

The Bookhams Bulletin

Organ of the Bookhams Social Service Bureau

No. 48

SEPTEMBER 1945

One Penny

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Editorial

Within a day or two of the publication of the *Bookhams Bulletin*, a phase in the history of Social Service will have been achieved, that of the Citizens' Advice Bureau which has given a continuous service of advice and information to the public since September, 1939, and although emanating from the Bookham Social Service Bureau in Bookham, it was found expedient to embrace a policy in providing a war-time service without losing the essential feature for which the Social Service Bureau was initiated.

Since Victory in Europe, very many problems have arisen and will continue to arise, and although a change of Government has taken place, such changes in legislation will eventually be reflected in the daily lives of the community, and in this respect the work of the Social Service Bureau, in co-operation with the Citizens' Advice Bureau, will provide the necessary service to the public.

Some good news has been received concerning seriously disabled unemployable ex-Service

men for the Government have decided to make certain increases in the supplementary awards, and whilst generally approving of this step, which becomes effective about the first week in September, further action must be taken by the Minister of Pensions to re-adjust war widows pensions and children's allowances and a general all round increase in disablement pensions. Social security has been the theme of the past Government, but no definite steps have been taken to ensure security for the war disabled, industrially disabled and old age pensioners. Let the new Government see to it and not win elections by promises, as was done in May, 1919 when it was stated in the House of Commons that "England would be a land fit for heroes to live in."

Whilst on the subject of a land fit for heroes, let us not forget that the order is reversed—"Homes fit for Heroes"—for this is the urgent need of the hour. Many local authorities have most excellent housing schemes—on paper, but these must be put into practical operation at once. It will naturally be suggested that the delay is due to labour and materials, but this is

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Editorial.—*cont.*

not quite the fact, for the Ministry of Labour is directing labour and resources into channels outside the areas effecting the immediate locality.

Through the war years some reference was made from time to time regarding Acts of Parliament which effected the community. In the latter stages of the last Parliament, the Family Allowances Act, 1945 was one of the most important and it is hoped that a general survey can be published in the next issue of the Bulletin.

Comment.

Since VE Day, 86 Sections of the Defence General Regulations have been revoked and these in themselves tend to give some more liberty to the people. As there is no question of security or any attempt to sabotage the agricultural industry, it is now time to dispense with the Milk Zoning Scheme.

The basic petrol ration has been restored and within a month there is an indication of increased petrol supply, and having reverted to this measure, the matter of freedom for the housewife to obtain her milk supply from the retailer she desires should be the first consideration of

the Ministry of Food. Make this the first victory present to the housewife, who has ungrudgingly borne the full blast of shopping expeditions, by re-instating the right to obtain her milk supply from whom she chooses.

According to medical facts, 600 children die each year as a result of ailments traced to unpasteurized milk. This should be a matter for public indignation and the right of every housewife to insist upon pasteurized milk.

The Rent Act of 1920 was extended in September, 1939 to give protection to tenants concerning permitted increases in rents, etc., but no means have yet been devised to curb the rocketing prices of house purchase.

The trader who exceeds controlled prices for foodstuffs is liable to heavy penalties and imprisonment. Why have no similar steps been taken regarding house property in the matter of control?

After nearly six years of war, no adequate steps have yet been taken for the protection of agricultural workers and those who by virtue of service and employment come outside the Rent Control. These matters can only be adjusted by the introduction of new legislation in order that a feeling of security can be effected. What is the Rt. Hon. Aneurin Bevan going to do about this?

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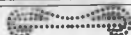
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Citizens Advice Bureau

Leatherhead & District

Since the end of the war in Europe it might have been assumed that the work of the Citizens' Advice Bureau would have declined, but this has not been the case, in point of fact the number of enquiries has increased 50 per cent. above May's total of 500 and there is evidence showing that previous monthly figures will increase.

Since 4th September, 1939 when the Bureau came into operation, 20,513 enquiries were made up to 31st July, 1945. This service has only been made possible by the long and continued service of the voluntary staff, and in view of the increase in work and for the maintenance of the organisation and efficiency, voluntary workers are urgently needed.

The two main requirements for part time work are for a typist and a filing clerk. Any such volunteers should apply to Organising Sec., Citizens' Advice Bureau, Surrey House, Church St., Leatherhead Tel. Leatherhead 3291. Any offers will be gratefully received.

Information upon various matters is always available to the Bureau and during the current month the following matters have been added to the vast collection of information:

Retail trade licences for food establishments.

Housing, extended powers of local authorities.

War gratuities.

Training of Nursery Students.

Clothes rationing, extra coupons for older children.

Travelling facilities for transferred worker.

Channel Islands repatriation.

Return of evacuees from Eire.

Finance for small businesses, etc.

For Returned Service Men and Women.

Two booklets—"Release and Re-Settlement," issued by the Ministry of Labour, and "For your Guidance," issued by the War Office—should be in the possession of every service man and woman. If this is not the case, your Citizens Advice Bureau can help you.

Campaign Stars and the Defence Medal.

Information regarding Campaign Stars, the Defence Medal, Service Chevrons and Wound Stripes can be obtained from SSAFA, Leatherhead Division, Surrey House, Church Street, Leatherhead.

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Housing.

Since the outbreak of war in 1939 there have been 41 Acts of Parliament, S.R. & O.'s, Command Papers and Supplementary Orders dealing with housing, rent control, land, etc. Since VE Day, beyond the clearance of sites, the provision of housing in the Leatherhead area has been the subject uppermost in the minds of the Council.

Plans are in existence for the erection of a number of permanent dwellings in the four Wards—but only plans so far—and this after three months since the ending of the war in Europe. No small blame can be attached to the Council, as it appears that the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Planning and the Ministry of Reconstruction do not co-ordinate and share the full responsibility. It has been stated that the matter is dependant upon man-power, this being a matter for the Ministry of Labour. It is a well-known fact that the Ministry of Labour uses direction orders, but it would be interesting to know the number of building operatives who registered at the Leatherhead Employment Exchange. Again, it is known that many of these persons living in the area were directed away from their homes, furthermore that 90,000 persons were engaged in the repair of bomb damage in London.

In this there does not appear to be any lack of man-power and it is

clear that the shortage of materials is not so acute, otherwise this army of building operatives could not have carried on.

Whilst not de-meriting those who were blasted and bombed in London, the situation appears to be one of unequal distribution of man-power.

Pressure should be brought to bear by the local authority for a speedy action by the Ministries concerned, and apart from proposed Council estates the problem should be encouraged by the Government for private enterprise, but with a controlling factor upon the cost of labour and materials, so that the working classes can afford a fair and reasonable rent for the most serviceable dwelling.

In 1921, the Government of the day offered a subsidy under the Housing Act No. 2, which materially assisted in the building of houses, and had there been some kind of control the price of land would not have been so high which increased the cost of the house and promoted the speculative builder.

The wage packet must be considered where the rent is concerned and this must be the guiding factor both by local authorities and private enterprise when any housing scheme is ventured upon, but before any enlargement upon the economic policy, the fact still remains, the urgent need for immediate and determined action.—THE EDITOR

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Stances and In-stances

(for "woods" read "bowls")

To those who watch players on a bowling green, the various and sometimes grotesque attitudes that are adopted when delivering the woods may be very interesting if not comic.

Incidentally, it is as well to say that the so-called "glorious uncertainty" of cricket is encountered to a much greater extent in bowls, and it has been asserted that one blade of grass may deflect the wood in its course and lose a match. Time after time the on-looker will hear the cry "hard luck" as a wood delivered with the intention of arriving at a certain spot will deviate to the extent of a fraction of an inch and thus prevent a bowl from scoring.

First of all in action is the business like player who as he steps upon the mat makes up his mind what he should do, stoops and with a seemingly long and free swing of the arm lets the wood off on its journey. Another will adopt the "crab" position presumably owing to stiffness in the joints or inability to get down to the stoop in consequence of advancing age. A third when picking up the wood will look at it closely to see that it is ready for the "hand" or side on which he intends to send it, then stoop, and after letting it go will remain in that position for some seconds and resume the upright so suddenly that anyone standing very

near to him can hear his knee joints click. A fourth will let his hand follow the action of delivering the wood and remain above his shoulder for a moment or so.

Another "expert" delights in running after the wood following delivery, thus shutting out its course from the sight of his opponent who is naturally much annoyed at such tactics. Another player will apparently change his mind about delivering the wood as he will allow his arm to describe a circle before letting the bowl go. A further bowler after disposing of his wood will deliberately turn away from it for a short period as though having got rid of it he is no longer interested. There is also the man who having put forward the wood will, in his excited interest whilst watching its course, stand on tiptoe with his fingers twitching. Some players bowl from the elbow and others from the wrist, the latter very often putting in some pretty little twists. There is the man, however, whom all groundsmen are up against and that is he who drops his wood on the green.

Years ago when bearded men were to be seen on the green, they could be observed whilst running up behind their woods, clutching their beards in their hands and pulling them from left or right as though to guide their bowls. At other times they might be "shooshing" their woods on as though the bowls were ducks or chicks.—R.A.

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LITTLE CHATS

(With apologies to A.P.H. of "Punch")

No. 5—Overheard in the Queues.

Hello! Been to the pictures?

No, only shopping. My dear, the time it takes . . . and the money . . . look, now that's . . . & those were . . .

Really!

Yes, scandalous. Would you believe it? Twenty-four eleven three for that little . . .

Well, I'm just making mine do a little longer.

Oh, you can't!

It'll certainly outlast that thing anyhow, and probably until prices come down a bit.

I hope they do soon.

Me too. Especially necessities. It's hard on bags of people who must buy now.

Such as?

Demobbed or bombed folk and so on.

I see. So we ought to wait you think?

Rather wait. War taught us all about waiting. "Everything comes to him that waits."

Even buses. There's our 418. Think we'll get on?

Only straps. I thought so. But now tell me all about the picture.

Picture? Not me. I've been to the Savings Centre.

Oh! that blue place opposite the Post Office?

Yes. They supply stamp books and forms. You see, I'm taking a hand helping our road group. It's a going concern still.

Somebody told me it was gone already.

Not a bit. So long as we don't relax. Full pressure now is only common sense. How about you?

Well, groups certainly save time and trouble. Count me in will you?

I'll be on your doorstep Tuesday morning. I get off here . . . S'long.

Goodbye and good saving.

Good morning. Oh! aren't they ready yet? Thought I smelt scones

One batch has gone already, but another is expected soon. Let's wait. I'm not greedy but I want rather a lot . . . you see auntie is bringing the three boys and . . .

Has she got all three back?

The middle one, you know, R.A.F. was repatriated last month, prisoner two years.

I remember. Baled out near Cologne and lost a leg.

Ah, well, it's all finished now. What a mercy . . . I do wish those buns would come.

Yes, we are thankful for his kind and for the many like him who won't come back. I say 'thank God' too for our narrow escapes—atomic bombs, concentration camps and starvation.

Hooray! here's the next tray coming.

Have you heard about the Thanksgiving Weeks?

What, more bonfires, etc.?

No. Savings. A national campaign. Our local week is October 20-27. I'm on the Committee.

That 'Salute the Soldier' was a



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Little Chats—*cont.*

good effort.

This will be better still . . . there's a group among the staff here . . . look, there's the Certificate of Merit they got last year.

What is a group exactly?

It's savings organised for simplicity and certainty. The group secretary calls on you . . . in shops, in offices, schools, clubs. Why not join ours?

Well, I have saved, of course. But why go on now that Germany and Japan are whacked?

Every reason. For one thing, saving and lending now and for a long time yet, is in your own interest and also in the interest of the country.

But how about taxes, especially income tax?

It doesn't go more than half way. Dalton says just as Anderson did, savings *must* go on to take the old country through what's ahead. It depends on us.

I'm with you. I'll keep up the habit. It's not only a duty, it's gratitude . . . Here, do have one of the scones.

No, really. Goodbye, and please remember me to the cousins.

Well, the shop's open. Oh dear, herrings only again.

Yes, but I'm sure we do far better in many ways than the folks on the Continent.

I suppose so, but they don't have to bother with points and all that with their black markets.

That's little comfort to them. I say their welfare is ours and the responsibility is on all of us here.

How do you mean?

I mean the world, especially Europe, has got to be put on its feet and soon.

By you and me, or the Government?

By the Allies, and that includes you and me. President Truman recently said 'As the winter comes on, distress will increase. Unless we do what we can to help, we may lose next winter what we won at such terrible cost last spring. We must help to the limit of our strength—and we will.' That's what he said.

How shall we?

Lend all we can to the Government. I can't think why people find lending more difficult than giving. The Red X, Hospitals, etc. never fail to draw, but careless spending puts a brake on saving. You and the family can join my group at once, and I'll bring your books later.

Come on, pick up your herrings, I must be off.

—G.

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George and Bob, the Country Gardeners

Well, Bob, at last the war has ended, but I fear there are too many folks who now think we can all ease up in the gardens and allotments, and elsewhere for that matter, but these people do not take a sensible view or they would by now have realised the seriousness of the world shortage of food. I am determined to Dig for Peace and try to produce more food than ever. I shall of course welcome the return of a few more flowers in all their beauty, and also give a very special welcome to returning friends from the fighting forces with a quiet joy in my heart that all the mad bloodshed and destruc-

tion has ceased.

Yes, George, I heartily agree with what you say, and I think if we continue to do our best to help the food situation we shall reap our reward from the feeling of satisfaction in having done our best. We must be very grateful to know that this season so far has been a good one. The rains have kept the soil moist and done a world of good. The potatoe crop should be good, although some of my neighbours, judging by the serious attacks of blight to be seen, cannot yet be impressed by the necessity to spray with Bordeaux mixture, although the cost is small and the saving so great. Carrots beet and parsnips are good too. If you havn't yet got your spring cabbage in you had better do so without delay. Its also time to sow winter lettuce, Artic King or Lee's Immense are ideal varieties or Imperial will do for this sowing.

Taken on the whole, Bob, we havn't much to complain about except the usual one that the outdoor tomatoes havn't had enough sun to finish off the ripening, so all the leaves except the top two should be removed. I shall do as I usually do, gather the green ones and store in straw to ripen off before the first frosts come. I am now wondering what next season's seed position is going to be, and especially seed potatoes which I think will again be difficult, so I shall place my order some time within the next month or so. Well, off to work, see you later.—BOB.

A. LAUEZZARI

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