foundry, Whitechapel, Saturday, Oct. 7th, 3 p.m. Ringing at St. Dunstan's, Stepney.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Oxford City and North Berks Branches.—Joint meeting at Cumnor, Saturday, Oct. 7th, 2.30 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m. Ringing, Appleton, 6 p.m. Names for tea to Miss M. R. Cross, The School House, Radley, Abingdon, by Oct. 4th.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Lincoln District.—Meeting at Blankney (6 bells), Saturday, Oct. 7th, 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea, 1s. each, at 5 p.m. Names before Oct. 4th.—K. W. Mayer, Hon. Dis. Sec., 4, Carline Road, Lincoln.

**ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Hunts District.—Meeting at St. Neots, Saturday, Oct. 7th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea at Plums Cafe, 5 p.m.—H. J. Parker, Dis. Sec., Great Staughton.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Blackburn and Rossendale Branches.—Meeting at Burnley Parish Church, Saturday, Oct. 7th, 2.30 p.m. Cups of tea provided.—Charles W. Blakey, Branch Sec.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Tonbridge District.—Annual meeting at Tonbridge, Saturday, Oct. 7th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15. Tea at Carlton Cafe 5 p.m. Names to Mr. J. Medhurst, 251, Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**DEVON GUILD.**—Mid-Devon Branch.—Meeting at Paignton, Saturday, Oct. 7th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Tea (1s. 6d.) and business in Church Hall 4.45 p.m. Names for tea before October 3rd.—A. L. Bennett, Branch Sec., Cornerways, Buckfastleigh (phone 3121).

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Eastern Division.—Meeting at Broxbourne, Saturday, Oct. 7th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and business 5.15 p.m. Names by Oct. 3rd.—G. Radley, Dis. Sec., 18, Macers Lane, Wormley, near Hoddesdon, Herts.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION and OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Joint meeting, Saturday, Oct. 7th, at St. John's, Hillingdon (10 bells), 3 p.m. Tea in St. John's Hall 5 p.m. Names to Mr. F. W. Goodfellow, Seaford, Slough Road, Iver Heath, Bucks, by Oct. 4th. Social evening to follow.—J. E. L. Cockey and A. D. Barker, Hon. Secs.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Kettering Branch.—Meeting at Barton Seagrave (5 bells), Saturday, Oct. 7th. Usual arrangements. Send names for tea.—H. Baxter, 21, Charles Street, Rothwell.

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Northern District.—Meeting at Baldock, Oct. 7th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.—A. E. Symonds, Dis. Sec.

**DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Western District.—Meeting at Blaydon, Saturday, Oct. 7th. Bells (6) at 2.30 p.m. Bring food; cups of tea provided.—J. A. Brown, Hon. Dis. Sec., 7, Finchdale Terrace, Chester-le-Street.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—V.W.H. Branch.—Meeting at Stanford-in-the-Vale, Saturday, Oct. 7th. Bells (6) 2.30. Service 4.30. Names for tea by Wednesday, October 4th.—R. F. J. Gilling, Hon. Sec., Farnham, Faringdon, Berks.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Fylde Branch.—Meeting at St. Anne's, Saturday, Oct. 7th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided; bring food.—J. H. Foster, Hon. Sec.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—South-Western Division.—Meeting at Hornchurch, Saturday, Oct. 7th, 2.30. Service 4.30. Business meeting and tea to follow. Names before Oct. 3rd.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

**NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Meeting at Tunstall (8 bells), Saturday, Oct. 7th. Names to Mr. W. Thompson, 29, Furlong Road, Tunstall, Stoke-on-Trent, by Oct. 3rd.

**GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD (Leatherhead District) and the SURREY ASSOCIATION.**—Meeting at Leatherhead, Saturday, Oct. 14th. Service 4.45. Tea at the Duke's Head 5.30. Names for tea to Mr. G. Mariner, 7, Poplar Avenue, Leatherhead, by Oct. 12th.—A. H. Smith and D. Cooper, Hon. Secs.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Maidstone District.—Annual meeting, Aylesford, Saturday, Oct. 14th, 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting after. Names to Mr. G. Avis, 56, Teapot Lane, Aylesford, near Maidstone, as soon as possible.—C. H. Sone, Dis. Sec.

**SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY and MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Meeting at Norton, Saturday, Oct. 14th, 2.30 p.m. No tea arrangements.—G. G. Graham, 5, Pipworth Lane, Eckington, and S. Scattergood, 797, Sheffield Road, Sheepbridge, Hon. Secs.

### MARRIAGES.

**GOODWIN—THAXTON.**—At St. Peter's, Park Lane, Norwich, on Saturday, Aug. 12th, Hilary Mary, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Thaxton, 27, Portersfield Road, Norwich, to Corpl. Stanley Harold Goodwin, R.E., son of Mrs. and the late Mr. S. H. Goodwin, of 30, Alpha Terrace, Trumpington, Cambridge.

**MASSEY—MILLS.**—On Sept. 16th, at Holy Trinity Church, Claygate, Pilot Officer Navigator George Wilkins Massey, T.C., R.A.F.V.R., only son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilkins Massey, 173, Coverts Road, Claygate, to Hilda Mary Mills, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mills, 144, Coverts Road, Claygate.

### JOINT MEETING AT CLENT.

A joint meeting of the Dudley and District Guild and the Northern Branch of the Worcestershire Association was held at Clent on Sept. 16th and was well attended. At the service in church the lesson was read by Mr. B. C. Ashfield, and the Vicar gave the address. The next meeting will be held at Bilston on December 2nd.

### MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES

**HITCHIN, HERTS.**—On Sunday, September 16th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: E. W. Day 1, Miss Goodship 2, C. V. Hare 3, E. Winters 4, W. E. Symonds 5, D. P. Jones 6, L. Fidler (conductor) 7, A. E. Symonds 8.

**GOODNESTON, KENT.**—On Saturday, September 16th, 720 Bob Minor: H. Stringer 1, T. Robinson 2, W. Thompson 3, H. J. Saunders 4, B. J. Luck 5, H. R. French (conductor) 6.

**NORTHAMPTON.**—On Saturday, September 16th, at St. Giles', 1,260 Stedman Triples: T. Roberts 1, F. Green 2, R. Howson 3, W. Yates 4, E. C. Lambert 5, G. Cooper 6, A. J. Green (conductor) 7, F. Case 8.

**LLANDUDNO.**—On Sunday, September 17th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: J. Flood 1, H. Rumens 2, S. Brown 3, H. Lawrence 4, H. E. G. Jeanes 5, Miss K. M. Ruffell (first quarter-peal) 6, A. L. Barry (conductor) 7, C. H. Smith 8.

**OXFORD.**—At St. Mary the Virgin on Sunday, September 17th, 720 London Surprise Minor: Miss V. V. H. Hill 1, Miss M. R. Cross 2, W. C. Porter 3, W. F. Judge 4, J. E. Spice (conductor) 5, N. Allnatt 6.

**CRAYFORD, KENT.**—On Sunday, September 17th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: S. Anstead 1, V. J. Benning 2, D. Hall 3, H. E. Audsley 4, H. Wickens 5, F. A. Coley 6, H. Hovard (conductor) 7, W. E. Bond 8.

**GORSEINON.**—On Sunday, September 17th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: R. Dobbins 1, C. Pettit 2, R. Dobbins 3, R. Baird 4, J. Williams 5, W. Dobbins 6, H. Dobbins (conductor) 7, J. Hanson 8.

**BURNHAM, BUCKS.**—On September 17th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: \*Hilda M. Taylor 1, C. A. Levett (conductor) 2, \*Mary Pemberton 3, \*Joyce Hearn 4, \*Percy Mellor 5, G. W. Limmer 6, F. H. Hicks 7, J. E. Taylor 8. \*First quarter-peal.

**TAMWORTH.**—On Sunday, September 17th, 1,260 Stedman Triples: H. C. Spencer 1, R. J. B. Hadden 2, H. H. Fearn 3, J. F. Harvey 4, J. E. Eaton 5, S. G. Chaplin 6, G. E. Fearn (conductor) 7, J. N. Linton 8.

**BISHOP'S STORTFORD, HERTS.**—On Sunday, September 17th, 720 Bob Minor: Miss D. Wacey 1, H. M. White 2, R. Wood 3, E. Garbett 4, W. T. Prior 5, F. Bird (conductor) 6.

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