he Bookhams 29-72 Bulletin 29-72

Organ of the Bookhams Social Sert Sep 1957

No. 29

DECEMBER 1940

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The Bookhams Bulletin

Organ of the Bookhams Social Service Bureau

No. 29

DECEMBER 1940

One Penny

Editorial

As fore-shadowed, the effect of the Paper control has of necessity reduced the size of the *Bookhams Bulletin*, and it has been generally agreed that future publication, more particularly at this period, should continue in order to bring information to our readers.

Whilst appreciating the services of the local Press, such matters affecting the welfare of the general public cannot be included in their columns, and so it falls to our lot to publish such important details. Apart from this it has been the policy of the Social Service Bureau to carry on as far as war-time circumstances permit and continue to fulfil the objects for which it was set up some seven years ago, so it was decided to go forward. This has been made possible by the continued support of traders in their advertising, and again our best thanks are extended to them. As is well known, the advertising matter has been the chief source of revenue, but through war-time conditions this revenue will suffer proportionately and the usual gifts to certain cases must of necessity be also cut down. On the other hand the introduction of Supplementary Allowances for widows and old age pensioners will help to balance the situation it is hoped.

Whatever changes have taken place in this issue of the *Bulletin* they are purely war-time expedients, and it is hoped that readers will readily adapt themselves to its new form.

It is regretted that the feature "Let's see what's on" can no longer be published on account of lack of space.

It has long been recognised that the "means test" introduced in 1934 under the Unemployment Assistance Act was unfair in its operation, and we are now pleased to report that the household means test will be abolished, and in its place there will be a personal test. This will take into account needs and resources of the applicant, his wife and any dependents, but not other members of the household. In many cases this will lead to extra allowances. We may have something further to say on this subject in subsequent issues.

According to the Ministry of Labour the index figure at the end of October rose to 192, showing a rise of 24 per cent. since outbreak of war. This means that it costs 24/10 to buy goods which cost £1 before September 1940.

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Citizens Advice Bureau

Fourteen months have passed since the establishment of the Citizens Advice Bureau in the Bookhams Ward, and here it may be added that this Bureau was the first of its kind in Surrey. Last April its activities were extended when the Leatherhead Urban Council requested that the whole area be included in the operations of the Bureau. Since then the Leatherhead & District Citizens Advice Bureau has dealt with many problems, and early in October received its 2,000 enquiry.

The air raids on London have brought many more problems to the Bureau; such questions as billetting, war damage to property, the position of landlord and tenant in cases where destruction of property has occurred through bombing, obtaining employment for those who have lost situations on account of air raids, &c. These matters and many others have all received immediate attention and resulted in a happier state of mind and lessening of anxiety.

If you are in doubt upon any matter, whatever the nature, the Bureau can help you, and its head office is at Alnwick House, Church Street, Leatherhead, open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Trading with the Enemy Act, 1939, now applies to French Somaliland.

Matters of the Moment

Information is now available for sending messages to the Channel Islands, and for the guidance of those wishing to do so the following instructions are given:—

- 1 Full name & address of sender
- 2 Full postal address.
- 3 Ten words only are permitted, not including names and addresses of sender and receiver.
- 4 Full name of receiver.
- 5 Full postal address of receiver.
- 6 The cost is 6d.
- 7 Senders of messages must not bring or send stamps.

These messages can be brought to the registered Red Cross Postal Message Office, Citizens Advice Bureau.

Personal parcels to Prisoners of War.—The Red Cross have recently announced that personal parcels to prisoners of war has now been continued, and a full list of articles that can be sent and all details regarding this service can be obtained from the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Bear in mind that torches used during an Alert must be dimmed with a piece of newspaper or its equivalent, the aperture must not be more than one inch (that is the size of a halfpenny), and they must be directed downwards.

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Remembrance Day 1940

The Effingham & The Bookhams Branch of the British Legion tender their sincere thanks to all organisers, collectors, and the generous public for their kind support in making the Poppy Day in the area so successful. Results show that the total collection for Bookham was approximately £120 and for Effingham £82.

The administration work of the the Branch is all done voluntarily by the local Benevolent Committee and during the year, thanks to the activities of this Committee, the expenditure on unemployment has been the lowest ever recorded in the history of the Branch.

The needs of the ex-service man of 1914-18 and his dependents, as well as those of the present conflict will continue to be met, and as long as there is a generous public, and the work of the British Legion will continue to help all ex-service men and their families.

Another organisation devoted to the present serving man and his dependents is the Soldiers, Sailors and Airmens Families' Association, and with the co-operation and close association of the British Legion meets the needs of both service and ex-service men and women.

Any enquiries regarding these two organisations can be referred to the Hon. Sec. British Legion, or the district representative S. S. & A.F.A., "St. Jean," Crabtree Lane, Great Bookham.

The Purchase Tax

This tax came into operation on October 21st, after which date certain goods will be taxable on one-third of the wholesale value and others on one-sixth of the wholesale value. A list of goods subject to tax is given in the 7th schedule to the Finance (No. 2) Act, 1940, also complete details are given in No. 78 issue by the Commissioners of Customs and Excise. The tax is collected at the time when the goods pass from the manufacturer or wholesaler to the retailer. The retailer therefore has to pay a higher price for goods which have borne the tax and will have to recover by charging a higher price to the public, but he must not make any profit on the tax. Any writing up of prices of stocks in hand of retailers to the price of goods which have borne the tax is not permissable under the Price of Goods Act, and such writing up would render the retailer liable to severe penalties.

In some cases manufacturers propose to mark their branded articles which have borne the tax, and in some cases to show the amount of tax separately from the rest of the price. It is hoped that the public will realise that these practices cannot be generally applied and that there will in many cases be no special mark to denote which have borne the tax and for which the retailer is entitled to charge the higher price.

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War Damage

Many enquiries have been made regarding the matter of damage due to enemy action, and in order to assist those who have or may be affected, a brief resume follows.

Buildings.—The general rule in peace time is that a tenant whose house is destroyed or damaged in any way must, unless his tenancy agreement provides otherwise, continue to pay his rent in full until the end of his tenancy. If he has agreed to keep the house in good repair he will have to rebuild it at his own expense. Normally he would, of course, have insured his house against fire. The legislation provides that where land or buildings have become unfit for their normal purpose as a result of war damage, then despite any agreement to the contrary, the tenant may either terminate his tenancy immediately without any penalty or retain it on altered terms. If he wishes to end the tenancy he must serve a notice of disclaimer on his landlord. If he prefers to retain it on altered terms he may serve a notice of retention on his landlord. The landlord may compel him to choose one or the other, if he fails to do so within the period allowed he will be treated as if he has chosen to retain the tenancy on altered terms. The new terms in effect will be that the tenant must pay the cost of repairs, but that until the building is repaired and in a fit state for its normal uses, no rent need be paid by the tenant. Apart however from the duties of a tenant who has retainhis tenancy under altered terms, it is a general rule under the new legislation that an obligation to repair land or buildings does not extend to the repair of war damage even if the agreement expressly extends it to war damage.

Goods.—The general rule is that obligations in respect of damage done to goods will not extend to loss or damage by war. Sometimes the obligations cancelled are on one side only, for example where goods are lent or hired; there is usually under the ordinary law an obligation on the borrower or hirer to repair damage done to them while they were in his hands, or, if they were lost, to replace them, and in any case to continue to pay for the hire of the goods during the agreed period. The result of the new legislation is that when the damage is caused by enemy action or by measures taken by our own armed or civil defence forces to repel enemy action, these obligations will not apply unless when the damage occurred the borrower or hirer were using the goods in a way which the agreement forbade; even then, however, the obligations will not apply if the borrower or hirer satisfies the Court in any proceedings taken against him that he had good grounds for believing that the goods would be less likely to be lost or damaged in the way in which he, in fact, used them, than if he had kept to the terms of the agreement. Again, anybody

War Damage

(continued)

who has taken goods on approval or on sale or return is under the normal law usually required to pay for any loss or damage which occurs before the goods finally become his own. If however the loss or damage is caused by war operations he is not obliged to pay So, too, the liability of an innkeeper to make good any loss or damage to goods on his premises does not extend to loss or damage caused by war operations. example where obligations on both sides are cancelled is the case of a pawnbroker who has made a loan of £10 or less on a pledge. Normally in the event of fire he would be required to pay for the loss or damage, if however the fire was the result of war operations, the pawnbroker is not obliged to pay the value of the pledge and the pawner is not liable to repay the loan. An exception to this general rule is where it is expressly agreed in the contract that war operations is to have the same effect as any other kind of damage. In the case of hire-purchase agreements, or of agreements for hire where the price is f.20 a year or less, or where goods are taken on approval or on sale or return and the price is f.25or less, an express agreement of this kind will have no effect at all. and even where it is inserted the usual obligations will not extend to damage by war operations.

Patience, Please

Amongst the annovances which the war has accentuated is that of being unable to obtain just what you want at a shop. You may have been a customer at that particular shop for years and you have previously regarded the proprietor as one who had always done his best to meet your wishes. You have your own trials and troubles, especially in connection with rationing, but have you ever thought of his (especially if he be a grocer or a butcher) with all the coupons and the returns which he has to periodically send in to the food control office. Besides, owing to enemy action his distributors may be temporarily short of some particular article that week. This shortage may also arise in consequence of a number of evacuees or refugees suddenly arriving in the district with emergency ration cards which he has to meet as soon as they are presented, and this situation may not be remedied for some days. Another point to be considered is that available stocks of wearing materials have been considerably reduced, so your shopkeeper may be sold out of the goods you require and unable to say when he is likely to have further supplies.

The government presses you to cut down your requirements by purchasing absolute necessities only, as it is essential that every ton of shipping space should be spared for war munitions; in other From Land's End to John o' Groats we are known and famed for good quality Printing for every kind of Sports Club as well as for Private Stationery, etc. All kinds of Printing for the Office, Shop, Works and Factory is also produced. :: :: Quotations for anything you may need will be freely given. Over 40 years experience is AT YOUR SERVICE



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words the slogan is "save shipping but save on your shopping." If by doing so you find you have a balance in cash to spare you are urged to invest it in Savings Certificates or War Bonds, details of which can be obtained from the Hon. Sec. Bookham Ward, Miss D. Etlinger, Briar Cottage, Lower Road, Gt. Bookham; or perhaps you have a Road Group, in which case you may apply to the Hon. Sec. of that particular group who will be pleased to supply you with full particulars.—R.A.

Lord Lieutenant's Fund

Although under this scheme 19 knitting groups are already working—and working hard, too—new members would be welcomed, and the name and address of each group leader can be obtained from the Hon. Sec. of the Comforts Committee, c/o Mrs. Emuss, The Hermitage, Lower Road.

Badges, price 6d. each, are now issued to those members of the Fund working parties who have been working for three months or more. Applications to be made to the respective group leaders.

In order to assist in raising funds, a Whist Drive will be held at "The Croft," Church Road, on the first Wednesday in each month at 2.30 p.m., and further details can be obtained from bills.

Scrap Iron

To the Editor "Bookhams Bulletin"

On Tuesday, 19th November, at the conclusion of the 1 o'clock news bulletin, a broadcaster spoke about the collection of iron railings for scrap metal. This matter of scrap has so often been mentioned that one wonders if any scrap iron still remained for collection, but after enquiries I found that quite a good bit still remains in our own neighbourhood which the owners would be glad to get rid of in the national cause if only it could be collected or they could dump it.

What better means could be adopted than that which has been used by other Councils to have public dumps where it could be deposited for subsequent collection? It is of course understood that transport is a difficulty, but this should not be allowed to stand in the way if the matter is urgent. Let us remember the very apt Scottish saying many muckles make a mickle" and the many small amounts of scrap which could be taken to a dump would eventually make a big load worth the authorities' while to collect. In many district this has already proved very successful, so would it be asking too much that we be given the opportunity to get rid of a lot of junk no use to us but of value in the national effort in the manner described. A good site has already been offered, but so far nothing has been done to give it publicity .-- "Syd Walker."

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Bookham Youth Club Mr. Gordon Stevens, Mansfield, Downs Way

Bookham Youth Organizations Cm'ttee Mr. C. V. Brayne, C.M.G. Wolverley, L. Bookham Tel. 502

Bowling Club Mr. Andrews, Five Beeches, Dorking Road. Tel. 201

Boys' Brigade Mr. D. Cook, Flushing Farm House

Boys' Brigade and Life Boys Mr. L. S. Kay, Lingfield, Nutcroft Grove, Fetcham

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