

The Bookhams Bulletin

(Organ of The Bookhams Social Service Bureau).

No. 22.

MARCH, 1938.

Price 1d.

1939?

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Editorial

The functions of this Journal are firstly, to provide our readers with matters of an informative character, and secondly, through the medium of advertisements to use the income to enable the Social Service Bureau to carry out its work on behalf of the poorer people.

The Bulletin did not emerge so definitely at first, although visions of the future were present in some minds. Certainly there were services to be effected in those early days, but these were modestly tentative, yielding at that time negative experience and to-day a positive result. This naturally was a gradual process engaging the sympathy and co-operation of the public.

Much has been done, more it is hoped will be accomplished, but only through good-will and understanding of the problems that beset our poorer classes.

On 1st January, 1939, some of the laws of the country were changed, for a number of Acts of Parliament passed during 1938 came into operation with the advent of the New Year. In view of the space required, only a summary of these Acts can be given, and among those passed during last year there may be one which affects you.

Rent Act, 1938. There have been a great number of publications on this important Act.

Leasehold Property (Repairs) Act, 1938. This important Act applies to houses (1) of a rateable value not exceeding £100, (2) where at least 5 years of a term of 21 years or more of a lease remain unexpired, and (3) where a part at least is used for purposes other than those of a trade, business, or profession. Briefly, the Act provides that where a lessor serves upon the lessee a notice relating to a breach of covenant to keep or put the house in repair, the lessee may within 28 days from the date of that notice serve on the lessor a counter-notice claiming the benefit of the Act.

Hire Purchase Bill, 1938. Information upon this Act was partly given in our last issue, but owing to lack of space the remaining portion is unavoidably held over.

Young Persons (Employment) Act, 1938. The hours and conditions of work of young

workers under the age of 18 will be controlled by this Act and by regulations made thereunder. The general rule will be that hours of work, exclusive of intervals for meals and rest, shall not exceed in the case of those above 16 years of age, 48 hours a week; or for those under 16 years of age, 44 hours a week. The Act applies to certain classes of employees, such as those engaged in the delivery of goods, to errand boys, page and lift boys in places other than private houses, and to those employed in certain businesses such as newspapers, cinemas and laundries.

Road Haulage Wages Act, 1938. This Act will be of benefit to those employed in connection with Road Transport, as regulations will be made in due course for fixing proper scales of remuneration.

Holidays with Pay Act, 1938. This Act gives power to enable wage regulating authorities, for example Trade Boards, to make provision for annual holidays with pay. Regulations will be made to carry out the schemes, which in due course will be laid before Parliament for approval.

Inheritance (Family Provision) Act, 1938. This Act does not become operative until 13th July next, and it is hoped that a resumé will be included in the next issue of the Bulletin.

Cars Appeal

Soon after the establishment of the Bookham Social Service Bureau, a car rota was formed and by this means a good number of necessitous cases were assisted in proceeding to hospitals, convalescent homes, etc. Owing to removals from Bookham and the passing on of others, the number on this rota has decreased considerably and the Committee would be very grateful if car owners would be willing to offer their services for the transportation of such cases.

A further need of the Bureau which has grown in consequence of removals from the district, is that of the distribution of the "Bookhams Bulletin" and assistance would be very much appreciated. Please address your communications to Miss R. Thompson, Hon. Secretary, Social Service Bureau, "Two Oaks," The Park, Great Bookham, or telephone Bookham 322.

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Town Planning

The importance of planning out a town and not letting it grow up in a haphazard fashion was first recognised by Parliament in the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909. Since that Act there have been a number of Acts passed which have dealt further with the problem, and at the present day the law upon the subject is contained in the Town and Country Planning Act, 1932.

Under this Act schemes may be made by a local authority with respect to any land, whether there are buildings on it or not, with the general object of controlling the development of the land comprised in the area to which the scheme is to apply. The considerations which are to influence the local authority in preparing a scheme, are the preservation of objects of historical, architectural or artistic interest, the securing of proper sanitary conditions, and the improving of the amenities of the district.

A local authority may either by a resolution prepare a scheme, or else they may adopt with or without modification a scheme prepared by all or any of the owners of any land within their district.

The resolution incorporating the scheme must be submitted to the Ministry of Health for their approval, and if it is approved by them, then it must be laid before both Houses of Parliament. The scheme comes into force within twenty-one days after it has been laid before Parliament, unless either House resolves that it ought not to be passed. When the scheme has been approved by the Ministry, the local authority must put a notice in a local newspaper, naming a place where a copy of the scheme and a map of the area may be seen.

If a complaint is made by a person aggrieved by the scheme, then the Minister of Health directs one of his inspectors to hold a local enquiry and hear evidence upon the subject. If no complaint is made, the Minister may confirm the scheme or make such modifications in it as he sees fit. He must not, however, substantially increase the expense of the scheme by his modifications.

A Town Planning Scheme may provide for a large number of matters, such as the laying out of streets, the building of new houses, or the alteration of existing ones, the control of advertisement hoardings, petrol stations, and any objects of a like nature which, unless regulated, would tend to destroy or impair the amenities of the district comprised in the scheme.

In order to ensure the satisfactory working of schemes, the local authorities have been given powers to compulsorily purchase land comprised in the area to which the scheme applies if such land is required for securing the satisfactory frontage along an existing or projected highway, or for securing the satisfactory development of any land included in the scheme.

Persons whose property is injuriously effected, or whose trade or business is disturbed, may claim compensation within the time laid down in the scheme. The claim is made by serving notice upon the local authority from whom the amount is to be claimed, a notice in writing stating the grounds of the claim and the amount thereof. Conversely, a local authority who have carried out the provision of a scheme and thereby greatly improved or increased the value of some property comprised in the area, claim compensation for betterment from the owner of the property.—THE EDITOR.

The King's National Roll

A meeting of the King's Roll National Council was held under the Chairmanship of Major-General Sir John Davidson and the Council noted that the total of 24,526 employers at present on the King's National Roll for the Employment of Disabled Ex-service men was the highest figure recorded since October 1933. The numbers of disabled Ex-service men employed by members of the Roll was 322,898 compared with 318,470 twelve months ago.

The Council endorses a suggestion by one of the local committees that special efforts might be made to find employment for disabled Ex-service men in connection with the air raid precautions schemes. Consideration was also given to the possibilities of finding employment for those who have suffered the loss of a limb or limbs. It was felt that these men might be suitable for such posts as lift attendants for whom there might be more openings in London and the large towns; the Council hoped that employers would assist the local committees in finding employment for these and other disabled Ex-service men whenever possible.

It is very gratifying to note that the Leatherhead Urban District Council is a Member of the King's Roll and at the moment actually employing a higher percentage of disabled Ex-service men. Much more could be achieved by employers if they would take the example set by our Local Authority.

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The Urban District Council

The Leatherhead Urban District Council consists of 18 representatives of the four Wards, made up as follows:—7 from Leatherhead, 5 from Ashtead, 4 from Bookham and 2 from Fetcham. This representation was originally based on a more or less proportionate ratio of population to each member.

The usual term of office of a Councillor is three years and one third of their number retire each year but are eligible for re-election.

Naturally with such a large area, it would be impossible for the Council at its monthly meeting to deal with the whole of the work, consequently various Committees are appointed which mostly meet once a month, viz:—

- Air Raid Precautions
- Allotments, Recreation Grounds & Lighting
- Ambulance and Fire Brigade
- Finance, Rating & Valuation
- General Purposes and Works
- Public Health & Housing
- Rent Rebates
- Town Planning

Beyond these there are the Emergency and Plans Sub-Committee which meets fortnightly. These Committees are generally arranged to contain one or more Councillors from each Ward. The reports of these various Committees are presented to the full Council Meeting usually held on the last Tuesday in each month.

The qualifications of a Councillor are many and according to the opinion of those he represents, diverse, but possibly the first is constant attendance at the Committee and Council Meetings. Beyond that general consistency in his views is another asset, as well as a certain amount of both tact and patience. He is "on tap" to all complaints that may be made, and if he should be on the phone he gets a greater number than otherwise. In many instances these complaints (although probably of major importance to those concerned) may be settled easily with possibly only occasional reference to the Council.

These complaints cover a large field, such as refuse collection, overhanging hedges, stopped-up gullies, proposed new buildings, rates, Council houses, etc., etc., and the lending of a sympathetic ear is an absolute sine qua non. If he attends a public meeting he is generally bound to collect a few.

Why does he do it? Possibly because he possesses an over-developed bump of public service sense. He is sometimes expected to be

a walking encyclopaedia of all the Acts of Parliament dealing with local government, particularised details of which are placed before him.

That sort of thing is a reminder of the visitor to the House of Commons who asked his parliamentary representative to "show him the Statute Book."

At any rate the Councillor has the knowledge, in spite of rumours to the contrary, that in trying to help his neighbours he does the work voluntarily and receives no monetary compensation in any shape or form.

Bookhams Social Service Bureau

In reviewing the work of the year it is good to be able to record that there has been no general distress, and the comparative absence of unemployment during the last two or three years was continued during 1938. This is not by any means to say that there have been no cases of individual hardship. On the contrary, cases of distress due to illness or temporary unemployment have cropped up throughout the year, and such cases are just as hard to the individual families concerned whether they occur in ones and two's or in dozens. Where the weekly wage is small and barely sufficient for the family's needs, misfortune due to temporary unemployment or sickness is felt severely, and the grant of a supply of milk for the children for a few weeks, or an order for groceries and provisions, prove a great boon to the needy family. The Committee of the Bureau tender hearty thanks to all those whose help—whether by donations to Bureau's funds or by advertisements in the Bulletin—makes it possible to continue to lighten the burden of hardship, and can give the assurance that the assistance given is very gratefully appreciated by the recipients.

In connection with the Christmas distribution, it was particularly gratifying in view of the severe weather to be able to increase the number of gifts. Eighteen consignments of coal, and a similar number of parcels of meat or groceries were distributed, and in addition through Mrs. Allen's continued kindness year by year, coal was supplied to a further 10 families. The many notes and expressions of thanks received testify that these Christmas gifts were indeed a welcome present during the snowy weather.

May we remind readers that gifts of cast-off clothing, boots and shoes are a constant need, and will be gladly accepted by Mrs. Jackson, the High Street, for distribution as required.—R.T.

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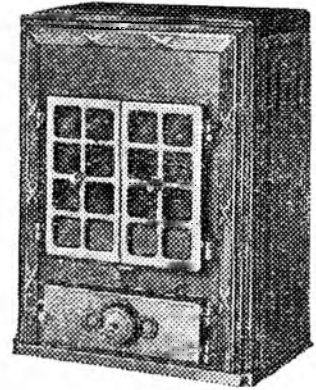
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British Legion

There appears to be some doubt in the minds of many Ex-service men as to the significance of the British Legion, whether it is worth while and what they can do.

In the first place the Legion can do nothing unless each individual Ex-service man is prepared to join its ranks to promote and maintain a common interest in the welfare of its Members embodied in the Royal Charter.

Secondly, by making direct representation to Parliament upon any matter affecting the Ex-service community. As an outstanding example, the Effingham & The Bookhams Branch submitted a resolution urging that the National Executive Council take steps to prevent the recommendations of the Central Valuation Committee becoming effective in order to prevent unnecessary hardship to Ex-service men—particularly the disabled. As a result the Council of the British Legion took up the matter with the Minister of Health. It was found that these recommendations were not carried into effect, but that a Departmental Committee had been set up to put forward recommendations as to measures which should be taken to ameliorate these hardships.

This is one instance out of ninety-three matters that the British Legion have taken up with the Minister of Pensions, Minister of Health, Minister of Labour, and the Postmaster-General in helping the cause of those who served in the Great War.

There appears to be three primary causes as to why Ex-service men do not join the British Legion. Firstly, lack of interest and ignorance of matters associated with the policy of the Legion, secondly, the inference that the British Legion and British Legion Clubs are one and the same, and thirdly, hypothetical injustices by Branch Committees towards Ex-service men.

In answering such allegations it must be remembered that the object, aims and policy of the British Legion are incorporated by Royal Charter and any Ex-service man interested can always obtain the necessary information from Legion Headquarters, 26, Eccleston Square, S.W.1., who will always refer the matter to the Local Branch Secretary for action.

The Legion operates directly and entirely for the benefit not only of its Members, but all Ex-service men to which the Benevolent Department plays an important part, whereas the British Legion Clubs merely regulate the social side.

It should be quite clear that when any Ex-service man applies for assistance, certain

information is necessary in arriving at a decision by the Committee concerned, and providing the application is genuine, no case is turned down.

Apart from the fact of these previous remarks, there should exist in the mind the spirit of service and comradeship which should be an incentive for all Ex-service men to unite in a common cause to maintain the peace of the world through a common understanding.

If you are in doubt about any question regarding the British Legion, the Branch Secretary, will be happy to help in all matters.

Local Government Elections

A local government election is an election for any County Council, Municipal or Metropolitan Borough, District or Parish Council.

Anyone who is a British subject over the age of 21 and is not subject to any legal disability is qualified to be elected as a member of any local government body provided he or she is either—registered as a local government elector in the area; an owner of freehold or leasehold land within the area; resident in the area during the whole proceeding twelve months.

Regarding the qualifications for voting in a local government election, the following indicates the eligibility to vote: Every person over the age of 21 who is on the register (this can be ascertained at the Council Offices or at the Post Office) is entitled to a vote if he or she is not under any legal incapacity. The legal incapacities are the same as in Parliamentary elections except that peers can vote. Any person with the required residential qualifications is, if not under a legal incapacity, entitled to be placed on the register of local government electors which is compiled at the same time and in the same way as the Parliamentary Register.

The qualification is occupational. Any person is so qualified who on 1st June occupied, as owner or tenant, any land or premises in the local government area or has occupied land or premises in that area during the preceding three months, or who is the wife or husband of anyone so qualified, provided they live on the premises.

A lodger is, for this purpose, deemed to be a tenant if the room or rooms occupied were let unfurnished, but not if they were let furnished.

A person who by virtue of his employment inhabits any dwelling house where his employer does not live is counted as a tenant.

A person cannot vote twice in an area although he may be registered in more than one division or ward in that area.

The procedure and law in regard to voting

in local government elections is exactly the same as that in Parliamentary elections except that polling hours are always between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., and there is no voting by post or proxy.

National Service and A.R.P.

The Prime Minister and other Members of the Government have urged the British public to play their part in all matters connected with the defence of the country, Air Raid Precautions, Fire Fighting Services, etc., and it is understood there is still a shortage of volunteers for various services. As every householder should now have a copy of the National Service book, the booklet "The protection of your home against air raids" and the pamphlet upon the "Transfer of population in the time of war," it does not appear necessary for the "Bookhams Bulletin" to continue to give further publicity in this matter. If however, there is any doubt as to whom to refer, get in touch with your Local Authorities at the Council Offices, Leatherhead. Telephone No. Leatherhead 2266.

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Coal and Clothing Club, 12 o'clock, School.
Women's Fellowship, 2.30, Church House.
Women's Meeting, 3 p.m., Congregational Church Parlour.
Women's Own, 3 p.m., Baptist Hall.
Girls' Life Brigade Cadets, 5.30 p.m., Baptist Hall.
Junior Club, 7 p.m., Church House.
Boys' Brigade, 7.15 p.m., Baptist Hall.
Girls' Friendly Society & Girls' Club, 7.30 p.m. Church House.
Bookham Choral Society, 8 p.m., Congregational Church.
Rovers, 8.15 p.m., Scout Hut.
Little Bookham Boys' Club, 7 to 9.30 p.m.
Girls' Club (14 years and over) Church House, 7.30 p.m. including Physical Training Classes.

Tuesdays—

Life Boys, 6 p.m., Baptist Hall.
Blue Birds, 6.30 p.m., Congregational Hall.
Camp Fire Girls, 7.30 p.m., Congregational Hall.
Young Men's Club, 7.30 p.m., Church House.

Wednesdays—

Little Bookham Boys' Club, 7 to 9.30 p.m.

Thursdays—

Cubs, 5.30 p.m., Scout Hut.
Girls' Life Brigade, 6 p.m., Baptist Hall.
Scouts, 8 p.m., Scout Hut.
Young Men's Club, 7.30 p.m., Church House.
Bookham Women's Constitutional Association
Monthly Meetings at the Barn Hall.
First Thursday in the month at 3 p.m.
Leatherhead Cottage Hospital Linen Guild,
10 to 12.30.

Fridays—

Brownies, 4.30 p.m., Scout Hut.
Girl Guides, 6.30 p.m., Scout Hut.
Rangers, 7.45 p.m., Scout Hut.
Christain Endeavour, Baptist Hall. Juniors
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Social Secretary, Mr. F. P. Street,
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*All communications, alterations, etc. should be sent
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