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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 DEBATE IN THE LORDS.

The debate in the House of Lords last week was revealing, but in some respects it deepened the mystery which from the beginning has surrounded the order imposing the ban on the ringing of church bells.

One thing at least is quite clear. There is no one who is prepared on his own authority and knowledge to defend the use of church bells as an efficient and essential means of warning in the event of an attempted invasion; but there is no one who is able and willing to take the responsibility of saying that it is useless and unnecessary and must be abandoned. Those men who have the last word on the matter have inherited the order from their predecessors, and they are content to take it as it stands, on the grounds that no efficient substitute can be thought of.

Lord Geddes revealed how the idea actually came into being. He was at a meeting in May, 1940, with General Ironside, the Chief of the General Imperial Staff, and other prominent men. We must remember the circumstances. The collapse of the French army had suddenly made an attempted invasion of this island, not only possible, but extremely probable, for the first time for over a hundred years. Everything had to be done to meet an impending crisis. Someone asked what could be used as a public warning and the suggestion was made to use the church bells until something better could be found. It was a natural and proper suggestion, and we are not surprised that it was at once adopted, not only for Kent and Sussex, as at first proposed, but for the whole country.

So far everything was quite as it should have been; but then mistakes were made, and not the least of them was that no general steps were taken to make quite sure that the bells could be rung and, if rung, would be an efficient warning. The men at the top, naturally, had other things to do, and had to leave that to subordinates; but, it is pretty certain, it never occurred to any of them that there would be any difficulty in the matter. If bells can be rung regularly twice every Sunday, and whenever anybody wants them for a wedding, surely they can be rung when they are needed at a time of national emergency. So no doubt they thought, if they thought at all about it. All they had to do was to pass the order on if the necessity arose. It was only those people who have to do with church bells in the ordinary way—parsons and ringers—who wondered how it could be done. They were not consulted, and for the most part received not even vague instructions. We

(Continued on page 158.)

ringers know quite well that the arranging of any special ringing is usually not a question of a few minutes, or even a few hours. It takes days, as we found out last November.

But in modern warfare events move with extraordinary rapidity, and no warning which cannot be used practically instantaneously is of any use. Everyone can see the folly of trying to use church bells as warnings against air raids, and in the case of the invasion by air borne troops the time factor would not be less urgent.

Bells chimed by an Ellacombe apparatus or tolled singly could, of course, be put into use far more easily and quickly than rung bells; but the sound is too feeble and limited in range to serve the purpose. It is the fully rung bell that people expect to be used and that cannot be done.

Even otherwise well instructed persons do not appear to realise this. The Archbishop of York suggested that bells could be clashed and clanged as a warning. It is easy enough to clash and clang bells when you have a band of ringers at the ropes. How it could be done at two or three minutes' notice by the first man who could reach the belfry is beyond our knowledge.

Lord Mottistone was doing a public service when he insisted that the present order would be a danger, and not a help, in the event of an attempted invasion. He speaks with the authority of a man who has been Secretary of State for War, and it is to be hoped he will press the point. The men in authority should be asked clearly and definitely, Do you now rely on warnings by church bells as an essential and necessary part of the precautions-against an attempted invasion? and if so, have you made quite sure that they could be used and, if used, would be effectual? The 'Daily Telegraph' touched the root of the question when it said that the matter has not been given proper consideration and the authorities should think again.

All this is quite apart from the question whether, on the whole, it would be advisable to resume general ringing until the end of the war.

**HANDBELL PEALS.**

**BIRMINGHAM.**

**THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.**

*On Saturday, March 27, 1943, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,*

*AT THE TAMWORTH ARMS, MOOP STREET,*

**A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANGES;**

FRANK E. PERVIN ... .. 1-2	ALBERT WALKER ... .. 7-8
* JOHN E. SPICE ... .. 3-4	GEORGE F. SWANN ... .. 9-10
WILFRED WILLIAMS ... .. 5-6	GEORGE E. FEARN ... .. 11-12

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by FRANK E. PERVIN.

\* First peal of Stedman in hand, first peal of Stedman Cinques.

**BOURNEMOUTH, HANTS.**

**THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.**

*On Satu day, April 3, 1943, in Two Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,*

*IN THE CHOIR VESTRY OF ST. PETER'S CHURCH,*

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 2640 CHANGES;**

**PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.**

**Tenor size 15 in C.**

WILLIAM G YOUNG ... .. 1-2	* ARTHUR V. DAVIS ... .. 5-6
MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 3-4	FRANCIS S. WILSON ... .. 7-8

Conducted by MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY.

\* 50th peal. Mr. H. R. Bennett, captain of St. John's, Surrey Road, band, listened to the peal.

**ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP.**

**THE CASE OF RECORD PEALS.**

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I should be glad if you will grant me space for a final word on this matter.

In your current editorial you, sir, admirably sum up the situation when you say the touring party on this occasion made a convenience of the Norwich Association. And your last suggestion, that these very mixed bands should ring non-society peals is equally pertinent.

Ordinary peals rung for this or that society by a 'foreign invasion' are bad enough, but when record lengths are done it becomes farcical. For instance, the London Surprise record by the St. Martin's Guild at King's Norton, or the then record Stedman Caters for the Midland Counties at Loughborough. Can either society pat itself on the back for these performances?

Mr Barnett, in the fourth paragraph of his last letter, allows his logic to run away with him. I hope no other reader was so foolish as to think I advocated 'all resident' peals, for it has nothing to do with the subject under discussion.

I was glad to see the letter from Mr. W. H. Howe. All of us who are, or have been, secretaries will agree with all he says, and most of us could tell similar stories of the 'sportsmanship' of some ringers who have availed themselves of belfry 'elections.'

CHARLES E. BORRETT.

Sheringham, Norfolk.

**DEATH OF MR. W. J. BASTABLE.**

The Salisbury Diocesan Guild has lost one of its oldest members by the death at Swanage on March 31st of Mr. Walter J. Bastable at the age of 80 years.

Mr. Bastable had been connected with Swanage Parish Church for most of his life. He was one of the original members of the band formed in 1888 when the bells were increased from four to eight, and was captain for many years until 1910. For eight years he was verges and parish clerk. When these duties and his health permitted, he was never absent from ringing, and was very regular at district and Diocesan Guild meetings. Though his health had not been very good in recent years, he took part in the victory ringing and on Christmas Day

He rang three peals in Swanage tower, the first in 1893. His ringing knowledge was considerable and valuable. He conducted many quarter-peals and took part in others. His death is a real loss to the Salisbury Guild and especially to the Swanage tower.

**THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.**

At the meeting of the College Youths on March 27th, Mr. J. F. Smallwood raised the question of peal boards in the London belfries, and an interesting discussion took place as to what had been destroyed, what was left, and what records there are of the writing on old and new boards. Mr. E. A. Young gave an account of the meeting on the previous Saturday of the Johnson Society of London, at which the Editor of 'The Ringing World' spoke of the Society of College Youths in the eighteenth century. Mr. E. H. Lewis informed the company that his son, who had been a prisoner of war in Italy, is now on his way home.

The Master presided, supported by the hon. secretary and the treasurer. The members present were J. A. Trollope, G. M. Kilby, A. W. Russell, E. A. Young, C. M. Meyer, J. H. Shepherd, E. W. Pye, R. Stannard, J. F. Smallwood, J. Bullock, H. Hoskins, E. H. Lewis and W. Munday.

The visitors were Staff-Sergt. Wilfrid G. Wilson, of Ealing, and Pte. Wander, of Donnington.

**BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**

**A GIFT OF HANDBELLS.**

The March meeting of the Barnsley and District Society was held at the Royal Hotel, Barnsley, and members were present from Bushey, Bolsterstone, Eastwood, Felkirk, St. Marie's, Sheffield, and Wath. The hon. president, Canon W. E. Wilkinson, Rector of St. Mary's, Barnsley, presided at the business meeting.

The chief item of interest was 108 handbells which had been stored at the King George Hotel, Barnsley, and had been without an owner for well over 30 years. The secretary had been instructed to see what could be done to insure the safe keeping of these bells, and, after consultation with Mr. Farr, the building manager of the Barnsley Brewery Co., they were handed to him for the society.

This came as a surprise to the ringers, and much time was spent in sorting the bells, which, with the exception of one, were found to be in good condition. Changes were rung on a good number, including the largest six and the smallest eight.

The bells are now kept at the Royal Hotel, Barnsley, the society's headquarters, where it is hoped they will be made good use of. The secretary was warmly thanked for securing such a valuable asset.

After the business meeting tea was served in the dining room and was followed by handbell practice. It was agreed to hold the next meeting at Monk Bretton on April 17th.

## THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from page 148.)

### GEORGE GROSS RETURNS.

George Gross at last got the opportunity he had been waiting for so long. He rejoined the Society of Cumberland Youths, and on September 29th, 1792, he was reinstated in his old office of beadle. Henceforth, until his death in 1803, he was the leading man in the company.

On Saturday, February 16th, 1793, the College Youths rang 6,280 changes of Treble Bob Royal on the heavy ring at Christ Church, Spitalfields. It was the longest peal on the ten bells, though, seven years before, the



ST. GILES', CAMBERWELL.

Cumberlands had rung 6,400 changes of Major there, a performance which took twenty minutes longer than the more recent one. Two of the ringers of the district stood in, James Purser, who had rung so many peals with the Cumberlands, and Edward Bartell, who afterwards had charge of the bells and belfry.

The performance was in the nature of a challenge to the Cumberlands, which they promptly accepted. Two months later, in the same steeple, they rang 6,360 changes, 'being the most that can be done in eleven courses.' The younger Gross called the bobs, William Stephens rang the tenor, and the other ropes were taken by George Gross, senior, Isaiah Bray, Thomas Reeves, William Shipway, William Gibson, John Wooding, Thomas Morris, and William Richardson. The composition has not survived; probably it was by the elder Gross.

This was the first notable performance by the Cumberlands after George Gross had resumed his old office, but in the next year he called eight peals for them. The first, on February 16th, was 5,000 changes of Treble Bob Royal at Horsleydown, 'with the sixth twelve times right and twelve times wrong.' This composition also is lost. It may have anticipated William Booth's variation of Reeves' one-part 5,040.

Then followed peals of Grandsire Caters at Shoreditch, and All Saints', Hertford; Bob Major at Edmonton and Romford; Grandsire Triples at St. Giles'-in-the-Fields;

Treble Bob at Camberwell; and 5,200 changes of Cumberland Royal Treble Bob at Shoreditch.

The peal at Hertford, rung on June 9th, was the first in the steeple after the two trebles had been added by the Society of Hertford College Youths. The band was the regular Cumberlands' party—the elder Gross, Darby, Harris, Shipway, Gibson, Rawlings, Channon, Truscoat, and Stephens. The tenor was rung by a man called Peter Poor, whose name shows that he had been a foundling and had been christened in the name of the parish which brought him up. This is some evidence that the Cumberlands were less exclusive than the College Youths, as is also the entry in their name book recording that on April 9th, 1796, one of the members, John Leek, was 'scratched as a vagrant.'

Two months after the Cumberlands' peal, a band of College Youths went to Hertford and rang at All Saints' Church 5,160 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Royal. As they claimed it as 'the first peal ever rang on the ten bells,' it looks as if the other was disputed, unless the claim was only to have rung the first peal of Royal. But that is hardly likely. The peal of Treble Bob called by Gross at Camberwell was John Reeves' 6,720 in five parts with the sixty-course ends. Shipway rang the fifth, and in his book he says that this was the first time it was performed; but there is not much doubt that it had already been rung at Kensington. Gibson, Stephens, Darby, Channon, Truscoat and Harris made up the band at Camberwell.

The Cumberland Youths were fond of ringing variations of the standard methods and calling them by their own name as, in the opinion of some people at the time, they were fully entitled to do. Real Double Bob Major they called Cumberland Real Double, Real Double Grandsire Caters and Cinqes they called Cumberland Caters and Cinqes, and we may assume that the Cumberland Eight-in composed and conducted by George Gross in 1773 was Grandsire Major.

Similarly I imagine that the peal Cumberland Royal Treble Bob at Shoreditch was Kent Treble Bob, and there can be very little doubt from the number of changes, 5,200, 'the most that can be rung in nine courses,' that the composition was John Reeves' one-part, which at the time was popular among conductors.

In the following March the society rang at St. Saviour's, Southwark, 5,232 changes of Cumberland Treble Bob Maximus, and that evidently was the first peal of Kent Treble Bob Maximus ever accomplished. George Gross called from the treble, his son rang the second, and the other ringers were — Darby, Thomas Morris, Gibson, Thomas Reeves, Saxton, Tyler, Malachi, Channon, Truscoat, Stephens, Harris and Richard White. In 1784 George Harris had rung the tenor single-handed to 6,048 changes of Double Bob Maximus, but now he had White to help him.

Having rung Royal and Maximus, the Cumberlands turned their attention to Kent Major and scored 'two peals, one of 5,504 at Bishopsgate, the other, one of 5,120, at Edmonton. Both were booked as Cumberland Treble Bob. Shipway rang in the peal at Edmonton, and if it had been something different from the ordinarily known methods, he would hardly have failed to include the figures in his book.

(To be continued.)

## BELFRY GOSSIP.

The annual general meeting of the Oxford Diocesan Association will be held at Oxford on Saturday, July 17th.

The annual meeting of the Lincoln Diocesan Association will this year be on May 1st, and not as has been customary on the last Saturday in April.

Sixty years ago last Sunday Holt's Ten-Part peal of Grandsire Triples was rung at St. Albans Abbey. Matthew A. Wood conducted, and the record said it was the first known peal on the bells, since one of Bob Major in 1765.

The first peal of Wicken Surprise Major was rung at Anstey by the Midland Counties Association on April 6th, 1935.

The first peal of Oxford Treble Bob Royal was rung at St. Sepulchre's, Snow Hill, by the Eastern Scholars, on April 7th, 1741; and the first peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Royal was rung at Mancroft by the Norwich Scholars on April 7th, 1769.

James Barham's band rang at Leeds in Kent, during April 7th and 8th, 1741, the full extent of Bob Major, 40,320 changes. It was done by relays of ringers. 'The Clavis' says, 'Those of the performers who have been spoke with on the subject, give such unsatisfactory accounts that it is very little thought on, and it is generally believed, that if they did keep the bells going the length of time, the truth or regularity of the changes was very little attended to.'

Mr. George Price called the then record peal of Bristol Surprise Major, 12,160 changes, at Knebworth, on April 8th, 1912.

The first peal of Edmonton Bob Major was rung at Willesden on April 8th, 1924.

Samuel Thomas called the first peal of Peterborough Surprise Major at Bolsover on April 9th, 1904.

The 'old' Society of London Youths rang 6,336 Plain Bob Maximus at St. Saviour's, Southwark, on April 10th, 1758. The elder Samuel Mugeridge turned the tenor in single-handed. Only four men ever rang that bell sing'e-handed to more than six-thousand changes—Mugeridge, his son, James Marilton and George Harris. Mr. A. B. Peck rang the present bell (which is slightly heavier) to 12,675 Stedman Cinques, but the composition unfortunately was false.

The Helmingham men rang the first peal of Woodbridge Surprise Major on April 10th, 1933.

## SILENT SURPRISE MINOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—On Saturday, April 6th, 1897, the first peal of 'silent' Surprise Minor in seven different methods was rung at St. Mary's Church, Bucknell, Staffs.

No intimation was given as to whether the bobs should be made, nor any assistance from each other in regard to the ringing of the methods.

The band was as follows: George Clarkson 1, William Wheeldon 2, John E. Wheeldon 3, Charles Preston 4, Daniel Preston 5, William Twigg 6, two pairs of brothers, an uncle and a nephew. All have passed over except the brothers Wheeldon.

J. E. WHEELDON.

## EASTER BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Every effort should be made so that the church bells can ring on Easter Day. It is one of the festivals when the bells have a special message for the people, and this Easter that message is even more valuable than ever. The Victory bells last November would have lost their real meaning if the bells at Christmas had been silent.

If the ban is lifted again on Easter Day it will be a further strengthening of the faith of the British people. What greater ideal can the bells ring out for than the message at Easter, 'Victory over death.' Let us bow our heads in silence for a minute on that day in memory of our dear ones who have gone down in this war.

At the going down of the sun  
And in the morning  
We will remember them.

CHARLES TURNER, Capt., St. Mary's Ringers, Dover.

## EVENING RINGING SHOULD BE ALLOWED.

Dear Sir,—In reference to your leader in 'The Ringing World,' 'Bells at Easter,' if the ban is lifted and we are permitted to ring at Easter I would welcome the suggestion of Mr. Carew Cox that ringing be allowed in the evening as well as in the morning. There are no doubt many like myself on shift work who have to be on duty during some part of Sunday and in many cases could not take part in the ringing if only permitted in the morning.

If ringing could be permitted to take place morning and evening many ringers could avail themselves of the opportunity of being present at their respective towers either morning or evening to fit in with their off duty periods. In reference to the time allowed for ringing, I would suggest that the authorities allow this from 10 a.m. till 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. till 6.30 p.m.

ARTHUR E. SHRIMPTON,  
St. Stephen's Ringers, Redditch, Worcs.

## AN INTERESTING ANNIVERSARY.

### THE SECRETARIES' ASSOCIATION.

To-day, April 9th, is the fifth anniversary of a unique performance, a peal of Stedman Cinques rung by twelve secretaries. This peal was rung at Southwark Cathedral, after some very strenuous work by the late John S. Goldsmith in getting the band together. It was rung for one of the most exclusive of societies, the Secretaries' Association, which was formed seven years previously at Beddington, Surrey, on the occasion of the first and only other performance by the society, a peal of Stedman Caters.

The story of these peals is, perhaps, of some interest, especially in these days when there is so little fresh news for ringers. On March 21st, 1931, ten secretaries met at Beddington to ring a peal together. They represented, of course, ten different societies, and as in those days even out-county peals were looked upon with favour by most associations, there was, naturally, a discussion as to whose society should book the peal. The 'difficulty' was overcome by forming a new association, and, of course, the secretaries knew just how to do this. It was proposed that there should be no subscriptions (and thus no trouble in collecting them), and no meetings (and therefore no minutes to write up). Such proposals as these found unanimous support, but no secretary of this association was appointed, as none appeared necessary. From the point of view of those forming it, it seemed to be an ideal association.

Well, the peal was rung (the secretaries, of course, even knowing how to do this), the conductor being John S. Goldsmith, who was the prime mover in the affair.

During the post-ringing celebrations a peal of Cinques was suggested, but despite one or two attempts to get a band together, this did not materialise for some time. Indeed, it is quite possible that it would not have been rung at all but for the efforts of Mr. Goldsmith. As secretary of the Guildford Diocesan Guild, he was eligible for membership of the Secretaries' Association, but he decided to retire in 1938, and he, therefore, made one more attempt to get twelve secretaries together. This time he was successful, and permission was obtained at short notice to make the attempt at Southwark Cathedral on April 9th, the only date possible for all before Mr. Goldsmith's retirement.

Five members of the Caters band were also in the Cinques, and thus the Secretaries' Association had a sudden influx of new members. It may not be strictly in order for five members to elect seven, even before a peal, but as was said at the time, secretaries are made to get over difficulties, and that one was got over. The secretary of the Ladies' Guild, Mrs. Fletcher, was invited to conduct the peal, and did it quite successfully, very wisely choosing a composition by Mr. Gabriel Lindoff, secretary of the Irish Association, and thus avoiding any suggestion that the secretaries had to get outside help to complete the job.

There was a touch of sadness about the peal, however. Just when all the arrangements had been completed, one of the most noted secretaries of all time passed away, and the peal was rung with the bells half-muffled as a tribute to the late William T. Cockerill. Since that day, alas! Mr. Goldsmith himself has gone to his rest, and his fellow secretaries await the opportunity when the ban is lifted of doing the usual honours to a great colleague.

(Contributed.)

## THE UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Many readers will have noted with interest, no doubt, the formation of a Universities Association. That there are possibilities in such a scheme few will question; in fact, if it were to be what the name implies and cover all the universities, the Oxford and Cambridge Societies being submerged to become branches, one would be ready to approve of the project. However, according to the report on the foundation meeting which appeared in your issue of March 12th, eligibility for membership depends on whether one has been to Oxford or London, Cambridge or Durham.

The aims of this association appear to be no more than to arrange ringing tours in the summer time. I am not suggesting that tours of this nature are undesirable; but for a ringing society to exist for that purpose alone is anything but desirable, in my opinion. On the face of it, it would be more to the point if this association were called 'The Varsity Touring Club.'

I would add that for the Universities Association to seek affiliation to the Central Council is no less absurd than the band of enthusiasts, commonly known as the N.U.T.S., doing likewise. I sincerely hope, and I feel that I am not alone in this, that the Central Council will refuse all applications of affiliation in cases such as this one.

RUSSELL G. SPEARS.

7, Glenwood Grove, Kingsbury.

## DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM HAIGH.

The death is announced of Mr. William Haigh, of Fitchingham, Sussex, who passed away on March 14th at the age of 79 and was buried at Gillingham. Mr. Haigh, who came of a family of ringers, was for long the captain at Rochester Cathedral and the leading man in the Chatham district.

## THE BAN ON BELLRINGING.

### DEBATE IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

Last week in the House of Lords, the Archbishop of York, Dr. Garbett, raised the question of church bells, and moved that the ban be lifted or modified. He had the support of several influential speakers, and one of them, Lord Geddes, made public for the first time the circumstances under which the order was issued, and the people responsible for the suggestion. No one spoke in favour of the order except Lord Croft, the joint Under Secretary for War, who pronounced the official decision that the ban cannot be removed. There is, however, a very considerable amount of feeling on the matter, and the last about it has not yet been heard.

The Archbishop said that the edict about church bells came into force at a time of great stress and difficulty. Since then many things had happened, but among the various changes and modifications one ban remained unchanged. For nearly three years, 12,000 parishes, with three exceptions, had had their bells silenced in case there should come to one of those parishes a certain number of Germans. Psychologically the silence of the bells has a very bad effect on the people.

### FAULTY REGULATIONS.

Under the regulations the bells had to be rung if 20 paratroops drop in a parish. But in the towns it is not easy to know ecclesiastical boundaries. 'When I went to South London, I found that people rarely knew their parish church, so I had to ask for the nearest public-house.' If paratroops came, a policeman, or other official, would first have to be sure of the exact number of them, and then get an ecclesiastical map to see in which parish they had fallen.

There are some people who hate bells and regard their silence as the one and only alleviating compensation of the war, but most people deplore their silence (cheers). He was not suggesting that the danger of landings had passed away. It was possible that when a second front was opened up, every form of attack would be made upon this island. But he did urge that it was unnecessary to silence the bells, which for centuries had been so closely connected with both the religion and the life of the country. Church bells could be rung in a different way to give warning; they could be clashed or clanged. If the noble lord who was going to reply for the Government was not a bellringer and tried to ring a bell at the nearest parish church, the noise would soon cause consternation to all those who heard it (laughter). The Government could lift the ban entirely and replace it in a few hours' notice by means of the wireless; could lift the ban on the town churches and leave it on the country; or leave it that the bells were not to be clashed or clanged except as a warning.

Lord Mottistone said that to rely seriously on church bells for warning was not only a disadvantage but a positive danger. If the ban were removed it would add to military security instead of lessening it.

### THE ORIGIN OF THE ORDER.

Lord Quickswood said that to multiply regulations which were not necessary was unwholesome from the point of view of public morale.

Lord Geddes said he was present at a meeting at Tunbridge Wells in May, 1940, with Lord Ironside, then Chief of the Imperial General Staff, General Horne and Lord Knollys. The question was asked, 'What can we use for a warning?' and someone (who he could not remember) answered, 'We will use the church bells until we find something better.' It was intended for purely local purposes throughout Kent and Sussex. The War Office had been trying to think of something better ever since. He had asked one high officer after another what he thought of the regulation, but he hesitated in that House to quote most of the replies. He was sure no one knew what the regulation was supposed to do, and it was kept on only because no one would take the responsibility of agreeing to lift it.

Replying for the Government, Lord Croft, Joint Under Secretary for War, said the whole question had been reviewed very often. Every form of alternative warning had been considered, including a variation of the use of sirens, but none had been found satisfactory. 'We are convinced,' he said, 'that the bells are the only signal which can be regarded as a distinctive and definite warning.'

Asking leave to withdraw his motion, the Archbishop said, 'If the Government does not make some satisfactory statement on this subject soon, I shall be bound to bring the matter up again, and carry it to a division.'

The motion was with leave withdrawn.

(Continued in next column.)

## YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

### JOINT MEETING AT BRAMLEY.

The Western Division of the Yorkshire Association and the Leeds and District Society held a very successful joint meeting at St. Peter's, Bramley, near Leeds, on March 27th, when over two dozen members attended from a wide area.

At the Leeds and District Society's meeting, it was decided to nominate the retiring officers for re-election. The secretary pointed out that almost all the officers were working long hours and travelling facilities were becoming increasingly difficult, but in spite of this those who could attend were doing their best to keep the society alive. The annual general meeting would be held at Leeds Parish Church one week earlier than usual, on April 17th.

At the meeting of the Western Division, the vice-president, Mr. P. J. Johnson, was in the chair, supported by the president, Canon C. C. Marshall. It was decided that if possible the next meeting should be held at Shipley on June 19th as a joint meeting with the Leeds and District Society, but full details would be announced.

Canon Marshall proposed a vote of thanks to the local company. The burden of these meetings usually fell on the shoulders of the local secretary, and Mr. Helliwell had seen to it that everything possible had been arranged. He could assure him that the members were exceedingly pleased. This was supported by Mr. W. Barton. The chairman read a letter from Mr. James S. Eastwood, who previously was a member of the Bramley company, now in the Midlands, and one from Mr. J. W. T. Holgate, another old Bramley stalwart.

Mr. S. Helliwell, replying, said if the members were satisfied with the arrangements, the local company were amply repaid.

A collection for the Belfry Repairs Fund realised the sum of 9s.

A number of excellent touches from Minor to Caters were rung on handbells.

During the day members were present from Almondbury, Addingham, Bramley, Bradford, Headingley (St. Chad's and St. Michael's), Idle, Ossett, Pudsey, Rothwell, Sherburn-in-Elmet, Shipley and Cpl. C. W. Woolley, from Wakefield.

## INSURANCE OF BELLRINGERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In case no one else has answered Mr. Duke's letter, the Ecclesiastical Insurance Office undertakes to insure ringers against whole or partial disablement incurred in connection with their duties at the rate of 1s. 3d. a head, minimum premium for one tower 12s. 6d.

J. M. B. RIDOUT.

54, King's Road, Swanage.

## THE BAN ON RINGING

(Continued from previous column.)

### COMMENT BY 'THE DAILY TELEGRAPH.'

Commenting on the debate, 'The Daily Telegraph' remarked: 'For nearly three years the people of some 12,000 parishes have had before them the question whether the ban on church bell ringing is a reasonable measure of public security or not. Most of them have needed much less than that time to reach the conclusion, stated by the Archbishop of York in the House of Lords, that the reasons for which the ban was supported at a time of agitation and stress were quite insubstantial. If the bells are to be rung only in the event of invasion their carrying power is so uncertain as to make them practically useless for alarm purposes; and in cases where they might fulfil that purpose there is nothing against their being rung in the ordinary way as the ordinary summons to church.'

'Those who know most about the bellringers' art, and about bell-ringing conditions in general, think least of the notion of giving alarm by this means; but such persons evidently have not been taken at any stage into the counsels of the War Office, where there is no intention, as Lord Croft declares, of altering the existing arrangements.'

'The speeches in which Dr. Garbutt's case was supported, notably Lord Mottistone's remark that to rely on church bells for alarm purposes would be a positive danger, confirm what is a general public feeling, that the matter has not been given proper consideration, and that the authorities should think again. It looks like a case of mere inertia.'

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## LEANING TOWERS.

(Continued from page 154.)

Although our English leaning towers are not so famous as those of Pisa, Venice, Bologna or Saragossa, yet they are unique. The famous twisted spire of Chesterfield, for instance, has no rival, and travellers from distant lands who visit it wonder who could have put up the eccentric steeple. Harrison Ainsworth once likened it to the uplifted tail of the dragon of Wantley, but it is revered by all who live within the sound of its fine ring of ten bells. This steeple with its grotesque ridges and flecks of black and grey and white, may appear ugly to some, but to the inhabitants it is a treasure, even though it be an architectural singularity. It leans six feet towards the south from the perpendicular, and four feet four inches out to the west. Not only so, but its edges twist round like some giant corkscrew.

The Rev. J. C. Cox, in his scholarly 'Notes on the Churches of Derbyshire,' says that the spire, which is composed of lead-covered timbers, may have become crooked through the clinging pressure of the lead, an irregular subsidence in the timbers, which have also been powerfully warped by the action of the sun beating through the lead on the green parts of the woodwork. This is further evidenced by the fact that the most displaced and twisted parts are on the south side, that most exposed to the sun's rays. It appears to lean different ways according to the sides on which you approach it.

Many stories have been woven round the deflection of the spire and the cause. Some attribute the deflection to his Satanic Majesty. The legend goes that Lucifer, who was flying from Nottingham to Sheffield, alighted for a moment on the apex of the spire. At that moment a waft of incense from below so irritated his unholy nostrils that he gave a violent sneeze—so great that he twisted the whole structure of the spire.

Chesterfield had bells at an early date, the old tenor being a pre-Reformation bell bearing an invocation to the Blessed Trinity. There was an octave from the year 1700, and doubtless a set of good ringers. The earliest complete peal I have note of is as follows:—

June 2nd, 1800, 5,040 Grandsire trebles in 3 hours 20 minutes, by W. Rollinson (1), Edward Dean (2), John Pickard—Conductor (3), Joseph Fogg (4), Isaac Siddall (5), John Hearnshaw (6), Samuel Tetley (7), Peter Maden (8).

In 1820 a new ring of ten bells was erected by Messrs. Mears, of London, tenor 24½ cwt. The opening of this ring must have been a brilliant affair, and the bells did not rest long on the first two days. On Monday, May 22nd, of that year the undermentioned societies rang:—

1st—The Society from Oldham, Lancs, rang a complete peal of 5,147 Grandsire Caters.

2nd—The Society at the Parish Church, Sheffield, completed a peal of 5,003 Grandsire Caters.

3rd—A miscellaneous band from the Societies of Leeds, Wakefield, Sheffield Independents and others, performed a complete peal of New Treble Bob Royal, consisting of 5,200 changes:

— This finished the first day's ringing. —

On Tuesday morning the Ashton-under-Lyne company ascended the tower and rang a complete peal of 5,000 and upwards of Grandsire Caters.

After them the Nottingham Society of Sherwood Youths performed a peal of 5,364 Grandsire Caters; and, lastly, the Society from Mottram, in Cheshire, performed a peal of 5,000 and upwards of Grandsire Caters.

This concluded the whole; each party having completed their peal at the first attempt, which is an achievement never before performed in the annals of Change-ringing.

The crooked spire must have rocked during such a strenuous 'opening,' and it was a good omen for the peals that followed. In the reports of the Midland Counties Association, the Yorkshire Association and the Sheffield Society, for a period of over a century, more peals are noted as rung here than in any other tower of this district. Especially during the time the late Arthur Knights was in his prime did peals of all standard and some Surprise methods follow one another in rapid succession. The favourite methods were Stedman and Grandsire Caters, Plain Bob and Treble Bob Royal. Most of these were compositions rung for the first time on new plans, and on one occasion the writer had the pleasure of calling one of A. Knight's irregular multi-single peals of Royal here.

Some years ago, however, the tower and spire were deemed unsafe, and all change ringing ceased, the bells being simply chimed for services. Later on, extensive repairs were carried out and a restoration completed, and so the tower is safe for many years to come. A deputation from the M.C.A. for the bells to be reopened took place, and an interview with the Archdeacon of Chesterfield arranged and carried out, but as yet no definite result has been achieved. Let us hope that when final victory in the present war comes, Chesterfield bells will once more ring out as they did of yore.

### UNPAID SUBSCRIPTIONS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir.—May I say a word on the subject of unpaid subscriptions? I think I can go one better than my colleague, Mr. W. H. Howe, of the Exeter Branch, and state that during my term of office I have not yet to my knowledge had any cases of 'No peals, no subscriptions.' I would like to support his remarks, however, and would suggest that if peal tours come into being again after this war is over, tourists who are not members of the guild or association in whose territory the peals are being attempted should 'be honourable' and pay their subscriptions, whether the peals are scored or not. This would obviate the expression used by Mr. Howe and Mr. C. E. Borrett that 'This is where touring parties don't do guilds and associations a ha'porth of good.'

A. L. BENNETT, Secretary,  
Devonshire Guild of Ringers, Mid-Devon Branch.

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**NOTICES.**

**THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES** of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

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

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—**

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, April 10th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—** South and West District.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Andrew's, Uxbridge, on Saturday, April 10th. Room available from 3.30 p.m. Committee meeting 3.30 p.m. sharp. Short service St. Andrew's 4 p.m. Tea, at about 1s. each, followed by annual business meeting at 5 p.m.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—** Dorchester Branch.—A practice will be held on the 'silent' apparatus at St. Peter's tower, Dorchester, on Saturday, April 17th, from 6 p.m. Suitable train service on the Bournemouth, Weymouth and Yeovil lines.—C. H. Jennings, Hon. Sec., 59, Portland Road, Wyke Regis, Weymouth.

**WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—** The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, April 17th, at the Griff Colliery Club and Institute, Heath End Road, Chilvers Coton, Nuneaton. Tea provided (at approximately 1s. 9d. a head) at 5 o'clock, followed by business meeting and social evening.—Mrs. D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

**BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—** Chew Deanery.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Yatton on Saturday, April 17th. Bells (silent apparatus) available 3 o'clock. Divine service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting 5 o'clock.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—**A meeting will be held at Sefton on Saturday, April 17th. Tower bells, with fixed clappers, from 3 o'clock. Handbells will be provided and cups of tea. Please bring a little food. Short service at 5 o'clock, followed by the meeting.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec., 57, Amphill Road, Liverpool 17.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—**Leicester District.—A meeting will be held at Syston on Saturday, April 17th. Ringing from 3 p.m. Tea and meeting near church at 5 p.m. Those requiring tea must notify me by April 14th.—H. W. Perkins, 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

**LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—** Annual general meeting will be held at Leeds Parish Church on Saturday, April 17th. Handbells in the tower from 5.30 p.m. Business meeting 6 p.m.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

**BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—**A meeting will be held at Monk Bretton on Saturday, April 17th. Handbells available, Church Hall, 2.30 p.m. A cup of tea will be provided, but bring a sandwich.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—** A joint meeting will be held at Ticknall on Saturday, April 24th. Silent tower bells (6) at 3.30. Tea in School at 4.30

p.m., followed by business meeting. Will members take own eatables and sugar? Cups of tea provided. Handbells before and after meeting.—W. Lancaster and J. W. Cotton, Hon. Secs.

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—**The annual meeting will be held at St. Albans, on Saturday, May 1st. Silent ringing at St. Peter's tower at 2.30 p.m. Choral evensong in the Cathedral 4 p.m. Preacher, Rev. D. Bickerton, Vicar of Redbourn. Tea and annual meeting at Waterend Barn, 5.30. Those who require tea must notify secretary not later than April 30th.—G. W. Cartmel, Hon. Sec., Duffield, St. Albans.

**NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—** The annual general meeting will be held at Norwich on Saturday, May 1st. St. Giles' bells (silent) 1.45 p.m. Handbells in Cathedral 2.45 to 3. Evensong in Cathedral 3. Preacher, Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow. Tea and meeting at Cathedral Restaurant 4.15. Names for tea must be sent to me by April 26th. A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—**The annual meeting will be held at Lincoln on May 1st. Meeting in the Cathedral Chapter House 3 p.m. Evensong 4 p.m. 'Silent' ringing on the Cathedral bells during the afternoon and evening. Will all members please make own arrangements for tea?—F. W. Stokes, Hon. Sec.

**SURREY ASSOCIATION.—**The annual general meeting will be held at Croydon on Saturday, May 1st. The tower of Croydon Parish Church will be open for handbell ringing at 3.30 p.m. Service at 5 p.m. Tea at the Parish Hall, Sylverdale Road, followed by business meeting. Please notify Mr. D. Cooper, 51, Waddon Road, Croydon, for tea, not later than April 27th. Nominations for general officers to reach me at least 14 days before the meeting.—C. de Ste C. Parks, Assistant Sec., 44, Torrridge Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—** Annual meeting at Leicester (not Burton), Saturday, May 1st. Bells of St. John's (10), near Midland Station, and Cathedral (12) open for silent ringing, 2 p.m. to 4.45. Committee meet 4 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., followed by general meeting, in Cathedral Church House. Handbells, etc., afterwards. Only those who notify me by April 28th can be accommodated for tea at reasonable price.—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec., 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

**SURREY ASSOCIATION.—**North-Western District.—A meeting will be held at Christ Church, Epsom, on Easter Monday, April 26th. Tower open for handbell ringing from 3.30 p.m. Service 5 p.m., followed by tea and meeting in Christ Church Parish Hall. Notifications for tea to be sent to Mrs. Massey, 173, Coverts Road, Claygate, Surrey, by Wednesday, April 21st.—D. Cooper, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec., 51, Waddon Road, Croydon.

**LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—**The annual meeting will be held at St. James' Schoolroom, Cardiff, on Easter Monday, April 26th, at 3 o'clock.—J. W. Jones, Hon. Sec., Cartref, Altery View, Newport, Mon.

**DEATH.**

**HAIGH.—**On March 14th, William Haigh, of Park Cottage, Etchingam, Sussex, at the age of 79. Interred at Gillingham Cemetery.

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