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SPORT AND PASTIME.

[BY "THE ODD MAN."]

TO-DAY'S GAMES.

LEAGUE.—DIVISION I.

Middlesborough v. Blackburn Rovers.
Aston Villa v Sunderland.
Burnley v. Bolton Wanderers.
Derby County v. Manchester City.
Liverpool v. Everton.
Manchester United v. Chelsea.
Newcastle United v. West Bromwich Albion.
Preston North End v. Sheffield Wednesday.
Sheffield United v. Bradford City
Tottenham Hotspur v. Oldham Athletic.

LEAGUE.—DIVISION II.

Barnsley v. Notts Forrest.
Bradford v. Leeds City.
Bury v. Blackpool.
Fulham v. Glossop.
Huddersfield Town v. Lincoln City.
Hull City v. Woolwich Arsenal.
Leicester Fosse v. Birmingham.
Notts County v. Bristol City.
Stockport County v. Clapton Orient.
Wolverhampton v. Grimsby Town.

COMBINATION.—DIVISION I.

Atherton v. Eccles Borough.
Walkden Central v. Chester.
Accrington Stanley v. Heywood United.
Fleetwood v. South Liverpool.
Hurst v. St. Helens Town.
Northwich Victoria v. Barrow
Hyde v Altrincham.
Haslingden v. Tranmere Rovers.

COMBINATION.—DIVISION II.

Macclesfield v. Bacup.
Nantwich v. Rossendale United.
Stalybridge Celtic v. Oswestry United.
Great Harwood v. Witton Albion.
Lancaster Town v. Padiham.
Darwen v. Newton Hearth Athletic.
Rochdale v. Crewe Alexandra.
Denton v. Barnoldswick United.

STANLEY NOTES.

Accrington Stanley appear at home this afternoon with Heywood United as visitors. Since the end of October the Accrington team have played but one game at Moorhead, so that they should be assured of a hearty welcome. The visitors should provide an excellent game. There will be a change in the Stanley middle line, the directors having decided to give Maguire a rest, so Hampson will figure at left half. Cunliffe, who was exempted against Blackpool, will reappear at inside right, otherwise the team will be as usual.

Acting on the suggestion of Mr. Johnson Haworth, the Stanley Secretary, Blackburn Rovers and Burnley have agreed to play their reserve teams in the East Lancashire Charity Cup competition. Last season, it will be recalled, the Rovers and Burnley after making a draw early in the season left the replay until about the last week, and the match was then abandoned on account of the weather, so that the competition was not completed. Stanley met and defeated Darwen, and were, of course, in the final. The Rovers reserve and Burnley reserve will therefore meet on Monday next in the other semi-final, and Stanley will subsequently engage the winners. The arrangement is a very satisfactory one, for surely there will be more interest over a game between one of the Reserves and Stanley than there would be if Accrington were pitted against either club's League eleven.

Stanley created a very favourable impression by their display at Blackpool. The Central League eleven won, but there was little to choose between the two sides. The Accrington men did not infuse the same amount of energy into their play as usual, they rather aimed at making their movements stylish. At times their passing was very neat and their footwork smart and attractive. Only one goal was notched by the "Reds," though they repeatedly came near adding to their tally. Once Goodison secured the ball in midfield and worked his way past all opposition to within a few yards of goal. In doing so, however, he got to one side of the goal, and the home custodian had little difficulty in preventing a score. The defensive play of Smith and Nuttall was greatly admired by the spectators, the Stanley backs being in fine form. Nevertheless the Accrington goal was thrice captured.

I see that Nelson have imported a Scotch player, namely, Peter Reid, a centre forward from the St. Bernard club, Edinboro'. The St. Bernard team figure in the Second Division of the Scottish League. Last season Reid played with Kirkcaldy and notched 27 goals in twelve matches. Thus far this season he has registered 21 goals, so that he is a prolific scorer.

Maguire, who played as an amateur for Lancashire against London, has not been selected to appear in the amateur international trial game, but Crabtree of the Rovers has secured a place in the North eleven.

Darwen's protest against Heywood United concerning the junior cup-tie played at Heywood, last Saturday, has succeeded, the Lancashire F.A. having decided that the match shall be replayed at Heywood.

Caps are to be presented to the amateurs who played for Lancashire against London a few weeks ago. B. Maguire will therefore now become a proud possessor of a trophy.

HASLINGDEN JOTTINGS.

"Clarencite" writes:—The second part of season 1913-14 will, I fear, be a very anxious time for the officials of the Haslingden football club and it probably depends on the exhibitions served up by the players whether they enjoy a more successful time than they have had as yet. Previous to Christmas the team did badly. The season was commenced with a very weak forward line, and for a time new faces were continually seen in the front rank. It was seldom the same team turned out in successive matches. When a satisfactory set of players had been got together injuries made their appearance and at Christmas not more than three members of the side were sound. The injuries to Day and Hodge undoubtedly affected the success of the team. The latter, although turning out in three successive games, did not play more than twenty minutes in all three put together, and it was hard on the club having to battle with ten men three matches in succession. One felt sorry also for Hodge, who was a trier and a very capable full back. His absence weakened the defence, while the forward line has lost its main goal scorer on account of Day sustaining a rather severe injury when Northwich were visitors to Clarence ground. Day is unquestionably one of the best centre forwards in the Combination and a good goal scorer. Since he was out of the team the forwards have not been so successful. It is said that before his injured knee will be again sound he will have to undergo an operation. His loss is being severely felt.

Haslingden as yet have only played one match this year and they were badly beaten. This was against St. Helens on New Year's Day. The fortnight's holiday which the players have had ought not to have done them any harm. On the other hand, they will probably have nursed their injuries and be in a sound condition to meet Tranmere, who are due at Clarence this afternoon. I have seen the Birkenhead team once this season, and they played an excellent game. In goal, the ex-Blackburn Rover, Ashcroft, is yet a clever man for Combination football. The full backs have also had experience of League football, Rogers, with Liverpool, and Parkyn with Bury. The halves are a strong trio, while among the forwards Morton, at outside right, is a player whom many English League clubs would like to secure. Against such a capable set of players Haslingden will have to play up to their best form to gain victory, and they will have to improve wonderfully on the form served up against St. Helens to even obtain a point. One hopes the public of Haslingden will rally round the club in future home matches and help the officials to improve the side, so that it may raise itself in the Combination records.

GREAT HARWOOD.

After resting for a couple of Saturdays, Great Harwood's players will resume their Combination programme in real earnest this afternoon, when they entertain the League leaders and prospective champions, Witton Albion. The latter have proved themselves a particularly fine team and have several times created something like sensations by prolific goal scoring feats. On one occasion this season they scored eight goals at Rochdale and the following Saturday registered twelve against Padiham, and though, fortunately for others, they have not maintained such form all along the line, they have nevertheless performed consistently well and may be relied upon to give Harwood a hard game even at Lidgett. The homesters will have their strongest possible eleven in the field, viz:—McGregor; Derbyshire and Edwards; Skingsley, Hodgkinson and Walmsley; Hallworth, Wells, Yates, Barnes and Morris. Reserve, Bradshaw. It will be noticed that Yates is retaining the centre position after his good display there against Darwen, and though I personally prefer Wells for that position, both he and Barnes as individualists may do better with a player operating between them. Harwood will without doubt have to put forth a big effort to triumph against Witton, and nothing less than the full number of points will be of use to Harwood if they are to retain a place amongst the leaders. As a matter of fact Harwood can hardly afford to drop one more single point in home matches if they are to achieve promotion. Thus they are set a stiff task, and today's hard game will be followed by another next Saturday when Denton, runners-up to Witton, visit Harwood. With two such attractive matches on the card the Lidgett club should draw two good "gates" and that is anticipated by the officials. It is doubtful if the expectations in the latter regard will be realised with First League clubs playing within five miles of Harwood, but if there is not better support given to Harwood than in the last few games, the club's position will be a very serious one. I understand that the club was but kept on straight working when the good "gates" at the start of the season were drawn, and recently the attendances have been only about half of what they were formerly, and it means that if better support is not given the expenses will have to be cut down and the team weakened accordingly. It is a regrettable state of affairs for a team to be lacking support when they are meeting with success in play as Harwood are, and it will be still more regrettable if a good team is to be broken up for want of decent and moderate support.

It will be recollected that recently the Burnley F.C. secured the services of two amateurs, H. Shaw and H. Brown, from Great Harwood, and granted the latter organisation a donation of £10. The players have done good service with Burnley Reserve, and the directors, in consideration of the fact that Great Harwood have not this season received the support which has been accorded them in previous years, have, this week, decided to grant the club a further donation of £10.

THE REPLAYS.

The replayed ties on Wednesday furnished several surprises, two teams winning on their opponents' ground. Lancashire lost one representative, namely, Oldham Athletic who were beaten by Brighton after extra time. Oldham played much below their usual form, yet they had sufficient chances of scoring, but these they flung away in a way that was aggravating to their supporters. The captain of the Brighton team is Joe Leeming, a Turton product, and at the close he was carried off shoulder high. Bury was the only other club concerned in the replays and they beat Hull City. The victory means much for Bury financially. They shared a fairly good "gate" on Wednesday, and will now have the advantage of a big haul when they meet the Rovers at Ewood Park. Bury have before time found salvation in the English Cup-ties and should this season have their banking account made more healthy. The football shown was extremely poor and it was marred by several execrable displays of temper and the descension to dirty tactics. As a result of one incident Halligan of Hull and Smith of Bury were ordered off. From all accounts Smith's offence was so bad that he scarcely waited for the referee's decision. Chelsea were generally expected to beat Millwall and despite their evident superiority they failed to score thanks to the fine work of Orme, the Millwall custodian. The visitors scored 17 minutes from the start and were content afterwards to defend. Clapton Orient beat Notts Forest by the only goal scored and they also had a man ordered off—Jones, their centre forward. During extra time Queen's Park Rangers scored twice against Bristol City so that Bristol have not now a representative in the competition. The four victories gained by the Southern clubs make them well represented in the second round with twelve clubs out of 32 left in.

* * *

The last two undecided ties were played on Thursday. Liverpool visited Barnsley and despite having all the worst of the encounter won by the only goal scored by Lacey. Tottenham were severely tested by Leicester Fosse but ultimately won by two goals to nil. Both matches attracted big "gates" the receipts at Barnsley being £812 and at Tottenham £771.

Now that the whole of the first round ties have been completed it is possible to present the draw for the second round in its complete form:—

Manchester City v. Tottenham Hotspur.
Birmingham v. Huddersfield.
Liverpool v. Gillingham.
Bolton Wanderers v. Swindon.
Burnley v. Derby County.
Wolverhampton Wanderers v. Sheffield Wednesday.
Sunderland v. Plymouth Argyle.
West Ham United v. Crystal Palace.
Exeter City v. Aston Villa.
Blackburn Rovers v. Bury.
Swansea Town v. Queen's Park Rangers.
Millwall v. Bradford City.
Glossop v. Preston North End.
Brighton and Hove Albion v. Clapton Orient.
Sheffield United v. Bradford.
Leeds City v. West Bromwich Albion.

The matches to be played on the ground of the first named club on January 31st, kick off three o'clock.

* * *

The draw for the second round of the English cup competition is a singularly uninteresting one. Fortune has again favoured the Lancashire clubs, Burnley, the Rovers and Bolton all being drawn at home. Bolton have the most attractive visitors in Swindon, the champions of the Southern League and the conquerors of Manchester United. In this case the North should prevail. I regard Burnley's prospects over Derby as very hopeful, and the Rovers, too, should pass into the third round. North End visit Glossop, where Everton fell, and I shall be surprised if the Second Division club succeed again. Manchester City should succeed against Tottenham. The South have experienced wretched luck as only four of the 16 games will be played in the Southern province. One of the most interesting games will be West Ham and Crystal Palace.

THE TRIAL TEAMS.

Lancashire players will figure prominently in the two teams selected to oppose each other in the International Trial game at Sunderland on Wednesday next. No fewer than eight Lancashire players are included and everyone of them deserve the distinction. Burnley provide a couple in Watson and Mosscrop and I should not be at all surprised if Mosscrop wins a cap. Burnleyites would have been pleased too, if Dawson had been included. Crompton, of course, was a certainty and no one will be surprised at the selection of Simpson and Shea. Surely, too, Latheron has earned his place. Both teams are strong and are thoroughly representative of the best in League football. The full teams are:—

England:—Hardy (Aston Villa); Crompton (Blackburn Rovers) and Pennington (West Bromwich Albion); Brittleton (Sheffield Wednesday), McCall (Preston North End), and Watson (Burnley); Walden (Tottenham Hotspur), Fleming (Swindon), Woodward (Chelsea) (capt.), Holley (Sunderland), Mosscrop (Burnley).

North:—Beale (Manchester United); Hudspeth (Newcastle United) and English (Sheffield United); Cuggy (Sunderland), Buckley (Derby County), and Utley (Sheffield United) (capt.); Simpson and Shea (Blackburn Rovers), Elliott (Middlesborough), Latheron (Blackburn Rovers) and Martin (Sunderland).

Reserves:—Whalley (Manchester United), Fazackerley (Sheffield United).

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Remarkable Royal Palaces.

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It has long been one of the appanages of kingship that a monarch should have a dwelling place befitting the dignity of his position, and the importance of the country over whose destinies he rules. This has held good from the earliest times, when patriarchal rule or the uncertain rule of petty chiefs by right of sword, gave place, with the rise of civilisation to the ordered rule of a sovereign head of the State to whom all paid homage. Next only to the stately palace of Thothmes III. in Thebes, that ancient Egyptian city of palaces and temples, came the massive monuments of Assyrian civilisation, the ruins of which, after the lapse of centuries, have been unearthed at Nimroud, Koyunjik, and Khorsabad (859–667 B.C.).

But even these wonderful erections of an earlier civilisation pale into a merely secondary significance beside that remarkable series of palaces begun by Augustus on the Palatine Hill overlooking the Eternal City, and added to by his successors, Tiberius, Caligula, Domitian, and Hadrian, which altogether covered an area of over a million square feet. The villa of Hadrian was really an immense palace, the buildings of which extended nearly seven miles in length. Beyond these and other ruins, relics of the grandeur that was Rome, and magnificent even in decay, there remain few traces of architecture, and none of royal palaces for many centuries.

WINDSOR'S STATELY PILE.

In fact, our own Windsor Castle may justly he said to boast the longest unbroken history of any royal residence now in actual use, dating as it does from Norman times. Even in Saxon times Windsor was the abode of Royalty, but it remained for William the Conqueror to build on the ridge above the river a Norman keep, which in the reign of Henry I. (Beauclerc) began to assume the appearance of a palatial residence. Henry III. still further extended Windsor Castle, building that portion which became and still remains the royal residential quarter, as also the three towers known as the Curfew, Garter, and Salisbury towers. From that time forward the history of Windsor was closely associated with the history of the royal house of England. This historic pile has also memories of other names illustrious in Engish annals. Geoffrey Chaucer was Master of Works at Windsor in the reign of Richard II. Queen Elizabeth had a stage erected at the Castle, and there "The Merry Wives of Windsor" was first produced by Shakespeare himself, and surely never was merrier comedy presented in more fitting surroundings. During the reign of James I. Norden made his survey of Windsor. The circuit of the forest was 77½ miles—it had been formerly 120—and the park contained 3,000 head of deer. At Windsor, too, Fanny Burney spent some time with Queen Charlotte and "Farmer George." Then came the restoration of the Castle by Wyatt under the direction of George IV. The Round Tower was raised, the Brunswick, York, and Lancaster towers were built, and altogether the Castle was remodelled into the stately pile we know to-day.

THE ALHAMBRA.

The Alhambra, the ancient palace and fortress of the Moorish monarchs of Granada in southern Spain, occupies a hilly terrace overlooking the city of Granada. This wonderful monument of Moorish architecture, which has been described as a "pearl set in emeralds," was begun by Mahomet Ibn al Ahmar in 1248, and the building was continued in the reigns of his successors until its completion in 1354. The Moorish portion of the Alhambra resembles many mediæval strongholds in its threefold combination of fortification, palace, and residential quarters for subordinates, garrison, servants, and so forth. The palace, or Alhambra proper, is the most perfect example of Moorish art extant in its ultimate European development. Most of the palace buildings are quadrangular, with all the rooms opening on to a central court. The exterior effect is one of severity, as if to heighten the contrast of the magnificence of the interior. Within, the exquisite detail of the marble pillars and arches, and the lace-like lightness of the open filigree work in stucco, and the beautiful mellow blues and reds and golden yellows of the hand-painted tiles, all combine to make the Alhambra unique in European architecture.

A MOORISH DREAM IN STONE.

The present entrance to the Palacio Arabe or Moorish palace, is by a small door, from which a corridor leads to the Court of the Myrtles, also called the Court of the Pond. This court measures 140 feet long by about 70 feet wide. In the centre of the marble pavement is a large pond, full of goldfish, and with myrtles growing along its sides. The Hall of the Ambassadors is the largest in the Alhambra, and is surmounted by a dome. This was the grand reception room of the sultans, whose throne was placed there. The Court of the Lions is an oblong patio or court surrounded by a low gallery supported on 124 white marble columns. A pavilion projects into the court at each end, with filigree walls and light domical roof, most elaborately ornamented. The square is paved with coloured tiles, and the colonnade with white marble. The columns supporting the roof and gallery are placed at irregular intervals in order to increase the artistic effect, and the general form of the piers and arches is most graceful. In the centre of the court is the celebrated Fountain of Lions, a magnificent alabaster basin supported by the figures of twelve lions in white marble.

This most romantic of palaces is said to have been built largely by the aid of Christian slaves. Immediately after the defeat and expulsion of the Moors in 1492, their Spanish conquerors began, by successive acts of vandalism, to ravage and deface the unique artistic beauties of the Alhambra. Charles V. rebuilt part in the style of his period and destroyed part of the winter palace. Philip V. Italianised and divided up many of the fine rooms. It was in fact only after the Peninsular War, that any steps were taken to preserve or restore to anything like its pristine beauty this ancient fabric and most interesting of royal palaces.

A CONVENT PALACE.

It is a peculiar coincidence, but none the less a fact, that the two royal palaces which might be considered as the most striking exemplification of Eastern and Western art, or rather of Islam and Christianity, are both to be found in sunny Spain. The Alhambra is the supreme example of the art of the Moslem. The Escorial, or Escurial, another Spanish royal palace, is a unique combination of one of the largest palaces and one of the finest Christian churches in Europe. According to tradition the Escorial, which stands in a rather sterile district some 30 miles north-west of Madrid, was built as the result of a vow made by Philip II. shortly after the battle of St. Quentin, in which his army defeated the French on St. Laurence's Day, 1557. The name Escorial was derived from a little hamlet close by, said to have been built on the scoriae or dross of some ancient iron mines. Philip entrusted the building of his new palace to de Toledo, a Spanish architect of Italian training, and the first stone was laid in 1563. Twenty-one years later the tremendous pile of buildings was complete. It was then, and is even now, one of the most remarkable buildings in the world, comprising a convent or monastery, a palace, a church, and a mausoleum. There are seven towers, fifteen gateways, and no fewer than 12,000 windows and doors. Entering by the main entrance the visitor finds himself in a courtyard called the Court of Kings, from the statues of the kings of Judah which adorn the facade of the church. This church is generally admitted to be one of the finest Renaissance churches in Europe. It is 340 feet long and 200 feet wide, and the dome, which is 60 feet in diameter, is surmounted by a tower 320 feet high. Under the altar is the pantheon or royal mausoleum. The ground plan of the Escorial covers an area of 396,782 square feet, or over nine acres, and the total floorage area is equal to a strip over a yard wide and stretching for 95 miles. The palace has been adorned and enriched by successive Spanish sovereigns, but it has undergore many vicissitudes. A fire which in 1671 raged for 15 days did great damage to the library and works of art, as also did the French army during its occupation in 1808, and many of the priceless treasures of the Escorial have been lost or damaged by plunder or neglect. This remarkable palace is, however, still in habitable condition, and is used by the Spanish royal family.

VERSAILLES THE MAGNIFICENT.

The wonderful palace of Versailles is now remarkable chiefly for the memories of royalty associated with it, for its collections of works of art and articles of vertu, and its beautiful grounds. At the highest point of the great courtyard of the palace there is an equestrian statue of Louis XIV., and on both sides of this stretch the long wings of the palace, while behind it stand the central buildings, one behind the other, as far as the Marble Court. Here all the lines of buildings meet; and here were the rooms of Louis XIV. On the central block is the inscription "A toutes les gloires de la France," which Louis Philippe endeavoured to justify by forming a collection of 5,000 works of art, valued at a million sterling, commemorating the great events and persons of French history. The palace chapel, the roof of which can be seen rising above the rest of the buildings, was the last work of Mansart. In the north wing is the theatre built by Gabriel under Louis XV., which was first used on the marriage of the Dauphin (afterwards Louis XVI.) to Marie Antoinette.

The ground floor of the north wing contains eleven halls or galleries of historic pictures ranging from Clovis to Louis XVI. To the front of the palace and facing west, are the Galleries of War and Peace. There also is the famous Glass Gallery built in 1678. It is 235 feet long and has 34 arches, of which 17 form windows and the remainder mirrors. The Glass Gallery is most gorgeously decorated, and was used by Louis XIV. as a throne room. Many historic scenes have been witnessed there. There, too, on January 18th, 1871, the King of Prussia was proclaimed Emperor of Germany. The grounds are beautifully laid out and embellished with innumerable fountains and statues. The Orangery, also built by Mansart in 1685, is by many considered the finest piece of architecture in Versailles.

A GERMAN VERSAILLES.

The former home of the Kings of France was long considered the beau ideal of a royal palace and demesne, and has been paid the flattery of imitation even by the Germans. The proudest title of Potsdam, which is almost surrounded by royal palaces, and parks, is that of the "German Versailles." Immediately to the west of the town of Potsdam is the park of Sans Souci, laid out by Frederick the Great. At the west end of the park stands the New Palace, a huge brick building 375 feet long. This great palace was built in the years 1763-9, and though of no great architectural pretensions, was erected at great expense. It possesses a theatre and many relics of Frederick the Great.

PALACES OF THE NEAR AND FAR EAST.

One of the features of the Kremlin, that historic old citadel of Moscow, which encloses within its walls churches, palaces, forts, and museums, is the great palace of the Czars, erected 1838-49. It is a fine building of white stone with the characteristic Russian gilded cupola. It contains the terems or rooms erected by Czar Michael Feodorovitch for his sons in 1636. They were restored when the new palace was built round them, and form a remarkable memorial of the domestic life of the Czars in the 17th century. The Granovitaya Plata, another wing of the great palace, consists of a single vaulted apartment dating from the 15th century, and is used as a banqueting hall.

One of the most interesting, perhaps because least known, of palaces, is that of the former Emperors of China. The central portion of the Purple or Forbidden City—which itself is enclosed within the Imperial City—formed the Imperial Palace, where in halls that for magnificence of proportions and barbaric Oriental splendour have never been surpassed, the Son of Heaven, as he was styled, held his court. The other portions of the Forbidden City were inhabited by the highest dignitaries of the Empire. On the west of the Prospect Hill, a well-known landmark, is the Se Yuan or Prospect Park, part of the palace grounds. There are several lakes in the grounds, one of which is spanned by a marble bridge. But on the whole, notwithstanding the gorgeous richness of the materials used, there is something bizarre, and most of all impermanent, in these palaces of the Far East, however artistic, which is foreign to occidental tastes and ideas.

LANCASHIRE INSURANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Lancashire Insurance Committee was hel dat Preston on Monday. The Sanatorium Sub-committee, having considered the question of patients making private arrangements for admission to institutions, recommended that until further notice any cases where patients had made such arrangements and applied to the Lancashire Insurance Committee for a refund of the institutions' charges, the amounts to be refunded should be at the rate of 30s. per week, or the actual cost, if such be less than 30s. per week.

Alluding to the report of the Special Subcommittee of the Finance and General Purposes Committee dealing with the estimates of district committees, the Clerk (Mr. Harcourt E. Clare) said the Finance Committee were of the opinion that the work of writing out the medical cards should be undertaken by their own staff, instead of being done by contract, as the whole administration of the committee might be upset if any accident occurred to the insurance slips. It would probably take until the end of March to get all the new medical cards issued to the people on the doctors' panels.

* * *

Barton Hall, near Bury St. Edmunds, a famous Suffolk mansion, recently rented by Sir John Smiley, has been destroyed by fire.

Fire broke out at St. Paul's Training College, Cheltenham, and caused damage estimated at over £5,000.

In fining a man for obstruction in Piccadilly by holding before people a collecting-box for a society for feeding poor children and providing seaside holidays for them, the Marlborough-street magistrate remarked on an admission of the defendant that he got 3d. in the shilling commission, and said that the defendant's operations were a very great scandal and a very great nuisance.

LARKIN'S INSULT TO THE FLAG.

Scurrilous remarks about the British flag drove one of James Larkin's supporters from his side at a meeting in Sackville-street, Dublin, on Sunday, held to protest against the present inquiry into the Dublin riot questions. Captain White, D.S.O., son of the late Sir Geo. White, was on a brake from which the crowd were addressed, and he said:—"Irishmen must drop their petty quarrels and combine in the sacred cause of freedom. There is a man who would not speak on the same platform as myself because I fought in the Boer war. We must drop that spirit, sink our petty differences, join together, and damn the consequences." Shortly afterwards another wagonette drove up, and Larkin started to speak as Captain White moved from one brake to the other. Larkin said:—"I must refer at once to the presence of Captain White, the son of Sir George White, who defended the British flag at Ladysmith, the flag under which more disease and degradation has been experienced than anything that I know of." Captain White immediately rose and left the wagonette.

* * *

John Tinker, a hand-loom weaver, of Lanehead, Kirkburton, near Huddersfield, celebrated his 100th birthday on Tuesday and received a congratulatory letter from the King.

Rev. Arthur Mulock Bewley, son of Lord Bewley, fell from his bicycle while cycling from Hindhead to Haslemere. He was found to be bleeding profusely, and he died before medical aid arrived. It is believed that he was seized with a fit.

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In the Garden.

If any reader who is in a difficulty with reference to his garden will write directly to the address given beneath, his questions will all be answered free of charge, in full detail, and by return of post. (Ed.)

GARDEN FRAMES.

Cold Frames. — Cold frames are useful for starting plants early in spring to receive those removed from hot-bed or greenhouse in process of hardening off, and for wintering young plants raised from autumn sowings. Rough frames can be made by standing planks on edge, and keeping them in position with stout stakes, the sashes being finally laid across the planks. Such frames as these are very inexpensive, and may easily be removed when favourable weather sets in. A simple cold frame is made by supporting ashes on rafters running from a sill just above the ground to the sill of the house, preferably on the south side. Portable cold frames are handy for many purposes, especially for the protection of early sowings and seedlings. The common type of cold frame does not call for comment, though the wood of which it is composed should be thick and well painted.

Hot-beds and Frames.—The artificial bottom heat of hot-beds, which are, of course, principally used for starting plants very early in the season, is usually supplied by fermenting manure or manure and leaves, but flues and pipes are sometimes employed. The manure should be uniform in character, that from highly-fed horses at livery stables being desirable, as well as obtainable in quantity at almost any time. About half of the whole bulk should be bedding litter or straw. To ferment the manure it must be piled in long, shallow heaps, and kept only moderately moist by sprinklings of hot water. The piles should be turned occasionally to break up lumps and promote fermentation by distributing the hot manure from fermenting parts through the mass until the whole is steaming uniformly. Next make it up into a square heap, and allow it to settle down without beating or pressing. Place the frames in position, and cover with from 6in. to 12in. of rich, light soil. In the course of a few days a steady heat, suitable for sowings, will be attained. The manure must be so managed as to extend for some distance beyond the edges of the frame, lest the temperature fall too low. Perhaps it is better, on the whole, to place the manure in a pit from eighteen to thirty-six inches deep, and a foot wider than the width of the frame, before placing the frame over it. An inch or two of any coarse material, or a permanent wall of stone or brick, will prevent the manure coming into actual contact with the cold earth. Surface with a thin layer of leaf-mould, and then with some five or six inches of light garden loam. When the pit method is practised, the manure must be placed in layers about six inches deep, each being well trodden down. A depth of about two feet of manure will generally last, for about two months, but the duration is naturally dependent upon the severity of the weather. Permanent hot-bed pits must have drainage underneath, and be cleared out yearly in autumn, after the partially worn-out beds have been used for summer crops of sensitive plants.

General Management.—Excessive watering may injuriously lower the temperature of the hot-bed. Both drenching and sprinkling are to be avoided; but a good wetting with quite tepid water may be given as often as really needed. Watering is best done in the morning on a rising temperature, so that the sun may warm the soil before nightfall. It is generally a mistake, especially in the case of early crops and during dull weather, to water at evening, when the temperature is naturally falling; and it is especially risky and undesirable to permit the plants to start the night with a wet foliage. Ventilation, which is particularly important when the sun comes out suddenly, is generally effected by sliding down the sash or raising one end of it to rest upon a block. On warm, sunny days the sash may be removed altogether. To ensure stocky, hardy plants, the distance between the bed and glass should not be too great; every plant requires abundant space for growth; water must be sparingly supplied during cold, dull weather; and, excepting during frost, plenty of ventilation is needed to dry the atmosphere and prevent excess of heat. Protective coverings, such as matting, old carpets, straw mats, etc., must be provided for hot-bed frames on every cold night, and even through the day when the weather is very severe. Every frame should be protected from prevailing cold winds by means of a hedge, wall, or other screen.

Frame and Greenhouse Pests.—The maintenance of normal, stocky growth, involving avoidance of extremes and sudden changes of temperature or moisture (especially in cold weather, when the house should be dry), burning trimmed-off foliage and all refuse, exclusion of draughts, and careful choice and yearly renewal of soil, is the best means of prevention of disease; but the soil must also be changed after any serious infestation, and the framework, staging, and benches of the house repainted or scrubbed with petroleum in summer. Immediately steps should be taken to remedy any trouble directly the first symptoms are observed.

Aphides or Greenfly are easily destroyed by fumigating with tobacco or with some commercial preparation of it; and an occasional fumigation will prevent the appearance of the pest. For foliage-eating insects, hand-picking is the most effective remedy, though hellebore powder may be safely used. Mealy-bugs are dislodged and destroyed by a powerful stream of water; and where this cannot safely be applied, recourse must be had to a solution of pyrethrum in alcohol, made by putting one part by weight of pyrethrum powder in four parts of alcohol in a stoppered bottle. Shake the solution occasionally, and filter it after eight days, applying it with an atomiser until the liquid has penetrated the mealy covering of the insect, which, turning yellowish-brown, dies. Fir-tree oil is a useful insecticide also. When assisted by a hot, dry atmosphere or bright, sunny weather, the pestiferous red spider causes irretrievable damage in frame and greenhouse, its attack being first indicated by the whitening of the upper surfaces of infested foliage. Copious syringing and the maintenance of a moist atmosphere will destroy the mites, but in cases where such treatment would be likely to injure the plants the removal of badly affected leaves and an occasional wetting will do much to mitigate the evil especially if the heating pipes be made to give off sulphurous fumes by painting them with a paste of mixed sulphur, clay, and water before heating them gently. Slugs and snails may be caught by systematically examining the house with a light at night, when the creatures usually feed. Small heaps of bran, cabbage leaves, and pieces of other vegetables form useful traps by providing attractive food and hiding places.

The development of fungus diseases of crops is encouraged by a warm, moist atmosphere, by extremes of temperature and humidity, and by draughts. Sulphur is undoubtedly the best remedy for surface-mildews, which may be destroyed by dusting the upper and under surfaces of affected leaves with the dry powder when they have been damped by syringing. Mixed into a thin paste with clay or lime and water, oil or milk, sulphur may be most affectively smeared on the hot-water pipes and other heating surfaces of the house where it cannot possibly take fire, as the fumes of burning sulphur are fatal to plants. Occasional treatment will prevent mildew. Damping-off is a fungus disease prevalent amongst seedlings and cuttings. The stems become brown and contracted near the surface of the soil, and in a short time rot and fall over. The trouble is augmented by a close, moist atmosphere, by crowding, and by injudicious and careless watering. The sudden application of too much water to cuttings actually suffering from dryness of the roots is a prolific cause of damping-off. At the first appearance of the disease, the surface-soil must be dried, air admitted, and the seedlings pricked out in fresh, uninfected soil.

E. KEMP TOOGOOD, F.L.S., F.R.Met.S.,
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Southampton.

Mr. Lloyd George arrived in England from Algiers on Tuesday. He said he had returned earlier than he had expected because the weather in Algiers and France had been so bad.

Dr. Henry Frederick Baker of St. John's College, Cambridge, has been elected Lowndean Professor of Astronomy and Geometry at Cambridge in succession to the late Sir Robert Ball. The stipend is £800 a year and fees.

Dr. F. Arthur Sibly, in his presidential address to the Private Schools' Association, said that the danger which arose from industrial competition was a source of some anxiety to most workers, but he thought there was no man in England except the private schoolmaster who need fear the worst unless he was himself negligent. The private schoolmaster might be a model in private, professional, and civic life, and yet lose at any time not only his entire income, but all that a frugal and industrious life had enabled him to save. It was a disgrace to our country that this state of things should be possible.

BILLIARDS.

Accrington and District Sunday School Billiard League.

LEAGUE TABLE.

	P	W	L	P
Woodnook	10	8	2	16
Mount Pleasant	9	6	3	12
Ernest-street	9	6	3	12
Spread Eagle	9	5	4	10
Antley	9	3	6	6
Spring Hill	10	3	7	6
Cambridge-street	10	2	8	4

ERNEST STREET v. SPREAD EAGLE.

Played at Ernest-street

W. Duxbury	100	J. Dixon	92
W. Entwistle	100	R. Savage	52
H. Pilkington	100	F. Robinson	89
J. E. Yates	44	G. Savage	100
E. Barnes	100	W. Thompson	86
J. Walsh	100	J. Jackson	96
H. Croasdale	100	A. Heaton	91
C. Murray	69	A. Holden	100
Total	713	Total	706

WOODNOOK P.S.A. v. CAMBRIDGE STREET.

Played at Woodnook.

J. Wood	49	A. Blackburn	100
J. A. Whittaker	100	J. R. Buterworth	29
H. Yates	100	J. J. Wellock	19
J. Goulding	100	R. Walmsley	39
R. Fern	100	J. Singleton	59
J. Norris	100	W. Greasley	93
F. Slinger	100	A. Chippendale	26
W. Seed	100	E. Kennedy	50
Total	749	Total	415

SPRING HILL v. ANTLEY WESLEYANS.

Played at Spring Hill.

C. Wood	45	J. W. Kayley	100
F. K. Birtwistle	100	J. E. Entwistle	72
J. Williams	100	N. Lord	93
F. Grime	89	W. Crawford	100
A. Brotherton	83	G. Millar	100
W. Clegg	97	J. Lomax	100
J. Simpson	100	W. Bedford	73
W. Atkinson	74	W. Holmes	100
Total	688	Total	738

RECLAIMING A PROVINCE FROM THE SEA.

The Dutch nation is planning the conquest of that arm of the North Sea which penetrates the Netherlands for a distance of 80 miles, covering some 2,000 square miles of fertile soil with salt water. This important project is fully described in the January "Popular Mechanics' Magazine."

The Zuider Zee (Southern Sea) was formerly a salt marsh or lake, known to the Romans as the Flevo, and floods occurring in the thirteenth century gave it its present size, nearly 35 miles wide, but shallow, averaging only 10 to 19ft. in depth.

In her speech from the throne at the recent opening of the Dutch Parliament, the Queen of the Netherlands stated that a bill would be introduced for the draining of the Southern Sea so as to form a new province. This project is the result of years of careful study and will doubtless be carried to successful consummation, although it is estimated that 90,000,000 dollars must be expended before the end is reached. That the Dutch engineers have not underestimated the serious difficulties before them is evident from the fact that they have assigned from 33 to 36 years to the task, but as it is believed the revenue derived from the additional area will bring over 25,000,000 dollars annually to the crown the thrifty Hollanders do not balk at the tremendous investment of time and money.

The Zuider Zee is partially separated from the North Sea by a chain of islands, Texel, Terschelling and Ameland. It is now a source of revenue, the Zuider Zee fisheries producing about 800,000 annually. But surveys have shown that the soil beneath the sea is nearly all sandy clay, therefore fertile land, capable of bearing, under the careful, intensive farming operations of Holland, heavy crops.

* * *

Traditionally regarded as harbingers of war and pestilence, Bohemian Waxwings, so called from the appearance of the secondary quill feathers, which look as if they had been dipped in red wax, have appeared in large flocks on the East Coast.

Queen Mary visited Norwich on Monday, and went over the cathedral and the castle. When the Queen was entering the castle, the turnstile attendant, not recognising her, refused to allow her to pass in without depositing her umbrella. The Bishop of Norwich who was accompanying the Royal party, had to reveal the identity of the visitor before the attendant would allow a breach of the rules.

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A. BOOTH, VICTORIA INN, WARNER STREET, ACCRINGTON;
C. C. BOOTH, PARK INN, MANCHESTER ROAD, ACCRINGTON;
R. E. CLAYTON, KING STREET, ACCRINGTON;
M. DUCKWORTH, GARDENERS' ARMS, BRADSHAW ST., CHURCH;
JOSEPH FLETCHER, PETRE'S ARMS, HOLT MILL, RISHTON;
J. W. KAY, 25 EDMUND STREET, ACCRINGTON;
W. MUIRHEAD, OAK TREE INN, BLACKBURN ROAD, ACCRINGTON.

AND NUMEROUS OTHER PLACES.

VICTORIA BREWERY, BLACKBURN.

WOMEN AND SPORT.

Women excel in swimming, dancing, riding, and figure-skating, and in nothing else (according to the "Field"), though one or two have developed into first-rate foil fencers. Relatively to men, they are not distinguished in cricket, football, hockey, golf, or lawn tennis. To a certain extent in the four exercises where absolute success may be allowed, a man's greater muscular force and special skeletal architecture give him a slight advantage where other things are equal. As for the exercises in which absolute success is denied, there is no reason why women should not play games in which they find both exercise and pleasure, though they may be for ever "handicapped out" of success in competition with men.

* * *

General Sir Robert Baden-Powell has set out to raise £250,000 for the Boy Scout movement, but has not yet made a public appeal.

Mr. Wedgwood Benn, M.P., who underwent an operation for appendicitis just before Christmas is now recovered, and able to resume his usual work.

Sir Rufus Isaacs, the Lord Chief Justice, has taken the title of Lord Reading of Erleigh, in the county of Berkshire. Mr. James Bryce has taken the title Lord Bryce of Dechmont, in the county of Lanark

THE MARRIAGE RATE.

Mme. Sarah Bernhardt has been expressing her opinion on the question why the marriage rate is on the decrease, and puts it down to the liberty enjoyed nowadays by young people of both sexes, says the Paris correspondent of a contemporary. "When I was young," says the divine Sarah, modestly, "girls had not the tenth part of the liberty they are allowed nowadays. Young girls mixed with the opposite sex in the house of their parents only, and were rarely left alone without a chaperon. The result was that marriage was popular. If the youth of to-day would abandon their butterfly habits, and were not allowed to intermingle so much without hindrance, the marriage returns would happily increase."

* * *

The King and Queen will go to Windsor from Sandringham on Tuesday. They are expected to remove to Buckingham Palace on February 2.

The Cheshire Elementary School Committee have decided that at the various cookery centres in the county where the girls are receiving instructions in cookery the pupils shall do their own shopping, so as to get an idea of the cost of foodstuffs. The committee will arrange for the purchase money to be given to the girls doing this shopping.