THE EAST KENT GAZETTE, SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 1900.

Public Notices.

SITTINGBOURNE DISTRICT GAS COMPANY.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the PRICE of GAS, from Lady-day next, will be increased from 2/4 to 2/9 in the Town, and from 3/11 to 4/2 in the District.

By order of the Board of Directors.
Sittingbourne, 7th March, 1900.

COUNTY OF KENT FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

RAINHAM AGENCY.

MEMBERS of the Society belonging to this Agency are requested to deposit their Contribution Cards to the Society's Office, London Road, Maidstone, with as little delay as possible.

EDWIN G. SCHARTAU, Secretary.
March 6th, 1900.

1st V.B. THE BUFFS, EAST KENT REGT. E COMPANY.

ORDERS for the week commencing MONDAY, MARCH 19th, 1900. Officer for duty, Lieutenant Colonel Hughes-Hallett. Sergeant Wilson. Orderly - Corporal, Lance - Corporal Ellis. Orderly-Bugler, Bugler Challender.

FRIDAY.—Squad Drill in the Drill Hall, Sittingbourne, at 7 p.m.

TUESDAY.—Squad Drill at Sheerness, at 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY.—Squad Drill at Sittingbourne, at 7 p.m.

FRIDAY.—Squad Drill at Rochester, at 7 p.m.

SATURDAY.—The Company will parade in the Market Meadow, Sittingbourne, at 6.0 p.m. (sharp), for Adjutant's Inspection and Drill. Dress—Drill order with Leggings.

J. F. HONEYBALL,
Major Commanding.

FOUNDED 1807.

COUNTY FIRE OFFICE,

50, REGENT STREET, W.
AND
14, CORNHILL, E.C.
LONDON.

THE Premium Income of this Office is derived from Home business only, no foreign risks being undertaken.

The RETURN SYSTEM which has been adopted by this Office since its foundation offers an exceptional advantage.

The Scale of Premium charged are the same as those adopted by other leading Companies.

G. W. STEVENS,
Secretaries { E. E. RATLIFFE.

For further particulars apply to Mr. W. CREKER, 31, High Street, Sittingbourne.

COMING EVENTS.

SATURDAY (to-day), March 17.—Football: Sittingbourne v. Royal Engineers, 3.30 p.m.

MONDAY, 19.—Sittingbourne and Murston Band Concert, Foresters' Hall, East-street, 8 p.m.—Sittingbourne and Murston Parish Council meeting, Monthly meeting at the Fountain Hotel, Sittingbourne, 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, 21.—Rummage Sale at the Wesleyan Schoolroom, Key Street, 2 p.m.—Second Meeting of the East Rainham Bible Christian Church, 7.30 p.m.

THURSDAY, 22.—Rainham Deposit Friendly Society Annual meeting, at Mr. Fryer's Church Coffee Tavern, Station-road, at 7.30 p.m.

FRIDAY, 23.—"Lady Bountiful Jones," by Miss Inez Howard's Company, Town Hall, Sittingbourne, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, 24.—"Whom London Sleeps," by Miss Inez Howard's Company, Town Hall, Sittingbourne, 8 p.m. (second night).

The East Kent Gazette.

SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 1900.

LOCAL AND GENERAL NOTES.

The two most important incidents of the week have been the definite statement of Lord Salisbury in reply to the Presidents of the two South African Republics upon the vital question of the future of those States, and the proposed incorporation of Rhodesia in the capital of the Free State, by the British forces under Lord Roberts. The Prime Minister's pronouncement has been very generally awaited by the British nation, and it may be said that, in view of the construction which had been placed by some people upon Lord Salisbury's Mansion House speech, in which the words, "We seek no territory," occurred, the Prime Minister has succeeded in allaying a feeling of anxiety, which undoubtedly existed in some quarters, that the policy which has been so disastrous to British interests and the welfare of South Africa might be perpetuated. It would indeed be a terrible blunder if these two States were allowed to retain the power to oppress British subjects and menace their neighbours, but, happily, the nation has been reassured. The proclaiming, however, will place on in this country, but the propagandists are a discredited body, and their appeals for continued independence will be less fiercely scouted by that section of the Press which has professed to sympathise with the Republics, and which has been virtually admitting the necessity of preventing a recurrence of the conditions which have been prevalent for so long on the borders of the Free State and the Cape Colony. The reception of Lord Roberts by the citizens of Bloemfontein should dispel the illusion that the liberties of the inhabitants of the Republics are believed to be in danger at the hands of Britain. The people of Bloemfontein and the Orange Free State have suffered under the pressure of a military oligarchy which cannot harmonise with British institutions, and it would not be surprising if sooner or later, when thoroughly awakened to the mendacity of their leaders and of those who in this country pose as their friends, the burghers of the Transvaal follow the lead of their brethren and shake off the conditions which are inevitable. Those of the latter who at this juncture are raising the cry of "Peace" Peace" are throwing overboard all responsibility. Had it not been for the assurance of the pro-Boers that England would not go to war for liberty, the Transvaal Boers would probably have hesitated before adopting the extreme course of endeavouring to force the hands of the British Government, but their efforts have had logical sequence, and now, finding the march of the forces of civilisation irresistible, they are doing their utmost to foment a spirit of discord, promising, as they evidently hope, a legacy of race hatred in South Africa. With the example of Ireland before us we can calmly anticipate the future, with the firm belief that the Government will come out of chaotic conditions an edifice of contentment and prosperity.

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Major-General George Tindal Pretyman, C.B., who is known to many of our readers as the son-in-law of Mr. Jacob Wire, of Hawkhurst House, Hawkhurst Sittingbourne, has been appointed by Lord Roberts the first British Governor of Bloemfontein, under the new Orange Free State. He gave some particulars of General Pretyman's career a few weeks ago, when announcing that he had been well to receive the surrender of General Cronje and afterwards to escort the fallen Boer Commandant to Cape Town. We now add a little more item of interest. As we stated, Major-General Pretyman has been intimately associated in his career with Lord Roberts, with whom he has seen much service. General Pretyman is a Royal Artillery officer. He served as Aide-de-camp to his present chief in the Afghan War of 1878, where he was present at Peiwar Kotal and in the famous march from Kabul to Kandahar. He served as military secretary to Frederick Roberts 1881-84, when the latter was Commander-in-Chief in Madras. In the Bazai Expedition, Major-General Pretyman commanded the 1st Brigade. He received his C.B. in 1896, and became Major-General in 1897. He is fifty-five years old, and has had thirty-five years' army service.

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The local elections promise this year to excite some interest. At Sittingbourne, where four members retire from the Urban District Council, there are six candidates. There was a seventh nominated, but his nomination has been declared invalid through an informality. These gentlemen are Messrs Robert Chapman, John McCartney, and Ernest Albert Rossiter (retiring councillors), and Messrs. Arthur Cobb, Edward George Marsh, and Thomas Standen (new candidates). Mr. W. E. Gorham does not seek re-election, having left the neighbourhood. It will be noticed that Mr. Rossiter, the present chairman of the Council, who had announced his intention of retiring from public life, has again been nominated. Presumably his friends, being anxious that the services of so able a public man should not be lost to the town, have endeavored him to permit them to again nominate him. At Milton there are four candidates in the North Ward. Mr. Maurice Busated has again been nominated, and Mr. Henry Wood has come forward in the place of his father, the late Mr. Charles Wood. There being no other candidates, these gentlemen will be returned unopposed. In the Central Ward, Mr. Joseph Simmons's period of office having expired, that gentleman has again been nominated. There are two other candidates for the seat, viz., Mr. George Grassden, jun., and Mr. Samuel Voules. The two vacancies in the South Ward, caused by the retirement of Colonel Ray and the expiration of Mr. Clover's period of office, have brought forward three candidates. Mr. Clover is not among them, so this ward will have two entirely new representatives. The candidates are Messrs. John Filmer, T. W. Pretty, and Charles Wicks. Mr. Pretty is, we have been given to understand, willing to retire, in which event there will be no contest in this ward. Could a similar arrangement be arrived at in the Central Ward the time would be saved the expense of a contest, which would appear to be entirely unnecessary. We understand that one of the two new candidates in this ward has expressed a willingness to retire if the other new candidate will do the same.

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There will be an election of Guardians of the Poor in the parish of Milton, which has three representatives upon the Milton Board of Guardians. The death of Mr. Edward Prentis last year created a vacancy, which has not been filled, and Colonel Hay, having left the neighbourhood, will not seek re-election, and Mr. Eustace Neville Craig will therefore be the only retiring Guardian who will come forward again. Three other gentlemen have been nominated. Thus, unless one of these withdraws, there will be a contest. These gentlemen are Mr. Frederic Cleaver, who has already represented Sittingbourne as a Guardian; Mr. George Grassden, vice-chairman of the Milton School Board; and Mr. Alfred Hartridge, chairman of the Milton Urban District Council.

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Rural District Councillors and Guardians have to be elected in the following parishes: Newington, Murston, Newington, and Rainham (two representatives). Mr. Richard James Tylden (chairman of the Council) and Mr. Thomas Bensted have been nominated for Milton without opposition. Mr. Thomas Bensted has also been nominated for the district of Murston, and Mr. Alfred Harmer for the parish of Newington, each without opposition. These three gentlemen will thus be declared elected.

At Rainham, there is competition for two Councillors and Guardians, there are four candidates. Mr. G. T. Matcham, who has been one of the Rainham representatives for several years, has not again come forward, but his colleague, Mr. Jesse Stewart, comes forward for re-election, with him there will be Messrs. Ebenezer Kemp, Richard Mendell Wakeley, jun., and Charles William Wilkins. Messrs. Kemp and Wilkins are practically Parish Council nominees.

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The late Mr. Serjeant Spinks was for many years chairman of the Faversham County Bench of Magistrates. The learned Serjeant has recognized the invaluable legal assistance given by Mr. Bell, the venerable clerk to the Magistrates, by the following generous expression of opinion: "Mr. Bell, of Faversham Tassell, Esquire, of Faversham, the Magistrates' clerk there, for an assistance to him from me in my magisterial duties, £200."

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We cannot accept the dictum of the Surveyor to the Milton Urban District Council that the statement which appeared in Local Notes of last week with reference to the cost of the proposed sewage disposal works at Milton was "misleading and entirely erroneous." This is a serious allegation to make, and the official who makes it would naturally be expected to prove the truth. This, however, is what he has entirely failed to do—in fact, the Milton Surveyor practically admits our statement instead of refuting it. We said the Dibdin system was to have been installed at Milton at a much smaller outlay than the Exeter system, which is in operation, but that, in fact, the estimate for the former had already reached the figures submitted by Messrs. Cameron, Cousins, and Mansfield. Further, we said the present estimate was about £8,000, and that no surprise need be expressed if these figures should exceed £10,000. Neither of these statements can be termed "misleading and entirely erroneous." The Milton Surveyor has perforce to admit in his letter that the estimate of the cost of the installation of the Setton (or Adams) system, as recommended by the Local Government Board, is £5,221/15/0, which does not include the cost of the land to be acquired, which, roughly speaking, is between £2,000 and £3,000, thus bringing up the total estimate to our figures of about £8,000, a sum which the Council have been empowered to borrow. The Local Government Board for this purpose. The Milton Surveyor therefore has failed in this direction to prove our statement to be "misleading and entirely erroneous." We hold to our figures, and to our statement that the Dibdin system which was to be installed at Milton at much smaller outlay—Mr. Littlewood's words were "half the cost"—has reached the figures of the Exeter system. The estimate of the cost of the Exeter system, including the land, was stated by the Chairman of the Milton Council at the meeting of that body on May 16th last, when Mr. Martin, of Exeter, was present, to be £8,000.

GREENSTREET.

REGAINING THE COLOURS.—Another Greenstreet man is leaving for the front—Thomas Andrews—who has put in over thirteen years' service. He sails to-day from Southampton to join his regiment, The Buffs.

DODDINGTON.

POSTAL CHANGE.—Mr. E. W. Westbroom, who has been postman between this place and Greenstreet for several years, is about to be promoted to the circulation department of the General Post Office, London. Mr. Westbroom, who is a parish councillor, is a keen cricketer and instructor to the Green Men's Club, will be very much missed, especially on his route, as by his uniform courtesy he has gained the esteem of all classes.

HARTLIP.

MR. R. G. EDWAL LOCKE, of Hartlip, was last week promoted at the Royal Naval College, at St. James's Palace, on his appointment as a Deputy-Lieutenant for Kent.

KEY STREET.

A RUMMAGE SALE in aid of the new vestry and renovation of the chapel will take place in the Wesleyan Schoolroom, Key Street, on Wednesday next.

LYNSTED.

A Course of lectures on Bee-keeping is being arranged to be given in this parish.

LIEUT.-COLONEL C. J. R. TYLER, J.P., is about to leave his residence in Lynsted (with for home service.

LORD TENTERDEN has been gazetted second-lieutenant in the Royal Kent Militia Artillery.

THE "A.M.B." CONCERT will take place at the Schools on Friday evening next, not on the 30th as stated last week.

LYNSTED COTTAGE GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION.—The monthly meeting of this Society was held at the Black Lion Inn on Wednesday night. Mr. A. Ilye occupied the chair and Mr. C. Oxford the vice-chair. The judges (Messrs. S. Fuller, W. Knight, and W. Streatfeild) gave their awards as follows: Class A.—Three sorts of vegetables, 1st E. Oxford, 2nd W. H. Oxford. Class B.—Two dishes of seed potatoes, 1st W. J. Storr, 2nd W. Terry, 3rd C. R. Busbridge. Class C.—Two dishes of seed potatoes, 1st H. Bennett, 2nd W. Terry, 3rd C. Wiles. In Class A, for plant in bloom, 1st J. Mundy; will rear one of with a splendid Cineraria, which was very much admired. Special prizes were awarded to W. J. Storr (first), W. Terry (second), and E. Oxford (third) for two sorts of vegetables, and in Class C to H. Hurpet for a similar collection. Mr. G. A. H. Smith exhibited three dishes of Kidney Potatoes, Date, and British Queen potatoes (seed), not for competition. The prizes offered at the next meeting will be.—Class A.—For three kinds of vegetables and plant in bloom. Class B.—Two kinds of vegetables and plant in bloom. Class C.—Two kinds of vegetables and 25 runner beans. Special prizes are also offered for a best dish of Kidney Potatoes for 25 runner beans to be exhibited separately from those that may be shown in any class competition. The chairman, vice-chairman, secretary and two new members were elected. Mr. E. Oxford was elected vice-chairman of the Society. An increase of subscription was offered by a member partly with a view of inducing more persons interested in gardening to become members, especially from tradesmen's and farmers' ranks. A resolution was also carried that the entrance fees of members from Lynsted be reduced to 2/6 instead of 5/- for the present year at least. The Association is certainly doing well, and with excellent officers it should still increase its membership. Vice-Admiral Sir Nowell Salmon has been appointed Commander-in-Chief in Madras, in the Bazai Expedition, Major-General Pretyman commanded the 1st Brigade. He received his C.B. in 1896, and became in succession Major General in 1897. He is fifty-five years old, and has had thirty-five years' army service.

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FAVERSHAM.

AN INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION, when prizes were offered for handwriting and needlework, open to children of members, took place at the Institute on Thursday, under the auspices of the Education Committee of the Faversham Co-operative Society, Limited. The exhibition was of an interesting character and attracted a good number of visitors.

ACCIDENT TO A CYCLIST.—On Sunday last a Faver-ham cyclist, named S. Blount, was riding down Lambe Hill, when the handle bar of his machine came off, he lost control of the bicycle, and ran into a bank at the side. He was thrown off, and fell heavily on the road, and was stunned. He was stunned for the time being, but beyond this, and a few abrasions, he fortunately escaped serious injury.

"WHEN HOME PRESENTED AT THE Borough Police Court on Monday, a Norwegian seaman, named *Rudolf Olsen*, aged 35, was fined 10/- for being drunk and disorderly in Cross-lane on Saturday night. The case was proved by Sergeant Dooley. At the prisoner's request, the Bench, through the interpreter, admitted that prisoner was "very much drunk" He was fined 5/0 and 7/4 costs, and the money was paid.

A SERIOUS ACCIDENT befel Henry Beaumont, warehouseman, in the employ of the Faversham Co-operative Society, Limited, on Tuesday morning. Beaumont got into the lift, which immediately commenced to descend, when he was he jumped out on to one of the floors of the building, when he was caught by the top of the lift, and was severely squeezed about the body. Fortunately for one of his legs broken. The injured man was removed to the Cottage Hospital, where he is reported to be progressing favorably.

WESLEYAN HOME MISSIONS.—Sermons in aid of these missions were preached in the Wesleyan Church on Sunday last. The annual public meeting took place on Thursday evening, when Mr R. S. Dunn presided. The Rev. W. J. Weare read extracts from the annual report, which showed that £53 had been raised in the Faversham circuit during the past year, of which £13 had been collected by the Juvenile Association. The Rev. J. Ash Parsons, *from* the Leysian Mission, London, gave an interesting address on home mission work. The collections on Sunday amounted to £1/4/7, and at the meeting to £2/12/.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL.—The annual sermons and meetings in aid of the S.P.G. Society have been preached and held in the Osprings rural deanery during the week. The Deputation has been the Rev. E. W. Stenson, M.A., since 1891, has been in South Africa, and his connection with that country at this particular juncture of affairs has invested the meetings this week with special interest. Sermons in aid of the Society preached at Faversham Parish Church on Sunday, and the collections amounted to £11/16/11. Meetings have been held during the week in the district, the collections being:—Ospringe, £2/9/9; Oare, £1/15/0; and Newnham, £2/0/0.

FAVERSHAM BOARD OF GUARDIANS.—The weekly meeting of this Board took place on Wednesday, when there were present:—Messrs. F. B. Cobb (chairman), W. Roper Dixon (vice-chairman), G. Bruchett, W. R. Gorham, W. Clark, W. Murton, C. F. Clay, G. J. Hughes, A. W. Coulting, H. S. Tett, H. Amoe, H. Read, H. T. Bennetd, and the Revs. S. H. W. Hughes-Games and W. J. Mitchell. In compliance with instructions the Master submitted a return of post mortem examinations that had taken place at the Workhouse during the week, and this showed that there had been only five such examinations during the past thirty one-and-a-half years. It was thereupon resolved that the Medical Officer of Health, the special provision for post mortem examinations asked for by the Medical Officer was quite unnecessary. The Master reported that the number of inmates in the Workhouse in the Union Houses, as against 1172 in the corresponding week last year, an increase of 12 during the week. Outdoor relief recently had an increase of two, and 100 vagrants had been relieved during the week, being a decrease of 28. The sum of £20 was then presented in relief of rates.

PEMBROKE UNITED DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD.—The Education Department have informed this Board that the average attendance for the year ending the annual Government examination was 5523/4/3, and the final payment of fees grant for the year ending 31st December was £67/10/0. The summary of the report was as follows:—*Boys School*: The boys are in good order, and the work is, on the whole, creditable. *Girls' School*: The girls are very well behaved, and are satisfactorily taught. *Infants' School*: This school is in good order. The President of the Faversham Association of the National Union of Teachers has written, asking that the salaries of teachers be raised upon to refund the amount of superannuation deducted, but that their salaries might be raised by the amount of the contribution. This matter has, however, been deferred for consideration. The Clerk's estimate of the Board's expenses for the ensuing half-year showed that the amount required will be a penny in the rate. The estimate has been accepted, and precepts will be issued to the parishes accordingly. Orders, £20/19/8; Davington, £48/10/1; North Preston, £58/6/; and South Preston, £34/17/4; total, £160/13/3.

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.—The monthly meeting of this Council, acting as Highway Authority, was held on Wednesday, Mr. F. B. Cobb presiding. The Survey Committee's report was read, and several improvements in the district were ordered to be carried out. A circular letter was received from the Blean Rural District Council, calling attention to the insufficiency of the Highway Authority Bill, removing liability to repair bridge roads, and giving powers to dedge the right of way. It was resolved that the Parliamentary Committee of the County Council, and the Member of Parliament for this Division, be asked to oppose the clause of the Bill modified, so as to protect the public rights. The County Council wrote, stating that the terms of contract for repairs of main roads had been altered from three years to one year. The Committee reported that they had sent in tenders to the County Council for the maintenance of main roads in the Faversham district as follows:—Section 11, £1,661; Section 12, £1,711/12/1. The Committee reported that the tenders for the Sittingbourne District had been accepted, but that for Section 11 had been taken in the district were ordered to be carried out. A circular letter was received from the Clerk of the County Council, stating that the District Council's complaint with reference to gravel excavations adjoining the Newnham road, and the trimming of hedges, had been referred to the County Surveyor. The County Surveyor wrote stating that he was giving attention to the complaint in the dangerous state of the Ospringe Bridge. Tenders for pit flints for the ensuing year were opened, and the following were accepted:—Boughton, 850 yards, 2/9, C. Collins; Graveney, Buckland, 50, 2/6, W. M. Chapman; Davington, 100, 3/0, W. P. Clark; Faversham, 100, 2/11, E. Colthup; Faversham Without, 250, 3/4, E. Colthup; Goodnestone, 100, 3/4, E. Colthup; Graveney, 700, 2/9, E. Colthup; Hernhill, 700, 2/11, E. Colthup; Leeds and Bredgar, 100, 3/6, W. P. Clark; Oare, 80, 3/6, W. P. Clark; Ospringe, 300, 3/0, W. P. Clark; Preston, 50, 3/0, W. P. Clark; Selling, 700, 2/11, E. Colthup; and Stone, 150, 2/10, W. P. Clark. Tenders for shingle were also opened.

FAVERSHAM CORN EXCHANGE.—The monthly sitting of this Court took place on Friday last, before his Honour Judge De Wolf, K.C., and a jury of twelve (Mr. Allan Tassell). The plaint list comprised 77 original and 40 judgment summonses, and one application for a composition under the scheme of Bankruptcy Act. *George Thornton Cross, Street-street, Faversham, sued Alfred and Co., 111, Bangkok, Siam, for £2/11/3 for goods* supplied to the defendant's branch establishment at Faversham. Mr. Bartlett for the plaintiff, appeared for the defendants. Plaintiff stated that during the year 1899 he supplied the goods, which consisted of a table, cupboard, and chiffonier, to the late Mr. Jacobs, who was manager of the defendant's shop in West-street. The articles were presumably for sale in the business, but he thought he was obliging the defendants by supplying their manager with the goods mentioned by Mr. Morel. The man Jacobs committed suicide. From the first, when he sent the account to defendants, they repudiated any liability, maintaining that the manager had no authority to pledge their credit. He never received an invoice from Jacobs at any time. Some of the goods were delivered at the defendants' shop. An assistant, named Burrows, swore to having sold the goods to Jacobs, who said he wanted to show them to a customer. Mr. Murdoch McLeod stated that Jacobs was the manager of the Faversham business, and he had was to sell and collect the money for goods sold. He had no right to buy goods for the firm or pledge its credit in any way. The first time he heard of any claim plaintiff had against him was when Jacobs' furniture was sold. He could not in any way trace the goods either in sale or in stock. If Jacobs had them he must have disposed of them on his own account. Mr. Mowll pointed out that the case, although a small one was defended on principle, because if judgment were given against them it would make a great difference to them in their business. He maintained that Jacobs was simply an agent for sale, and not for purchase. Therefore, if he had the goods he could not transmit a fraud on the plaintiff. The firm had received no benefit whatever from the sale of the goods, and he submitted that defendants were entitled to judgment in their favour. His Honour held that plaintiff could not recover, and gave judgment for defendants. As regards the plaintiffs were fighting a question of £2/11/3 on principle only he should not allow costs. *Edward Wardell*, labourer, of Hoath Court, Hoath, was fined 10/- for disorder. There were eleven creditors, whose claims amounted to £127/1/0. The debtor stated that he was 44 years of age and had ten children, seven of whom were at home. His wages were 16/0 a week, out of which he had to pay 4/0 a week for rent. His Honour reduced the debts to 5/0 in the £, and ordered defendant to pay 2/0 a fortnight towards their extinction.

PLAIN PUST CARDS.—Good stout cards, 40 per hundred, 1d. per packet of 20, at the *Gazette* Office, Sittingbourne. Gilt edged, superior quality, white and tinted, 4½d., 6d., and 8d. per 100. Name and address printed on cards at a very moderate charge!

SITTINGBOURNE AND MILTON.

GALVANIZED IRON ROOFING, Wire Netting, and Roofing Felt, quoted at lowest prices. PARTRIDGE, East Street, Sittingbourne.

TO MEASURE A TRUTHFUL.—Not if you buy one of Crofts' Lucky Wedding Rings, warranted pure guinea gold. R. and W. CROFTS, 96, High-street, Sittingbourne.

SPECIAL LINES in quart bottles of Spirits. Gin 2/0, Irish or Scotch Whiskey, 3/3. Rum 3/3. Brandy 3/3. All carriage paid. P.O.P. Quart bottles of Tarragona 1/2. F. GOBLEY, 42, High-street, Sittingbourne.

NEW STOCK OF FANCY GOODS.—A very large number of new and up-to-date Photograph Frames, Writing Cases, Jewel Cases, Blotters, Purses, &c., have just been received at the *Gazette* Office, Sittingbourne, and are now offered at very moderate prices.

"WHEN LONDON SLEEPS."—Miss Inez Howard's well-known dramatic company will appear at the Town Hall, Sittingbourne, for two nights, Friday and next, in the highly successful melodrama, "When London Sleeps." Further particulars are advertised in another column.

SPECIAL OFFER.—10½ oz. of our 2/0 Tea for 1/0, 2lbs. of our G-Mint Tip Top Dust at 1/2 for 2/2, 2lbs. of 1/2 Tea for 2/2. Sugar 6½ for 2/0. Having made some heavy purchases previous to the increase in duty we are enabled to give our customers every advantage. FRANK GOBLEY, Grocer, 42, High Street, Sittingbourne.

THE MONTHLY SITTINGBOURNE Police Court on Wednesday, before Mr. S. Lavington Evans, *Edward Osborne*, an elderly tramp, was sentenced to seven days' hard labour for neglecting to perform his task of work at Milton Workhouse on Monday. *Thomas Hare*, a tramping labourer, was sentenced to five days' hard labour for being drunk and disorderly in Bridge-street, Milton, on Monday night. The case was proved by Police-constable Hinkley.

PRESENTATION TO THE REV. S. J. CLEMENTS.—On Tuesday evening the staff (numbering nineteen) of the Boys' Home, Bell St. Methodist Mission School, invited the Rev. S. J. Clements to meet them in the Infant Department. Mr. Bryen (head master) opened the meeting with a few remarks, and then, in the name of the teachers, he requested Mr. Clements' acceptance of a Swan fountain pen and set of letter weights in oak and brass, as a token of their regard and esteem for him as corresponding secretary of the school. Both gentlemen had done many things to improve both the school staff and premises, and he would be greatly missed. The teachers had found a friend in him, and wished to express their sincere wishes for his future welfare and success. Mr. Clements made a somewhat lengthy response, first thanking the teachers, not only for the gifts, which would be most constantly in use, but, which was much more valued, for the kind thoughts and wishes which they betokened. He spoke of the mutual good relations which he felt should exist between the staff and managers, and which he had endeavoured—and he was glad to say, he thought, successfully—to establish. It had always given him almost pleasure to enter the schools, and he hoped to do so, as a friend, many times again, as he was at Milton, and not necessitate his leaving Sittingbourne for some time. He concluded by again expressing his hearty thanks to all for their kindness, and he should ever left to fulfil another of his manifold engagements.

A SUCCESSFUL SMOKING CONCERT was given at the Workmen's Hall, on Wednesday evening, under the auspices of the Sittingbourne and Milton Workmen's Club. It was essentially "Firemen's Night," as Captain Hedley Thomas, the Sittingbourne Fire Brigade, was in the chair, and the members of the Sittingbourne and Milton Fire Brigades were present in force in uniform. The Chairman was supported by Captain E. Chopping, of the Milton Fire Brigade, and Mr. J. Bigg (Sittingbourne Brigade), and Messrs. J. R. Page, J. Horton, C. Ibbetson, T. Ash, R. Moore, W. G. Mortley, Stephens, Shilling, and Stephens (Milton Brigade). The hall was nicely decorated with plants, and flags and the names of "Kimberley," "Ladysmith," and "Mafeking" were imparted a patriotic tone to the proceedings which was maintained from start to finish. Several patriotic songs figured in the programme, the speaker received with patriotism, and altogether it would have been difficult to have exceeded the enthusiasm which prevailed. The first of the features of the concert was the remarkably clever comic singing of Mr. Shepherd (Chatham), whose services had been secured for the occasion by Mr. Page. The programme was contributed to by Messrs. Bridge, Lee, Shepherd, Moore, Tilbury, Bailey, Collyer, Ibbetson, Adams, Bennett, Redgrove, L. Sneed, Winds, and Garner. Encores were numerous, and Mr. Shepherd made several appearances. During the interval the Chairman referred to the growth of the Club, and proposed its success, a toast which was hearty drunk. Mr. Stephens (Milton), the secretary, whose name was coupled therewith, suitably responded. Mr. Ash subsequently proposed the health of the Sittingbourne and Milton Fire Brigades," observing that the public owed a debt of gratitude to the brigade for the fire protection they had made for the protection of property from fire. The toast was accorded musical honours, and Captain Hedley Thomas and Captain Chopping acknowledged the compliment, Captain Peters remarking that if they were invited the local brigades would be pleased to come to another year. During the evening a collection was made for the patriotic fund opened in connection with the Active Service Fund of Volunteers serving with The Buffs in South Africa, and this realized £1/3/0. The singing of the National Anthem, at midnight, brought a very successful gathering to a close.

BEE-KEEPING.—The opening lecture of the course, which has been arranged to be given at Sittingbourne this season in connection with the County Council Technical Education scheme, was delivered by Mr. Garratt in the board room of the Town Hall, on Saturday evening last, before a fairly numerous and appreciative audience, composed of both sexes. The Mr. J. W. Ashenden, chairman of the Sittingbourne Council occupied the chair. In his opening remarks the lecturer referred to the work of last season in relation to the competition which was carried on by members of the class; showing, how, by good management in having the bees in a strong condition at the first opening of spring the first prize winner greatly out-distanced the other competitors. Mr. Garratt also passed in review the circumstances of the apiaries concerned, showing that the non-success of some was attributable to queenlessness in the two hives; in another that foul brood at the outset, though it was thoroughly treated, ultimately had proved fatal; and that the queen in another had lack of timely attention was a cause of failure, etc., etc. He commended the composition of foul brood, which, brought a very successful gathering to a close.

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MESSRS. OWEN J. CARTER AND CO'S Gin at 1/10, 2/0, 2/4, 2/6, and Hollands, 2/6 per bottle, is the best value in the market.†

PURE BEER.—Mackeson and Co.'s celebrated Hythe ales are recommended to be bitterest entirely with hops. Orders for Sittingbourne and district should be sent to the Sittingbourne Office, 12, Crown-terrace.

DRESSMAKING.—There are a few vacancies in this Class which is held at the Town Hall, Sittingbourne, on Monday afternoons at 2.30. Fee for the course, 2/0. Edwin Bridges, Secretary, Terrace Road, Sittingbourne.

FOR BEST VALUE IN WINES, SPIRITS, and bottled and cask Beers, go to the right shop, the Sittingbourne & Co., 28, High Street, Sittingbourne, nearly opposite the Post Office. By far the largest and choicest stock to select from in Sittingbourne. TEA, COFFEE, & COCOA, HIGH STREET. Low price list.†

SPECIAL TEA ONE GALLON TAP JARS, also BOTTLED BEERS.—To meet the requirements of customers, H. & O. Vallance have, in connection with their Wine and Spirit Shop, arranged to supply Beer in one gallon tap jars, also bottled Beers. For price list see advertisement on other page. All orders addressed to the Brewery, Sittingbourne, will have their immediate attention. Hour of closing, 9 p.m.†

SITTINGBOURNE STOCK MARKET.—This fortnightly market took place on Tuesday last, when the entries included 55 beasts, 271 sheep, 254 pigs, and some calves. Beef was in a little shower, best quality making from 4/6 to 4/8 per stone, and second quality from 4/0 to 4/2. Mutton sold well, wethers and ewes realizing from 4/4 to 5/8, and hoggets from 4/4 to 4/6. Veal averaged 5/0. Pork was in good demand, neat porkers making from 9/6 to 10/0 per score, and large hogs from 8/0 to 8/6.

MILTON AND SITTINGBOURNE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—The monthly meeting of the Society was held at the Crown Hotel, Milton, on Tuesday evening, when Mr. G. Jordan was in the chair. The judges for the competition, Messrs. J. Perkins, H. Sattergood, and J. Ost) made their awards as follow:—Gardeners.—Plant in bloom, 1st J. Fryer, 2nd W. Berry, 3rd T. Oxley; Cut Flowers, 1st W. Berry, 2nd T. Oxley; three varieties of vegetables, 1st W. Chapman, 2nd A. Davis, 3rd T. Oxley; three heads of sprouting broccoli, 1st W. Chapman, 2nd A. Davis, 3rd T. Oxley.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION.—The first of a series of ten lessons in dressmaking was given by Miss Bridgewater, in the board room, Town Hall, Sittingbourne, on Monday afternoon. It is to be regretted that there was not a larger number of ladies present, as the lessons afford a good opportunity of acquiring, at a nominal cost, the art of useful and fashionable dress making, and there should be no difficulty in bringing the number of students up to the maximum. The next dressmaking class will take place on Monday afternoon, and application for tickets for the series should be made at once to Mr. E. Brigden, the local secretary.

A PAIR OF DESERTERS.—At the Sittingbourne Police Court on Saturday, before Mr. S. Lavington Evans, two young soldiers, named *Michael Cory*, of the 5th Irish Lancers, and *Edward Molyneaux*, of the 17th Lancers, were charged with being deserters from their respective regiments. They were seen in High-street, Sittingbourne, in uniform, on the previous night by Sergeant Dooley, who, on noticing that their clothing was dirty in appearance, suspected that they had deserted, and stated them with being absent from their regiments. At first they denied it, but ultimately they admitted that they had left their regiments at Canterbury the previous night. Prisoners were ordered to await the arrival of an escort, but they had to coupe present in force in uniform. The Chairman was supported by Captain E. Chopping, of the Milton Fire Brigade, and Mr. J. Bigg (Sittingbourne Brigade), and Messrs. J. R. Page, J. Horton, C. Ibbetson, T. Ash, R. Moore, W. G. Mortley, Stephens, Shilling, and Stephens (Milton Brigade). The hall was nicely decorated with plants, and flags and the names of "Kimberley," "Ladysmith," and "Mafeking" were imparted a patriotic tone to the proceedings which was maintained from start to finish. Several patriotic songs figured in the programme, the speaker received with patriotism, and altogether it would have been difficult to have exceeded the enthusiasm which prevailed. The first of the features of the concert was the remarkably clever comic singing of Mr. Shepherd (Chatham), whose services had been secured for the occasion by Mr. Page. The programme was contributed to by Messrs. Bridge, Lee, Shepherd, Moore, Tilbury, Bailey, Collyer, Ibbetson, Adams, Bennett, Redgrove, L. Sneed, Winds, and Garner. Encores were numerous, and Mr. Shepherd made several appearances during the evening. During an interval the Chairman referred to the growth of the Club, and proposed its success, a toast which was hearty drunk. Mr. Stephens (Milton), the secretary, whose name was coupled therewith, suitably responded. Mr. Ash subsequently proposed "Success to the Sittingbourne and Milton Fire Brigades," observing that the public owed a debt of gratitude to the local brigade for the provision they had made for the protection of property from fire. The toast was accorded musical honours, and Captain Hedley Thomas and Captain Chopping acknowledged the compliment, Captain Peters remarking that if they were invited the local brigades would be pleased to come to another