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Organ of the Bookhams Social Service Bureau

No. 51

JUNE 1946

One Penny

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Editorial

The time is not too distant when the full effects of a new social order will take shape. With the introduction at the beginning of the year of the Workmen's Compensation Act, there has been a sequence of Acts of Parliament designed to place the community upon a more secure basis.

In this new order, the Education Act, Increase in War Pensions the Families Allowance Act, and with the advent of the National Insurance Act, social security will have at last been accomplished; but although the situation will have improved, will these improvements have the effect of removing the need for Charitable work?

Whilst such measures have been taken to improve the lot of the people, there are many cases that fall outside the scope of Statutory assistance, with the exception of the Public Assistance Committees, and even in some of these cases many are prone to approach the P.A.C., and it is for this reason that charitable organisations exist.

Nationally there are over 3,700 voluntary bodies engaged in some

form of relief, and in the parishes of Great & Little Bookham there is the Bookham United Charities, the Maddox Trust, and in a very modest way the Bookham Social Service Bureau, all of which contribute to those in need.

It has been suggested that any form of assistance should be the obligation of the Government. This must be deplored, for an outstanding example of a charitable undertaking was the Red Cross Penny-a-Week Fund. Could the Government have accepted such a responsibility? Whatever nationalisation of the charitable societies may take place in the future, there will always remain in the hearts of the British public that practical expression of giving a helping hand.

The Family Allowance Act becomes operative in August next and in order that a claim should be considered, the necessary Form FAM 2 is now available at any Post Office.

Any advice or help in completing the form can be had from the Citizens Advice Bureau.

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British Legion

Effingham & Bookham Branch

The actual value of the British Legion may seem obscure, except to members of this ex-service organisation. In some quarters the question has been asked "does it serve any useful purpose beyond helping its own members?"

In answer to any such question, the Legion can be assessed upon its achievements, both during the periods when we were involved in war and more so during the times of peace.

It may not be generally known that during the crisis of 1938, the Legion were called upon by the government to be prepared to police Czechoslovakia should a plebiscite have become necessary. They were again called upon as the nucleus of the A.R.P. organisation in 1939, and later were the first for enrolment in the L.D.V. (afterwards the Home Guard) but apart from these matters the Legion is primarily engaged in the tasks of providing employment for the ex-service man and woman, on matters relating to war disablement, pensions, etc., and also the provision of assistance to those suffering as a result of war service. It was for these objects the Legion was founded, and the local branch has carried out this policy since its inception in 1927.

This aspect of its activities must not be confused with the social side. The executive committees concerned are separate bodies, the distinction being easily recognised one as the Effingham & Bookham Branch of the British Legion, and the other as the British Legion (Effingham) Club Ltd.

To those ex-service men and women outside its ranks, particularly those who served between 1939-45, an invitation is given to join the brotherhood of the Legion. Forms of application can be had from the Legion Hall, Lower Rd. Effingham.

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
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HOUSING

It is learned that about 1000 applications have been made to the Leatherhead Council for Council houses. When the extension to the Cleeve Road site is completed and the erection of 50 prefabricated houses upon the Green Lane site finished, accommodation for 100 families will be available.

There will still be the need for a further 900 dwellings, but as a result of the Government's policy that for every four houses built three must be erected by the local authority, it is impossible to forecast when the situation will be eased. There is partial remedy, as a temporary measure, by means of requisitioning all vacant properties, but it is evident why no action has been taken in this matter is due to three factors:— firstly shortage of man-power and material, secondly the fixing of an "economic rent," and thirdly a short term policy.

In analysing these three points, the question of man-power and material is decided by the available resources, and as over 200 licenses have been issued for building operations of varying degrees of work, there appears to be no lack of man-power, moreover there must be materials for the works to be carried out; furthermore, local firms advertise supplies such as bricks, sand, cement, ballast, breeze blocks, etc. It may be suggested that there is a shortage

of timber, ironmongery, etc. As a temporary expedient why not the use of timber and other materials from the wooden buildings used by the military? What was good enough to house the troops should now be put to use for civilians.

Regarding an "economic rent," fixed by the District Valuer, here again a temporary expedient could be adopted to provide an economic rent for requisitioned houses. A levy upon the rates will be made in respect of new houses erected by the Council. Cannot similar measures be adopted to provide shelter for our unfortunate citizens, and it must be borne in mind that the majority of these are returned service men and women. Would not the Minister of Health agree to a 3d. rate to provide the necessary conversions and repairs to properties in order to requisition. It is felt that the ratepayers would only be too glad to assist in this way as a tribute to these men and women who served their country.

It should be the first duty of the Housing Committee to take appropriate steps in this vitally urgent matter.
The Editor.

New Ration Books

The new Ration Books are now ready and can be obtained in order of name initial. For full particulars, see notices displayed in traders' windows.

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National Savings Movement**Leatherhead and District
Local Savings Committee**

The National Savings Movement has expressed a hope that each District in the Country will set aside one Special Week this year to stimulate the Campaign for the Challenge of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The Leatherhead & District National Savings Committee have decided on June 22nd to June 30th as their Special Week, for which they have drawn up a programme containing much that will be of interest and enjoyment to everyone. Savings are as important now as they were

during the War years. It is extremely dangerous to the future prosperity of this Country to spend money to-day on goods which are in short supply, as the result of such spending can only send prices sky-high and eventually lead to inflation. Just another two years are necessary until the shops are able to supply in quantity the goods required; until then the people of this Country are asked to invest their earnings in National Savings which are guaranteed gilt-edged securities with a good rate of interest.

Roger M. B. Micholls,

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Observations

Recently Gallup Polls have been held in the United States, Canada and Britain regarding the causes of disputes between husbands and wives, and while the figures are very much alike in all three countries, there is one particular point upon which the last-named takes pride of place and that is concerning the faults which men observe in their spouses and vice-versa. 17 per cent. of the males say that their wives are faultless, whilst 12 per cent. of women say similarly of their husbands and a further 25 per cent. have no particular fault to mention.

Such figures seem as though the young women of today may embark upon married life with a lighter heart, for even if they don't link up with the 12 per cent. they can still join the 25 per cent. and reckon upon being happy. This certainly may send up the marriage rate in this country, even if our Sunday newspapers are not such optimistic reading.

In these democratic days it is pleasant to observe that snobberies are gradually being stamped out. In this country it has always been considered *the* thing for professional and amateur cricketers names to be distinguished from each other by the former having no initials printed alongside their names on the score cards. Early last month a match was played between the M.C.C. and Middlesex County at Lords, and these cards

showed the respective initials alongside *all* the names of those playing. The next step should be to have only one entry from the pavilion to the playing pitch for both parties and thus get rid of this other distinguishing mark.

Another little bit of snobbery too is going. In reports of associations, schedules, programmes, etc., the title "Esq." does not appear so frequently as previously. Some years ago only those men earning £250 a year or more were referred to in this manner, but today if it were based on this figure it would be but the few who would *not* be entitled to it. Some lawyers were very strict upon this point and no entitled client, whether rich or poor, could expect to receive a letter from his legal adviser except addressed "Mr." so and so. — R.A.

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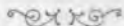
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LOCAL RATES

Among the very many problems that the people are confronted with is that of a continuous rise in the rates, and whilst the need for improved services has become necessary after six years of war, attention may be drawn to one item shown in the demand note, that of Public Lighting.

During the darkest months, between September 1945 and March 1946, the cost of Public Lighting to the Ratepayers was 3.47d. which produces £1066 12s. From April onwards the rate rises to 4.89d. producing £5181 4s.

It will be seen that there is an increase of £1114 12s. an approximate increase of 1d. rate. In view of the less need for lighting during the Spring and Summer and the reversion to British Summer Time, this does not appear to be an economical proposition, and a decrease of 1d. in the rates would be welcome in these days.

Any increase in rates allows the landlord to increase rent accordingly. A tenant in doubt should seek advice.

Furthermore it has been stated that there will be an inevitable increase in rates to meet the demands of improved and extended services. Every Councillor should analyse the finances with a view to some effective economy, no matter how small, for it must be remembered that there are quite a number of persons whose incomes are strictly limited.

Challenge Week

Ten million a week for fifty-two weeks!—the acceptance by the Savings Movement of "The Chancellor's Challenge."

Bookham's small savings have always played their part in the National Savings Victory during war and peace. Our self-allotted task in this challenge is £25,000. Our organised savings groups have since February 1940, raised a grand total of £167,750. A continuation on this scale is necessary and can only be depended upon by a revived organisation. A few groups have closed, many reduced in members or efficiency. New helpers are urgently needed to take them over or share them. The core of the Movement has always consisted of street groups & Bookhams roads are not fully represented.

June 22—30 is to be Challenge Week in the Leatherhead district, during which the aim will be for more groups rather than for a higher savings target. There will be many local events to further this main object, which will be announced by poster, press and programme. Leatherhead Urban District Council, in common with all local authorities, are wholeheartedly supporting the campaign.

Programmes of reconstruction depend upon its success, which will also stimulate the response to the Chancellor's Challenge.



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Citizens Advice Bureau Leatherhead & District

The transition period from war to peace has in no way diminished the number of enquiries made to the Citizens' Advice Bureau. On the contrary, during the six months after the end of the war in Europe the number of enquiries increased by 50 per cent., and during the past six months owing to changed conditions and new legislation, there has been a constant average of 500 enquiries a month.

Owing to these changed circumstances it has been found necessary to adjust the types of enquiries. The following will indicate the scope of work undertaken by the Bureau:—

- Communications
- Educational Problems
- Employment
- Family Problems
- Housing
- Local Information
- Matrimonial
- Service Matters
- Social Insurance
- Supplies
- War Damage
- War Pensions, etc.

Since the inception of the Bureau in 1939, 22,488 enquiries have been made—a service which has justified itself and will continue to do so as far as circumstances permit.

Whilst solving the many and

varied problems of the district, the Bureau is confronted with its own problems. First and foremost is the need for voluntary assistance and in this respect any voluntary help would be welcome. There is no need of any special qualifications, but the Organising Secretary Citizens' Advice Bureau, Surrey House, Church St., Leatherhead, would be glad to give information to anyone wishing to offer their services. The second need is for greater financial support, as apart from a grant made by the local authority, contributions towards administrative expenses have seriously dropped.

Help us to help others. We make no charge to those who use the Bureau—it is a voluntary service—we need money for office expenses. Will you make a donation?

A Helping Hand

Apart from the British Legion mentioned in the columns of the Bulletin, there are many sources from which assistance can be obtained for the ex-serviceman and his dependants, either by employment or financial assistance.

Information upon these matters can be had from any Branch of the British Legion, or the District Head of the Incorporated Soldiers Sailors & Airmen's Help Society.

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George and Bob, the Country Gardeners

Here we are again, George, with planting out in full swing, yet a lot of things seem late. Germination of seeds has been very erratic, so folks say, some sowing with little or no result and others getting good results, both getting the seeds from the same merchants. I think there are various causes, such as sowing in dry cold ground, treading the beds down too hard, and some of the seeds I am sure must have been mixed, all of these reasons, plus the very erratic growing season have made for lean results.

Yes, Bob, not only were people too early in sowing small seeds, but they still make the mistake of planting potatoes too early, never heeding the warning given every year about the May frosts. Some are lucky, however, for those that live high up come off better than those in a dell, the reason being that frost is like water and runs down, accumulating at the lowest point.

Now a word about tomatoes, George. I shall be tending mine very carefully from now on, taking out side shoots as they appear and tying early and keep on tying as the plants develop, as this means saving the plants from bruising and thus causing disease, which is a good tip that should not pass unnoticed. I shall also spray them

to prevent blight in mid-July, August and September.

I agree with you, Bob. Now about leeks and celery, I shall get these from my nurseryman in mid July or a little later, and about the third week in July make sowings of cabbages for maturing in the spring. There are many good varieties, particularly Harbinger, Child's Early Market, and April, while Emperor is a very good one for spring cutting.

Well, with all this and a bit more, I shall be busy, so now I'm off with the hoe to keep down the weeds, which is one of the biggest jobs. Cheerio! ——— BOB.

A. LAUEZZARI

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